

**Addendum to
Selby District Submission Draft Core Strategy Appropriate
Assessment.**

Original document prepared by Waterman Energy, Environment & Design Limited,
December 2010 (CS Document Ref CSCD18a)

January 2012



Summary

This addendum has been prepared to set out the Council's position regarding the Appropriate Assessment (AA) under the Habitat Regulations in light of the proposed revised housing quantum expressed in the November 2011 amendments to the Core Strategy. The Council are satisfied that the conclusions set out in the AA prepared by Waterman Group in December 2010 remain valid.

Background

At the Examination in Public (EiP) in September 2011, the Inspector requested Selby District Council to reconsider the total housing target across the plan period. The Council undertook the relevant research and noted an increased annual target of 450 units (up 10 units from 440 per year). This revised figure now forms the basis of the Core Strategy for the reconvened EiP.

In increasing the overall housing target, there are clearly implications on the scale and distribution of housing development, and consequentially, potential impacts on Natura2000 sites.

Scale and Distribution of housing (Core Strategy Policy CP2)

The Core Strategy is a District-wide vision document, and as such is not so detailed regarding the precise location of development. However it does set out a broad distribution across the Principal Town, Local Service Centres and Designated Service Villages. The proposed increase to 450 units per annum increases the overall quantum of housing development, but the proportionate distribution remains largely the same:

	Overall Requirement Current %	Overall Requirement New %	Current CP2 New Allocations	Proposed New Allocations	Difference
Selby	51	51	2336	2527	+191
Sherburn	9	11	498	718	+220
Tadcaster	9	7	457	364	- 93
Designated Service Villages	28	29	1573	1776	+203
Secondary Villages	3	2	0	0	0

The proposed annual housing increase maintains the basic proportionate distribution between the settlement hierarchy, but goes no further to locate definite sites in the settlements. Specifically, within the Designated Service Villages - where any potential impact on Natura2000 sites is likely to arise - there is no reason for any change to the assessment: The December 2010 AA states:

2.43 The significance of the Designated Service Villages is that they are put forward as potential locations for modest amounts of further planned

growth but the extent of that growth in each settlement will only be decided in the future Site Allocations DPD. It may or may not be more than 50 dwellings. The Site Allocations DPD will clearly need an Appropriate Assessment at that time.

As such, the AA conclusions must remain the same: there may be some impacts on Natura2000 sites as a result of development generally, but such impacts cannot be assessed until such time that the Site Allocations DPD apportions the quantity of development between DSVs and allocates specific sites within them. The impacts of development may therefore be assessed through the AA that accompanies the SADPD.

Other AA considerations resulting from proposed changes to the Core Strategy

Consequential changes to Core Strategy as a result of the above changes: The Council's overall position has not altered in the Core Strategy: the aims and objectives remain the same and the revised policies provide largely clarification and refinement. Therefore the potential impact of enacting the Core Strategy will not differ from the previous version, and as such the December 2010 AA remains valid.

Green Belt Review: A Green Belt review is now proposed in the new Policy CPXX. This in itself will not directly impact upon the Natura2000 sites, however through subsequent potential development proposals there may be impacts upon the Natura2000 sites. However, until such a review is undertaken and its findings incorporated into the Site Allocations DPD, those impacts cannot be known and therefore this AA cannot consider them. The Green Belt review will largely affect the western part of the District which is well in excess of the 5km buffer. However the York Green Belt is within 5km of the Lower Derwent Valley SPA and SAC, and specifically around the village of Escrick there may potentially be amendments to the Green Belt. However, as above, the precise location of potential development will only be decided in the Site Allocations DPD, so the impacts of development may therefore be assessed through the AA that accompanies the Site Allocations DPD.

Conclusion

The Council is satisfied that the AA prepared in December 2010 remains valid, and the conclusions that the Core Strategy in isolation or in combination with other existing plans and strategies poses no direct measurable risk to Natura2000 sites. However the Core Strategy does enable future plans and strategies to be created (such as the Site Allocations DPD) where there may be potential impacts upon Natura2000 sites, and as such recommends that any such documents are subject to their own AA at the appropriate time.