# Appendix B: Habitat Site Conservation Objectives, Threats and Pressures

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| Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC[[1]](#footnote-1) |
| Conservation objectives:  Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;   * The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats * The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and * The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely   Qualifying Features:  H9190. Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland  Threats and Pressures at Habitat site which may be affected by Local Plan[[2]](#footnote-2),[[3]](#footnote-3),[[4]](#footnote-4):   * Air pollution – impact of nitrogen deposition and acidification; and * Public access and disturbance. |

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| South Pennine Moors SAC[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| Conservation objectives:  Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;   * The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats * The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and * The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely   Qualifying Features:  H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath H4030. European dry heaths  H7130. Blanket bogs\*  H7140. Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface  H91A0. Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles  Threats and Pressures at Habitat site which may be affected by Local Plan[[6]](#footnote-6),[[7]](#footnote-7),[[8]](#footnote-8):   * Hydrological change; * Public access and disturbance; * Air pollution; and * Planning permission – general. |

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| Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA[[9]](#footnote-9) |
| Conservation objectives:  Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;   * The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features * The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features * The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely * The population of each of the qualifying features, and, * The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.   Qualifying Features:  098 Falco columbarius; Merlin (Breeding)  A140 Pluvialis apricaria; European golden plover (Breeding)  A222 Asio flammeus; Short-eared owl (Breeding)  Threats and Pressures at Habitat site which may be affected by Local Plan[[10]](#footnote-10),[[11]](#footnote-11),[[12]](#footnote-12):   * Hydrological change; * Public access and disturbance; * Air pollution; and * Planning permission – general. |

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| Humber Estuary SAC[[13]](#footnote-13) |
| Conservation objectives:  Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;   * The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; * The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; * The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species; * The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; * The populations of qualifying species; and, * The distribution of qualifying species within the site.   Qualifying features:  H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all of the time; Subtidal sandbanks  H1130. Estuaries  H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats  H1150. Coastal lagoons\*  H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand  H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes  H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram  H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland\* H2160. Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*; Dunes with sea-buckthorn S1095. *Petromyzon marinus*; Sea lamprey S1099. *Lampetra fluviatilis*; River lamprey  S1364. *Halichoerus grypus;* Grey seal  Threats and Pressures at Habitat site which may be affected by Local Plan[[14]](#footnote-14),[[15]](#footnote-15):   * Water pollution. |

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| Humber Estuary SPA[[16]](#footnote-16) |
| Conservation objectives:  Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;   * The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; * The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; * The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; * The population of each of the qualifying features; and * The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.   Qualifying features:  A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Non-breeding)  A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding) A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)  A081 *Circus aeruginosus*; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding)  A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)  A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Non-breeding) A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Breeding) A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)  A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding) A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding) A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)  A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)  A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)  A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)  A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding) Waterbird assemblage  Threats and Pressures at Habitat site which may be affected by Local Plan[[17]](#footnote-17),[[18]](#footnote-18):   * Water pollution. |

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| Humber Estuary Ramsar [[19]](#footnote-19) |
| Ramsar sites do not have the Conservation Objectives in the same way as SPAs and SACs. Information regarding the designation of Ramsar sites is contained in JNCC Ramsar Information Sheets. Ramsar Criteria are the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance. The relevant criteria and ways in which this site meets the criteria are presented below. |

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| Ramsar Criterion | Justification for the application of each criterion |
| 1 | The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons. It is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuary with high suspended sediment loads, which feed a dynamic and rapidly changing system of accreting and eroding intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. Examples of both strandline, foredune, mobile, semi-fixed dunes, fixed dunes and dune grassland occur on both banks of the estuary and along the coast. The estuary supports a full range of saline conditions from the open coast to the limit of saline intrusion on the tidal rivers of the Ouse and Trent. Wave exposed sandy shores are found in the outer/open coast areas of the estuary. These change to the more moderately exposed sandy shores and then to sheltered muddy shores within the main body of the estuary and up into the tidal rivers. The lower saltmarsh of the Humber is dominated by common cordgrass *Spartina anglica* and annual glasswort *Salicornia* communities. Low to mid marsh communities are mostly represented by sea aster *Aster tripolium*, common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima* and sea purslane *Atriplex portulacoides* communities. The upper portion of the saltmarsh community is atypical, dominated by sea couch *Elytrigia atherica* (*Elymus pycnanthus*) saltmarsh community. In the upper reaches of the estuary, the tidal marsh community is dominated by the common reed *Phragmites australis* fen and sea club rush *Bolboschoenus maritimus* swamp with the couch grass *Elytrigia repens (Elymus repens*) saltmarsh community. Within the Humber Estuary Ramsar site there are good examples of four of the five physiographic types of saline lagoon. |
| 3 | The Humber Estuary Ramsar site supports a breeding colony of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most north-easterly breeding site in Great Britain of the natterjack toad *Bufo calamita.* |
| 5 | Assemblages of international importance: 153,934 waterfowl, non-breeding season (5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/2001) |
| 6 | Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.  Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation):  Species with peak counts in winter:  Common shelduck*, Tadorna tadorna,* NW Europe  4464 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)  Eurasian golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* subspecies, NW Europe, W Continental Europe, NW Africa population  30,709 individuals, representing an average of 3.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)  Red Knot, *Calidris canutus islandica* subspecies  28165 individuals, representing an average of 6.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)  Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*, Europe  22222 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)  Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* subspecies  1,113 individuals, wintering, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)  Bar-tailed godwit*, Limosa lapponica lapponica* subspecies  2,752 individuals, wintering, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)  Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*  4632 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7- 2000/1) |
| 8 | The Humber Estuary acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* and sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* between coastal waters and their spawning areas. |

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| Threats and Pressures at Habitat site which may be affected by Local Plan:  Water pollution (domestic sewage). |

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| Sherwood Forest ppSPA |
| No conclusion has been reached about the possible future classification of parts of Sherwood Forest as a SPA for its breeding bird interest. Natural England advises[[20]](#footnote-20):  *“a precautionary approach should be adopted by LPAs which ensures that reasonable and proportionate steps have been taken in order to minimise, as far as possible, any potential adverse effects from development on the breeding populations of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest area”.*  Bird species listed on Annex 1 of the European Wild Birds Directive:  European nightjar (Breeding) *Caprimulgus europaeus;* and  Woodlark (Breeding) *Lullula arborea.*  Threats and Pressures at the site which may be affected by Local Plan:   * Disturbance to breeding birds from people, their pets and traffic; * Loss, fragmentation and/or damage to breeding and/or feeding habitat; * Bird mortality arising from domestic pets and/or predatory mammals and birds; * Bird mortality arising from road traffic and/or wind turbines; and * Pollution and/or nutrient enrichment of breeding habitats. |

1. Natural England (2018) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Conservation Objectives. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6070092765069312> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Other threats / pressures identified in the SIP are not considered likely to be influenced by the Local Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Natural England (2015) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC SIP. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5351066822508544> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Natural England (2016) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6318128569516032> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Natural England (2018) South Pennine Moors SAC Conservation Objectives. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4877034534993920> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Other threats / pressures identified in the SIP are not considered likely to be influenced by the Local Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Natural England (2015) South Pennine Moors SIP. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6518808585961472> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Natural England (2019) South Pennine Moors SAC Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5560704069533696> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Natural England (2018) Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA Conservation Objectives. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4730802567118848> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Other threats / pressures identified in the SIP are not considered likely to be influenced by the Local Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Natural England (2015) South Pennine Moors SIP. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6518808585961472> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Natural England (2019) Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5198073102073856> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Natural England (2018) Humber Estuary SAC Conservation Objectives. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5009545743040512> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Other threats / pressures identified in the SIP are not considered likely to be influenced by the Local Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Natural England (2015) Humber Estuary SIP. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5730884670980096> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Natural England (2019) Humber Estuary SPA Conservation Objectives. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5382184353398784> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Other threats / pressures identified in the SIP are not considered likely to be influenced by the Local Plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Natural England (2015) Humber Estuary SIP. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5730884670980096> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. JNCC (2007) Ramsar Information Sheet: Humber Estuary. Available at: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/RISrep/GB663RIS.pdf> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Natural England (2014) Advice note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region. Available at: <https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/329/natural-england-s-advice-notes-on-the-sherwood-ppspa-2014> [Date Accessed: 07/09/23] [↑](#footnote-ref-20)