



Local Plan Update

Leeds Local Plan

Development Plan Document

**Pre-Submission Changes - Green and Blue
Infrastructure Background Paper**

October 2023

1. Context

1.1 The purpose of the planning system is to achieve sustainable development, which is about meeting current needs without harming the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF – Sep 2023) sets out that planning authorities should ensure that development meets economic, social and environmental objectives.

1.2 The environmental objective is:

to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

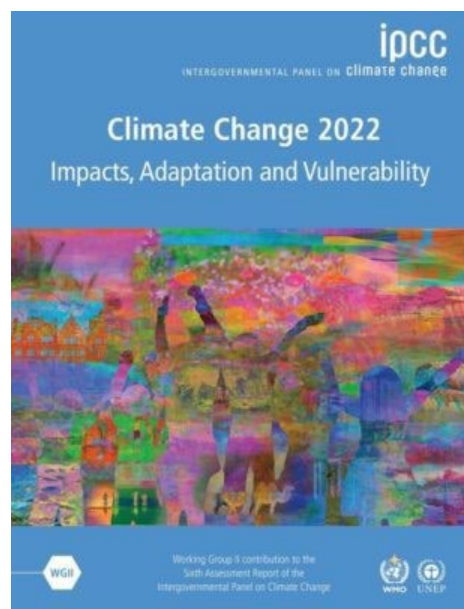
1.3 This background paper focuses on Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI), which forms a fundamental part of the natural environment and contributes to more sustainable development.

2. Recognition of the importance of the natural environment/GBI in addressing climate change?

International Level

2.1 As far back as 2009 the European Commission highlighted the importance of terrestrial and marine ecosystems in regulating climate change and that they absorb roughly half of man-made carbon emissions in 'Nature's Role in Climate Change'¹. This publication stated that "Working with nature, rather than against it, brings multiple benefits also for preserving our climate."

2.2 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest climate change assessment report in February 2022. This assesses the impacts of climate change on natural and human systems, the risks for the future and the options for adaptation to reduce these risks at a time when impacts of climate change continue to increase significantly. Approximately 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in places that are highly vulnerable to climate change and hundreds of species at a local level and at least two species globally have become extinct due to climate change, with many more at risk. The report states there is an urgent need to adapt to reduce these risks to both people and nature as much as we can. Resilience to climate change can be increased by the protection and restoration of natural and semi-natural areas however this will need to be flexible to adapt to changes that can't be prevented which only highlights the importance of planning and managing change.



2.3

¹ 'Nature's Role in Climate Change' [ENV-09-002_biodiversity-CC-2.indd \(europa.eu\)](#)

² IPCC - [AR6 Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)

2.4 The report recognises the close linkages between people, nature and climate and states that

‘maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at the global scale depends on the effective and equitable conservation of approximate 30 – 50% of Earth’s land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near natural ecosystems’.

2.5 At the local level, restoring natural systems can reduce risks to people from a range of climatic hazards, including flood and wildfire and trees and other vegetation can provide natural cooling for cities. Adaptation is limited due to factors such as a lack of finance and governance obstacles as well as those intrinsic to systems, such as the climatic limits within which species can survive however the report emphasises that it must be pursued in conjunction with mitigation to reduce risks within the wider context of sustainable development through ‘Climate Resilient Development’.

2.6 The IPCC’s Summary for Policy Makers report states that

‘Any further delay in concerted anticipatory global action on adaptation and mitigation will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all’.

National Level

2.7 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) published a report in January 2020³ presenting advice on what changes are required in how we farm and use land in order to deliver the UK Government’s Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions target by 2050. The key actions promoted are:

- **Increase tree planting** – increasing UK forestry cover from 13% to at least 17% by 2050 by planting around 30,000 hectares (90 – 120 million trees) of broadleaf and conifer woodland each year.
- **Encourage low-carbon farming practices** – such as ‘controlled-release’ fertilisers, improving livestock health and slurry acidification.
- **Restore peatlands** – restoring at least 50% of upland peat and 25% of lowland peat.
- **Encourage bioenergy crops** – expand the planting of UK energy crops to around 23,000 hectares each year.
- **Reduce food waste and consumption of the most carbon-intensive foods** – reduce the 13.6 million tonnes of food waste produced annually by 20% and the consumption of beef, lamb and dairy by at least 20% per person, well within current healthy eating guidelines.

2.8 A useful summary of the findings are presented in the following CCC Infographic:

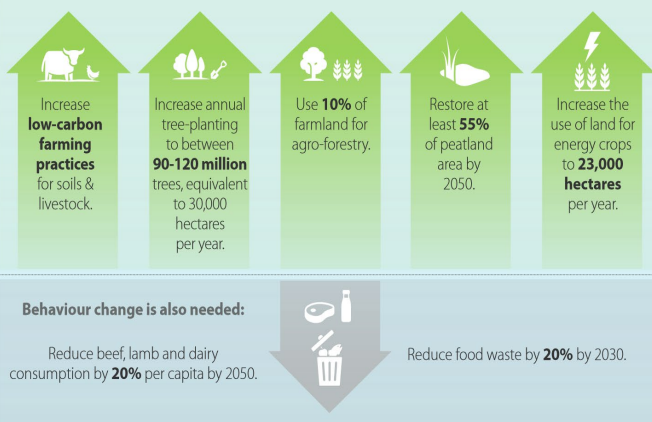
³ Climate Change Committee - [Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK](#)

Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK

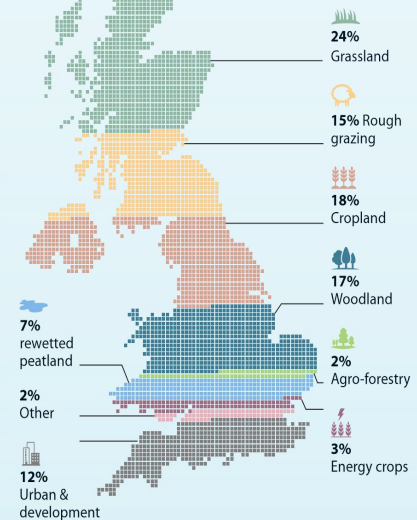
There is now a need to put in place clear, well-designed policies to ensure the UK's use of land contributes to the Net Zero emissions target.

- Agriculture, land use and peatlands accounted for **12%** (58 MtCO₂e) of all UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2017
- Our use of land **must change** to meet the UK's Net Zero target
- Actions set out by the CCC can reduce land-based emissions by **64%** by 2050
- While maintaining other **essential functions** of land, including food production and climate change adaptation
- This will also deliver **£4 billion** each year in environmental and other benefits

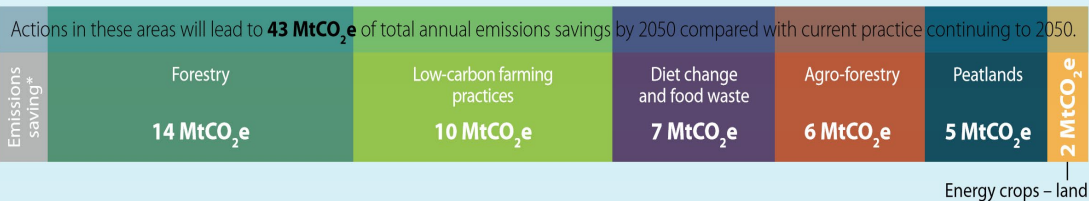
Actions must be taken now...



How our land could be used in 2050



...to reduce agriculture and land use emissions...



...delivering a range of wider environmental and other co-benefits.

- ✓ Recreational
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Air quality
- ✓ Water quality
- ✓ Biodiversity

It requires a coordinated approach, **led by Government** throughout the UK.

Government

- Introduce a mix of regulation, incentives and enabling measures to drive action to reduce land-based emissions.
- These should provide land managers with long-term clarity and incentives to deliver change.
- Implement a strategy to shift diets away from the most carbon-intensive products and reduce food waste.

Businesses

- A levy placed on polluting sectors (e.g. airlines and fossil fuel suppliers) to help fund tree planting.
- Water companies should restore peatland they own.
- Food retail and hospitality firms should commit to current pledges to halve food waste by 2030.

Supply Chains

- Fertiliser and livestock feed producers and distributors to provide low-carbon advice to farmers.
- Scale-up capacity in the forestry supply chain, from nurseries to wood processors.
- Food processors and supermarkets to develop common metrics on life-cycle emissions of foods to drive low-carbon standards.

Individuals

- Eating more plant-based foods can deliver health benefits.
- Reducing food waste will deliver cost savings for households.
- Health and recreational benefits from creating more woodland.

* These figures are rounded.

2.9 Climate change solutions: The role of nature (parliament.uk)⁴ June 2020 recognises the role of nature-based solutions in tackling climate change, especially in terms of how the natural environment can absorb greenhouse gas emissions. Indeed, this is part of the government's strategy to meet the net zero target by 2050. It is therefore important that ecosystems are protected and improved to increase absorption of carbon dioxide and make them more resilient. The CCC (in 'Land use: Policies for a Net Zero UK') estimated that policies such as increasing forest cover from 13% to 19% and restoring 55-70% of peatlands could contribute to cutting total UK projected emissions by 4-8% (20-40 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent) by 2050.

Biodiversity loss

2.10 The loss of biodiversity (the variety of animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms that make up the natural world) is an ongoing concern both nationally and internationally. Numerous reports, assessments and statements have been produced within Britain and across the world highlighting this, two of which are United Kingdom's 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity⁵ and global assessment of biodiversity across the world by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)⁶.

2.11 Sir Robert Watson, chair of the IPBES wrote in The Guardian in 2019:

"we cannot solve the threats of human-induced climate change and loss of biodiversity in isolation. We either solve both or we solve neither."

Guardian – Monday 6th MAY 2019 - [Link](#)

2.12 The UK Government commissioned [a Review of the Economics of Biodiversity](#) in 2019, assessing the risks of global biodiversity loss and examining ways to enhance biodiversity and economic prosperity. Its [April 2020 interim report](#) identified nature-based solutions as an essential part of the package of measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while providing benefits for biodiversity.

2.13 The [State of Nature](#) report (2019) was produced by State of Nature Partnership (a partnership of nearly 80 conservation and research organisations across the United Kingdom). The report contains data on the UK's biodiversity, both then and in terms of trends in species. It also reviews the pressures acting upon nature and the conservation response being made to counter these pressures.

3. Actions supporting nature-based solutions for Climate Change

3.1 On an international level, the 2021 Climate Change Conference (COP26) was held in Glasgow and attended by nearly 200 countries. It, along with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (also held in 2021 in Kunming, China), recognised the importance of nature-based solutions for addressing climate change and challenges to biodiversity. It is important, therefore, that planning policy supports and facilitates the vital role of nature in addressing climate change.

3.2 Nationally, the Government's [25-year Environment Plan](#) for England (2018) makes a commitment to take a '[natural capital approach](#)' to environmental protection and includes

⁴ [Climate change solutions: The role of nature \(parliament.uk\)](#)

⁵ [United Kingdom's 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

⁶ [global assessment of biodiversity across the world by the \(IPBES\).](#)

proposals for a nature recovery network, tree planting, an England Peatland Strategy, and creating financial incentives through the Agriculture Bill for natural carbon storage.

- 3.3 Others have also made proposals; the farming industry set out its approach for achieving net-zero by 2040 in September 2019. The Government's environmental bodies set out their approach to land use change in January 2020, with a focus on woodland creation, restoring peatlands, supporting farmers and working with nature.
- 3.4 Funding for projects, through a Nature for Climate fund, was announced in the April 2020 budget.
- 3.5 The Environment Act (2021) embeds certain environmental protections in law and establishes new powers to set new binding targets, including for air quality, water, biodiversity, and waste reduction. The main elements are:
 - Long-term, legally binding targets for environmental improvement.
 - The establishment of the Office of Environmental Protection.
 - Measures to incentivise recycling and more sustainable use of resources.
 - Measures to tackle waste crime and illegal activity.
 - Measures that will impact on the wider waste sector, such as product standards, information and labelling requirements.
 - Strengthened local powers in relation to air quality enforcement through, for example, updated, simplified and strengthened local air quality management framework (LAQM).
 - Water (Part 5)
 - Measures to support new and existing internal drainage boards and amend the Land Drainage Act 1991.
 - Strengthen duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including mandatory biodiversity net gain secured through the planning system.
 - The preparation and publication of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
 - Greater enforcement powers for the Forestry Commission to reduce illegal tree felling.

4. Climate Emergency and Leeds City Council

- 4.1 Leeds City Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 with an ambition to make rapid progress towards carbon neutrality by 2030. This is a massive task, needing a sustained effort from not just the Council, who aim to lead by example, but for other agencies, businesses and residents of Leeds.
- 4.2 The Council aspires to be carbon neutral by 2030 because the evidence supports that, as follows:
 - the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that the opportunity to limit world temperatures
 - to under 1.5 °C and avoid the worst climate change impacts will vanish in the next decade
 - the UK government updated the Climate Change Act, committing to, by law, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at
 - least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050, in response to the Committee on Climate Change
 - to reach this target the government has set legally-binding 'carbon budgets' in 5-year periods i.e. the amount of

- greenhouse gases the UK is permitted to emit for each 5-year period
- the Committee has found that the government’s policies and plans are not enough to meet carbon budgets and that the policy gap has widened
- Yorkshire and Humber’s share of the ‘carbon budget’ to 2050 on a per capita basis is estimated at circa 250 megatonnes.
- If we continue business as usual the budget will have been used up within the next 5 years
- climate-related events are continuing to occur in frequency and severity both globally and locally e.g. frequency of storms, such as Storm Eva and the floods caused over Christmas 2015

4.3 The priority for the Local Plan Update is to update and improve existing policies and make new ones to address climate change, and the climate emergency declaration to achieve net zero emissions by 2030.

4.4 Leeds has a Local Plan with existing policies aimed at addressing climate change. These policies range from a spatial strategy which encourages growth in sustainable locations, to detailed policies on carbon reduction, green infrastructure, flood risk, biodiversity, flood risk, heat networks, electric vehicles, renewable energy generation, air quality and tree replacement. However, these policies were made before the declaration of the Climate Emergency and the aspiration to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

4.5 The District’s environmental resources (Natural Capital) are crucial, not just in ensuring quality of life, but also sustaining life itself. The natural world regulates the atmosphere and climate and plays a part in breaking down waste. It provides the resources that we all use for our daily lives by providing clean air and water, land for growing food, open spaces for our health and wellbeing, minerals to use for building and the resources to provide heat and power.

4.6 It is important that these Policies fully work towards the aims above in a coherent and harmonious way as possible. The new policies and the amendments seek to do this.

5. What is Green and Blue infrastructure (GBI)

5.1 Green Infrastructure (GI) is defined in the NPPF as:

A network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities and prosperity.

5.2 The current definition in the Core Strategy 2019 (as Amended) is define as Green Infrastructure and Strategic Green Infrastructure as follows:

Green Infrastructure: *An integrated and connected network of green spaces, which have more than one use and function. GI is both urban and rural and includes protected sites, woodlands, nature reserves, river corridors, public parks and amenity areas, and sport facilities, together with green corridors.*

Strategic Green Infrastructure: *Green Infrastructure which has strategic importance across the District, including the strategic connections between green areas for the benefit of people and wildlife.*

5.3 Whilst the definitions may vary the theme is constant; GBI contributes to and enhances the local and natural environment by providing multi-functional natural capital benefits and ecosystem services.

5.4 The LPU 1 update has sought to clearly define Strategic GBI. Proposed Spatial Policy 13 go into further detail.

6. Why is GBI important in terms of addressing climate change and other associated benefits

6.1 Whilst it is unequivocal that GBI has significant benefit to mitigating Climate Change it is worth, in the interests of clarity, listing those and other benefits.

- It benefits public health by removing and reducing air pollution.
- It can capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (sequestration).
- It can encourage people to use non-motorised and active forms of travel.
- It can encourage exercise thereby improving health.
- Help cool built up and Urban areas.
- Mitigate water run-off during flash flooding.
- Significant Mental health benefits from exposure to Green and Blue Infrastructure.
- Increased opportunity for people to engage in Social Interaction.

7. Natural Capital, Eco-System Services and Multifunctionality in Planning.

7.1 The NPPF recognises that GI has a value and recommends assessing the wider benefits of the natural environment / GI using two approaches:

- natural capital – a way of thinking about the natural environment as an asset
- eco-systems services - the benefits to people provided by the natural environment and ecosystems

7.2 In order to achieve net gains in sustainable development, it is therefore important to plan for Green Infrastructure in a way that:

- clearly sets out its underpinning importance to sustainable development in Leeds
- maximises its natural climate change role
- places a value on its management, creation and loss
- GI serves many purposes. For instance a small group of trees (copse) has various Natural Capital functions:
- biodiversity through both the species of trees, the habitat provided and the soils
- carbon capture (also known as sequestration)
- water storage

- creates opportunities for leisure that support physical and mental health benefits.

- 7.3 One of the principle issues is that of multi-functionality. A forest path that is created through a copse as a result of positive GBI design potentially adds the functions/services of health, leisure and education. These are the 'ecosystem services' that the 'natural capital' provides.
- 7.4 Our relationship with GI has to be understood in this context; that one asset or 'capital' can serve different purposes and good planning can support this principle and help ensure that GBI can benefit a wide range of users.
- 7.5 The time dependant importance of mitigating Climate Change, the value of GBI during the pandemic and the desire to see a healthier society are all key drivers that reinforce the importance of the availability of GBI.
- 7.6 Elsewhere in the Local Plan update there are topic papers which also consider interlinked issues around better place-making and 20-minute neighbourhoods. GI plays a key role in these planning areas.

8. What are the policies seeking to achieve?

Spatial Policy 13 - Protecting, Maintaining, Enhancing and Extending Strategic Green Infrastructure.

- 8.1 Green and Blue Infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities, and prosperity.
- 8.2 GBI comprises multi-functional green spaces, both urban and rural, which includes protected sites, woodlands, hedgerows, nature reserves, river corridors, public parks and amenity areas, together with green links, river corridors, ponds, becks and riverbanks. It extends from urban centres through corridors to open countryside and supports the natural, recreational, and ecological processes which are integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities in the District. A key function of GBI in Leeds is to help maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of local communities and the wider setting of places.
- 8.3 Strategic GBI comprises designated land for Green Space (Site Allocations Policy GS1 and AVLAAP Policy AVL14), Nature Conservation Sites (Policy G8a) and the Leeds Habitat Network (Policy G8b) together with additional assets including river corridors, lakes, ponds, woodland, Historic Parks and Gardens, functional flood plain and PROW (see Appendix 2 which includes a technical note explaining how the Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure is defined and the data sets used. This includes a link to a map which illustrates the Strategic GBI network). It extends from urban centres through corridors to open countryside and supports the natural, recreational, and ecological processes which are integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities in the District. A key function of GBI in Leeds is to help maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of local communities and the wider setting of places.

Proposed Updates and Evidence

- 8.4 There is one major update in this area.
- Replace Spatial Policy 13 of the Core Strategy 2019 with new Spatial Policy 13.

The current Policy identifies and names specific areas of Green Infrastructure. The proposal is to ensure that:

- i. there is a clear understanding of what Strategic GBI is, and which areas form this.
- ii. any development in this area protects, conserves and enhances existing Strategic GBI functions

This is to ensure that Strategic GBI is maintained, enhanced, extended and improved.

- 8.5 The existing Policy is a Spatial Policy that defines green corridors. These corridors were given limited potential for protection and enhancement within the current Policy. The change seeks to redefine these areas and ensure that any development within them will further maintain, enhance, extend and improve the Strategic GBI. In effect this provides a clear connection between National Policy aims (NPPF - see Appendix 1), the Spatial Policy and the more detailed 'G' and 'F' Policies. It also embraces the overall aim to mitigate Climate Change.

National Policy

- 8.6 NPPF Paragraphs 8b, 8c, 11a, 20d, 92c, 93a, 98, 99, 100, 126, 130a, 130b, 131, 134b, 152, 153, 174b, 174d, 174e, 175

Measurement of Policy

- 8.7 The current monitoring indicator for SP13 (and G1) is:

24. Provision of Green Infrastructure and Green Spaces as obtained through development process and other sources.

The revised monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

47. Area of land meeting Strategic GBI definition.

Implementation of Policy

- 8.8 These are Spatial/Strategic Policies. The purpose is to outline outlines the key strategic approaches which Leeds City Council will implement to promote and deliver development of Strategic GBI. In effect Strategic Policy 13 will provide the framework for which other Policies work under.

Corporate Aims

- 8.9 Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing
- i. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - ii. enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages

Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon

- i. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet

- ii. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
- iii. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

Best Council Plan – Priorities - Age-friendly Leeds

- i. Making Leeds’ public spaces and buildings accessible, safe, clean and welcoming
- ii. Promoting opportunities for older people to be healthy, active, included and respected

Policy G1 - Protecting, Maintaining and Extending Green and Blue Infrastructure

Proposed Updates and Evidence

8.10 There is one major update in this area.

- i. Replace Policy G1 of the Core Strategy 2019 with new Policy G1

The proposal is to ensure that:

- i. a detailed appraisal is provided on an application-by-application basis where appropriate
- ii. areas outside the defined GBI area also submit an assessment to ensure positivity with regard to increasing GBI.

This is to ensure that GBI is maintained, enhanced, extended and improved.

8.11 The existing Policy aims to improve Green Infrastructure where ‘acceptable’ on a development-by-development basis. The proposal creates a systematic and clear process for ensuring that GBI is considered with appropriate weight both within the defined Strategic GBI areas and outside them.

8.12 Various approaches were tested that considered the use of residential ‘Trigger’ levels. The three that were tested through the Sustainability Appraisal were majors (10 units) and 150 units and all development. The chosen approach was the Policy is to apply to all development, regardless of size. This ensures that the applicant addresses all the relevant GBI issues appropriate to the development. If the development is minor and the impact minimal, then the assessment will be as such. It is not the expectation that a full expensive of all Policy requirements will be undertaken. Rather that everything in the list has been considered, even if (with good reason) they are summarily dismissed. As stated earlier this creates a systematic and thorough approach to improve the natural environment and mitigate climate change in line with national policy.

National Policy

8.13 NPPF Paragraphs 8b, 8c, 11a, 20d, 92c, 93a, 98, 99, 100, 126, 130a, 130b, 131, 134b, 152, 153, 174b, 174d, 174e, 175

Measurement of Policy

8.14 The current monitoring indicator for SP13 (and G1) is:

24. Provision of Green Infrastructure and Green Spaces as obtained through development process and other sources.

The revised monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

47. Area of land meeting Strategic GBI definition.

Implementation of Policy

- 8.15 These are Spatial/Strategic Policies. The purpose is to outline outlines the key strategic approaches which Leeds City Council will implement to promote and deliver development of Strategic GBI. In effect Strategic Policy 13 will provide the framework for which other Policies work under.

Corporate Aims

- 8.16 Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing
- iii. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - iv. enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages

Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon

- iv. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet
- v. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
- vi. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

Best Council Plan – Priorities - Age-friendly Leeds

- iii. Making Leeds’ public spaces and buildings accessible, safe, clean and welcoming
- iv. Promoting opportunities for older people to be healthy, active, included and respected

It also ensures that areas outside these areas work towards similar outcomes.

Trees (Policy G2A, G2B G2C and G2D)

- 8.17 Trees provide many benefits to our environment. They extract and store carbon emissions and take pollutants out of the air, provide shelter and shade and valuable habitats, reduce flood risk, soften the built environment, bring colour and texture, provide opportunities for us to reconnect with nature and help to support our physical and mental wellbeing which has been brought into particular focus by the restrictions due to COVID-19. In many cases the degree to which trees can do these things increases as the tree grows and gets older therefore it is important that we protect existing trees to allow them to mature and bring the greatest benefits and plant more to maximise their effects and to ensure a future pipeline of mature trees.
- 8.18 Those trees and woodland that are already old, such as ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees, are nationally recognised as being valuable natural assets for wildlife; soils;

carbon capture and storage; as a seed bank and for genetic diversity; recreation, health and wellbeing; and cultural, historical and landscape value⁷. They are regarded as irreplaceable and development that will result in their loss or deterioration should be refused unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and compensation is in place.

- 8.19 Long Established Woodlands, whilst younger than Ancient Woodlands, are also recognised by central government as important as they have rich biodiversity, often contain old-growth features and deliver a range of ecosystem services.⁸ The England Trees Action Plan 2021 – 2024 (May 2021)⁹ states that the government will introduce a new category of Long Established Woodland in recognition of their high ecological and societal value and consult on the protections these will be afforded in the planning system. In line with this commitment and the recognition that Long Established Woodlands do not benefit from the protection afforded to irreplaceable habitats, it is important that they are clearly identified and given stronger protection through local planning policy.
- 8.20 Although the focus of the tree policies is to protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows, it is likely that some will be lost through development. It is therefore important that these are replaced to prevent a loss of amenity, biodiversity and carbon sequestration and a reduction in their contribution to tackle climate change.
- 8.21 The current replacement ratio of trees of 3 new trees for every one lost (Policy LAND 2, Natural Resources and Waste Local Plan) does not recognise the characteristics of the trees lost and the replacements, in particular the relative sizes of the trees and their value in terms of sequestering and storing carbon. The Council sees trees as a vital way of reducing residual carbon left over after other carbon-reducing measures and therefore the University of Leeds and the United Bank of Carbon we employed to devise a tree replacement methodology to achieve parity in carbon sequestration levels prior to trees being removed and after replacement planting.
- 8.22 Overall, the tree policies are therefore aiming to achieve the following:
- increase the protection of all trees and hedgerows
 - enhance the protection of identified Ancient Woodland, Long Established Trees, Ancient Trees and Veteran trees and those that meet the criteria but have not been identified.
 - ensure the replacement of trees lost results in no loss of carbon sequestration levels
- 8.23 The intentions of the more detailed policies are as follows:
- Policy G2A:
- to extend protection beyond existing methods and levels (e.g. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Area designations) which fail to recognise the multi-faceted value of trees beyond visual amenity such as for carbon sequestration and biodiversity. It is important that trees are planted and allowed to grow, mature, sequester carbon and provide valuable habitats for flora and fauna.
 - to prevent the unnecessary loss of trees and hedgerows due to development not being designed around existing trees and nature. Whilst this can be on a relatively small scale if considered on a site-by-site basis, cumulatively the impact on the environment (such as carbon sequestration levels, shade, biodiversity/habitat retention) can be significant.

⁷ [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612227/Ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions.pdf)

⁸ [Keepers of time: ancient and native woodland and trees policy in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612227/Ancient-woodland-ancient-trees-and-veteran-trees-advice-for-making-planning-decisions.pdf)

⁹ [england-trees-action-plan.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/612227/england-trees-action-plan.pdf)

Sometimes tree removal is necessary and justified. In those cases, the tree replacement methodology as set out in Policy G2D will be applied.

- To discourage and address pre-application removal of trees from proposed development sites as this undermines Leeds' ability to tackle climate change. Evidence of tree cover pre-removal will be utilised such as Blue Sky data and aerial photographs.

Policy G2B:

- to protect historic woodlands and trees (irreplaceable habitats) in recognition of
 - the habitats they provide and the species they support
 - their significant cultural, heritage and landscape value
 - their abilities to sequestrate and store carbon
 - their benefits to our health and wellbeing.
- to set out a hierarchy of considerations
- to establish buffers and what development will be acceptable within them.

Policy G2C:

- To protect historic woodlands (that have been present since at least 1893) in recognition of
 - their rich biodiversity
 - their important old growth features
 - their range of ecosystem services
- To set out considerations and evidence
- To establish buffers and what development will be acceptable within them.

Policy G2D:

- To establish a methodology for the replacement of removed trees outside woodland which ensures carbon sequestration parity before removal and post replanting.
- To set out a hierarchy of locations for replacement planting
- To ensure ongoing maintenance and management takes place.

Proposed Updates and Evidence

8.24 The following key updates are proposed:

- i. Expansion of current Core Strategy Policy G2 into 4 new tree policies
 - a. New Policy G2A – Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
 - b. New Policy G2B – Ancient Woodland, Ancient Trees, Veteran Trees
 - c. New Policy G2C – Long Established Woodland
 - d. New Policy G2D - Tree Replacement
- ii. Deletion of NRWLP Policy LAND2

Evidence

Policy G2A – Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

8.25 Site specific tree and/or hedgerow surveys and site visits will be used to determine the details of trees located on development sites and assessments will be used to evidence proposals relating to the trees and hedgerows. Other available evidence will also be used such as Blue Sky data and aerial photographs which can also provide historic evidence of trees and hedgerows. This is especially useful if there is evidence of unjustified removal prior to submission.

- 8.26 There are a number of national data sets for ancient woodlands, ancient trees and veteran trees. Some are listed below though this list should not be considered as comprehensive. It is expected that these will change over time as new woodland and trees are identified.

Ancient Woodland

[Ancient Woodland \(England\) | Natural England Open Data Geoportal \(arcgis.com\)](#)

Ancient Trees

[Ancient Tree Inventory - Woodland Trust](#)

[Ancient tree sites to visit | Ancient Tree Forum](#)

Veteran Trees

[Natural England Access to Evidence - Veteran trees Map](#)

- 8.27 West Yorkshire Ecology undertook an update of Ancient Woodland in Leeds in preparation for this update to the Leeds Local Plan. They used the Ancient Woodland Inventory Handbook NERC248¹⁰. The sites identified can be viewed as a layer on the Strategic GBI map [Strategic Green & Blue Infrastructure Network \(arcgis.com\)](#) and on Natural England's portal linked above.

Justification for Buffers

- 8.28 'Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions'¹¹ recognises that buffer zones can protect ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees and provide valuable habitat for woodland wildlife. It advises that the size and type of buffer zone should vary depending on the scale and type of development and its effect on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees and the character of the surrounding area.
- 8.29 The document recommends a buffer of at least 15 metres from the boundary of ancient woodland, though acknowledges that certain impacts may justify larger buffer zones. For ancient or veteran trees (including those on the woodland boundary), the buffer zone should be at least 15 times larger than the diameter of the tree. The buffer zone should be 5 metres from the edge of the tree's canopy if that area is larger than 15 times the tree's diameter which will create a minimum root protection area. Larger buffer zones may be required if impacts are likely to extend beyond this distance.
- 8.30 Buffer zones should be used to create or establish semi-natural habitats which include local, appropriate native species and contribute to wider ecological networks. They should also be part of the green infrastructure of the area and may allow access if the habitat will not be trampled and harmed. Development proposals, including gardens should not be approved within any buffer zone and sustainable drainage schemes should only be approved if they do not affect root protection areas and any change to the water table does not negatively affect ancient woodland or ancient and veteran trees.
- 8.31 During the progression of the Environment Bill, the House of Lords supported an amendment to the protection of ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees to require a minimum 50 metre buffer to ancient woodland however this was not supported by the House of Commons. Nevertheless, the Woodland Trust promotes a minimum 50 metre

¹⁰ [Ancient Woodland Inventory handbook - NECR248 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#)

¹¹ [Ancient woodland, ancient trees and veteran trees: advice for making planning decisions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

buffer for Ancient Woodland in their document Planning for Ancient Woodland (2019)¹². Policy G2B adopts this distance to both protect existing ancient woodland and expand woodland cover in Leeds. This is based on the following principles which are illustrated below:

- **30 metres:** the width required to establish one open-grown Large tree (31.2m based on RPA radius of 15.6 m (total width = 31.2 m) with native woodland shrubs and ground flora established beneath. This RPA radius is used in Natural England’s Biodiversity Metric as the width needed for one tree or large or medium size. The table below is in The Biodiversity metric 4.0 User Guide (First published March 2023)¹³

Table 8-1 Tree size classes and area equivalents

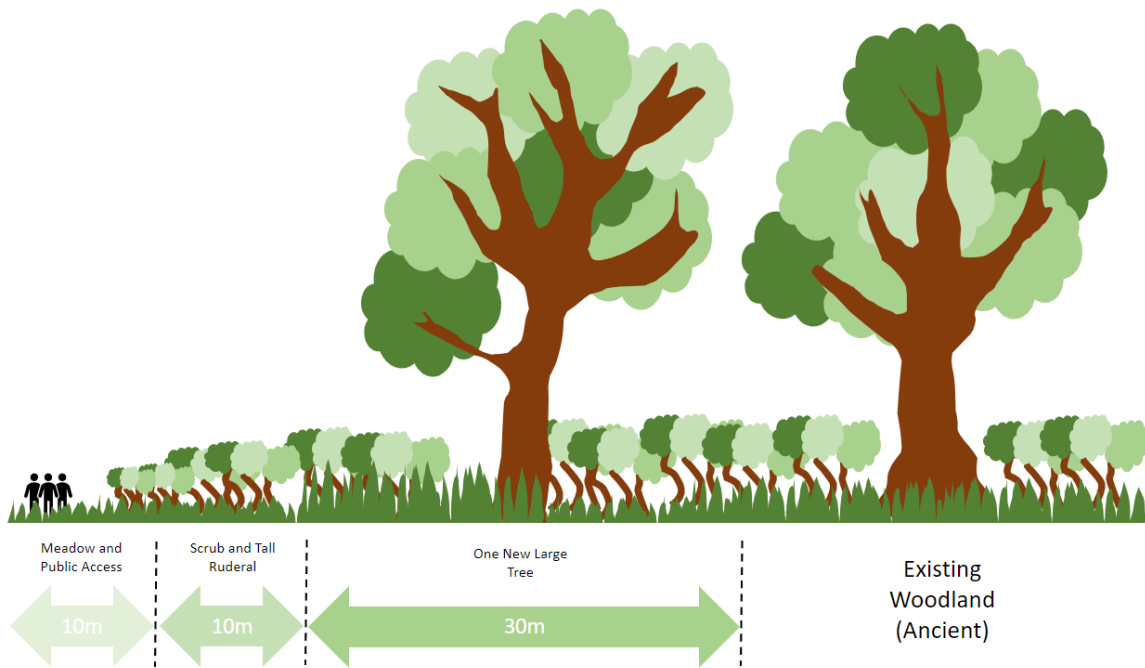
| Size class | Diameter at breast height (cm) | Metric RPA radius (m) | Metric area equivalent (ha) |
|------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Small | greater than 7cm and less than or equal to 30cm | 3.6 | 0.0041 |
| Medium | greater than 30cm and less than or equal to 90cm | 10.8 | 0.0366 |
| Large | greater than 90cm | 15.6 | 0.0764 |

Public access will be resisted and the area will largely accommodate any naturally falling adjacent mature trees (or limbs from such trees) from the existing ancient woodland or the new open grown Large tree. This will minimise public safety issues and protect the biodiversity value of retained standing and fallen deadwood as part of the ancient woodland ecological community; plus

- **10 metres:** of more-open habitat to provide eco-tones and mimic a woodland glade/ride through scrub and tall ruderal habitats. Public access will be resisted and the area will largely accommodate any naturally falling adjacent mature trees (or limbs from such trees) from the existing ancient woodland or the new open grown Large tree. This will minimise public safety issues and protect the biodiversity value of retained standing and fallen deadwood as part of the ancient woodland ecological community; plus
- **10 metres:** of meadow strip to provide another ecotone to the edge of the woodland which can also provide public access through, for example, surfaced paths. Appropriate fencing should also be provided to protect new woodland expansion and/or an appropriate boundary feature to the adjacent woodland.

¹² [planners-manual-for-ancient-woodland.pdf \(woodlandtrust.org.uk\)](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planners-manual-for-ancient-woodland.pdf)

¹³ [The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - User guide \(1\).pdf](#)



Policy G2C – Long Established Woodland

- 8.32 As part of their review and update of Ancient Woodland (using the Ancient Woodland Inventory Handbook NERC248), West Yorkshire Ecology identified sites that meet the definition of Long Established Woodland¹⁴. These sites can be viewed on an interactive map [Long Established Woodland Map](#) and a series of maps as part of the consultation material

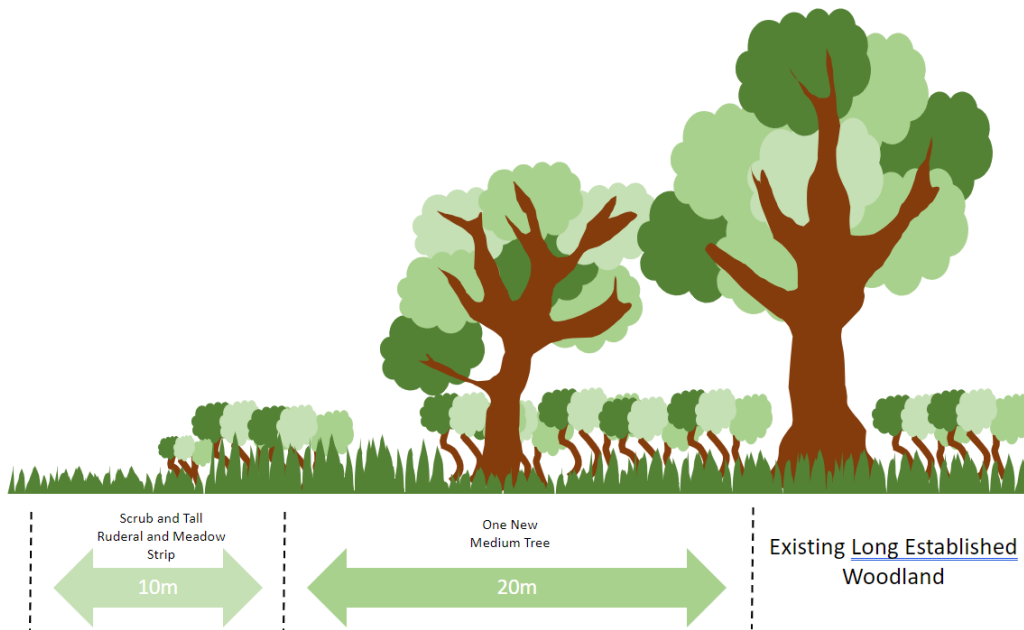
Justification for buffers

- 8.33 To reflect the use of buffers to Ancient Woodland, a buffer of 30 metres has been selected to protect existing Long Established Woodland and to create new woodland cover which could be the Long Established Woodlands or Ancient Woodlands of the future. This is based on the following:
- The width required to establish one open-grown Large tree (such as an English Oak) based on RPA radius of 15.6 m (total width = 31.2 m) with native woodland shrubs and ground flora encouraged to establish beneath it as illustrated below.

¹⁴ Woodland that has been continuously present since at least 1854, the date of the first series of detailed Ordnance Survey maps for West Yorkshire



- Or width required for establishment of one open grown Medium tree (such as a Silver Birch or Mountain Ash) based on RPA radius of 10.8 m (total width = 21.6 m) with native woodland shrubs and ground flora encouraged to establish beneath it. Together with up to 10 m of associated habitat to provide eco-tones and mimic a woodland glade/ride through scrub, tall ruderal and meadow strip



The RPA radii of 15.6m and 10.8m are based on figures in Table 8-1 of The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 User Guide shown in para 8.31 above.

Policy G2D – Tree Replacement

- 8.34 The University of Leeds and the United Bank of Carbon has devised a tree replacement methodology to achieve parity in carbon sequestration levels prior to trees being removed and after replacement planting. The methodology considers the condition, species and stature of the removed tree and the replacement trees as they impact on their ability to

sequester carbon and the replacement numbers depend on the diameter and stature of the tree to be removed and the stature and condition category (as defined in BS 5837: 2012) of the replacement trees. The full report is available to view on the Council's website. A 'Tree Replacement Calculator' has been devised to assist the application of the replacement methodology.

Tree Replacement Calculator

Details of tree to be removed

Tree type to be removed: Please Select... Tree stature group (definition below): Please Select...

Diameter of tree at 1.3m from ground in cm: Please Select...

Tree condition (definition below): Please Select...

TREE CONDITION DEFINITIONS
 Category A - High Quality (remaining life - 40+ years)
 Category B - Moderate quality (remaining life - 20+ years)
 Category C - Low Quality (remaining life - 10+ years)

TREE STATURE GROUP DEFINITION
 Group 1 - Small stature species
 Group 2 - Medium stature species
 Group 3 - Large stature species

Replacement Tree Information

Replacement Group: Please Select... Available species in the replacement group: Please Select...

Number of trees to plant: Please Select...

Mixed Group Replacements

| Example Tree type | Group | Number |
|-------------------|-------|--------|
| Unspecified G1 | 1 | 1 |
| Unspecified G2 | 2 | 2 |
| Unspecified G3 | 3 | 3 |

Percentage achieved: [Progress Bar]

National Policy

- 8.35 NPPF Paragraphs: 8c, 11, 20d, 92c, 93a, 98, 126, 130a, 130b, 131, 134a, 134b, 152, 153, 154a, 174, 175, 179, 180
- 8.36 The UK Government has an ambition to increase tree and woodland cover in England from 14 to 17%, by more than trebling annual planting rates by 2050. This will enhance carbon sequestration and give new woodlands and trees a pivotal role in the recovery of nature however planting must be in the right places and not damage existing valued wildlife and habitats which can be identified using tools such as botanical heatmaps and botanical value maps.¹⁵
- 8.37 The England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024¹⁶ sets out the government's long-term vision for the treescape it wants to see in England by 2050 and beyond. The plan provides a strategic framework for implementing the Nature for Climate Fund and outlines over 80 policy actions the government is taking over this Parliament to help deliver this vision.
- 8.38 The Plan also recognises the need to work towards net zero emissions by 2050, to address biodiversity loss, to better connect people with nature and to create more green jobs with trees at the heart of this. There are several initiatives to support woodland creation and management, such as the England Woodland Creation Offer and the Queens Green Canopy.
- 8.39 The Environment Act (2021) establishes Local Nature Recovery Strategies which will support a Nature Recovery Network. It is likely that these will incorporate tree protection and planting. It also introduces a duty upon Local Authorities to consult on street tree felling, strengthens woodland protection enforcement measures and prohibits larger UK businesses from using commodities associated with wide-scale deforestation

Measurement of Policy

- 8.40 The current monitoring indicator for Trees is:
- 24. Increase in the amount of tree cover in the District.*

The revised monitoring indicators are proposed to be:

Policy G2A

¹⁵ [Taking an evidence led approach to delivery of the Government's tree target - Natural England \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2021/06/23/taking-an-evidence-led-approach-to-delivery-of-the-government-s-tree-target/)

¹⁶ [The England Trees Action Plan \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97111/the-england-trees-action-plan.pdf)

38. Increase in the amount of tree cover in the District

48. Area of woodland cover

60. Population living within 500m of area of woodland (accessible to the public) of least 2ha and within 4km of an area of woodland of least 20ha (accessible to the public)

Policy G2B

49. Area of ancient woodland lost to development

Policy G2C

50. Area of long-established woodland lost to development

Policy G2D

38. Increase in the amount of tree cover in the District

Implementation of Policy

- 8.41 The policies will be applied during the consideration and determination of a planning application. An up to date and appropriate tree survey and assessment of carbon sequestration, storage of pollutants, biodiversity and amenity value will be required, including plans showing all existing trees and hedgerows (or previously existing trees and hedgerows if there is evidence of pre-application clearance) and assessments of their size, age, life span, health, biodiversity value and carbon sequestration abilities. Details of how a scheme has been designed to retain as many trees as possible should be submitted along with full justification supporting any proposed removal. A detailed calculation of any replacements will also be required using the tree replacement methodology along with a maintenance and management plan. The degree to which trees are being retained, the reasons for removal and the details of any replacement planting will be considered by planning, landscape and tree officers and elected Members if the application is determined by Plans Panel.

Corporate Aims

- 8.42 Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing
- i. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - ii. enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages

Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon

- i. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet
- ii. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
- iii. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

Best Council Plan – Priorities - Age-friendly Leeds

- i. Making Leeds’ public spaces and buildings accessible, safe, clean and welcoming
- ii. Promoting opportunities for older people to be healthy, active, included and respected

Delivery of Best City Ambitions by Policies

- 8.43 The protection and replanting of trees contribute to the Best City Ambitions, especially in terms of working towards being a net zero carbon city by 2030 following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Actions are being guided by responses to the ‘Big Leeds Climate Conversation’¹⁷, the Leeds Climate Change Commission’s and the Citizens’ Jury’s, one of which is to increase tree canopy cover. Trees also contribute to the wider priorities of healthy, active lives for all sectors of the population by adding to the quality, attractiveness and variety of open spaces, streets and private spaces such as gardens.

Policies G4A, G4B, G4C and G6 (deletion of G5) – Green Space

- 8.44 Leeds is a city which benefits from good overall provision of green space. However, this is not distributed evenly across the city and as a result, some areas have very little local Green Space and some of it is of a poor quality.
- 8.45 The overall aim of the Core Strategy Green Space policies is to use the development process through the Local Plan to strategically deliver the best type and the best quality of green space to where it is most needed in Leeds.
- 8.46 People moving into an area or general increases in population place a greater burden on existing green space. Therefore, it is appropriate that new housing development makes provision to address this burden by providing green space.
- 8.47 The main thrust of the proposed changes to Policy G4, G5 and G6 is to achieve greater levels of clarity for the applicant and the planning department. This, in turn, will lead to better high quality Green Space for the City. With this in mind the current aims of the current Policy G4 have been split and clarified into three areas. Green Space improvement and provision, creation of High Quality Green Space and the maintenance of Green Space.
- 8.48 In addition to this is the need to delete Policy G5 and bring greater clarity regarding what Green Space is protected under Policy G6. These are explained later in paragraphs 8.53 and 8.62 respectively.
- 8.49 It should be noted that the main aspects of Policy G4 have not been changed. The levels of Green Space as proposed by Policy G4A remain the same and are not proposed for change.

Proposed Updates and Evidence

- 8.50 The proposal is to ensure that:
- i. there is better understanding of what Leeds expects in terms of Quality of Green Space.
 - ii. a stronger and clearer expectation of what Leeds wishes with regard to maintenance of Green Space exists.
 - iii. there is Greater and better Green Space for the City Centre
 - iv. there is clearer and stronger protection of Green Space

¹⁷ [Annex 2 - Big Leeds Climate Conversation.pdf](#)

Policy G4B: High Quality New green and Blue Spaces

- 8.51 **Quality:** Whilst stated as a requirement in the current Policy G4, 'Quality' is not defined. Through consultation it was clear that a clearer definition of what Quality Green Space is will improve the environment for all. This ties into National Policy aims and good Placemaking.
- 8.52 A comprehensive list of High Quality design criteria was developed to assist applicants and design Officers in coming to a decision as to whether a Green Space scheme is of sufficient Quality (and thus complying with national policy and local policy). Appendix 3 displays diagrammatically how this can be (in the main) achieved on even on the smallest area of Green Space demanded as a result of Policy G4A. It should be further understood that, as with all aspects of development, if it is felt by the developer that a different approach will be better for the local communities and create a better (or locally needed) Green Space, then these can be negotiated during the Development Management process.

Policy G4C: Maintenance of Green and Blue Space

- 8.53 **Maintenance:** Paragraph 5.5.18.1 of the Core Strategy 2019 (as Amended) states the current supporting text provision to Policy G4 (b) – 'Arrangements for -on-going maintenance must be agreed'. Through consultation it was felt that a clearer definition of what is required particularly with regard to ensuring the green space is maintained in perpetuity.

Policy G5: Deletion

- 8.54 **One Green Space Policy for the City:** The Origins of having a separate Policy (G5) when calculating Green Space can be traced back to the Unitary Development Plan (UDP). Policy CC10 stated:

CC10: FURTHER PROVISION OF PUBLIC SPACE WILL BE REQUIRED.
OPERATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COVERING MORE THAN 0.5 HECTARES
SHOULD ALLOCATE A MINIMUM OF 20% OF THE DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA
AS PUBLIC SPACE.

- 8.55 The Core Strategy 2014 was written in the shadow of the financial crisis of 2007/8 and so it was felt necessary to keep the restrictions on the development of Green Space in the City Centre.
- 8.56 However, the population of the City Centre has increased significantly from 11,400 in 2002 to over 40,000 in 2022 which has increased the burden on existing Green Space facilities.

| LSOA11CD | LSOA11NM | 2002 | 2011 | 2012 | 2020 |
|-----------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| E01011678 | Leeds 063B | 1,829 | 4,154 | 4,196 | 4,793 |
| E01033002 | Leeds 055F | 852 | 1,299 | 1,323 | 2,308 |
| E01033005 | Leeds 055H | 2,988 | 3,519 | 3,540 | 4,142 |
| E01033006 | Leeds 063E | 2,812 | 3,368 | 3,537 | 4,500 |
| E01033008 | Leeds 111A | 117 | 1,105 | 1,142 | 4,586 |
| E01033010 | Leeds 111B | 398 | 2,789 | 2,932 | 4,313 |
| E01033011 | Leeds 111C | 480 | 1,362 | 1,508 | 2,084 |
| E01033015 | Leeds 111D | 36 | 1,154 | 1,214 | 2,102 |
| E01033016 | Leeds 111E | 170 | 1,008 | 1,043 | 1,340 |
| E01033018 | Leeds 112D | 8 | 1,119 | 1,294 | 1,667 |
| E01033019 | Leeds 112E | 695 | 1,689 | 1,869 | 2,226 |
| E01033032 | Leeds 082F | 701 | 1,266 | 1,338 | 2,080 |
| E01033033 | Leeds 075F | 233 | 1,570 | 1,728 | 2,209 |
| E01033034 | Leeds 075G | 78 | 1,010 | 1,076 | 1,818 |

- 8.57 Coupled with this is the highlighted importance of local Green Space during the Pandemic particularly for people living in high density block development with no gardens.
- 8.58 Lastly, and in the long term possibly the most important, is the fact that greater numbers of Trees and Green Space will contribute to mitigating Climate Change and associated benefits below:
- Reconnection with Greenery and Nature
 - The Mental Health benefits
 - The Community benefits (meeting / Socialising)
 - The Physical health benefits
 - Mitigation of Urban Heat Island (UHI) effects
 - The Biodiversity net gain benefits
 - A more attractive physical environment.
- 8.59 Policy G5 currently demands a lower level of Green Space in the City Centre compared to the rest of the City and the trigger of 0.5 Ha creates an absurdity in the implementation. Basically stated, Green Space provision is based on burden. Leeds needs will need more Green Space in an area as the population increases. A 15 storey development containing 1000 people built on a 0.49 Ha in the City centre will current have to provide no Green Space. A low-level residential development in the City centre on a 0.51 Ha site containing 60 people will need to provide Green Space.
- 8.60 It should also be recognised that existing provision for High density developments exists. Paragraph 5.5.18 of the CSSR 2019 states:
- As the green space requirement is expressed as an amount of green space per dwelling, high density developments (65dph (net)) usually found in or on the edge of town centres may generate requirements for green space that cannot be delivered on-site. For such schemes an expected level of 20% of green space should be provided on-site with the residual being provided off-site or in the form of a commuted sum. However, it is accepted that there may be particular site circumstances to justify a higher or lower quantity than 20% on-site.
- Thus, requiring a reasonable level for High Density residential developments.
- 8.61 With the above in mind, it was appropriate to delete Policy G5 and have one Policy (Policy G4A) to apply to the whole City.
- Policy G6: Protection of existing green space*
- 8.62 **Clearer Protection and Climate Change Mitigation:** The changes to Policy G6 are for Clarification only. In the main it ensures that all newly created and existing Green Space is afforded adequate protection under Planning.
- 8.63 It also establishes that land can be protected where there is a link between the use of the land and the obligations of Climate Change Mitigation
- National Policy**
- 8.64 The relevant paragraphs of the NPPF are as follows:

Quality: 8b, 8c, 11, 20d, 92c, 93a, 98, 126, 127, 130b, 130f, 134a and 134b,

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Maintenance: | 8b, 8c, 11, 20d, 92c, 93a, 98, 126, |
| One Policy for City: | 8b, 8c, 11, 20d, 92c, 93a, 98, 126, 130b, 130f, 134a, 134b |
| Clearer Protection: | NPPF 8b, 8c, 11, 20d, 92c, 93a, 93c, 98, 99, |

Measurement of Policies

- 8.65 It is accepted that the measurement of quality cannot be measured empirically and that the design of Green Space associated with a scheme will be in response to the site and the specific nature of the development. Each application will have the input of the design team of Leeds Planning Department. Any design will be judged against the requirements of the Policy and against established best practice. Schemes that do not design Green Space to a satisfactory quality may be refused.
- 8.66 The associated measurement of the success of the Policy will, therefore, take place during the implementation process.
- 8.67 The current monitoring indicator for Green Space is:

24. Provision of Green Infrastructure and Green Space as obtained through development process and other sources

25. Amount of Green Space lost to redevelopment.

The revised monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

24. Collection/spend of commuted sums toward Green Space projects.

25. Net gain/loss of Green Space

Implementation of Policy

- 8.68 The Policies will be implemented as follows.

Policy G4A: GREEN AND BLUE SPACE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW GREEN AND BLUE SPACE PROVISION

As current Policy G4

Policy G4B: HIGH QUALITY NEW GREEN AND BLUE SPACE

It is accepted that the measurement of quality cannot be measured empirically and that the design Green Space associated with a scheme will be in response to the site and the specific nature of the development. Each application will have the input of the design team of Leeds Planning Department. Any design will be judged against the requirements of the Policy and against established best practice. Schemes that do not design Green Space to a satisfactory quality may be refused.

The associated measurement of the success of the Policy will, therefore, take place during the implementation process.

Policy G4C: MAINTENANCE OF GREEN AND BLUE SPACE

As current Policy G4.

Policy G6: PROTECTION OF EXISTING GREEN AND BLUE SPACE

As current Policy G6

Corporate Aims

8.69 Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing

- i. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
- ii. enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages

Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon

- i. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet
- ii. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
- iii. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

Best Council Plan – Priorities - Age-friendly Leeds

- i. Making Leeds' public spaces and buildings accessible, safe, clean and welcoming
- ii. Promoting opportunities for older people to be healthy, active, included and respected

Nature Conservation (Policy G8A, G8B)

8.70 Nature Conservation is not just about rare or threatened species or habitats, it is also about ensuring widespread and common species remain an integral part of a sustainable natural environment. In Leeds there are many designated sites but also many undesignated areas of habitat that are of value as part of the city's natural capital. These include areas of woodland, grasslands, hedgerows, waterways and water bodies, gardens, allotments, shelter belts, farmland and field margins, scrub, and other open spaces. It is therefore important that planning policies seek the protection, improvement and increase of sites recognised for their biodiversity and habitat value which create an interlinked, city-wide network of spaces for nature. Such a network is a critical part of the Council's response to climate change.

8.71 The Environment Act (2021) strengthens the duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and requires the delivery of at least 10% biodiversity net gain by developments. It also establishes Local Nature Recovery Strategies which will support a Nature Recovery Network, Conservation Covenants and Protected Site Strategies and Species Conservation Strategies. This recognises the importance of the natural environment and the need to protect, enhance and expand the network of such spaces

8.72 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (in force in 2006) transferred the duty of biodiversity conservation to local public authorities which must use policy and decision making to ensure biodiversity is kept consistent, enhanced, restored, or protected, including the 943 species and 56 habitats on Natural England's protected species and habitats list.

- 8.73 The Wildlife and Countryside Act (in force in 1981) is the primary mechanism for wildlife conservation and protection in Britain, giving certain animals, plants, wild birds and their eggs and nests protection from killing, injury, being taken, or having their places of shelter interfered with.
- 8.74 The importance of nature and biodiversity to climate change is widely recognised at an international, national and local level as set out in Section 2. above.
- 8.75 Overall, the nature conservation policies are aiming to achieve the following:
- policies which refer to up to date terminology and harmonise with the Environment Act 2021
 - protection of designated sites of international, national, regional and local biodiversity or geological importance and any Habitat or Species of Principal Importance.
 - protection of a city-wide network of important natural spaces and linkages

8.76 The intentions of the more detailed policies are as follows:

Policy G8A

- strong protection of designated sites of international and national biodiversity or geological importance
- protection of any sites designated of regional or local biodiversity or geological importance or any Habitat or Species of Principal Importance.
- protection of candidate/potential sites for a Local Wildlife Site or Local Geological Site designation

Policy G8B

- protection of the Leeds Habitat Network
- enhancement and expansion of the Leeds Habitat Network

Proposed Updates and Evidence

8.77 The following key updates are proposed:

- i. update and strengthen current Policy G8 which provides protection for designated sites
- ii. new Policy G8B – Leeds Habitat Network - which will provide protection for the city-wide network of natural spaces and linkages and seek improvements and new provision

Evidence

Policy G8A

- 8.78 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated by Natural England under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites are designated by the West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership and Local Nature Reserves are designated by the Council under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.
- 8.79 West Yorkshire Ecology has undertaken a review of the saved non-statutory designated sites from the 2006 Revised Unitary Development Plan on behalf of Leeds City Council. Every

Local Nature Area and Site of Ecological or Geological Importance has been assessed against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Sites Criteria and sites that meet the relevant Criteria have been renamed as Local Wildlife Sites. Those that do not meet the Criteria have been removed from the Schedule and will be removed from the Policies Map when it is next updated. An Audit Trail of all Designated Habitat Sites from the 2006 UDP to present day sets out changes made and can be found in Appendices 4 - 9. It should be noted that these sites may still receive a similar degree of protection under emerging Policy G8B Leeds Habitat Network. A complete list of designated sites in Leeds can be found in Appendix 10 and these sites are shown on the Natural Environment Map [Natural Environment Map](#).

Policy G8B

- 8.80 West Yorkshire Ecology has undertaken a review and update of the Leeds Habitat Network on behalf of Leeds City Council. Details of the methodology followed can be found in Appendix 11. The updated Leeds Habitat Network is shown on [Leeds Habitat Network Map](#) and is available to view as part of the consultation material.

National Policy

- 8.81 NPPF Paragraphs 8c, 9, 11, 20d, 92c, 98, 126, 130a, 130b, 134a, 134b, 152, 153, 154a, 174, 175, 179, 180, 181, 182

Measurement of Policy

- 8.82 The current monitoring indicator for Nature Conservation is:

37. Quality of Existing Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Leeds

The revised monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

Policy G8A:

37. Quality of existing Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Leeds

Policy G8B:

51 Area of Leeds Habitat Network lost to development

Implementation of Policy

- 8.83 The policies will be applied during the consideration and determination of a planning application and will protect important habitats and species on designated sites, candidate designated sites and the Leeds Habitat Network. They will prevent harmful impacts on these important habitats and species and seek ongoing maintenance, management and monitoring. Development proposed in the Leeds Habitat Network must not have significant adverse impacts on its value, integrity and connectivity and any negative impacts should be compensated for by enhancements. The details submitted as part of a planning application will be assessed by planning and nature conservation officers and elected Members if the application is determined by Plans Panel. West Yorkshire Ecology can also provide expertise.

Corporate Aims

- 8.84 Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing
- i. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - ii. enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing

somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages

Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon

- i. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet
- ii. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
- iii. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

Best Council Plan – Priorities - Age-friendly Leeds

- i. Making Leeds' public spaces and buildings accessible, safe, clean and welcoming
- ii. Promoting opportunities for older people to be healthy, active, included and respected

Delivery of the Best City Ambition by Policies

- 8.85 The protection, enhancement and expansion of the network of nature sites contributes to the Best City Ambition, especially in terms of working towards being a net zero carbon city by 2030 following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Existing and future habitats and biodiversity are also key elements of the city's natural environment and infrastructure and have a large part to play in mitigating climate change, responding to its effects and improving resilience to future changes. Section 2 sets out the international and national recognition of the important relationship between climate change and biodiversity and the need to consider these together through, for example, nature-based solutions.

Biodiversity Net Gain (Policy G9)

- 8.86 Biodiversity is the term used to describe the amazing variety of life on Earth. It has a huge role in helping us live healthy and happy lives; it provides us with food, raw materials, medical discoveries and ecosystem services. There are also many and varied benefits provided by the natural environment and healthy ecosystems such as natural pollination of crops, clean air, a supply of oxygen, clean water, extreme weather mitigation and human mental and physical well-being, recreation and even tourism. The importance of biodiversity to climate change is widely recognised at an international, national and local level as set out in Section 2 above.
- 8.87 The Environment Act (2021) strengthens the duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity and requires the delivery of at least 10% biodiversity net gain by developments. Whilst this requirement will not be in force until early 2024, this Local Plan review enables it to be embedded in the Leeds Local Plan in a timely fashion.
- 8.88 Overall, the policy is aiming to achieve the following:
- A minimum 10% biodiversity net gain across all three types of biodiversity units (habitats, hedgerows and watercourses) in line with the Environment Act.
 - Prioritising delivery of on-site BNG
 - The retention and enhancement of medium and high distinctiveness units on site in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy

- Any BNG delivered in private gardens must be in addition to achieving 10% BNG.
- Comprehensive management and monitoring of BNG
- Off-site BNG will be delivered primarily in the same locality, focussed on existing wildlife sites, the Leeds Habitat Network and site which create a link between existing sites. Under certain circumstances, this could be district wide.

Proposed Updates and Evidence

8.89 The following key updates are proposed:

- embed a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain in local policy in line with the Environment Act
- provide clear information on how BNG will be sought, delivered, managed and monitored in Leeds

8.90 A minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain is set in the Environment Act 2021. The point at which this will be mandatory has recently been pushed back from November 2023 to probably January 2024 by the Government, however it is highly likely it will be mandatory long before any future adoption of a BNG policy in the Leeds Local Plan. The details in terms of how BNG will be delivered, managed and monitored are based on provisions within the Environment Act and guidance and best practice currently available, prior to the Government issuing a formal framework of national level regulation which is expected shortly. Leeds City Council provides advice at <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/planning/conservation-protection-and-heritage/achieving-net-gain-in-biodiversity-guidance-for-developers>. The Planning Advisory Service has produced various guidance [Biodiversity Net Gain for local authorities | Local Government Association](#) and runs a BNG Practitioners Forum.

8.91 The habitat distinctiveness categories referred to in the policy are set out the Biodiversity Metric 4.0 Technical Annex 2¹⁸ and are as stated below.

Technical Table 3-1 Habitat distinctiveness categories and criteria thresholds

| Distinctiveness category | Criteria threshold |
|--------------------------|--|
| Very high | Priority Habitats as defined in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act that are highly threatened, internationally scarce and require conservation action, for example blanket bog. Small amount of remaining habitat with a high proportion unprotected by designation. Critically Endangered European Red List habitats. |
| High | Priority Habitats as defined in Section 41 of the NERC Act requiring conservation action, for example lowland fens. Remaining Priority Habitats not in very high distinctiveness band and other Near Threatened and Vulnerable Red List habitats. |
| Medium | Semi-natural habitats not classed as a Priority Habitat but with significant wildlife benefit, for example mixed scrub. Arable field margins (Priority Habitat only). |
| Low | Habitat of limited biodiversity value for example temporary grass and clover ley. Agricultural and urban land of lower biodiversity value. |
| Very low | Little or no biodiversity value for example hard standing or sealed surface. |

¹⁸ [The Biodiversity Metric 4.0 - JP039 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#), 6th document down.

National Policy

- 8.92 NPPF paragraphs: 8c, 9, 11, 20d, 98, 126, 130a, 130b, 134a, 134b, 152, 153, 154a, 174, 175, 179, 180

Measurement of Policy

- 8.93 The is no current monitoring indicator for BNG.

The monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

52. Net gain in biodiversity through development

Implementation of Policy

- 8.94 The policy will be applied during the consideration and determination of a planning application and a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG) will be required. Comprehensive measurements of biodiversity levels before and after the proposed development will be submitted as part of a planning application, using the latest version of Natural England's Biodiversity Metric and setting out where losses and gains will occur. Furthermore, details of how BNG will be delivered will also be required, along with maintenance and management arrangements to ensure the survival and health of biodiversity for at least 30 years. BNG should be delivered on-site and the retention and improvement of existing habitats and biodiversity is preferred. Applicants should show they have fully considered and followed the mitigation hierarchy. If all biodiversity units cannot be delivered on site for fully justifiable reasons, off-site delivery may be pursued within or immediately adjacent to a West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Site or Local Nature Reserve. If this is not possible, the policy provides other options; within or immediately adjacent to the Leeds Habitat Network, outside the Leeds Habitat Network but where a new strategic connection between two separate parts of the Network will be created, or other publicly accessible locations which function as a nature reserve. The details submitted as part of a planning application will be assessed by planning and nature conservation officers and elected Members if the application is determined by Plans Panel. West Yorkshire Ecology can also provide expertise.

Corporate Aims

- 8.95 Best City Ambition - Health and Wellbeing
- i. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
 - ii. enabling every community in the city to have safe connected spaces, streets and paths to access a local park or green space, providing somewhere to be active and to play, helping to improve mental and physical health across all ages

Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon

- i. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet
- ii. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
- iii. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

Best Council Plan – Priorities - Age-friendly Leeds

- i. Making Leeds' public spaces and buildings accessible, safe, clean and welcoming
- ii. Promoting opportunities for older people to be healthy, active, included and respected

Delivery of Best City Ambition by Policy

- 8.96 The protection and delivery of an increase in biodiversity contribute to the Best City Ambition, especially in terms of working towards being a net zero carbon city by 2030 following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. Biodiversity is also a key element of the city's natural environment and infrastructure and has a large part to play in mitigating climate change, responding to its effects and improving resilience to future changes. Section 2 sets out the international and national recognition of the important relationship between climate change and biodiversity and the need to consider these together through, for example, nature-based solutions.

Policy G10 – Biodiversity Enhancements for Species

- 8.97 Nesting spaces for swifts was debated in parliament on 10th July 2023, where the Minister for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities made it clear that it was the responsibility of local councils to ensure the provision of nesting spaces for swifts and other species features which are not covered in the BNG calculation. In response to this, the importance of species and the recognition that biodiversity net gain focuses on habitat rather than species, and a significant volume of consultation responses requesting the Council address this issue, this policy sets out the features and infrastructure which developments will be expected to include such as integral bat roosts, integral swift bricks, bee bricks and hedgehog highways.
- 8.98 BS 42021:2022 Integral nest boxes is aimed at building integrated nest boxes for Swifts, Starlings, Great Tits, Blue Tits and House Sparrows though other species may potentially use any boxes. It sets out what types of buildings nest boxes should be installed in, important features and dimensions of the boxes and entrance hole, how interested parties should be consulted and when local authorities should confirm suitable installation. The British Standard states integral nest boxes shall be installed in buildings dispersed around the development site, indicates what factors should be taken account of, directs where such boxes should and should not be positioned and indicates new residential developments will have a 1:1 ratio of integral nest boxes to dwellings. Boxes for colonial species shall be installed close together.
- 8.99 Overall, the policy is aiming to achieve the following:
- To provide biodiversity enhancements for species
 - To provide integral bat and/or integral Swift nest features in appropriate locations

Proposed Updates and Evidence

- 8.100 This is a new policy.

Evidence

- 8.101 Swifts and house martins are on the UK Red List, having suffered serious declines in recent decades. It is estimated that almost 60% of UK swifts have disappeared over the last 25 years due to factors such as a huge decline of insects, habitat loss, and the impacts of

climate change¹⁹. Similarly, hedgehogs have undergone a long historic decline, though this is particularly in rural areas. In urban areas, the population is more stable and even showing signs of recovery which highlights the importance of gardens and green spaces, and local action to make urban areas more hedgehog friendly²⁰.

- 8.102 The National Bat Monitoring Programme Annual Report 2022²¹ noted that whilst several bat species remained at risk of extinction, some species were showing signs of slow recovery, including the greater horseshoe and lesser horseshoe bats. The historical declines have been blamed on more intensive farming methods, along with loss of roosting and foraging habitats, persecution, the use of pesticides, poor water quality, declines in insects, irresponsible development and land-use change. Despite some recovery, bats remain vulnerable to pressures such as landscape change, unsympathetic development and emerging threats such as new building practices, climate change, wind turbines, light pollution and any potential detrimental changes to regulations, policies and wildlife laws.
- 8.103 There are many guides to providing for species within developments as well as more specific guides to swift bricks. Some examples are 'Biodiversity in new housing developments: creating wildlife-friendly communities' (NHBC, 2021, NF89)²² and Swift Nest Bricks – installation and suppliers (Swift Conservation)²³.

National Policy

- 8.104 NPPF Paragraphs 8c, 9, 11, 20d, 153, 154a, 174, 175, 179, 180

Measurement of Policy

- 8.105 There is no current monitoring indicator for biodiversity enhancement for species.
The monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

53 Biodiversity enhancements delivered through development

Implementation of Policy

- 8.106 The policies will be applied during the consideration and determination of a planning application. Features and infrastructure that will benefit species will be sought such as new integral bat roosts, integral swift bricks, bee bricks and hedgehog highways and all new build and alteration schemes should provide integral features for bat roosting and integral Swift Bricks. Full details should be submitted prior to determination in an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) report and on a General Layout type drawing. Outline applications should commit to providing integral bat roosting and integral Swift Bricks together with an indication of how many. A qualified ecological consultant should assess the site and types of buildings and propose the best type and location of the roosts and bricks in line with best practice guidance and the British Standard.

Corporate Aims

- 8.107 Best City Ambition – Zero Carbon
- i. joining with local communities, landowners and partners to protect nature and enhance habitats for wildlife
 - ii. investing in our public spaces, green and blue infrastructure to enable faster transition to a green economy while improving quality of life for residents

¹⁹ [Act swiftly! Public asked to help endangered high-flying birds | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

²⁰ [SoBH-2022-Final.pdf \(hedgehogstreet.org\)](#)

²¹ [NBMP-annual-report-2022.pdf \(bats.org.uk\)](#)

²² [Biodiversity in new housing developments | NHBC](#)

²³ [Leaflet 4 - Swift Nest Bricks - installation & suppliers-small.pdf \(swift-conservation.org\)](#)

Delivery of the Best City Ambition by Policy

- 8.108 The provision of species features contributes to the Best City Ambition, especially in terms of working towards being a net zero carbon city by 2030 following the declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. They are part of the wider biodiversity which is a key element of the city's natural environment and infrastructure and has a large part to play in mitigating climate change, responding to its effects and improving resilience to future changes. Section 2 sets out the international and national recognition of the important relationship between climate change and biodiversity and the need to consider these together through, for example, nature-based solutions.

Policy F1 - Food Resilience

- 8.109 Food Resilience is an important part of GBI as it helps deliver many of the benefits of GBI (e.g. for biodiversity and well-being). It is also an important part of reducing carbon emissions in its own right by reducing the travel and processing associated with food production. Indeed, food is one of the biggest contributors to our individual carbon footprint. It is for this reason that the Leeds Climate Commission have concluded that growing food locally and reducing food waste are important steps in becoming a zero-carbon city. Food growing can be on a commercial scale i.e., through farming, and on a local community scale, such as allotments, community gardens or forest gardens.
- 8.110 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan²⁴ notes that the UK needs to optimise sustainable national food production for both the climate agenda and also to respond to Brexit and make the UK more self-sufficient.

We will ensure that resources from nature, such as food, fish and timber, are used more sustainably and efficiently. We will do this by:

Ensuring that food is produced sustainably and profitably.

It is also noted in the same document that.

Agri-tech developments can significantly improve farm performance, in terms of both profits and the environment.

- 8.111 The Climate Change Emergency, recent pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis has brought into sharp focus the importance of Food Resilience. As a society we are much more aware factors such as the distance food travels, its availability, its quality and its cost impact on our lives on a day-to-day basis particularly with regard areas of deprivation and malnutrition.

Proposed Updates and Evidence

- 8.112 The proposal is to ensure that there is:
- i. Support for sustainable food growing in the district
 - ii. support for innovation and diversity that promotes sustainable food growing
 - iii. support for community food growing
 - iv. A requirement in Policy for fruit trees in new gardens over a certain size

National Policy

- 8.113 NPPF Paragraphs 8b, 8c, 11a, 92c, 126, 130a, 130b, 131, 134b, 152, 153,

²⁴ [25-year-environment-plan.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Measurement of Policy

8.114 There is no current monitoring indicator for Food Resilience.

The monitoring indicator is proposed to be:

59. Area of land identified for allotments or community growing spaces. f

Implementation of Policy

8.115 There are two discrete parts to the Policy. The first 6 bullet points support and encourage planning applications that improve Food Resilience in Leeds. The last bullet point demands that a new Tree is placed in the garden of new residential development. The placement of Tree will be controlled by the standard DM process.

Corporate Aims

8.116 Best City Ambition:

- i. In 2030 Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for everyone: where those who are most likely to experience poverty improve their mental and physical health the fastest, people are living healthy lives for longer, and are supported to thrive from early years to later life.
- ii. promoting a fair and sustainable food system in which more produce is grown locally, and everyone can enjoy a healthy diet

Appendix 1 - GBI in the NPPF (July 2021) – Relevant Paragraphs

The proposed changes in the Local Plan Update are entirely consistent with the aims of National Policy as set out in the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF). Below is a list of the relevant national policies that support the schedule of changes as outlined in Chapter 9.

It should be noted that the version of the NPPF used is the update that was published in July 2022

Chapter 2. Achieving sustainable development

The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in terms of economic, social and environmental factors. Sustainable development is an overarching Policy narrative that must be embedded in all Development Plans.

Para 8(b) sets out the social objective -

‘to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being;’

Para 8(c) sets out the environmental objective

‘to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.’

Para 11(a) presumption in favour of sustainable development

‘all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects’

Chapter 3. Plan-making

Para 20(d) sets out the role of Strategic Policies

‘Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision¹³ for:

(d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.’

Chapter 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities

Para 92(c) sets out how to create health, safe communities

‘Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which

c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible

green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.'

Para 93(a) sets out the need to provide social, recreation and cultural facilities

'To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

(a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;'

Para 98 sets out the need to provide open space.

'Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.'

Para 99 sets out the criteria for the protection of Open Spaces

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or

c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

Para 100 sets out the protection and enhancement of Public Rights of Way (PROW)

'Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.'

Chapter 12. Achieving well-designed places

Para 126 creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places

'The creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.'

Para 130 development should be designed such...

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments

a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development

b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping

Para 131 importance of trees in design terms

Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined⁵⁰, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users.

Para 134 development that is poor design should be refused

Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design⁵², taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to:

a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or

b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.

Chapter 14. Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change)

Para 152/153 Pro-active planning for Climate Change

The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.

Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures⁵³. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical protection measures, or making provision for the possible future relocation of vulnerable development and infrastructure.

Para 154a Planning of New development

New development should be planned for in ways that:

a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure;

Para 161 Sequential based approach and Flood Risk

New development should be planned for in ways that:

c) using opportunities provided by new development and improvements in green and other infrastructure to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding, (making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management);;

Chapter 15 - Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (para 174 – 188)

Para 174 b) d) e) contribute and enhance the natural local environment

Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;

d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans;

Para 175 distinguish between hierarchy of designated natural sites

Plans should set out clearly the hierarchy of designated (nature) sites, allocate sites with the least environmental or amenity value, maintain and enhance habitat networks and green infrastructure at a strategic level; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a broad, cross-boundary scale.

Para 179 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity

To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity⁶¹; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation⁶²; and

promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

Para 180 sets out a number of principles which should be applied when determining planning applications:

a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;

c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons⁶³ and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and

d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

Para 181 protection of habitat sites

a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;

b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites⁶⁴; and

c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Para 182 exception of presumption of sustainable development on habitat sites

The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a habitats site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), unless an appropriate assessment has concluded that the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.

Appendix 2 - Technical Note - Strategic Green & Blue Infrastructure Network Map

Purpose

This note has been prepared to accompany the Strategic Green & Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Network Map. It outlines the following:

- How the network has been defined as part of the Local Plan Update
- The spatial datasets that have been used identify the boundaries of the GBI functions
- Any further work that is being undertaken that may result in amendments to the network prior to submission of the Local Plan Update for examination.

Local Plan Update Policy

The 'Strategic Green and Blue Infrastructure Network' (GBI network) is referred to under the following revised policy proposed in the Local Plan Update.

Spatial Policy 13 *'Protecting, Maintaining, Enhancing and Extending Green & Blue Infrastructure'*

Spatial Policy 13 identifies the GBI network as comprising the following designations and other areas of land:

| Local Plan designations | Other corridors and sites |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Green space (Site Allocations Policy GS1 & AVLAPP Policy AVL14) | River corridors |
| Leeds Habitat Network (new Policy G8B)* | Lakes |
| Functional flood plain (Policy Water 3) – Undeveloped areas* | Ponds |
| Long Established Woodland (proposed designations)(new Policy G2C)* | Woodland, including ancient woodland |
| | Historic Parks and Gardens |
| | Public Right of Way (PROW) |
| | Nature Conservation Sites** |

* These policies are proposed to be updated as part of the Local Plan Update

** Local Nature Reserves are designated by the Council by using its powers under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 rather than through the Local Plan.

Strategic GBI Network Mapping

The definition of Strategic GBI set out under Spatial Policy 13 has been used to define the spatial extent of the network. Any parcel of land meeting one or more of the GBI definitions set out in the policy falls within the Strategic GBI Network and is shown on the map.

The boundaries of some GBI functions, as shown in the table above, are defined in the Local Plan. It should be noted that three of these designations are subject to a proposed update as part of the Local Plan Update process. The datasets used to represent these designations on the Strategic GBI Network Map is based on the latest available information supporting the Local Plan Update publication draft. This may be subject to change as the Local Plan progresses to reflect further updates to the evidence base and changes resulting from consultation.

Other areas of land falling under within definition of Strategic GBI are not defined within the Local Plan. The extent of these areas has been derived using the most appropriate national and local datasets available.

Using the Strategic GBI Network Map

The Strategic GBI Network Map can be viewed by clicking on the link below. The GBI network is shown in green or blue.

The status of any parcel of land can be checked by clicking on the map (see link below). This will show all the GBI functions that apply on a pop-up box. These can be seen individually by scrolling on the arrow at the bottom right of the box.

[Strategic Green & Blue Infrastructure Network \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

Further Updates to the Strategic GBI Network Map

Leeds Habitat Network update

The Council is reviewing the Leeds Habitat Network as part of the Local Plan Update. The existing Leeds Habitat Network is shown on the map with the following types of site removed (as part of the first stage of the review)

Any land within the LHN which was included by virtue of falling within Flood Risk Zones 2 and 3 which had no other type of habitat value identified.

Any part of the LHN (usually small areas) which has been developed since the LHN was defined and has no habitat value remaining.

The review is likely to identify further areas of habitat which will be added to the network. This will be reflected in the next iteration of the Strategic GBI network map.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

The PROW network is not currently shown the map. Further work is to be undertaken to identify the parts of the PROW network that has a strategic role in providing access to or linking other GBI sites and corridors. These will be added to the network map.

Appendix 3 – Policy G4B – Achieving the requirements of Policy G4B with the minimum Green Space area as a result of the implementation Policy G4A:

Minimum Green Space Area Possible under Policy G4A and subsequent delivery of Policy G4B:

- i. provision of seating that is designed for all users in appropriate locations
- j. clearly defined boundaries and access points to ensure spaces feel safe and legible for all users
- k. boundary treatment planting to soften edges, maximise biodiversity value and improve air quality
- m. must include new tree planting unless justified otherwise
- o. a mix of formal and in-formal play provision with innovative spaces using natural materials and varied planting to allow imaginative play and connection to nature .

Calculation:
 Number of Residential Units =10
 Policy H4 Target Mix is: 1 x 1b, 5 x 2b, 3 x 3b, 1 x 4b
 Policy G4A GS needed: 23+165+132+53 = 374 sqm
 Creating Area = 19.3m x 19.3m



- a. provided on-site for the benefit of all residents in the local community
- b. Green and Blue Spaces must be open to the Public and not be territorial
- c. serve multifunctional purposes for human health, recreation, ecology, carbon capture and adaptation to the impacts of climate change
- d. make use of existing features of sites such as GBI assets, corridors and topography
- e. usable for recreation including facilitating movement, play – both formal and informal, rest and observing nature
- f. work comprehensively for the occupiers of the development and the local community as a whole
- g. spaces must not be isolated, narrow, exclusively linear, fragmented and have natural surveillance for safety
- h. accessible for all users (including disabled people).
- i. suitable for informal games and community gatherings.
- n. show how the space has been designed to be is safe and welcoming for girls and young women.
- p. is suitable for children and young people of different ages and abilities.
- q. Any play provision needs to be designed in accordance with national guidance such as Fields in Trust.

Appendix 4 – Policy G8A – Audit Trail for Habitat Designations from saved UDP Policy N50 to Local Plan Emerging Policy G8a – 20th February 2023

Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI (nationally important, statutory designation)

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Date designated | Current ID Ref. | Additional info. |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| SSSI 1 | Micklefield Quarry | Garforth | 1990 | SSSI 1 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 2 | Hetchell Wood | Wetherby | 1983 | SSSI 2 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 3 | Yeadon Brickworks and Railway Cutting | Aireborough | 1984 | SSSI 3 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 4 | Breary Marsh | North Leeds | 1983 | SSSI 4 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 5 | Mickletown Ings | Rothwell | 1983 | SSSI 5 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 6 | Roach Lime Hills | Garforth | 1983 | SSSI 6 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 7 | Madbanks and Ledsham Banks | Garforth | 1984 | SSSI 7 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 8 | Townclose Hills | Garforth | 1984 | SSSI 8 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 9 | Leeds-Liverpool Canal | West Leeds | 1984 | SSSI 9 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 10 | Fairburn & Newton Ings | Garforth | 1984 | SSSI 10 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 11 | Great Dib Wood | North West Leeds | 1984 | SSSI 11 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 12 | Linton Common | Linton | 1984 | SSSI 12 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 13 | Norwood Bottoms | Thorner | 1986 | SSSI 13 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 14 | Eccup Reservoir | Eccup | 1987 | SSSI 14 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 15 | East Keswick Fitts | Outer North East | 1989 | SSSI 15 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 16 | Hook Moor | Aberford | 1989 | SSSI 16 | Unchanged |
| SSSI 17 | South Pennines Moors (part) | Aireborough | 1994 | SSSI 17 | Also designated as a European site SPA/SAC |

Appendix 5 - Sites of Ecological or Geological Interest (as per 2006 UDP) – all to be removed from Policies Plan when next updated after Feb 2023

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or part does not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|---|------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|
| SEGI 01 | Adel Dam/Golden Acre Park | Outer North West | Yes – all of | 09/05/2019 | LWS 070 | |
| SEGI 02 | Allerton Bywater | Outer South East | Yes – boundary increase to east and west | 12/03/2020 | LWS 084 | |
| SEGI 03 | Avenue Wood wetland (Avenue Wood Ponds) | | Yes – all of, including an additional area previously known as LNA 10 and another new area | 24/07/2015 | Forms part of the larger LWS 29 | |
| SEGI 04 | Barnbow Common | East Leeds | Yes – all of, including a new area | 24/07/2015 | Forms part of the larger LWS 30 | |
| SEGI 05 | Barwick Bank | Outer North East | Yes – all of apart from small area at north end | 13/12/2018 | LWS 51 | |
| SEGI 06 | Becca Banks | Outer North East | Yes - minor boundary increase to north-west | 18/07/2011 | LWS 02 | |
| SEGI 07 | Bramham Park | Outer North East | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 21/01/2016 | LWS 39 | Excluded parts form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 08 | Bramhope Tunnel Pond | Outer North West | Yes – all of and extended in size for grassland and habitat mosaic criteria rather than for amphibian interest | 10/01/2023 | LWS 088 | |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or part does not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|
| SEGI 09 | Deepdale/Jackdaw Crag | Outer North East | Yes – all of and combined/renamed as one site with Wharfeside Woods | 10/01/2023 | LWS 093 | |
| SEGI 10 | Hartly Wood/ Castle Hills | Outer South East | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 21/01/2016 | LWS 40 | Excluded parts form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 11 | Hawksworth Spring Wood | North Leeds | Yes – all of (is part of a larger LWS mainly in Bradford) | 14/12/17 | LWS 50 | |
| SEGI 12 | Hollinhurst Wood | Outer South East | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 21/01/2016 | LWS 41 | Excluded parts form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 14 | Junction & Island Oxbows (Calder) | Outer South East | Yes – all of | 09/05/2019 | LWS 072 | |
| SEGI 15 | Kidhurst Pond | | Yes – some areas removed – see also LNA 52 | 09/05/2019 | LWS 073 | Yes - apart from very small removed area west of pond not included in Network |
| SEGI 16 | Knotford Nook | Outer North West | Restricted access. Bird survey data not sufficiently up to date to assess against the Criteria | (see 13/10/2022 LS Panel Meeting) | | Yes |
| SEGI 17 | Leeds-Liverpool Canal (part Bradford) | Outer West | Yes – all of | 13/12/2018 | LWS 59 | |
| SEGI 18 | Lowther North | | Yes – all of | 09/05/2019 | LWS 078 | |
| SEGI 19 | Meanwood Valley | North Leeds | Yes to reflect LNR boundary | 10/01/2023 | LWS 089 | |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or part does not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|
| SEGI 20 | Newfield Plantation | Outer South East | Yes – all of, including a new area | 21/01/2016 | LWS 42 | |
| SEGI 21 | Newton Ings | Outer South East | Yes – boundary amendments | 21/01/2016 | LWS 43 | Excluded parts form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 22 | Oulton Hall Ponds | Outer South | Yes – minor boundary amends alongside LNA 85 | 09/05/2019 | LWS 076 | |
| SEGI 23 | Parlington Hollins | Outer North East | Yes – some additions and some deletions | 13/12/2018 | LWS 64 | Excluded parts do not form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 24 | Rawdon Ponds (Rawdon Common Pond) | Aireborough | Yes – all of | 13/12/2018 | LWS 65 | |
| SEGI 25 | Saw Wood | Outer North East | Yes – all of | 24/07/13 | LWS 07 | |
| SEGI 26 | Sims Pond & Marshland (Ling Bob Pond) | North Leeds | Yes – part deleted part new area | 09/05/13 | LWS 06 | Excluded parts mostly form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 27 | Swillington Park Lakes/Cockpit Round | Outer South East | Yes – minor extension to north | 09/05/2019 | LWS 079 | |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or part does not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|
| SEGI 28 | Thorp Arch Disused Railway | Outer North East | No – assessed 2013-15 | | | Forms part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 29 | Thorp Arch Trading Estate | Outer North East | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions. Parts of the site yet to be assessed | 21/01/2016 | LWS 44 | Excluded part does not form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 30 | Wendel Hill Bank | Outer North East | Yes – all of including a new additional area up to Rake Beck | 21/01/2016 | LWS 45 | |
| SEGI 31 | Wothersome Woods | Outer North East | Yes – all of | 21/01/2016 | LWS 46 | |
| SEGI 32 | Allerton Ings/Ledston Ings | Outer South East | Yes – but only part of | 09/05/2019 | LWS 071 | Excluded parts form part of the Updated 2014 Leeds Habitat Network |
| SEGI 33 | Ox Close Wood | Outer North East | Yes – all of | 13/12/2018 | LWS 63 | |
| SEGI 34 | Black Carr Wood | Outer West | Yes – all of but mainly in Bradford | 18/07/11 | LWS 01 | |
| SEGI 35 | Kippax Meadows | Outer South East | No | | | Yes |
| SEGI 36 | Preston Hill | Outer South East | Yes – all of | 24/07/2015 | LWS 36 | |
| SEGI 37 | River Wharfe | North Leeds | Yes – all of | 10/01/2023 | LWS 87 | |
| SEGI 38 | Otley Chevin RIGS | Outer North West | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2010 | LGS 08 | |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or part does not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|
| SEGI 39 | Hetchell Craggs RIGS | Scarcroft | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2009 | LGS 06 Also part of SSSI 02 | |
| SEGI 40 | Scarcroft Hill RIGS | Outer North East | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2010 | LGS 10 | |
| SEGI 41 | Roundhay Park Gorge RIGS | North Leeds | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2010 | LGS 09 Also part of LWS 28 | |
| SEGI 42 | Gledhow Valley RIGS | North Leeds | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2010 | LGS 05 | |
| SEGI 43 | Thorner Quarry RIGS | Outer North East | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2010 | LGS 11 | |
| SEGI 44 | Hetchell Wood Quarries RIGS | Scarcroft | Yes – all of | West Yorkshire Geology Trust 2009 | LGS 07 Also part of SSSI 02 | |

Appendix 6 - Leeds Nature Areas (as per 2006 UDP) – all to be removed from Policies Plan when next updated after Feb 2023

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| LNA 01 | Aberford Osiers | Outer North East | Yes – boundary amendments, parts deleted and new additions | 09/10/2014 | LWS 10 | Yes |
| LNA 02 | Addyman Wood | North Leeds | Yes – all of. Eastern woodland part included in Roundhay Woods LWS 28 | 25/02/2015 | LWS 25 | |
| LNA 03 | Aireside Embankment | City centre | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 04 | Airport Reservoirs | Aireborough | Yes – one area removed and one area added | 12/03/2020 | LWS 083 | Yes |
| LNA 05 | Albert Road/Valley Road | Outer South West | No from assessment in 2019 | | | Yes |
| LNA 07 | Alwoodley Moss | North Leeds | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 21/01/2016 | LWS 47 | Yes |
| LNA 08 | Ardley Reservoir | Outer South West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 09 | Austhorpe Colliery Wood | Outer South East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 10 | Avenue Wood | North Leeds | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 24/07/2015 | LWS 29 | Yes |
| LNA 11 | Bardsey Scrub | Outer North East | Yes – extension added to east | 12/12/2019 | LWS 080 | |
| LNA 12 | Beckett Street Cemetery | Inner Area | No | | | Yes |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|---|
| LNA 13 | Beeston Wood and Springhead Park | Inner Area | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 14 | Bell Wood, Walton | Outer North East | Yes – new part added | 22/01/2014 | LWS 08 | |
| LNA 15 | Bill, Round and Ravenscliffe Woods | Outer West | Yes – boundary amended and part removed | 24/07/2015 | LWS 31 | Yes |
| LNA 16 | Billing Hill | Aireborough | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 17 | Birkby Brow Wood | Outer South West | Yes – all of | 13/12/2018 | LWS 52 | |
| LNA 19 | Bramhope Tunnel Top | Outer North West | Yes – all of and extended in size for grassland and habitat mosaic criteria rather than for amphibian interest | 10/01/2023 | LWS 088 | |
| LNA 20 | Bramley Fall and Newlay Quarry | Outer West | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 22/01/2014 | LWS 09 | Yes |
| LNA 21 | Bullerthorpe Lane Pond | Outer South East | No | | | No |
| LNA 22 | Bushey Cliffe Wood | Outer South | Yes – all of | 13/12/2018 | LWS 53 | |
| LNA 23 | Calverley Wood Complex | Outer West | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 24/07/2015 | LWS 32 | Yes |
| LNA 24 | Canalside Ponds, Woodlesford | Outer South | No | | | Yes |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|---|
| LNA 25 | Clark Spring | | Yes – minor extension to west, and new area added to south east | 12/12/2019 | LWS 082 | |
| LNA 26 | Clayton and Daffy Woods | North Leeds | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 24/07/2015 | LWS 33 | Yes |
| LNA 27 | Clubbed Oaks and Dean Wood | Outer South West | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 24/07/2015 | LWS 34 | Yes |
| LNA 28 | Coburnhill Wood | Outer South East | Yes for most of site – northern strip excluded | 09/05/13 | LWS 05 | Yes for excluded section |
| LNA 29 | Colton Mill Pond | East Leeds | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 30 | Cragg Wood, Rawdon | Aireborough | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions | 09/10/2014 | LWS 12 | Yes |
| LNA 31 | Cragg Wood, Horsforth | North Leeds | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions | 09/10/2014 | LWS 11 | Yes |
| LNA 32 | Creskeld Wood | Outer North West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 33 | Dagmar, Grosvenor Mount | | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 34 | Deipkier | Aireborough | Yes | 24/07/2015 | LWS 35 | |
| LNA 35 | Dolphin Beck Marsh | | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 36 | Eccup Whin | Outer North West | Yes | 13/12/2018 | LWS 54 | |
| LNA 37 | Engine Fields | Aireborough | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 38 | Farnley Reservoir and Silver Royd | Outer West | Yes – part of site only | 24/07/2015 | LWS 38 | Yes apart from a small area |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|---|------------------------|---|
| | Hill | | | | | |
| LNA 39 | Gallows Hill | Outer North West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 40 | Garforth Disused Railway Line | Outer South East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 41 | Gipton Wood and Barker's Plantation | | Yes – Barkers Plantation excluded | 13/12/2018 | LWS 55 | Yes |
| LNA 42 | Gledhow Valley Woods | North Leeds | No | | Part of site is LGS 05 | Yes |
| LNA 43 | Great Swarcliffe Plantation | East Leeds | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional area | 09/10/2014 | LWS 16 | No |
| LNA 44 | Haigh Hall Spring Wood | Outer South West | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional area | 25/02/2015 | LWS 26 and LWS 27 | Yes – most of |
| LNA 45 | Haigh Wood | Outer South West | Yes – minor deletion at northern end | 09/10/2014 | LWS 18 | Yes |
| LNA 46 | Half Mile, Farsley | Outer West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 47 | Harehills Cemetery | Inner Area | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 48 | Harewood Estate Woodlands | Outer North East | Yes for most of woodland blocks – and areas added to south, north and west – one woodland block (LNA pt 1 of 4) not considered to meet the Criteria | 12/03/2020 | LWS 85 | Yes |
| LNA 49 | Hawk's Nest Wood | Outer South East | Yes for most of the site – boundary increased | 18/10/12 | LWS 04 | No |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|---|-----------------|---|
| | | | substantially, some part of southern woodland tip excluded | | | |
| LNA 50 | Hawksworth Woods | North Leeds | Yes - boundary amendments, some deletions | 09/10/2014 | LWS 19 | Some included but not all |
| LNA 51 | Hawthorne Farm Ponds | East Leeds | No | | | Some included but not all |
| LNA 52 | Hell Wood and Kidhirst Wood | | Yes – but some parts removed (about half) see also SEGI 15 | 09/05/2019 | LWS 073 | Yes |
| LNA 53 | Hollybush Farm Wildflower Garden | Outer West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 54 | Hough End | Outer South West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 55 | Hunger Hills | North Leeds | Yes – part deleted | 13/12/2018 | LWS 56 | Yes |
| LNA 56 | Hunslet Moor | InnerArea | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 57 | Hunslet Old Cemetery | Inner Area | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 58 | Ireland Wood | North Leeds | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 59 | Judes Pond | Outer South West | No | | | No |
| LNA 60 | Kennet Lane Meadow | Outer South East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 61 | Keswick Meadow | Outer North East | Yes – minor boundary extension to north to include new area | 09/10/2014 | LWS 14 | |
| LNA 62 | Kiddow Spring | Outer South West | Yes – deletion of areas to east and west | 13/12/2018 | LWS 57 | Yes |
| LNA 63 | Killingbeck | Inner Area | Yes – all of and substantial boundary area increase | 18/10/12 | LWS 03 | |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|---|
| LNA 64 | King Lane Verges/Saxon Grove | North Leeds | No | | | Yes - most of |
| LNA 65 | Kippax Lodge Pond | Outer South East | Yes – some deletions and additions | 13/12/2018 | LWS 58 | No |
| LNA 67 | Kirkstall Wildflower Garden | Outer West | No | | | No |
| LNA 68 | Kirkstall Valley 'Nature Reserve | Outer West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 69 | Langwith Wood | Outer North East | Yes – boundary amendments, deletion and addition | 09/10/2014 | LWS 20 | Yes |
| LNA 70 | Larkfield Dam | Aireborough | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 71 | Leventhorpe Lagoon and Ings | Outer South West | Yes – boundary amendments, deletion and addition | 09/05/2019 | LWS 074 | Yes – most of |
| LNA 72 | Lime Pits and Ramshead Woods | East Leeds | No | | | Yes – most of |
| LNA 73 | Methley Junction and Disused Railway | Outer South West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 74 | Moor Head | | No | | | No |
| LNA 75 | Morley Spring Wood | Outer South West | Yes - boundary amendments, and deletions | 09/10/2014 | LWS 21 | Yes - some of |
| LNA 76 | Morris Wood | | No | | | Yes for western portion but No for eastern portion |
| LNA 77 | Moseley Beck | North Leeds | Yes – minor boundary amendments | 13/12/2018 | LWS 60 | |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|---|-------------------|---|
| LNA 78 | Moss Carr Wood | Outer South | Yes – deletion of small area to north | 13/12/2018 | LWS 61 | Yes |
| LNA 79 | Nan Whin's Wood | Outer West | Yes – all of | 13/12/2018 | LWS 62 | |
| LNA 80 | New Dam, Jum Bridge | Aireborough | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 81 | Noster Hill | | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 82 | Nunroyd Park | Aireborough | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 83 | Oil Mill Beck | North Leeds | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 84 | Otley Sand and Gravel Pits | Outer North West | Yes – small area removed and larger area added | 09/05/2019 | LWS 075 | Yes |
| LNA 85 | Oulton Park | Outer South | Yes – minor boundary amends alongside SEGI 22 | 09/05/2019 | LWS 076 | |
| LNA 86 | The Outwood | North Leeds | Yes – boundary amendments, new additions | 09/10/2014 | LWS 23 | |
| LNA 88 | Post Hill, Troy Dale | Outer West | Yes – and extended to north | 10/01/2023 | LWS 90 | |
| LNA 91 | Roundhay Woods | North Leeds | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional areas | 25/02/2015 | LWS 28 and LGS 09 | Yes |
| LNA 92 | Rothwell Pastures and Disused Railway | Outer South | No | | | Yes most of |
| LNA 93 | St Aidan's North-West Lake | Outer South East | Yes – apart from small part removed | 09/05/2019 | LWS 078 | Yes |
| LNA 94 | St Mark's Churchyard | Inner Area | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 95 | St Matthew's | | No | | | Yes |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|--|---|-----------------|---|
| LNA 96 | Scholes Brickwork Pond | Outer North East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 97 | Shadwell Lane Plantation | Outer North East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 98 | Smithy Lane Pond, Bardsey | Outer North East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 100 | Sugar Hill | | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 101 | Sugarwell Hill | North Leeds | Yes | 10/01/2023 | LWS 091 | |
| LNA 102 | Swaine Wood | North Leeds | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional areas | 09/10/2014 | LWS 22 | Yes |
| LNA 103 | Temple Newsam Estate Woods | East Leeds | Yes – boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional areas | 24/07/2015 | LWS 37 | Yes |
| LNA 104 | Thorp Arch Disused Railway | Outer North East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 105 | Thorpe Wood | | No | | | Yes – most of |
| LNA 106 | Waddington's Wildlife Run | | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 107 | Waterloo Sidings | East Leeds | Allocated for development and permission granted – deleted | | | |
| LNA 108 | West Wood, Sisson's Wood | Outer South West | Yes – West Wood expanded north and Sissons Wood deleted | 13/12/2018 | LWS 68 | Yes |
| LNA 109 | Wetherby Railway Triangle | Outer North East | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 110 | Wharfeside Woods | Outer North East | Yes – apart from a strip along the north side of the River Wharfe which was not accessed | 10/01/2023 | LWS 093 | Yes |

| 2006 UDP Ref. | Name | Location | Does it meet 2011 Local Wildlife Sites Criteria? | Date approved by West Yorkshire Local Sites Partnership | Current ID Ref. | If all or parts do not meet the LWS Criteria does it form part of the 2014 Leeds Habitat Network? |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---|--|------------------------|--|
| LNA 111 | Wetstone Plantation | North Leeds | Yes – northern section deleted | 13/12/2018 | LWS 69 | Yes |
| LNA 112 | Woodhall Lake | Outer West | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 113 | Woodhouse Moor | Inner Area | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 114 | Woodhouse Ridge | Inner Area | Yes – most of. Boundary changed to remove allotments area | 10/01/2023 | LWS 092 | Yes |
| LNA 115 | Wormstall Wood | Outer South East | Yes | 09/10/2014 | LWS 24 | |
| LNA 116 | Yeadon Tarn | Aireborough | No | | | Yes |
| LNA 117 | Lineham Farm Wood, Eccup | Outer North West | Yes – some woodland and built area excluded | 10/01/2023 addendum by e-mail after that meeting | LWS 106 | Yes |
| LNA 118 | Newton Lane | Outer South East | No | | | No |
| LNA 119 | Station Road, Allerton Bywater | Outer South East | Yes | 10/01/2023 | LWS 095 | |
| LNA 120 | Rothwell Colliery | Outer South | Yes – small area at east end added | 09/05/2019 | LWS 077 | |

Appendix 7 - Local Wildlife Sites (West Yorkshire scale of importance, non-statutory designation)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|---|
| LWS 01 | Black Carr Wood | Outer West | 18/07/11 | Previously known as SEGI 34 – mainly in Bradford |
| LWS 02 | Becca Banks | Outer North East | 18/07/11 | Previously known as SEGI 06 but small section at NW corner added |
| LWS 03 | Killingbeck Meadows | Inner Area | 18/10/12 | Mostly a new site – partly LNA 63 |
| LWS 04 | Hawks Nest Wood | Outer South East | 18/10/12 | Mostly a new site – includes most of LNA 49 |
| LWS 05 | Coburnhill Wood | Outer South East | 09/05/13 | Previously known as LNA 28 but small section along north excluded in LWS |
| LWS 06 | Sims Pond | North Leeds | 09/05/13 | Previously known as SEGI 26 but part removed and part added |
| LWS 07 | Saw Wood | Outer North East | 24/07/13 | Previously known as SEGI 25 |
| LWS 08 | Bell Wood and House Carr Wood | Outer North East | 22/01/2014 | Previously known as LNA 14 but additional part added |
| LWS 09 | Bramley Falls and Newlay Quarry Woods | Outer West | 22/01/2014 | Previously known as LNA 20 but deletions and additional part added |
| LWS 10 | Aberford Osiers | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 01 but boundary amendments, parts deleted and new additions |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| LWS 11 | Cragg Wood, Horsforth | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 31 but boundary amendments, some deletions |
| LWS 12 | Cragg Wood, Rawdon | Aireborough | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 30 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions |
| LWS 13 | Creskeld Wood | Outer North West | 09/10/2014 | New site |
| LWS 14 | East Keswick Marsh | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 61 but minor boundary extension to north to include new area |
| LWS 15 | Frank Shire's | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 | New site |
| LWS 16 | Great Swarcliffe Plantation | East Leeds | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 43 but boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional area |
| LWS 17 | Great Wood - West Wood | Aireborough | 09/10/2014 | New site |
| LWS 18 | Haigh Wood | Outer South West | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 45 but minor deletion at northern end |
| LWS 19 | Hawksworth Woods | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 50 but boundary amendments, some deletions |
| LWS 20 | Langwith Wood | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 69 but boundary amendments, deletion and addition |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| LWS 21 | Morley Spring Wood | Outer South West | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 75 but boundary amendments, and deletions |
| LWS 22 | Swaine Wood and Grassland | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 for Woodland 12/12/2019 for additional Grassland/Scrub | Previously known as LNA 102 but boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional areas |
| LWS 23 | The Outwood | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 86 but boundary amendments, new additions |
| LWS 24 | Wormstall Wood | Outer South East | 09/10/2014 | Previously known as LNA 115 |
| LWS 25 | Addyman Wood | North Leeds | 25/02/2015 | Previously known as LNA 02 |
| LWS 26 | Haigh Hall Spring Wood North | Outer South West | 25/02/2015 | Previously known as LNA 44 but boundary amendments, some deletions |
| LWS 27 | Haigh Hall Spring Wood South | Outer South West | 25/02/2015 | Previously known as LNA 44 but boundary amendments, some deletions and new additional area |
| LWS 28 | Roundhay Woods | North Leeds | 25/02/2015 | Previously known as LNA 91 but boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional areas. LGS 09 also within the boundary |
| LWS 29 | Avenue Wood | North Leeds | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as SEGI 03 and LNA 10 but with boundary amendments, deletions and additions |
| LWS 30 | Barnbow Common | East Leeds | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as SEGI 04 but including an additional area |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| LWS 31 | Bill, Round and Ravenscliffe Woods | Outer West | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 15 but boundary amended and part removed |
| LWS 32 | Calverley Wood Complex | Outer West | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 23 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions |
| LWS 33 | Clayton and Daffy Woods | North Leeds | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 26 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions |
| LWS 34 | Clubbed Oak and Dean Woods | Outer South West | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 27 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions |
| LWS 35 | Deipkier | Aireborough | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 34 |
| LWS 36 | Preston Hill | Outer South East | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as SEGI 36 |
| LWS 37 | Temple Newsam Estate Woods | East Leeds | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 103 but boundary amendments, some deletions, new additional areas |
| LWS 38 | Silver Royd Hill | Outer West | 24/07/2015 | Previously known as LNA 38 but part of site only |
| LWS 39 | Bramham Park | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 07 but boundary amendments, deletions and additions |
| LWS 40 | Hartley Wood and Castle Hills | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 10 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some additions |
| LWS 41 | Hollinhurst Wood | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 12 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some additions |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|--|------------------|--|---|
| LWS 42 | Newfield Plantation & Thorntree Hill Pasture | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 20 but an additional area |
| LWS 43 | Newton Ings | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 21 but boundary amendments |
| LWS 44 | Thorp Arch | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 29 but boundary amendments, deletion and additions |
| LWS 45 | Wendell Hill Bank | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 30 but an additional area |
| LWS 46 | Wothersome Wood | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as SEGI 31 |
| LWS 47 | Moortown Golf Course | North Leeds | 21/01/2016 | Previously known as LNA 07 but boundary amendments, some deletions and some new additions |
| LWS 48 | Burley Disused Railway | Outer North West | 23/07/2015 | New site |
| LWS 49 | Lines Way Pond | Outer South East | 15/09/2016 | New site |
| LWS 50 | Tong Park and Hawksworth Spring Woods | Aireborough | 14/12/17 | Previously known as SEGI 11, part of a larger site in Bradford |
| LWS 51 | Barwick Bank | Outer North East | 13/12/18 | Previously known as SEGI 05, deletion of area to north |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| LWS 52 | Birkby Brow Wood | Outer South West | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 17 |
| LWS 53 | Bushy Cliffe Wood | Outer South | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 22 |
| LWS 54 | Eccup Whin | Outer North West | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 36 |
| LWS 55 | Gipton wood | North Leeds | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 41, deletion of Barkers Plantation |
| LWS 56 | Hunger Hills | North Leeds | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 55, part to south deleted |
| LWS 57 | Kiddow Spring | Outer South West | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 62, deletion of areas to east and west |
| LWS 58 | Kippax Lodge Pond | Outer South East | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 65, deletions and additions |
| LWS 59 | Leeds Liverpool Canal | Inner, Outer West | 13/12/18 | Previously known as SEGI 17 |
| LWS 60 | Moseley Beck | North Leeds | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 77, some minor boundary amendments |
| LWS 61 | Moss Carr Wood | Outer South | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 78, deletion of area to north |
| LWS 62 | Nan Whins Wood | Outer West | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 79 |
| LWS 63 | Ox Close Wood | Outer North East | 13/12/18 | Previously known as SEGI 33 |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| LWS 64 | Parlington Hollins | Outer North East | 13/12/18 | Previously known as SEGI 23, some deletions and additions |
| LWS 65 | Rawdon Pond | Aireborough | 13/12/18 | Previously known as SEGI 24 |
| LWS 66 | Thorp Arch British Library and verges | Outer North East | 13/12/18 | Previously known as SEGI 29, some deletions and additions |
| LWS 67 | Thorpe Wood | Outer South West | 13/12/18 | New site |
| LWS 68 | West Wood | Outer South West | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 108, Sissons Wood deleted and West Wood expanded north |
| LWS 69 | Wetstone Plantation | North Leeds | 13/12/18 | Previously known as LNA 111, northern area deleted |
| LWS 070 | Adel Dam Golden Acre Park | Outer North West | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as SEGI 01 |
| LWS 071 | Allerton Ings | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as SEGI 32 but reduced significantly in size |
| LWS 072 | Junction Island and Ox-bows | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as SEGI 14 |
| LWS 073 | Kidhurst Wood and Pond | Outer North East | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as SEGI 15 and LNA 52 – but about half of LNA not included, and very small area west of pond (SEGI 15) not included |
| LWS 074 | Leventhorpe & Skelton Lakes and Colton Beck | Aire Valley Action Plan | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as LNA 71 – with boundary amends (small part removed) to make a much larger site |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| LWS 075 | Otley Sand and Gravel Pits | Outer North West | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as LNA 84 – with boundary amends to exclude a small part and add larger area |
| LWS 076 | Oulton Ponds and woodland | Outer South | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as LNA 85 – with boundary amends |
| LWS 077 | Rothwell Country Park | Outer South | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as LNA 120 – with boundary amends to add small area at east end |
| LWS 078 | St Aidan's Nature Reserve | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as LNA 93 (small part removed) and SEGI 18 – with increased boundary |
| LWS 079 | Swillington Park Lakes | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 | Previously known as SEGI 27 – with minor extension to north now added |
| LWS 080 | Bardsey Grassland | Outer North East | 12/12/2019 | Previously known as LNA 11 – linear extension added to east |
| LWS 081 | Beech Grove Farm Scarcroft | Outer North East | 12/12/2019 | New site |
| LWS 082 | Clark Spring Wood | Outer South West | 12/12/2019 | Previously known as LNA 25 – minor extension at west end and new area added to south-east |
| LWS 083 | Airport Woodland | Aireborough | 12/03/2020 | Previously known as LNA 04 – one area removed and one area added |
| LWS 084 | Allerton Bywater Wetlands | Outer South East | 12/03/2020 | Previously known as SEGI 02 – but now increased to west and east |
| LWS 085 | Harewood Estate Woodlands | Outer North East | 12/03/2020 | Previously known as LNA 48 – but now extended to south, north and west - and one block of woodland to north not considered to meet the |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | Criteria. Other substantial additional open parts of the site with veteran trees considered to meet Parkland Criteria but needs liaison with landowner before designating |
| LWS 086 | The Hills Sandgate Lane Kippax | Outer South East | 24/03/2022 | New site |
| LWS 087 | River Wharfe | Outer North West and Outer North East | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as SEGI 37 – boundary selected by WYE and LWS Criteria amended accordingly – should not be considered just as this boundary as geomorphological processes are active and complex so therefore hard to define on a map |
| LWS 088 | Bramhope Tunnel Meadows | Outer North West | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as SEGI 08 and LNA 019 – boundary extended to reflect grassland and habitat mosaic value (more amphibian data needed for AR Criteria) |
| LWS 089 | Meanwood Valley | North Leeds | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as SEGI 19 |
| LWS 090 | Post Hill | Outer West | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as LNA 88 – boundary extended to north to Pudsey Road in places |
| LWS 091 | Sugarwell Hill | Inner Area | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as LNA 101 – small extension at south-east end |
| LWS 092 | Woodhouse Ridge | Inner Area | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as LNA 114 – allotment area removed |
| LWS 093 | Wharfeside Woods | Outer North East | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as SEGI 09 and LNA 110 |
| LWS 094 | Bardsey Beck and East Fields | Outer North East | 10/01/2023 | New site |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| LWS 095 | Letchmire Pastures | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 | Previously known as LNA 119 – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 096 | Ledston Luck | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 097 | Wykebeck Woods and Asket Hill | North Leeds | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 098 | Arthur's Rein | Inner Area | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 099 | Primrose Valley | East Leeds | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 100 | Halton Moor | East Leeds | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 101 | Farnley Fish Pond | Outer West | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR |
| LWS 102 | Townclose Hills | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR. Parts of site are also SSSI 8 |
| LWS 103 | Fairburn Ings | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR. Most of site is also SSSI 10 |
| LWS 104 | Middleton Woods | Outer South West | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR – with some developed land removed |
| LWS 105 | Chevin Forest Park | Outer North West | 10/01/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR – with some known private land removed. Parts of site are also LGS 08 and SSSI 11 |
| LWS 106 | Lineham Farm Wood | Outer North West | 10/02/2023 | Boundary reduced to remove some woodland and built area |

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. in relation to 2006 UDP boundary |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|---|---|
| LWS 107 | Breary Marsh | Outer North West | 10/02/2023 | New site – boundary to reflect LNR. Most of site is also SSSI 4 |

Appendix 8 - Local Geology Sites (West Yorkshire scale of importance, non-statutory designation)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership | Additional Info. |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|--|---|
| LGS 01 | Wetherby Riverside Cliffs | Outer North East | Feb 2010 | New site |
| LGS 02 | Walton Moraine | Outer North East | Feb 2010 | New site |
| LGS 03 | Boston Spa Riverside Woods | Outer North East | Feb 2010 | New site |
| LGS 04 | Front Wood Thorp Arch | Outer North East | 18/10/12 | New site |
| LGS 05 | Gledhow Valley | North Leeds | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 | Previously known as SEGI 42 |
| LGS 06 | Scarcroft Hetchell Crags | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2009 | Previously known as SEGI 39 (also part of SSSI 02) |
| LGS 07 | Scarcroft Hetchell Wood Quarries | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2009 | Previously known as SEGI 44 (also part of SSSI 02) |
| LGS 08 | Otley Chevin | Outer North West | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 | Previously known as SEGI 38. Also occurs within LWS 105 |
| LGS 09 | Roundhay Park Gorge | North Leeds | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 | Previously known as SEGI 41. Also occurs within LWS 28 |
| LGS 10 | Scarcroft Hill | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 | Previously known as SEGI 40 |
| LGS 11 | Thorner Quarry | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 | Previously known as SEGI 43 |

Appendix 9 - Local Nature Reserves (Statutory designation - National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Designated | Additional Info. |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| LNR 01 | Fairburn Ings | Outer South East | 01/01/1957 | Shown on 2006 UDP as LNR 01 |
| LNR 02 | Meanwood Valley | North Leeds | 20/03/1992 | Shown on 2006 UDP as LNR 04 |
| LNR 03 | Breary Marsh | Outer North West | 20/03/1992 | Shown on 2006 UDP as LNR 05 |
| LNR 04 | Middleton Woods | Outer South West | 20/03/1992 | Shown on 2006 UDP as LNR 03 |
| LNR 05 | Townclose Hills | Outer South East | 26/05/1994 | Shown on 2006 UDP as LNR 06 |
| LNR 06 | Otley Chevin | Outer North West | 19/10/1989 and additional part 20/02/2002 | Shown on 2006 UDP as LNR 02 |
| LNR 07 | Farnley Hall Fish Pond | Outer West | 21/01/2004 | New site |
| LNR 08 | Letchmire Pastures | Outer South East | 27/06/2008 | New site |
| LNR 09 | Wyke Beck Woods | North Leeds | 13/08/2015 | New site |
| LNR 10 | Killingbeck Meadows | Inner Area | 13/08/2015 | New site |
| LNR 11 | Primrose Valley | East Leeds | 13/08/2015 | New site |
| LNR 12 | Arthurs Rein | North Leeds | 13/08/2015 | New site. De-designated 06/03/2017 and re-designated as LNR 15 to reflect boundary issue |
| LNR 13 | Halton Moor | Inner Area | 13/08/2015 | New site. De-designated 06/03/2017 and re-designated as LNR 16 to reflect boundary issue |

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------|------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| LNR 14 | Ledston Luck | Outer South East | 18/11/2015 | New site |
| LNR 15 | Arthurs Rein | North Leeds | 06/03/2017 | Previously known as LNR 12 |
| LNR 16 | Halton Moor | Inner Area | 06/03/2017 | Previously known as LNR 13 |

Appendix 10 – Policy G8a – Habitat Designations Schedule

A review and update of the latest Policy G8a Designations and descriptions to take account of the 2006 Defra Local Sites Guidance. Link to Policies Map.

Special Area of Protection SPA/Special Area of Conservation SAC (European Statutory Designation)

Sites of Special Scientific Interest SSSI (National Statutory Designation)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date designated |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| SPA/SAC 01 | Part of South Pennine Moors (Phase 2) | Aireborough | 1997/2005 |

Note for LCC Development Management on use of this Schedule

A review of the saved non-statutory designated sites from the 2006 UDP has been completed in partnership with West Yorkshire Ecology Service. This involved reassessing every LNA and SEGI

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date designated |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| SSSI 01 | Micklefield Quarry | Garforth | 1990 |
| SSSI 02 | Hetchell Wood | Wetherby | 1983 |
| SSSI 03 | Yeadon Brickworks and Railway Cutting | Aireborough | 1984 |
| SSSI 04 | Breary Marsh | North Leeds | 1983 |
| SSSI 05 | Mickletown Ings | Rothwell | 1983 |
| SSSI 06 | Roach Lime Hills | Garforth | 1983 |
| SSSI 07 | Madbanks and Ledsham Banks | Garforth | 1984 |
| SSSI 08 | Townclose Hills | Garforth | 1984 |
| SSSI 09 | Leeds-Liverpool Canal | West Leeds | 1984 |
| SSSI 10 | Fairburn & Newton Ings | Garforth | 1984 |
| SSSI 11 | Great Dib Wood | North West Leeds | 1984 |
| SSSI 12 | Linton Common | Linton | 1984 |
| SSSI 13 | Norwood Bottoms | Thorner | 1986 |
| SSSI 14 | Eccup Reservoir | Eccup | 1987 |
| SSSI 15 | East Keswick Fitts | Outer North East | 1989 |
| SSSI 16 | Hook Moor | Aberford | 1989 |
| SSSI 17 | South Pennines Moors (part) | Aireborough | 1994 |

against the West Yorkshire Local Wildlife Sites Criteria. Any LNAs or SEGIs that have met the relevant Criteria are now called Local Wildlife Sites - or where reassessed sites have not met the Criteria they have been removed from the Schedule and Policies Map (when next updated), but may still receive a similar degree of protection under LPU emerging Policy G8b Leeds Habitat Network. There is an Audit Trail Document for all Designated Habitat Sites from the 2006 UDP to present day available on request from the EDG Nature Team – which explains any changes since 2006.

Local Wildlife Sites (West Yorkshire non-statutory designation)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|---|
| LWS 01 | Black Carr Wood | Outer West | 18/07/11 |
| LWS 02 | Becca Banks | Outer North East | 18/07/11 |
| LWS 03 | Killingbeck Meadows | Inner Area | 18/10/12 |

| | | | |
|--------|--|------------------|------------|
| LWS 04 | Hawks Nest Wood | Outer South East | 18/10/12 |
| LWS 05 | Coburnhill Wood | Outer South East | 09/05/13 |
| LWS 06 | Sims Pond | North Leeds | 09/05/13 |
| LWS 07 | Saw Wood | Outer North East | 24/07/13 |
| LWS 08 | Bell Wood and House Carr Wood | Outer North East | 22/01/2014 |
| LWS 09 | Bramley Falls and Newlay Quarry Woods | Outer West | 22/01/2014 |
| LWS 10 | Aberford Osiers | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 11 | Cragg Wood, Horsforth | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 12 | Cragg Wood, Rawdon | Aireborough | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 13 | Creskeld Wood | Outer North West | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 14 | East Keswick Marsh | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 15 | Frank Shire's | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 16 | Great Swarcliffe Plantation | East Leeds | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 17 | Great Wood - West Wood | Aireborough | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 18 | Haigh Wood | Outer South West | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 19 | Hawksworth Woods | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 20 | Langwith Wood | Outer North East | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 21 | Morley Spring Wood | Outer South West | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 22 | Swaine Wood | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 23 | The Outwood | North Leeds | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 24 | Wormstall Wood | Outer South East | 09/10/2014 |
| LWS 25 | Addyman Wood | North Leeds | 25/02/2015 |
| LWS 26 | Haigh Hall Spring Wood North | Outer South West | 25/02/2015 |
| LWS 27 | Haigh Hall Spring Wood South | Outer South West | 25/02/2015 |
| LWS 28 | Roundhay Woods | North Leeds | 25/02/2015 |
| LWS 29 | Avenue Wood | North Leeds | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 30 | Barnbow Common | East Leeds | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 31 | Bill, Round and Ravenscliffe Woods | Outer West | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 32 | Calverley Wood Complex | Outer West | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 33 | Clayton and Daffy Woods | North Leeds | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 34 | Clubbed Oak and Dean Woods | Outer South West | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 35 | Deipkier | Aireborough | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 36 | Preston Hill | Outer South East | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 37 | Temple Newsam Estate Woods | East Leeds | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 38 | Silver Royd Hill | Outer West | 24/07/2015 |
| LWS 39 | Bramham Park | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 40 | Hartley Wood and Castle Hills | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 41 | Hollinhurst Wood | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 42 | Newfield Plantation & Thorntree Hill Pasture | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 43 | Newton Ings | Outer South East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 44 | Thorp Arch | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 45 | Wendell Hill Bank | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 46 | Wothersome Wood | Outer North East | 21/01/2016 |
| LWS 47 | Moortown Golf Course | North Leeds | 21/01/2016 |

| | | | |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|------------|
| LWS 48 | Burley Disused Railway | Outer North West | 23/07/2015 |
| LWS 49 | Lines Way Pond | Outer South East | 15/09/2016 |
| LWS 50 | Tong Park and Hawksworth Spring Woods | Aireborough | 14/12/2017 |
| LWS 51 | Barwick Bank | Outer North East | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 52 | Birkby Brow Wood | Outer South West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 53 | Bushy Cliffe Wood | Outer South | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 54 | Eccup Whin | Outer North West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 55 | Gipton wood | North Leeds | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 56 | Hunger Hills | North Leeds | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 57 | Kiddow Spring | Outer South West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 58 | Kippax Lodge Pond | Outer South East | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 59 | Leeds Liverpool Canal | Inner, Outer West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 60 | Moseley Beck | North Leeds | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 61 | Moss Carr Wood | Outer South | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 62 | Nan Whins Wood | Outer West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 63 | Ox Close Wood | Outer North East | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 64 | Parlington Hollins | Outer North East | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 65 | Rawdon Pond | Aireborough | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 66 | Thorp Arch British Library & verges | Outer North East | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 67 | Thorpe Wood | Outer South West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 68 | West Wood | Outer South West | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 69 | Wetstone Plantation | North Leeds | 13/12/2018 |
| LWS 70 | Adel Dam Golden Acre Park | Outer North West | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 71 | Allerton Ings | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 72 | Junction Island and Ox-bows | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 73 | Kidhurst Wood and Pond | Outer North East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 74 | Leventhorpe & Skelton Lakes and Colton Beck | Aire Valley Action Plan | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 75 | Otley Sand and Gravel Pits | Outer North West | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 76 | Oulton Ponds and woodland | Outer South | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 77 | Rothwell Country Park | Outer South | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 78 | St Aidan's Nature Reserve | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 79 | Swillington Park Lakes | Outer South East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 80 | Bardsey Grassland | Outer North East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 81 | Beech Grove Farm Scarcroft | Outer North East | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 82 | Clark Spring Wood | Outer South West | 09/05/2019 |
| LWS 83 | Airport Woodland | Aireborough | 12/03/2020 |
| LWS 84 | Allerton Bywater Wetlands | Outer South East | 12/03/2020 |
| LWS 85 | Harewood Estate Woodlands | Outer North East | 12/03/2020 |
| LWS 86 | The Hills Sandgate Lane Kippax | Outer South East | 24/03/2022 |
| LWS 87 | River Wharfe | Outer North West & Outer North East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 88 | Bramhope Tunnel Meadows | Outer North West | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 89 | Meanwood Valley | North Leeds | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 90 | Post Hill | Outer West | 10/01/2023 |

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| LWS 91 | Sugarwell Hill | Inner Area | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 92 | Woodhouse Ridge | Inner Area | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 93 | Wharfeside Woods | Outer North East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 94 | Bardsey Beck and East Fields | Outer North East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 95 | Letchmire Pastures | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 96 | Ledston Luck | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 97 | Wykebeck Woods and Asket Hill | North Leeds | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 98 | Arthur's Rein | Inner Area | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 99 | Primrose Valley | East Leeds | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 100 | Halton Moor | East Leeds | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 101 | Farnley Fish Pond | Outer West | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 102 | Townclose Hills | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 103 | Fairburn Ings | Outer South East | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 104 | Middleton Woods | Outer South West | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 105 | Chevin Forest Park | Outer North West | 10/01/2023 |
| LWS 106 | Lineham Farm Wood | Outer North West | 10/02/2023 |
| LWS 107 | Breary Marsh | Outer North West | 10/02/2023 |

Local Geology Sites (West Yorkshire non-statutory designation)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Approved by WY Local Sites Partnership |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|
| LGS 01 | Wetherby Riverside Cliffs | Outer North East | Feb 2010 |
| LGS 02 | Walton Morraine | Outer North East | Feb 2010 |
| LGS 03 | Boston Spa Riverside Woods | Outer North East | Feb 2010 |
| LGS 04 | Front Wood Thorp Arch | Outer North East | 18/10/12 |
| LGS 05 | Gledhow Valley | North Leeds | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 |
| LGS 06 | Scarcroft Hetchell Crags | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2009 |
| LGS 07 | Scarcroft Hetchell Wood Quarries | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2009 |
| LGS 08 | Otley Chevin | Outer North West | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 |
| LGS 09 | Roundhay Park Gorge | North Leeds | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 |
| LGS 10 | Scarcroft Hill | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 |
| LGS 11 | Thorner Quarry | Outer North East | First 1997, resurveyed 2010 |

Local Nature Reserves

(Statutory designation - National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act)

| Current ID Ref. | Name | Location | Date Designated |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|---|
| LNR 01 | Fairburn Ings | Outer South East | 01/01/1957 |
| LNR 02 | Meanwood Valley | North Leeds | 20/03/1992 |
| LNR 03 | Breary Marsh | Outer North West | 20/03/1992 |
| LNR 04 | Middleton Woods | Outer South West | 20/03/1992 |
| LNR 05 | Townclose Hills | Outer South East | 26/05/1994 |
| LNR 06 | Otley Chevin | Outer North West | 19/10/1989 and additional part 20/02/2002 |

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------|------------------|---|
| LNR 07 | Farnley Hall Fish Pond | Outer West | 21/01/2004 |
| LNR 08 | Letchmire Pastures | Outer South East | 27/06/2008 |
| LNR 09 | Wyke Beck Woods | North Leeds | 13/08/2015 |
| LNR 10 | Killingbeck Meadows | Inner Area | 13/08/2015 |
| LNR 11 | Primrose Valley | East Leeds | 13/08/2015 |
| LNR 12 | Arthurs Rein | North Leeds | 13/08/2015 but de-designated 06/03/2017 see LNR 15 |
| LNR 13 | Halton Moor | Inner Area | 13/08/2015 but de-designated 06/03/2017 see LNR 16 |
| LNR 14 | Ledston Luck | Outer South East | 18/11/2015 |
| LNR 15 | Arthurs Rein | North Leeds | 06/03/2017 |
| LNR 16 | Halton Moor | Inner Area | 06/03/2017 |

Appendix 11 – Leeds Habitat Network Update 2023 – Methodology Note

Method

The existing Leeds Habitat Network (LHN) has been updated to recognise where planned and developed buildings and infrastructure have altered the existing network, and with several key changes as described below, in order to provide greater transparency to the reasons for inclusion of individual land parcels.

The network has defined “nodes” represented by statutory and district designated sites, and “links” representing continuous stretches of permeable habitat for nature conservation and movement of species. Where continuous habitat links are not currently possible, “stepping stone” sites have been identified as potential network opportunities.

Nodes include internationally and nationally designated sites (Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest) and local sites for nature conservation (Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites). The boundaries of these sites often overlap and not always for the full extent of each site, therefore the combined boundaries are assumed to represent each Node. The LHN Nodes are typically a mosaic of habitats and are not further defined.

The LHN links have been defined under five broad habitat types: grassland, woodland, wetland, heathland and ‘other’ (miscellaneous land parcels such as open mosaic habitats on previously developed land, that have nature conservation benefits in their location within the network). Where habitat mosaic occurs, for example mature trees over amenity grassland or scrub over semi-improved grassland, a judgement has been made to include the land parcel in the recognised main habitat of interest, noting that this may change with time and management.

Links have been defined according to their role within the network, broadly under the following categories:

- Adjacent or close link to one or more Node sites, representing a buffer and /or network opportunity to that site for species movement
- Long-Established Woodland (provisional) as defined for the Natural England Ancient Woodland update
- Network strength, representing key link(s) within the network, removal of which would significantly fragment or weaken the LHN in a particular area
- Habitat diversity, representing link(s) which improve the diversity of the network within the LHN in a particular area, considering Nodes or other strong network links that are present
- Network opportunity, representing areas with beneficial nature conservation sites that are currently not strongly linked to the LHN, for example more isolated ‘stepping stone’ sites or poorly established links.

The incorporation of links into the network has been based on judgement of a number of factors, including the habitat type (and the potential for movement of species typically associated with such habitats) and proximity of other links or nodes. The pressure on wildlife from the density of the built environment and private gardens has been taken to increase the value of some of the remaining public open space for wildlife.

As a guide adjacent or close links to Nodes are considered to be those within 100m, whilst other links have been selected typically no more than 250m of the existing network.

Roads, buildings and domestic gardens are generally excluded from the LHN.

The existing LHN automatically included undeveloped areas of Flood Zone 2 and 3 which had not been subject to a detailed assessment in relation to habitat value. Such areas were removed from the base map for the update, replaced by a detailed assessment of the value of the land against the habitat types set out in this note.

Otherwise, the existing LHN has been used as the basis for the update, as far as possible fitting to the OS Mastermap (November 2022). Node site boundaries have not been fitted to the current version of Mastermap but have been accepted as published.

The GIS software MapInfo Pro v17.04 has been used, with reference to:

- On-line aerial photography (Bing, Google maps, Gridreferencefinder.com),
- Data held by WYES including Phase 1 Habitat Survey (1990) mapping, former Sites of Ecological and Geological Importance (SEGI) and former Leeds Nature Areas (LNA),
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment zones (SFRA, Environment Agency, 2022) and Leeds City Council Flood Risk ZONE 3b (in part) and
- Data provided by Leeds City Council (Allocation plan exclusions, Paul Bingham, Leeds City Council) (Strategic Green Infrastructure mapping) (East Leeds Orbital Route, draft and mapped separately) (Aire Valley Leeds Area Action Plan) (TPO/Conservation Area)

Habitat types - inclusions

- **Woodland:** Broad-leaved/ mixed woodland, including ancient semi-natural and replanted woodland, Long-Established Woodland (1854), traditional orchards; dense scrub and hedgerows
- **Grassland:** species-rich semi-improved and unimproved grassland, including upland hay meadow; lowland meadow; lowland dry acid grassland, in-bye grassland supporting SPA Upland Breeding Bird Assemblage;
- **Heathland:** upland and lowland dry and wet heathland; bog habitats, including blanket bog; purple moor grass; upland flushes, fens & swamps; bracken
- **Wetland:** rivers/ becks (including culverted stretches), canals, ponds, lakes, lowland fen, floodplain grazing marsh, reedbeds
- **Other:** seasonally inundated land (arable fields, small areas of grass, shrubs and wood with nature conservation value, not otherwise identified), quarries, open mosaics on previously developed land, bare ground (natural surfaces, as identified on aerial photos and in mosaic with supporting habitat for invertebrates).

Information for GIS datasets (column headings) – Nodes

- Site_Name: (Char250)
- Node_UID: (Char10) (prefixed with N=node)
- Designation: (Char 100) principal designation, SPA/SAC/SSSI, Local Nature Reserves, Local Wildlife Sites
- Habitat_type: (Char254) Habitat description commonly using the Phase 1 descriptions where possible (if more information is required add into notes).
- Area: (Decimal 20.2)

Information for GIS datasets (column headings) - Links

- Broad_habitat: (Char20) -woodland, grassland, wetland, heathland, other
- Habitat_type: (Char160) Habitat description commonly using the Phase 1 descriptions where possible (if more information is required add into notes).
- Node_or_Link: (Char20) Links include all other connecting habitat & are in separate layers
- UID: (Char10) (prefixed with W=Woodland, R=Wetland, G=Grassland, H=Heath, M=Other)
- (Temp: Char 160) – working edits to delete in final
- Area (Decimal 20.2)
- Link_Primary: (Char 80) Brief description of main function of the habitat unit within the network: includes phrases-
 - “Adjacent to Node” - where the habitat unit is within 25m of the Node
 - “Link to Node Nxxx / Long Established Woodland” - typically used where the habitat unit is within 100m of the Node or LEW unit
 - “Network strength” where removal of the habitat unit would significantly affect the integrity of the network
 - “Habitat diversity” where two or more habitat links are present, so representing an enhancement for species using the network
 - “Network opportunity” for current ‘dead-ends’ (includes lots of LEW sites)
- Link_Secondary: (Char 160) as for Primary, where additional function identified
- Additional_Notes: (Char 254) further description and justifications of assessed land parcels and observations.

West Yorkshire Ecology and Leeds City Council
September 2023