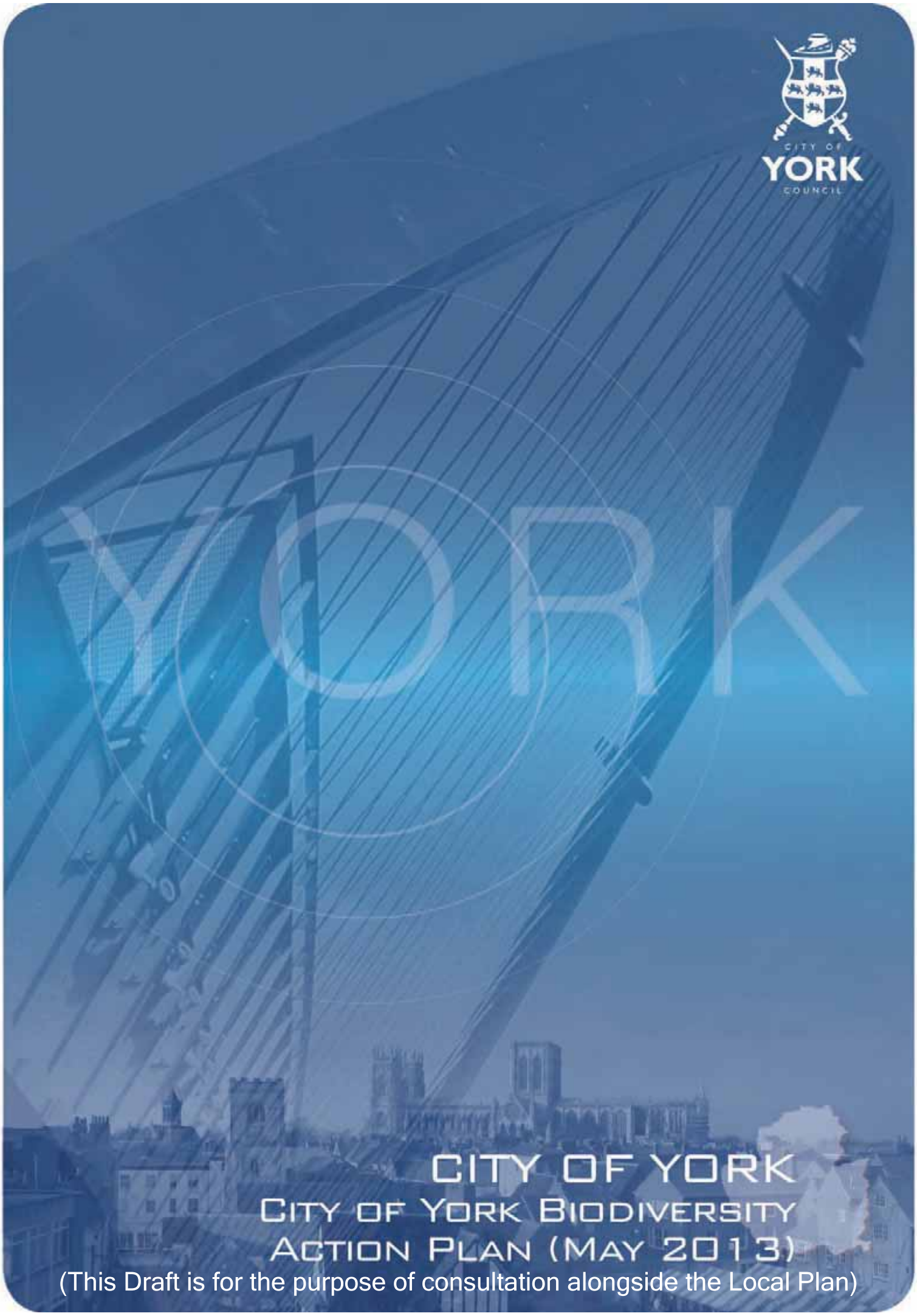

CITY OF YORK

City of York Biodiversity Action Plan (May 2013)

(This Draft is for the purpose of consultation alongside the Local Plan)

YORK BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (BAP)
-- FOR LIFE

Introduction

What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the huge variety of life that surrounds us, its plants, animals and insects and the way they all work together.
When you are outside, in the garden, field, park, woods, river bank, wherever you are …if you look around and listen, you begin to appreciate how the immense variety of plants and wildlife that surrounds us makes our lives special. It is like a living jigsaw, each piece carefully fitting into the next, if you lose a piece, the picture is incomplete.

Why is biodiversity important? – Ecosystem Services

All life has an intrinsic value that we have a duty to protect and, like a jigsaw, each piece has its own part to play. The loss of one piece will affect how the next one works. We are all part of the ecosystems that surround us and so any effect on them will ultimately affect us so by protecting and helping biodiversity we are improving life for ourselves. A rich natural environment delivers numerous unseen benefits which we tend to take for granted. These are what we now call ecosystem services – things like water storage and flood control, pollination of food crops by insects even the air we breathe and the water we drink are all part of this service. There are indirect benefits as well such as improved health and wellbeing and higher property values. All of this is down to our natural environment and the biodiversity in it.

Ecosystem Services		
Flood Storage	Clean Water	Carbon storage – Woods, trees, heaths
	Soil	
Food and timber	Medicine	Reducing heat island effects
Air pollution reduction	Pollination	

Why do we need an Action Plan?

Sometimes the way we live can make life difficult for some plants and animals to survive. City of York Council has helped to identify those plants and animals **(priority species)** and where they live **(priority habitats)** that are most at risk in our local area. The action plan describes what we all can do to ensure that these parts of our local wildlife are not lost completely.
It will be particularly important to those looking to invest in York's future and so needs to be included in the new **York Local Plan**.

What do we have

York is a special place not only for its history, buildings and archaeology but also for its wildlife. York Minister is an 800year old jewel in the historical crown of the city, but we also have our natural gems as well. Clifton Ings is a wildlife wonder that is, as a meadow, perhaps 2000 years old, even more intricate and beautiful and just as worthy of our care.

The Tansy Beetle is almost a visible representation of this. It is found living on Tansy clumps for a 20km stretch of the banks of the Ouse around York and nowhere else in Britain. Victorian's used the iridescent green beetles as sequins on dresses.

All these and many more are found hidden in the landscape of York.
Other highlights include places like Strensall Common, the Lower Derwent Valley and species such as Corncrake, Hairstreaks and Sulphur Water Dropwort.

Why have we included problem species?

Whilst the Romans are better known for their roads and towns, they also introduced rabbits and ground elder over 2000 years ago, both for food. Many people now consider these a problem especially if you are a gardener or farmer. Today, some of our native habitats and species are threatened by new invasive, non-native plants & animals that spread quickly and are persistent and difficult to eradicate. We have identified some of the current problem species and it is important we recognise the damage that can result from them and what we can do to prevent this.

Is there a National Action Plan?

Yes. Following the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the UK joined with many other countries to create national plans to halt the loss of biodiversity.
Open your web browser, press Ctrl on your computer keyboard and click on the link below for more details of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Who will use the York Biodiversity Action Plan?

It will help inform planners, developers and landowners on how they can work together to avoid harm to fragile environments and species. The plan will also contribute to the York Community Strategy making York an even better place to live and work. Local environment partnerships will use it to focus activity on maintaining and improving biodiversity. The North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre will use the plan to monitor and record changes to plant and animal populations at risk.

You can also use it as a gateway to increase your awareness of wildlife in your local area and how you can help.

Does climate change affect biodiversity?

Yes. All plants and animals require particular conditions in which to live, any change to these conditions can and will affect local wildlife dramatically. Some species are more selective than others and therefore are far more susceptible to change. It is predicted that global temperatures will rise by between 2 and 4 degrees this century and we have already seen increasing sea temperatures around Britain and decreasing arctic ice. Locally there will be an increase in summer rainfall and storms. A few degrees may not seem very much but we are already seeing changes in the distribution of some sps, some decreasing as they are pushed north, some increasing as they move up from the south. It is important that we try to reduce our CO^2 emissions to minimise our impact on the atmosphere and so minimise our own effect on climatic change.

Where can I enjoy this wildlife?

Just about anywhere, a bird feeder or window box will attract many birds, butterflies and other insects, a garden can be a haven or you take a walk in local greenspace, gardens or parks. York has three local nature reserves and the Natural England Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve is only 11 kms south east of York. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust also has many reserves that are open for the public to walk through throughout North Yorkshire. Locally they have sites such as Askham Bog, Wheldrake Ings and Moorlands at Skelton.

Remember, if you can walk, cycle or use public transport, this is much healthier for you and for wildlife!

Can I do anything?

Most certainly you can. There are many things that you can do at home. Included in this Action Plan are fact sheets and links about gardening for wildlife. Buildings too can be a home to some species. Birds such as Swift, House Martin and even the House sparrow often nest in buildings and bats roost there. All these are declining so thinking about them when

considering and implementing house alterations and repairs is important. In addition you can always join local Friends groups to help manage and improve your local environment.

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It is important to remember that Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or Sites of Local Interest do not have an automatic right of public access, they are generally privately owned land. Any unauthorised access may be harmful to the wildlife interest of the site and may create problems for its management. Please do not enter the land without the express consent of the landowner.

It is proposed to submit the finalised BAP for endorsement by the following partners:

The North Yorkshire Local Nature Partnership

The Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

The City of York Council

The Country Landowners and Business Association

Environment Agency

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group

Friends Groups

National Farmers Union

Natural England

The York Natural Environment Trust

York University

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Forest Authority

About the BAP

The Biodiversity Action Plan has been drawn up to provide up to date information about the wildlife that is found in York, the sites that are of value, its importance both for York and nationally, the threats that are posed by today's way of life and what can and is being done to conserve it.
It comprises information on habitats and species thought to be important in York, their diversity, location and what is being done to conserve and enhance them. It takes forward information from the York Biodiversity Audit and suggests how we move forward to both conserve and enhance that which makes York special.

Information about individual habitats and sites can be found in the York Biodiversity Audit 2010. This audit is based on a comprehensive survey of York carried out between 2008 through to 2010.

A synopsis for each habitat is included in the Habitat Action Plans within this BAP.

The basis of protecting wildlife within York is based on a hierarchy of designations ranging from Internationally (Ramsar sites, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Special Protection Areas (SPA's)) and nationally important sites (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), National Nature Reserves (NNR's)) through regionally important sites such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) to locally important sites referred to as Sites of Local Interest (SLI's).
International and Nationally designated sites have statutory protection in law whilst SINC sites and Sites of Local Interest are non statutory designations within the local authorities responsibilities. More detailed information about the role of designated sites is provided in York's Countryside Character (Designation Hierachy**)**

Sites of Special Scientific Importance have national guidelines for their designation.
The selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) is based on the criteria established in the North Yorkshire and York Criteria for the Selection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.
Sites of Local Interest have no strict criteria but are based on recorded knowledge of an interest known to be present but insufficient to warrant designation as a SINC.

BAP's in the Local Plan

The Local Plan is the document that the Council has to produce in order to guide and manage development and land use within the City.

Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the NERC Act to conserve biodiversity and take it into account in all its work, as do all public organisations. Embedding this into their Local plan can help meet this duty by :

- Protecting both species and sites of biodiversity interest through developing and implementing policies founded on a strong evidence base and maintaining this evidence base.
- Identifying sites and planning new green infrastructure to enhance green networks.
- Assessing biodiversity deficit areas and developing approaches to improve local communities access to biodiversity.
- Making use of development to contribute to BAP habitat management, restoration, enhancement and creation.
- Effectively directing planning gain to assist in all these aims.

Despite a rapidly changing national planning approach, there is still very strong policy support to take account of wildlife and to develop and improve 'green' networks across and between local authority areas. This support stems from the Lawton Review produced in 2010 and the White Paper on the Natural Environment in 2011. The main thrust of these with regard to biodiversity and the essence of what needs to be done is echoed in 4 words from the Lawson Report :

More, Bigger, Better, Joined.

This can be achieved by

- Maintaining and improving the quality of current sites by better habitat management.
- Increase the size of current wildlife sites.
- Enhance the connections between or join up sites either through direct physical corridors or through 'stepping stones' of new habitats.
- Create new sites
- Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including buffering of existing sites.

Development can help achieve many of these aims, as can local communities, organisations, landowners and individuals.

How can the plan be used

It is intended that the plan can be used in a number of ways, by habitat or species, by corridor or by area (parish). Thus targets established for particular habitats can be translated into actions in individual areas or corridors by using the links through to the relevant habitat or species.

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York Priority Habitats, Priority Species and Problem Species.

Priority Habitats	Priority Species	Problem Species
Neutral grassland & **Wet Grassland**	Great Crested Newt	Himalayan Balsam
Acid grassland **& Heath**	Water Vole	Japanese Knotweed
Ponds	Otter	Giant Hogweed
Rivers and streams	Bats	Australian Stonecrop
Fens & swamps	The Dark Bordered Beauty Moth	Water Fern
Woodland	The Tansy Beetle	American Mink
Species rich hedges	Aculeate Hymenoptera (Bees and wasps)	Signal/Marbled Crayfish
Orchards	Paraphotistus nigricornis	Floating Pennywort
Urban	Depressed River Mussel	Sudden Oak Death fungi
Farmland	River Lamprey	Alder Root Disease
	Sea Lamprey	Common Ragwort
	Rare Invertebrates	Chalara (Ash die back)
	Rare Flowers & Herbs	
	Farmland Birds	

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The Geology of York

This is a Biodiversity document but wildlife and landscape are fundamentally influenced by the geology on which they. Hard rocks, usually so important, play little part in York's geological and landscape character. Instead overlying soft 'drift' and how it was formed are the key factors.

York is set within the Vale of York and Mowbray Natural area, a low lying tract of land that stretches from the Humberhead levels in the south to the Hambleton Hills in the north. It is bounded by the Yorkshire Dales to the west and the North York Moors and Yorkshire Wolds in the east and links along the Derwent Valley to the Vale of Pickering, another low lying area running east to the sea.

It is an area that was formed during the last ice age when much of the land was covered by ice sheets. As they moved over the land they eroded it and soil and rock were pushed up to form mounds or 'moraines'. The rocks beneath over which they flowed were ground into smaller and smaller particles. As they retreated they left this material as a thick layer of clay, known as drift material, and sorting of this by water and wind left gravel and sand, all of which covered the underlying hard geology.

This deposition was not done evenly or uniformly though and shallow depressions were formed where less material was left. As the ice sheets retreated and expanded as climate changed slightly, material was pushed up into features such as moraines, deposits of clay and sand forming ridges across the underlying valley. York is built on one of these moraines because of the drier conditions found there. Streams beneath the ice and flowing from it created ridges along the valley and fans of coarser sand and gravel were deposited where these streams opened out.
All of this diversity of landform created different conditions providing opportunities for the wide variety of wildlife that we see around us.

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The Countryside Character of York

The English countryside is a priceless national asset. It is also fundamental to our regional sense of place and provides a unique backdrop to our local identity. To help secure what is special and needs preserving, an assessment of what contributes to the character of the countryside has been completed by Natural England for the Vale of York area.

The key characteristics of the Vale of York Character Area are that it is:

- Low lying, generally flat or gently undulating land, crossed by obvious ridges formed by the York and Escrick glacial moraines (a ridge of sand and clay deposited by the retreating ice) left after the last ice age.
- It is crossed by the floodplains of several major rivers, notably the Ouse, Derwent, Foss, Wharfe, Ure and Nidd.
- The River Derwent and the Lower Derwent Valley is nationally important for wildlife & requiring management to reduce diffuse pollution and improve water quality.
- Washland and traditional grazed hay meadows in the river floodplains.
- Medium to large sized open fields intensively farmed for arable crops but with some dairy.
- Low, intermittent hedge field boundaries with sparse scattered hedgerow trees.
- Scattered small woods, some semi-natural ancient woodland with more extensive conifer plantations on sandy soils.
- Important areas of lowland heathland commons on sandy soils.
- Distinctive linear character of settlements often located just above the floodplain ‘Ings’

- Historic buildings typically constructed in mottled brick with pantile roofs with scattered, large brick built farmsteads within parklands and designed landscapes.
- Rich historical and archaeological heritage from pre-Roman through to 19th & 20th century.
- Focus on City of York with roads radiating from the city and York Minster providing a focal point visible in long views from the surrounding area.

York in particular is set on the York moraine; clearly visible at Batchelor Hill and Severus Hill, where the River Ouse has cut through the overlying deposits.

The soils vary from sand and gravel through to clay and river loams.

Extensive old woodlands are not characteristic of the area, having been largely cut down many centuries ago but there are extensive areas of conifer, mainly on the sandy soils to the south and east of the city. Fields as for much of the Vale of York tend to be large but many of the villages retain the smaller, strip fields associated with the old 'closes' that went with the old houses. Many of these have tall, thick, unmanaged hedges.

The floodplain Ings are characteristic of the City and are not only valuable and nationally significant wildlife resources but also provide flood protection and are of significant historical interest in their own right. They could be classed as York's natural equivalent to York Minister. In deed they used to have very close links to the medieval Church.

A landscape appraisal has been established for the city.

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The Wildlife character of York

For a relatively small Local Authority area (27,200ha.) renowned for being a flat, low lying area with, apparently, little physical relief, the biodiversity resource of the City is exceptionally rich. Because of its low lying nature and because of its long and intensive agricultural history, as you would expect, the primary interest lies in its wetland and grassland habitats. These are mainly associated with the river corridors, the Ings land or flood meadows. However, there are also remnants of old grasslands outside of the flood plain that are also of significant interest.

Where soils were sandy, however, the primary wildlife interest lies in the old commons. Because these were dry, infertile soils they were not improved and were left for grazing and developed as heathland. Later, many were either converted for arable, improved grassland or conifer plantation. These tend to be to the south and east of York but with some interest also in the Acomb area.

Woodland has never, in recent times, been a significant part of York's natural heritage. Much of the woodland was removed very early on and intensive agriculture has kept tree cover limited to hedgerow trees. There are though a few ancient woodland sites of interest, mainly in the south and west, whilst birch woodland is associated with many of the heathland sites where they have not been planted with conifers.

Intermixed with these primary wildlife resources, particularly associated with agricultural land, there are ponds, fens and hedgerows that make a significant further contribution to the overall interest. Whilst not extensive in area terms, these do contribute in great measure to the overall biodiversity of York and there protection is therefore integral to nature conservation in the city.

The Resource

York has nine nationally important Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and three of these are internationally important and designated as either Special Protection areas (SPA's) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's).

These include :

i. Part of the internationally-important Ramsar wetland site of the Lower Derwent Valley, a large lowland agricultural area of farmland and wet grassland which holds large numbers of wading and waterfowl, as well as rare breeding birds, wildflowers and insects.
ii. The River Derwent, which forms the eastern boundary of the City and is considered one of the best lowland rivers in eastern Britain in terms of its ecology.
iii. Strensall Common is the most northerly lowland heath site in Britain.

The other SSSI's are predominantly flood meadow grasslands and wetlands.

This though is only a part of the wildlife resource in York, other important habitats include :

- ancient flood meadows; some 9-10% of the national resource occur in York,
- other species rich grasslands, mainly old neutral, wildflower rich hay meadows and grazing pasture. In York, these are rarer than the nationally rare flood meadows,
- lowland heath; 1% of the national resource along with associated acid grasslands, is found in York.
- woodlands and scrub. In York, the extent of woodland is low and the majority is secondary conifer woodland of more limited conservation interest. There are though a few old woodland sites dating from the medieval period. Scrub is similarly limited both in extent and woody sps diversity. It can though be very important for insects and birds.
- Hedgerows form the natural corridors for many sps of wildlife through the countryside and into the city itself. These vary from recent sps poor hedges through to big, old hedges with 10 or more sps and dating possibly even from the Roman period.
- ponds, marshes and fens supporting up to 5 sps of amphibians including Great Crested Newts, many flowers, dragonflies and other insects,
- The City also supports some of Britain's rarest breeding birds such as Corncrake, Black-necked grebe, Ruff and Spotted Crake,

- a good Otter population
- numerous nationally-rare and highly localised invertebrates, including the Tansy Beetle found, nowhere else in Britain, Wavy Edged Water beetle and the Nomad bee.
- Plant life includes such rarities as elongated sedge, marsh fern, bog rosemary, marsh gentian and pillwort.

The extensive survey work carried out over a number of years has identified a considerable number of sites, covering a whole range of the habitats that also have significant interest. Following a detailed process of checking against criteria used to identify especially important sites, some 84 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation value (SINC's) have been identified with a further 18 requiring additional assessment to confirm their interest and status as candidate SINC's. These are identified in Appendix 1. In addition there are over 134 Sites of Local Interest (SLI's). These sites do not fully qualify as SINC's but do have significant wildlife interest that merits consideration as it is from these sites that further SINC's could more easily be develop or be established and which can provide valuable stepping stones to allow wildlife to move through the city.

Designation Hierachy

It should be noted that the distinction between national, regional and local wildlife sites is not necessarily clear and each category can and do overlap and grade one into the other. As such their inclusion in any one hierarchy should only be taken as a guide to their intrinsic value, not as a clear cut assessment of their importance.
For instance, some SINC sites are as important as and fulfil the criteria for SSSI designation. The reason they are not is due to the way that SSSI's are selected, being representative examples of habitats, not encompassing all examples. Thus sites such as Clifton Ings are of SSSI quality but are not so designated because other sites such as Acaster South Ings already have been.
With Sites of Local Importance, some of these are of potential SINC quality if further survey work was carried out, if criteria were updated or appropriate management was initiated. For instance, sites such as Askham Moor Lane Woodland fulfill all the relevant wildlife criteria for designation but is below the size threshold currently used and Dodsworth Farm/Elvington Airfield are very close to SINC status for birds but do not, under current criteria and level of survey information, quite achieve it. However, in adjacent Local Authority areas they would achieve SINC status.
In addition, some SINC's and SLI's have their intrinsic value enhanced either by acting as buffer habitat for SSSI's and other wildlife sites or form

part of a network of sites that provide a degree of porosity and allow wildlife to move through both the city and its surrounding countryside. This factor is not presently fully incorporated into designation criteria but is a factor that would be considered when assessing the overall value of any site within a green infrastucture network.
Conversely, sites that are, or are likely to become, increasingly isolated may have their overall value reduced. Careful consideration will therefore need to be given as to whether their intrinsic value can be maintained or enhanced by buffering or re-connecting to other resources through establishing new corridor links. Continued isolation can be detrimental in the longer term, however, such sites can be extremely important in the local context, regardless of their reduced connectivity.

Green Infrastructure

The main emphasis of this BAP is on sites known to have wildlife interest either because of the habitats or the species present. However, sites do not occur in isolation and are not independent of each other. Their location in relation to each other is just as important, providing opportunities for wildlife to move across the city. In this context, sites of lower individual interest can have their value enhanced through their position linking other sites together.
This network of sites is one aspect of York's green infrastructure. Retaining and enhancing this infrastructure network is key to ensuring that York's biodiversity is maintained and is resilient enough to cope with the uncertainties and vagaries of both a changing climate and a changing environment.
The same pressures on wildlife apply both inside the city and outside and the ability for wildlife to adapt and move through York is critical not only to the city but regionally and nationally as well.
To facilitate this, a series of 'green' corridors have been identified that aim to link together to create an overall structural network. These corridors are not necessarily contiguous but may consist of a series of open space 'stepping stones' separated by otherwise less hospitable habitat.
The corridors are hierarchical and have been identified as being of

i. regional importance where they link with corridors in neighbouring authorities.
ii) City importance where they provide links across and within the City and to other corridors.
iii) local importance where they link areas within a particular part of the city.

These corridors are not exclusively for wildlife however, they can accommodate a whole range of functions including recreation and access routes.

Recreational and wildlife open space are not separate entities and need not be considered independently. Rather they are 2 extremes of the same basic open space resource that can all function in a way to facilitate all interests.
Rather than each interest therefore claiming exclusivity, a corridor and even one site, can have a number of multifunctional uses grading from formal open space to nature reserves. These uses will grade from primarily recreational use eg playing fields, through to sensitive wildlife sites and nature reserves where access could be detrimental. It will, however, be rare that any one site will be exclusive, simply that there will be varying degrees of prioritisation as to the objectives of site function.
Formal open space can play its part from a wildlife perspective but can often be improved, with some element of wildlife enhancement being provided through planting on maintaining grassland strips around the edges. Equally, wildlife sites could be improved with regard to accessibility for people. Enhancement of both these can be considered as 'improving accessibility to wildlife'.

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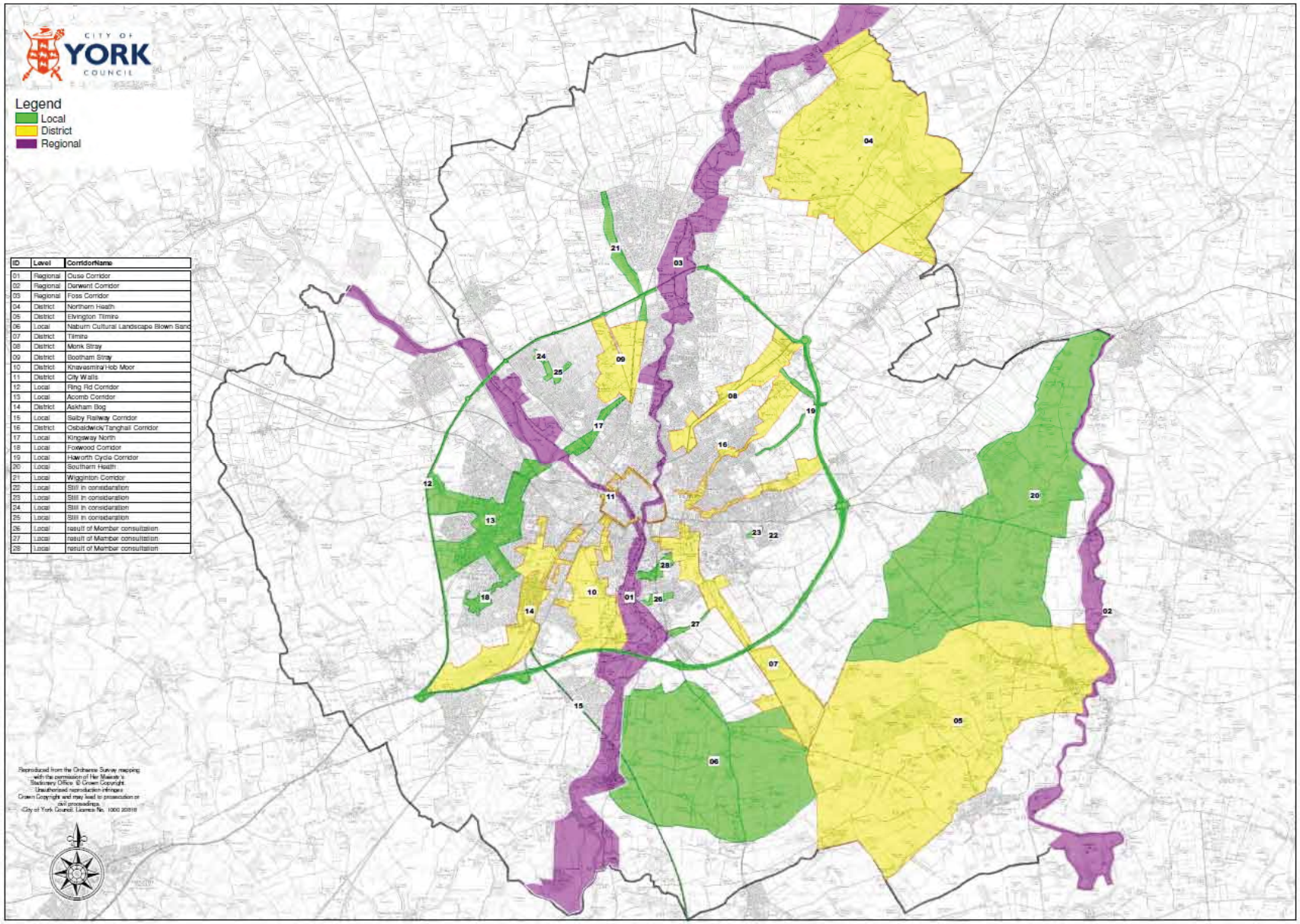
York's Green Corridors

The network established by the Local plan essentially comprises a series of radial green corridors emanating from the City Centre out to the surrounding countryside like the spokes of a wheel. These are connected by two circular rings associated with the Ring Rd and the City Walls. There are also a number of short links between individual corridors that together make a reasonably coherent network.
Corridors have a number of functions and each corridor will vary as to what these are and to the extent of each interest, however, all will have a degree of value in wildlife terms. The reasons for categorising the corridors as indicated below is given in the Local Plan Green Corridors Strategy.

The list below gives the corridors proposed by the Council

ID No.	Level	CorridorName	Primary Function
01	Regional	Ouse Corridor	Nature Conservation/Flood alleviation
02	Regional	Derwent Corrid0r	Nature Conservation/Flood alleviation
03	Regional	Foss Corridor	Nature Conservation/Open space
04	District	Northern Heath	Nature Conservation
05	District	Elvington Tilmire	Nature Conservation
07	District	Walmgate/Tilmire	Nature Conservation
08	District	Monk Stray	Open Space
09	District	Bootham Stray	Nature Conservation/Open space
10	District	Knavesmire/Hob Moor	Nature Conservation/Open space
11	District	City Walls	Archaeology/Nature Conservation
14	District	Askham Bog	Nature Conservation
16	District	Osbaldwick/Tanghall	Nature Conservation/Open space
06	Local	Naburn Cultural Landscape Blown Sands	Archaeology
12	Local	Ring Rd Corridor	Transport/Nature Conservation
13	Local	Acomb Corridor	Nature Conservation
15	Local	Selby Railway Corridor	Cycleway/Nature Conservation
17	Local	Kingsway North	Transport/Nature Conservation
18	Local	Foxwood Corridor	Nature Conservation/Open Space
19	Local	Heworth Cycle Corridor	Cycleway/Nature Conservation
20	Local	Southern Heath	Nature Conservation
21	Local	Wigginton Corridor	Nature Conservation
22	Local	Badger Wood	Open Space
23	Local	Archbishop Holgate	Open Space
24	Local	Blue Beck Corridor	Open Space
25	Local	Blue Beck Corridor	Open Space
26	Local	Fulford Park	Open Space
27	Local	Germany Beck	Flood alleviation/Nature Conservation
28	Local	Fulford Cross	Open Space

The boundaries of these corridors are broadly indicative of the interest for which they have been established but they are ‘soft’ boundaries, not firmly delineated. This will potentially enable the corridor to link into the surrounding land.



ID	Level	CorridorName
01	Regional	Ouse Corridor
02	Regional	Derwent Corridor
03	Regional	Foss Corridor
04	District	Northern Heath
05	District	Elvington Tilmire
06	Local	Naburn Cultural Landscape Blown Sand
07	District	Tilmire
08	District	Monk Stray
09	District	Bootham Stray
10	District	Knavesmire/Hob Moor
11	District	City Walls
12	Local	Ring Rd Corridor
13	Local	Acomb Corridor
14	District	Askham Bog
15	Local	Selby Railway Corridor
16	District	Osbaldwick/Tanghall Corridor
17	Local	Kingsway North
18	Local	Fulwood Corridor
19	Local	Haworth Cycle Corridor
20	Local	Southern Heath
21	Local	Wigginton Corridor
22	Local	Still in consideration
23	Local	Still in consideration
24	Local	Still in consideration
25	Local	Still in consideration
26	Local	result of Member consultation
27	Local	result of Member consultation
28	Local	result of Member consultation

Planning for Green Corridors

The aim of developing a green corridor network is to help target enhancement to where it is likely to be the most effective. Certain guiding principles are therefore assumed when considering what enhancement is appropriate.

The network does not have to be continuous open space but can be a series of sites or stepping stones. Even in the countryside, not every habitat that wildlife are adapted to exists as continuous network. The essential element is that the spaces are not so far apart as to reduce the ability of species to move between them. As such, the aim of enhancing any corridor is to improve the ability of wildlife to move from one site to another. This can be by improving the quality of existing sites, linking sites together with a more wildlife friendly (more porous) corridor or providing additional sites in between to reduce the distances that need to be covered.

Such new sites need not necessarily be large or on the same level. Especially within the urban setting, individual new green infrastructure resources could be incorporated at height, for instance as part of a green roof site or wall. This would still aid the overall continuity of the corridor whilst accommodating other development needs.

Neither is it necessary or even practicable to create all habitats in every corridor, although some habitats are ubiquitous across the whole of the York area. Each corridor does in fact have its own suite of habitats that are suitable within its confines. For instance the heathland corridors are best suited for establishing acid grassland, heath, acid woodland etc. They would not be suitable for establishing neutral grassland sites. Ponds and wetlands on the other hand could be provided wherever the ground conditions are suitable.
The aim would always be to establish new habitats suited to the area and the needs of the corridor in which they are found.
At the same time other corridor functions will be considered with a view to enhancing access etc. in line with other Council priorities.

Nature Improvement Areas and Local Nature Partnerships

Whilst green corridors are strategically important in targeting wildlife enhancement, they are not all encompassing and do not cover all of York's important wildlife resource. Neither do they necessarily cover all of the land that would significantly contribute to wildlife enhancement. Such biodiversity opportunity areas (Nature Improvement Areas) do also need to

be developed alongside green corridors to ensure that wildlife can be fully accommodated within the city.
Guidance from central government indicates that such opportunity areas need to be established within a framework set by the Local Nature Partnership (LNP). Currently, York is within the North Yorkshire and York LNP. However, this partnership has not yet set any opportunity areas, although it has set partner priority targets. In York and Harrogate, this is the development of green corridors, particularly along the R. Ouse corridor.

In the absence of a definitive LNP strategy then there may be a need for the Council to consider how it wishes to consider the establishment of nature improvement areas either through identifying its own or through expanded corridor functions that target both opportunity areas and corridors.

Implementing Green Infrastructure and Wildlife Enhancement.

There are many ways that wildlife enhancement can be implemented, through establishing and managing schemes primarily for nature conservation, through advice on land management and through taking account of wildlife within other proposals.
The Council have made use of all of these for managing its own land, by assisting private landowners in managing their land and working with developers in ensuring that new development takes account of and enhances the wildlife resource.
This has, in the main been through making use of its own resources augmented with Environment stewardships schemes or grants and partnerships with other agencies and through discussion as part of the planning process.
All of these will continue, now guided by the Council's BAP and Green infrastructure strategies. Thus the Council will continue to seek ways it can continue to enhance and manage its own land to benefit wildlife and help other landowners to do the same whilst developers will continue to be required to take account of biodiversity within their applications.
However, a further development for accommodating wildlife within the planning process is potentially in the form of biodiversity offsetting. This is currently being trialled by a number of local authorities, in conjunction with Defra, with a view that it will be introduced in 2014 across the country as a way of further accommodating wildlife enhancement within development.
Essentially it is a more comprehensive and flexible way of compensating for any biodiversity losses within a development proposal.

The basic premis for taking account of wildlife within development will remain the same ie the development of SINC's will only be considered where there is an overriding public interest, that mitigation will, as far as is possible be implemented on site and that mitigation for protected species will remain as before.
However, there may be instances where there are residual losses that cannot be accommodated on site. In such cases, opportunities will be developed for replacement mitigation to occur on sites outside of the development area and outside of the control of the developer, or where contributions can be paid into a fund that can be used to further nature conservation in line with strategies adopted by the Council and the Local Nature Partnership. Such funds could amalgamate contributions from a number of developments to enable more substantial enhancement work to take place.
The use of and way in which such offsetting proposals can be used is yet to be determined by Defra, however, it is important that the potential for this new way of considering nature conservation within the planning process is recognised.
It will necessitate developing an offsetting strategy both at a local authority and Local nature partnership level which will include the establishment of Nature Improvement areas and priorities in conjunction with neighbouring authorities. It may also involve establishing contact landowners who are prepared to consider involvement of such proposals on their land.

As an example of how this may work, the existing priority target for both York and Harrogate within the LNP is for the development of green corridors, particularly along the Ouse. Flood alleviation is another of the priorities for both Councils. The development of additional flood storage could therefore be established north of York within Harrogate that also accommodates nature conservation priorities, using resources from both Councils. Equally, working with neighbouring LNP's, flood storage capacity could be increased downstream of York but within City of York utilising resources in part from the Leeds City Region. Such resources could be used to offset the potential damage that summer flooding can cause on existing high value sites such as Clifton Ings through establishing additional flood storage to act as overflow to accommodate summer flooding prior to using existing flood storage facilities such as Clifton and Derwent Ings.

This would require a partnership to be established between the EA, NE and selected landowners to manage flood control in a way that benefits both flooding and nature conservation.

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Yorks Green Corridors

Regional Corridors (1)- The River Ouse

This is a significant multifunctional corridor of value not only for wildlife but recreation as well, providing as it does a link between Selby and Harrogate back to its headwaters in the Pennines. It is though not just the river itself that is of significance but the extensive flood plain adjacent to it. The river itself is designated as a SINC and there are a number of meadows adjacent to it that are designated as SSSI and SINC.

It is an essential link for migratory fish such as Sea lamprey which, whilst they do not breed in York, do have to pass through in order to reach their spawning grounds. Equally, the river is needed as a link for riverine sps such as the depressed mussel or otter or various aquatic plants and insects.

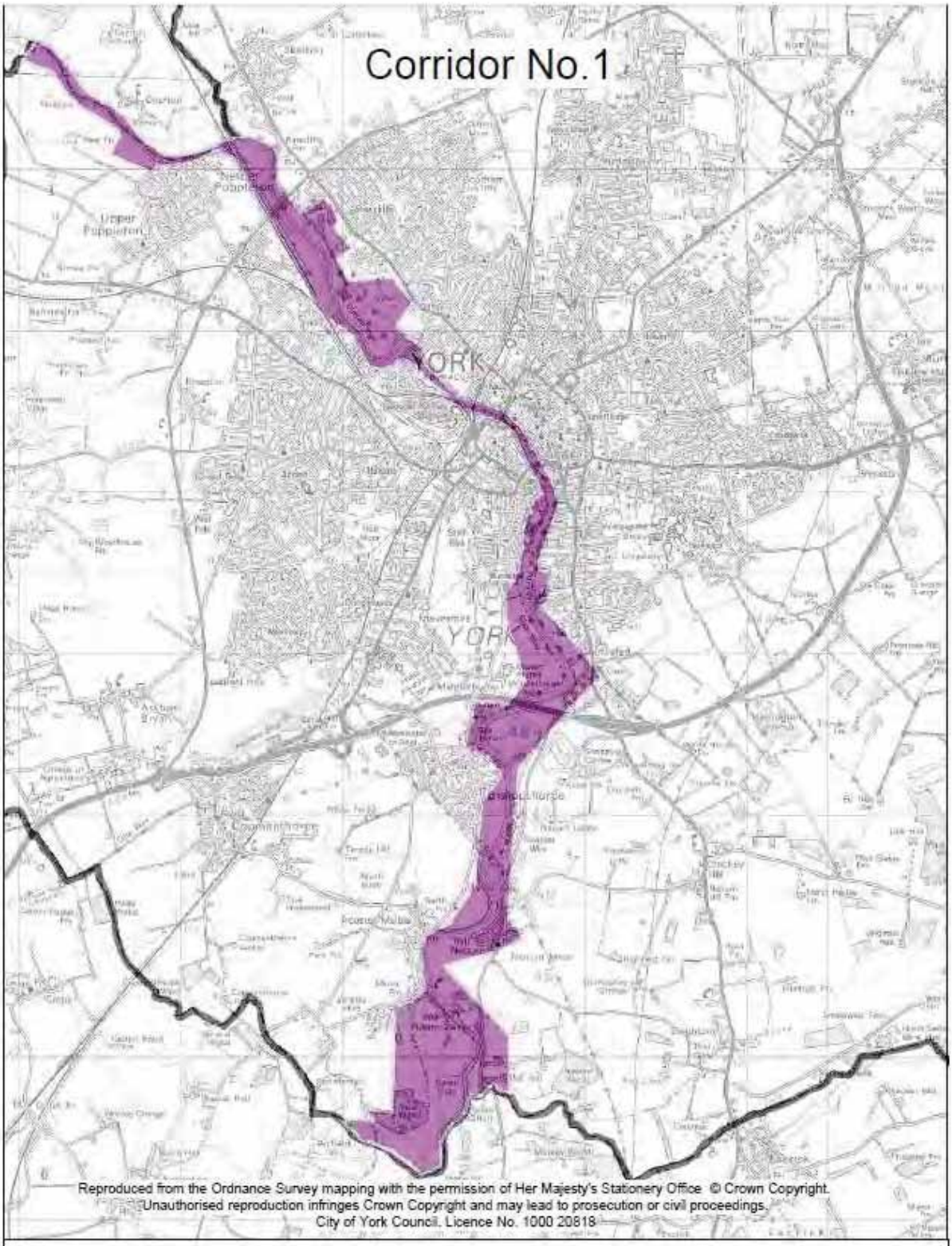
It is though also a major corridor for the adjacent flood meadow grasslands that are associated with its flood plain or as a foraging and migratory corridor for bats that utilise all of the flood plain habitats on either side of the river.

The boundaries of this corridor are therefore not distinct but are linked to the overall extent of the influence of the river.

As a corridor its functions include wildlife, water born recreation, bankside recreation, transport, agriculture, culture, history, water supply and flood alleviation. Its wildlife interest also covers not only aquatic and riverine habitats but also the whole range of habitats found in association with them.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include :

i. Wet and flood meadow grasslands
ii. Riverine habitats- Fens and marshes
iii. Wet woodland
iv. Ponds
v. Riverine habitats.
vi. Tansy Beetle
vii. Bats
viii. Otter



Regional

Ouse Corridor

Regional Corridors (2)- The River Derwent

This is again a significant multifunctional river corridor, providing the link between Selby and the Ouse through to Ryedale and back to its headwaters in the N.York Moors. The river itself is designated as an SSSI and a SAC. It is though not just the river that is of significance but the flood plain adjacent to it holding as it does extensive areas of flood meadow and wet grassland, large areas of which (The Lower Derwent Valley) are themselves also designated as SSSI and SPA. There are a number of other sites that are designated as SINC's adjacent to the river.

The river is an essential link for migratory fish such as Sea lamprey which, whilst they do not breed in York, do have to pass through in order to reach their spawning grounds. Equally, the river is needed as a link for many riverine sps such as otter or various aquatic plants and insects.

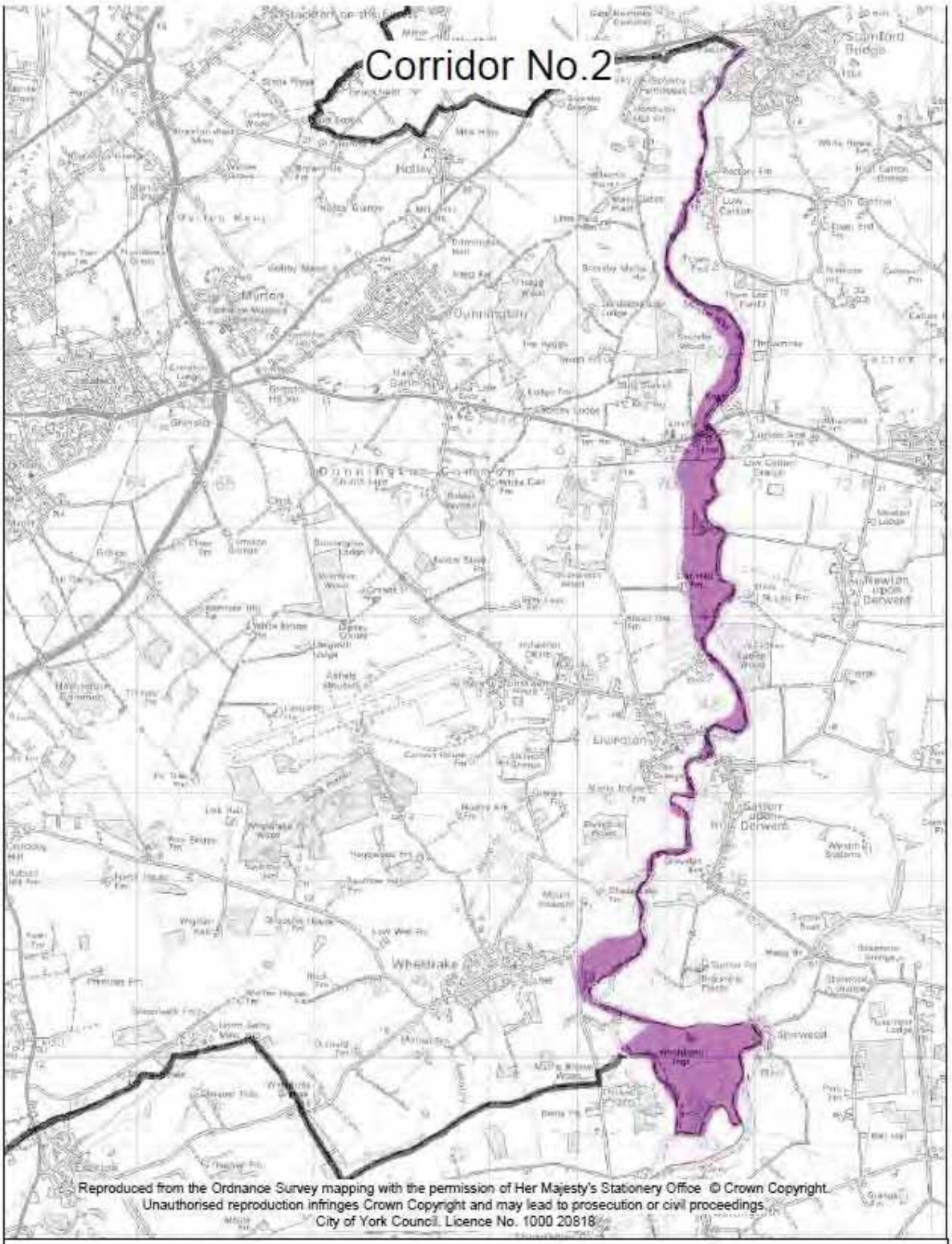
It is also a major corridor for the adjacent flood meadow grasslands that are associated with its flood plain or as a foraging and migratory corridor for bats that utilise all of the flood plain habitats on either side of the river.

The boundaries of this corridor are therefore not distinct but are linked to the overall extent of influence of the river.

As a corridor its functions include wildlife, water born recreation, bankside recreation, transport, agriculture, culture, history, water supply and flood alleviation. Its wildlife interest also covers not only aquatic and riverine habitats but also the whole range of habitats found in association with them.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Wet and flood meadow grasslands
ii. Riverine habitats- Fens and marshes
iii. Wet woodland
iv Ponds
v. Riverine habitats.
vi. Bats
vii. Otter



Regional

Derwent Corridor

Regional Corridors (3)- The River Foss

The River Foss provides a continuous link from Ryedale to the east through to the city centre at its confluence with the Ouse. Although not as significant as the Ouse and Derwent in overall habitat interest or multifunctionality, it does provide a corridor right into the City and connects it with adjacent countryside and a neighbouring authority corridor (check with Don). The river itself has quite high nutrient levels and its floristic diversity is limited and has declined but it is still important for the movement of wildlife into the urban area. It is particularly important for otter and water vole and is likely to be significant for bats as well.

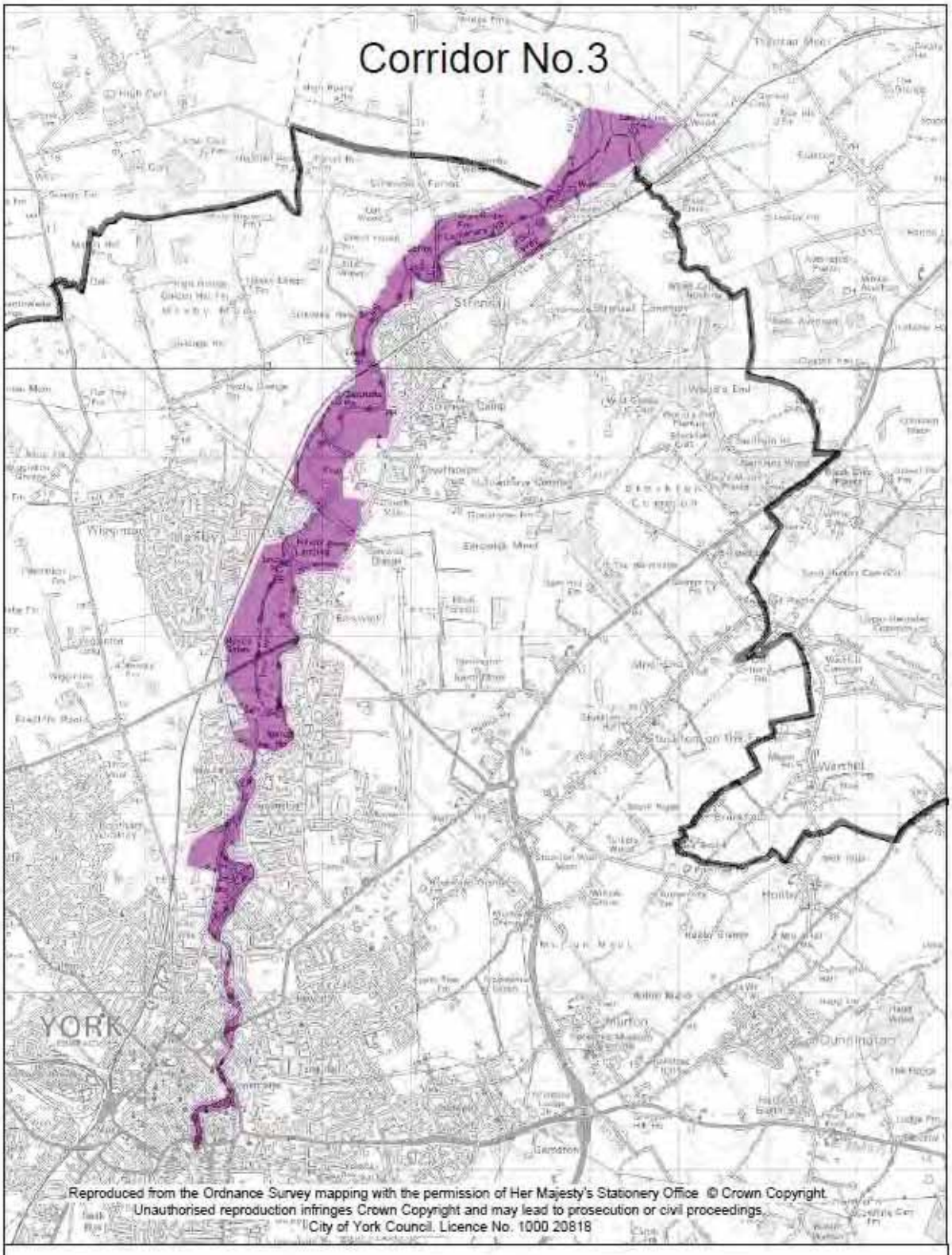
As for any riverine system, it is not only the river itself that is important but the adjoining habitats as well. On the Foss, being a much smaller watercourse, these are much more restricted and the flood plain is narrow and there are no extensive flood meadow grasslands, there are, however, a number of small grassland sites of interest, some of which are designated as SINC's as well as other riverine features such as marshes and ox bow channels left from when the Foss was canalised.

The boundaries of this corridor are restricted as the influence of the river itself is limited. Back gardens are a significant contributory habitat for wildlife within the urban area.

As a corridor its functions include wildlife, bankside recreation, transport, agriculture, culture and history. Its value for water supply and flood alleviation are limited. Its wildlife interest also covers not only aquatic and riverine habitats but also the whole range of habitats found in association with them.

Priorities for enhancement include

i. Wet and flood meadow grasslands
ii. Fens and marshes
iii. Wet woodland
iv Ponds
v. Riverine habitats
vi. Bats
vii. Otter
viii. Water Vole
ix. Gardening for wildlife.



Regional

Foss Corridor

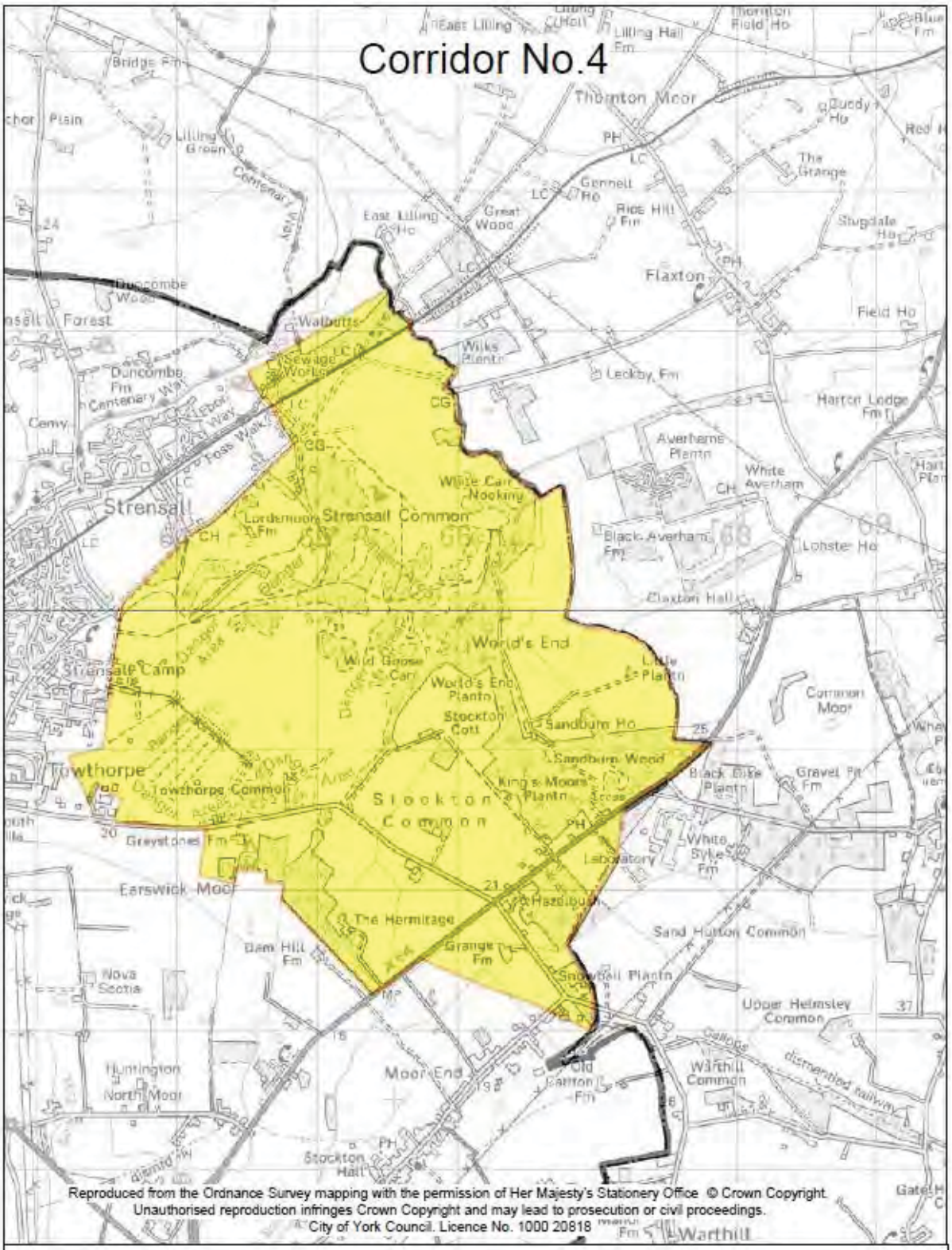
District (City) Corridors (4)– The Northern Heathland Belt

This corridor is more restricted in its overall interest being primarily for agriculture, forestry and, in wildlife terms, for its heathland sites. It follows an indistinct belt taking in the sandy soils from Strensall along the eastern edge of the city around to the south east edge into Selby. Here it continues as a designated corridor within Selby taking in sites such as Skipwith Common. It then connects with a further local corridor, the Southern Heathland Belt (20) that includes sites such as Wheldrake Woods etc.

Within this corridor, the free draining, acidic conditions originally allowed heathland and acid grassland to establish on agriculturally poor soils. Many of the old rough commons were established on these impoverished areas and on which there are opportunities for re-establishment on degraded sites.

Priorities for enhancement include

i. Heathland
ii. Acid grassland
iii. Mesotrophic ponds
iv. Acid woodlands



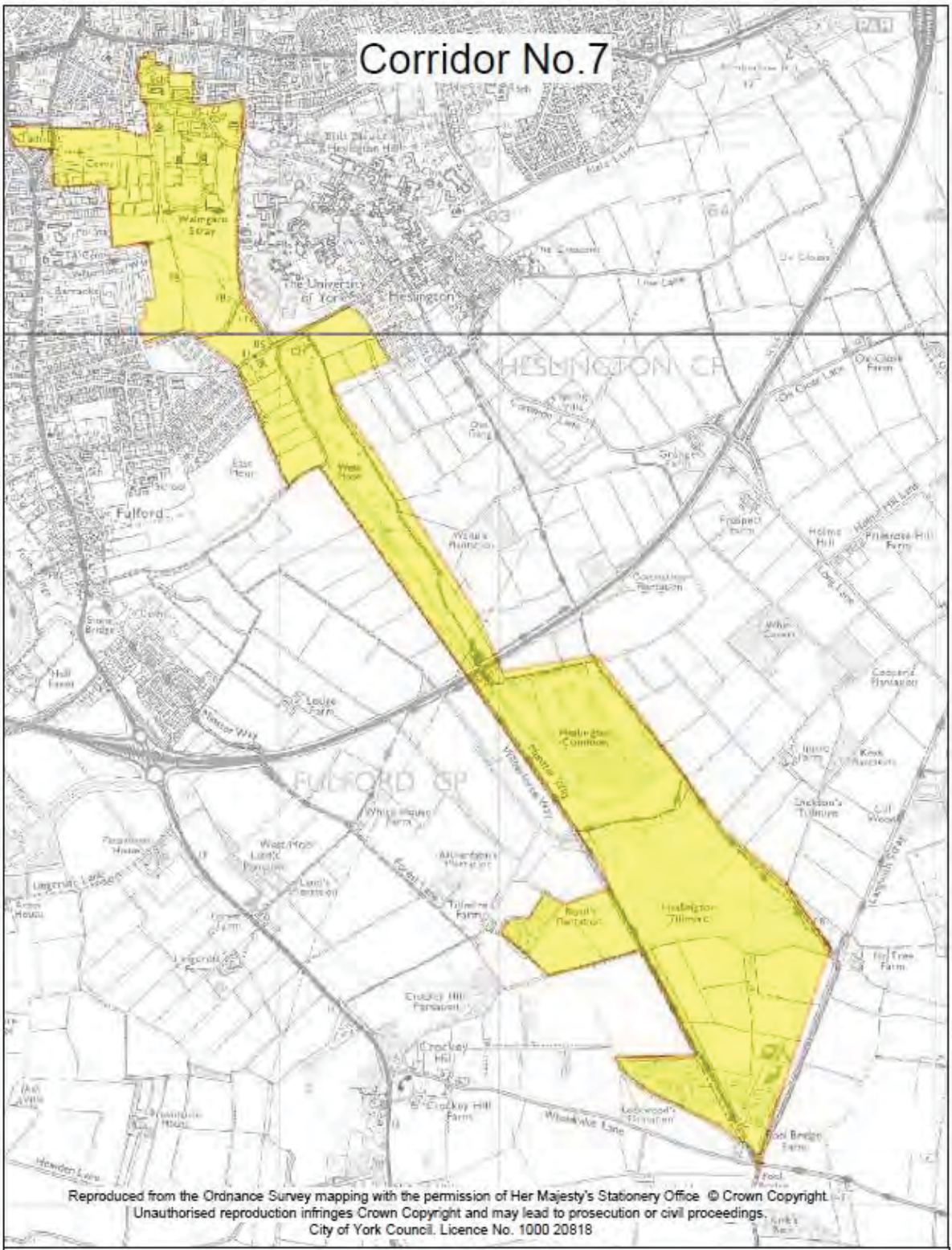
District
Northern Heath

District (City) Corridors (7, 8, 9,10) - The Strays including Monk Stray, Bootham Stray, The Knavesmire and Hob Moor and Walmgate and the Tilmire.

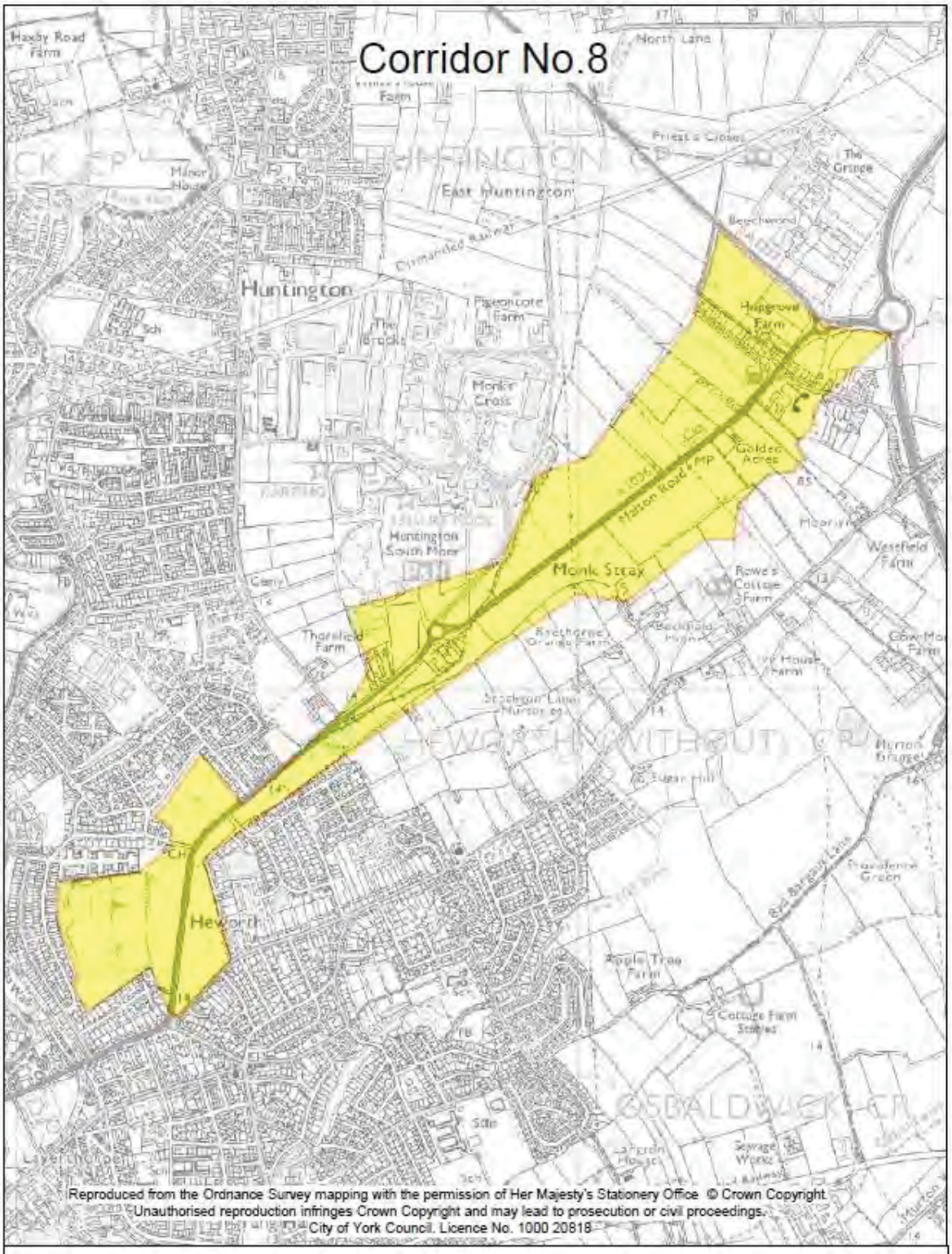
These are primarily extensive corridors that form wedges of open space running into the city like the spokes of a wheel. They are essentially farmed landscapes that have been developed by grazing over '00's of years although many have been improved. They mainly comprise a mosaic of neutral to acidic grasslands, hedges, ponds and scrub. Their historical value as common grazing has protected them from agricultural intensification and conversion. Within the city itself they also include allotments, cemeteries and extensive grounds of places such as golf courses, the Retreat and St Joseph's Monastery.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

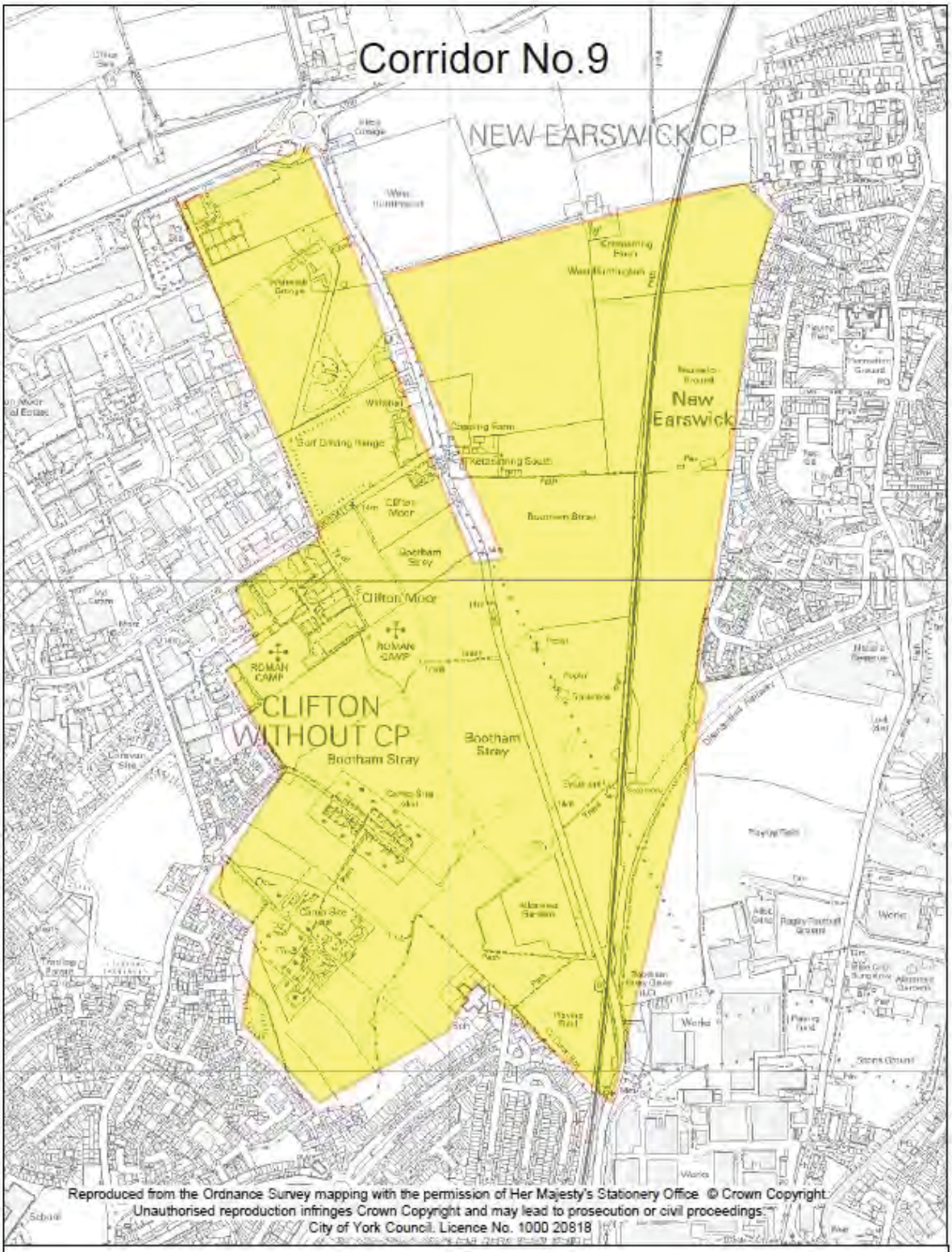
i. Neutral/Acidic grassland
ii. Ponds
iii. Hedges
iv. Scrub



District
Tillmire

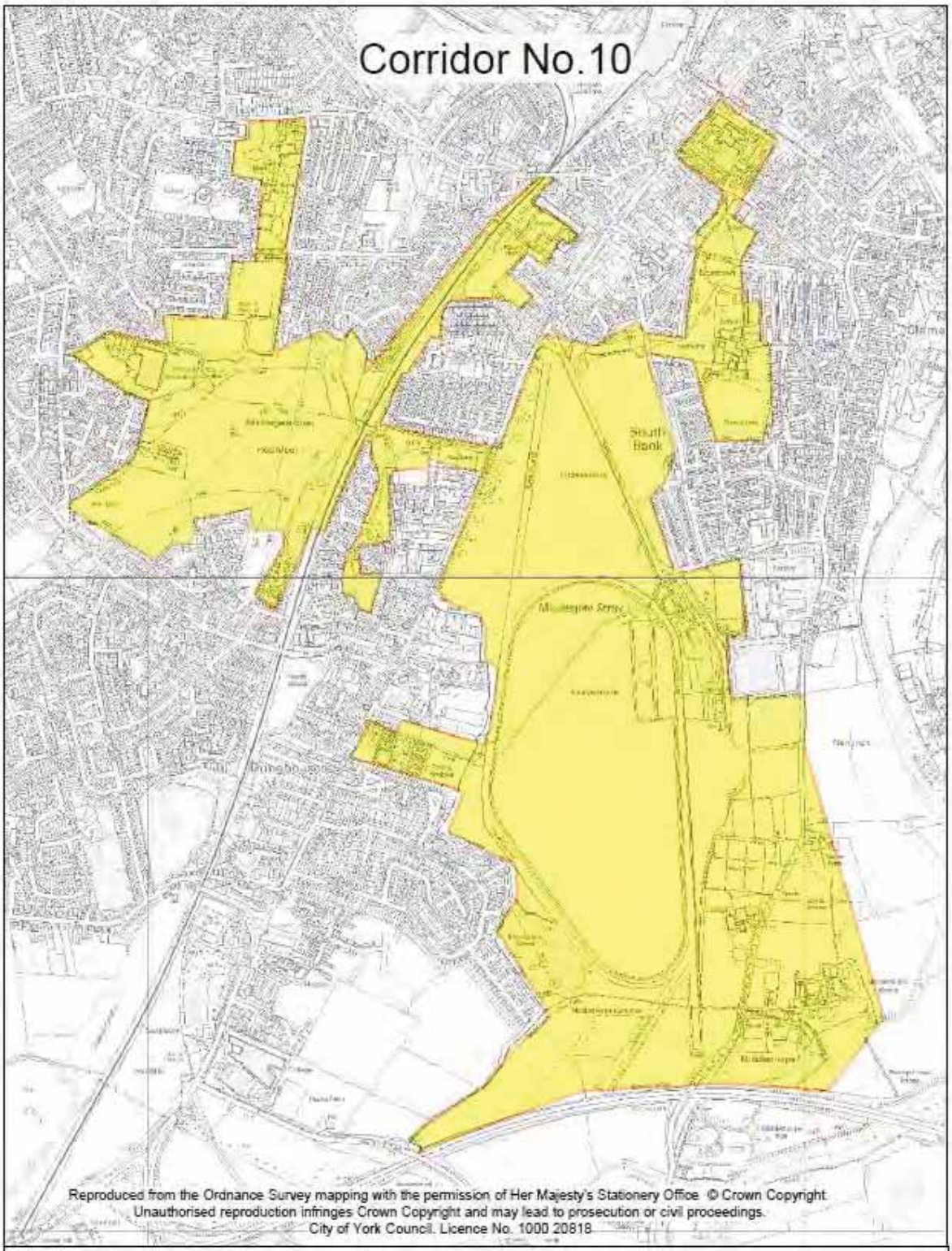


District
Monk Stray



District

Bootham Stray



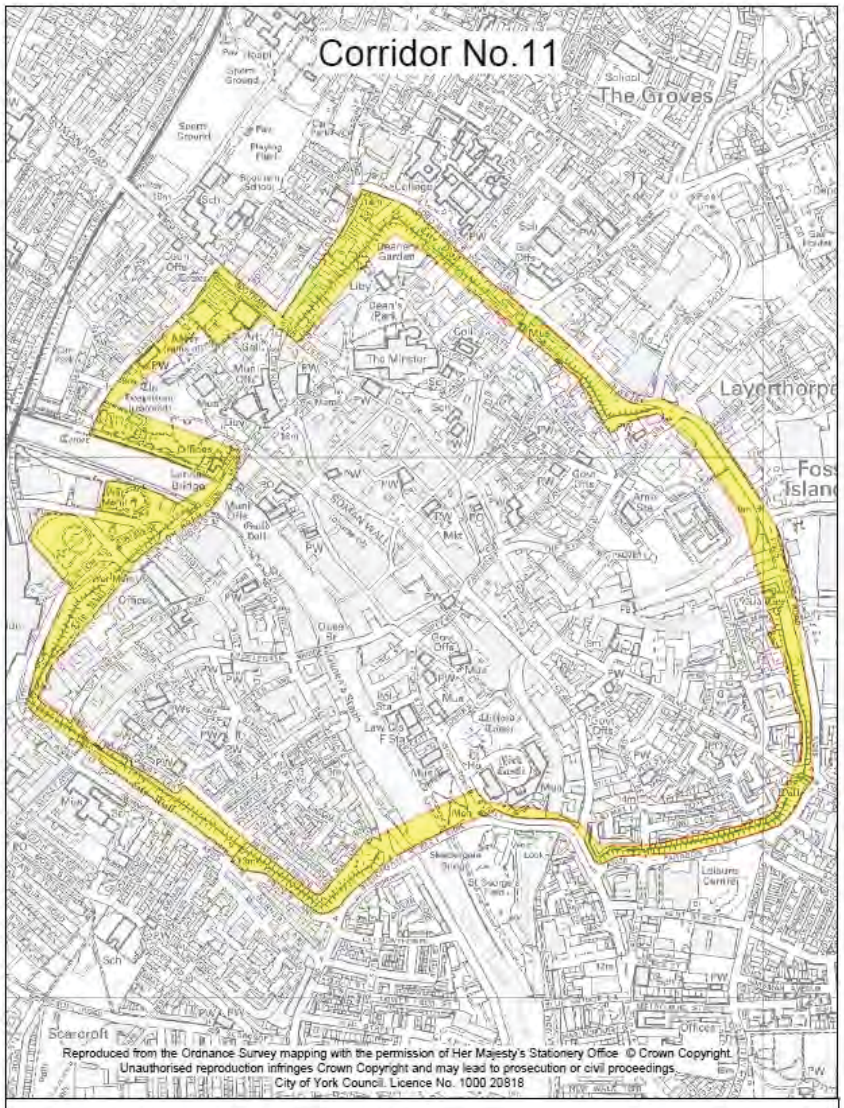
District
Knavesmire/Hob Moor

District (City) Corridors (11) – City Walls

This is a bank of grassland on which the cities medieval city walls have been constructed. They were built from the 13th century onward. They are essentially a ring of grassland around the historic core of the city. Its function is primarily cultural and as visual open space. In wildlife terms, the grassland has become rough and relatively sps poor over the years but still contains an interesting range of plants though few insects. Considerable planting has been done both of trees and daffodils. Both can be problematic in biodiversity terms. There is considerable potential for enhancement both visually and for wildlife.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement

i. Grassland
ii. Mural habitat



District

City Walls

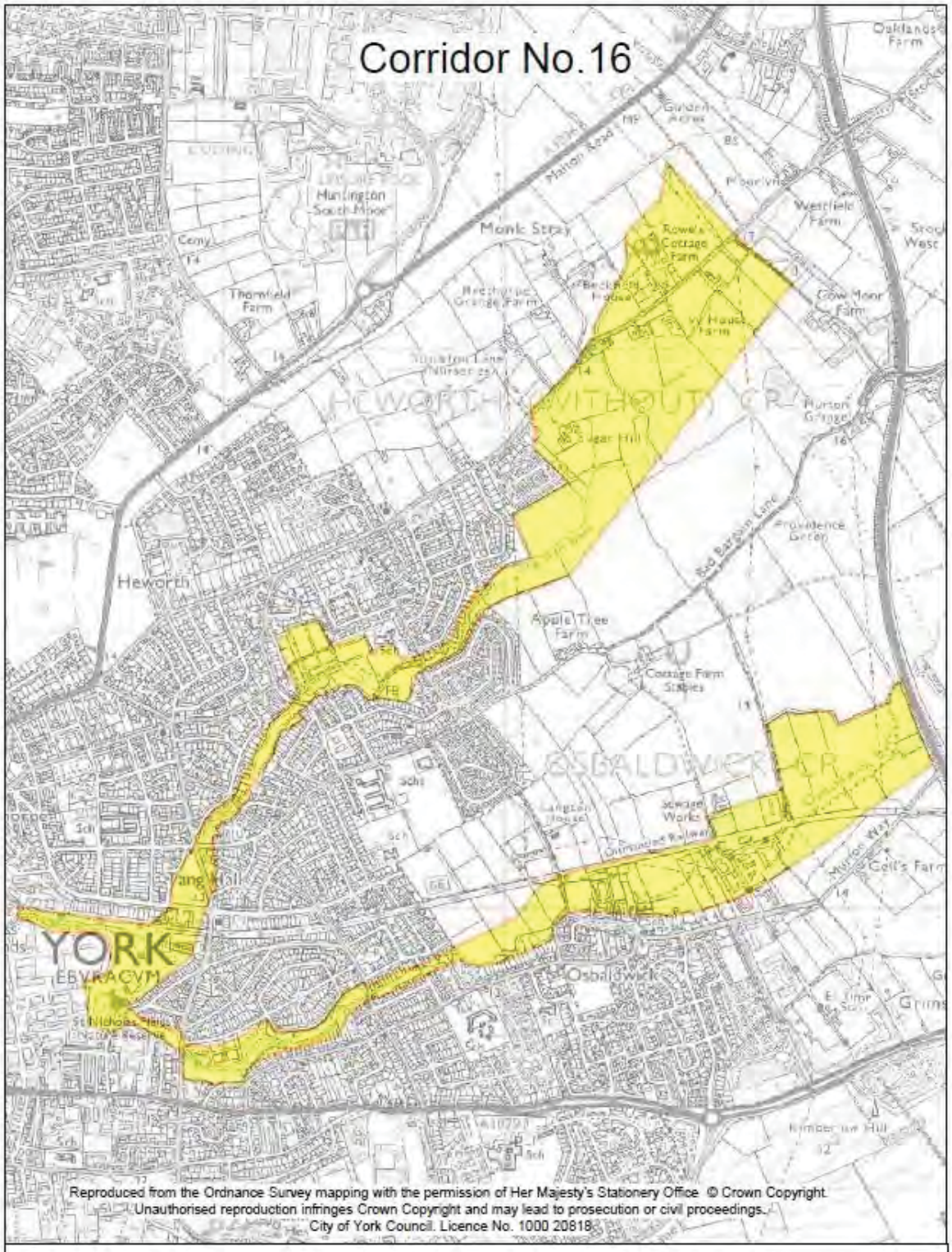
District (City) Corridors (16) - The Osbaldwick/ Tanghall Beck Corridor

There are a whole series of small becks running through the city. These have mostly been canalised or, in places, culverted. Their overall biodiversity interest is limited as water quality can be low and they often flow within constrained and wooded corridors but they can provide a valuable link between houses and other areas of open space.

Riverside habitat is limited and often degraded through neglect but back gardens can be a significant contributory factor to their wildlife value.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement

i. Neutral Grassland
ii. Scrub/wet woodland
iii. Ponds
iv. Other riverine habitat- marshes, fens etc
v. Bats
vi. Wildlife gardening.



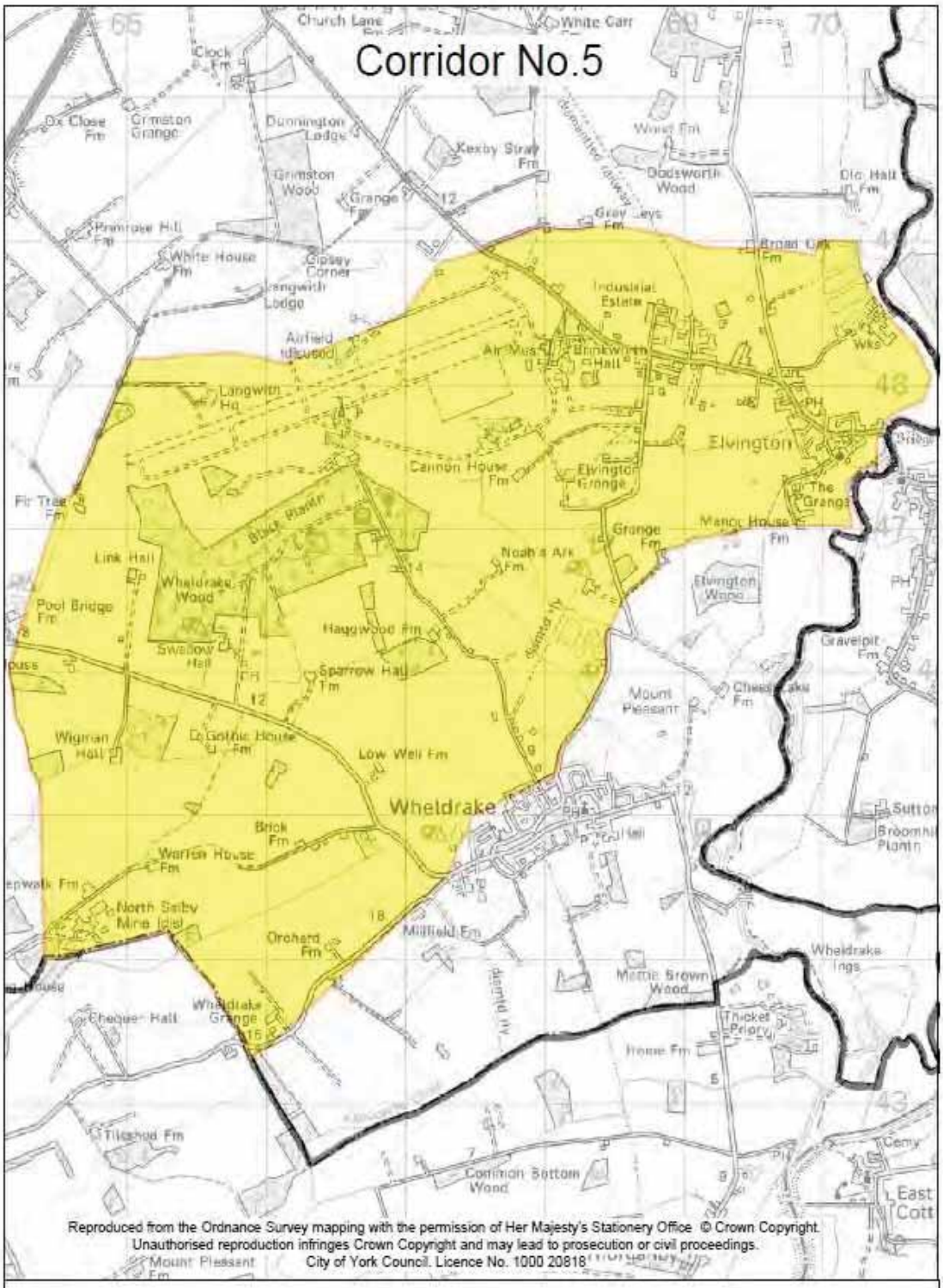
District
Osbaldwick/Tang Hall Corridor

District (City) Corridors (5) - Elvington Tilmire

This is a broad farmland belt between the Heslington Tilmire and the Derwent Valley. It contains a mosaic of habitats including wet and acid to neutral grassland, relict heath, ancient hedgerows and woodland as well as extensive arable. It is particularly noteworthy for the extensive grassland belt on the Elvington Airfield, part of the former Langwith Stray that links the Heslington Tilmire to the Derwent Valley and this provides habitat for many bird and invertebrate species. Its primary function is for agriculture, forestry and wildlife.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Neutral/Acidic grassland
ii. Ponds
iii. Hedges
v. Heathland
vi. Ground nesting birds



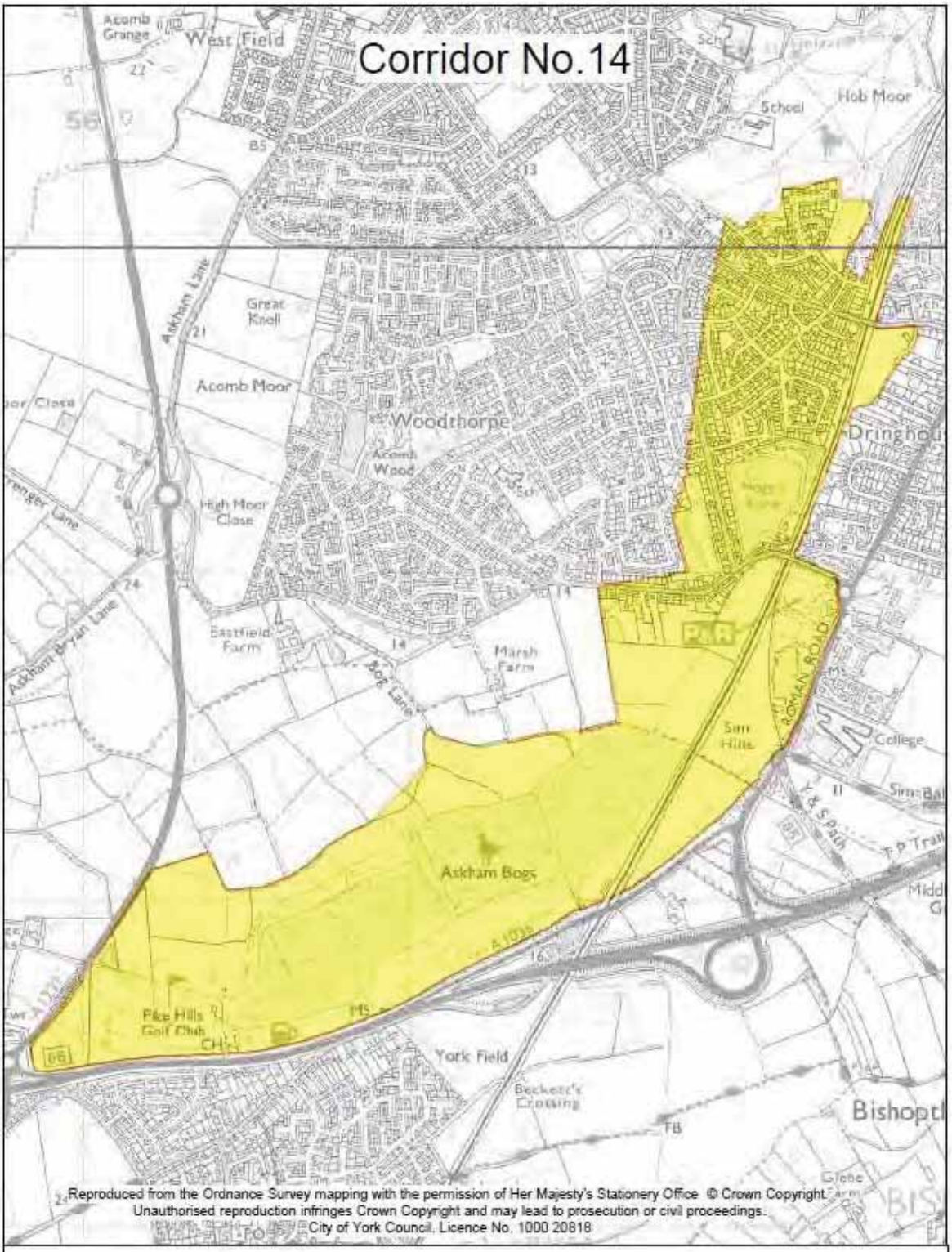
District
Elvington Tillmire

District (City) Corridors (14) - Askham Bog

This is primarily a wetland and wet woodland corridor that extends into the city to connect Askham Bog to Hob Moor. It is centred on the Chaloners Whin, a stream that drains the land adjacent to the bog and runs northward to join the Holgate Beck. Askham Bog is a nationally important basin mire both for its habitats, vegetation and for invertebrates. It is buffered by an area of wet grassland and the Pike Hills Golf Course. An attractive, old enclosure landscape with ancient, species rich hedgerows and tree lines. The stream flows northwards and is culverted where it flows through residential areas. There are a number of old brick pits established on the line of the corridor as well as wet woodland and willow scrub.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Wetland Mire habitats
ii. Wet Woodland
iii. Streamside habitat.
iv. Neutral grassland
v. Ponds
vi. Hedges



District

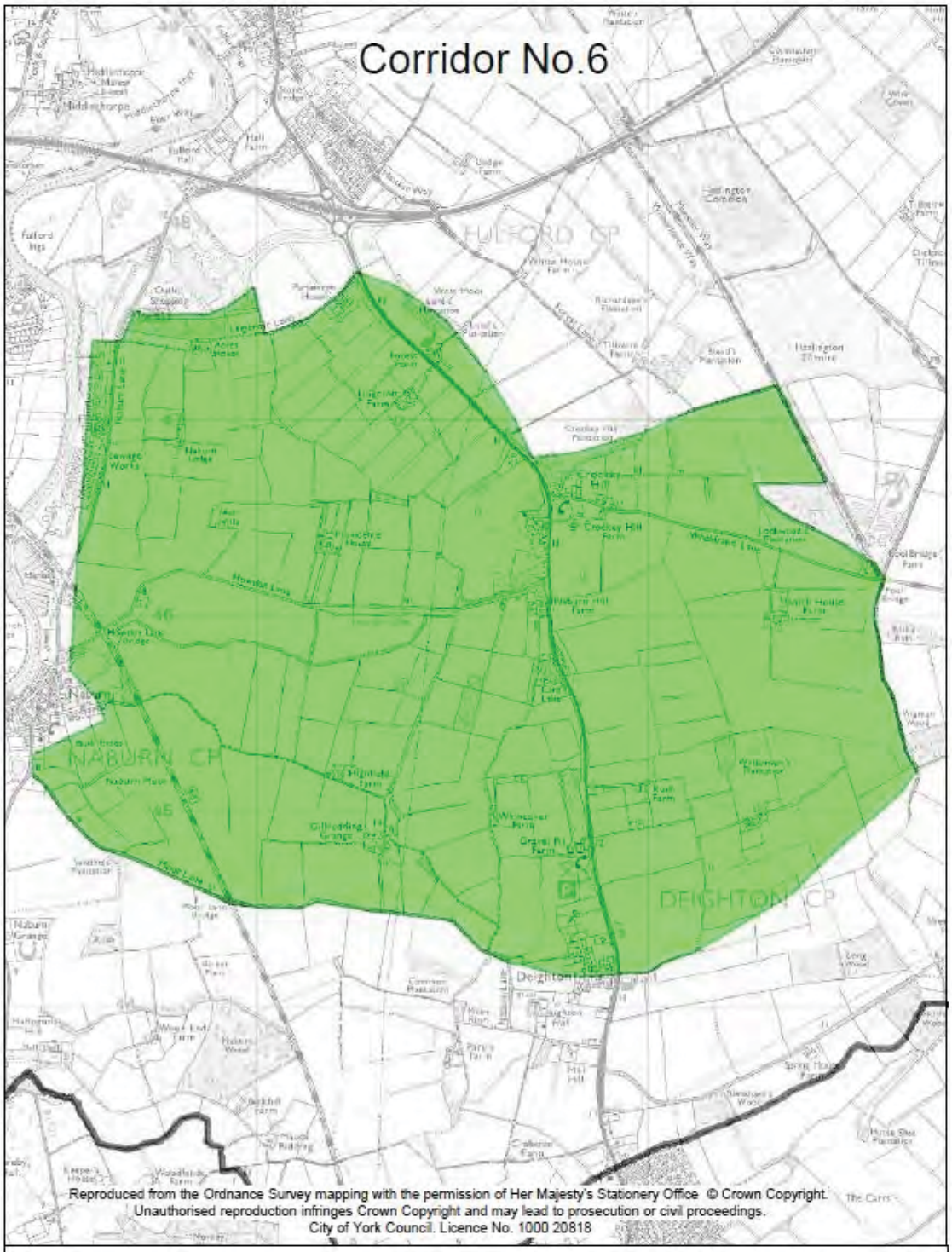
Askham Bogg

Local Corridors (6) - Naburn Cultural Landscape Blown Sands

In biodiversity terms, this corridor has limited existing interest, this largely being confined to hedges within a mainly arable landscape. There is some limited woodland interest but also old ditch lines. Its primary value, however, is for sub-surface archaeology, which is thought to exist beneath the overlying blown sand deposits formed during the early post glacial period.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Hedges
ii. Woodland
iii. Streamside habitat.



Local

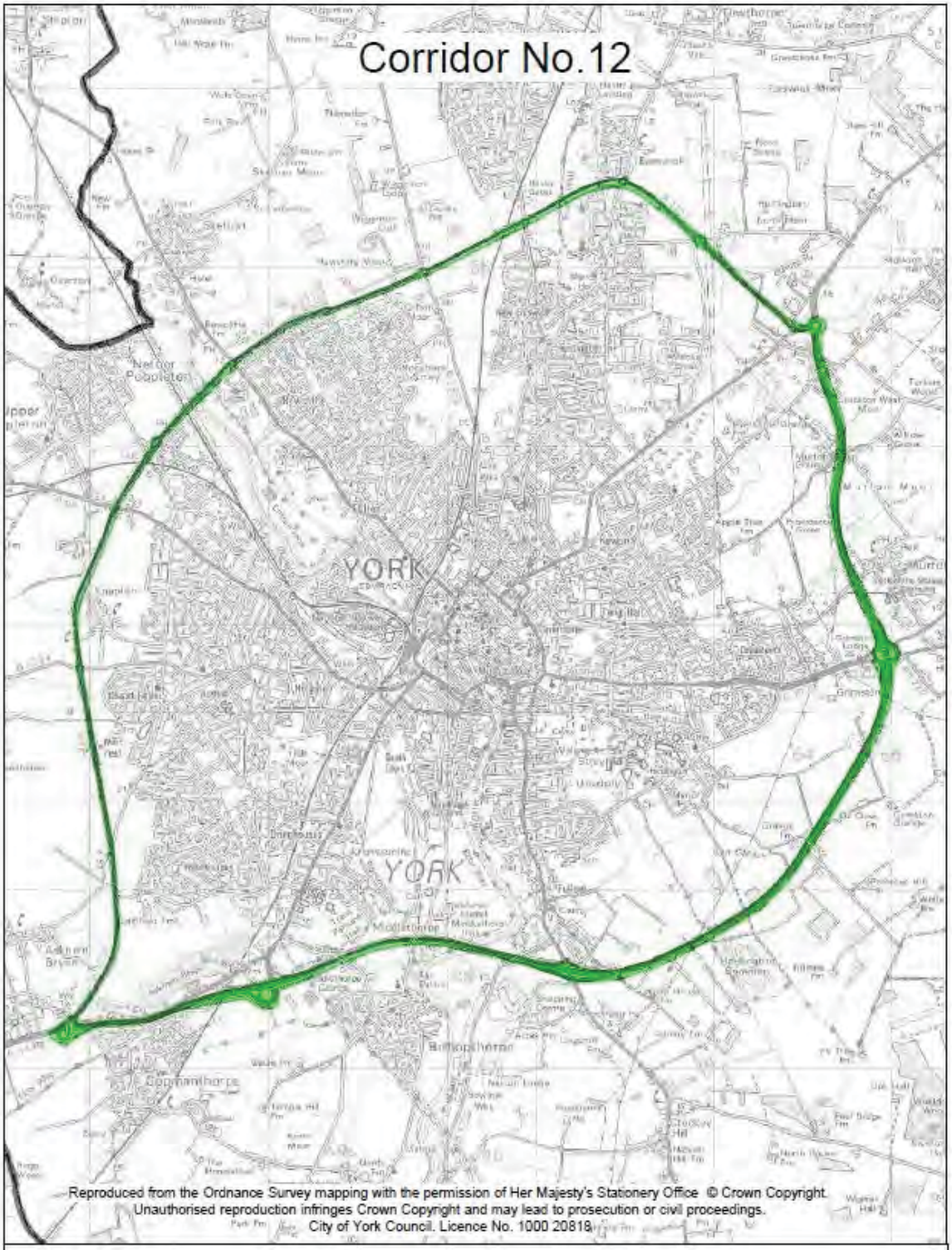
Naburn Cultural Landscape Blown Sands

Local Corridors (12) - The Ring Rd

This corridor follows the York ring road and the A64 around the City. It comprises the immediate roadside, embankments, roundabouts and hedges of the highways and adjacent land as it affects the highway. Its major function is naturally as a highway but it does have significant value as a linking corridor that effectively connects with all of the regional and district corridors together. There are also a number of Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SINC's) associated with this corridor and they too are connected.
In habitat terms the corridor is made up primarily of rank, coarse grassland but interspersed with a mosaic of scrub and more diverse grassland. There are also a number of detention ponds associated with the drainage of the ring road. Some of these are already of wildlife interest.
The corridor though does have the potential to be of particular value for invertebrates as movement corridors but also particularly where the embankments have been constructed of lighter soils such as at Poppleton.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Neutral/acid grassland
ii. Hedges
iii. Ponds
iv. Woodland.



Local

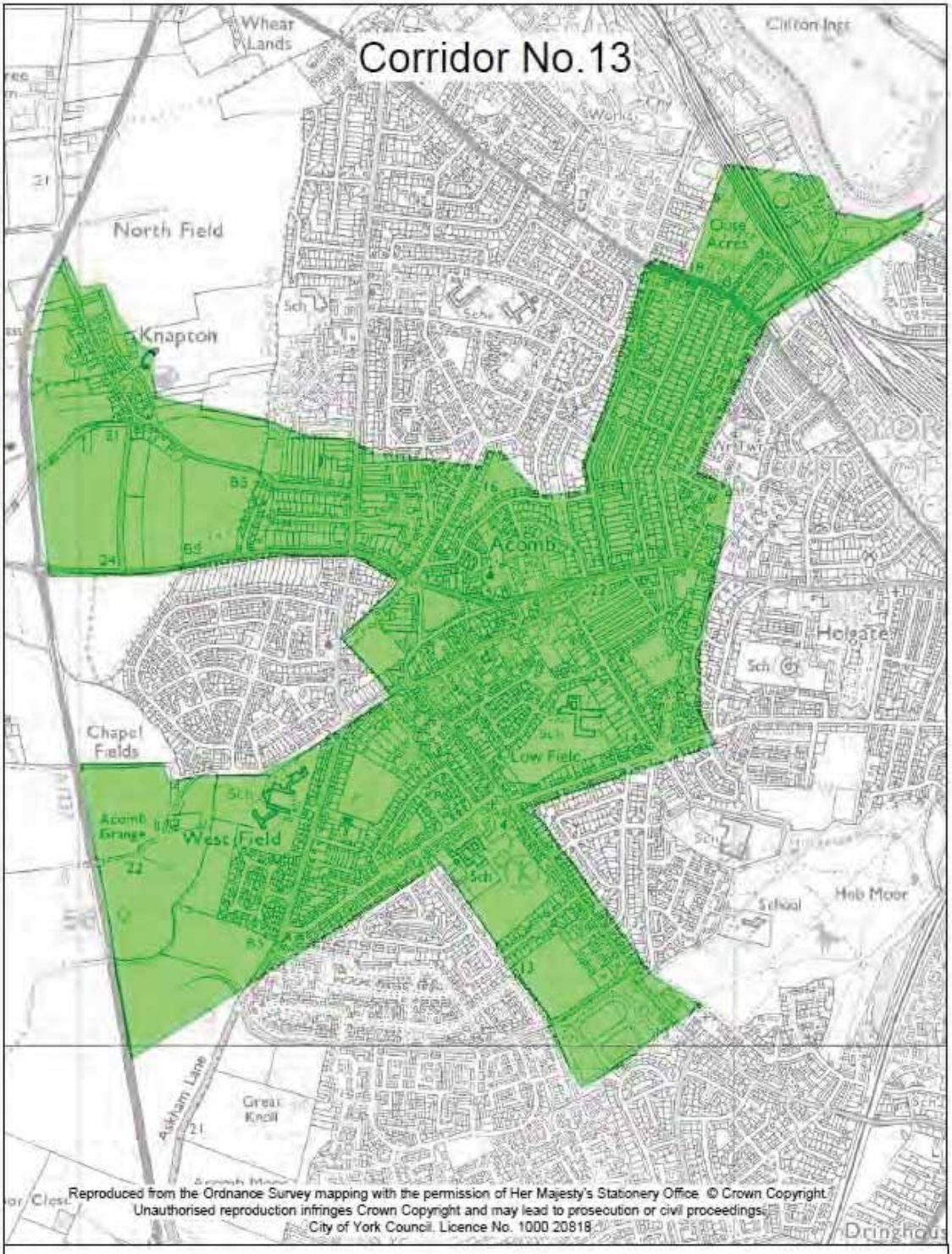
Ring Road Corridor

Local Corridors (13) - Acomb Corridor

This is a primarily residential corridor on the west side of York. It links a series of mainly SINC grasslands sites and extensive aligned gardens to create a network of corridors through the area. The grasslands are unusual in York terms as they are dry, slightly acidic grasslands established on sandy soils. They are akin to breck grasslands and are relicts of the once extensive droughty grasslands that once covered the Acomb area until the Victorian era. Their primary interest is for their unusual annual flora but also for invertebrates. The dry, sandy soils are especially valuable for bees and wasps. There are a number of sites which have unique sand dune sps not normally found inland. There are also several spring fed systems which again provide unusual habitats, for instance the fens at Fishponds Wood and Westfield marsh.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Neutral/acid grassland
ii. Garden habitat
iii. Ponds/
iv. fens and marshes



Local

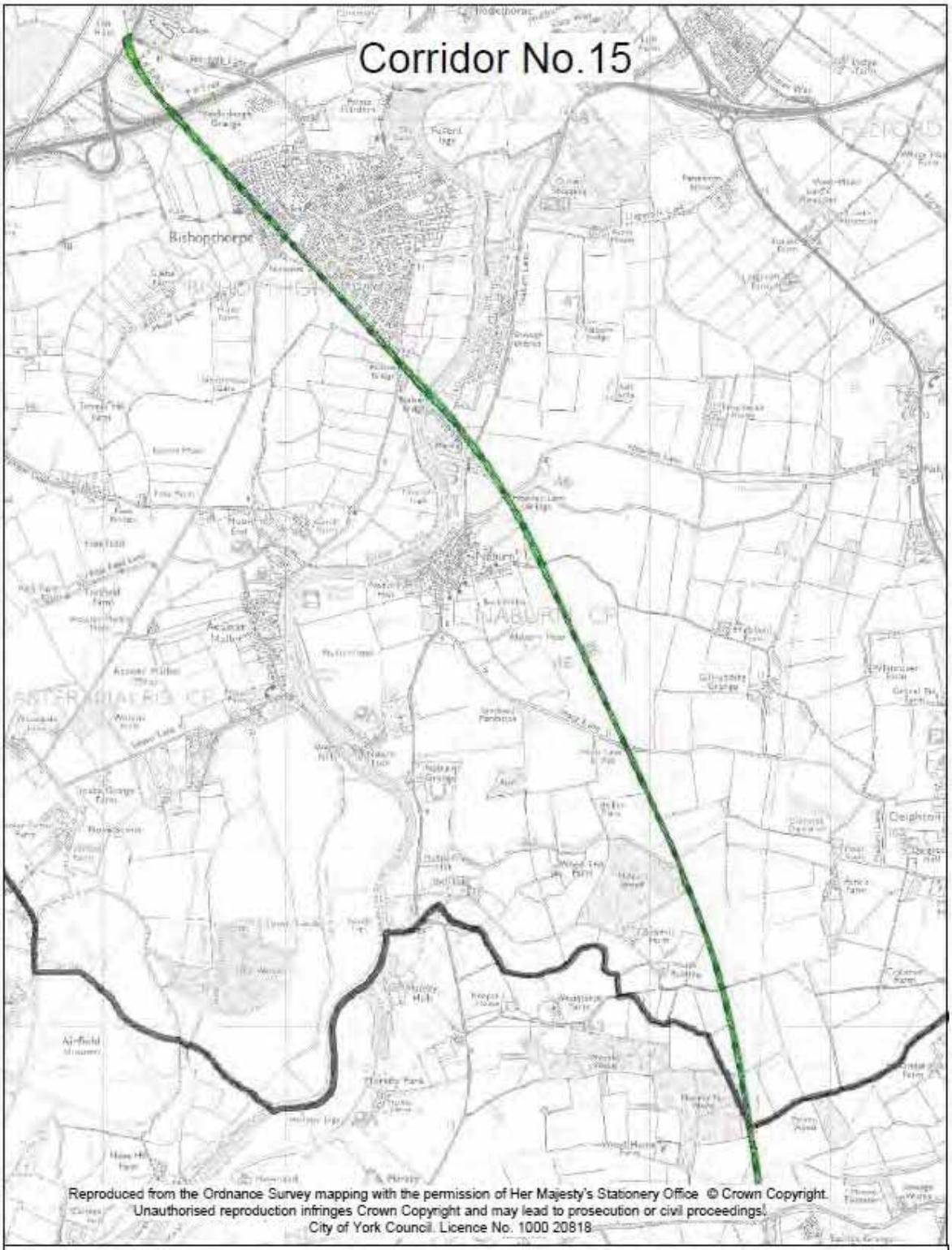
Ring Road Corridor

Local Corridors (15) - Selby Railway Corridor

This is a cycle corridor following the old railway line to Selby and is part of the Sustrans Trans Pennine Trail. However, it is also designated as a SINC site within York as the embankments provide an excellent scrub/grassland mosaic habitat corridor through an otherwise largely intensive arable landscape. In addition, it provides a link between a number of SINCs. The embankments will increasingly scrub over and reduce the grassland interest without significant intervention.
Its primary function is as part of a national cycle trail, however, the wildlife interest provides a major secondary function that does not conflict with this.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Neutral grassland
ii. Hedges
iii. Scrub



Local

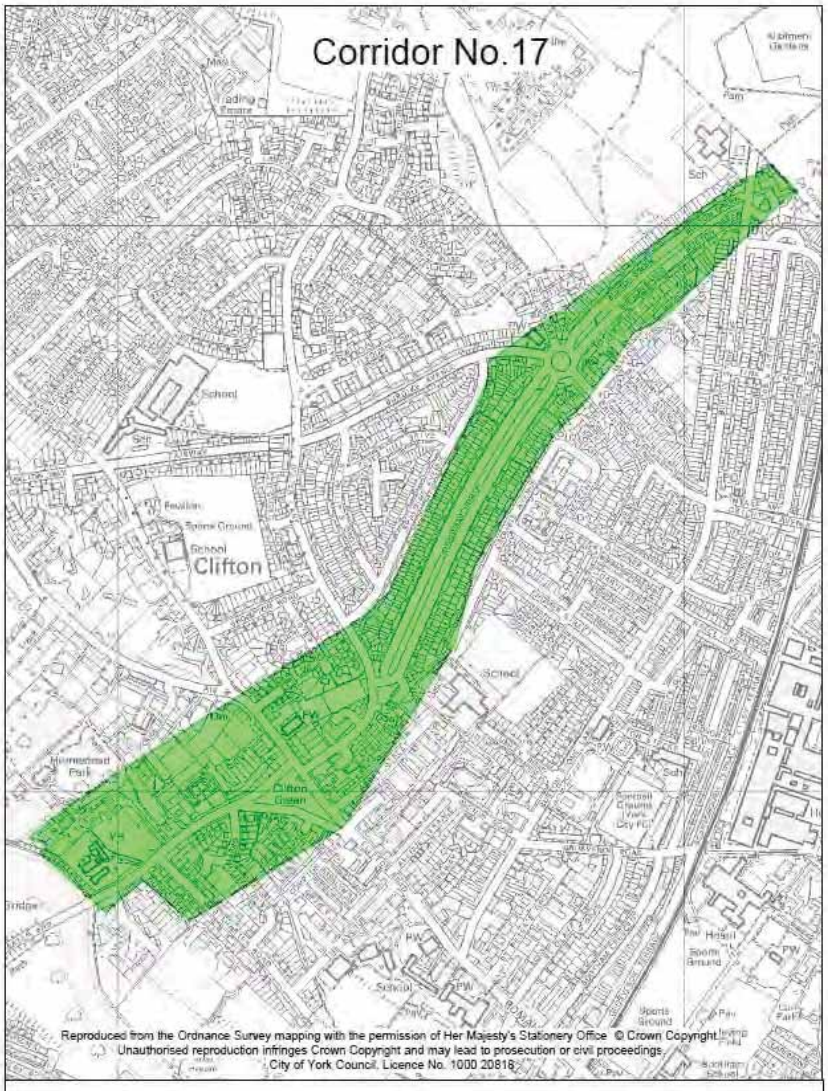
Selby Railway Corridor

Local Corridors (17) - Kingsway North

This mainly transport corridor is centred along Kingsway North with links through back gardens and grounds at Water End to the Ouse corridor. There are no existing SINC's within it but it does provide the connection between the Bootham and Ouse corridors. Its primary interest is as a potential corridor for bats and insects through the enhancement of the central reservation grassland of Kingsway North and adjacent gardens.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

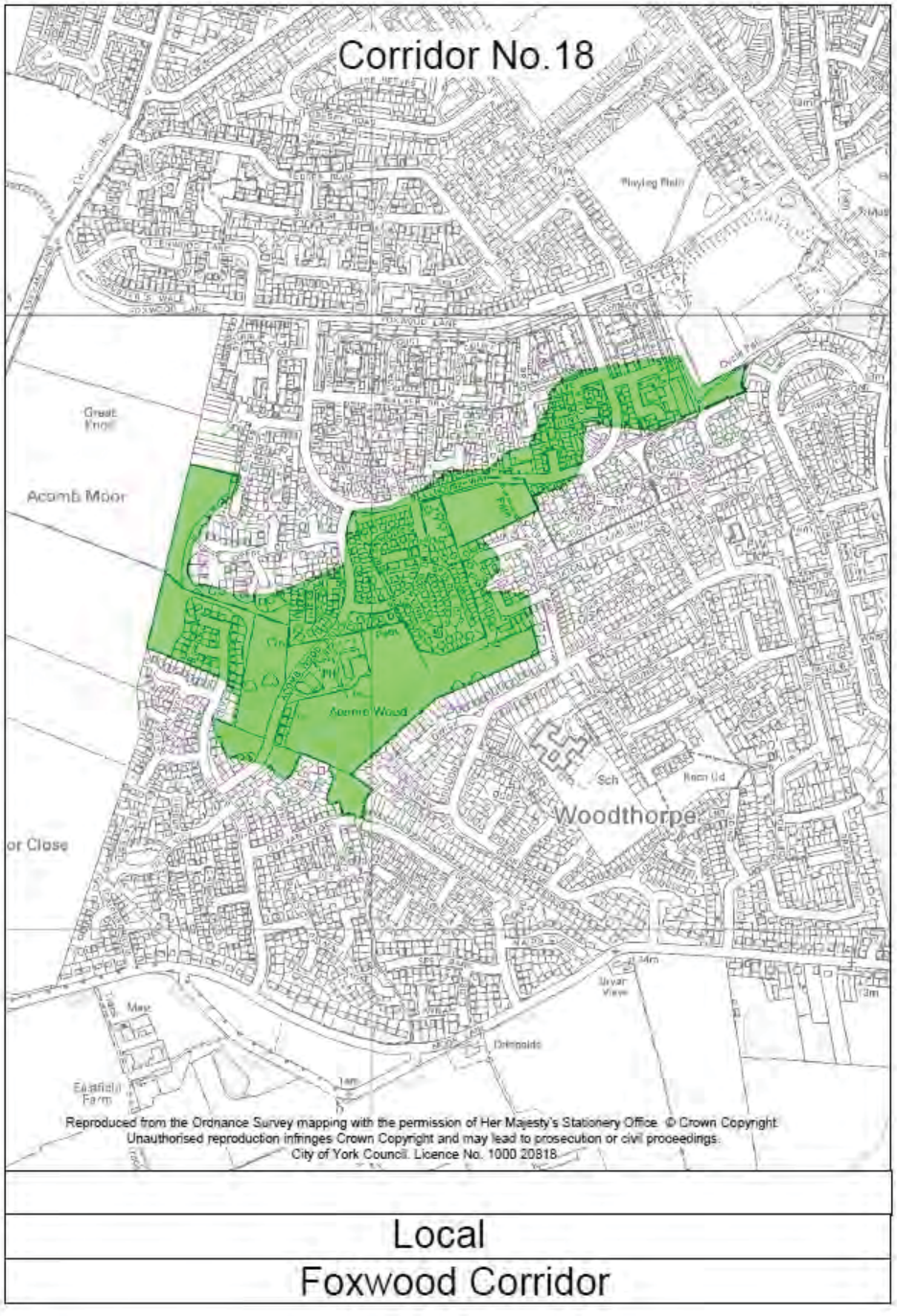
i. Neutral grassland
ii. Garden enhancement
iii. Trees



Local Corridors (18) - Foxwood Corridor
This is a short, mainly residential corridor that is centred on Acomb Wood. It provides the links between the Hob Moor and Acomb corridors and the eastern edge of York.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Neutral/acid grassland
ii. Woodland and trees.
iii. Bats

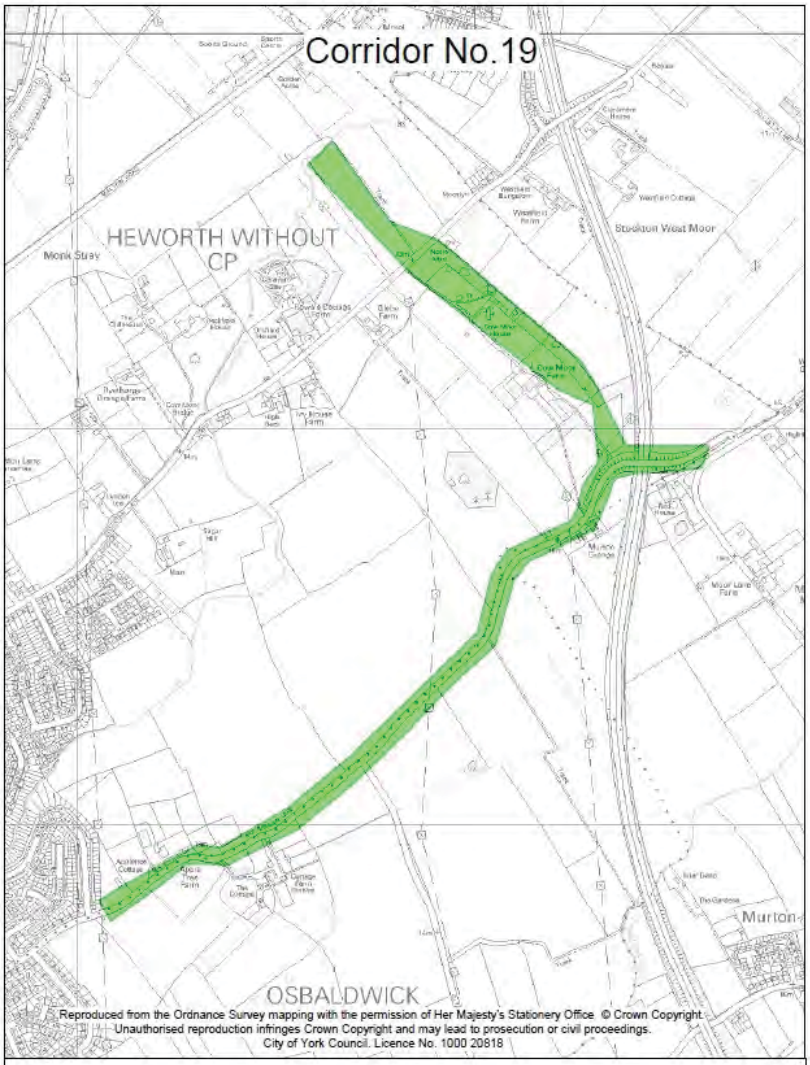


Local Corridors (19) - Heworth Cycle Corridor

This is a proposed cycle corridor link whose function is again mainly as a transport link. It passes through fairly open arable land with limited wildlife interest or trees but with fairly extensive new woodland planting close to the A64. There would be opportunity for general wildlife enhancement as part of this transport corridor but with an emphasis on improving the visual character of the area by tree planting along the corridor.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Neutral/acid grassland
ii. Woodland and trees.
iii. Bats



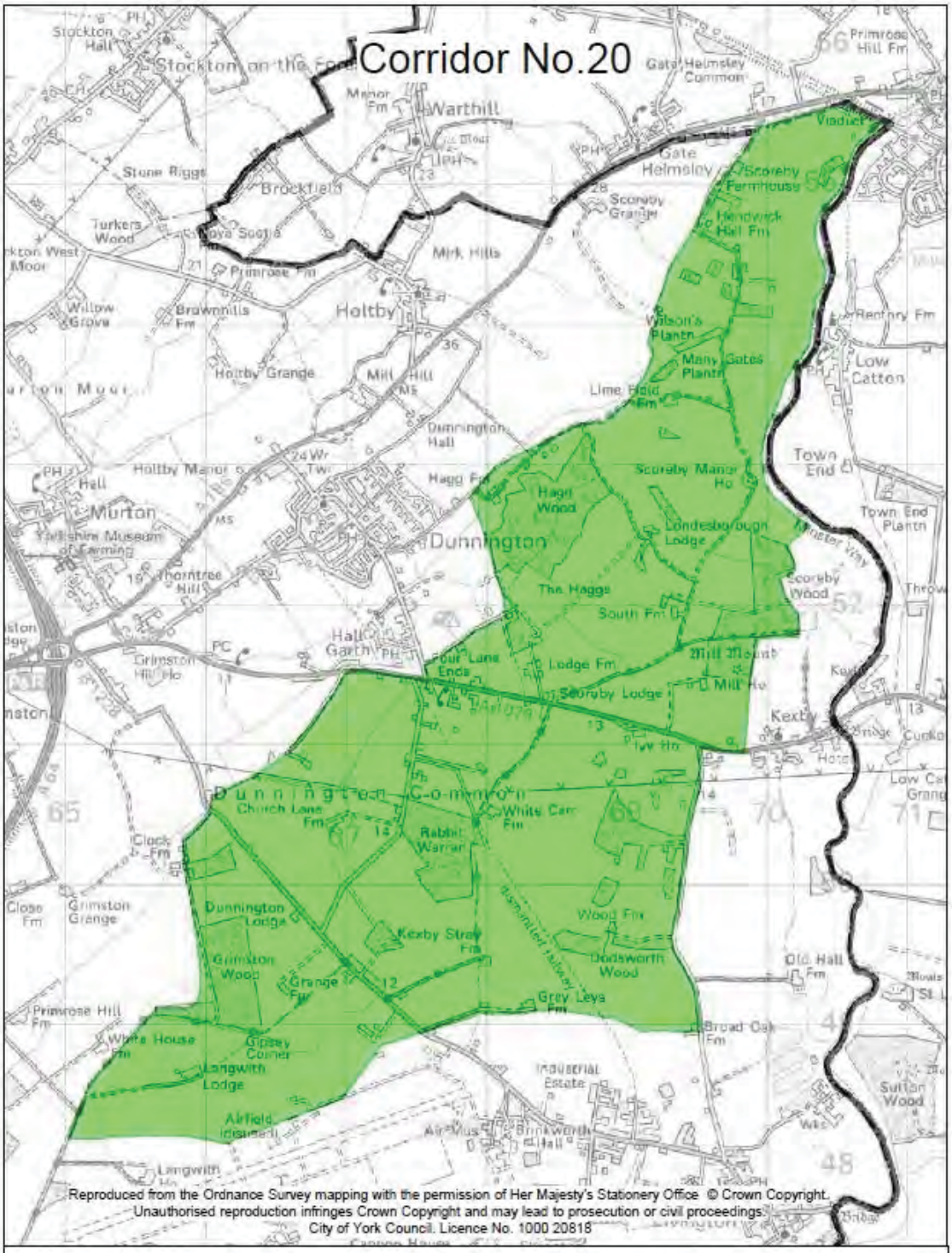
Local
Heworth Cycle Corridor

Local Corridors (20) - Southern Heath

This is an extensive corridor that continues the Northern Heath corridor having passed through the western edge of Selby. It follows an indistinct belt taking in the sandy soils on the south eastern edge of the city and connects through to the Tilmire and the Naburn Blown Sands areas to the west. As for the northern heath, it is more restricted in its overall interest being primarily for agriculture, forestry and, in wildlife terms, for its heathland. The free draining, acidic conditions originally allowed heathland and acid grassland to establish on agriculturally poor soils. Many old rough commons were established on these impoverished areas but these were extensively afforested and the remaining heathland interest is limit largely to relict heath within this woodland cover. There are though opportunities for heathland re-establishment within these woodland sites. A significant problem with these sites is the spread of Rhododendron. Sites of known interest include Wheldrake Woods, Rabbit Warren Wood and Hagg Wood, Dunnington.

Priorities for enhancement include

v. Heathland
vi. Acid grassland
vii. Mesotrophic ponds
viii. Acid woodlands



Local
Southern Heath

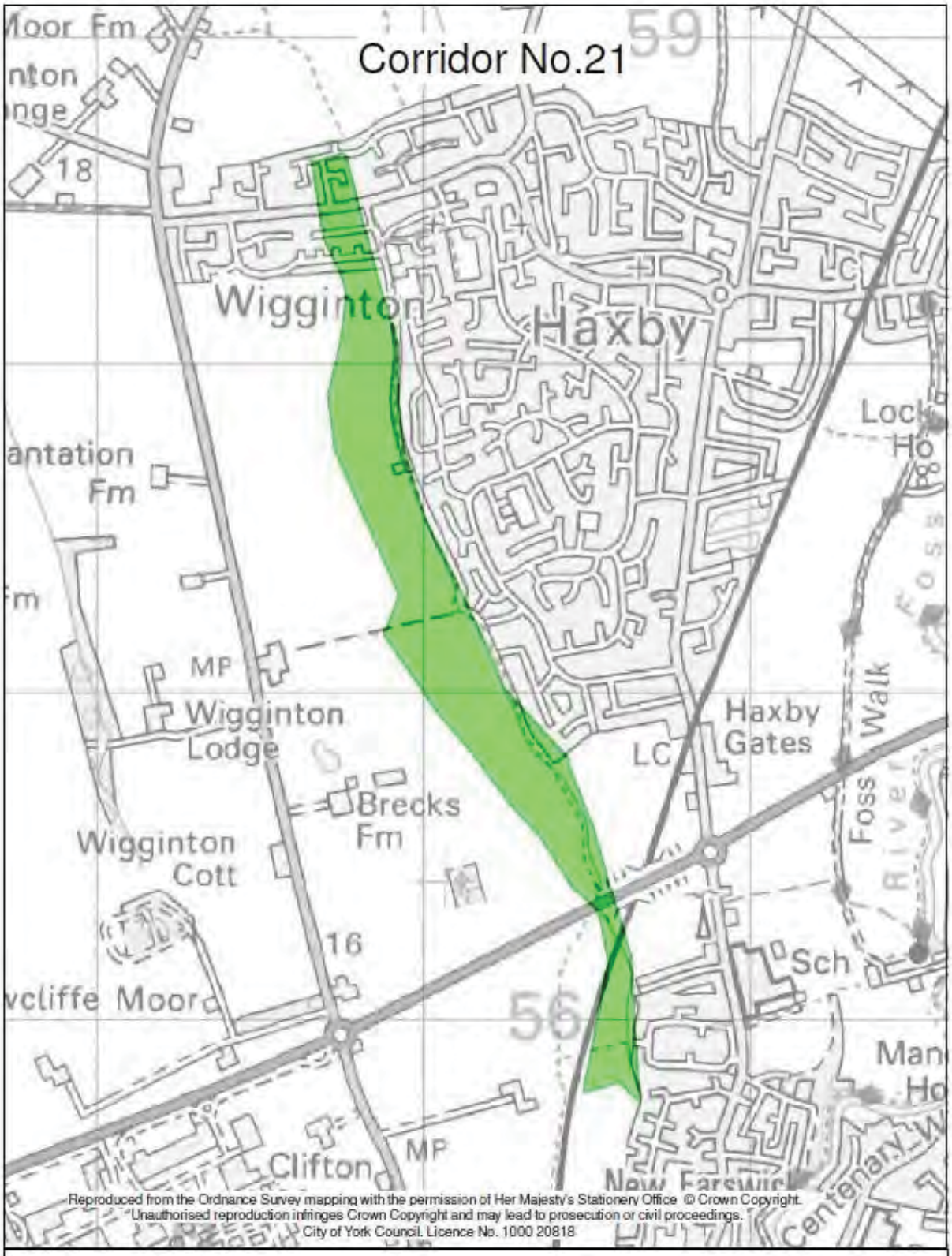
Local Corridors (21) - Wigginton Corridor

This narrow corridor follows the line of the Haxby Beck from Wigginton, beneath the ring and along the western side of New Earswick. It runs through what is essentially an urban edge agricultural landscape though the most significant landscape feature is the large new woodland planted by Haxby Parish Council. There are no SINC sites present although there are several (including the Beck itself) that are of local interest. This interest includes good populations of water vole on the beck.

The primary value is the potential to provide an enhanced wildlife link along the Beck with good public access linking to the Foss corridor and Bootham Stray.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Riparian habitats
ii. Woodlands and trees
iii. Neutral grassland
iv. Watervole
v. Bats



Local

Wigginton Corridor

Local Corridors (22/23) - Badger Wood and Archbishop Holgate

These are two areas of open space within the Badger Hill area along Field Lane and Windmill Lane. They are made up of the School grounds and field adjacent to Windmill Lane and the Badger Wood open space. They link to the University and Heslington Campus grounds. Neither have significant wildlife interest, although there is a large pond with Great Crested Newt, but they do provide an element of open space whose general enhancement for wildlife would benefit both the visual and biodiversity value of the area. The university grounds are known to have good bat interest and some floristic interest as well and enhancement here would extend this interest further into the local community.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Ponds
ii. Woodland and trees
iii. Neutral grassland
iv. Great Crested Newt
v. Bats

Local
Badger Wood Walk

Local

Archbishop Holgate

Local Corridors (24, 25) – The Blue Beck Corridor

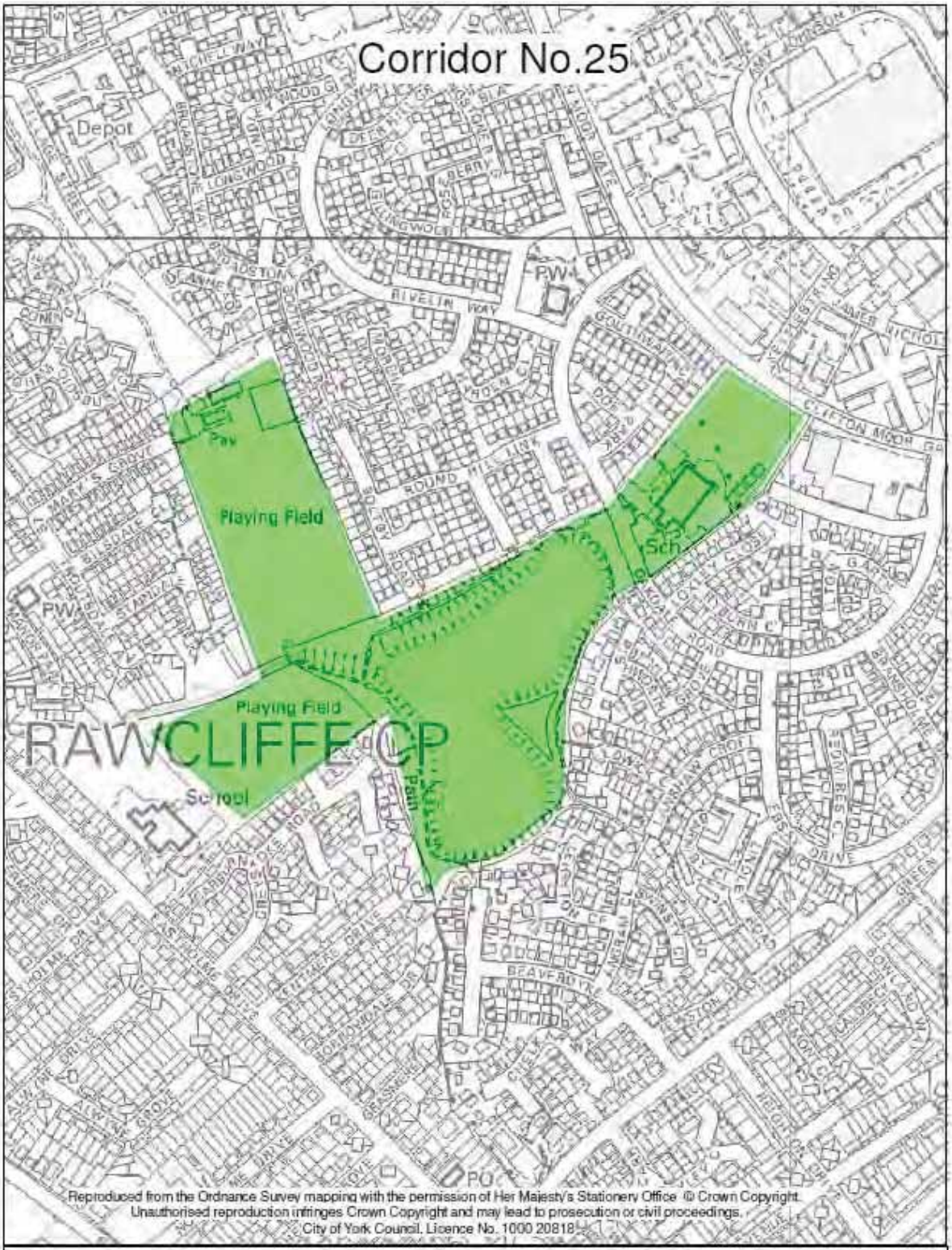
This is a residential corridor based on two areas along the the Blue Beck and Rawcliffe Lake, a large detention pond established to reduce flooding issues created by the surrounding residential development. It is proposed to extend the corridor along the Blue Beck to the west up to the Shipton Rd. The area includes School grounds, Rawcliffe Lake, the Blue Beck (back gardens and roadside habitat) and open space. It links to Ouse Corridor and provides a stepping stone between it and the Bootham Stray to the east.
The Rawcliffe Lake has been designated as a SINC on the grounds of its establishing bankside wildflower grassland. The lake itself is of limited value although does provide overwintering bird interest.
The corridor does have potential for enhancement based on riparian habitats that would strengthen the link between the Stray and the River Ouse.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Riparian habitats
ii. Gardens
iii. Woodlands and trees
iv. Neutral grassland
v. Watervole
vi. Bats

Local

Conningham Avenue



Local

Rawcliffe

Local Corridors (26) – Fulford Park

This corridor is based on the grounds of Connaught Court, and old parkland that adjoins Fulford Ings SSSI. To the east it includes areas of garden and open space that extend towards Heslington.
Connaught Court is of some interest as a site for unusual fungi that may be present because of the old established trees that have survived since the 18th Century. These trees in turn provide a good foraging link through to Fulford Ings and the Ouse Corridor. The retention of open space and the old tree cover is a pre-requiste of maintaining the value of this corridor.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

i. Parkland habitat and trees
ii. Gardens
iii. Neutral grassland
iv. Bats

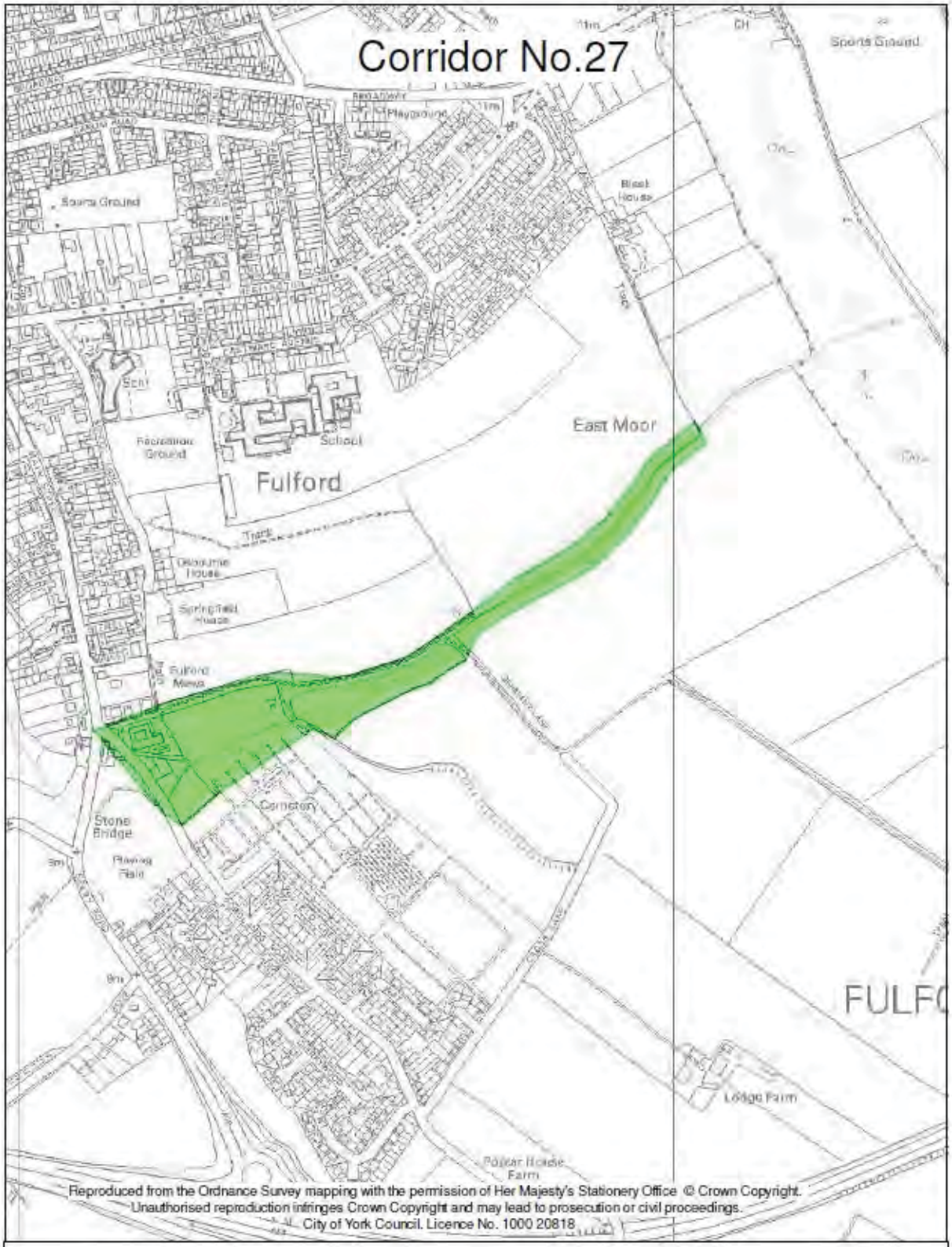
Local
Fulford Road Fulford Park

Local Corridors (27) - Germany Beck

The Germany Beck corridor is an established beck corridor that cuts across intensive agricultural land between the Tilmire and the River Ouse. It follows a narrow stream that takes drainage from Heslington and has some existing biodiversity interest, notably the Germany Beck Meadow and some ancient species rich hedges. The Beck floods regularly and the increased flooding and reduced management has caused the value of the Germany Beck Meadow to decline to the extent that it no longer fully qualifies for SINC status. There is however still scope to reverse this trend with careful management. A further wildlife interest is the potential for the Beck to provide a corridor for bat movement between the Tilmire and the Ouse.
Its primary function is as a drainage corridor but it has great potential for both wildlife enhancement and as a footpath link.

Priorities for wildlife enhancement include

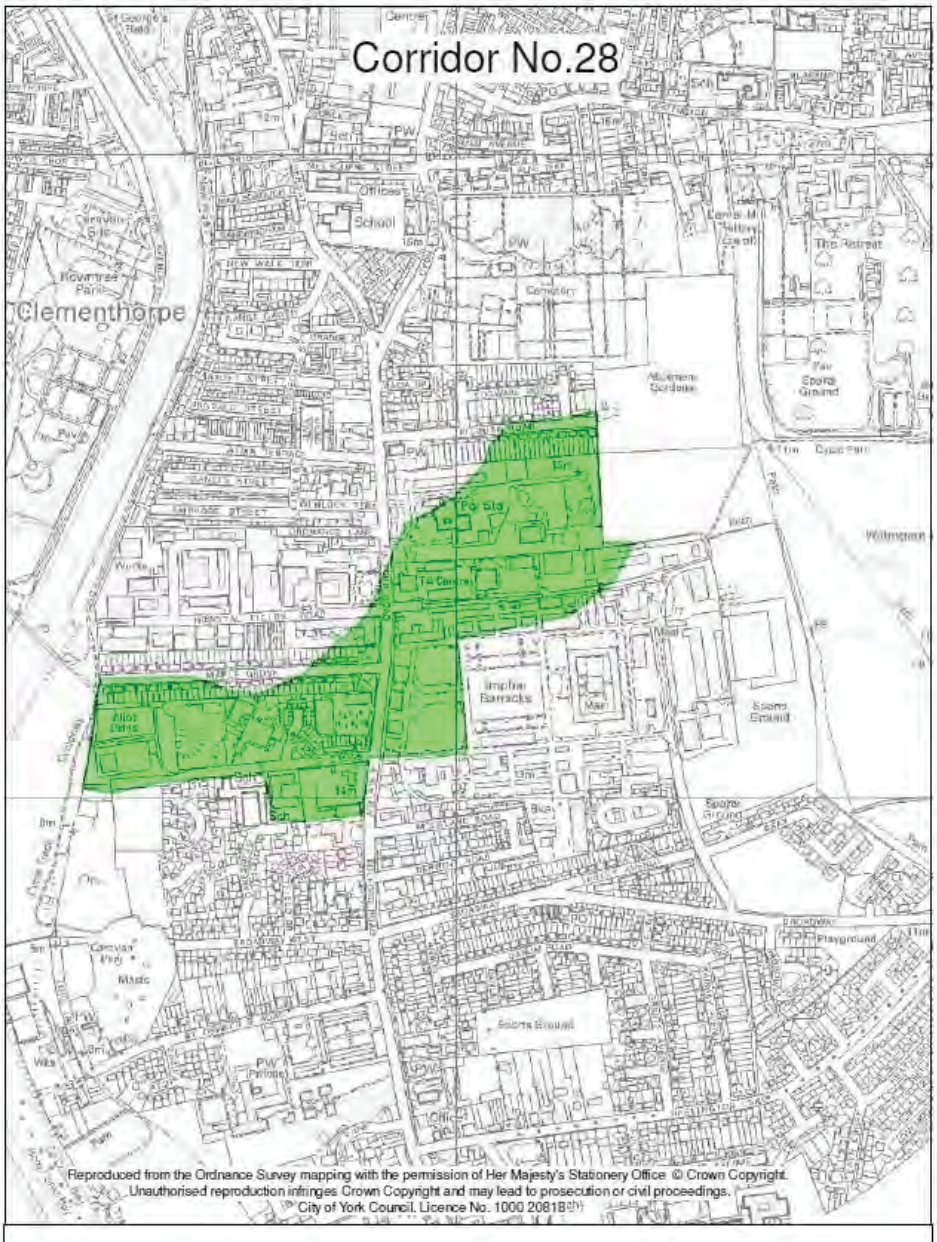
i. Riparian habitats
ii. Trees
iii. Neutral and flood meadow grassland
iv. Watervole
v. Bats



Local
Germany Beck

Local Corridors (28) - Fulford Cross

This is an area of relatively open land that incorporates the grounds of the North Yorkshire Police, Imphal Barracks, allotments and land to the south of Maple Grove. It is a relatively well wooded corridor but with some residential and employment land that do cut across the corridor. Any proposals should aim to enhance the integrity of the corridor rather than further divide it.



Local

Fulford Road Fulford Cross

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URBAN including buildings

NVC communities: Not applicable

Although less than 5% of Great Britain is classified as urban, built-up areas are increasingly important to the survival of British wildlife and you can find a huge variety of animals and plants if you know what signs to look for. Already, high-rise buildings have become inland cliffs for roosting seabirds, wasteland has been transformed into wildflower meadows and railway embankments are home to families of badgers and foxes.

Much can be done in an urban setting from enlightened development practice to parkland management and gardening for wildlife.

Proposed Action:

Planners and developers are encouraged to adopt the British Standards Institute PAS 2010
Biodiversity conservation standards Code of Practice: Planning to Halt the loss of biodiversity
and will be expected to take account of appropriate nature conservation concerns in any planning application.

The City of York Council will take account of habitat and species conservation and enhancement in considering any planning application.

The City of York Council will enhance the management of its parks and open spaces for nature conservation.

Support and advice will be given on how to manage gardens and allotments for wildlife.

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What you can do to help ?

Even doing only one thing will make a difference

Join the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust or local Friends Groups

Children can enjoy watching wildlife

Lend a hand volunteering

Explore the world of birds

Enjoy life in the woods

Plant native species, which will be beneficial to local wildlife.

Avoid slug pellets - try to use natural methods of pest control.

Buy and use only peat free compost or make your own compost from organic kitchen waste and garden cuttings.

Provide shelter for Hedgehogs, which will prey on slugs.

Grow flowers that will be favoured by bumblebees.

Feed the birds and provide fresh water.

Put up open fronted and tit nest boxes.

Create a wildlife pond, without fish!

Leave fallen timber to decay.

Learn more about the countryside & environment at Askham Bryan College and the University of York

Grow dense shrubbery for nesting Song Thrush and other birds.

Plant fruit trees, currant bushes and berry-bearing shrubs to provide food for birds and insects.

Allow areas of gardens to become 'wild' with less intensive management, such as a corner or bank of meadow instead of lawn.

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Developers and architects. When considering a development or design please consider the potential for wildlife already to be present or what can be done to enhance biodiversity.

In particular

- Buildings are often used by bats for roosting or land can hold Great Crested Newts. Both are Protected Species. Check before submitting any plans to prevent any delays.
- Consider designing into buildings bat roost features or Swift or House Sparrow nest.
- Consider green or brown roofs. They not only provide good habitat especially for insects but are also good thermal insulation.

When considering development or improving your house

Remember to consider wildlife at the very outset, think if there is likely to be any interest and check. Both houses and land can have significant interest that would be harmed by injudicious work. Houses may have bats and birds, land may be valuable habitat. In particular protected species may be present. In York, these include Bats, Great Crested Newt, Otter, Water Vole, Badger and Barn Owl. Each of these has special legislation that needs to be taken into account.

- The North and East Yorkshire Data Centre have millions of records of where wildlife is known to have been found.
- The Council's ecologist may be able to advise at an early stage of what may be present and what should be done.
- If there is interest, consider how this can be incorporated into your proposals
- Consider ways that you can enhance the local biodiversity by pro-actively creating or improving the local environment through your proposals.

Farmers and landowners can apply for Environmental Stewardship Schemes designed around best farming practice to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Vale of York.

Entry Level Stewardship Guidance Notes
Higher Level Stewardship Targeting Statement
Natural England York Office can be contacted on Tel: 0300 060 1911
email york@naturalengland.org.uk

The Council's Countryside Officer is also happy to provide advice on what can be done on an individual basis.

In particular ;

- Hedges are important food sources in winter. When hedge cutting do not cut all hedges every year, cut some every other year to leave berries through the winter.
- Leave odd corners of grass and hedge bottoms long to provide overwintering sites for insects.
- Leave strips around ponds and arable field margins for insects and beetles. These can be cut the following year.
- Plant small areas of bird and nectar seed to provide winter and summer food.

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HABITAT ACTION PLANS

Identification of Priority Habitats

A number of criteria have been used to identify priority habitats for the LBAP.
These include

i. Habitats that are of concern as set out in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
ii. Habitat features of international concern where vegetation types are identified as being largely confined to the British Isles.
iii. Habitats that are in serious decline at a national and local level.
iv. Habitats that are important for scarce and threatened sps.
v. Habitats for which the City of York is of national importance.

Priority habitats have been identified as those meeting three or more of the above criteria. These are:

Unimproved neutral grassland, flood meadow and wet grassland

Heathland, acidic grassland and breck

Fens and swamps

Ponds

Other habitats that are considered important with the York context are

Sps Rich hedges

Woodland

Orchards

Farmland

National Vegetation Classification (NVC):

Since the 1980s, the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) has become the standard way for describing the vegetation found in UK habitats. It is based on the plant species identified and their relative abundance. One or two letters identify the broad vegetation type followed by a number for specific plant communities.

For example:

MG5 = mesotrophic (neutral) grassland characterised by the presence of Crested-dogstail & Knapweed.

W10 = Oak Woodland

This categorisation has been used within York.

However, whilst this categorisation is extremely valuable, it is based on relatively limited survey data across the whole country and the factors that influence the presence of plants on a local level are extremely variable; from geology to soil type to rainfall to management history. This means that in the field, the plant composition may not exactly match these categories and will grade from one community type into another. Because a site does not fit easily into an NVC habitat category, it should not be considered in any way detrimental to its overall value in the local context.

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NEUTRAL GRASSLAND

Typical NVC communities: MG1, MG4, MG5, MG6.

This Habitat Action Plan covers the broad range of unimproved (species-rich) traditionally managed grasslands that occur on neutral clays and alluvial substrates across the Vale of York. The vast majority of these grassland types are relatively dry during the summer months though they may flood in winter. They do however grade into the wet grassland communities that remain moist even in summer. The traditional management of these grasslands was based around grazing or mid to late summer hay cutting, following by late summer/ autumn grazing.

Such agriculturally unimproved meadows and pastures are an increasingly scarce resource in lowland Britain, mainly as a result of modern farming methods.

Within York the following moderately rich (mesotrophic) NVC grassland communities are known to occur : MG1, MG4, MG5, and MG6.
Wet grassland communities: - MG8, MG11, MG13, S22.

The MG1 False Oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius)* grassland is typical of many roadside situations but also occurs on a range of other uncut and un-grazed sites throughout the area. Although often floristically poor, the structure of this tall grassland community is of high value for invertebrates and some examples can be floristically species-rich, particularly where there is a calcareous influence. These grasslands can grade/revert into other grassland types such as MG5 depending on the extent of management

Dry, neutral grassland of the MG5 (unimproved) or MG6 (semi-improved) communities are characterised by Crested Dogs-tail *Cynosurus cristatus* and a broad range of other species such as Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra*, Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, Red Clover (*Trifolium pratense),* Meadow Vetch *(Lathyrus pratense)* and Birds Foot Trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), as well as locally uncommon species such as, Adders-tongue (*Ophioglossum vulgatum),* Yellow Rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*) and Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii)*. Additionally, some sites have developed on mildly calcareous substrates (chalky boulder clay) or more acid, sandy substrates and have developed richer swards with species such as Cowslip *Primula veris*, Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum)*, Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens)*, Betony (*Betonica officionalis)*, Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacampsis pyramidalis)* and Common Quaking-grass (*Briza media)*.

In the flood plains of the Ouse and Derwent, the free'r draining alluvial soils support the nationally rare MG4 flood meadow community. These grasslands are characterised by the presence of Greater Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis)* and Meadow Foxtail but also support many of the species present in the MG5 community as well as those more tolerant of periodic flooding such as Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria). An unusual aspect of flood meadow grasslands in York is the presence of Meadow Cranesbill, rarely recorded in flood meadows further south. Also several woodland indicator species such as Wood anemone can occasionally be found.
These grasslands grade into the wet grassland, grazing marsh communities.

	SSSI	SINC	SLI	Total Resource
Old Meadow		90	126	**216**
Flood Meadow/ Wet grazing marsh.	207	87	46	**340**
Total	**207**	**177**	**172**	**556**

Old meadows and pastures
Species-rich grassland on better drained soils occurs mainly in small enclosed fields in the City of York, often bearing the ridge-and-furrow imprint of pre-enclosure cultivation. The characteristic plant community is MG5 crested dogstail - common knapweed grassland. Typical herbs include common birdsfoot trefoil, betony, pignut and common knapweed.

Old meadow grassland has virtually vanished from the farmed countryside of the Vale of York as a result of modern, intensive, agricultural methods. Most examples in the City of York now survive as small, unimproved fields on the outskirts of settlements. Abandonment of traditional management by hay making or grazing is also a problem, resulting in the encroachment of coarse grasses such as false-oat grass and cocksfoot.

Nationally, it is estimated that over 98% of the old wildflower grasslands have been lost in the last 80yrs. and there is perhaps 12000ha left. The total known City of York resource for old meadow grassland is estimated to be approximately 90 ha. of diverse sward left with a further 126 ha of moderately diverse sward. The majority of the most floristically diverse grassland is designated as SINC but there is very little under statutory protection within existing SSSI's.
Losses between 1993 and 1996 amounted to nearly 30% of the previous known total. This was mainly as a result of urban development in the former Southern Ryedale.

This is arguably one of the most threatened habitats in lowland Yorkshire.

Flood meadows

Winter-flooded hay meadows (Ings) are a highly characteristic feature of the Ouse and Derwent flood plains. Where these have escaped modern agricultural 'improvement', the typical plant community is meadow foxtail-great burnet grassland MG4). These meadows have a very long history of traditional management, in some cases possibly dating back to the Roman period. During the mediaeval period a complex system of management evolved based upon private rights to harvest hay from strips and common rights of aftermath grazing.

Due to a combination of historical and bio geographical factors, this type of flood meadow is almost unique to lowland eastern England. The City of York holds 294ha of flood meadow grassland, 207ha of which is designated as SSSI, 87ha is designated as SINC and there is a further 46ha of some interest. Not all of this is however MG4 meadow foxtail-great burnet grassland, some grades into other wet grassland habitats. It is thought though that York holds around 8% of the national MG4 grassland resource. The Lower Derwent Valley, part of which lies within the City boundaries, holds the most extensive area of floristically-rich flood meadow in Britain. This interest is shared with the East Riding of Yorkshire and Selby.

Hay meadows in the Lower Derwent Valley form part of a complex of winter-flooded grasslands which support internationally-important populations of wintering waterfowl and nationally-important concentrations of breeding waders and wildfowl. Species of conservation importance associated with grassland in the Lower Derwent Valley include Corncrake, quail, ruff, hare, sulphur water dropwort and the click beetles *Oedostethus quadripustulatus* and *Selatosomus nigricornis*.

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WET GRASSLAND

Wet grasslands are largely confined to the main river flood plains of the City of York and often grade into flood meadow, fen or swamp communities. The largest concentration of wet grassland within the City is at Wheldrake Ings. The City contains an estimated 63 ha. of agriculturally-unimproved wet grassland including 1% of the national resource of creeping bent-marsh foxtail grassland.

Wet grassland communities characterised by annual plants such as bur-marigolds and yellow-cresses occur in habitats which are flooded for much

of the year but dry out rapidly in late summer. Such communities are within local semi-natural floodplain systems, and important examples can be found at Wheldrake Ings.

Wet grasslands have seriously declined in the City of York as a result of land drainage and agricultural improvement, although no quantitative estimate of habitat loss is available. Areas of grazing marsh at Fulford Ings have declined in wildlife interest as a result of neglect or over-grazing.

Wet grasslands in the City of York are of great entomological interest, supporting insects such as the rare ground beetle *Dromius sigma*, the nationally-scarce mirid bug *Capsus wagneri* and the Dentated Pug moth.

Within the Lower Derwent Valley, wet grasslands support internationally-important populations of wintering waterfowl and nationally-important concentrations of breeding waders. By contrast, characteristic breeding birds of wet grasslands such as redshank and snipe have virtually disappeared from the Ouse floodplain. Damp semi-improved grassland and poor fen at Heslington Tilmire are of ornithological interest with breeding redshank, snipe, lapwing and yellow wagtail.

Other species also associated with wet grassland include Tasteless Water-pepper, Marsh Carpet moth, *Panagaeus cruxmajor* (a ground beetle), *Agabus uliginosus* (a diving beetle), *Hydrothassa hannoveriana* (a leaf beetle), *Lymnaea glabra* (a Mud Snail), Bittern, Whooper Swan, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Water Rail, Baillon's Crake, Black-tailed Godwit, Short-eared Owl, Reed Bunting, Water Vole.

Factors causing Loss or Decline

Over the past 80yrs it is thought that we have lost over 98% of the old flower rich meadows in lowland Britain.

Locally, two-thirds of meadowland on the Ouse Ings has either disappeared or suffered serious loss of wildlife interest during the past 150 years. Similarly in the early 1990's, 30% of the then known wildflower meadow resource was thought to have been lost in southern Ryedale, in part to the development of York.

Most losses have occurred as a result of conversion to more intensive agricultural use. Threats here include ploughing, reseeding, herbicide spraying, and fertiliser applications. However, overgrazing, undergrazing and neglect have all had, and continue to have, a significant impact as well as loss to development.

Undergrazing and neglect are a significant problem for both meadows and flood meadows, reducing floral diversity as more aggressive species dominate the sward. However, it should be noted that whilst rank, unmanaged swards can be detrimental to the wildflower interest, they can be exceptionally valuable for invertebrates and this should be accommodated in any management proposals for sites.

For old meadows this is primarily because the majority of the remaining fields are small and in independent ownership. This has contributed to their retention in the past but, because it is now more difficult to get haycropping and grazing on such small fields, they are now often either neglected or turned over to overgrazed horse pasture. Such meadows also tend to be close to existing settlements and are therefore most likely to be considered for further development.

For flood meadow grassland, neglect can come about as a result of climate change. Currently, there is increasing summer flooding and this is forecast to increase over the coming century. This can destroy their value as hayfields and make grazing problematic. In the past, adjacent unflooded pasture land was available for stock to move to in times of flood. Much of this adjacent land has been converted to arable and there is therefore no land available in times for stock when it does flood. This, coupled with the reduced market value of beef, means that the old flood meadows which cannot be converted to arable are simply left.

In addition there is also an increasing need for flood storage. This means that old flood meadow land is potentially valuable for controlled flood storage and this can, if carried out in summer, be extremely detrimental to the existing wildlife interest of these meadows.
Other potential threats to flood meadow grassland include marina developments, mining subsidence and other hydrological changes,
Eutrophication of some meadows on the Ouse floodplain is a serious problem, resulting in replacement of herb-rich communities by grass-dominated swards.
Eutrophication through atmospheric pollution depositing substantial quantities of nitrogen is also considered is also thought to be an increasing problem as is the deposition of dog faeces on urban grassland sites.

Road verges are particularly vulnerable to changes whether management or development related. A long list of factors adversely affecting road verges have been recorded. These include road improvement schemes, conversion of verge to hard surfaced footpaths or cycle paths, essential cable and pipe laying work, modification through introduction of new

roadside ditch systems or widening of existing roadside drainage ditches, encroachment on verge by adjacent landowner (including ploughing of the verge), leachate run-off from adjoining agricultural land, spray drift from adjacent fields, salt runoff and, not least management.

This latter impact can be through lack of cutting and associated scrub encroachment, inappropriate cutting regimes and timing of cutting, notably cutting and leaving the cuttings on site during the growing season and even in some cases hedge and tree planting.

The factors currently affecting neutral grassland reduce both the quality and quantity of the habitat, and such fragmentation brings greatly increased risk of species extinctions in the small remnant areas. Many of the county's remaining areas of neutral grassland are so small and isolated that chance extinctions due to unfavourable conditions, even if temporary, mean that the sites' diversity becomes impoverished over time. The less mobile faunal and floral species are particularly at risk.

Ancient Ings meadows are the product of consistent management over many centuries and cannot be replaced but there may be limited potential for re-establishing similar grasslands on the Ouse and Derwent floodplains. Ings grasslands which have been degraded by adverse management or neglect can be restored by sympathetic management provided they have not been frequently ploughed out and reseeded or regularly fertilised.

What can be done - Potential Action

In the City of York there is some potential for restoring grassland habitat both on Ings grasslands and old pastures which have been degraded by adverse management or neglect. These can be restored by sympathetic management provided they have not been ploughed out and reseeded or regularly fertilised for any length of time.

Ancient Ings meadows are the product of consistent management over many centuries and cannot easily be replaced but there may be limited potential for re-establishing similar grasslands on the Ouse and Derwent floodplains. Equally it can be possible to re-establish new grasslands on arable land provided the nutrient levels are not too high.

Such work is however time consuming and requires considerable work over a period of years. Such grasslands will have floristic interest but will take time to establish and will take time for other interests, for instance insects, to develop.

The Aims of the Action Plan
Objectives

- Halt the loss of unimproved neutral grassland.
- Re-habilitate unimproved neutral grassland on known sites, bringing all significant examples of these habitats on SSSIs and SINCs into favourable condition.
- Buffer unimproved grassland sites to prevent damage by external factors, such as agricultural spray drift and development.
- Create new areas of unimproved neutral grassland, aiming to enlarge and link existing sites wherever possible.
- Re-habilitate and enhance local semi-improved grassland sites (SLI's)

Current Action :

Flood meadow grassland features prominently in the SSSI series in York with over 66% of the most significant areas being nationally designated. Old meadows however, are not represented at all. The majority of the best old meadows though do have a measure of protection through their designation as part of the local SINC series.

There are a range of national, regional and local planning policies that, along with other legislation, set out requirements for biodiversity conservation. The Planning Policy Framework sets out the key principles that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should adhere to in order to ensure that biodiversity is fully considered in the development of planning policy and determination of planning applications. At the local level, the planning policy documents of local planning authorities should take account of BAP and HAP targets and priorities, setting overarching policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Initiatives such as Environmental Stewardship have played a significant role in effective management of neutral grassland sites. However, from 2014 Environmental stewardship is being curtailed pending CAP reform.
The condition of neutral grassland SSSIs are regularly monitored by Natural England.

A significant contribution has been made by various non-governmental organisations to the conservation of neutral floodmeadow grassland in York. The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has a number of nature reserves in the area, notably in York at Wheldrake Ings. Similarly the Carstairs Trust also owns a number of reserves including The Water Fulford Ings (Naburn Marsh SSSI). YNET (The York Natural Environment Trust) and a number of local 'Friends' groups manage a number of grassland sites, notably at

Rawcliffe Ings, Danesmead and Mayfields. Joseph Rowntree Trust manages New Earswick Meadow.

Sympathetic management is also undertaken by landowners on a number of sites, usually under the guidance of Environmental Stewardship.

The Council and Wildlife Trust regularly organises walks / talks to publicise the wildlife interest of grassland sites and to explain management activities on them.

Regular work parties through the TCV and University Conservation Volunteers involve members of the public and students in practical measures for grassland conservation.

The Council has pro-actively encouraged and assisted both private landowners and its own tenants in enhancing and managing key grassland sites, mainly through the use of stewardship or grant assistance from bodies such as SITA.

The Council itself manages a number of grassland sites for their conservation interest. Notably this includes Hob Moor, Walmgate Stray, Bootham Stray and Clifton Backies, Breckes Lane Meadow, Middlethorpe Crematorium Field, Acomb Meadow, Danebury Court, Hessay Churchyard and parts of the Knavesmire.

The Council have carried out extensive surveys over the past 3 yrs to identify sites and areas of interest.

The Council implements conservation policies to maintain biodiversity including grasslands. Planning agreements have been negotiated with developers to protect old meadows or to relocate or re-establish wildflower grassland elsewhere within the city.

Proposed Action : Neutral grassland, meadows, wet pastures and floodmeadows

Targets

1. Maintain the current extent of neutral grassland in York (estimated to be 560 Ha, 2013).
2. Maintain at least the current condition for neutral grassland within SSSIs & SINC's.

3. Achieve favourable or recovering condition for 50% by area of neutral grassland within SSSIs & SINC's, by 2015 (60% by 2018 and 70% by 2020).
4. Restore 30 ha of neutral grassland from semi-improved grassland, scrub and plantation on existing Sites of Local interest, by 2015 (and 60 Ha by 2020).
5. Create 50 Ha of neutral grassland from arable, improved grassland, on, adjacent to and linking existing sites, by 2015 (150 ha by 2020 and 200 Ha by 2025).

Specific Actions

1. Support the designation of Clifton Ings and Rawcliffe Ings as SSSI's.

2. Assist in enhancing the management of Bishopthorpe Ings, Fulford Ings, Rawcliffe Ings, Poppleton Ings.

NEUTRAL GRASSLAND: Habitat management, restoration & creation					
BAP TARGET	**PROGRESS TO 2013**	**ACTION**	**LEAD PARTNER**	**PRIORITY / DATE**	**RESOURCES**
1. Maintain the current extent of neutral grassland (estimated to be 560 Ha, 2010).	Although no losses from herbicide or fertiliser application have been recorded since 2000, many SINC's are continuing to decline from, either intensification of management (grazing or earlier cutting) or lack of management.	Ensure that all landowners and managers of SSSIs & SINC's supporting neutral grassland habitats are aware of their importance, through provision of site information	NE - SSSI CYC-SINC's	High On-going	A local Wildlife Sites partnership should be formed to address the needs of SINCs
	Plans published recently all have site protection policies	Ensure all planning policy documents (LDF, etc.) have strong policies protecting SSSIs and SINC's	CYC	High On-going	Existing staff resources
		Continue to assess planning applications that may affect neutral grassland sites and comment on those that may have an adverse impact	CYC	Medium On-going	Existing staff resources
		Alert Natural England if a landowner is proposing / thinking of undertaking agricultural improvement activities on a site supporting neutral grassland, so that the provisions of the EIA Regulations for Uncultivated Land can be implemented	NE, YWT, NYFWAG	Medium On-going	Existing staff resources
2. Maintain at least the current condition of neutral grassland within SSSIs & SINCs or wherever possible 3. Achieve favourable or recovering condition for 50% (by area) of neutral grassland within SSSIs & SINC's, by 2015 (60% by 2015 and 70% by 2020)		2/3.1 Implement appropriate grazing and / or cutting regimes on all neutral grassland sites Ensure that all landowners and managers are provided with information, advice and support regarding management of their sites to enable them to achieve this action	NE (SSSIs) CYC/YWT for SINC's	High 2010	This is the role of Natural England for SSSIs. A local Wildlife Sites partnership should be formed to address the needs of SINC (see below). This will require support from CYC, including financial backing.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
	Current contract for rural road verge maintenance, does not include clauses dealing with "Protected Road Verges"	2/3.2 Introduce a Protected Road Verges scheme and maintain a conservation mowing regime for all neutral grassland included within it to include up to two cuts per year and removal of arisings.	CYC	High On-going	A new conservation management schedule and regime for Protected Road Verges should be introduced.
	.	2/3.3 Establish and support a local SINC partnership to ensure monitoring & assessment of SINC's and to provide information, advice & support to landowners	CYC / YWT / other biodiversity partners	High 2007	This will require support from CYC, including admin/financial backing.
		2/3.5 Undertake site condition monitoring of all neutral grassland SSSI sites at least once every 5 years to record the extent and condition of habitats.	NE (SSSI)	High High On-going	
		2/3.6 Undertake site condition monitoring of all neutral grassland SINC sites at least once every 5 years to record the extent and condition of neutral grassland habitats. Funding will need to be sought to establish a rolling programme of site re-surveys / site condition monitoring	CYC / Biodiversity Partnership	High On-going	
4. Restore 100 ha of neutral grassland from semi-improved grassland and scrub / plantation on existing sites, by 2015 (and 200 Ha by 2020)		4.1 Identify and implement opportunities through individual site management plans for restoration of neutral grassland on existing sites Key sites for action:		High 2015	This is the role of Natural England for SSSIs. A local Wildlife Sites partnership is proposed to be established to address the needs of SINC's (see above). This will require admin/ financial backing.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
5. Create 75 Ha of neutral grassland from improved grassland, arable, or former tip sites, on, adjacent to and linking existing sites, by 2015 (25 Ha by 2015 and 50 Ha by 2020)		5.1 Identify opportunities for the creation of neutral grassland habitats in the authority area	YWT, EA, CYC	High 2014	Establish a Grassland Project Officer, based at the Wildlife Trust and funded by the Environment Agency and CYC
	Secure funding for meadow creation project	5.2 Implement a selection of the meadow creation opportunities identified in the Ouse/Derwent Valleys. Key locations for action include:	NE, CYC WT, landowners	High 2010	
		5.3 Create species-rich grassland from areas of improved grassland in the following area:	YWT, CYC, private landowners	High 2015	
		5.4 Monitor and record the extent of neutral grassland being created through restoration of CYC sites	CYC	Medium On-going	Should be achievable through the Leisure/ Transport work programme
		5.5 Monitor and record the extent of neutral grassland being created through agri-environment schemes	NE	Medium On-going	This should form part of government monitoring of agri-environment schemes
		5.6 Monitor the condition of newly created neutral grassland, assessing sites against the County Wildlife Sites criteria every 10 years	NE / CYC / YWT	Medium On-going	No resources are currently made available for this. Ideally it would become part of the rolling programme of CYC re-surveys and the work of the Wildlife partnership in reviewing the criteria.

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LOWLAND HEATH, ACIDIC GRASSLAND AND BRECK

NVC communities: H9, U1, U2, M2, M4, M16, M25

Natural England consider that the extent of acid grassland and Heath in lowland Britain is unlikely to exceed 30,000 hectares and in lowland England it is becoming an increasingly rare habitat, as the free draining soils can be easily worked or planted as conifer woodland. In England only one sixth of the Heathland present in 1800 now still occurs.
It generally occurs on acid bedrocks such as sandstones, and on superficial fluvio-glacial deposits such as sands and gravels. In York, it is the latter that provides the most extensive areas of interest and they provide an important reservoir of rare species.

Britain, holding as it does, around one-fifth of the global resource, has an international responsibility to conserve lowland heath.

The City of York contains the country's most northerly example of extensive lowland heath at Strensall Common. This represents 1% of the national habitat resource.
The Common itself comprises a mosaic of wet heath with cross-leaved heath and purple moor-grass, dry heath dominated by ling, acidic grassland and mire communities. Other fairly extensive areas of heath and acid grassland survive nearby at World's End and more fragmentary stands in the roughs at Fulford Golf Course and in several coniferised plantations. Several fragments of former heathland, such as Dunnington Rabbit Warren have reverted to birch woodland and large areas have also been planted with conifers, as at World's End Plantation and Wheldrake Wood.

Some acid grasslands are difficult to separate from heath into which they grade to form heathland/grassland mosaics. Equally, there are also examples where neutral grasslands also have acidic components and again form grassland mosaics, such as at Elvington Airfield. Sites have, for the most part, been attributed to one or the other habitat group dependent on extent of interest present.

There are also a few examples of a sandy breck type community found on free draining sand with a variety of annual species such as Storksbill, Birdsfoot and Changing forget me not. Such communities now occur on the margins of arable and paddock land at Strensall, Sandburn and Acomb.

Overall, the City of York heathland and acidic grassland/mire resource is approximately 890 ha. Whilst this appears quite a large area, it is largely concentrated on one site at Strensall Common with 3 ancilliary sites immediately adjacent to it. Together, these 3 sites occupy 75% of the total

resource in York. A large proportion of the remaining area is within woodland or golf course where heathland only occupies a proportion of the area given. It can be seen therefore that the extent of this habitat is very restricted.
Despite this, it still represents only a fraction of the once very extensive tracts of heathy Common overlying sandy soils to the east and north of York. Within the City boundaries, 77% of heathland and acidic rough pasture has been lost during the past 200 years due a combination of agricultural reclamation and afforestation. The extent of the remaining areas is only as high as it is because of the protection that has been afforded by the MoD at Strensall.

Acidic Heath and grassland is very important for biodiversity in the City of York. A number of scarce and threatened plants are dependent upon this habitat, species such as marsh gentian and pillwort. Alongside this are characteristic insects such as the green tiger beetle and heath assassin bug and notable rarities include the ground beetle *Carabus nitens*, the fly *Phaonia jaroschewskii*, the dark-bordered beauty moth *Epione vespertaria* and the mining bee *Andrena ruficrus*. Characteristic birds and animals include whinchat, adder and common lizard. Nightjars bred at several sites in the City in the early 20th Century but no longer occur regularly. Strensall Common is also noted for its extensive Water Vole populations.

A number of rare breck plants, plants of the sandy, droughty soils, have disappeared from the City of York including the nationally-endangered Fingered speedwell and Small Allison, as well as Tower mustard, Spring vetch and Small cudweed. Breck-type habitat is very localised in Britain and is confined to a few areas where low rainfall coincides with well-drained sandy soils. Even where such conditions occur, habitat has been lost due to intensive arable cultivation, reclamation of marginal land, urban development and afforestation. The common storksbill-shepherd's cress community occurs on the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering near Scampston and here in the City of York.

A number of rare invertebrates have also been found associated with these grasslands, including several notable flies normally associated with coastal dune systems.

Legal status

Lowland acid grassland and Heath feature largely in the SSSI series in York with 2/3 of the total known resource being found within one site at Strensall Common.

The City Wildlife SINC designations cover the majority of the remaining unimproved acid grassland and heath in the city.

A number of plant, invertebrate and bird species of acid grassland/heath are protected under the Schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

There are a range of national, and local planning policies that, along with other legislation, set out requirements for biodiversity conservation. At the local level, the planning policy documents of the developing local plan should take account of BAP and HAP targets and priorities, setting overarching policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

The condition of Strensall Common is regularly monitored by Natural England who are also undertaking heathland re-establishment at the adjacent Worlds End Plantation. Both are managed under a higher level stewardship scheme.

The Forest Authority do some limited heathland management at Wheldrake Woods.

Initiatives such as Environmental Stewardship have played only a limited role in effective management of acid grassland sites as landowners are not currently prepared to enter such agreements on these easily worked sites.

Ref No.	Site	Location	Area	Interest
SSSI				
	Strensall Common	Strensall	578.75	Lowland Heath
SINC				
16	Fulford Golf Course, Roughs	Fulford	38.90	Acid/neutral grassland and heath.
29	Oxcarr Lane	Strensall	0.80	Acid, wet grassland
30	Rabbit Warren Wood	Dunnington	13.40	Acid woodland / Heath
38	Westfield School Field	Acomb	0.2	Breck Grassland
41	Wheldrake Wood	Wheldrake	107.00	Relict heath on ridesides and felled conifer blocks.
42	World's End	Strensall	42.00	Acid grassland, heath, fen, marsh
111	Strensall Horse Pasture	Strensall	9.90	Acid grassland/poor fen
112	Worlds End Plantation	Strensall	21.70	Area of felled conifer plantation with regenerating heathland.
115	Strensall Golf Course	Strensall	44.30	Areas of acid grassland and relict heath.
177	Hazelbush Plantation	Stockton on the Forest	0.37	Acid grassland/ poor fen on drain side.
182	World's End Ponds Wildgoose Carr	Strensall	0.60	Mesotrophic ponds,Fen and acid grassland
216	Ring Rd Embankment Millfield Lane A1237	Nether Poppleton	0.10	Acid dry grassland
12			**279.27**	
Sites of Local Interest				
26	Millfield Wood Drain	Kexby	0.15	Acid grassland/ Poor fen
158	Grimston Wood	Dunnington	26.40	Area of conifer woodland with relict heath beneath.
114	Kingsmoor Plantation/ Sandburn Wood	Stockton on the Forest	3.00	Area of conifer woodland with relict heath and acid grassland on ridesides and beneath woodland.
262	Heslington Outgang	Heslington	2.00	Acid grassland – old stray/ drove route.
4			**31.55**	

Factors causing Loss or Decline

Historically, the major loss of heath/ acid grassland habitats in the city has arisen either from afforestation or from with agricultural intensification through re-seeding, ploughing and the use of fertilisers, herbicides and other pesticides. Spray drift and enrichment through fertiliser run-off may also be a problem on some sites.

Some sites have also been lost to development.

The major threat today is still afforestation and intensive agricultural practices. One major site was ploughed out in 2006 but has been allowed to re-establish though the success of this is not known.

Atmospheric pollution, particularly eutrophication from nitrogen deposition and climate change are recognised as potentially significant issues for the future; however, the influence of these factors has not been fully assessed nationally and very little is known locally.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that some road verges are becoming more rank, though this may be as a result of only being cut once per year in autumn with arisings being left. Salt spray is also having an impact on road verges. However, even where acid grasslands are being managed for conservation, there still appears to be a decline in interest.

Recreational pressure on heathland sites can be high and, due to their structure, are sensitive and prone to damage. Also, because of their open nature, wildlife is largely ground based and therefore prone to disturbance. Intensive recreational use therefore also brings about floristic changes associated with this disturbance, soil compaction and erosion, as well as eutrophication from dog faeces.

The factors currently affecting acid grassland and heath reduce both the quality and extent of the habitat, and its fragmentation brings increased risk of species extinctions in the small remnant areas. Many of the city's remaining areas of acid grassland are so small and isolated that chance extinctions due to unfavourable conditions, even if temporary, mean that the sites' diversity can become impoverished over time. The less mobile fauna species are particularly at risk in this way.

As for grassland, acidic road verges are particularly vulnerable to changes whether management or development related. A long list of factors adversely affecting road verges have been recorded; road improvement schemes, conversion of verge to hard surfaced footpaths or cycle paths,

essential cable and pipe laying work, modification of verge for agricultural access to adjoining farm land, modification through introduction of new roadside ditch systems or widening of existing roadside drainage ditches, encroachment on verge by adjacent landowner (including ploughing of the verge), leachate run-off from adjoining agricultural land, spray drift from adjacent fields, lack of cutting and associated scrub encroachment, inappropriate cutting regimes and timing of cutting and even in some cases hedge and tree planting.

What can be done - Potential Action

In the City of York there is some potential for restoring breck habitat on arable set-aside where the drought-prone sandy soils at Acombe, Strensall and elswhere have not been greatly improved. In such situations, fertiliser and lime residues may leach from the soil fairly rapidly and disturbance such as rabbit grazing or periodic cultivation may allow a rich annual sand flora to establish.
There is also considerable potential to re-establish heathland on some afforested sites. Heathland vegetation often occurs as fragmented remnant populations within the plantations or within the seedbank. Removal of the conifer crop can, with care, release these plants to begin to re-establish a heathland habitat. This will though be suppressed by re-establishment of a tree crop.

The Aims of the Plan
Objectives

- Halt the loss of heath and unimproved acidic grassland.
- Re-habilitate unimproved acid grassland on known sites, bringing all significant examples of these habitats on SSSIs and SINCs into favourable condition.
- Buffer heath and acid grassland sites to prevent damage by external factors, such as agricultural spray drift and development.
- Create new areas of acidic and breck grassland, aiming to enlarge and link existing sites wherever possible.
- Re-habilitate existing woodland sites to heath.
- Re-habilitate and enhance local semi-improved grassland sites (SLI's)

Current Action

Acid grassland and heath feature prominently in the SSSI series in York with over 80% of the most significant areas being nationally designated.

The majority of the rest do have a measure of protection through their designation as part of the local SINC series.

There are a range of national, regional and local planning policies that, along with other legislation, set out requirements for biodiversity conservation. The Planning Policy Framework sets out the key principles that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should adhere to in order to ensure that biodiversity is fully considered in the development of planning policy and determination of planning applications. At the local level, the planning policy documents of local planning authorities should take account of BAP and HAP targets and priorities, setting overarching policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.
Initiatives such as Environmental Stewardship have played a significant role in effective management of existing heathland sites although re-establishment of new sites is very limited. However, from 2014 Environmental stewardship is being curtailed pending CAP reform.
The condition of heathland and acid grassland SSSIs are regularly monitored by Natural England.

Sympathetic management is also undertaken by some landowners on a number of sites, usually under the guidance of Environmental Stewardship.

The Wildlife Trust regularly organises walks / talks to publicise the wildlife interest of heathland sites and to explain management activities on them.

Regular work parties through the TCV and University Conservation Volunteers involve members of the public and students in practical measures for heathland conservation.

The Council have carried out extensive surveys over the past 3 yrs to identify sites and areas of interest.

The Council implements conservation policies to maintain biodiversity including heathlands.

Proposed Action : Acidic grassland and Heath

1. Maintain the current extent of acidic grassland and heath in York estimated to be 889.47 Ha, 2010).
2. Maintain at least the current condition for acidic grassland and heath within the SSSI & SINC series.
3. Achieve favourable or recovering condition for 45% by area of acidic grassland outside of the SSSI by 2015 (60% by 2018 and 75% by 2020).

4. Restore 5 Ha of acidic grassland/heath from semi-improved grassland, scrub and plantation on existing sites, by 2015 (and 18 Ha by 2020).
5. Create 10 Ha of acidic grassland/heath from arable, improved grassland or afforested sites, on, adjacent to or linking existing sites, by 2020.

Specific Proposed Action

Support the incorporation of World's End into the Strensall Common SSSI and SPA.

HEATHLAND AND ACID GRASSLAND: Habitat management, restoration & creation					
BAP TARGET	**PROGRESS TO 2013**	**ACTION**	**LEAD PARTNER**	**PRIORITY / DATE**	**RESOURCES**
1. Maintain the current extent of acid grassland (estimated to be 889 Ha, 2010).	Some lose occurred in 2005 when a major site was ploughed. It has however been allowed to re-establish. Many other SINC's are continuing to decline from either, intensification of management (grazing or earlier cutting), lack of management or afforestation.	Ensure that all landowners and managers of SSSIs & SINC's supporting acid grassland and heath habitats are aware of their importance, through provision of site information	NE - SSSI CYC- SINC's	High On-going	A local Wildlife Sites partnership should be formed to address the needs of SINCs
	Plans published recently all have site protection policies	Ensure all planning policy documents (LDF, etc.) have strong policies protecting SSSIs and SINC's	CYC	High On-going	Existing staff resources
		Continue to assess planning applications that may affect acid grassland/heath sites and comment on those that may have an adverse impact	CYC	Medium On-going	Existing staff resources
		Alert Natural England if a landowner is proposing / thinking of undertaking agricultural improvement activities on a site supporting acid grassland/heath , so that the provisions of the EIA Regulations for Uncultivated Land can be implemented	NE, YWT, NYFWAG	Medium On-going	Existing staff resources
2. Maintain at least the current condition of acid grassland and heath within SSSIs & SINCs 3. Achieve favourable or recovering condition for 50% (by area) of acid grassland/heath within SSSIs & SINC's, by 2015 (60% by 2015 and 70% by 2020)		2/3.1 Implement appropriate grazing and / or cutting regimes on all acid grassland/heath sites. Ensure that all landowners and managers are provided with information, advice and support regarding management of their sites to enable them to achieve this action	NE (SSSIs) CYC/YWT for SINC's	High 2010	This is the role of Natural England for SSSIs. A local Wildlife Sites partnership should be formed to address the needs of SINC (see below). This will require support from CYC, including financial backing.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
	Current contract for rural road verge maintenance, does not include clauses dealing with "Protected Road Verges"	2/3.2 Introduce a Protected Road Verges scheme and maintain a conservation mowing regime for all acid grassland/heath included within it to include up to two cuts per year and removal of arisings.	CYC	High On-going	A new conservation management schedule and regime for Protected Road Verges should be introduced.
	.	2/3.3 Establish and support a local SINC partnership to ensure monitoring & assessment of SINC's and to provide information, advice & support to landowners	CYC / YWT / other biodiversity partners	High 2007	This will require support from CYC, including admin/financial backing.
		2/3.5 Undertake site condition monitoring of all acid grassland/heath SSSI sites at least once every 5 years to record the extent and condition of habitats.	NE (SSSI)	High High On-going	
		2/3.6 Undertake site condition monitoring of all acid grassland/heath SINC sites at least once every 5 years to record the extent and condition of neutral grassland habitats. Funding will need to be sought to establish a rolling programme of site re-surveys / site condition monitoring	CYC / Biodiversity Partnership	High On-going	
4. Restore 20 ha of acid grassland/heath from semi-improved grassland and scrub / plantation on existing sites, by 2015 (and ?? Ha by 2020)		4.1 Identify and implement opportunities through individual site management plans for restoration of acid grassland/heath on existing sites Key sites for action:		High 2015	This is the role of Natural England for SSSIs. A local Wildlife Sites partnership is proposed to be established to address the needs of SINC's (see above). This will require admin/ financial backing.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
5. Create 20 Ha of heathland/ acid grassland by 2015 and 40ha by 2020.		5.1 Identify opportunities for the creation of heathland/acid grassland habitats in the authority area	YWT, EA, CYC	High 2014	
	Secure funding for Heathland creation projects	5.2 Implement a selection of creation opportunities. Key locations for action include:	NE, CYC WT, landowners	High 2010	
		5.3 Create species-rich grassland from areas of improved grassland in the following area:	YWT, CYC, private landowners	High 2015	
		5.4 Monitor and record the extent of heathland/acid grassland being created through restoration of CYC sites	CYC	Medium On-going	Should be achievable through the Leisure/ Transport work programme
		5.5 Monitor and record the extent of heathland/acid grassland being created through agri-environment schemes	NE	Medium On-going	This should form part of government monitoring of agri-environment schemes
		5.6 Monitor the condition of newly created heathland/acid grassland, assessing sites against the County Wildlife Sites criteria every 10 years	NE / CYC / YWT	Medium On-going	No resources are currently available for this. Ideally it would become part of the rolling programme of CYC re-surveys and the work of the Wildlife partnership in reviewing the criteria.

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FENS AND SWAMPS

NVC communities: - M22, M24, M27, S4, S5, S7, S10, S19, S24, S27, S28, W2, W5

Fen, swamp and marsh habitats may be described as short to tall herbaceous vegetation formed over peat or mineral soil where the water-table is generally close to soil level and where that water tends to flow laterally through the upper soil horizons. They can be split into base-rich or base-poor systems, topogenous (landform-fed) or soligenous (groundwater-fed) sites and can have a mosaic of basic and acidic conditions within quite small spatial scales. They can also have a combination of water-sources in addition to rainfall.

Although limited in extent, the City of York contains a remarkable variety of fen/marsh types influenced by soils, hydrology and management history. Askham Bog contains fen woodland, fen-meadow and tall-herb fen communities. Wheldrake Ings has complex and extensive mixtures of wet grassland, fen, swamp and inundation communities whilst sites on the Ouse Ings contain more fragmentary examples of naturally-eutrophic flood plain fen. Examples of 'poor' fen, characteristic in more acidic conditions, are found at Heslington Tilmire and World's End. The latter site contains purple moor grass fen-meadow, a habitat of European conservation interest.

Fens and other mires would formerly have been much more widespread in the City of York, on river floodplains and on the once-extensive Commons. A combination of agricultural improvement, drainage, urban development and river engineering have resulted in the loss of a majority of these wetlands. Askham Bog - a nationally important example of valley fen - has been affected by natural succession, lowering of the water table and pollution. Even small areas are vulnerable: a reedbed at Acomb Grange was cleared for agriculture in 1995 although some recovery is occurring. One community, *Glyceria maxima* swamp, has increased in recent decades as a result of agricultural dereliction at Fulford Ings.

Fens in the City of York are of great entomological interest, supporting insects such as the rare ground beetle *Dromius sigma*, the nationally-scarce mirid bug *Capsus wagneri* and the Dentated Pug moth. Scarce plants associated with fens locally include elongated sedge, marsh fern and marsh stitchwort.

Other species associated fens and swamps locally include:

Tasteless Water-pepper, Water Violet, Marsh Carpet moth, *Panagaeus cruxmajor* (a ground beetle), *Agabus uliginosus* (a diving beetle), *Hydrothassa hannoveriana* (a leaf beetle), *Lymnaea glabra* (a Mud Snail), Bittern, Whooper Swan, Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Water Rail, Baillon's

Crake, Spotted Crake, Black-tailed Godwit, Snipe, Short-eared Owl, Reed Bunting, Water Vole.

Legal Status

Only Askham Bog has been nationally designated for its fen communities but other SINC sites to get a measure of protection from non-statutory designation.

A number of plant, invertebrate and bird species of acid grassland/heath are protected under the Schedules of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

There are a range of national, and local planning policies that, along with other legislation, set out requirements for biodiversity conservation. At the local level, the planning policy documents of the developing local plan should take account of BAP and HAP targets and priorities, setting overarching policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.

The condition of Askham Bog is regularly monitored by Natural England and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and is managed under a higher level stewardship scheme.

Initiatives such as Environmental Stewardship have played a limited role in effective management of some fen sites although one of the most significant SINC fens is no longer under a stewardship agreement.

List of sites

Ref No.	Site		Area	Interest
SSSI	Askham Bog	Acomb	44.70	Woodland fen communities
SINC's				
39	Westfield Marsh	Acomb	0.60	Acidic marsh
104	Fishpond Wood	Acomb	1.00	Seepage Fen/ planted wet woodland
210	Middlethorpe Ings	Middlethorpe	2.00	Glyceria swamp Adjacent to neutral grassland and ponds.
249	Bond Hill Ash Farm	Copmanthorpe	1.3	Very diverse Fen site with adjacent sps rich grassland.
10	Church Ings	Acaster Malbis	1.70	Tall herb fen but sps poor though of an uncommon fen type. Has good populations of Tansy beetle.
6			**51.3**	
Sites of	**local interest**			
136	Clifton Hospital Orchard/pond	Clifton Without	0.10	Detention pond naturally revegetated, moderately rich with bird interest.

159	W Bank Foss	Strensall	0.30	Area of Carex fen, moderately sps rich
183	Strensall Reed Bed	Strensall	0.7	Reed bed on site of old pond and tip.
205	Stub Wood Fen	Acaster Malbis	0.70	Newly created moderately rich fen.
221	Ext to Westfield Marsh	Acomb	1.00	Reedbed and fen in medieval moat.
5			**2.8**	

Other sites occur as a mosaic within other habitat types such as flood meadow grassland or heathland.

Factors causing Loss or decline

- Fens and marshes are successional habitats and active management is required to maintain them. Without management, the accumulation of organic litter and colonisation by woody plants eventually causes drying and leads to the replacement of fen vegetation with scrub and woodland.
- Reduction in the water table as a result of abstraction from aquifers and, in particular, changes in land drainage can reduce the important lateral movement of water into and through systems.
- Eutrophication of incoming waters can alter the plant and animal communities found in sites.
- Isolation and fragmentation of sites in the city reduces the ability of wetland plants and animals to disperse between sites.
- Continued drainage can still occur to small sites.
- Climate change. A substantial change in water supply would alter the balance of hydrological inputs to fens and a significant rise in temperature would produce wide-ranging effects such as changes in water quality and the structure and make-up of plant and invertebrate communities. A long-term decrease in rainfall could alter groundwater regimes and may ultimately depress levels in the underlying aquifers to such an extent that they cease to be fed with spring waters. All efforts to remedy the situation may then be ineffective.
- The fluctuations in weather predicted and as has been experience in the past few years has the potential to cause local extinctions because sites are so small and fragmented.
- Warmer winters and milder conditions, characteristics of urban habitats, can alter behaviour of animals (increased activity) that would otherwise hibernate. This can lead to losses of energy, consequently affecting the productivity in the breeding season. This process has been well documented for common toads.

What can be done

Because these sites are few in number and relatively small but hold a rich diversity of plants and animals not found elsewhere, they are much better value for money than some other habitats in maintaining. They should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.

Because flood control is likely to be a significant priority for both the Council and the Environment Agency and all major development requires a significant input of SUDS development, there are significant opportunities to create additional fen and marsh sites as part of these other functions. There incorporation must be considered at an early stage in the planning process.

Aims of the Plan

Objectives

- Halt the further loss of wetland sites.
- Re-habilitate degraded sites and bring into favourable condition.
- Buffer wetland sites to prevent damage by external factors, such as agricultural spray drift and development.
- Create new areas of wetland, aiming to enlarge and link existing sites wherever possible.

Current Action

The Council has been carrying out work to maintain and enhance the swamp site at Middlethorpe Ings and has drawn up proposals for marsh sites adjacent to the River Foss at Strensall.

The Council has also been working with Persimmons and a number of other developers on managing and creating additional wetland sites as part of planning consents.

Proposed Action : FENS AND SWAMPS

1. Aim to maintain the existing areas of fen and swamp through improved management.
2. Aim to create an additional 2 ha. of swamp and fen within the City of York by 2015 on sites presently of low conservation value.
3. Aim to restore 1 ha. of swamp and fen within the City of York by 2010 on degraded sites presently within the City.

Specific proposed action

Develop management plans for Westfield Marsh and Acomb Grange, the terrace mire adjoining Foss Beck at Huntington and the fen meadow on the A64 interchange near Copmanthorpe.

Survey extensive areas of *Glyceria maxima* swamp outside the Lower Derwent Valley NNR for water rail and spotted crake.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
1. Aim to maintain existing areas of fen and swamp through protection and improved management.		1.1 Produce a register of wetland sites supporting fen vegetation, with areas of same.	CYC		
		1.2 Encourage and support owners/ managers of wetland sites in maintaining the condition of fen habitats.			
		1.3 Protect all fen sites from development through the planning process.	CYC		
2. Aim to create an additional 2 ha. of swamp and fen within the City of York by 2015 on sites presently of low conservation value.		2.1 As part of the planning process when considering the SUDS requirement for new development, ensure the inclusion of wetland creation as part of the deign standard.			
		2.2 When developing urban drainage schemes as part of its drainage remit, the Council will include an element of wetland creation as part of the design remit.			
		2.3 Work with landowners to establish wetland sites on suitable locations as part of grant and stewardship proposals.			

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
3. Aim to restore 2 ha. of swamp and fen within the City of York by 2010 on degraded sites presently within the City.		3.1 Develop management plans for all known fen sites.			
		3.2 Work with landowners on achieving favourable/ improved condition on all fen sites.			

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PONDS
NVC communities: Not applicable

Despite their popularity, ponds are a threatened habitat in Britain: about three quarters have disappeared over the last century, from an estimated 1.3 million to 375,000. Surveys in Southern Ryedale in 1992 indicated a loss of one-third of ponds shown on recent OS maps, with a further 10% reduced to dried-up hollows. 86% of ponds in Acomb and Dringhouses (an area once containing numerous brick ponds) have disappeared since 1892. There are though still a considerable number across the City, though more limited in intensive arable areas. Based on aerial coverage and sample studies there are thought to be about 900 ponds in York of which 800 are thought to regularly hold water.
Recently there has been an increase in awareness of the dependence of pond wildlife on its immediate surroundings. The best ponds in the country are surrounded by rough pasture with adjacent shrubby cover, providing essential terrestrial habitat for amphibia and a semi-natural zone providing a measure of insulation from outside activities. The meeting of two or more habitats tends to increase the utility of the pond to species thereby increasing its biodiversity value beyond that of a similar but isolated pond. Similarly, the adjacent habitats also benefit greatly from the presence of a pond.

The principal types of ponds in the City of York are field ponds, fen ponds, heathland pools, brick ponds and detention ponds. Garden ponds are excluded from consideration although they may still have considerable value in the urban setting. Similarly, fishing ponds are excluded as they tend to be heavily managed for fish and tend to have limited wildlife value although there setting may be of interest and so merit inclusion as a Site of Local Interest.
Temporary pools are a further category of pond and have only recently been identified as a habitat in their own right and have thus been undervalued. Many have been changed in character by excavation to create permanent water or at the other extreme drained to produce agricultural land less 'liable to flooding'. The more prosaic examples of standing water such as wheel rut puddles, tree fall pools and branch crotch pools are now better understood although still poorly appreciated. Temporary ponds can though be valuable in their own right, aid distribution and encourage species like fairy shrimp that cannot survive in permanent ponds. These however, are not considered further but should still be valued as an asset in considering the wildlife potential of an area.

Long-established field ponds often support a varied and interesting fauna absent from newer ponds. They have a rich flora and invertebrate fauna

and are a particularly important habitat for the declining Great Crested Newt. They can also be used by water vole, another declining species. Ancient ponds such as Hassacarr Pond at Dunnington may support rich aquatic invertebrate communities and marginal flora. Most of the brick ponds on the outskirts of York have been reclaimed and the five remaining major ponds are large, deep water bodies probably with limited wildlife interest. Formerly the York brick ponds were of national importance for their water beetle and mollusc fauna. There may still be a few smaller brick pits, for instance at Acomb and Elvington, that have survived and still hold considerable interest.

Fen ponds are found at Askham Bog and World's End, supporting several scarce aquatic insects. Heathland ponds on Strensall Common support a mixture and bog and fen species due to their unusual hydrology. Floating or marginal carpets of *Sphagnum* moss are a characteristic feature of these ponds which are now very rare in lowland Yorkshire. These ponds tend to have relatively low nutrient levels and are often the most diverse.

Newly created ponds in favourable situations, especially close to established wetlands, can provide major benefits for wildlife but new ponds in less advantageous locations are likely to support mainly widespread and common species.

Detention ponds are a relatively new and increasing habitat as they form part of SUD (Sustainable Urban Drainage) systems. They have fluctuating water levels and often relatively high nutrient status but they can develop as important wetland features in urban areas, not necessarily having a range of rare species but providing a home for the more common species but in an urban area that can benefit the local community. They can be permanently wet or simply flood during wet weather and hold a range of habitats from inundation habitats to wet grassland or willow scrub. Either way they can provide valuable wetland habitat.

Nutrient-poor clay ponds at Rawcliffe flood reservoir support stonewort (*Chara*) beds, a habitat feature of European conservation concern associated with clean, clear water.

Although most ponds in the Vale of York are likely to have high nutrient levels, which can limit their biodiversity interest, some ponds are subject to excessive enrichment due to surrounding land use or large populations of feral waterfowl. Intensive fish-stocking and clearance of pond margins for angling have also reduced the wildlife interest of several ponds in the City.

Village ponds have changed extensively through the centuries as their function has changed from utility to landscape feature. Most ponds in this category now have well-defined vertical edges and are bounded by roads. As a result such ponds have a limited profile with limited marginal habitat, a negligible ability to spread with wet weather and a poor association with adjacent habitat. This may reduce their value for wildlife considerably.

Species associated with ponds locally include Great Crested Newt, Waved Water Beetle, *Dytiscus dimidiatus* (a Great Diving Beetle), *Limnophila fasciata* (a cranefly), Medicinal Leech.

Chapmans pond is managed by the Friends of Chapmans Pond. This former clay workings is the one of the five remaining flooded brick pits in the York area with free public access. The pond is well stocked with a variety of coarse fish species and has 3 fishing platforms, adapted for wheelchair access. A new footpath has recently been created around the site. It is surrounded by meadow grassland and scrub woodland and is situated behind the shop near Moor Lane/Chaloners Road roundabout, and 5 minutes walk from the Askham Park & Ride. There is limited parking behind the shop.

Legal Status

There are few effective measures to safeguard ponds but there are a number of the less common nutrient poor ponds protected within existing SSSI's. A number have also been designated as SINC sites and so also a measure of protection.

The presence of Great Crested Newt, a European protected species will also protect both the pond and its surrounding habitat.

There is a range of national, regional and local planning policies that, along with other legislation, set out requirements for biodiversity conservation in planning terms.

Ponds are a UK BAP priority habitat

List of sites
Ponds

Ref No.	Site	Location	Area	Interest
18	Gollie Ponds	Naburn	3.75	Ponds, Fen, Carr, Rare Invertebrates
19	Hassacarr Pond	Dunnington	0.50	Sps Rich Pond Great Crested Newt
182	World's End Pond Wildgoose Carr	Strensall	0.70	Mesotrophic ponds and Fen
196	Ring Rd Pond (AB11)	Askham Bryant	0.40	Sps Rich Detention Pond
200	Town Pond Shirbutt Lane	Hessay	0.03	Pond
209	Balancing Ponds - A64 Ring Rd Roundabout	Copmanthorpe	0.30	Sps Rich Ponds/reedbed
261	Rawcliffe Lake	Rawcliffe	2.8	Eutrophic Pond
98	JoRo School Pond	Earswick	0.20	Sps Rich pond and adjacent grassland with Great Crested Newt, Palmate Newt and Water Vole
9			**8.68**	
Sites of	**Local Interest**			
60	Elvington Clay Pit	Elvington	0.4	Steep sided brick pit with no marginal fringe except for a few bulrushs. Bankside is a dense fringe of willow, hawthorn and bramble.
119	Chapmans Pond	Dringhouses	2.80	Rough Grassland and scrub. Pond is steep sided-0.7ha
120	Mayfield Clay Pit	Dringhouses	1.00	Clay pit/ open scrub. Clay pit steep sided - 0.6 ha
121	Hoggs Pond	Dringhouses	6.70	Clay pit/scrub/ reseeded amenity grassland. Pond is steepsided - 4.3 ha
122	New Earswick pond	New Earswick	2.20	Steep sided lake (0.7ha) with mat Sec woodland
123	Haxby Lake	Haxby	2.60	2 Clay pits (GCN Records) separated by narrow strip now

				Fishing Lake 2.1 ha.
124	Stren Back Lane fishing pond	Strensall	2.10	Lake area - 1.5 ha
125	Huntington Ponds	Heworth	1.20	Clay pit - 1.1ha
126	Huntington Ponds	Heworth	0.50	Clay Pit - 0.3
128	Kexby Fishing lakes	Kexby	1.00	4 Small lakes with surrounding relict sps rich grassland, scrub and sec. acid oak woodland. Lakes - total 1 ha.
163	Acomb Water works	Acomb	10.5	Mosaic ponds, with good marginal emergent fringe. Moderately diverse.
171	Rufforth Village Pond	Rufforth	0.1	Cleaned out and planted by BTCV 2005
181	Strensall Sewage Treatment Works	Strensall	1.00	Series of 3 lagoons, scrub, riverbank and moderately rich grassland.- Otter?
219	Railway pond w. of Cop. Wood	Copmanthorpe	0.50	Pond, Willow scrub and marsh.
256	Marshal's Pond	Dringhouses	0.10	Pond. Looks to have diverse emergent and aquatic flora.
258	Warren House Farm Pond	Wheldrake	0.04	Pond with extensive emergent stands of Pond Sedge etc..
270	Osbaldwick Detention Pond	Osbaldwick	0.70	Balancing pond by Osbaldwick link Rd.
271	World's End Ponds Wildgoose Carr	Strensall	0.70	2nd of 2 ponds scores 9/10 Sw1
18			**33.74**	

Factors causing Loss or decline

- Pollution, from point or diffuse sources can cause significant harm, whilst both organic and inorganic fertilisers, leads to excessive plant growth and algal blooms. These and the subsequent decay process can lead to shortage of dissolved oxygen. Algal blooms can lead to limited light conditions in the water body. On top of the lack of dissolved oxygen, this further limits the development of aquatic plants.
- Changes in land cover, such as removal of waterside vegetation (which may be an effective barrier to particle matter, act as a sink for nutrients and is also important for wildlife) can increase soil erosion

which increases water borne sediments, which in turn increases nutrients to the water.

- Other detrimental changes include infilling and digging out, field drainage, cessation of grazing, nitrate eutrophication, pesticide drift and loss to development.
- Recreational use can cause disturbance and movement of the bottom silts which in turn cause eutrophication etc. Stocking with fish can have a very detrimental effect with dragging/ disturbance of the bottom, clearance of bankside vegetation and heavy baiting, particularly when carp fishing, causing significant harm. Even the introduction of small fish for 'ornamental' purposes can significantly harm the value.
- Climate Change is also likely to have a significant effect with changing hydrology patterns and larger swings between extremes of drought and flood likely to have a significant impact on pond diversity.
- The introduction of non-native sps of plants and animals can be extremely damaging, for example the signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) has eliminated almost all the local native populations of white-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). It has also destabilised the biota of some waters by consuming large amounts of aquatic vegetation. Mink (*Neovison vison*) also have a definite impact on species such as water vole and many water fowl species. Other examples of non-native species include affecting water bodies include Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*), New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), Red-eared Terrapin (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) and Gold fish (*Carassius auratus*).

What can be done

An appreciation of the value that ponds have, even as small water bodies, can lead to better management. This is crucial to pond conservation as proper management of old ponds is as important as providing new ponds. This includes the need to provide buffers around ponds to protect them from adjacent land uses.

Aims of the Plan
Objectives

1 Develop a strategic, sustainable approach to the conservation of ponds and small lakes through assessing their distribution and ecological value and through prioritising conservation action and setting objectives.
2 Maintain the condition of all Council ponds currently judged as in favourable condition and restore those in less favourable condition.

3 Initiate action to restore to favourable condition, priority sites that have been damaged.
4 Increase knowledge and understanding by land managers and the general public of standing waters and their associated habitats and species.
5 Promote creation of ponds and habitats associated with open water.

Current Action
The TCV (formerly BTCV) have carried out quite extensive pond surveys in the early 2000's and have provided information held by the NEYEDC to help conserve ponds.

Pond Life, Pond Conservation and Pondnet, organisations set up to help conserve ponds have been increasing awareness of ponds and helping with their restoration across the country.

In the past few years, the Council have created approx. 20 new ponds in various parts of the city on both their own land and working with other landowners. A number of organisations such as YWT, the EA, landowners have also created new ponds, often through Environmental stewardship.

The biodiversity checklist and guidance notes for planning applicants have been developed. This checklist must be filled in by the applicant as part of the planning application process. Options in this checklist refer to open water habitats. This will help planners in identifying the location of protected species associated with ponds and larger water bodies through the early involvement of ecological consultants.

Proposed Action : Ponds

1 Collate the existing data on standing water resources and their ecological value to prioritise conservation action by 2015.
2 Conduct targeted surveys of ponds, outside of designated areas to inform conservation action by 2015.
3 Ensure appropriate maintenance and promotion of Council owned sites by 2015.
4 Restore, manage and monitor selected priority sites by 2015.
5 Create at least 5 new quality ponds until 2015.
6 Maximise the biodiversity potential of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).
7 Encourage and provide advice to the general public about the value and logistics of creating ponds in gardens, schools, parks and other public places.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
1. Develop a strategic, sustainable approach to the conservation of ponds and small lakes through assessing their distribution and ecological value and through prioritising conservation action and setting objectives.		1.1 Undertake a review of existing data on ponds and collate information.			
		1.2 Establish a funding proposal to carry out further targeted survey work.			
		1.3 Design and carry out targeted survey work.			
		1.4 Work with NEYEDC in use of a GIS database to assess the distribution and value of existing ponds.			
		1.5 Update information on key sites			
2. Maintain the condition of all Council ponds currently judged as in favourable condition and restore those in less favourable condition		2.1 Develop management plans for all Council owned sites with ponds present.			
		2.2. Ensure appropriate management and monitoring of priority ponds with land managers.			
3. Initiate action to restore to favourable condition, priority sites that have been damaged.		3.1 Identify priority ponds with invasive/ non-native species and take action to eradicate or lessen their impact.			
		3.2. Work with land managers on appropriate management and monitoring of priority ponds.			

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
4. Increase knowledge and understanding by land managers and the general public of standing waters and their associated habitats and species.		4.1 Provide advice on wildlife friendly countryside and garden ponds and ponds in public places through links on the Council's website (including native species, spawn movement, buffer zones, etc)			
		4.2 Work with organisations such as Pond Conservation and Pond life in promoting the good management and creation of ponds.			
5. Promote creation of ponds and habitats associated with open water.		5.1 Create 5 new ponds on Council land up to 2015.			
		5.2 Promote pond and wetland systems on farms as an ecosystem service solution			
		5.3 Incorporate pond creation where appropriate within planning consents and particularly to maximise the potential of SUDS mitigation to incorporate both permanent and temporary ponds into the designed landscape.			
		5.4 Where open water habitat is created, ensure this is complemented by creation of associated habitats (e.g. grassland, hedgerows, scrub and woodland, log piles for amphibians, etc).			

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ANCIENT & SPECIES RICH HEDGES

NVC communities: Not applicable

The farm hedgerow is a row of shrubs or bushes, which form a boundary, with or without trees or pollards. This barrier is primarily for stock control but also provides shelter for livestock, crops and wildlife. They can act as a barrier to erosion and as a reservoir for predators of pests. Hedgerows also provide a visual amenity, a link to the past and a transit route for wildlife. Some are wildlife-rich habitats and support a number of species of concern within the U.K. including globally threatened species.

Hedges have long been considered an important part of the English landscape and some hedges at least may pre-date the Roman occupation. However, they were not always as extensive and the network was increased dramatically during the Enclosure Period (1720 to 1840). In fact, at this time, many people decried the planting of hedges as despoiling the beauty of the English landscape. How things change. This was not uniform though across the country, as many areas had already been enclosed at an earlier period.

Ancient Hedgerows are considered to be those that pre-date this Enclosure Period. Such hedges tend to be more diverse, either because they have been derived from woodland clearance, have had a long time to allow new species to colonise or were planted more diversely in the first place.

Species rich hedges are defined as having 4 or more woody species in a 30m section. In contrast, many late enclosure hedges are mainly Hawthorn, possibly with Elder. Whatever their origin, old, species-rich hedges tend to support a greater variety of wildlife and can be of great nature conservation and landscape significance.

Their value lies partly in their similarity to woodland edge habitats and they can contain many woodland plants and insects such as Bluebell, Primrose, Dogs Mercury and Comma Butterfly, This is particularly the case if they are connected either through time or place directly with old woodland. They criss-cross the countryside in a far reaching network and provide the primary habitat for a considerable number of species of concern in the countryside, for instance many farmland birds.

Often associated with them are other significant features such as old ditches, banks and hedgerow trees, especially ancient ones. These in turn provide habitat for other species not otherwise found in hedges including bats, Barn Owls, Tree Sparrows and a wider variety of insects and plants.

Historically, hedges can also be of great interest, being associated with ancient field patterns, old boundaries such as parish, township or estate boundaries or old woodland sites.

With agricultural change and the mechanisation of farming following World War II, however, hedgerow losses began to be increase as fields were expanded. It is estimated that 22% of hedges were removed between 1947 and 1985 and a further 21% between 1984 and 1990.

In 1993 it was estimated that there were approximately 329,000km left, of which 138,000km were considered to be species-rich or ancient in origin. Losses were thought to be continuing at about 5% a year.

Losses were not uniform but were greater in the eastern part of the country where arable intensification was greatest.

To offset this loss, the Hedgerow Regulations were introduced in 1997 requiring hedgerow removal to be notified and assessed by the local authority. This offered a measure of protection to old and species-rich hedges.
This decline has eased dramatically in recent years and hedgerow loses are much reduced. In part this is due to the Countryside (now Environmental) Stewardship Scheme offering grants encouraging farmers to plant or replant hedges It also encourages landowners to manage and improve their remaining hedges to offset one of the other major causes of hedgerow loss, that of neglect.

Many ancient hedges, although still present, are not in favourable nature conservation condition due to the way they are, or have been, managed.

Ancient and/or Species Rich are a UK BAP priority habitat.

In York there is an extensive network of hedges numbering many thousands and there has been no comprehensive assessment of hedges. Some 300 hedges have though been surveyed over the years from various parts of the city and perhaps 15% would be considered sps rich according to the BAP guideline (based on the hedgerow Regs criteria) of 4sps/30m. The South and west of the city seem particularly rich although rich hedges can be found in every parish, probably dependent on when enclosure took place. There are indeed some notable hedges that exceed 10sps/30m. These are associated with the line of old roman roads or the boundaries of old commons and strays and so may be many ‘00’s if not 000’s of years old.

Legal Status

Hedgerows are protected by the Hedgerow Regs 1997

There are no SINC sites yet designated for hedgerows, although there are 48 that are known to fulfil the necessary criteria and will be considered. The SINC criteria are substantially more rigorous than both the UK Biodiversity Forum's definition and the Hedgerow Regulation's criteria. This is to ensure that only the very best hedges are designated in this way.

List of sites

Ref	Location	Parish	GR	Total sps	Length (m)
17	Germany Beck Meadow	Fulford	616488	11	300
197 - 20	West Wood Lane (AB1)	Askham Bryant	545486-544490	7	1000
101	Kexby Bank West	Kexby	703505-703501	11	250
264	Cherry Lane	Knavesmire	586495-589495	11	300
264	Cherry Lane	Knavesmire	586495-589495	11	300
SF3	Carrbank Lane	Stockton on the Forest	662559	14	400
P5	Newlands Lane	Upper Poppleton	540544	10	720
Ask2	Askham Fields Lane	Askham Bryan	553481	11	370
Elv1		Elvington		11	275
H79	White Horse Farm	Huntington	634567	10	245
H120/ H120b	White Horse Farm	Huntington	634567	13	240
H49	White Horse Farm	Huntington	624557	10	185
H126	White Horse Farm	Huntington		10	270
H18	White Horse Farm	Huntington	619545	10	315
K35	Old Hall Farm	Kexby	695491	11	360
K7	Old Hall Farm	Kexby	702506	12	270
Kel 10	Kelfield Lodge Farm	Naburn	?	10	
Nab1		Naburn	613458	11	290
Nab8		Naburn	606442	10	200
R20	Grasslands farm	Rufforth	525500	10	168
R24	Grasslands farm	Rufforth	525500	11	210

SF1	Carrbank Lane	Stockton on the Forest	660562	11	230
SF10	Carrbank Lane	Stockton on the Forest	665555	10	300
SF9	Carrbank Lane	Stockton on the Forest	665555	10	300
SF7	Carrbank Lane	Stockton on the Forest	660561	12	230
W100	Stud Farm	Wigginton	584591	13	266
W107a	Stud Farm	Wigginton	584593	12	130
W107b	Stud Farm	Wigginton	584592	11	300
W107c	Stud Farm	Wigginton	586590	11	155
W101	Stud Farm	Wigginton	583592	10	322
W138	Stud Farm	Wigginton	584590	12	220
W139	Stud Farm	Wigginton		10	270
W96ab	Stud Farm	Wigginton	588590	11	360
W96d	Stud Farm	Wigginton	587593	10	170
W97	Stud Farm	Wigginton	589589	15	288
ST1		Strensall		10	210
ST7		Strensall		10	300
E50	Church Lane	Elvington	999474-697473	12	236
H50	Turbary Lane	Huntington	642563-642565	10	211
AR1	Askham Richard	Askham Richard	538480-540481	11	230
	Naburn Ings	Fulford	603482-602478	10	500
PB02	Poole Bridge Farm	Wheldrake	641643-639467	16	410
PB07	Poole Bridge Farm	Wheldrake	638467-637471	13	433
PB09	Poole Bridge Farm	Wheldrake	639466 - 636471	13	560
PB23	Poole Bridge Farm	Wheldrake	644469 - 645471	14	245
15	Copmanthorpe Wood Cop 42a	Copmanthorpe	563451-562451	9+1	92
15	Copmanthorpe Wood Cop 42c	Copmanthorpe	561477-560450	13+2	305
15	Copmanthorpe Wood Cop 42d	Copmanthorpe	561477-561446	12+1	215
48				**473.00**	**14456**

Non SINC sites of interest		Hedges			
223	Rufforth Green Lane Hannan Lane (RU12)	Rufforth	525517 - 519513		790
226	Poppleton Ings Ditch	Nether Poppleton	566551-569547		630
2				**0.00**	**1420**

Factors causing Loss or decline

With regard to hedgerow removal, there are still losses occurring although this is much reduced. Loss to agriculture is controlled by the Hedgerow Regs 1997. However, the situation is complicated by the fact that the UK Biodiversity Forum's definition of a species rich hedge is slightly different (less rigorous) than for the Hedgerow Regulation's (1997). This means that some 'species-rich' hedges could still be lost.

Agricultural management can have a considerable impact on the quality of a hedge, even if losses from removal are much reduced. Unsympathetic cutting, herbicide and pesticide spraying into the hedge bottoms, overgrazing or ploughing up to or into a hedge bottom can all have a significant effect on the wildlife value of a hedge.
Equally, lack of management can also lead to loss or decline in overall value.

Although only a part of a hedge, hedgerow trees are a significant habitat within them and of conservation value in their own right. They are of particular value to species such as bats, Barn Owls, Tree Sparrows etc. They can be particularly important in very old hedges that have historical links with ancient woodland, potentially retaining species not otherwise found. These can be felled without felling consents and are difficult to protect. The scale of any changes in the numbers of hedgerow trees are not known and so their status is uncertain.

Losses from development can now be a major form of hedgerow loss and may disproportionately affect old species rich hedges. Development tends to be concentrated on the fringes of settlements or as infill and these sites are often as significant for their old hedges, as for old unimproved grassland. Once development has occurred, even if they are left in place they lose their protection from the Hedgerow Regulations and often suffer from inappropriate management.

Although not exactly a threat, inappropriate planting of species within existing hedges can be detrimental to their overall value. Where possible planting should be of native species and in character with other hedges in the locality.

What can be done

Although losses have significantly decreased, there are considerable opportunities for enhancement both of the extent and quality of hedges. Environment Stewardship and management advice to farmers (see Guidance note on Farming) encourages planting and thickening of hedges.

Finding out the extent of species rich hedges and of hedgerow trees will enable a better understanding of the actions necessary to ensure the long term enhancement of this important habitat within the context of a farmed landscape.

Development almost invariably results in some hedgerow loss or, if not loss, then a reduction in value through unfavourable management. Mitigation for this loss, both within the development site and outside it can offset this decrease in biodiversity.

Aims of the Plan
Objectives

- **To encourage the conservation and good management of species-rich hedges;**

- **To encourage the retention and replanting of hedgerow trees;**

- **To encourage the planting of new hedgerows that re-establish or compliment the local field patterns and local hedge character;**

- **To ensure development takes full account of the importance of hedges and that adequate mitigation is provided so that there is a net gain in the local context.**

Current Action
A UKBAP action plan has been prepared that aims to halt the further loss of ancient, diverse hedges, maintain the present extent of hedgerow trees and ensure favourable management.

Implement the Hedgerow Regulations in such a way as to protect all qualifying hedges and provide advice to landowners on the management of important, species rich hedges.

Hedgerow management on farmland is also included in cross compliance consideration for the single farm payment to encourage good management.

Encourage the uptake of Environmental Stewardship Scheme Agreements. In the past, this has been a major factor in hedgerow enhancement. There is likely to be a hiatus on stewardship whilst the CAP Reform is considered.

Incorporation of appropriate hedge proposals within development consents. Development almost invariably results in some hedgerow loss or, if not loss, then a reduction in value through unfavourable management. There may be opportunities to compensate for this on site. Where this is not the

case, Section 106 Agreements should be used to secure off-site mitigation to compensate for this loss. It may be possible to link these to landowners not in Environmental Stewardship and thereby enhance hedges that would otherwise not be improved. The targeting of these would be able to be derived from the proposed surveys. This form of offsetting or other forms may be introduced through government legislation in future years.

Hedgerow surveys are undertaken on an ad hoc basis as part of planning applications, Hedgerow Regs applications or stewardship. This should be continued as the opportunity arises to extend the database. These surveys would indicate where the planting/enhancement of hedges would be most appropriate and also will enable locally characteristic hedges to be identified. This would enable locally characteristic species rich mixes to be used.

Links to Habitats/Species

Other BAP Habitat/Species associated with Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows:

Bats, Tree Sparrow, Farmland, Barn Owl, Turtle Dove, Linnet, Grey Partridge, House Sparrow, Yellowhammer, Unimproved Grasslands, Lowland Wood Pasture and Veteran Trees.

Proposed Action: ANCIENT & SPECIES RICH HEDGES

- Develop Offsetting proposals to reduce cumulative loss of hedgerow habitat through development.
- Continue to implement the Hedgerow Regs in full.
- Encourage tenants and Council staff in good practice in hedgerow management on Council land.
- Continue to survey and store hedgerow data and collate historic data.

Species Rich Hedgerows: Habitat management, restoration & creation					
BAP TARGET	**PROGRESS TO 2013**	**ACTION**	**LEAD PARTNER**	**PRIORITY / DATE**	**RESOURCES**
1. Maintain the current extent of hedgerows	Some loses still occur through removal or poor management, however the rate of decline has decreased in recent years.	Ensure that all landowners and managers of known species rich hedges are aware of their importance, through provision of site information . Continue to implement the Hedgerow Regulations.	CYC- SINC's	High On-going	A local Wildlife Sites partnership should be formed to address the needs of SINCs
	Plans published recently all have site protection policies	Ensure all planning policy documents (LDF, etc.) have strong policies protecting SSSIs and SINC's	CYC	High On-going	Existing staff resources
		Continue to assess planning applications that may affect hedgerows and comment on and establish appropriate mitigation where there may be an adverse impact.	CYC	Medium On-going	Existing staff resources
2. Maintain at least the current condition of hedgerows within SSSIs & SINCs		2.1 Implement appropriate or cutting regimes on all local authority sites. Ensure that all landowners and managers are provided with information, advice and support regarding management of their hedges to enable them to achieve this action	NE (SSSIs) CYC/YWT for SINC's	High 2010	This is the role of Natural England for SSSIs. A local Wildlife Sites partnership should be formed to address the needs of SINC (see below). This will require support from CYC, including financial backing.
3.0 Aim to plant 5km of new hedge (including gapping up of existing hedges) by 2015 and 10kms by 2020.		3.1 As part of the planning process ensure that adequate mitigation is in place where hedgerows are destroyed by development. 3.2 Look to establish new hedges within Council schemes and on Council land where this is appropriate. 3.3 Provide advice and assistance to landowners in establishing new hedges.			

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES

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WOODLAND *The value of trees*

NVC communities: The Principal naturally occurring woodlands are
W10 –Acid Oak woodland,
W8 – Ash Woodland and
W4 –Birch Woodland.
Within York however, many of the woodlands have been replanted and are either conifer or Oak, Ash, Sycamore plantations with affinities to the above woodlands.

Within England, there is little if any natural woodland left due to centuries of management. This is especially the case in the Vale of York which has had intensive cultivation for many centuries. Some woodlands though do have a long history and have stood for many hundreds of years. They contain woodland species that do not readily colonise new woods, even if they have been there for centuries and so only occur on these ancient sites. These are our ancient semi-natural woodlands.

Such woodlands are very special and, because they have often survived by chance, they are very rare. In fact in Britain, less than 0.08% of our remaining woodland is ancient, semi-natural. This makes them very important both historically and for nature conservation. York has very little if any true semi natural woodland, but just a few do still have some ancient characteristics.

Management has had a strong influence not only on the survival but also on the character of woodland. Originally much woodland would have been managed as coppice for both timber (shipbuilding, house construction etc) and for charcoal. Coppice is where trees and shrubs are regularly cut down and allowed to re-grow, leaving only a few big trees each time. This has changed in the past few hundred years or so to high forest. High Forest is where there is an even aged, tall woodland canopy with trees grown for straight timber and a limited understorey.

A woodland though is not just a group of trees, there are many types, each with a range of plants and animals suited to particular conditions. In York these include, amongst others, Lowland Ash Woods, Acid Oak Woods and, very rarely wet woodland. Birch Woodland is also characteristic, mainly to the east and south of the city associated with old heathland sites.

Some old woodlands may have been cleared once and can show evidence of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing but were abandoned and allowed to re-establish as woodland and have had time to allow some old woodland

indicators to colonise. The Black Death was one reason for this abandonment of old agricultural land.

Regardless of their floristic interest, some of the older woodlands do have numbers of ancient veteran trees. These can be particularly important for wood boring insects, though no surveys have been undertaken for this. They can also be invaluable for other wildlife such as birds.

Such veteran trees are of value in their own right and can occur separately from woodland as individual trees within the open countryside. This is particularly evident on land north of Askham Bog where the old hedgerow and ditch pattern have numerous old trees and are shown on the 1st Ed OS Map of 1854 as being well tree'd as well. This would suggest that there is a long history of hedgerow trees in this area. Further veteran trees can be found in a 'parkland setting' of trees within grassland, as at the Archbishop's Palace.

A special woodland type is wet woodland. This is woodland developed on very wet or swampy soils or immediately adjacent to rivers. It is very restricted with only a few examples, the best being at Askham Bog. There are however, a number of other localised sites such as Skelton and Acombe Landing. They are especially important for invertebrates.

York has about 12% of its area as woodland but it is not particularly rich in old woodland, it is mainly conifer plantation. This is below the national average for woodland cover and is largely explained by the intensive agricultural history of the Vale of York. Overall there is less than 100ha of moderately diverse woodland and much of this is in small copses or blocks within larger plantation woodland, mainly to the south and west of York. The majority of this is in private ownership but there are a number of woodlands that are publically accessible including

Acomb Wood, Woodthorpe is a broadleaved community local nature reserve woodland covering 1.15 ha. The woodland is home to greater spotted woodpeckers and tawny owl whilst the meadow contains historic ridge and furrow supporting a large population of wild flowers.

Hagg Wood is a coniferous plantation on an ancient woodland site at Dunnington that still has many remnants of the native woodland vegetation. The site is owned by the Church Commissioners and managed by the Forestry Commission. A local group, the Friends of Hagg Wood, help care for the woodland and are actively involved in its management. Hagg Wood is a Planted Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS for short). Management of the

wood is aimed at gradually removing most of the coniferous trees and restoring it to native woodland. This is a process that will take many years.

Wheldrake Wood is a predominantly pine woodland planted on what was, at one time lowland heath. The area is very flat and access is easy although there are no waymarked trails. Although there are no ancient trees in the wood the age of the different stands or 'compartments' of trees is quite diverse and makes this an interesting wood to visit. Badgers, roe and fallow deer all use the wood but are rarely seen except by the most careful observer. This is good wood for watching butterflies, with species such as wall brown and speckled wood. It is also a good area for dragonflies such as the brown hawker and the broad-bodied chaser. Glow worms are also found. The road verges are particularly rich, supporting flowers such as common spotted, marsh and bee orchids.

Knavesmire Wood next to the Racecourse is owned by the Woodland Trust. It is an old plantation woodland that does have a number of ancient trees within it and a moderately diverse woodland ground flora.

Legal Status

The policy for England's ancient and native woodland has a presumption against clearance of broad-leaved woodland for conversion to other land uses.

- Felling licences from the Forestry Commission (FC) are normally required for tree felling.
- Tree Preservation Orders can be applied to individual trees, or in rare cases, cluster of trees or a woodland by the Local Authority.
- Further protection may be afforded by presence of species designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981). This act covers species such as Bats and Dormice. The Habitat Regulations (1994) also protect woodlands and their associated species.
- The Regional Woodland Strategy recognises the importance of semi-natural woodland and contains a number of specific actions, including targeting restoration and expansion activity to specific cluster areas.
- Although no woodlands are designated as SSSI's, some woodland receive additional protection through local policies and strategies within the Local Plans. This includes designation as SINC's.

List of sites

No.	Site	Location	Area	Habitat Type
15	Copmanthorpe Wood	Copmanthorpe	6.00	Ancient Woodland
21	Hagg Wood	Kexby	32.00	Replanted Ancient woodland
24	Knavesmire Wood	Dringhouses	6.00	Mixed woodland/ Veteran trees
27	Moreby Far Wood	Deighton	0.80	Ancient woodland
30	Rabbit Warren Wood	Dunnington	13.40	Acid woodland / Heath/ Birds
36	Stub Wood	Acaster Malbis	24.00	Ancient Woodland
81	West Plantation	Wheldrake	1.30	Acid Oak Bluebell Wood
86	Elvington Wood	Elvington	4.90	W10 woodland
87	Gilbertsons Plantation	Wheldrake	5.20	Bluebell Wood (Oak Plantation)
169	Hagg Wood	Copmanthorpe	1.40	Woodland
175	Elvington Camp Copse	Elvington	0.60	W10 woodland
204	Rush Wood	Naburn	2.50	Bluebell Wood
167	The Parks	Askham Bryan	0.50	Semi natural Woodland
215	Taylorhall Field Plantation	Askham Richard	0.90	Semi natural Woodland
14			**99.50**	
Non SINC sites of interest		**Woodland**		
33	Rawcliffe Landing Wood	Rawcliffe	0.60	Riparian woodland
51	Strensall Woodland	Strensall	60.00	Acid woodland
52	Lords Moor Lane/Flaxton Rd.	Strensall	2.20	Acid Woodland
66	Hessay Woodland	Hessay	2.00	Wet secondary woodland
77	Sandhole Plantation	Naburn	0.70	Broadleaved woodland - bluebell wood

94	Huntington Wood	Huntington	4.90	mainly W10 - some wetter areas W16 Wet acid woodland
140	Moorlands Wood	Skelton	10.80	Ornamental Plantation managed as Nature Reserve
149	Butterbump Bottom	Elvington	1.50	Wet willow Carr woodland
165	Woodland adjacent to Askham Grange Prison	Askham Richard	2.10	Mature ornamental plantation with relict woodland interest on boundary
166	Acomb Wood ext	Acomb	1.10	Plantation
170	Sand Dyke	Rufforth	0.4	Birch wood on sand quarry
192	Turkers Wood	Stockton on the Forest	5.30	W16 Woodland
214	Askham Moor Lane Wood	Askham Bryan	0.30	Sps rich woodland of SINC quality except for size.
227	Hurns Gutter Woodland	Skelton	2.50	Riverside Wet woodland/scrub
251	Love Lane Woodland/Fulford Cross	Fulford	2.80	Scrub and plantation in urban setting.
15			**97.20**	

Factors causing Loss or decline

In general, threats to remaining ancient woodland are much reduced, with the Forestry Commission (FC) exerting strict controls on the felling, management and planting of woodland. There are, however, still some threats to native woodland from inappropriate or changed management practices and from replanting ancient woodland sites. One particular problem can be balancing the needs of health and safety in managing or removing old trees, particularly those with cavities in, and their value for nature conservation.

A particular problem for certain woodland types is the spread of invasive alien species, notably Rhododendron in acid woodlands and Himalayan

Balsam in wet woodlands. These can both spread very aggressively and dominate the field or shrub layer.

Drainage can also be a problem with wet woodlands and for wet woodland mosaics within larger woodlands. Here the pressure to provide conditions for more productive species can lead to drainage that can affect the extent of wet woodland. Scrub clearance of willow can also be a problem. Such work does not necessarily require licensing.

A further threat, to woodlands is the spread of new diseases such as Alder Root disease on alder, Sudden Oak Death on Oak and Chalara on Ash. Such die back of particular species has a knock on effect on the insects that are reliant on them. These diseases that could be as disastrous as Dutch Elm disease

What can be done

- Protect remaining areas of ancient semi natural woodland
- Encourage management of a diverse structure by leaving fallen and standing dead wood, managing rides, maintaining wet hollows, ditches, leave some over mature trees etc..
- Provide bat boxes/ bird boxes if no suitable sites are available,
- Re-establish coppicing where it is appropriate,
- Plant new woodlands and copses

Aims of the Plan
Objectives

To increase the number of woods under favourable management

To increase the resource with new planting;

To promote their value for nature conservation

To restore degraded ancient woodland sites.

Current Action

- The Forestry Commission (FC) regulates timber harvesting through felling licences.
- A UKBAP action plan has been produced for Wet Woodland.
- The FC offer advice on woodland management.

- Woodland planting, management and conservation is encouraged by Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) and Woodland Improvement Grants Scheme (WIGS) available from FC.
- Small woodland planting and conservation is encouraged by Agri-Environmental schemes.
- Woodland advisory companies secure planting schemes using FC grant aid.
- Treemendous is carrying out a programme of woodland and tree planting.
- The Council have planted several new woodlands at Bootham Stray.

Proposed Action : WOODLAND

- Continue to support the work of Treemendous in planting trees and woodland.
- Manage the Council's woodland for its wildlife interest.
- Support the creation of new native woodland in appropriate locations with local partners.
- Continue to protect existing woodland through the Local Plan with appropriate policies.
- Include woodland as a key biodiversity offset habitat.

Targets

1. Maintain the current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland
2. Achieve favourable condition for all semi natural ancient woodland SINC sites by 2020.
3. Restore 50 ha of coniferised and unmanaged woodland on ancient woodland sites to a locally native broadleaved type, ideally by allowing natural regeneration or if planting, using locally native stock, by 2020.
4. Create 50 hectares of lowland broadleaved woodland by 2020.

<u>What you can do to help:</u>
Enjoy woodland flowers without picking them.
Leave fallen timber to decay rather than burning it.

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
1. Maintain the current extent of ancient semi-natural woodland.		1.1 Ensure that all landowners and managers SINC's supporting woodland habitats are aware of their importance.			
		1.2 Ensure all planning policy documents have strong policies protecting woodland			
		1.3 Continue to assess planning applications that may affect woodland sites and comment on those that may have an adverse impact			
		1.4 Where possible promote management of buffer areas around woodland to reduce impact of negative external factors.			
2 Achieve favorable condition for all semi- natural ancient woodland SINC sites by 2020.		2.1 Ensure that all landowners and managers are provided with information, advice and support regarding management of their designated sites to enable them to achieve condition.			
		2.2 Support the development of a local Wildlife Sites partnership to ensure monitoring & assessment of SINC's and to provide information, advice & support to landowners			

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
3. Restore 50 ha of coniferised/unmanaged woodland on ancient woodland sites to a locally native broadleaved type		3.1 Engage with landowners and managers of conifer and unmanaged woodland and support native planting and management of their woodland.			
4. Create 50 hectares of lowland broadleaved woodland by 2020. 5. Create 5ha of wet woodland by 2020.		4.1 Identify a strategy for creating new native woodland in terms of species composition, ground flora introduction, site size and location, including increasing the connectivity of ancient semi-natural and species rich woodlands.			
		4.2 Where possible promote establishment of trees and/or shrubs to act as buffer areas around woodland to reduce impact of negative external factors.			
		4.3 Promote new woodland planting where appropriate and according to the principles and practices of the UK Forestry Standard			
		4.4 Promote the use of local native tree stock for woodland planting.			
		4.5 Use Section 106 and Biodiversity offsetting proposals to further the establishment of new woodland			

BAP TARGET	PROGRESS TO 2013	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES

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ORCHARDS

NVC communities: Not applicable

In Yorkshire, there is no long tradition of Cider or Perry making because climate and accessibility to markets precluded the establishment of large scale, early orchards. Most old farms and closes though did have their own small orchards for local use although their exact age is uncertain. Many are shown on the 1st edition OS map (1854) around villages.
With the coming of the railway in the middle of the 19th century, however, quick and easy access to the large city markets was made possible. Because of this, there was a proliferation of planting particularly around York and in the Vale of York and the 2nd Edition OS of 1898 shows this clearly. Most of the orchards therefore in York were around 150 years old with older ones being associated with villages and farms.
The increase in orchards, however, was short lived and by the early 20th century they were in decline as improved transport and cultivation in more favourable areas affected their economic viability and many were removed. Today there are very few orchards and those remaining are unmanaged and derelict.
Even where orchards have largely disappeared however, some trees may still remain to indicate where these orchards used to be. In some areas, where houses were being built as York expanded, individual trees were retained within each garden and even incorporated into deeds of the houses. This is known to be the case at Skelton and Tanghall where there are still some fine examples of big, old pear and apple trees present. Such trees are of considerable age and interest, akin to veteran trees, and are also of cultural significance.

Traditional orchards are composed of 5 or more standard fruit trees at spacings of approximately 150 per hectare or at approx. 10m intervals. There are usually many varieties of fruit trees in a given block leading to an extended period of flowering and fruiting. This benefits both insects, which in turn benefits pollination, and birds and mammals who feed on the fruit.
The grassland beneath old orchards can be species rich, unimproved grassland. In many areas of the country there is a tradition of grazing these swards. The combination of old, individual trees within grassland creates a habitat with similarities to wood pasture.
The hedges surrounding traditional orchards, not only protect the fruit trees from frost and wind damage, but also provide additional habitats for wildlife. The best hedges for orchard wildlife are comprised of mixed native species with an untended margin at the base. These provide an additional nectar source of value to invertebrates. Overall therefore, old orchards can be of significant wildlife value.

Trees within old orchards can be over 60 years old. Fruit trees decay more quickly than most British hardwoods and can provide a variety of deadwood habitats. As such they can be particularly valuable for invertebrates. Gracilia minuta a Red Data Book 2 sps of Longhorn Beetle was found at one orchard site in 2009.
Crevices and hollows also provide nesting sites for birds such as spotted flycatchers, Little Owl etc and large specimens can provide roosts for many species of bat. The non-acid bark supports a wide variety of mosses although the bark chemistry of apples is variable, with some cultivars hosting many more mosses than others. The bark of plums is acid and they are poor hosts for mosses but much better for lichens. Even when isolated therefore, old orchard trees can be of interest although no work has been done to assess what the extent of this interest is in York.

In contrast, modern orchards are planted at much closer spacing (up to 2,200/hectare) and have a very limited number of varieties and are grubbed up after 12 - 15 years. They are grafted onto dwarfing rootstock and are pruned heavily each year. A sterile strip of bare earth is maintained under the trees and during the summer months may be sprayed every 7 days. Adjacent hedges tend to be single species such as hybrid alder. This drastically reduces their overall value for wildlife, although certain BAP species, such as Linnet and Bullfinch, are found in higher number in modern orchards. Such orchards are not part of the York landscape.

Legal Status
It is estimated that there was approx 28,000 hectares of traditional orchard remaining in England in 2005 (English Nature, 2005 Review of priority habitats). They are not defined in their own right as a national BAP habitat but are considered a sub group of Lowland Wood Pasture. The extent in York is unknown but there are no orchards designated as SINC's in York though there are three designated as being of Local interest. If envisaged, designation would need to be made under the Wood Pasture Criteria of the SINC Designation Guidelines as there are no specific guidelines for orchards. It is likely that there are considerably more small orchards awaiting consideration.
It is not illegal to grub up or fell an orchard.

List of sites

Site No.	Name	Parish	GR	Area
136	Clifton Hospital Orchard/pond	Clifton Without	582535	0.20
137	The Dormouse Orchard	Clifton Without	585537	0.30
253	Designer Outlet Orchard	Fulford	609476	0.10
3				**0.60**

Factors causing Loss or decline

- Many orchards are on the edges of villages. This has left them vulnerable to development and to other changes of use.

- Changing economics and changing social behavior has ment that producing your own fruit locally is no longer a normal practice.

- Many of the few remaining traditional orchards have been unmanaged for many years and are falling into a state of dereliction.

- The skills required to manage an orchard have been lost.

What can be done

The biodiversity value of traditional orchards has been recognised on a national level and traditional orchards have become a BAP priority habitat.
The Town and Country Planning Regulations 1999 make it possible to place a Tree Preservation Order on fruit trees, either individually or as a group, where it is in the interest of amenity to do so and where such trees are not part of a commercial orchard.
Orchard management has been supported through Higher Level stewardship payments. These are however currently no longer available.
In York, however, there has been little understanding or knowledge of the place of orchards in the cultural history of the area. Equally there has been little work done to research the extent and value of orchards at a local level. There are therefore opportunities to generate interest in some of the old orchards through local groups taking an interest and establishing themselves to take on management of such sites. Public interest is growing

especially with the Grow your own food lobby and some charitable groups are beginning to take an interest in fruit collection for making locally sourced produce.

Aims of the Plan
Objectives

- Control further loss of traditional orchards.
- Re-habilitate existing relict orchards through encouraging renewed management by voluntary groups and landowners alike.
- Consider the designation of orchards and specimen orchard trees where appropriate.
- Carry out further assessment of the extent and interest of orchards in the York area.
- Raise awareness of traditional orchards and their biodiversity value

Current Action

No work is currently being undertaken by the City Council with regard to orchards except through support for the Edible York.
Some voluntary organisations such as Brunswick Nursery are collecting fruit for producing locally sourced jams etc.
Edible York is encouraging people to produce their own food and is working with the Council on sites in Council ownership that may be available.

Proposed Action

1. Assess quantity and condition of all remaining traditional orchards by 2015

2. Maintain the current extent of remaining orchards

3. Restore 0.5 ha from neglected/derelict orchards per annum through adequate management.

4. Increase knowledge and appreciation of the value of old orchards both for biodiversity and culture.

Traditional Orchard ACTIONS with Targets						
Habitat Action Plan for York						
BAP objective	**BAP TARGET**	**PROGRESS to date**	**ACTION**	**LEAD PARTNER**	**PRIORITY / DATE**	**RESOURCES**
Assess and monitor	**1. Assess quantity and condition of all remaining traditional orchards**	No formal survey yet undertaken	1.1 Identify and survey all traditional orchards		2015	Volunteers, Specialists Travel expenses, maps
			1.2 compile database on each orchard identifying the fruit varieties within them, and biodiversity inventory		2015	Make sure confidential information is not generally accessible
			1.3 Undertake comparative study of amounts of traditional orchards past and present		medium	Mapping, Nigel Russell/Natural England We will need to secure funds for GIS work to be done
Halt the loss of traditional orchards	**2. Maintain the current extent of remaining orchards**		2.1 Ensure relevant habitat policies are included and implemented in the Local Plan		Immediate	Input in consultations, keep up the profile of traditional orchards
			2.2 Consider the use of existing TPO legislation, where appropriate, to protect the remaining area of orchard		Immediate	

BAP objective	BAP TARGET	PROGRESS to date	ACTION	LEAD PARTNER	PRIORITY / DATE	RESOURCES
			2.3 Consider the use of Section 106 and planning conditions to protect existing orchards.			
			2.4 Flag up orchards in Green Infrastructure Strategy and promote publicly accessible orchards			
Restore existing orchards and establish new plantings	**3. Restore 0.5 ha of neglected and remnant traditional orchards**		3.1 Use Section 106 and planning conditions to encourage management of orchards within development.			
			3.2 Produce guidance notes for owners of old orchards listing sources of grant aid and management advice			
Raise awareness for traditional orchards and their biodiversity value	**Increase knowledge and appreciation of the value of old orchards: both in their contribution to biodiversity and to landscape and culture**		3.1 Work with Place and with Edible York on the role of orchards in York			
			3.2 Promote an interest in the importance of orchards within schools/education system through links with WATCH leaders			

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FARMLAND

NVC communities: Not applicable

The patchwork fields of farmland are perhaps the most familiar of British landscapes. Farmland is essentially a non-natural environment that has been deliberately cleared to make way for agriculture, so it embraces many different habitats. The effects of human activity on the land are a constant balancing act, making farmland an interesting habitat.
Farmland is the single largest land use in Britain, and long-term research has established that the farmed countryside is very important for biodiversity. For instance, the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has monitored changes in the population of wild birds through national recording schemes for many years. However, many species, particularly flowering arable annual plants and farmland birds, have continued to decline dramatically and are now UK BAP priority species. Farmland is also important for bats and the bumble bee group and these too have declined. It is therefore vitally important that wildlife is considered alongside the farming industry's primary role of food production if Britain's natural heritage is to survive. The species decline associated with modern and intensive farming methods need to be addressed by considering the re-instatement of ponds, meadows and hedgerows and returning to some more traditional practices to restore a balance that benefits both wildlife and food production.
Farmland is not a natural habitat, but a mosaic of habitats managed within a food production unit. Many farms include areas of good wildlife-rich semi-natural habitat, the best of which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Local Sites. Some of these habitats are nationally important and includes the key habitats of Cereal Field Margins and Boundary and Linear Features, both of which are UK BAP priority habitats. This may seem strange but such areas hold specialist plants and insects that need cultivation in order to thrive. These can be very prolific and provide the food for many of our farmland birds etc. Thus farmland is important for arable weeds, bumblebees and farmland birds. All have suffered serious declines in recent years, partly through intensification of farming methods.

Some of the biological declines seen in farmland habitats can be attributed to the technological advances and production-orientated agricultural policies seen since 1945, and driven forward by Central Government and the European Union. However, many farmers manage their land for wildlife and game as well as crop production to the benefit of both habitats and species. Chemical and fertilisers use on farmland has fallen and has

become more targeted in recent years, hedgerow loss has been reversed and many farmers typically farm in a more environmentally friendly way.

Current Action :
The Council's Countryside Officer has worked with 10 landowners to develop stewardship proposals to enhance the conservation interest of the farm.

It is not proposed to set any targets for farmland as this is largely outside of the remit of work for a Local Authority.

Suggested Action : FARMLAND
Land managers can maintain a good diversity of habitats to encourage a wide range of wildlife. Important features include ponds, hedgerows, old hedgerow trees, copses, odd corners of scrub, grassland and wetland. Even wet areas in arable fields are important to some species such as lapwing. Old buildings, old trees and nest boxes can provide nesting/roosting sites for owls, swallow, bats etc. Leaving 10 foot square bare patches within arable fields, greatly increases the breeding success of Skylark without any significant lowering of yield.

Maintain any especially rich wildlife areas identified on your farm, such as unimproved or semi-improved grasslands, rushy areas, fens, streams and ponds.

Plant new trees and hedges where appropriate to the good management of the farm. These should be species native to the area and ideally sourced from nurseries that supply locally sourced trees. Wherever possible, maintain veteran standing trees and leave fallen timber in place to naturally break down.

Cut hedges to a minimum height of 1.5 to 1.7m. depending on its orientation. Leaving a hedge to grow taller does not necessarily mean that it will cast shade and reduce yields. Cut in late winter before birds are breeding to avoid nests and to allow birds to feed on the berries first. If possible do not cut all hedges every year but leave some to be cut every other year. Having a variety of hedge heights and shapes will attract a greater variety of breeding birds. Avoid ploughing and spraying into the hedge bottom.

Wildlife benefits from arable margins having a variety of grass sward lengths, including short grass, hay, tall herbage and tussocks. Some rank margins could be left over the winter for hibernating insects etc. Bumble bees nest in tussocky grass, Harvest Mice use tall herbage such as False

Oat Grass, Reed Canary Grass and Hogweed and Field and Bank Voles need rough grassland.

Consider planting some low input and spring crops or leaving some land to summer fallow or winter stubble.

Reducing herbicide, pesticide and fertiliser inputs through targeting and timing of application can reduce costs and be more environmentally friendly.

When converting old buildings, incorporate wildlife friendly features into the design. It costs nothing but can be of enormous benefit for wildlife. Consider putting up Barn Owl, bird, bat boxes etc.

Create new wildlife habitat at places convenient to you. This can include just about anything you want from a few trees to a pond or reversion of arable to wildflower grassland or woodland. Remember, every little can help.

Consider joining the Entry Level Stewardship Scheme.

Farmers and landowners can apply for Environmental Stewardship Schemes designed around best farming practice to conserve and enhance biodiversity in the Vale of York.

Entry Level Stewardship Guidance Notes
Higher Level Stewardship Targeting Statement
Natural England York Office can be contacted on Tel: 0300 060 1911
email york@naturalengland.org.uk

The Council's Countryside Officer is also happy to provide advice on what can be done on an individual basis.

In particular ;

- Hedges are important food sources in winter. When hedge cutting do not cut all hedges every year, cut some every other year to leave berries through the winter.
- Leave odd corners of grass and hedge bottoms long to provide overwintering sites for insects.
- Leave strips around ponds and arable field margins for insects and beetles. These can be cut the following year.
- Plant small areas of bird and nectar seed to provide winter and summer food.
- Adopt winter farmland bird feeding by spreading corn tailings.

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FARMLAND BIRDS

Introduction

Farmland birds are a special factor in farm management and as such are felt to warrant special attention.
Many farmland birds are still in serious decline as a result of modern intensive farming methods. Important factors include high levels of pesticide use, loss of diversity within the farmed landscape, loss of winter stubbles and loss or degradation of boundary habitats. The following population trends have been calculated by the British Trust for Ornithology for the period 1974-1994:

Grey Partridge	83% decline
Skylark	60% decline
Tree Sparrow	88% decline
Linnet	48% decline

Reed Bunting	57% decline
Corn Bunting	extinct from one third of British range

There is good evidence that at least some of these species have declined markedly in the City of York. Species with scattered small populations such as Corn Bunting, Grey Partridge and Skylark are particularly vulnerable to the loss of individual populations.

The fortunes of farmland birds in the City of York are largely determined by EC and UK agricultural policies. Opportunities to conserve such species at a local level are limited. Identification of key areas for farmland birds within the City would allow agri-environmental incentives to be targeted more effectively. Allotments may be of considerable importance to some farmland birds and the potential of this habitat merits further attention. Individual species such as Tree Sparrow may respond to the provision of nesting boxes and winter feeding stations in appropriate locations.

Priority species of declining farmland birds in the City of York include Grey Partridge, Skylark and Corn Bunting. Other species of conservation concern include Lapwing, Turtle Dove, Linnet, Barn Owl and Tree Sparrow.

Current action

A ‘cornfield‘ buffer zone has been introduced as part of the Rawcliffe Bar Park and Ride, to provide habitat for farmland birds such as Grey Partridge, Skylark and Corn Bunting. This is managed as spring-sown arable with no fertiliser and limited herbicide and no pesticide inputs to support weed-rich winter stubbles and standing corn. Wild bird mixes are also sown.

Winter feeding stations at Rawcliffe Meadows, Wigginton and on many farms have been provided specifically for species such as Corn Bunting Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer and Tree Sparrow.

Proposed Action

Carry out a breeding season survey of Grey Partridge, Corn Bunting, Skylark and Tree Sparrow in the City of York outside of the Lower Derwent Valley. This will provide baseline information to monitor population change, help identify significant areas of interest and will allow conservation incentives (Environmental Stewardship, whole farm plans etc) to be targeted upon key areas.

Carry out a survey of breeding birds on allotments in the City of York and provide guidelines for sympathetic management of allotment sites.

Urban fringe areas may support important populations of declining species such as Grey Partridge, Tree Sparrow and Skylark: ensure that development proposals take account of this.

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Species Action Plans

Species Action Plans have been prepared only for those species where there is a specific need for conservation action which can be addressed through the City of York LBAP.

These sps include European protected species such as

Great Crested Newt,
Water Vole,
Otter
Bats.

A species action plan has also been prepared for **Tansy Beetle.** This species is largely confined to the banks of the Ouse around York and as such can be affected by development and actions can be taken to conserve this species through the BAP process.

For other species, particularly those confined to protected sites, the BAP either would not be able to address their conservation needs or there is little scope for additional conservation measures so long as their habitats are adequately protected.

This does not mean that they are not important or that the Council will not take account of their interest, it is simply that it is not possible to consider all things within the scope of the BAP.

Species for which LBAP Species Action Plans are not proposed

The **Dark-bordered Beauty** moth is confined to Strensall Common SSSI, where it has maintained reasonably healthy populations, although recent climatic conditions have put pressure on the population. This species is not considered threatened provided current management of the SSSI is maintained. It is therefore not proposed to produce a SAP.

The house-fly ***Phaonia jaroschewskii*** and the thick-headed fly ***Myopa vicaria*** are known in the City of York only from single records from Strensall Common. In the absence of further data there is little basis for formulating Species Action Plans for these insects. *Myopa vicaria* is likely to be a larval parasitoid of adult Hymenoptera but its biology (eg. host specificity) is not known. *Phaonia jaroschewskii* is associated with lowland peatlands and known elsewhere in Yorkshire from Thorne Moors and Skipwith Common. At the former site it has been recorded in a range of habitats and appears not to be dependent upon *Sphagnum* mires as previously thought (Skidmore, 1996).

Grey Partridge, **Corn Bunting** and **Skylark** share similar conservation requirements and are covered by the SAP for farmland birds, which is also relevant to other declining species such as **Tree Sparrow** and **Corn Bunting.** Similarly, the conservation requirements of **Brown Hare** are broadly similar to those of farmland birds and a separate SAP has not therefore been produced. As with Corn Bunting, some populations also make use of flood-plain hay meadows and would potentially benefit from the HAP for unimproved neutral grasslands.

Reed Bunting and some Corn Bunting populations in the City of York are associated with floodplain hay meadows and the HAPs for unimproved neutral grassland, for wet grassland and fens and swamps is thus also relevant to these species.

Within the City of York, **Whooper Swan**, **Marsh Harrier**, **Ruff**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Quail** and **Baillon's Crake** are largely or entirely confined to the Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve. The reserve is actively managed by English Nature and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the production of separate SAPs for these species is not considered necessary. The HAPs for wet grassland, fens and swamps and unimproved neutral grassland could potentially benefit these species outside the NNR.

Both **Bittern** and **Corncrake** occur within the City of York and have been the subject of special conservation programmes centred on the Lower Derwent Valley. There is little that can be done outside of these areas at present and it is not proposed therefore to produce a SAP for these sps. This will however be kept under review for further consideration.

Spotted Crake may potentially occur in wet swamps outside the Lower Derwent Valley so a specific action point has been included in the HAP for wet grassland, fens and swamps. The conservation requirements of **Water Rail** are encompassed, in general terms, by the same HAP.

Similarly, the conservation requirements of **Snipe** are broadly addressed through the HAPs for wet grassland, fens and swamps. This is a species which can respond readily to restoration of high water levels and a key flagship species for the HAP. It is however sensitive to disturbance as are mainy ground nesting species.

Short-eared Owl, **Hen Harrier** and **Merlin** are scarce winter visitors to the City, most often to extensive grassland and floodplain sites. Other than general habitat conservation (see HAPs for wet grassland, fens and swamps and unimproved neutral grassland) it is difficult to identify specific measures for these species within the scope of the LBAP.

The reasons for the disappearance of **Nightjar** from Strensall Common are unclear, although they may include the loss of heathland on the periphery of the Common. This species could potentially benefit from heathland restoration on afforested sites and a specific action point has been included in the HAP for heathland, acidic grassland and breck.

Amongst the mammals, **Otter** now has a more favourable conservation status in the Vale of York than at any time in the past 50 years. It is felt that regional initiatives such as the Yorkshire Otters and Rivers Project preclude the need for a Species Action Plan for the City of York.The conservation requirements of **Brown Hare** are broadly similar to those of farmland birds and a separate SAP has not been produced; as with Corn Bunting, some populations also make use of flood-plain hay meadows and would potentially benefit from the HAP for unimproved neutral grasslands.

For others, SAPs have been outlined but the scope of these plans is largely confined to monitoring and/or reactive measures should the species become threatened in the LBAP area. Only Action Notes have therefore been included.

These include :

TASTELESS WATER PEPPER (*Persicaria laxiflora)*

Tasteless water pepper, or lax-flowered persicaria (*Persicaria laxiflora*), is a nationally scarce and declining annual plant associated with inundation habitats. It occurs in wetland draw-down zones where long periods of flooding or waterlogging are followed by rapid drying-out in late summer.

The only recently-known localities for this species in the City of York are Fulford Ings and Wheldrake Ings (where it was recorded for the first time in 1997). Tasteless water pepper was formerly more widespread in the York area with old records from drains on the Knavesmire, the banks of the Foss and mudbanks at Foss Islands.

This species is vulnerable to habitat loss through drainage or agricultural improvement. At Fulford Ings, lack of livestock grazing and the encroachment of perennial vegetation in seasonally-flooded hollows and silted-up ditches make the survival of this species unlikely unless appropriate action is taken. *Persicaria* species have a persistent seed bank and disturbance of soil together with removal of perennial vegetation may

allow plants to regenerate. A number of scarce plants with similar habitat requirements have become extinct in the City of York including marsh dock (*Rumex palustris*), golden dock (*R. maritimus*) and small water pepper (*Persicaria minus*).

Proposed Action

Seek agreements to restore sympathetic management of Fulford Ings. The site has been designated a SSSI since 1991 but as yet no management agreements have been negotiated with owners or occupiers.

Prioritise the restoration of sparsely-vegetated, seasonally-flooded habitats where tasteless water pepper is known to occur or has occurred in the recent past.

Establish an ex-situ population of plants grown from seed collected from Fulford Ings so that the species can be re-introduced to this or other suitable sites if necessary.

MARSH CARPET MOTH (*Perizoma sagittata*)

The Marsh Carpet moth is a very localised fenland insect known in Yorkshire only from Askham Bog and Thornton Ellers in the Lower Derwent Valley. Elsewhere in the country it is known from sites in Cambridgeshire, Nottinghamshire and Norfolk.

The larvae of the Marsh Carpet feed on the seeds of meadow-rue, a plant associated with tall-herb fen vegetation. Because meadow-rue flowers and sets seed late in the summer, larval populations may be vulnerable to mowing during this period.

Although there were records from Askham Bog during the late 1980s, the present status of Marsh Carpet at the site is uncertain.

Proposed Action

Survey work is required to determine the present status and distribution of this species, both at Askham Bog and other potential sites where the larval foodplant grows. This is best undertaken by searching for larvae since light trap records do not necessarily indicate the presence of breeding populations. Additional target sites should include Wheldrake Ings, Rawcliffe Meadows/Clifton Ings, Church Ings and Naburn Ings riverbank.

Appropriate management should be considered for any sites found to support Marsh Carpet, ensuring that stands of meadow-rue are not cut until after they have set seed and died back.

WAVED WATER BEETLE (*Agabus undulatus*)

Agabus undulatus, the Waved Water Beetle, is a medium-sized diving beetle with distinctive gold zig-zag markings on its wing cases. It is a rare species in Britain confined to ancient wetlands and secondary habitats (eg. brickponds, fen drains) connected to them.

Although the Waved Water Beetle tolerates some pollution it is incapable of flight and therefore very vulnerable to habitat loss. Unlike most *Agabus* species its larvae are adapted to swimming in open water and this may render them sensitive to fish predation.

This species is very locally distributed in the fenland of East Anglia and south Lincolnshire and was formally known at two sites in the City of York as outlier populations, the only one surviving ones in northern England. It has disappeared from other sites outside its fenland strongholds, eg. in Gloucestershire.

Askham Bog was long renowned as the British centre for this insect, and it could formerly be found in huge numbers at the Bog and in neighbouring clay ponds.

Most of the local sites have been destroyed by reclamation of old clay workings. Two small ponds adjacent to Chapman's Pond, supported very large numbers in the 1970s but have become dried-out and overgrown. Deterioration and loss of aquatic habitats at Askham Bog resulted in diminishing populations within the reserve and it is now no longer present. The remaining brickponds in the south-western suburbs of York have been intensively stocked with fish for angling and the Waved Water Beetle is very unlikely to survive in such habitats. .At least two ponds which formerly supported this species near Fulford have been filled in since the 1970s.

A previously unknown population was re- discovered in the Fulford area but this is confined to a single pond and a nearby ditch and is therefore potentially vulnerable to agricultural run-off, climatic change and successional change).

The Waved Water Beetle is now endangered in the City of York.

Current action

A survey of aquatic Coleoptera at Askham Bog in 2011(funded by City of York Council) has confirmed that *Agabus undulatus* is no longer present at Askham Bog.

Some limited short term conservation measures were carried out in 2011 on its one remaining site but due to the extent of recent summer flooding, it has not been possible to verify whether this work has been successful.

Proposed Action

Carry out a survey of the Fulford site to verify the status of the beetle.

Urgently seek a Management Agreement for the Fulford site to ensure its conservation and allow sensitive habitat restoration work to be undertaken.

Restore the two small ponds adjacent to Chapman's Pond (owned by City of York Council) and consider reintroduction of *Agabus undulatus*.

Consider measures to maintain this species at Askham Bog until medium-term improvements to water and habitat quality are achieved.

The Depressed River Mussel *(Pseudanodonta complanata)*

The Depressed River Mussel (named after a depression on the shell rather than the state of its mind) is an uncommon and localised mollusc found in large, relatively unpolluted lowland hard water rivers. Like many other freshwater mussels it has a parasitic larval stage, apparently associated with cyprinid fish such as perch.

There is no clear evidence that *P. complanata* has declined in Britain but it is considered threatened on a European scale. This country perhaps supports the world's largest population of the species. Recent surveys have improved knowledge of its British distribution and its conservation status may be downgraded as a result. This species is present throughout the Lower Derwent and in the Ouse at least downstream to York City centre. Any developments affecting river habitats could potentially impact upon this species including increased navigation, mineral extraction, water abstraction or pollution.

Action to date

Environment Agency biology staff have been compiling information on the ecology of *Pseudanodonta complanata* and its distribution in the Ouse and Derwent systems.

Proposed Action

Continue to compile information on the ecology of *Pseudanodonta complanata* and record its distribution in the Ouse and Derwent river systems.

Carry out a survey of the Lower Foss for this species.

Ensure that any development affecting river habitats in the City of York takes full account of the conservation requirements of this species including the need to maintain abundant populations of coarse fish as larval hosts. Where appropriate a specialist survey should be undertaken.

LYMNAEA GLABRA **(a mud snail)**

Lymnaea glabra is a mud snail, associated with temporary, base-poor water on acidic soils. It is very localised in Britain and has the status of Red Data Book 2 (Vulnerable). The Vale of York and Humberhead Levels are considered to be the national stronghold of the species. *Lymnaea glabra* is also scarce in continental Europe and included in the IUCN's international Red List.

This species is threatened by habitat loss (eg. due to agricultural intensification) and hydrological change. Because of its requirement for acidic conditions, it could be threatened by agricultural practices such as liming. Conversion of temporary pools into permanent ponds could also result in loss of populations.

Around the turn of the century, *Lymnaea glabra* was known from five sites within the present-day City of York and has been rediscovered at Heslington Tilmire SSSI and may possibly still occur at other localities.

Proposed Action

A survey of potential sites should be undertaken. Target sites should include Strensall Common/World's End, Elvington airfield and Askham Bog.

Any conservation recommendations will depend upon the results of the survey.

RIVER LAMPREY and SEA LAMPREY

River Lamprey and Sea Lamprey are migratory fish which breed in rivers, move downstream as larvae and feed at sea as adults before returning to spawn and die. The adults are parasitic on other fish but the larvae (known as ammocoetes) burrow in silt for several years and feed as detritivores.

Both species are considered threatened in a European context due to the pollution of estuaries, the obstruction of migration routes by barrages, locks and weirs and the loss of spawning habitats. Populations of both have declined in Britain.

Sea Lampreys migrate up the Ouse in small numbers with spawning recorded in the Swale and the Ure. River Lampreys occur in relatively large numbers in the Ouse system with their main spawning areas in the Nidd and the Ure. River Lamprey also occurs in good numbers in the Derwent but Sea Lamprey is now very rare in that river.

The Ouse system is certainly of regional importance for River Lamprey and Sea Lamprey, and possibly of national importance. Nonetheless, populations have declined since huge numbers were trapped on the Ouse and Derwent in the late 19th century for use as fishing bait.

Past action

Environment Agency fisheries staff at York have monitored reports of Sea Lamprey in NE England. The distribution of River Lamprey and Sea Lamprey in North Eastern rivers has been studied as an MSc thesis.

Proposed Action

Ensure that any development affecting the Rivers Ouse or Derwent takes account of the requirements of migratory fish species such as River Lamprey and Sea Lamprey. Obstacles such as new locks, weirs and barrages should be subject to full environmental impact assessment.

Make local authorities with a shared interest in the Ouse and Derwent river systems aware of the importance of these rivers to migratory fish.

Ensure that all lamprey records are forwarded to the Environment Agency.

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Species Action Plans

The Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

Our objective: To contribute to the UK BAP by maintaining York as a key area for Great Crested Newt populations.

Targets:

- **To maintain and increase Great Crested Newt populations in the York area.**
- **To maintain and enhance Great Crested Newt habitat through correct management and the creation of new aquatic and terrestrial habitat.**
- **To improve pond networks and connectivity between sites and populations.**
- **To continue to monitor and survey populations to establish the full extent and range of Great Crested Newts in York.**

Whilst Great Crested Newts have declined in recent years, Britain still supports one of the largest populations in Europe. In suitable conditions, populations can increase quickly. York has a healthy population of Great Crested Newts and therefore has an international responsibility to conserve this species by providing:

- Suitable breeding ponds.
- Adjacent high quality foraging ground.
- Hibernation sites, such as earthworks, scrub, hedges and tussocks.

Ecology

The Great Crested Newt is the largest species of newt in the UK. It can be distinguished from the other native newt species (the Smooth Newt, *Lissotriton vulgaris* and the Palmate Newt, *Lissotriton helveticus*) by its size and colouring. Great Crested Newts are significantly larger at up to 15cm in length and are dark brown or black with dark spots, with a bright orange belly. Males have a prominent crest along the back, and above and below the tail, which is larger during the breeding season.

Like all amphibians, Great Crested Newts rely on ponds and other waterbodies for breeding, but actually spend a large part of their annual lifecycle on land. The breeding season begins as soon as the winter dormancy is over, and newts begin migrating from overwintering habitat to breeding ponds from February-April, but this is influenced by a range of factors, such as temperature and weather conditions. Courtship and egg-laying generally takes place from mid-March to mid-May. A female can lay up to 200 eggs per season over several weeks, carefully folding / wrapping

each egg in a leaf of a submerged plant. Larvae will hatch after around 3 weeks and will continue to develop over the next 2-3 months, feeding on a range of crustaceans, insect larvae, tadpoles and other newt larvae. Adult newts gradually leave the breeding pond from May onwards, with the juveniles having completed metamorphosis (Efts) leaving from August-October.

Whilst on land, Great Crested Newts will be foraging, feeding on a range of invertebrate prey; dispersing; or taking refuge in dense vegetation or under suitable refuge sites. Over winter, newts hibernate and this may last from October to February.

Great Crested Newts often (but not always) inhabit ponds which are part of a larger pond cluster or wider pond network. This allows populations to persist, and they are also better able to cope with some loss of habitat for example through one of the ponds drying up or getting in-filled. This can though complicate conservation efforts as an impact on a single pond can obviously have knock on effects on newts in another nearby pond. High quality terrestrial habitat near to the breeding pond is also essential, especially pasture, as is a lack of barriers to dispersal (e.g. busy roads, fast flowing water courses etc.). Suitable refuge sites and hibernacula commonly include mammal burrows, rock piles, deadwood, deep leaf litter etc. Newts will commonly move between ponds ~250m of each other, and will generally stay within 500m of the breeding site, although they have been known to disperse over much greater distances to colonise new ponds.

Legal Protection:
The Great Crested Newt is a UK BAP priority species and is protected by:

- Annexes 2 and 5 of the EC Habitats Directive.
- Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.
- Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- Appendix 3 of the Bern Convention (Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats).

Threats:
The main threats to Great Crested Newts (both accidental and deliberate) include:

- Loss of habitat through development work and incorrect management and filling in of ponds
- Habitat fragmentation and reduction.
- Disturbance
- Un-lawful killing

- Predation by cats
- Collection by children
- Development
- Invasive species
- Fish
- Pollution
- Chytrid Fungus
- Amphibian Red Leg Disease (Ranavirus)

Local Status & Distribution:
Locally common and widespread (although many populations are isolated due to habitat fragmentation and are declining).

What can be done?
In sites supporting Great Crested Newts, landowners and land managers can ensure the following actions are carried out to safeguard local populations and retain suitable habitat:

- Where mowing is required, cut at a time when amphibians are not vulnerable, i.e. during hot and dry conditions and carry out a high cut (15cm).
- Carry out any pond management work during Autumn/Winter, preferably November/December when newts are out of the ponds and hibernating.
- Ensure refuge sites are retained and build new hibernacula piles. Leave cut timber on site.
- Carry out scrub control around the pond to prevent over-shading.
- Fence areas or reduce stock levels to prevent over grazing or heavy poaching.
- Leave a buffer of rough grassland around the pond, or leave field margins as rough grass.
- Carry out hedgerow restoration and new planting, and improve connectivity between ponds and other suitable terrestrial habitat.
- If the pond is present within woodland, carry out selective coppicing.
- Existing ponds can be re-profiled to allow some deeper areas.
- Create new ponds to strengthen the local pond network.

What has been done?

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
Great Crested newt survey training course	CYC, NEYEDC	2011

Current Action:

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
The protection and enhancement of the existing population through continued advice and implementation of Mitigation schemes as part of the planning process/development management work.	CYC, Land-owners & developers	On-going
Providing advice to landowners on the correct management of habitats to benefit Great Crested Newts, and raising awareness of newt conservation.	CYC, Land owners	On-going
Encourage the creation of new aquatic and terrestrial habitat, again through the planning application process and development work which is also in line with NPPF to create a net gain in biodiversity value wherever possible.	CYC, Land owners & developers	On-going
Higher Level Stewardship Schemes in place on Council owned land with GCN as one of the named target species, and including the creation and management of new and historical ponds and wetland habitat.	CYC, NE, Volunteers	2010-2020
Pond creation schemes looking to increase the local pond network.	CYC,	2011

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The Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*)

Our objective: To contribute to the UK BAP by maintaining a stable Water Vole population in the York area.

Targets:

- **To maintain and increase the Water Vole population within York.**
- **To maintain and enhance Water Vole habitat through correct management techniques, scrub control on banks and the creation of new habitat.**
- **To improve connectivity between sites and create new off-line ponds which can provide refuge sites for voles during times of flooding and to avoid predators.**
- **To continue to monitor and survey populations to establish the full extent and range of Water Voles in York.**

The Water Vole (*Arvicola terrestris*), Ratty of Wind in the Willows fame, has priority species status in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. It was once a frequent inhabitant of the banks of rivers, lakes, ditches and dykes where the gentle 'plop' as it entered the water used to be a common occurrence. However, since the 1900's, the Water Vole population has rapidly declined, one of the largest declines of all current British mammals. A survey by the Vincent Wildlife Trust (1989) revealed that Water Vole populations were absent from 67% of previously occupied areas.

Ecology

The Water Vole is the largest of the British voles. It is herbivorous, feeding largely on lush stems and leaves of a wide range of aquatic and marginal plants including many species of grasses, reeds, rushes, sedges and other wetland plants. During the winter, roots and bark also form an important part of their diet. It is known to feed on over 200 species of plants including some broad-leaved species. Water voles can be found in most freshwater habitats and seem to favour slow-flowing water courses with an earth, stepped or steep bank with tall, lush, bank-side vegetation. Banks must also be free from too much trampling and overgrazing by stock, regular mowing and excessive shading from scrub and trees. They build their nests in extensive burrow systems on the banks of the riverside, ponds and ditches, although can occasionally weave nests above ground in the bases of sedges and reeds. They have very high site specificity, probably due to the suitability of the banks for burrowing, availability of refuge sites for times of flood etc. and a plentiful food source. Because of this, they do not

easily adapt to changes in their habitat, although in some situations they can be quite tolerant to disturbance, particularly in more urban environments.

Voles tend to live in colonies, but a series of continuous territories are established by breeding females in the spring and are marked by latrines. Breeding occurs from March-October with females producing 2-5 litters a year, each with 5-8 young. Males have much larger territories which can overlap with one or more breeding female territories.

Characteristic field signs of water voles include latrines marking range boundaries; distinctive feeding stations with a neat pile of chewed vegetation; burrows; grazed lawns around land holes; above-ground nests; footprints; and runways in the vegetation.

Water Voles can be distinguished from the Brown rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) from its much blunter muzzle, short rounded ears, and well furred tail. Water Voles also swim more buoyantly in the water.

Legal Protection:
Until recently the Water Vole had only limited protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, however this protection was extended in 2008 to include full protection under Schedule 5 and Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Threats:
The main threats that have contributed to their decline in recent years include:

- Predation – this has increased dramatically following the release of the American Mink from fur farms, and domestic cats also prey on Water Vole
- Loss of habitat – this plays a very important role in the decline of the Water Vole. Disturbance to suitable watercourses can wipe out entire populations
- Habitat fragmentation - this means that individuals are less likely to be able to move between groups and Water Vole populations suffer and are less able to recover from disturbance
- Drought and/or flooding – leading to fluctuations in water levels which may have an adverse affect, particularly if there is no suitable refuge habitat nearby such as off-line ponds etc.
- Simultaneous clearance with dredging of the waterside banks damages both habitat and food sources
- Rats

Current Status & Distribution:

Water Voles are fairly widespread within the York area, however in more recent years they have disappeared from many sites where they had previously been recorded. Numbers fluctuate widely depending on winter conditions and flooding.

What can be done?

Many of the Water Vole populations in York are small and very isolated and so are particularly susceptible to changes such as habitat degradation, habitat loss, predation and pollution. These populations are therefore very vulnerable to extinction. Where Water Vole populations exist, land owners and managers can carry out the following actions to help to safeguard populations, extend existing habitat and improve connectivity:

- Alter the mowing regime of banks to allow longer vegetation to develop and do not cut both banks in the same year.
- Avoid overgrazing and trampling of banks through fencing off areas of the watercourse or pond.
- Control bank side scrub to avoid over-shading.
- Create off-stream ponds to act as refuge sites during times of flood and to link with other sites.
- Liaison will also be required with statutory undertakers with regard to drainage issues (e.g. IDB, EA, YW) to ensure that their routine or maintenance work is carried out sensitively and taking Water Voles into account.

What has been done?

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
Bur Dike Water Vole Project – 'Yorventure' funded scheme aimed at securing the existing population. Work included fencing off the watercourse from livestock, scrub control on banks, and altering the mowing regime.	**CYC, YWT, EA**	**2007**
Pond creation schemes looking to increase the local pond network.	**CYC, EA**	**2010-2011**

Current Actions & Projects:

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
The protection and enhancement of the existing local Water Vole population through continued advice and implementation of Mitigation schemes as part of the planning process/development management work.	**CYC, Land/home owners**	**On going**

Providing advice to landowners on the correct management of habitats to benefit Water Voles and raising awareness of Water Vole conservation.	**CYC, Land-owners**	**On going**
Encourage the creation of new Water Vole habitat, again through the planning application process and development work which is also in line with NPPF to create a net gain in biodiversity value wherever possible.	**CYC, home and land owners**	**On going**
Higher Level Stewardship Schemes in place on Council owned land, with Water Voles as one of the named target species, involving the creation of new ponds and ditches, management of bank-side habitat and the control of encroaching scrub.	**CYC, NE, Tenant farmers, TCV volunteers**	**2010-2020**
On going survey work and continue to record sightings and evidence of Water Voles as and when opportunities arise. Forward any new records on to NEYEDC.	**CYC,**	**On going**
Continue to work with and advise CYC drainage engineers, IDB and Yorkshire Water to ensure scheduled work takes account of, and wherever possible, enhances the habitat for Water Vole.	**CYC, IDB, YW**	**On going**
The Swarm project – focussing on the restoration and creation of grassland and fen habitats within the floodplain of the River Ouse in York. This has also included the creation of new ponds and ditches.	**CYC, YWT, SITA Trust**	**2011-2013**

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The Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

Our objective: To establish a stable Otter population within the York area.

Targets:

- **To protect and increase the Otter population within the York area.**
- **To maintain and enhance Otter habitat through correct management and the creation of new Holt and Lying-up sites away from disturbance.**
- **To ensure adequate buffer zones are maintained alongside rivers and waterways and to strengthen river corridors.**
- **To continue to monitor and survey populations to establish the full extent and range of Otter in York.**

The Otter is a carnivorous mammal that inhabits rivers, streams, wetlands and coastal waters. The limiting nature of their food supply means that otters can have very large home ranges. On rivers, a typical range size is 10 - 25km for females and 25 - 50km for males. Female ranges are thought to overlap whereas males' are territorial. This need for a wide geographical range means that a catchment wide approach is essential to otter conservation.

Ecology

The otter is one of our largest predators in Britain, and well adapted to a semi-aquatic lifestyle. They have webbed feet, a long rudder-like tail and thick, waterproof, and highly insulating fur. Their diet is predominantly fish although they will also eat a range of crustaceans, small mammals, birds and amphibians. They are usually solitary, territorial and most active at dusk or during the night, although they can also be seen during the day. Ranges can be very large along the river corridor and will also include smaller tributaries and nearby ponds and wooded/scrub habitat. Otters will often use a variety of lying-up sites or 'holts' during day, which can be covered or un-covered, away from high levels of disturbance. Such holt sites have been found under the root systems of bank-side trees, within dense vegetation, under a pile of rocks or a cavity within an old river wall, or a hole in the bank. They have also been known to use pipes, and old buildings.

Separate breeding holts which are more permanent, secure and free from disturbance are used by the female to have and rear her young. These

breeding sites are not always close to the water, but can be traditional sites, which the otter will return to year after year. Otters do not hibernate, and breeding can occur throughout the year. Typically 1-4 cubs are born. The young are in the water by 10 weeks, but they will remain dependent on their mother for 1 year, and so females will often only breed once every two years.

An Otters' main requirements are:

- A plentiful food supply from a variety of habitats depending on the season of the year.
- Secure, undisturbed breeding and resting sites in close proximity to good food supplies.
- Good water quality so as to ensure a good food supply with minimal pollutants to ensure poisons do not build up within the otter and effect life expectancy and breeding success.
- Freedom from accidental mortality such as road deaths.

Although Otters are elusive creatures and not often seen, signs of their presence along a watercourse can be found in the form of otter spraint (the sweet smelling, black tar-like droppings made up predominantly of fish bones and scales, which are deposited in prominent locations to mark their range); footprints on sandy or muddy riverbanks; and suitable lying-up sites.

Otters can be distinguished from the American mink (*Neovision vison*) by its size, shape and colouration – Otters are larger and broader, with paler grey-brown fur, and a pale chest and throat. The spraint of mink is much fouler smelling, and tends to contain more mammal hair/bones.

Current Status & Distribution:

Otter Populations thrived throughout the UK until the 1960's when it was noticed that numbers were declining at an alarming rate. This population crash was thought to be due to poisoning from agricultural pesticides that drained into river systems. In York, Otter are present on the River Foss and River Ouse as well as their tributaries. They are often recorded in off-lying ponds, particularly those stocked with fish. Recent sightings have also been recorded within the city centre area, including of mother and cubs. Unfortunately, there have been a high number of road casualties in recent years.

Threats:

Contributing factors to the decline in Otter populations have included:

- Loss of habitat through urban development and agricultural intensification

- Continued hunting pressure & persecution
- Accidental deaths – such as road kills, and drowning in eel nets
- Disturbance of breeding sites through recreational activities
- Water pollution & poisoning - Otters are carnivores at the top of their food chain, and so any poisons present in their prey are retained and build up to dangerous, often fatal, levels
- River-bank engineering works
- Increased grazing pressure of riparian habitats

Legal Protection:
The Otter receives special protection under The Habitat Regulations 2010 and section 9 (4) (b) (c) and (5) of The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it illegal to kill, injure or take an otter or destroy or obstruct access to its resting places. It's listing in annex 2 of The European Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) for sites supporting important Otter populations.

The Common Otter is also a Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

What can be done?
Otter conservation can be supported by maintaining existing habitat along the river corridor where otters are known to be present, and by creating suitable new habitat. Some of the things which can be done to achieve this include:

- Maintaining buffers along the river corridor, including undisturbed areas of dense vegetation which would provide additional cover for wildlife, away from public use.
- Creating new holt sites. This can be done through the construction of an artificial otter holt, made from timber or recycled materials in a suitable, undisturbed area.
- Planting up new scrub habitat, particularly around new holt sites.
- Fencing to prevent livestock poaching and grazing of certain areas of the riverbank to maintain suitable cover. Fencing can also be installed to prevent otters crossing busy roads in order to reduce road mortalities.
- In order to contribute to on-going monitoring, and to help with conservation efforts, all otter sightings should be recorded.

What has been done?

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
'Greenprints' 16-25 year old project focussing on the maintenance and safeguarding of the otter population on the River Foss, including the installation of otter fencing to reduce likelihood of road mortalities.	CYC, SITA Trust, Volunteers	2008
The creation of artificial otter holts on privately owned land by the river.	CYC, Land owners, BTCV	

Current Action:

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
The protection and enhancement of the existing local Otter population through continued advice and implementation of Mitigation schemes as part of the planning process/development management work.	CYC, Land/home owners	On going
Providing advice to landowners on the correct management of habitats to benefit otter, and raising awareness of otter conservation.	CYC, Land-owners	On going
Encourage the creation of new holt sites and habitat, away from disturbance, again through the planning application process and development work which is also in line with NPPF to create a net gain in biodiversity value wherever possible.	CYC, home and land owners	On going
Higher Level Stewardship Schemes in place on Council owned and private land, which has involved the creation of new holt sites	CYC, NE, Tenant farmers, TCV volunteers	2010-2020
On going survey work and continue to record sightings and evidence of otter as and when opportunities arise. Forward any new records on to NEYEDC.	CYC, YWT, Local residents	On going
The Swarm project – focussing on the restoration and creation of grassland and fen habitats within the floodplain of the River Ouse in York.	CYC, YWT, SITA Trust	2011-2013
Continue to work with and advise CYC drainage engineers, IDB and Yorkshire Water to ensure scheduled work takes account of, and wherever possible, enhances the habitat for otter.	CYC, IDB, YW	On-going

Create a new otter pass at the confluence to allow safe movement between the River Ouse and River Foss without crossing the road.	**CYC, EA**	**proposed**

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Bats (various species)

Our objective: To ensure a net gain in the bat populations within York and to improve the extent and quality of habitats available.

Targets:

- **To maintain and enhance bat habitat through correct management and the creation of new roosting and foraging habitat.**
- **To continue to monitor and survey populations to establish the extent and range of bat species in York.**
- **To strengthen commuting corridors and improve connectivity between sites.**

There are currently 17 species of bat breeding in Britain, 9 of which can be found locally. Each species has its own particular requirements, but as a group they may be found within all habitats. Some species often rely on and use buildings for roosting, and so bats have a special connection with humans. During the past century most species are thought to have declined dramatically. However, it is difficult to quantify the losses.

Ecology

Bats are one of the most diverse of all of the mammalian groups. In the UK there are only two families, and the species which have been recorded in Yorkshire all belong to the same one - the Vespertilionidae family, or the 'evening bats'. All UK bats feed on insects and other small invertebrates, and are nocturnal, emerging from their roosts around sunset and returning at dawn. The times at which bats emerge from and return to their roosts varies between species. Bats will also use different roost sites throughout the year depending on the time of year, the purpose of the roost and their social requirements. Over the winter, when insects are scarce and difficult to find, bats will hibernate in cool dark places with a stable temperature, such as underground sites, trees and buildings. This helps to minimise heat and energy loss, which is an important consideration for small mammals. Hibernation usually takes place between October and March? They will start to become more active during March when temperatures start to increase, foraging on milder nights, but will go into torpor if temperatures are low.

In late spring-summer, females gather together and form maternity roosts to give birth and rear their young. Often, all of the females from one area

will gather together to form these colonies. Mating takes place the previous Autumn/winter, but females are able to store the sperm live in their bodies until the following spring (when temperatures start to increase) and they become pregnant. Gestation is typically between 6 and 9 weeks, depending on weather conditions. Normally, only one infant is born each year in May - June, and the young is dependent on their mother's milk until it is old enough to fly and hunt for itself, normally after 4-5 weeks (July-Aug). Because of this dependency, maternity roosts are particularly vulnerable to disturbance and if disturbed females can abandon the roost completely and therefore also abandon their young. With large numbers of females coming together to form these roosts, any negative change or damage to this site is devastating and can affect all of the females from one area. During this time, the males and non-breeding females will roost separately, often close by, and either individually or in very small numbers. Other roosts utilized throughout the year include night roosts (used between periods of foraging); temporary day roosts; summer roosts; mating roosts; and feeding perches. Being long-lived animals they are site faithful, particularly with regard to maternity and hibernation roosts, and return to the same places year after year to roost. Some of our historic York roost records are still in use and have been for at least 30 years and are likely to be much older. Mating and swarming takes place in Autumn, just before going to their hibernation roosts. We are not aware of any major swarming sites within the York area.

As well as suitable roosting sites, good quality foraging habitat and strong commuting networks linking between habitats and sites are essential. The different bat species in this area have different adaptations to their preferred habitats, prey and hunting techniques, and therefore have different requirements. The main habitat preferences of the bat species recorded in York are outlined in the table below. Good bat foraging and commuting habitat includes (but is not limited to):

- Mature trees
- Gardens and allotments
- Hedgerows
- Ponds and waterbodies
- River corridors
- Woodland
- Parkland

Legal Protection:

All bats and their roosts are afforded special protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This protection applies to roosts all year

round, even when the bats are seasonally absent. Any work proposed on a dwelling house which might affect bats or their roosts will require consultation with Natural England. In other buildings, structures and trees known (or suspected) to support a bat roost, a European Protected Species Licence from Natural England may be required. 7 of the UK Bat species currently have Priority Species status in the UK BAP, and 3 of these have been recorded within the York area.

Status and Distribution:

In York, there are thought to be up to 10 bat species present although some have only been recorded on a few occasions. It is not known whether all of these are breeding within the York area. Common and Soprano Pipistrelles are the most commonly encountered species in the York area and are often found within the urban environment roosting in dwelling houses. They are regularly seen foraging over parklands and open spaces, and residential gardens also play an important role in providing good quality foraging habitat, and green wedges and corridors. Greater species diversity is seen moving out towards the outskirts of York, leading out to more open countryside and where there are more varied habitats.

York's bats:

Species	Status	Habitat preference
Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*	Common & widespread. Breeding	Crevice dweller. Often associated with dwelling houses. Adapted to urban habitats.
Soprano Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*	Common & widespread. Breeding	As Common Pipistrelle although they are found in more suburban environments and usually closer to water.
Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentonii*	Widespread	Hole dweller. Often recorded roosting in trees, bridges, rarely in buildings. Associated with water.
Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*	Present and breeding	Hole dweller. Mainly roosts in trees and bridges, rarely in houses. Open flying and associated with more open countryside.
Brown Long-eared Bat *Plecotus auritus*	Widespread Breeding	Hole dweller, requiring space to fly around within a roof void. Often found roosting in old barns and buildings and trees.
Natterer's Bat *Myotis nattereri*	Present	Crevice dweller. Recorded roosting in old buildings and barns towards the outskirts of York. Very secretive and light sensitive.
Whiskered/Brandts *Myotis mystacinus/brantii*	Present	Crevice dwellers. Only a few records of roosting towards the outskirts of York in old farm buildings.
Nathusius' Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii*	A few recent records (in flight only)	Crevice dweller. No records of roosting in York but have been recorded close to open countryside and near to the river.
Alcathoe's Bat *Myotis alcathoe*	A few recent records (in flight only)	Crevice dweller. No records of roosting but was recorded at one site in south York close to open countryside.

The 'in flight' records of Alcathoe's Bats (*Myotis alcathoe*) within the York area are unconfirmed and subject to further research.

Threats:

The main threats to bats (both accidental and deliberate) include:

- Loss/destruction of roosting sites and foraging habitat due to development, building maintenance work, tree work and removal
- A reduction of food sources
- Habitat fragmentation and the severing/disruption of commuting routes
- Artificial lighting
- The use of pesticides and timber chemical treatment
- Predation
- Persecution
- Disease
- Entanglement in modern breathable roofing membranes (BRMs)

What can be done?

There are many ways in which bats can be encouraged and to ensure that existing habitat is protected and enhanced. Some of these actions are included below, and all will help with the conservation of a declining species.

- Create new roosting opportunities for bats through building in habitat features into a building, for example special bat access tiles, bat bricks or through adapting a section of soffit box to provide good roosting space for bats. Bat boxes can also be put up on buildings and/or in trees.
- Create new ponds.
- Restore existing hedgerows through gapping up and maintain as a tall, thick, continuous hedge. Plant up new native mixed wildlife hedgerows to connect fragmented habitats and to strengthen the existing local hedgerow network. Include some boundary trees within the hedgerow.
- Where lighting cannot be avoided, design any lighting schemes so that there is no direct illumination of roost entrances, foraging areas or commuting routes. Ensure that dark corridors are retained for continued foraging and commuting. Reduce/minimise any light spillage as much as possible, through the type of light used, column height, and the use of hoods or cowls etc. to direct light to where it is needed.
- Manage woodland for foraging bats – e.g. maintain open glades and rides, restore wet areas etc.
- Plant up street trees.
- Wherever possible, retain veteran trees which may provide good roosting opportunities. Where there are perceived public safety

issues, consider alternatives to felling, such as crown reduction or pollarding.

- Do not use BRMs in roofs where there are existing roosts, or where new roosts are being created within the roof of a building.
- Plant native, nectar-rich plant species in gardens, particularly with night scented flowers to attract more insects.

What has been done?

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
Monitoring of important bat roost sites such as bridge sites and other SINCs designated for their bat interest.	**CYC, NYBG**	

Current Actions & Projects:

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
The protection and enhancement of the existing local bat population through continued advice and implementation of Mitigation schemes as part of the planning process/development management work.	**CYC, Land/home owners**	**On going**
Providing advice to landowners on the correct management of habitats to benefit bats and invertebrates, and raising awareness of bat conservation.	**CYC, Land-owners**	**On going**
Encourage the creation of new roost sites and habitat, again through the planning application process and development work which is also in line with NPPF to create a net gain in biodiversity value wherever possible.	**CYC, home and land owners**	**On going**
Higher Level Stewardship Schemes in place on Council owned land, with bats as one of the named target species, involving the creation and management of habitats with high invertebrate interest to increase the food supply.	**CYC, NE, Tenant farmers, TCV volunteers**	**2010-2020**
The University of York bat research projects, continuing to monitor and study bat populations, their habitat preferences, and response to habitat enhancement schemes.	**The University of York, CYC**	**2010-**

On going survey work and monitoring of bat populations in York through the local bat group and volunteers. Forward any new records on to NEYEDC.	**NYBG and other volunteers**	**On going**
The Swarm project – focussing on the restoration and creation of grassland and fen habitats within the floodplain of the River Ouse in York particularly to benefit invertebrate species.	**CYC, YWT, SITA Trust**	**2011-2013**
Wildflowering York – a number of projects across York looking to increase the wildflower coverage across the city.	**CYC, YWT, volunteers**	**2009-**

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The Tansy Beetle (Chrysolina graminis)

Our objective: To ensure a net gain in the Tansy Beetle populations within York, and to improve the extent and quality of habitats available.

Targets:

- **To protect and increase the current Tansy Beetle population within the York area.**
- **To maintain and enhance Tansy Beetle habitat through correct management, invasive species control and the creation of new habitat.**
- **To extend the current range of Tansy Beetle along the banks of the River Ouse and elsewhere.**
- **To continue to monitor and survey populations to establish the full extent and range of Tansy Beetle in York.**

Gaining its name from the Tansy plant (*Tanacetum vulgare*) on which it almost exclusively feeds, the Tansy Beetle (*Chrysolina graminis*) is a large iridescent, green leaf beetle which, as far as we know, is now only found along a short stretch of the River Ouse around York and Selby. Populations have declined dramatically in recent years, both in Britain and across its worldwide range.

Ecology

Beetles are approximately 8-10mm and can be distinguished from the dock beetle (*Gastrophysa viridula*) by its size; and from the mint beetle (*Chrysolina herbacea*) by its colouration and appearance of the elytra (wing case). The lifecycle of the beetle is annual and the species over winter underground at the base of the food plant. Adult beetles emerge March/April time and are active on Tansy plants particularly on warm, sunny days from April-June where they feed, mate and lay eggs. The eggs will hatch between May and July, and the larvae will feed hungrily on Tansy plants before making their way to the base of the plant where they burrow underground to pupate. The new generation beetles emerge mid-late July and can be seen until September when they once again burrow underground and overwinter until the following spring. Both adults and larvae feed mainly on tansy, although they have been recorded feeding on other riverside species such as water mint and gypsywort. They require relatively large clumps of tansy and are often found where there are other suitable tansy clumps available within 200m. Beetles have only been

recorded in riverside habitats, and are generally associated with open areas of bank-side which are not subject to overgrazing.

Legal Protection:
The beetle is a species of principle importance for the purpose of conserving biodiversity' covered under section 41 of the NERC Act 2006, and a Nationally Scarce or 'Notable: A' species. It is proposed to upgrade this conservation status, to 'Endangered' or 'Critically Endangered' under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Tansy Beetle is also a UK BAP Priority Species.

Status & Distribution:
The Tansy Beetle was once much more widespread throughout Britain but is now restricted to approximately 40km of the banks of the River Ouse around York and Selby. The last 25 years has seen the disappearance of all other populations in Britain, and even in and around York the beetles range has significantly reduced since the mid 20th Century. In York, strong-holds include Fulford Ings, Clifton and Rawcliffe, and Acaster Malbis, where there are substantial clumps of Tansy plants on the bank tops.

Threats:
The main threats to Tansy Beetle include:

- The food plant being deliberately pulled or sprayed in mistake of Ragwort
- Overgrazing
- Tansy clumps being out-competed and over-shaded by excessive willow growth or invasive species
- Incorrect management of the riverbank, including mowing at a time of the year when beetles are most vulnerable (e.g. July-August)
- Predation
- Flooding and drought
- Habitat fragmentation and isolation of Tansy clumps

What can be done?
Where land backs onto the river, land owners and managers can ensure that this rare beetle's habitat is safeguarded through the following actions:

- Maintaining large clumps of tansy.
- Reducing grazing pressures through stock management and/or fencing off areas around extensive tansy clumps.
- If riverbanks need to be mown, mow late June – mid July (during pupation) or even better, delay until October onwards whilst the beetles are underground hibernating, and avoiding large clumps of tansy.

- Wherever possible, extend existing tansy clumps and create new ones through new planting and re-seeding.
- Control encroaching scrub and invasive species around existing populations.

What has been done?

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
Grow More Tansy Project to increase numbers and distribution of food plants and encourage people to grow and plant tansy.	**FORM**	
Formation of The Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG) to initiate and oversee conservation efforts to stabilise and expand current beetle distributions.	**CYC, NYCC, The University of York, EA, NT, Buglife**	**2008**
The Tansy Beetle Project – SITA Trust grant funded work to manage 7 existing Tansy Beetle sites and enhance 3 further sites. Including willow coppicing, tansy planting, invasive species control and creation of fenced enclosures.	**CYC, NYCC, The University of York, EA, Buglife, SITA Trust, YWT**	**2009-2012**
Production of an information leaflet detailing current threats and ways to help aimed at the general public and land owners/managers.	**TBAG**	**2012**

Current actions & Projects:

Action/Project Description	Who?	When?
The protection and enhancement of the existing local Tansy Beetle population through continued advice and implementation of Mitigation schemes as part of the planning process/development management work.	**CYC, Land/home owners**	**On going**
Providing advice to landowners on the correct management of habitats, including protecting Tansy plants from over grazing and being over-shaded by invasive species. Raise awareness of the conservation of the Tansy Beetle.	**CYC, Land-owners**	**On going**
Encourage the creation of new habitat, again through the planning application process and development work which is also in line with NPPF to create a net gain in biodiversity value wherever possible.	**CYC, home and land owners**	**On going**
Higher Level Stewardship Schemes in place on Council owned and private land, with the Tansy Beetle as one of the named target species, involving Tansy planting, willow coppicing and weed control, as well as the installation of fenced enclosures to act as 'Tansy Arks'.	**CYC, NE, Tenant farmers, TCV volunteers**	**2010-2020**

On going survey work and monitoring of beetle populations in York, led by The University of York research projects and annual population surveys. Continue to record sightings as and when opportunities arise, and forward any new records on to NEYEDC.	**The University of York, CYC, TBAG**	**On going**
The continuation of the Tansy Beetle Action Group 'TBAG' set up to initiate and oversee conservation efforts to stabilise and expand current beetle distributions.	**CYC, NYCC, The University of York, EA, Buglife, NT, YWT, BIAZA**	**2008-**
The Swarm project – focussing on the restoration and creation of grassland and fen habitats within the floodplain of the River Ouse in York particularly to benefit invertebrate species.	**CYC, YWT, SITA Trust**	**2011-2013**
Wildflowering York – a number of projects across York looking to increase the wildflower coverage across the city, including growing-on, and planting more tansy plants along the River Ouse.	**CYC, YWT, volunteers**	**2009-**
Continue to work with and advise CYC drainage engineers, IDB and Yorkshire Water to ensure scheduled work takes account of, and wherever possible, enhances the habitat for Tansy Beetle.	**CYC, IDB, YW**	**On going**
The translocation and captive breeding programme of beetles to enhance the existing population. The formation of Ark sites and release of beetles.	**CYC, TBAG, Buglife, YMT**	**On going**

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Aculeate Hymenoptera: Bees and Wasps

This page is currently in preparation.

Rare Flowers:

A number of species of very rare flowers, at least in the York context, have been recorded. However, many of these are from old or individual records. As such it is difficult to establish a Species Action Plan or to ascertain the exact status and viability in York.

However, they are still be of biodiversity interest and it is important that they are given consideration

Plants are rare because of many factors. It may be because the conditions that suit them are rare, or it may be that the species is naturally rare and, for whatever reason, it does not flourish. This is the case with Great Water Parsnip. With others it may be that management has removed it or prevents its spread and this is likely to be the case with plants such as Meadow Rue.

When considering what can be done about maintaining the populations, one consideration will be the possibility of enhancing the existing population and re-introducing it to other suitable sites. This last option raises the always very thorny question of re-introduction. Guidance on this must be agreed, not only for the above plants but also for other species as well. It is unlikely to be the same for each species and must take account of a range of issues, including the effect of global warming, but a general policy would be of value in guiding future introductions

Threats

The primary threats to any species that is reduced to only one location has to be accidental loss from one off development, inappropriate management or the accidental picking by a member of the public.

However, other threats include the loss of reproductive viability because of the small population and the potential loss because of a natural occurrence such as a drought or heavy rainfall.

Current Action

At present, little concerted effort is made to do anything with regard to these species other than to monitor their presence (or otherwise). Some attempt has been made to protect and increase the Great Water Parsnip population but no sustained effort has yet been achieved.

Proposed Action
Carry out a desktop study to ascertain the species likely to be considered as rare and assess the viability for action to be taken.

Where any rare sps is found, consideration will be given to its protection, conservation and appropriate enhancement to mitigate for any potential harm.

What you can do to help:

Don't pick wild flowers. Enjoy them in their natural environment.

Species of possible interest include :

Heath Cudweed *Gnaphalium sylvaticum*
Great Water Parsnip *Sium latifolium*
Creeping Marshwort *Apium repens*

Rare Invertebrates:

A number of species of very rare insects, at least in the York context, have been recorded. However, many of these are from old or individual records or where their ecology is little known. As such it is difficult to establish a Species Action Plan or to ascertain the exact status and viability in York.

However, they are still be of biodiversity interest and it is important that they are given consideration

As for plants, insects are rare because of many factors. It may be because the conditions that suit them are rare, or it may be that the species is naturally rare and, for whatever reason, it does not flourish. With others it may be that management has removed it or prevents its spread.

When considering what can be done about maintaining the populations, one consideration will be the possibility of enhancing the existing population and re-introducing it to other suitable sites. This last option raises the always very thorny question of re-introduction. Guidance on this must be agreed for any species. It is unlikely to be the same for each species and must take account of a range of issues, including the effect of

global warming, but a general policy would be of value in guiding future introductions

Threats

The primary threats to any species that is reduced to only one location has to be accidental loss from one off development, inappropriate management or the accidental picking by a member of the public.

However, other threats include the loss of reproductive viability because of the small population and the potential loss because of a natural occurrence such as a drought or heavy rainfall.

Current Action

At present, little concerted effort is made to do anything with regard to these species other than to monitor their presence (or otherwise). Some work has been made to protect and the habitat for the Waved Water Beetle and Tansy Beetle has had extensive work done but no sustained effort has yet been made for many species.

Proposed Action

Carry out a desktop study to ascertain the species likely to be considered as rare and assess the viability for action to be taken.

Where any rare sps is found, consideration will be given to its protection, conservation and appropriate enhancement to mitigate for any potential harm.

Species already known that fall into this category include :

Amara famelica (ground beetle)
Dromius sigma (ground beetle)
Panagaeus cruxmajor (Crucifix ground beetle)
Agabus uliginosus (diving beetle)
Andrena ruficrus (mining bee)
Dytiscus dimidiatus (water beetle)
Limnophila fasciata (crane fly)
Paraphotistus nigricornis (a click beetle)

Problem Species:

These pages have not yet been completed, however, below are links to web pages concerning each of the sps indicated, the problems that they cause and means of eradication or control.
Where appropriate, the Council will be developing strategies to deal with the problem species.

Himalayan Balsam

Japanese Knotweed

Giant Hogweed

Australian Stonecrop

Water Fern

American Mink

Signal/Marbled Crayfish

Floating Pennywort

Sudden Oak Death fungi

Alder Root Disease

Common Ragwort

Chalara

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

BIAZA	British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums
CYC	City of York Council
EA	Environment Agency
FORM	Friends of Rawcliffe Meadows
IDB	Internal Drainage Board
NE	Natural England
NEYEDC	North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
NT	National Trust
NYBG	North Yorkshire Bat Group
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
TBAG	Tansy Beetle Action Group
TCV	The Conservation Volunteers
YMT	Yorkshire Museum Trust
YW	Yorkshire Water
YWT	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
YNET	York Natural Environment Trust

PARISH BIODIVERSITY COMMUNITY PAGES

Wildlife Sites By Parish/ Ward	SSSI	SINC	SLI			
Ward/Parish Council	**No**	**No**	**No**	**Area of SSS1**	**Area of SINC**	**Area of SLI**
Wheldrake Ward	**2**	**16**	**26**	**142.7**	**197.2**	**170.2**
Deighton		2			8.80	
Elvington	1	6	16		39.00	126.8
Naburn	1	3	4	6.7	18.4	30.3
Wheldrake	1	5	6	136.00	131.00	13.1
Derwent Ward	**1**	**12**	**13**		**60.46**	**84.98**
Dunnington		3	5		27.36	27.80
Kexby	1	7	6		32.40	56.66
Holtby		2	2		0.70	0.52
Heslington Ward	**1**	**5**	**4**	**46.67**	**194.40**	**81.5**
Heslington	1	4	4	46.67	38.9	81.5
Bishopthorpe Ward	**1**	**7**	**3**	**38.3**	**61.8**	**17.5**
Bishopthorpe		5	1		36.10	16.00
Acaster Malbis	1	2	2	38.30	25.70	1.50
Fulford Ward	**2**	**3**	**3**	**25.99**	**10.36**	5.11
Fulford	2	3	3	25.99	5.25	5.11
Rural West York Ward		**13**	**33**		**19.13**	**37.1**
Askham Bryan		2	4		0.4	2.8
Askham Richard		1	3		0.9	2.3
Copmanthorpe		5	8		10.1	9.7
Hessay		2			0.23	
Nether Poppleton		2	6		3.7	12.2
Rufforth & Knapton			10			6.10
Upper Poppleton		1	2		1.80	4.0
Rawcliffe and Clifton Without Ward		**5**	**14**		**64.65**	**52.5**
Clifton Without		2	7		58.75	4.3
Rawcliffe		3	2		6.1	23.7
Skelton			5			24.50
Haxby and Wigginton Ward			**16**		**5.6**	**9.4**
Haxby			3		5.6	
Wigginton			13			9.40

Huntington and New Earswick Ward		**4**	**24**		**10.1**	**37.5**
Huntington		3	18		9.3	29.6
New Earswick		1	6		0.8	7.9
Strensall Ward	**1**	**12**	**23**	**578.75**	**142.97**	**119.5**
Earswick		1			1.00	
Strensall & Towthorpe	1	6	14	578.75	63.7	26.5
Stockton-on-the-Forest		5	11		78.27	93.0
Heworth Without Ward			**2**			**1.7**
Heworth Without			2			1.70
Osbaldwick Ward		**1**	**5**		**2.2**	**10.19**
Murton			3			4.85
Osbaldwick		1	2		2.2	5.34
Acomb Ward		**2**			**1.10**	
Acomb		2			1.10	
Clifton Ward		**1**			**0.00**	
Clifton		1			0.00	
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe Ward	**1**	**5**	**12**	**44.70**	**46.8**	**25.1**
Dringhouses & Woodthorpe	1	5	12	44.70	46.8	25.1
Fishergate Ward			4			**34.70**
Fishergate			4			34.70
Guildhall Ward			**2**			**14.30**
Guildhall			2			14.30
Heworth Ward						
Heworth Without						
Holgate Ward		**2**	**4**		**1.40**	14.75
Holgate		2	4		1.40	14.75
Hull Road Ward		**0**			**0.00**	
Hull Road		0			0.00	
Micklegate Ward		**1**	**3**		**6.00**	4.3
Micklegate		1	3		6.00	4.3
Westfield Ward		1			1.70	
Westfield		1			1.70	

Linear Sites across boundaries		**2**	**6**		**18km.**	**11.00**

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PARISH SITES

ACASTER MALBIS

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
10	Church Ings	1.70		Tansy Beetle /Fen
36	Stub Wood	24.00		Ancient Woodland
Sites of Local Interest				
255	Poads Firs - Broad Lane	0.80		Secondary woodland with Bluebells
205	Stub Wood Fen	0.70		Re-established Fen
SSSI	Acaster South Ings	38.30		
Total		65.50		

Acombe

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
104	Fishpond Wood	1.00		Fen, invert interest
106	Danebury Crt	0.10		Neutral grassland
Site of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total		1.10	0.00	

ASKHAM BRYAN

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
196	Ring Rd Pond	0.40		Pond and swamp
197	West Wood Lane (AB1)		1000	Hedges
Sites of Local Interest				
167	The Parks	0.50		Semi natural Bluebell Wood
214	Askham Moor Lane Wood	0.30		Semi natural Bluebell Wood
268	A64/A1036 Interchange-verges	2.00	2000	Neutral grassland
Ask2	Askham Fields Lane		370	Hedgerow
SSSI				
Total		3.20	3000.00	

ASKHAM RICHARD

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
215	Taylorhall Field Plantation	0.90		Semi natural ancient woodland
Sites of Local Interest				
102	Whitehouse Farm Close	0.20		Neutral grassland
165	Woodland adjacent to Askham Grange Prison	2.10		Mature deciduous Plantation
AR1	Askham Richard	230		Hedgerow
SSSI				
Total		3.20	0.00	

BISHOPTHORPE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
3	ArchBishops Palace Grounds	5.30		Parkland, acid grassland and pond
5	Bishopthorpe Ings	15.50		Flood Meadow
194	Middlethorpe Ings	12.00		Flood Meadow
210	Middlethorpe Crematorium	3.00		Neutral grassland, swamp and pond.
211	Middlethorpe Manor Lake	0.30		Pond
Sites of Local Interest				
257	Temple Hill Farm	16.00		Unimproved enclosure landscape
Total		52.10		

CLIFTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
13	Clifton Bridge			Bats
Site of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total		0.00	0.00	

COPMANTHORPE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
1	A64/A1036 Interchange - Roundabout	1.00		Neutral grassland
15	Copmanthorpe Wood	6.00		Semi natural ancient woodland and hedges.
169	Hagg Wood (Cop)	1.40		Semi natural ancient woodland
249	Bond Hill Ash Farm Fen	1.3		Fen and pond
206	Moor Lane Railway Verge Copmanthorpe	0.40	1000	Calcareous grassland
Sites of Local Interest				
189	Copmanthorpe New Rd Verges	0.80	550	Reseeded wildflower verge
207	Drome Lane Field	0.50		Neutral grassland
208	Drome Lane Hay Meadow Copmanthorpe	1.50		Semi improved Neutral grassland
209	Balancing Ponds - A64 Ring Rd Roundabout	0.10		Ponds
219	Pond by Railway west of Copmanthorpe Wood	0.50		Ponds
246	Drome Lane Hayfield	1.30		Neutral grassland
252	Copmanthorpe Moor Lane fields	3.00		Semi improved neutral grassland and pond
268	A64/A1036 Interchange-verges	2.00	2000	Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		19.80	3550.00	

CLIFTON WITHOUT

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
12	Clifton Backies	14.75		Neutral grassland and scrub
14	Clifton Ings	44.00		Flood meadow
Sites of Local Interest				
45	Burton Green Meadow Ext to Backies	0.40		Neutral grassland
46	Bootham Stray Adj to Backies	1.50		Semi-improved Neutral grassland and ponds
136	Clifton Hospital Orchard/pond	0.60		Marsh and orchard
137	The Dormouse Orchard	0.30		Orchard
139	Bootham Stray Pond	0.10		Great Crested Newt
245	Wig Rd/Ring Rd Rdabout	0.60		Neutral grassland
266	Balancing Ponds - Clifton Moor	0.80		Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		63.05	0.00	

DEIGHTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
27	Moreby Far Wood	0.80		Ancient Woodland
43	York-Selby Cycle Track	8.00	4005	Scrub, grassland Mosaic
Sites of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total		8.80	4005.00	

DUNNINGTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
19	Hassacarr Pond	0.50		Pond and Great Crested Newt
30	Rabbit Warren Wood	26.80		Oak, Birch Woodland and relict heath
273	Dunnington Rd Verge North	0.06	125	Neutral grassland
Sites of Local Interest				
99	Dunnington Rd Verge Noddle Hill	0.5	400.00	Neutral grassland
58	Dunnington Meadow	0.80		Neutral grassland
145	Hedge by Hassacar Pond		50	Invertebrate interest
158	Grimston Wood	26.40		Conifer plantation with relict heath
260	Grimston Hill A1079 Rd Verge	0.10	100	Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		55.16	675.00	

DRINGHOUSES

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
2	Acomb Wood Meadow	0.90		Neutral grassland
20	Hob Moor	39.00		Semi improved neutral grassland
23	Knavesmire Stables Meadow	1.00		Semi improved neutral grassland
97	Sim Hill Tip	5.9		Semi improved neutral grassland
264	Cherry Lane		340	Hedges
Site of Local Interest				
119	Chapmans Pond	2.80		Open water
120	Mayfield Clay Pit	1.00		Open water
121	Hoggs Pond	6.70		Open water
127	Dringhouses Sidings	2.50		Birch woodland on PFA
133	Askham/Moor Lane Roundabout	2.00		Reseeded wildflower grassland
134	Mayfields Open Space	1.60		Reseeded wildflower grassland
166	Acomb Wood ext	1.10		Native woodland plantation
168	Little Hob Moor	0.10		Reseeded wildflower grassland
232	Acomb Wood	3.00		Semi natural woodland
256	Marshal's Pond	0.30		Pond
268	A64/A1036 Interchange-verges	2.00	2000	Neutral grassland
278	6th Form College land	2.00		Great crested newt
SSSI	Askham Bog	44.70		Valley Mire, Bog, Fen, Wet woodland
Total		116.6	2340.00	

EARSWICK

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
50	Earswick Meadow	1.00		Neutral grassland
Sites of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total		1.00	0.00	

ELVINGTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
6	Brinkworth Rush (Elvington Airfield)	2.50		Neutral/ acidic grassland and Great Crested Newt
7	Brinkworth Rush(Elv.Air Museum)	4.60		Neutral/ acidic grassland and Great Crested Newt
37	West Carr Masks	6.20		Flood Meadow
59	Elvington Airfield	9.00		Neutral/ acidic grassland
61	Church Lane Meadows	3.80		Neutral grassland
86	Elvington Wood	12.30		Semi natural woodland
175	Elvington Camp Copse	0.60		Semi natural woodland
Sites of Local Interest				
59a	Elvington Airfield	74.00		Birds
59b	Dodsworth Farm	23.50		Birds
60	Elvington Clay Pit	0.40		Open Water
83	Elvington Moor Closes)	4.10		Neutral grassland and scrub
84	Wheldrake Site 36	0.70		Wooded Road verge
110	Elvington by Lock	3.90		Derelict flood meadow
143	Brinkworth Field	0.50		Wildflower grassland, possibly reseeded.
149	Butterbump Bottom	1.50		Willow carr
150	Hagghill Leas Ings	7.50		Derelict flood meadow
151	Ings Cheesecake Farm	3.60		Derelict flood meadow
152	Ings Cheesecake Farm	2.60		Derelict flood meadow
176	Elvington Lane		200	Rdside scrub
186	Elvington Water Treatment Works	2.30		Derelict flood meadow
263	Brinkworth Tip	0.10		Floristic interest
277	Elvington Moor Closes 2	1.90		Neutral grassland and scrub
E50	Church Lane		200	Hedgerow
SSSI	River Derwent		5200	
Total		165.60	5600.00	

FISHERGATE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
129	York Cemetery	5.30		Mosaic habitat, invert interest
130	Danesmead Orchard	0.70		Orchard, neutral grassland and pond
248	Walmgate Stray	25.90		Neutral grassland
251	Love Lane Woodland/Fulford Cross	2.80		Scrub
SSSI				
Total		**34.7**		

FULFORD

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
17	Germany Beck Meadow	1.40	300	Neutral and flood meadow grassland and hedge.
18	Gollie Ponds	3.75		Ponds and invert interest
195	Fulford Ings Village Green	0.10		Invert Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
212	Connaught Court	0.01		Fungi
220	Fulford non SSSI grasslands	5.00		Derelict flood meadow grassland
253	Designer Outlet Orchard	0.10		Orchard
SSSI	Fulford Ings	12.67		Flood meadow grassland
	Naburn Marsh	13.32		Flood meadow grassland
Total		23.03	300.00	

GUILDHALL

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
64	St Nicholas Fields	9.30		Scrub grassland Mosaic
118	City Walls Embankment	5.00		Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		**14.3**	**0**	

HAXBY

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
123	Haxby Lake	2.60		Open Water
160	Westfield Beck	1.30	1290	Mammals
180	Haxby Sewage Treatment Works	1.7		Neutral grassland and scrub
SSSI				
Total		5.60	1290.00	

HESLINGTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
16	Fulford Golf Course, Roughs	38.90		Acid neutral grassland
Sites of Local Interest				
59a	Elvington Airfield	74.00		Birds
95	Heslington Site 1	0.50		Neutral grassland
96	Mill Hill, Heslington	1.50		Neutral grassland
262	Heslington Outgang	5.50		Neutral grassland, relict heath and scrub
PB02	Poole Bridge Farm		410	Hedgerow
PB07	Poole Bridge Farm		433	Hedgerow
PB09	Poole Bridge Farm		560	Hedgerow
PB23	Poole Bridge Farm		245	Hedgerow
SSSI	Heslington Tilmire	46.67		Tall Herb Fen Marsh Grassland
Total		167.07	1248	

HESSAY

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
200	Town Pond Shirbutt Lane	0.03		Pond
201	Hessay Churchyard	0.2		Neutral Grassland
Sites of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total		0.23	0.00	

HEWORTH

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total				

HEWORTH WITHOUT

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
125	Huntington Ponds	1.20		Open water
126	Huntington Ponds	0.50		Open water
SSSI				
Total		1.70	0.00	

HOLGATE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
35	Severus Hill Reservoir Basin	0.90		Neutral/calcareous grassland and scrub
203	British Sugar Sidings	0.50	500	Bees
Sites of Local Interest				
103	Holgate Millenium Green	1.30		Neutral grassland
117	York Central	0.10		Neutral grassland, flowers
163	Acomb Water works	10.50		Open water and swamp
269	Holgate Park Dr	2.10		Neutral grassland
275	Caroline Close	0.75		Willow Carr
SSSI				
Total		**16.15**	**500**	

HOLTBY

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
72	Holtby Rd Verge	0.60	280	Neutral grassland
174	Holtby Pond Rd Verge	0.1	75	Neutral grassland
Sites of Local Interest				
276	Kexby Rd Verge	0.50	610m	Neutral grassland
274	Holtby A166 Rd Verge-Straight Lane	0.02	110	Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		1.22	465.00	

HULL Rd

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Sites of Local Interest				
SSSI				
Total				

HUNTINGTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
89	Huntington Field (A64)	2.90		Neutral grassland
49	North Lane Meadow	1.40		Neutral grassland
75	New Lane Meadows	5.00		Neutral grassland
Site of Local Interest				
34	River Foss Corridor	1.50	1300	River
164	Turbary Lane Meadow	0.50		Neutral grassland
48	Huntington Cemetery and Fields	2.10		Neutral grassland
90	Monks Cross - Huntington Site	0.50		Neutral grassland
91	Monks Cross	1.10		Neutral grassland
94	Huntington Wood	4.90		Acid birch woodland
161	White Horse Farm Meadow	2.80		Neutral grassland
190	Malton Rd road verge Huntington	1.50		Neutral grassland
191	Monks Cross	3.50	500	Neutral grassland
92	Monks Cross Balancing Ponds	4.70		
138	Monks Cross P&R	0.60		Neutral grassland
162	Huntington Tree Plantations	5.9		Native woodland plantation
H79	White Horse Farm		245	Hedgerow
H120/ H120b	White Horse Farm		240	Hedgerow
H49	White Horse Farm		185	Hedgerow
H126	White Horse Farm		270	Hedgerow
H18	White Horse Farm		315	Hedgerow
H50	Turbary Lane		211	Hedgerow
SSSI				
Total		29.60	3266.00	

KEXBY

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
21	Hagg Wood	32.00		Remnant semi natural woodland
22	Kexby Bridge			Bats
101	Kexby Bank West	0.4	400	Neutral grassland and Hedgerow
K16	Old Hall Farm		250	Hedgerow
Elv1	Elvington		275	Hedgerow
K35	Old Hall Farm		360	Hedgerow
K7	Old Hall Farm		270	Hedgerow
Sites of Local Interest				
113	Scoreby Wood/ Millfield Wood	33.90		Conifer plantation with relict heath.
26	Millfield Wood Drain	0.15	300	Acidic grassland and fen
73	Ings N. of Kexby	11.80		Improved flood meadow grassland
100	Kexby Bank East	0.01		Neutral grassland
105	Kexby Ings	7.10		Semi improved flood meadow
128	Kexby Fishing lakes	3.70		Neutral grassland and ponds
SSSI	R. Derwent		8200	
Total		88.66	8900.00	

MICKLEGATE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
24	Knavesmire Wood	6.00		Ancient woodland
Sites of Local Interest				
11	Clementhorpe Ouse River Bank	1.00		Neutral grassland
213	Knavesmire Wood Fringe Grassland	0.80		Neutral grassland
272	Knavesmire Meadow Fringe Grassland	2.50		Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		**10.3**	**0**	

MURTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Site of Local Interest				
55	Murton Meadow	0.90		Semi improved neutral grassland
157	Grimston Villa Fields	3.90		Semi improved neutral grassland
259	Murton Moor Lane Ditch verge	0.05	111	Semi improved neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		4.85	111.00	

NABURN

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
43	York-Selby Cycle Track	8.00	4005	Scrub, grassland Mosaic
204	Rush Wood	2.50		Semi natural woodland
193	Naburn Hall Meadow	7.90		Flood Meadow
Sites of Local Interest				
187	Naburn Water Treatment Works	6.60		Extensive scrub
218	Wood Dike	1.00	750	Wooded ditch line
77	Sandhole Plantation	0.7		Native woodland plantation
267	Naburn Ings South	22.00		Re-establishing flood meadow
Kel 10	Kelfield Lodge Farm		200	Hedgerow
Nab1	Water Fulford		290	Hedgerow
Nab8	Water fulford		200	Hedgerow
SSSI	Church Ings	6.70		Flood Meadow
Total		55.40	5445.00	

NETHER POPPLETON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
202	York Business Park - Poppleton Glassworks	3.60		Neutral/calcareous grassland
216	Ring Rd Embankment Millfield Lane A1237	0.10	50	Neutral grassland
Site of Local Interest				
148	Poppleton Ings	3.00		Semi improved flood meadow
217	Poppleton Ings S. - Ditch		400	Sps diverse ditch
224	Foss Woodland Nether Poppleton SINC Survey 2004 MH	8.30		Neutral grassland and scrub
225	Meadow at Pop	0.80		Rank neutral grassland
226	Poppleton Ings Ditch		630	Sps diverse ditch
P5	Newlands Lane			Hedgerow
SSSI				
Total		12.10	1030.00	

NEW EARSWICK

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
28	New Earswick Meadow	0.80		Neutral grassland
Site of Local Interest				
34	River Foss Corridor	1.50	1300	River
88	Haxby Rdabout	2.30		Neutral grassland
98	JoRo School Pond	0.20		Pond, Great Crested Newt
109	Meadow at New Earswick by JoRo School	0.50		Semi improved neutral grassland
122	New Earswick pond	2.20		Pond
156	Earswick Old railway Line	0.40		Semi improved neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		7.90	0.00	

OSBALDWICK

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
57	Osbaldwick Meadow	2.20		Neutral grassland and pond
Site of Local Interest				
116	Metcalfe Lane Meadows	5.30		Semi improved neutral grassland
270	Osbaldwick Detention Pond	0.04		Invert interest
SSSI				
Total		7.54	0.00	

RAWCLIFFE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
32	Rawcliffe Ings Dyke	0.10	1040	Diverse ditch
261	Rawcliffe Lake	6.0		Neutral grassland, open water
Site of Local Interest				
141	Rawcliffe Cornfield	4.70		Birds
247	Rawcliffe Ings	18.50		Improved flood meadow grassland
135	Copse Field - Rawcliffe Meadow ext	0.50		Reseeded flood meadow
SSSI				
Total		29.80	1040	

RUFFORTH & KNAPTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Site of Local Interest				
199	Grasslands Farm Field	2.40		Neutral grassland
222	Rufforth Field	1.00		Neutral grassland
228	Rufforth Grange Wood	0.50		Scrub
142	Knapton Scrub	0.70		Scrub
170	Sand Dyke	0.4		Willow Carr
171	Rufforth Village Pond	0.1		Pond
221	Ext to Westfield Marsh	1.00		Marsh
223	Rufforth Green Lane Hannan Lane		790	Hedged Lane
R20	Grasslands farm		168	Hedge
R24	Grasslands farm		210	Hedge
SSSI				
Total		6.10	1168.00	

SKELTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Site of Local Interest				
33	Rawcliffe Landing Wood	0.60		Riparian woodland
44	Skelton Hall	1.10		Semi improved neutral grassland
140	Moorlands Wood	10.80		Mature plantation woodland, bats
147	Clifton Airfield	9.5		Rank neutral grassland and scrub
227	Hurns Gutter Woodland	2.50		Riparian woodland
SSSI				
Total		24.50	0.00	

STOCKTON-ON-THE-FOREST

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
9	Carr Banks Meadow	1.50		Neutral grassland
42	World's End	42.00		Acid grassland
112	Worlds End Plantation	30.80		Reverting heathland
177	Hazelbush Plantation	0.37	370	Conifer plantation with remnant heath
182	World's End Ponds	3.60		Pond
Site of Local Interest				
54	Ext to Carr Bank Meadow	0.40		Neutral grassland
114	Kingsmoor Plantation/ Sandburn Wood	73.00		Conifer plantation with remnant heath
144	Towthorpe Dam Hill	13.40		Acid grassland and scrub
153	A64 Verge at Hopgrove Rdabout	0.20	250	Neutral grassland
192	Turkers Wood	5.30		Acid woodland
271	World's End Pond	0.70		Ponds
SF1	Carrbank Lane		230	Hedge
SF10	Carrbank Lane		300	Hedge
SF3	Carrbank Lane		400	Hedge
SF9	Carrbank Lane		300	Hedge
SF7	Carrbank Lane		230	Hedge
SSSI				
Total		171.27	2080	

STRENSALL & TOWTHORPE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
8	Brecks Lane Meadow	2.00		Neutral grassland
29	Oxcarr Lane	0.80		Acid grassland
53	Flaxton Road Meadows	5.40		Neutral Grassland
67	Strensall Village Meadows, Strensall	1.30		Neutral grassland
111	Strensall Horse Pasture	9.90		Acid grassland
115	Strensall Golf Course	44.30		Acid, neutral grassland and heath
Site of Local Interest				
188	Duncombe Wood and Ponds	2.80		Woodland
40	West Pits Meadow	3.90		Semi improved neutral grassland
51	Strensall Wood	0.60		Acid woodland
52	Lords Moor Lane/Flaxton Rd.	2.20		Oak/birch woodland
69	Strensall Foss riverside	1.30		Marshy grassland
124	Strensall Back Lane fishing pond	2.10		Neutral grassland and open water
159	W Bank Foss Strensall	0.30		Fen
181	Strensall Sewage Treatment Works	4.9		Ponds and neutral grassland
183	Strensall Reed Bed	0.7		Reedbed
184	Strensall Field 3	0.7		Semi improved neutral grassland
231	Strensall Site 15f	2.50		Semi improved neutral grassland
250	Field at Towthorpe	4.50		Birds
ST1	Strensall		210	Hedge
ST7	Strensall		300	Hedge
SSSI	Strensall Common	578.75		Heathland
Total		668.95	510.00	

UPPER POPPLETON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
65	Low Moor Lane Meadow Hessay	1.80		Neutral grassland
Site of Local Interest				
66	Hessay Woodland	2.00		Scrub woodland
131	Wheatlands Reserve	2.00		Native woodland plantation
SSSI				
Total		5.80	0.00	

WHELDRAKE

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
41	Wheldrake Wood	107.00		Conifer woodland with relict heathland.
78	North Selby Mine	9.40		Mosaic neutral grassland and scub
79	Benjy Lane Meadows	8.40		Neutral grassland
81	West Plantation -	1.30		Semi natural Woodland
87	Gilbertsons Plantation	4.90		Conifer woodland with bluebells
Sites of Local Interest				
25	Mattie Brown's Covert	3.50		Scrub (old heronry)
82	Wheldrake Site 19	2.70		Wildflower meadow, may be reseeded.
178	Sandy Lane	0.70		Secondary woodland on sand pit.
179	Broad Highway Verges	0.40	600	Neutral grassland
230	Benjy Lane Pastures	5.30		Semi improved neutral grassland
258	Warren House Farm Pond	0.10		Great Crested newt, swamp, pond
SSSI	Derwent Ings	136.00		Flood meadow and birds
	River Derwent		3200	River habitat
Total		279.70	3800.00	

WESTFIELD

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
4	Bachelor Hill	0.20		Acid grassland
38	Westfield School Field	0.50		Acid grassland
39	Westfield Marsh	0.60		Marsh
Sites of Local Interest				
198	Grounds Hob Moor Community School- Ext to Hob Moor	0.40		Neutral grassland
SSSI				
Total		**1.7**	0	

WIGGINGTON

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
Site of Local Interest				
132	Stud Farm Meadow	2.90		Reseeded neutral grassland
146	Westfield Wood	5.20		Native woodland planting
160	Westfield Beck	1.30	1290	Mammals
W100	Stud Farm		266	Hedge
W107a	Stud Farm		130	Hedge
W107b	Stud Farm		300	Hedge
W107c	Stud Farm		155	Hedge
W101	Stud Farm		322	Hedge
W138	Stud Farm		220	Hedge
W139	Stud Farm		270	Hedge
W96ab	Stud Farm		360	Hedge
W96d	Stud Farm		170	Hedge
W97	Stud Farm		288	Hedge
SSSI				
Total		9.40	3771	

Cross boundary Linear Sites

Site No. SINC	Site	Area (ha)	Length (m)	Interest
43	York-Selby Cycle Track	8.00		Scrub grassland mosaic
63	R. Ouse		20600.00	River
Sites of Local Interest				
229	River Foss corridor (including Sessions Nature Reserve)			River
34	River Foss Corridor			River
154	Upper Tanghall Beck			River
155	Osbaldwick Beck			River
SSSI				
Total		**8.00**	**20600**	

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Appendix 1 List of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation- SINC

No.	Name	Parish	Status	Interest
1	**A64 Interchange**	Dringhouses/ Copmanthorpe	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland
2	**Acomb Wood Meadow**	Acomb	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland
3	**Archbishop's Palace Grounds Bishopthorpe**	Bishopthorpe	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland, Parkland, Bats
4	**Bachelor Hill**	Acomb	Ratified 28/9/10	Invertebrates
5	**Bishopthorpe Ings**	Bishopthorpe	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland
6	**Brinkworth Rush**	Elvington	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland, Rare flowers and rare invertebrates
7	**Brinkworth Rush (Elvington Air Museum)**	Elvington	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland, Great Crested Newts Rare flowers and rare invertebrates
8	**Brecks Meadow, Strensall**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
9	**Carr Banks Meadow,**	Stockton on the Forest	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland, Great Crested Newts, hedgerows
10	**Church Ings,**	Acaster Malbis	Ratified 20/10/10	Rare beetle
12	**Clifton Backies**	Clifton	Ratified 20/10/10	Grasllands and scrub mosaic
13	**Clifton Bridge**	Clifton	Ratified 24/11/10	Bats
14	**Clifton Ings**	Clifton	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland and Fen
15	**Copmanthorpe Wood**	Copmanthorpe	Ratified 20/10/10	Bluebell woodland and hedges
16	**Fulford Golf Course (roughs & woodland)**	Heslington	Ratified 28/9/10	Acid Grassland, rare woodland, veteran trees
17	**Germany Beck Meadow**	Fulford	Ratified 20/10/10	Grassland and hedges
18	**Gollie Ponds**	Fulford	Ratified 20/10/10	Invertebrates
19	**Hassacarr Pond,**	Dunnington	Ratified 24/11/10	Pond
20	**Hob Moor**	Acomb	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
21	**Hagg Wood,**	Dunnington	Existing SINC	Bluebell wood
22	**Kexby Bridge**	Kexby	Ratified 24/11/10	Bats
23	**Knavesmire Stables Meadow**	Knavesmire	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
24	**Knavesmire Wood**	Knavesmire	Ratified 20/10/10	Woodland
27	**Moreby Far Wood**	Deighton	Ratified 24/11/10	Woodland
28	**New Earswick Meadow**	New Earswick	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
30	**Rabbit Warren Wood**	Dunnington	Ratified 24/11/10	Rare invertebrates, Birds, Bog and woodland

31	**Rawcliffe Meadows**	Rawcliffe	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland, Fen, Rare invertebrates
32	**Rawcliffe Ings Drain**	Rawcliffe	Ratified 24/11/10	Ditch
35	**Severus Hill**	Acomb	Ratified 20/10/10	Calcareous Grassland
36	**Stub Wood**	Acaster Malbis	Ratified 24/11/10	Woodland
37	**West Carr Masks,**	Elvington	Ratified 20/10/10	Grassland
38	**Westfield School Field**	Acomb	Ratified 20/10/10	Acid grassland
39	**Westfield Fen/Marsh**	Acomb	Ratified 20/10/10	Fen
41	**Wheldrake Wood**	Wheldrake	Existing SINC	Acid grassland, relict heathland, amphibians, invertebrates
42	**World's End,**	Strensall	Ratified 28/9/10	Acid grassland, relict heath, rare inverts,
43	**York-Selby Cycle Track,**	Deighton/ Naburn	Ratified 24/11/10	Scrub grassland mosaic
50	**Earswick Strensall Rd Pasture**	Old Earswick	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
59	**Elvington Airfield**	Elvington	Ratified 28/9/10	Grassland, Fen, Rare invertebrates
61	**Church Lane Meadows**	Elvington	Ratified 20/10/10	Grassland
65	**Low Moor Lane Meadow (Hessay)**	Poppleton	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
67	**Strensall Village Meadows**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland and Great Crested newts
72	**Holtby A166 Rd Verge**	Gate Helmsley	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
75	**New Lane Meadows**	Huntington	Ratified 20/09/10	Grassland
78	**North Selby Mine**	Deighton	Ratified 28 July 10	Grassland and mosaic habitats
79	**Benjy Lane Meadows**	Wheldrake	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
81	**West Plantation - Wheldrake**	Wheldrake	Ratified 24/11/10	Bluebell Wood
86	**Elvington Wood**	Elvington	Ratified 24/11/10	Bluebell Wood
87	**Gilbertsons Plantation**	Wheldrake	Ratified 24/11/10	Bluebell Wood
89	**Huntington Field(A64)**	Huntington	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
97	**Sim Hill Tip**	Acomb	Ratified 20/10/10	Grassland
101	**Kexby Bank West**	Kexby	Ratified 24/11/10	Hedge
103	**Holgate Millenium Green**	Holgate	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
104	**Fishpond Wood**	Acomb	Ratified 24/11/10	Rare wasp and craneflies, Fen
106	**Danebury Crt**	Acomb	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland

111	**Strensall Horse Pasture**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Acid grassland and fen
112	**Worlds End Plantation**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Acid grassland, relict heath, Birds, rare inverts, rare woodland
115	**Strensall Golf Course**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland and mosaic habitats
169	**Hagg Wood (Cop)**	Copmanthorpe	Ratified 24/11/10	Bluebell wood
174	**Holtby Pond Rd Verge**	Holtby	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
177	**Hazelbush Plantation**	Stockton on the Forest	Ratified 24/11/10	Acid grassland
182	**World's End Wild Goose Carr Ponds**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Pond, acid grassland and rare beetles
194	**Middlethorpe Ings**	Middlethorpe	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
195	**Fulford Ings Village Green**	Fulford	Ratified 24/11/10	Rare beetles
196	**Ring Rd Pond**	Askham Bryant	Ratified 24/11/10	Pond
197	**West Wood Lane**	Askham Bryant	Ratified 24/11/10	Hedges
200	**Town Pond Shirbutt Lane**	Hessay	Ratified 24/11/10	Pond
201	**Hessay Churchyard**	Hessay	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
202	**York Business Park (Poppleton Glassworks)**	Poppleton	Ratified 20/10/10	Grassland
203	**British Sugar Sidings**	Acomb	Ratified 20/10/10	Rare bees
204	**Rush Wood**	Naburn	Ratified 24/11/10	Bluebell woodland
210	**Middlethorpe Crematorium**	Middlethorpe	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland and rare beetles
211	**Middlethorpe Manor Lake**	Middlethorpe	Ratified 24/11/10	Pond
216	**Ring Rd Embankment Millfield Lane**	Nether Poppleton	Ratified 24/11/10	Acid grassland and rare plant
249	**Bond Hill Ash Farm Fen**	Copmanthorpe	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland and fen
261	**Rawcliffe Lake and Grasslands**	Rawcliffe	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland and pond
264	**Cherry Lane**	Dringhouses	Ratified 24/11/10	Hedges

Candidate SINC Sites pending review of ownership

49	**North Lane Meadow**	Huntington	Ratified 20/09/10	Grassland
53	**Flaxton Road Meadows**	Strensall	Ratified 28/09/10	Grassland
55	**Murton Meadow (10-11)**	Murton	Ratified 28/09/10	Grassland
57	**Osbaldwick Meadow**	Osbaldwick	Ratified 20/09/10	Grassland
175	**Elvington Camp Wood**	Elvington	Candidate SINC	Bluebell woodland
193	**Naburn Hall Meadow**	Naburn	Ratified 20/09/10	Grassland
206	**Moor Lane Railway Verge Copmanthorpe**	Copmanthorpe	Ratified 20/10/10	Grassland
215	**Taylorhall Field Plantation**	Askham Richard	Ratified 20/09/10	Bluebell woodland

Candidate SINC site pending review of data

29	**Ox Carr Lane,**	Strensall	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
63	**R. Ouse**	York	Candidate SINC	Migratory fish
179	**Broad Highway Verges**	Wheldrake	Candidate SINC	Grassland
198	**Hob Moor Community School**	Acomb	Ratified 24/11/10	Grassland
98	**Joseph Rowntree School Pond**	Earswick	Candidate SINC	Amphibians
167	**The Parks**	Askham Bryan	Candidate SINC	Bluebell woodland
199	**Grasslands Farm Field**	Rufforth		Grassland
207	**Drome Lane Field**	Copmanthorpe	Candidate SINC	Grassland
208	**Drome Lane Hay Meadow**	Copmanthorpe	Candidate SINC	Grassland
212	**Connaught Court**	Connought Court, Fulford	Candidate SINC	Fungi
213	**Knavesmire Fringe Grassland**	Knavesmire	Candidate SINC	Grassland
222	**Rufforth Field**	Rufforth	Candidate SINC	Grassland
273	**Dunnington Rd Verge**	Dunnington	Candidate SINC	Grassland

Additional sites for consideratiom as SINC pending review of criteria

Number	Site	Location		Interest
59a	**Elvington Airfield All**	Elvington	Considered CS-P 28/9/10	Birds
59b	**Dodsworth Farm**	Elvington	Considered CS-P 28/9/10	Birds
64	**St Nicholas Fields**	999	Social	Mosaic habitats and social
129	**York Cemetery**	City Centre	Social	Inverts and social
232/166	**Acomb Wood**	Acomb	Social	Woodland and Social

Existing SINC Sites for de-notification?

Number	Site	Location		Interest
25	**Mattie Brown's Covert,**	Wheldrake	Existing SINC	Birds
26	**Millfield Wood,**	Kexby	Existing SINC	Fen
34	**River Foss Corridor, Huntington**	Huntington/ New Earswick	Existing SINC	River
Denotified				
11	**Clementhorpe - Ouse Riverbank**	Clementhorpe	Denotified 28/9/10	Grassland and rare flowers
33	**Rawcliffe Landing Wood**	Rawcliffe	Denotified 28/9/10	Riparian woodland
40	**West Pits Meadow,**	Strensall	Denotified 28/9/10	Grassland

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Sites of Local Interest (SLI) – Not SINC Quality

Number	Site	Location	Interest
11	Clementhorpe Ouse River Bank	Clementhorpe	Riparian grassland
25	Mattie Brown's Covert	Wheldrake	Heronry
26	Millfield Wood Drain	Kexby	Acid grassland, SINC quality but too small.
33	Rawcliffe Landing Wood	Rawcliffe	Riparian woodland
34	River Foss Corridor	Huntington/New Earswick	Riverine habitat
40	West Pits Meadow	Strensall	Flood meadow grassland
44	Skelton Hall	Skelton	Semi improved grassland
45	Burton Green Meadow Ext to Backies	Clifton Without	Neutral grassland
46	Bootham Stray Adj to Backies	Clifton Without	Neutral grassland and created wetland
48	Huntington Cemetery and Fields	Huntington	Neutral grassland
51	Strensall Wood	Strensall	Acid oak woodland
52	Lords Moor Lane/Flaxton Rd.	Strensall	Acid, heathy woodland
54	Ext to Carr Bank Meadow	Stockton on the Forest	Neutral grassland
58	Dunnington Meadow	Dunnington	Neutral grassland
60	Elvington Clay Pit	Elvington	Clay pit
66	Hessay Woodland	Hessay	Carr scrub and secondary woodland
69	Strensall Foss riverside	Strensall	Damp Marshy grassland
73	Ings N. of Kexby (Derwent 19a, 19b)	Kexby	Semi improved flood meadow grassland
77	Sandhole Plantation (	Naburn	Beech woodland on old woodland site
83	Wheldrake Site 34/35	Elvington	Mown neutral grassland
84	Wheldrake Site 36	Elvington	Thorn /Elm scrub
88	Haxby Rdabout (Huntington Site 3)	New Earswick	Scrub/neutral grassland
90	Monks Cross -Huntington Site 14a	Huntington	Unmanaged neutral grassland
91	Monks Cross - Huntington	Huntington	Unmanaged neutral grassland
92	Monks Cross Balancing Ponds	Huntington	Established ponds - Created

94	Huntington Wood (Site 20)	Huntington	Secondary Oak Birch woodland
95	Heslington Site 1	Heslington	Moderately divers neutral grassland
96	Heslington Site 2 - Mill Hill	Heslington	Moderately diverse neutral grassland
99	Dunnington Rd Verge	Dunnington	Moderately diverse neutral grassland
100	Kexby Bank East	Kexby	Moderately diverse neutral grassland
102	Whitehouse Farm Close	Askham Richard	Moderately diverse neutral grasslands
105	Kexby Ings?	Kexby	Derelict semi improved flood meadow
109	Meadow at New Earswick by JoRo School	New Earswick	Moderately diverse neutral grasslands
110	Elvington by Lock	Elvington	Semi- improved flood meadow
114	Kingsmoor Plantation/ Sandburn Wood	Stockton on the Forest	Relict heath below conifer plantation.
116	Metcalfe Lane Meadows	Osbaldwick	Moderately diverse neutral grasslands
117	York Central	Holgate?	Patchy mosaic of grassland, cinder and ballast with notable flora
118	City Walls Embankment	York City Centre	Moderately diverse neutral grasslands with calcareous influence
119	Chapmans Pond	Dringhouses	Old clay pit
120	Mayfield Clay Pit	Dringhouses	Old clay pit
121	Hoggs Pond	Dringhouses	Old clay pit
122	New Earswick pond	New Earswick	Old clay pit
123	Haxby Lake	Haxby	Old clay pit
124	Stren Back Lane fishing pond	Strensall	Established fishing pond in woodland.
125	Huntington Ponds	Heworth	Old clay pit
126	Huntington Ponds	Heworth	Old clay pit
127	Dringhouses Sidings	Dringhouses	Birch Woodland on PFA
128	Kexby Fishing lakes	Kexby	Long well established ponds
130	Danesmead Orchard	Fulford	Orchard pond and seeded wildflower meadow, created site
131	Wheatlands Reserve	Upper Poppleton	Woodland and reseeded wildflower grassland – created site
132	Stud Farm Meadow	Wigginton	Wildflower grassland- created site
133	Askham/Moor Lane Roundabout	Acombe	Wildflower meadow – created site
134	Mayfields Open Space	Dringhouse	Wildflower meadow – created site

135	Copse Field - Rawcliffe Meadow ext	Rawcliffe	Reseeded flood meadow grassland – created site
136	Clifton Hospital Orchard/pond	Clifton Without	Old derelict orchard and detention marsh
137	The Dormouse Orchard	Clifton Without	Old derelict orchard
138	Monks Cross P&R	Monks Cross	Great Crested Newt ponds
139	Bootham Stray Pond	Clifton Without	Great Crested Newt Pond
140	Moorlands Wood	Skelton	Secondary mature mixed woodland developed as early 20th Century woodland garden sps rhododendron understorey. Of interset is presence of Royal Fern and Water Violet in pond, both translocated from Askham Bog. Bats
141	Rawcliffe Cornfield	Rawcliffe	Cornfield managed for overwintering birds
142	Knapton Scrub	Knapton	Willow scrub/ Rank sps poor grassland/Oak copse
143	Brinkworth	Elvington	Reseeded wildflower grassland
144	Towthorpe Dam Hill	Strensall	Relict heath and acid grassland, butterflies.
145	Hedge by Hassacar Pond	Dunnington	Old hedge with butterfly interest.
146	Westfield Wood	Haxby	New Woodland
147	Clifton Airfield	Clifton Without	Hawthorn scrub, plantation, rank& moderately sps rich grassland.
148	Poppleton Ings	Nether Poppleton	Semi improved flood meadow grassland
149	Butterbump Bottom (Rhea Garth)	Elvington	Willow Carr
150	Hagghill Leas Ings	Elvington	Derelict flood meadow grassland
151	Ings Cheesecake Farm	Elvington	Swamp and marshland
152	Ings Cheesecake Farm	Elvington	Swamp and marshland
153	A64 Verge at Hopgrove Rdabout	Huntington	Moderately sps rich neutral grassland
154	Upper Tanghall Beck		Small beck
155	Osbaldwick Beck		Small Beck
156	Earswick Old railway Line	Earswick	Relict neutral grassland
157	Grimston Villa Fields	Osbaldwick	Relict neutral grassland
158	Grimston Wood	Dunnington	Relict heath under conifer.
159	W Bank Foss Strensall	Strensall	Sedge fen
160	Westfield Beck	Haxby	Controlled ditch – Water vole
161	White Horse Farm Meadow	Huntington	Old Ridge and furrow strip field with remnant neutral grassland.

162	Huntington Tree Plantations	Huntington	New native woodland Plantation
163	Acomb Water works	Acomb	Mosaic of ponds and wet woodland
165	Woodland adjacent to Askham Grange Prison	Askham Richard	19th Cent Plantation Woodland. Ltd floral interest but trees mature/overmature, good for bats. Bank of Dogs Mercury on boundary
166	Acomb Wood ext	Acomb	Old Secondary woodland
168	Little Hob Moor	Acombe	Reseeded Wildflower grassland
170	Sand Dyke	Rufforth	Willow Carr
171	Rufforth Village Pond	Rufforth	Replanted pond
176	Elvington Lane	Elvington	Ancient Woodland strip
178	Sandy Lane	Wheldrake	Secondary woodland on sand pit.
180	Haxby Sewage Treatment Works	Haxby	Area of scrub and moderate sps rich grassland
181	Strensall Sewage Treatment Works	Strensall	Lagoons, scrub, riverbank and moderately rich grassland
183	Strensall Reed Bed	Strensall	Reed bed on old pond site
184	Strensall Field 3	Strensall	Semi improved neutral grassland.
189	Copmanthorpe New Rd Verges	Copmanthorpe	Reseeded wildflower grassland
190	Malton Rd road verge Huntington	Huntington	Mod Sps rich semi improved grassland
191	Monks Cross	Huntington	Semi improved neutral grassland, ponds and ditches.
192	Turkers Wood	Stockton on the Forest	Acid woodland
205	Stub Wood Fen	Acaster Malbis	Fen/swamp
209	Balancing Ponds - A64 Ring Rd Roundabout	Copmanthorpe	Created Pond, swamp and neutral grassland
214	Askham Moor Lane Wood	Askham Bryan	Old bluebell woodland too small for SINC.
219	Pond by Railway w. of Copmanthorpe Wood	Copmanthorpe	Pond
220	Fulford non SSSI grasslands	Fulford	Derelict flood meadow grassland
221	Ext to Westfield Marsh	Acomb	Silted Medieval moat
223	Rufforth Green Lane- Hannan Lane	Rufforth	Old sps rich hedged Lane.
224	Foss Woodland Nether Poppleton SINC Survey 2004 MH	Nether Poppleton	Mosaic of scrub, semi improved neutral grassland and pond.
225	Meadow at Pop	Nether Poppleton	Rank flood meadow grassland
226	Poppleton Ings Ditch	Nether Poppleton	Sps rich ditch
227	Hurns Gutter Woodland	Skelton	Riparian woodland and scrub

229	River Foss corridor (including Sessions Nature Reserve)	Strensall/ Earswick/ Huntington	Wooded riparian corridor, mammal interest
230	Benjy Lane Pastures (Wheldrake Site 14)	Wheldrake	Semi improved neutral grassland
231	Strensall Site 15f	Strensall	Semi improved neutral grassland
245	Wig Rd/Ring Rd Rdabout	Wigginton	Moderately sps rich grass verges.
246	Drome Lane Hayfield	Copmanthorpe	Semi improved neutral grassland.
247	Rawcliffe Ings	Rawcliffe	Improved flood meadow grassland.
248	Walmgate Stray	Heslington	Relict semi improved neutral grassland
250	Field at Towthorpe	Towthorpe	Hay field
251	Love Lane Woodland/Fulford Cross	Fulford	Secondary woodland and scrub.
252	Copmanthorpe Moor Lane fields	Copmanthorpe	Semi improved grassland and pond.
253	Designer Outlet Orchard	Fulford	Old orchard
257	Temple Hill Farm	Bishopthorpe	Unimproved grassland, orchard, hedges and dike.
259	Murton Moor Lane Ditch verge	Murton	Semi improved neutral grassland
260	Grimston Hill A1079 Rd Verge	Dunnington	Semi improved neutral grassland
262	Heslington Outgang	Heslington	Mosaic of acid grassland, scrub, old hedges, pond and secondary woodland.
263	Brinkworth Tip	Elvington	Rank grassland with floristic interest.
266	Balancing Ponds - Clifton Moor	Clifton Without	Sps rich neutral grassland
267	Naburn Ings South	Naburn	Naturally regenerating flood meadow grassland.
268	A64/A1036 Interchange-verges	Dringhouses/ Copmanthorpe	Moderately sps rich grassland
269	Holgate Park Dr	Holgate	Semi improved neutral grassland
270	Osbaldwick Detention Pond	Osbaldwick	Created pond site with invert interest.
271	World's End Pond	Strensall	Mesotrophic ponds Fen and acid grassland.
272	Knavesmire Meadow Fringe Grassland	Knavesmire	Semi improved neutral grassland
274	Holtby A166 Rd Verge-Straight Lane	Holtby	Moderately sps rich road verge
276	Kexby Rd Verge	Kexby	Moderately sps rich road verge
277	Elvington Moor Close	Elvington	Moderately sps rich grassland and hawthorn scrub.

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It is important to remember that Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation or Sites of Local Interest do not have an automatic right of public access, they are generally privately owned land. Any unauthorised access may be harmful to the wildlife interest of the site and may create problems for its management. Please do not enter the land without the express consent of the landowner.