



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is registered
in England No. 409650 and is a
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Forward Planning
Ryedale District Council
Old Malton Road
Malton
YO17 7HH

10th December 2015

THE RYEDALE PLAN: LOCAL PLAN SITES DOCUMENT, SITES CONSULTATION

Thank you for consulting the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust on the above. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust works across the Yorkshire and Humber region managing more than 95 reserves and with a membership of over 40,000. The YWT is the second oldest of the 47 Wildlife Trusts which work in partnership to cover the whole of the UK. The Trust's principal vision is to work for a Yorkshire rich in wildlife, valued and enjoyed by people.

Overall the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is impressed by the very thorough assessment of the sites in the Local Plan Document. The assessment tables show that the likely impacts on biodiversity of potential development on the various sites has been considered in some detail. In general the preferred sites appear to offer limited possibilities for damage to important habitats, protected species or designated wildlife sites.

Questions for Malton and Norton – Residential

What are your views on the Council's preferred sites?

The preferred sites appear to have a low chance of impacting on biodiversity and a number are arable fields which will have little biodiversity interest. Some brief comments on individual sites:

Site 218. An issue could be proximity to ring road verges SINC. This could be easily buffered but consideration could be given to using habitat types and plant species present in the SINC for landscaping and planting specifications to enhance biodiversity.

Site 249. Adjacent woodland and disused quarry could possibly be enhanced or considered in GI planning.

Do you have any views on how we have selected these sites? Happy with the process

Questions for Malton and Norton - Employment Land

What are your views on the Council's preferred sites?

The preferred sites, 578 and 579, appear to be a reasonable distance from the River Derwent and to be on intensively farmed arable land so should not have too great an impact on biodiversity. SUDS schemes may help with biodiversity enhancement and ensuring surface water entering the Derwent is good quality.

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Do you have any views on how we have selected these sites?

The Trust agrees with the decision to discount a large number of sites which were very close to the River Derwent. There would be a wide range of implications for more industrial development near to the Derwent, from flooding to effects on water quality and wildlife.

Are there any further sites listed below we should be considering for potential allocation? No.

Questions for Pickering Sites

What are your views on the Council's preferred sites?

Sites 116, 347, 205 and 387 do not appear to threaten biodiversity. Site 200 has potential to improve the green corridor along Pickering Beck as at the moment the intensive arable field has very little margin along the beck. GI could be planned to improve this, by looking at what plant species are present at other parts of the beck, and considering whether habitat could be enhanced for species present in the area. Enhancements for bats could also be valuable.

Do you have any views on how we have selected these sites? Again the site selection procedure has been thorough. The Trust would expect mitigation for Great Crested Newts when or if site 199 is developed. The Trust would agree in particular with the decision **not** to allocate sites 152, 380, 500, due to potential impact on habitats and species. Sites near to Keld Springs SINC would have potential to impact on hydrology and water quality and nesting birds such as snipe.

Do you agree with site 650 as the preferred site for employment land? Yes, although the Great Crested Newt population will need to be carefully considered. A SUDS scheme designed for biodiversity with extra ponds and with a long term management plan might protect the population. Employment sites can protect wildlife if well designed as evening and weekend disturbance is limited. Planting and landscaping should enhance the nearby SINC

Do you agree with the Council's views on the extent/size of site 650? Yes.

Questions for Kirbymoorside.

Option 1: The redevelopment of the Micrometalsmiths site and adjoining land for residential purposes to support the relocation of the factory and deliver circa 124 homes;

Could the factory not be expanded on same site, is LEP funding or similar available? Would redevelopment to residential involve contaminated land?

Option 2: The development of a combination of other sites including site 265; a limited supply of land from sites 201, 345 and Site 156

These sites appear to have a low possibility of impacting biodiversity.



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Do you agree with site 622 as the preferred site for employment land?

Site 622 is within the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Living Landscapes and very close to the River Dove. Industrial development could be a source of pollution and there could be a loss of flood plain. The Trust would hope other more sustainable sites comes forward or the Micrometalsmiths site is expanded instead.

Stamford Bridge approach.

The Trust agrees with the approach. The other site proposed in Stamford Bridge site 394 would be unlikely to be sustainable due to impacts on the River Derwent.

Preferred Sites in the Service Villages

What are your views on the Council's preferred sites? See below.

Site 51- Pecketts Yard, Sheriff Hutton (circa 15 units) Unlikely to impact on biodiversity.

Site 430 (incorporating site 464) - Land East of the Balk and south of Aspen Way, Slingsby (Circa 73 units max) This site is unlikely to have an impact on biodiversity. Some of the hedgerows may be important and require protection in the landscaping.

Site 638 (including previous site submission references 176/286/291/292/536) –This site appears to have a low possibility of impacting biodiversity.

Land to east of Low Moorgate and north of Manor View, Rillington (circa net additional 17 units)

These sites appear to have a low possibility of impacting biodiversity. The area around Rillington is important for rare arable weeds although these will be hard to mitigate for but should be considered in surveys.

Site 8- Land to east of properties on Main Street and north of St Helen's, Amotherby (circa 19 units)

Good quality hedgerows and hedgerow trees would need protection.

Do you have any views on how we have selected these sites? The Trust is happy with the methodology.

Service Villages Site Assessment Tables

Overall the Trust agrees with the assessment of sites which have been discounted.



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Issues which may need further assessment in Ryedale may include identifying small areas of unimproved grassland which will not have been surveyed as part of the SINC system. Such areas are likely to occur around the smaller settlements and be associated with important pre enclosure hedgerows and grassland.

As already identified in the Screening Assessment under the Habitats Regulations there is also an issue in Ryedale of sites which may affect the catchment of the River Derwent, by impacting on water quality, amount of runoff or riparian habitat. These potential impacts do however appear to have been well covered in the site assessment methodology.

Site Selection Methodology

The Trust is happy with the Site Selection Methodology, it is thorough, easy to understand and should provide a robust way to choose the most sustainable sites to allocate.

Screening Assessment under the Habitats Regulations

The Trust is happy with the conclusions of the screening assessment.

Sara Robin
Conservation Officer
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
