



Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan
2nd Pre-Submission Version
(following withdrawal of originally submitted plan)

Strategic Environmental Assessment
Screening Report

September 2019
(As Updated November 2025)

CONTENTS

1. Introduction	3
2. Legislative Background.....	5
3. Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan	6
4. Screening Process	8
5. Screening Assessment.....	13
6. Consultation	20
7. Conclusion	21
Annex 1: Details of the SSSI and SINC in Heslington Parish	22
Annex 2: Heslington Conservation Area	31
Annex 3: Statutory Consultation bodies summary comments on 1st Version Pre-Submission HPNP SEA	33

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic and comprehensive process for evaluating the environmental effects of a plan or programme in order to ensure that environmental implications are taken into account before any decisions are made. The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations) which transpose into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive¹.
- 1.2 Under this Directive, Neighbourhood Plans may require SEA but this is very much dependent upon the content of the plan. For plans that "determine the use of small areas at local level" or are "minor modifications" to existing plans, the Directive only requires SEA where they are likely to have significant environmental effects. The expressions "small area" and "local level" are not defined in the Directive and must be interpreted in relation to the nature and scope of a particular plan. Screening is needed to determine whether such plans are likely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.3 Annex II of the Directive lists criteria for determining the likely significance of the environmental effects of plans and to be used in a screening exercise. The findings of the exercise must be subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results of the screening process must be detailed in a Screening Statement, made available to the public.
- 1.4 This Screening Report is an assessment as to whether the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP), requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Directive.
- 1.5 A Neighbourhood Plan may also require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Articles 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). An HRA is required when it is deemed likely that there will be significant adverse effects on Designated European Sites (Natura 2000) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. Sites within 15km of the HPNP area boundary, together with any additional downstream sites that may be hydrologically linked to the plan's zone of influence are included and considered to be a suitably precautionary starting point for the assessment of the plan. This is consistent with the HRA prepared for the adopted City of York (CYC) Local Plan.
- 1.6 Within the Heslington Parish there is one Nationally Significant Nature

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Conservation site, the Tillmire² SSSI and three Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC) (see Annex 1):

- (i) Heslington Common within Fulford Golf Course, one site bisected by the A64 ring road (see map and table Annex 1)
- (i) A site at the western end of Elvington Airfield
- (ii) The grasslands that run either side of and between the runways and access roads of Elvington Airfield.

References to these sites are included within the York Local Plan³

In addition, there are SINCs outside the boundary of the Neighbourhood Plan area, but which are adjacent to, or a continuation of, those within the parish boundary. Together, these creating a significant network of important sites concentrated in the southern half of Heslington Parish.

1.7 The York Local Plan allocates three development sites and one new open space within Heslington Parish:

- Land adjacent to Hull Road (ST4) will deliver approximately 263 dwellings at this urban extension development site.
- University of York proposed expansion (ST27) will provide B1b employment floorspace for knowledge-based businesses including research-led science park uses and other higher education and related uses.
- New open space (OS10) is identified on land to the South of the A64 in association with ST15.
- The development of Land West of Elvington Lane (ST15) will provide approximately 3,339 dwellings, at this new 'garden village' site.

1.8 The HPNP sets out clear policies to protect the countryside, local green spaces, ecology and biodiversity within the Parish.

1.9 **The HPNP does not allocate any sites for development but seeks to ensure those allocated in the York Local Plan are developed consistently with the applicable policies and principles.**

1.10 Where it is relevant to the HPNP policies, issues impacting on:

- air quality
- climate change (sustainable modes of transport and housing design)
- historic environment and landscape (including listed buildings and scheduled monuments)
- land, soil and water resources (agriculture and rural enterprise)
- population and community including health and well-being
- local facilities, recreational space and affordable housing
- transportation (modes of sustainable transport, walking routes, PRow)

are considered.

- ² The name appears to have acquired a second 'l' as an error during the preparation of the first (1858) edition of the Ordnance Survey map of the area; all previous written records, stretching back to the late C12, refer to the Tilmire.
- ³ City of York Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on Friday 25 May 2018 for independent examination. It was adopted in February 2025.

2. Legislative Background

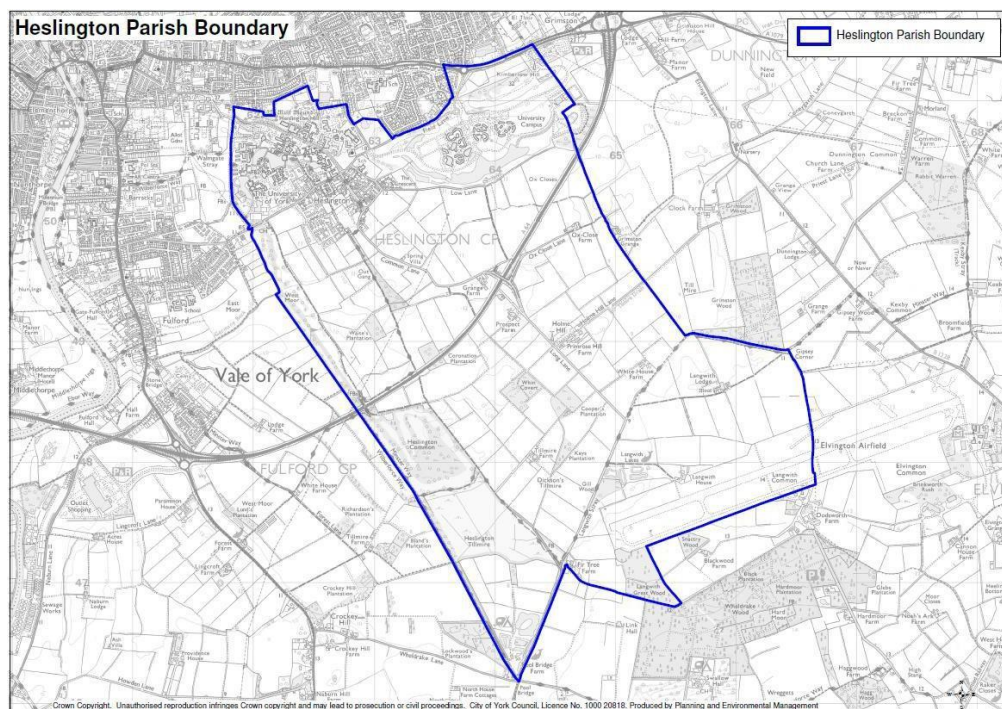
- 2.1 The SEA Directive was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations). Detailed guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication, *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive* (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) for all Development Plan Documents in order to meet the requirement of the SEA Directive and it is considered best practice to incorporate the requirements of this Directive into a Sustainability Appraisal (National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2024)⁴, paragraphs 33, 34, 44 refer). As a Neighbourhood Plan is not a Development Plan Document, it does not legally require a Sustainability Appraisal. However, there are instances where a SEA would need to be undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
- 2.3 Consequently, to establish whether this Neighbourhood Plan might give rise to significant environmental effects, it is necessary to screen the Plan (see Section 5, Page 13).

⁴ References were made throughout the original Pre-Submission and Submission versions to NPPF 2012 and 2019 respectively to add useful context. In December 2024 an updated NPPF was released by Government. In line with CYC guidance, the Pre-Submission version of the plan and its supporting documents is written to reference NPPF 2024.

3. Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan area was designated on 22 November 2016. A map showing the area that is subject to the SEA screening process is shown below. The designated area specified in the HPNP consists of the whole of the Parish area. The Plan area includes the village of Heslington and the University of York (Campuses East and West) in which the majority of the population and services of the Parish are concentrated. Within and surrounding the village and the University are large areas of open spaces and rural countryside.
- 3.2 The purpose of the HPNP is to provide a set of statutory planning policies to guide development within the Parish over a 20 year period and has been prepared by, the qualifying body, Heslington Parish Council.

Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan Area



HESLINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DESIGNATED AREA AGREED BY THE CITY OF YORK COUNCIL 22 NOVEMBER 2016.⁵

- 3.3 The aim of the Plan is to influence change in Heslington Parish, not to prevent it. By working with residents, the University of York and other local stakeholders, future developments will be welcomed but need to be sympathetic and protect the historic character and rural environment of the area.

⁵ All maps in this Plan are “Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings”.
City of York Council, Licence No. 1000 20818. Prepared by Strategic Planning Team, 2018.

3.4 The Neighbourhood Plan sets out a clear direction for the Parish that has been developed by the people and businesses in the area.

The most important aims are set out below:

- Strengthen the historic character, rural setting and core village identity
- Support new development of appropriate housing, without compromising the unique qualities of the built and natural environment
- Protect the rural, open character and green spaces of the Parish from inappropriate development
- Support those types businesses and employment developments that meet the needs of the community whilst retaining the essential nature of Heslington village and its surroundings
- Improve the choice and sustainability of traffic flows (motor vehicle, cycle and pedestrian) to enhance the quality of life for those who live, work, study or do business in the Parish
- Support and enhance the sense of community by improvements in infrastructure and facilities
- Foster effective and positive working relationships with all local stakeholders to achieve a balance between the unique identity of Heslington as a rural village, the proximity of a thriving university and opportunities for growth

3.5 In order to deliver these aims, the Plan sets out a number of Parish-wide policies. These indicate how new development proposals will be assessed in order to ensure that any future housing is sustainable and does not have a detrimental impact upon the Parish. Policies also provide protection to important environments and natural assets, including local green spaces, as well as supporting the provision of community infrastructure.

3.6 It is a requirement of the Localism Act 2011 that neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Heslington lies within the City of York and must therefore be in general conformity with the York Draft Local Plan.

4. Screening Process

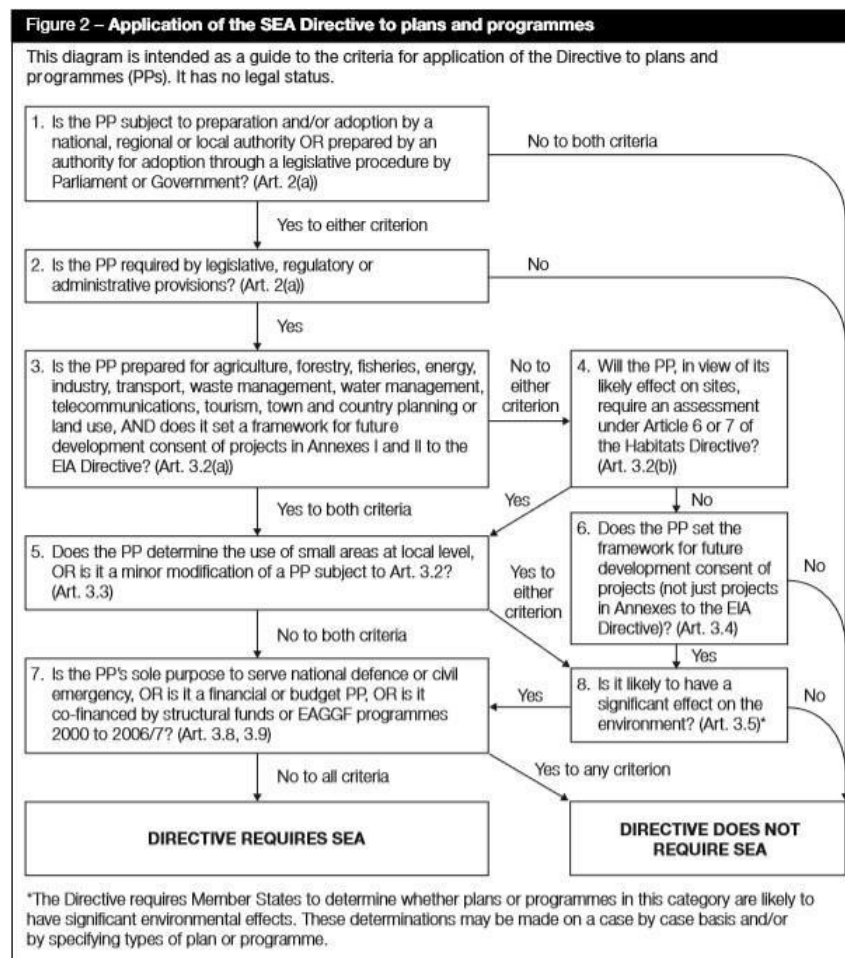
4.1 It is the purpose of this report to assess whether the policies in the HPNP are likely to have ‘significant environmental effects’. This screening assessment has been undertaken in two parts:

- i) Assessment as to whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA in accordance with the flow chart set out below.
- ii) Consideration as to whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the EU SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programme Regulations 2004.

4.2 Government guidance, as set out in ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’, identifies the following approach to be taken in determining whether a SEA is required:

SEA Directive Criteria for Application to Plans and Programmes

(Figure 2 below is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to plans and programmes (PPs). It has no legal status.)



4.3 The process in Figure 2 above has been followed and the findings set out in the table below:

Table 1: Establishing the Need for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Criteria	Y/N	Reason						
1. Is the plan or programme (PP) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Neighbourhood plans may be prepared under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. They are drawn up by a qualifying body, which, in the case of Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is Heslington Parish Council. It is subject to examination and referendum. If the Plan receives 50% or more 'Yes' votes at referendum, it will be 'made' by the local planning authority (City of York Council).						
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	The preparation of a neighbourhood plan is optional. However, once 'made', it will form part of the statutory Local Plan for the area and will be used in the determination of planning applications. It is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if a SEA is required.						
3. Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive? (Article 3.2 (a))	Y	This Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for Town and Country Planning and land use and sets out a framework for future development in Heslington Parish. Once 'made', it would form part of the statutory development plan and will be used when making decisions on planning applications that could include development that may fall under Annexes I and II of the EIA directive.						
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the	N	Local European Designated Sites have been identified using data from Natural England and CYC. <table border="1" data-bbox="767 1924 1278 2027"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site name</th> <th>Designation</th> <th>Closest Distance (approx. km)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strensall</td> <td>SAC</td> <td>11km</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site name	Designation	Closest Distance (approx. km)	Strensall	SAC	11km
Site name	Designation	Closest Distance (approx. km)						
Strensall	SAC	11km						

Criteria	Y/N	Reason															
Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))		<table border="1" data-bbox="767 226 1278 591"> <tr> <td data-bbox="767 226 895 266">Common</td> <td data-bbox="895 226 1023 266"></td> <td data-bbox="1023 226 1278 266"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="767 266 895 322">Skipwith Common</td> <td data-bbox="895 266 1023 322">SAC</td> <td data-bbox="1023 266 1278 322">12km</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="767 322 895 380">River Derwent</td> <td data-bbox="895 322 1023 380">SAC</td> <td data-bbox="1023 322 1278 380">6km</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="767 380 895 472">Lower Derwent Valley</td> <td data-bbox="895 380 1023 472">SAC, SPA, Ramsar</td> <td data-bbox="1023 380 1278 472">5km</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="767 472 895 591">Humber Estuary</td> <td data-bbox="895 472 1023 591">SAC, SPA, Ramsar</td> <td data-bbox="1023 472 1278 591">Approximately 30km downstream via River Ouse</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="762 595 1406 1520"> The nearest site, the Lower Derwent Valley SPA (LDV) is one of the UK's most important wildlife conservation areas, running primarily from just east of Wheldrake in the north to Bubwith in the south, an area of about 1000 hectares. Additionally, there is one Nationally Significant Nature Conservation site, the Tillmire SSSI and two Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation (SINC). Given that the Plan does not allocate sites for housing, other forms of development, amend existing or introduce Limits to Development, it is unlikely that it will have a significant adverse effect upon any European sites. Furthermore, the Plan actively seeks to protect and enhance the environment and supports the York Local Plan designation of a Green Belt boundary. Additionally, the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan HRA screening report identifies that no individual or cumulative likely significant (adverse) effects will arise as a result of the plan. The conclusion is that it is not necessary to continue to the next stage of the HRA process, an Appropriate Assessment, as part of the HPNP preparation (See separate HPNP HRA Screening Report for further detail). </p>	Common			Skipwith Common	SAC	12km	River Derwent	SAC	6km	Lower Derwent Valley	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	5km	Humber Estuary	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	Approximately 30km downstream via River Ouse
Common																	
Skipwith Common	SAC	12km															
River Derwent	SAC	6km															
Lower Derwent Valley	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	5km															
Humber Estuary	SAC, SPA, Ramsar	Approximately 30km downstream via River Ouse															
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)	Y	This Neighbourhood Plan determines the use of small sites at the local (neighbourhood) level. For example, it designates a few small areas of land as Local Green Spaces. The Plan also reflects the broader spatial framework laid out in the York Local Plan in terms of where new development can be located.															
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)	Y	The neighbourhood plan forms part of the Local Plan and will be used in the assessment of planning applications and so sets the framework for future developments at a local level. It seeks to provide applicants/decision makers with a clear indication of how to react to a development proposal to ensure, for example, that local character is protected.															

Criteria	Y/N	Reason
		<p>Good examples are <i>Policies: HES: 4 Sustainable Design and HES: 8 New Housing</i>. These provide a framework to consider planning applications for housing related development.</p>
<p>7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9)</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>This Neighbourhood Plan does not have a sole purpose that falls within any of these categories.</p>
<p>8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>Whilst a neighbourhood plan could potentially have an adverse effect on the environment, it is not considered likely that the proposals in the HPNP will have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Indeed the Plan seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and identifies Local Green Spaces for protection.</p> <p>Policies for Housing and Transport and Movement offer further environmental benefits.</p> <p>Whilst supporting appropriate housing development the Plan seeks to ensure high quality design, based on sustainable urban design principles, which complement the local character of the Parish and Conservation Area.</p> <p>Heslington Parish (including the village but excluding parts of the University of York Campus East and Campus West) is within the general extent of the Green Belt as defined in City Of York adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>This status has been vital in ensuring that the village and its surroundings maintain their unique rural feel, despite proximity to York and the University.</p> <p>The HPNP welcomes the clear position set out in the York Local Plan on Green Belt and the protection it gives to the historic setting and character of the village of Heslington and the wider Parish area.</p> <p>There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the Parish, recognised by Historic England: Siwards How, south-east of the water tower on Heslington Hill (List</p>

Criteria	Y/N	Reason
		<p>entry Number: 1015690) and a World War II bombing decoy site 500m east of Bland’s Plantation (List entry Number: 1020404).</p> <p>There are no sites of national archaeological and geological interest within this Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>There are 32 Historic England list entries within the Parish, 21 of which are listed buildings/structures and all lie within the Conservation Area (See Annex 2, Page 29).</p> <p>These are recognised in the Plan and measures have been included to protect these structures and their setting and where possible, enhance this.</p> <p>The HPNP does not allocate housing; does not amend or introduce Limits to Development. An individual SEA screening assessment of the HPNP is included (see Section 5, Page13).</p>

5. Screening Assessment

- 5.1 The results of the preceding assessment process could indicate that, depending upon the content of a neighbourhood plan, a Strategic Environmental Assessment may be required. For this reason, neighbourhood plans should be assessed individually in order to determine their likely significant effects on the environment.
- 5.2 The criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3 (5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations. The proposals within individual neighbourhood plans will need to be assessed against these criteria:
- i) The characteristics of plans and programmes having regard, in particular, to:
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)
 - ii) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected having regard, in particular, to:
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects
 - the cumulative nature of the effects
 - the trans-boundary nature of the effects
 - the risks to human health or the environment
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special national characteristics or cultural heritage
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values
 - intensive land-use
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status
- 5.3 The policies set out in the HPNP have been used to undertake this screening assessment. If the conclusion of the screening exercise is that a SEA is not required, any major changes to the existing policies or the introduction of new ones should be subject to a further screening assessment to ensure that significant effects are not likely.

5.4 The table below sets out the assessment of policies in the HPNP in relation to the criteria outlined earlier.

Table2: Assessment of the Likelihood of Significant Effects on the Environment

Key to the Screening Assessment

No likely significant environment effect (NLSE)

Likely significant environmental effect (LSE)

Uncertain whether it is NSLE or LSE

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	NLSE	The HPNP sets a local policy framework for development proposals that community and stakeholders consider are important to the sustainable development of the Parish and on which the Plan can have the greatest impact. There will be positive influence for the local green infrastructure, the promoting or connecting with other areas of York through enhancing sustainable transport corridors and support for housing development providing it is in accordance with the policies and provisions contained in the Plan. The HPNP is in general conformity, and is consistent, with the York Local Plan.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	NLSE	The HPNP is in general conformity, and is consistent, with the York Local Plan. It therefore supports the implementation of higher tier policies at the neighbourhood level and, as such, is not considered to have a significant influence on other plans and programmes.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	NLSE	The HPNP contributes to the achievement of sustainable development at the neighbourhood level. The policies set out in this Plan protect assets of local environmental value and provide locally distinct planning policies to protect them. The likelihood of significant effects on the environment is, therefore, minimised.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	NLSE	<p>There are no significant environmental problems within the Parish to address. However, there are some environmental impacts that the Plan includes measures to address. These are notably in relation to protecting important Local Green Spaces as well as conserving nature conservation sites and heritage assets (designated and non-designated).</p> <p><i>HPNP 2nd Pre-Submission version policies HES 15: Local Green Spaces Designation and HES 16: Green Infrastructure</i> seek to protect these areas as green space and avoid harm to local flora and fauna.</p> <p>Given that the Plan does not allocate land for housing or other forms of development; does not amend or introduce defined Limits to Development and has proposed a suite of policies to protect and where possible enhance the built and natural environment, it is likely to have a positive but not significant effect on the environment and unlikely to have a significant (adverse) impact on the environment.</p>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	NLSE	<p>The HPNP is in general conformity, and is consistent, with higher-level plans that comprise the York Local Plan. This Plan will be developed with regard to European Community legislation on the environment. Consequently, the policies of this Neighbourhood Plan are not considered to be relevant to the implementation of EC legislation.</p>
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects.	NLSE	<p>It is considered that the policies in relation to the natural environment and heritage assets (designated and non-designated) will, in conjunction with the York Local Plan, have a positive environmental effect for at least the duration of the HPNP. The impact of the housing development is less certain, but as the vast majority of the Parish is within the general extent of the Green Belt the amount of land available for windfall development would be restricted to small-scale infill development (normally for a single dwelling) and the re-development use of existing buildings. Windfall by definition cannot be predicted and therefore future assessment of schemes would also be subject to separate assessment where required. The Plan does not allocate land for housing or</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
		other forms of development; does not amend or introduce defined Limits to Development and has proposed a suite of policies and provisions to protect and where possible enhance the built and natural environment.
The cumulative nature of the effects.	NLSE	The cumulative effects of the Plan's policies, as well as those of the York Local Plan, are likely to be positive, but not significant. The Plan does not allocate land for housing or other forms of development but helps to shape development should it be proposed. Further, it does not amend or introduce defined Limits to Development and has proposed a suite of policies and provisions to protect, and where possible enhance, the built and natural environment. It is therefore considered that the plan is likely to have a positive impact and unlikely to have a significant adverse effects.
The trans-boundary nature of the effects.	NLSE	The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan relate to land uses within the Parish. It is unlikely that the policies set out will have trans-boundary effects due to the nature of their content being specific to Heslington Parish. Moreover, <i>HPNP 2nd Pre-Submission version policies HES: 4 and 6</i> seek to conserve the historic setting and local character. This is likely to have a wider positive impact on the character and history of York as this supports CYC evidence base wherein the village is surrounded by an area of historic character and setting ⁶ pertaining to retaining the rural character of the city. The policies in the HPNP are therefore likely to have a positive impact and unlikely to have significant adverse environmental impacts on neighbouring areas.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	NLSE	The plan aims to shape development should it come forward and positively affect stakeholders through policies to conserve and enhance the environment. No significant risks to human health or the environment as a result of the Plan's policies have been identified. The Plan is likely to improve human health by improving access to green spaces and the countryside and promoting highway and pedestrian safety, as outlined in <i>HPNP 2nd Pre-Submission version policies HES: 17 and 18</i> thus having a positive

⁶ TP1: Green Belt Topic Paper (2018) City of York Council: Approach to Defining York's Green Belt

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
		effect.
<p>The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p>	<p>NLSE</p>	<p>The HPNP is concerned with development within the neighbourhood area. This is the entire Parish boundary for Heslington. Virtually the whole Parish, excluding the built environment in the village and parts of the University of York Campus East and Campus West, is within the general extent of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Baseline data indicates that when compared to other areas there is little deprivation in the HPNP area. The presence of the University of York gives a population with a high proportion of young people and transient residents. Of the 4,800 people who live in the Parish, approximately 4,100 are students with a good proportion here for 3 years for 3 academic terms each year. Of the 480 non-student accommodation households in the HPNP area, 150 households were 'one person', and in 65 households the person was over 65. The percentage of retired persons at 18% is broadly in line with York as a whole.⁷</p> <p>Policies relating to housing delivery and transportation are of particular relevance to these groups.</p> <p><i>HPNP2nd Pre- Submission version policies HES: 4 and 6</i> seek to conserve the historic setting of the village. This is likely to have a wider positive impact on the character and history of York as this supports CYC evidence base wherein the village is surrounded by an area of historic character and setting⁶ pertaining to retaining the rural character of the city. Overall, potential environmental impacts from the HPNP are likely to be minimal and limited to the Plan area.</p>
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • exceeded environmental quality standards or limit 	<p>NLSE</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area is generally rural in character (Grade 2 agricultural farmland) with the exception of the general built village area, University of York campuses and Science Park.</p> <p>There is one Nationally Significant Nature Conservation site, the Tillmire SSSI two Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation</p>

⁷ Source: Heslington Ward Profile supplied by CYC in 2017 based on 2011 census

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
<p>values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intensive land use • the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status 		<p>(SINC). <i>HPNP 2nd Pre-Submission version policies in the plan relating to Local Green Space (HES: 15) and Green Infrastructure (HES: 16)</i> help to support these aspects in the Parish with the latter specifically asking for any effects to be mitigated by first avoiding, mitigating and as a last resort compensating for any effects. In addition, the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report completed for the HPNP has concluded that there are no likely significant (adverse) effects as a result of the plan. It is therefore not anticipated that the plan will have a significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>Heslington is comparatively rich in buildings of architectural quality and historic value, with some 32 listed buildings and structures, of which 2 are Grade II* and lie within the designated Heslington Conservation Area. In addition to the listed buildings, Heslington has many others deemed to be buildings that make a positive contribution to the Conservation Area.</p> <p>The Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its natural or cultural heritage. The plan aims to enhance the natural and cultural assets of the area through the support it provides for the natural and built environment in <i>HPNP 2nd Pre-Submission version policies HES:4, HES:6 and HES:7</i>. Listed buildings and Conservation Areas are already protected through national legislation but other buildings identified as important, as well as the Parish as a whole, will be supported by the policies. It is therefore considered that the plan may have an overall positive effect but will not have significant effects as a result of these policies.</p> <p>Virtually the whole of Heslington Parish (including the village but excluding parts of the University of York Campus East and Campus West) is within the general extent of the Green Belt. This status has been vital in ensuring that the village and its surroundings maintain their unique rural feel, despite proximity to York and</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects	Environmental effect?	Justification for Screening Assessment
		<p>the University. Whilst Green Belt, per se, does not constitute a valued landscape feature, the area to the south of the village is identified as an area retaining the rural setting of York and the Tillmire forms part of an extension to a 'green wedge' from the city in CYC's historic character and setting evidence base. These areas contribute to the setting of York in the rural landscape, contributing to Green Belt purposes set out in NPPF, and should be retained. Given the plan does not allocate sites but aims to shape development should it come forward, this will have a positive effect on retaining this landscape setting.</p> <p>Furthermore, given the Plan does not allocate sites for development, impacts of windfall development on any vulnerabilities are likely to be minimised through application of the Neighbourhood Plan's policies and provisions together with associated policies in the York Local Plan. It is not considered that the scale and type of housing windfall development that will come forward will be significant. In addition, the York Local Plan conserves areas of historic character and setting as part of the spatial strategy for locating development.</p>

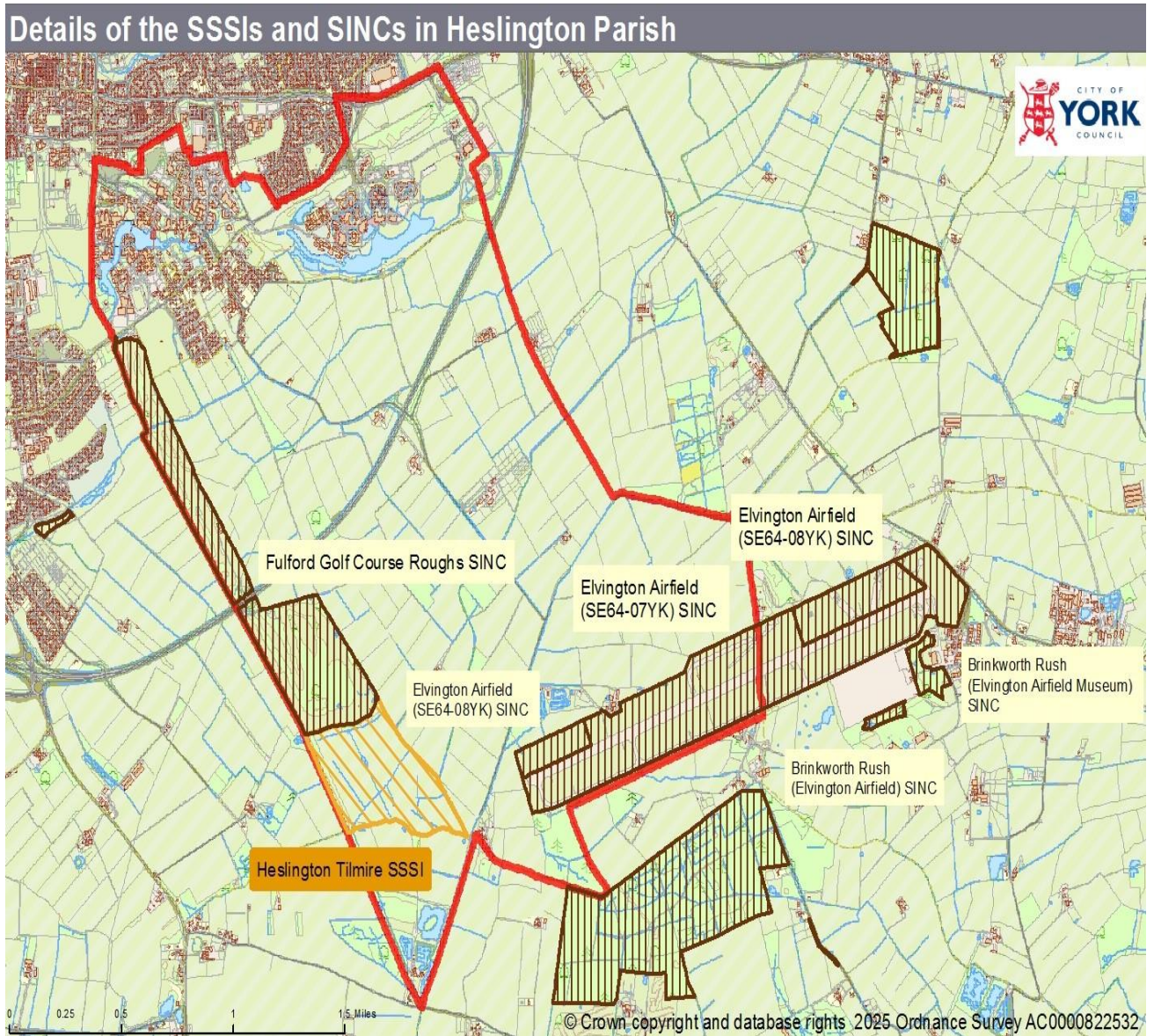
6. Consultation

- 6.1 Consultation is an important part of SEA to ensure that the process is robust and supports the plan development process. The SEA Regulations require that: *“When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies”*.
- 6.2 In England, in addition to guidance from CYC, the consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England.
- 6.3 The responses received through historic consultation on the 1st Pre-Submission Version HPNP (ref Annex 3) and any issues raised were addressed and taken into account in finalising the original Submission Version HPNP SEA, on which this 2nd Pre-Submission SEA Screening Report is based.
- 6.4 Neighbourhood planning consultation documents may be viewed via CYC Neighbourhood Plan webpage: www.york.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning
- 6.5 All previous documents which have been consulted on can be found at <https://www.heslington.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/>

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 On the basis of the Strategic Environmental Assessment out in the Table 2 above, the conclusion is that the Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have any significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and therefore does not need to go forward to full SEA.
- 7.2 The main reasons for this are:
- a) The HPNP is in general conformity, and consistent, with the policies in the York Local Plan. As neighbourhood plans are a lower tier plan in the hierarchy of planning documents for the area they therefore have limited influence on other plans or programmes;
 - b) The HPNP is concerned with development at the neighbourhood level. Its impacts are therefore unlikely to be strategic;
 - c) The HPNP does not allocate land for housing or other forms of development and does not amend or introduce defined Limits to Development; and
 - d) Through its policies, the HPNP seeks to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects and has proposed a suite of sustainable policies and provisions to conserve and where possible enhance the built and natural environment, whilst catering for the needs of existing and future resident groups and businesses.

Annex 1: Details of the SSSI and SINC in Heslington Parish



Non SINC Sites of Interest

Non SINC sites of interest				
			Area(ha)	Interest
262	Heslington Outgang	Heslington	2.00	Acid grassland

Non SINC sites of interest		GR	Area (ha)	Interest
95	Heslington Site 1	621508	0.50	Grassland
96	Mill Hill Heslington Site2	622509	1.50	Neutral

Source: City of York Biodiversity Audit 2010⁹

⁹<https://democracy.york.gov.uk/documents/s46232/bio%2520Audit%2520Review%25202010%2520with%2520appendices%25203%2520-%2520online%2520only.pdf>

Heslington Tillmire² SSSI

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.

Local Planning Authority:	Selby District Council, North Yorkshire; CYC	
National Grid Reference:	Se 638475 (northern & southern extremities):	
Ordnance Survey Sheets:	1:50,000: 105	1:10,000: SE 64 NW
Area:	46.67 hectares (ha)	115.32 acres
First notified:	6 September 1990	

Description

Heslington Tillmire is situated on silt and clay drift deposits on low lying, flat land in the Vale of York. It is important for its tall herb fen plant community and for its marshy grassland and associated assemblage of breeding birds.

The tall herb fen plant community is the only one of its type known within the Vale of York. It is characterised by marsh cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) and common cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*) and a variety of sedges including bottle sedge (*Carex rostrata*), common sedge (*C. nigra*), tawny sedge (*C. hostiana*) and slender sedge (*C. lasiocarpa*). Herbs include greater bird's-foot-trefoil (*Lotus uliginosus*), marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), tubular water-dropwort (*Oenanthe fistulosa*) and common marsh-bedstraw (*Galium palustre*). Of particular note is the presence of the nationally scarce marsh clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*).

The marshy grassland provides a breeding habitat for a range of wetland bird species. Up to ten species have bred in any one year including lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank, teal, shoveler duck and pintail. The fact that the site is surrounded by intensively farmed arable and improved grassland makes it of particular importance for birds.

Source: City of York Biodiversity Audit 2010⁹

City of York Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Citation

SE64-07YK Elvington Airfield Runway and Surrounds

Site Information

Site Area: 140ha
Survey Date: 26/06/2009, 2015
Designation: SINC
Panel Date: 02/10/2017

Location Information

Grid Reference: SE665480
Parish/Ward: Elvington
Natural Area: The Vales of York and Mowbray

Site Description

Habitat Description (NVC)

No obvious NVC affiliation in many areas but an U4b (acid)/MG1 (neutral) grassland mosaic is dominant. Habitat area approximately 114ha.

Site Description

Elvington Airfield Runway and Surrounds is an extensive area of open grassland established around the old Elvington Airfield site, including the longest runway in northern Britain.

The primary habitat on site is extensive open semi-improved grassland over an acid-sandy substrate. Although there is no obvious NVC affiliation in many areas, an U4b (acid)/MG1 (neutral) grassland mosaic is dominant. Coniferous plantation, small areas of scrub, hedgerow and tall ruderal exist on the site periphery. Two distinct areas of the grassland, one towards the eastern end and one at the western end, qualify as a SINC for its acid/neutral grassland and invertebrate interest and have been designated as such since 2010 (SE64-08YK Elvington Airfield Grassland).

The site boundary includes the runway as a coherent management unit but excludes the large concrete apron on the southeast side of the site.

Species Records

The open character of the grassland within a hedged arable landscape and the extent and continuity of this grassland is extremely attractive to birds, particularly as it is contiguous with Heslington Tilmire Site of Special Scientific Interest (c.550m west, designated for wetland bird species) and close to the Lower Derwent Valley Special Protection Area (2.4km east). The bird interest was first identified in 2008/2009 and the site was proposed as a Candidate SINC requiring further survey.

In 2015 Wintering and Breeding Bird Surveys by Wold Ecology Ltd were undertaken in connection with a proposed development of the site. Lapwings were recorded in all 2015 winter surveys with up to 432 occurring in the January. Golden Plover were recorded in 7 out of 10 visits in 2015 with up to 170 individuals the in November.

A high density of Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), 72 singing males, were recorded in the 2015 summer surveys.

Other notable species recorded include; Grey partridge (1 pair breeding), Eurasian Hobby, Common Snipe (max. 21 winter), Curlew (max 2 pairs breeding), Common Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Song Thrush, Starling, Willow Tit (1 pair breeding), House Sparrow, Tree Sparrow (breeding), Common Linnet (breeding) and Yellowhammer.

Site Evaluation

SINC Assessment

As part of ongoing work, in late 2016/early 2017 the North Yorkshire SINC Panel undertook an exercise to revise the bird criteria of the SINC Guidelines including B5 Any site supporting a breeding, wintering or passage population of any bird of conservation concern which is of district, County or regional importance. The latest version of the SINC Guidelines can be downloaded from the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre's website (www.neyedc.org.uk).

Skylarks are included in the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern 4. Red is the highest conservation priority, with species needing urgent action. Although there are not 3 concurrent years of bird data for the site the SINC Panel agreed that the data was probably representative of the population on this site.

A Biodiversity Accounting Assessment by The Environment Bank dated August 2016 considered the site to support a regionally significant breeding population of Skylark. It states 72 singing males on 113.9ha constitutes a very high density of 63 males/km² - compares with historical highest known densities (on coastal dunes, saltmarsh and chalk downland) of 75 pairs/km². Farmland in 1970's (before massive declines) averaged 18.4 pairs/km² whereas now it is below 7.4 pairs/km². The assessment concluded that Elvington Airfield has a population 8.5 times larger than the national average for farmland.

The VC61 bird recorder confirmed in November 2016 that this as an exceptional population density of Skylarks.

SINC Designation

This site qualifies as a SINC under Criteria **B5**, for supporting a breeding population of Skylarks, a bird of conservation concern, which is of regional importance.

References

- Elvington Airfield National Vegetation Classification Survey, June 2015, Wold Ecology Ltd. (Unpublished).
- Elvington Airfield Bird Surveys 2015 (Report 2016) Wold Ecology Ltd. (Unpublished).
- Biodiversity Accounting Assessment – Land to the West of Elvington Lane, The Environment Bank, EB03009-A, 2016. (Unpublished).
- M. Eaton, N. Aebischer, A. Brown, R. Hearn, L. Lock, A. Musgrove, D. Noble, D. Stroud & R. Gregory (2015). Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds*, 108: 708-746.
- S. Browne, J. Vickery & D. Chamberlain (2000) Densities and population estimates of breeding Skylarks *Alauda arvensis* in Britain in 1997, *Bird Study*, 47:1, 52-65, DOI: 10.1080/00063650009461160

City of York Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) Citation

SE64-06YK Fulford Golf Course, Roughs

Site Information

Site Area: 74.32ha
Survey Date: 08/08/2017
Designation: SINC
Panel Date: 08/11/2017

Location Information

Grid Reference: SE623495
Parish/Ward: Heslington
Natural Area: The Vales of York and Mowbray

Site Description

Habitat Description (NVC/hectares)

Woodland: broadleaved, semi-natural (25.0807), plantation (1.6021), Scrub: dense/continuous (0.7738), Scrub: scattered, Parkland and scattered trees: broadleaved, Acid grassland: unimproved (6.8781), Neutral grassland: unimproved (3.1278), Marsh/marshy grassland (2.1799), Other tall herb and fern: tall ruderal (0.5085), Dry dwarf shrub heath: acid (0.5513), Dry heath/acid grassland (7.0505), Standing water (0.0521), Running water, Cultivated/disturbed land: amenity grassland (26.2643).

H9, M25, MG1, MG9, U2, U4, W10, W4.

Site Description

Fulford Golf Course is situated on former heathland at Heslington Common and is a fine example of a traditional English Course whose design fits in well with the heathland character and incorporates many natural features within it. It is divided into two sections, the long narrow section (29ha) within the ring road and the larger (46ha) block beyond it, between the ring road and Heslington Tilmire SSSI. To the north west of the ring road, there are extensive areas of rough (approximately 18ha) forming a spine through the centre of the course. This comprises areas of scrub and woodland, both natural and planted, with a number of mature and veteran trees.

Species Records

Much of the rough grassland is dominated by Yorkshire fog (*Holcus lanatus*) but within it are areas of acidic and neutral grassland with small areas of remnant heath. Great burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*), harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), tormentil (*Potentilla erecta*) and heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) are occasional, with common bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*) and devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) occurring very locally. Betony (*Betonica officinalis*) and pignut (*Conopodium majus*) have also been recorded previously. Heathy areas within the roughs are very localised with heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*), and common sedge (*Carex nigra*). Green ribbed sedge (*Carex binervis*) has also been recorded previously.

The previous site description stated that there appeared to have been some loss of interest through this area of the site, with the apparent loss of some species and habitats, notably areas of sphagnum recorded in earlier surveys in the 1980's and early 1990's. To the south of

the ring road, there are some 36 ha of 'rough' centred on the old Heslington Common. The fairways tend to follow a circuit around the edge with a large central area of woodland and rough grassland. A wide ride has been created through the middle of this woodland following a fire. Further clearance is also taking place to broaden the zones of grass heath. More-neutral elements of grassland are largely absent south of the A64 with the vegetation being characteristically much more acidic. Areas of heather are more frequent, along with extensive areas of wavy hair-grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*) (U3) or purple moor grass (*Molinia caerulea*) (M25).

Woodland is mainly species-poor Oak woodland (W10) but there are sizeable areas of downy birch (*Betula pubescens*) - purple moor grass woodland. This acidic woodland community is uncommon and as such is notable. The more-frequent acidic elements include mat grass (*Nardus stricta*), heath bedstraw, tormentil, heath rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) etc. with species such as heath violet (*Viola canina*) and (*Luzula multiflora*) occurring more locally. Heath grass (*Danthonia decumbens*) has also been recorded previously. Of particular interest are the wet flushes that occur throughout the grasslands. These are particularly rich with species such as marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) and bog pimpernel (*Anagalis tenella*). The latter species was not seen during the recent survey but conditions still appear to be suitable. An area of particular interest is the central grassland practise area. This is frequently mown grassland but is very diverse.

It is likely that the invertebrate interest is also very high, with a mosaic of features likely to be of interest including heathland, Molinia stands, veteran trees and seasonal pools. *Agabus uliginosus*, a notable beetle species of heathy seasonal pools, has previously been recorded. A good variety of birdlife has previously been recorded at Fulford Golf Course including Tree Pipit, Bullfinch, Redpoll, partridges and occasionally Green Woodpecker. The site is also known for its varied fungus flora.

Site Evaluation

SINC Assessment

The site scores 16/8 under Criteria Gr3a (Dry heath/acid grass mosaic areas only), W2 W4 present, and scores 8/6 under Criteria Mh2.

SINC Designation

This site qualifies as a SINC under Criteria **Gr3a**, **W2**, **W4**, and **Mh2**, with designating features as lowland acid grassland, semi-natural woodland or scrub assigned to W4 NVC community, and a mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland, dry heath, and woodland.

Ratified Sites of Importance to Nature Conservations (SINCs) Within and adjacent to Heslington Parish

SITE CODE	SITE NAME	LOCATION	NGR	SIZE IN HA	SINC STATUS	DECISION DATE	HABITAT	DESIGNATION
SE64-06YK	Fulford Golf Course, Roughs Heslington Common (Two sections bisected by A64 ring road)	Heslington	SE623495 And SE632482	9.99	Ratified	08/11/2017	Lowland acid grassland. Seminalural woodland or scrub that is assigned to W4 NVC Community. Mosaic of semi-natural habitats including grassland, dry heath and woodland	Gr3, Mh2
SE64-07YK	Elvington Airfield	Heslington and Elvington	SE665480	9.99	Ratified	02/10/2017	Significant population of skylarks and supports other birds associated with the Lower Derwent Valley.	B5
SE64-08YK	Elvington Airfield	Heslington and Elvington	SE666480	9.99	Ratified	28/09/2010	Acid/neutral grassland Invertebrate interest	Gr3/4/5 I1

SINCs bordering parish boundary and /or continuous with adjacent SINCs

SITE CODE	SITE NAME	LOCATION	NGR	SIZE IN HA	SINC STATUS	DECISION DATE	HABITAT	DESIGNATION
SE64-11YK	Brinkworth Rush (Elvington Airfield)	Elvington	SE679481	1.89	Ratified	08/11/2017	Old, established seminalural neutral grassland. Good population of great crested newt.	Gr4/Gr3
SE64-10YK	Brinkworth Rush (Air Museum)	Elvington	SE676478	4.91	Ratified	08/11/2017	Old, established seminalural neutral grassland, Rich-fen, Mixed habitat with high structural diversity, Good population of great crested newt	Gr1, Gr4, Fe3, Mh3, A2

Source: CITYOFYORK Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation Review2017
[sites-of-importance-for-nature-conservation-sinc-review-2017 \(york.gov.uk\)](https://www.york.gov.uk/sites-of-importance-for-nature-conservation-sinc-review-2017)

Annex 2: Heslington Conservation Area¹¹



In 1969, when under Selby District Council, the Heslington Conservation Area was designated in order to protect Heslington's architectural character and historical interest, its integrity and the coherence of its built and green environment. Following a review in 2004, the Conservation Area boundary was extended by the City of York Council (CYC) to include, principally, School Lane and Lord Deramore's School and grounds to the east and the fields and paddocks between Main Street [South] and Holmefield Lane/Halifax College to the west.

Around the same time, CYC formally adopted the Heslington Village Design Statement¹² as Supplementary Planning Guidance. In 2009, CYC commissioned and accepted an independent Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

This was followed in 2013 by CYC's Character Area Statement for Heslington which covered the whole village, not just the Conservation Area, and which further emphasises and stresses the importance of Heslington's architectural and environmental character and qualities.

Further details for:

Heslington Conservation Area (No. 28)

Heslington Conservation Area Appraisal, April 2009

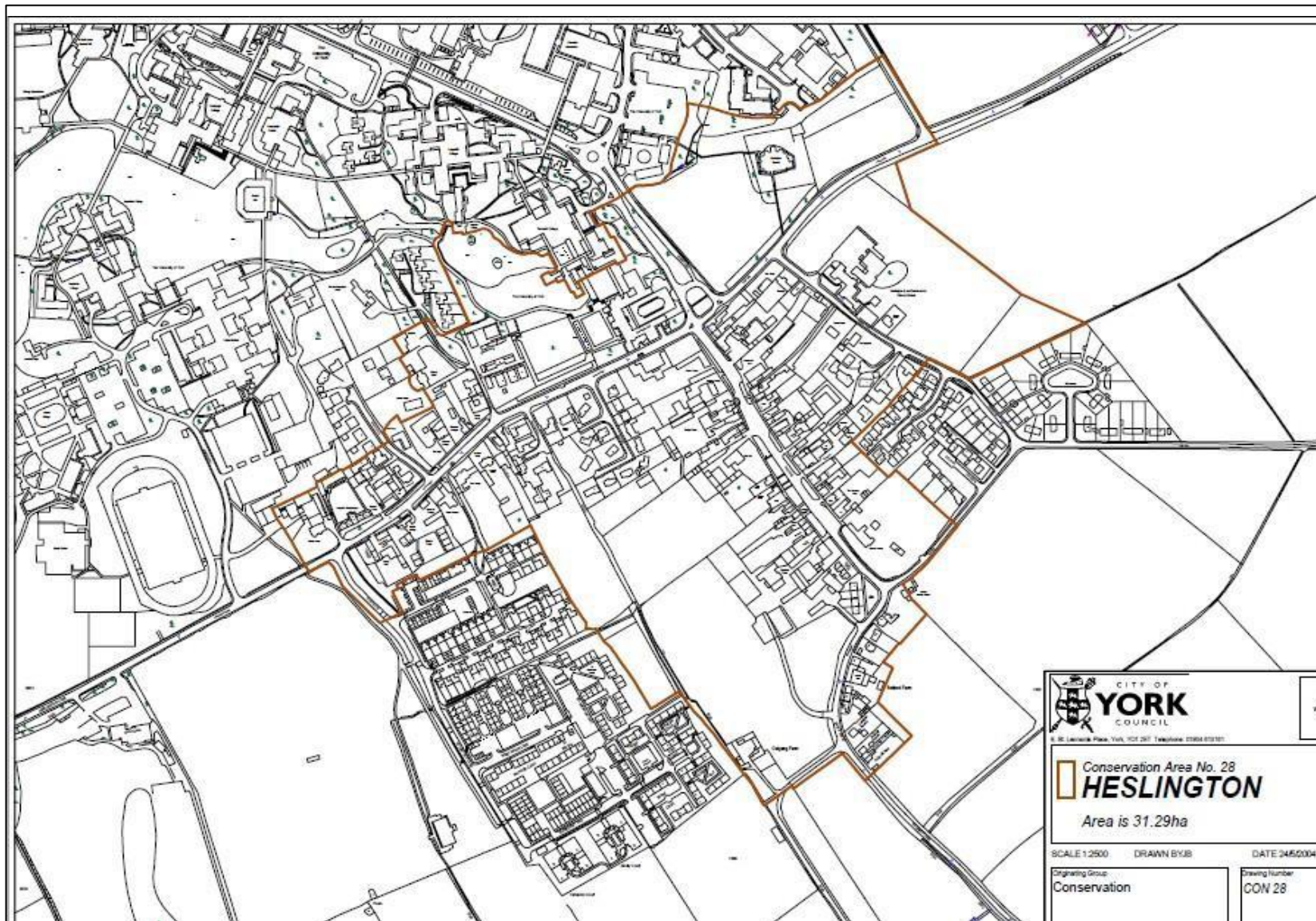
Heslington Character Area Statement, November 2013

are available at the links given below.

¹¹ <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/3488/ca28heslingtonpdf>
<https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/3398/heslingtoncaapdf> and
https://www.york.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3592/area_62_-_heslingtonpdf.pdf

¹² Heslington Village Design statement
https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/3239/heslington_village_design_statement

Heslington Conservation Area Map



Annex 3: Statutory Consultation bodies summary comments

Environment Agency

“Having considered the nature of the policies in the Plan, we consider that it is unlikely that significant negative impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan.”

Historic England

“On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex 11 of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the conclusion of the Heslington Neighbourhood Plan SEA Screening Report, set out on pg. 21, para. 7.1, that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.”

Natural England

“... should you allocate sites within the plan (as opposed to shaping policies) Natural England advise that the Neighbourhood Plan is progressed post the adoption of the Local Plan. Natural England in their response advocate an approach that does not allocate development sites and advises the plan should implement Development Management style policies to shape development. If this is the contents of the plan, the response states that it is likely to not need to go forward to either HRA or SEA.”

NOTE:

The Heslington Parish Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for housing or other forms of development and does not amend or introduce defined Limits to Development.