Yorkshire Dales National Park Local Plan 2025 - 2040



Addlebrough, Wensleydale

Sustainability Appraisal of Main Modifications

March 2026

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Introduction

1.1 The Yorkshire Dales Local Plan (2025-40) is currently undergoing a public examination. The Local Plan was submitted for examination in August 2025. An Inspector, Mr Malcolm Rivett, was appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the examination. In December 2025 the Inspector held a number of public hearings to explore issues relating to the Local Plan's soundness and legal compliance.

Main modifications

1.2 Following the hearing sessions, the Inspector has issued a letter indicating that the Local Plan is likely to require a number of 'main modifications' in order to make it sound and legally compliant.

1.3 The main modifications are changes to the text of the policies themselves and the policy justification, glossary and appendices, which individually or cumulatively, will materially alter the policies of the Plan. A limited number of the main modifications require changes to be made to the policies maps that accompany the Local Plan.

1.4 The National Park Authority has prepared a list of 50 main modifications that are considered necessary to make the Plan sound. In addition, 8 corresponding changes to the policies maps are also proposed.

1.5 The main modifications arise from amendments the Authority has suggested to the Inspector during the examination process, together with changes to the Plan that were proposed as part of the hearing sessions in December.

1.6 The Inspector requires the main modifications to be made to the Plan to ensure that it is sound and legally compliant. The public is being invited to comment on these over a period of six weeks in April and May 2026. Details of the consultation and all of the modifications can be viewed on the examination web pages:

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/living-and-working/planning-policy/local-plan-2025-40/examination/

1.7 The Inspector will consider all comments submitted before issuing his final conclusions in the Report of Examination. The Report will conclude whether; the Plan has been positively prepared, whether it is justified, whether it is effective and whether it is consistent with national policy and is otherwise 'sound'.

Sustainability appraisal

1.9 Local Plans are prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development[1]. The Local Plan Regulations require a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) at each key stage of the process. The SA appraisal of the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan began in December 2019 and has run alongside all of the key stages of Plan preparation. Further details can be found in the SA report published alongside the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan[2].

1.10 The statutory process requires that main modifications to the Local Plan, following the examination hearing sessions, are also subject to (SA), where necessary. SA is a method of assessing a plan to find out whether it is likely to promote a sustainable pattern of development, and where possible, avoid or mitigate any significant negative social, environmental or economic effects and maximise any positive ones.

1.11 SA It is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a local plan, enabling changes to be made if necessary. This includes the very final main modifications stage, which has now been reached. The findings of the SA are, however, not the only factors taken into account when determining a preferred option to take forward in a plan. Factors such as public opinion, deliverability and conformity with national policy will also be taken into account by plan makers when selecting preferred options.

1.12 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is being published alongside the SA. The HRA has a more specific remit than the SA and is concerned with impacts upon internationally designated wildlife areas.

1 National Planning Policy Framework para 7 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'

[2] https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2025/03/Sustainability-Appraisal-Report-Reg-19.pdf

Methodology

2.1 Appraisal began with an assessment of the cumulative change that all of the main modifications will collectively have against each of the 28 detailed sustainability indicators. These include factors such as biodiversity, landscape, economy, community vitality and climate change.

2.2 The first step was to appraise the totality of all 50 main modifications against each of the sustainability indicators to give a summary of their possible main effects. Appendix 1 provides a record of this collective appraisal.

2.3 The detail of each of the modifications was then appraised to further explore some of the sustainability implications. This analysis can be found in Appendix 2.

2.4 These two appraisals effectively screened the main modifications to determine those where the sustainability implications were deemed to be more significant or unknown and therefore warranted further analysis.

2.5 Following this analysis, four of the modifications were considered to have sustainability effects of particular significance and were therefore appraised in more detail against all 28 indicators. These are:

- the proposed reallocation of the Baliol Site in Sedbergh (SED4) from employment to housing uses (MM47 & PM5);
- the deletion of allocated housing sites in Orton (ORT1 – MM47 & PM3) and Newbiggin on Lune (NLU2 - MM47 & PM4);
- the identification on the Policies Map of the Bolton Abbey visitor area (MM37 & PM8) .

The results of this stage of the appraisal can be found in Appendix 3.

2.6 An indicative summary outcome is identified by colour and symbols as follows:

Assessment summary	Likely effect on the sustainability indicator
++	Significant positive effect
+	Positive effect
N	Neutral effect
-	Negative effect
- -	Significant negative effect
~	No relationship or link - there is no clear relationship between the proposed option and the achievement of the objective.
U	Effect is uncertain or unknown, for example due to a lack of information.

Summary of sustainability appraisal of the main modifications

3.1 With some exceptions, the main modifications are not proposing any significant changes that would materially impact on the sustainability outcomes of the Local Plan.

3.2 Many of the modifications will not change the policies significantly and are mainly necessary to add detail, clarification, consistency and legal conformity. None of the changes present a substantial threat to National Park purposes or the special qualities of the area.

3.3 Many of the changes will slightly reduce regulation and therefore potentially benefit the local economy in relation to some sustainability indicators, or to slightly increase regulation and add more protection in relation to other sustainability indicators, notably environmental issues around landscape, nature conservation and increased awareness of the risk of flooding.

3.4 In contrast to the bulk of the main modifications, which relate to matters of policy detail, a limited number of modifications propose specific changes the policies map that convey specific changes to the quantum of housing development proposed by the Local Plan. They are:

- the proposed reallocation of the Baliol Site in Sedbergh (SED4) from employment to housing uses (MM47 & PM5);
- the deletion of allocated housing sites in Orton (ORT1 – MM47 & PM3) and Newbiggin on Lune (NLU2 - MM47 & PM4);
- the identification on the Policies Map of the Bolton Abbey visitor area (MM37 & PM8) .

These have been deemed worthy of further analysis to fully appraise the sustainability implications. The conclusions reached are as follows:

Baliol School site, Sedbergh

3.5 The change in proposed use of the former will generally have positive outcomes for housing and community indicators, albeit the application of vacant building credit is likely to severely limit the contribution it will make to meeting affordable housing needs. It will however contribute to a redevelopment solution for a long vacant and derelict site. The loss of a business development site will result in some negative impacts against economic indicators, however these need to be considered in the context of the deliverability of the site for these uses, with significant viability issues identified. Overall, this presents a mixed picture in terms of sustainability indicators, but as a modification that relates to a single site of c30 dwellings, considered within the context of the whole Local Plan's housing supply in excess of 1000 dwellings, the impacts are not so significant.

Orton & Newbiggin on Lune housing sites

3.6 The deletion of the two small housing sites at Orton and Newbiggin on Lune will mean a loss to local housing opportunity and a small loss for the local economy. This is more keenly felt in the north west of the National Park where so few sites are available and suitable for development. In the case of Newbiggin on Lune, it reduces the likelihood of finding a beneficial use for a largely redundant brownfield site, albeit parts may still be developed for less vulnerable uses. This loss is not significant however, since the dwelling yields were modest (in the context of overall housing land supply), and the proportion of affordable housing to be provided were modest given viability constraints. Any residual loss of community benefit is more than offset by the benefits of not exposing future residents of the development to flood risk. In Orton there would also be benefits given that the Heritage Impact Assessment highlighted some risks from development associated with impacts on the Orton Conservation Area.

Bolton Abbey Visitor Area

3.7 The change to the policies map at Bolton Abbey will generally have positive outcomes for visitor and tourism related indicators but also some potential for negative impacts on habitat and heritage. Careful design and mitigating measures will be needed to reduce the harmful impacts and these are provided through other policy protections within the Local Plan, and within Policy E4 itself.

Conclusion

3.8 In overall terms, the changes proposed are predominantly minor and largely neutral or slightly beneficial to sustainability outcomes. The limited cases referenced above do result in some negative sustainability impacts, but these are offset to some degree by benefit and can also be reduced through mitigation in some cases. The overall conclusion of the appraisal is therefore that the main modifications proposed would not significantly impact on the ability of the Local Plan to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

Appendix 1

Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

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Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Biodiversity	1	Safeguard and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats.	N	The bulk of changes are neutral in relation to biodiversity impacts: Changes to Policy CP9 (MM8) remove direct repetitions of national legislation and policy. These do not diminish protections because these requirements exist outside of the Local Plan. Simplifying the policy enables greater clarity and focus on local policy requirements for biodiversity enhancement and ecological networks, which are the mechanism by which the Local Plan can positively impact biodiversity outcomes. Changes to Policy NE1 (MM43) reinforce legislative requirements and procedural rigour for proposals that affect internationally designated habitats, including those requiring a Habitats Regulations Assessment. This will ensure harmful impacts on biodiversity are avoided or suitably mitigated. Changes to policy NE2 (MM44) provide a more positive enhancement aim to the policy that will ensure more positive biodiversity outcomes.
			U	Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area. While the policy references the need to have regard to 'wildlife habitats', this area embraces a range of important habitats and so the implications warrant further appraisal.

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Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Landscape	2	Reduce large scale extraction of aggregate minerals.	N	None of the modifications would relate directly to large scale mineral extraction. Changes to Policy CP10 (MM9) and L1 (MM39) ensure that the judgement on whether mineral proposals are major development is a matter for the decision maker. Given that this conforms with national policy and still allows a judgement to be made in light of all of the relevant facts of the case, it does not prejudice the objective to reduce large scale extraction. Policy L1 still conveys a clear presumption against larger scale proposals. Change to Policy L3 (MM41) will ensure proposals for reworking mineral waste are properly justified.
	3	Prevent detrimental impacts on the landscape.	+	Changes to Policy CP6 (MM5) & CP8 (MM7) are relatively minor and align with the advice of Natural England and so do not prejudice beneficial landscape outcomes. Changes to housing site allocations (MM47) result in the deletion of two small sites (PM 3 & PM4) and so will achieve minor reductions in landscape impacts. Re-allocation of Baliol School for housing rather than business uses will not have any impact on landscape outcomes given that the site was already identified for development and is partly previously developed. Identification of wider areas beyond the 'housing footprint', for sites THR4,5 & 8 (MM47 & PM7), provide greater certainty and flexibility for significant landscaping to reduce visual impacts and integrate developments into the landscape. Changes to Policy CP10 (MM9) and L1 (MM39) do not weaken the major development test and presumption against significantly harmful minerals developments.
			U	Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area. While the policy references the need to have regard to the 'landscape' impacts, this area make a highly distinctive contribution to the National Park's landscape character and so the implications warrant further appraisal.
	4	Safeguard and enhance geodiversity.	N	Changes to Policy CP10 (MM9) and L1 (MM39) do not weaken the major development test and presumption against significantly harmful minerals developments that would harm geodiversity. Change to Policy L2 (MM40) will ensure building stone proposals are suitable in relation to biodiversity impacts.

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Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Water	**5**	Promote sustainable water supplies and appropriate waste water treatment methods.	N	Changes to Policy CP5 (MM4) ensure that developments have appropriate foul and surface water drainage management measures in place to reduce the likelihood of harmful impacts from unsuitable discharges.
	6	Safeguard and enhance water quality through the reduction and prevention of pollution incidents.	+	Changes to Policy CP5 (MM4) justification ensure that nutrient neutrality and Water Framework Directive safeguards are afforded greater prominence to reduce the likelihood of harmful impacts on the water environment.
	7	Prevent vulnerable development in flood risk areas and ensure appropriate land management and development that does not contribute to downstream flood risk.	+	Changes to Policy CP4 (MM3) are relatively minor and ensure better alignment with national policy on flood risk. Deletion of two sites on flood risk grounds (MM47; PM 3 & PM4), resulting from updated national risk modelling, ensures occupants of development and other nearby residents are not exposed to increased flood risk.
Pollution	8	Avoid harmful emissions of light and noise and maintain air quality across the National Park.	N	These sustainability objectives are largely promoted by policies CP1, CP2, CP8 & L6. Where changes are proposed to these policies, they do not amend provisions relating to harmful emissions, so the overall impact is neutral. Changes To Policy L6 (MM42) in relation to Dark Skies are for clarity only and the overall policy sustainability implications remain unchanged.
			U	Development within the area identified for visitor development at Bolton Abbey (MM37 & PM8) could result in impacts, however the policy wording has regard to the water environment and wildlife, while other policies referenced above would also be applicable to proposals. Nonetheless, as a significant new land designation, further analysis is warranted.

Appendix 1 - Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Archaeology/ Built Heritage	**9**	Protect below ground archaeology and preserve nationally important remains.	N	Minor changes proposed to Policy AB1 (MM15) to better align with national policy do not materially affect outcomes for this sustainability indicator. Change to Policy CP7 (MM6) ensures micro-renewables proposals do not have harmful archaeological impacts. Changes to Policy CP1 (MM1) ensure conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage – a broader term than 'historical environment' that ensures positive outcomes Changes to Policy C1 (MM18) ensure better signposting of Heritage Impact Assessments for selected housing site allocations, so that due regard to has to them when preparing development briefs. This will avoid or minimise harm to the historic environment.
			U	Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area. While the policy references the need to have regard to the 'historical environment', this area embraces a range of nationally important heritage assets and so the implications warrant further appraisal.
	10	Conserve and enhance above ground archaeology including built heritage, listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.	N	Minor changes proposed to Policy AB1 (MM15) to better align with national policy do not materially affect outcomes for this sustainability indicator. Change to Policy CP7 (MM6) ensures micro-renewables proposals do not have harmful building conservation impacts. Changes to Policy AB2 (MM16) are largely for clarity in applying the policy and do not materially affect the overall policy intent for supporting conversion of traditional buildings. The impacts in terms of conserving traditional buildings through re-use are therefore largely unchanged. Changes to Policy AB3 (MM17) ensure that proposals for the change of use of traditional buildings have regard to design guidance. Changes to Policy CP1 (MM1) ensure conservation and enhancement of cultural heritage – a broader term than 'historical environment' that ensures positive outcomes Changes to Policy C1 (MM18) ensure better signposting of Heritage Impact Assessments for selected housing site allocations, so that due regard to has to them when preparing development briefs. This will avoid or minimise harm to the historic environment. Changes to the policies maps (PM2) will ensure that the Marske Conservation Area is incorporated into the Plan while PM6 will further protect valued open space in Sedbusk. Both changes will ensure the character and appearance of the settlements is conserved.
			U	Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area. While the policy references the need to have regard to the 'historical environment', this area embraces a range of nationally important heritage assets and so the implications warrant further appraisal.

Appendix 1 - Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
	11	Ensure a high quality of design that respects or enhances its setting.	+	Changes to Policy C1 (MM18) ensure better signposting of Heritage Impact Assessments for selected housing site allocations, so that due regard to has to them when preparing development briefs. This will avoid or minimise harm to the historic environment, including the setting/character of designated heritage assets. Changes to Policy CP6 (MM5) & CP8 (MM7) are relatively minor and align with the advice of Natural England and so do not prejudice beneficial landscape outcomes but do promote visual amenity and townscape character. Changes to Policy AB3 (MM17) ensure that proposals for the change of use of traditional buildings have regard to design guidance.
			U	Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area. While the policy references the need to have regard to the 'historical environment', this area embraces a range of nationally important heritage assets, including their settings, and so the implications warrant further appraisal.

Appendix 1 - Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Community	12	Encourage a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.	+	Overall, the changes proposed are neutral or slightly positive: Proposed changes to Policies CP3 (MM2) and C1 (MM18) and associated appendices 7, 8, 9 (MM48, MM49, MM50) and glossary definitions (MM45) largely amount to reordering and clarifying the policy requirements, rather than materially altering them. The most significant change relates to clarification of arrangements for negotiating housing mixes where viability is an issue. This change ensures a balance is struck between deliverability and securing the most beneficial mix of housing. Proposed changes to Policies C2 (MM19), C3 (MM20), C4 (MM21), C5 (MM22), C7 (MM23) and C9 (MM24) are small wording changes to improve clarity and interpretation. They do not materially alter community indicator outcomes. Proposed changes to Appendix 4 (MM47) are, in the main, likely to achieve better community outcomes. PM1 will release a modest additional opportunity for windfall development, while PM6 will protect a locally valued open space. PM7 amounts to a big change in the presentation of housing sites THR4/5 & THR8 on the policies map, since an additional area beyond the housing footprint is identified as part of the overall site allocation, to facilitate site delivery. Nonetheless, MM47 clearly explains the limitations on development of this additional area, meaning that the overall scope for housing development is not altered. The change therefore amounts to a clarification on the area of land likely to be needed for ancillary purposes, largely landscaping and open space. This provides greater certainty for communities affected by the development. It will also assist deliverability since developers and landowners will better understand the amount of land likely to be required to realise development of the housing footprint.
	14	Contribute to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and inclusive communities.	U	The reallocation of Baliol School (SED4) (MM47, PM 5) from business to housing results in additional housing provision within a major local service centre, albeit this is partly offset by the loss of two smaller sites in Orton & Newbiggin on Lune (MM47, PM3 & PM4). As well as considering the changes in the overall supply of housing, changes in the mix of housing types provided, as a result of these modifications, also need to be factored into a judgement on sustainability implications. For this reason, further analysis is required.
	13	Safeguard and improve access to services.	N	No changes are proposed to Policy C8 (Community facilities). Only minor changes are proposed to Policies AC1 & AC2 (MM10 & MM11) – these do not materially affect these policies which will continue to secure enhancements to services in relation to new developments or other rollout programmes.
	15	Support a fair and representative system of governance, encouraging widespread participation and public involvement.	N	The main modifications proposed do not directly impact on governance. In accordance with established procedures, the main modifications will be subject to a 6 week public consultation and the Inspector will have due regard to issues raised by representors when preparing his final report, This will ensure participation and public involvement. Change to Appendix 2 (MM46) will allow Local Plan users to understand which policies have been superseded
	16	Work to ensure that the maximum possible number of households have access to mobile signal and high speed broadband.	N	Changes to Policy AC2 (MM11) are minor wording changes for clarification and do not materially impact on this sustainability indicator.

Appendix 1 - Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Waste	17	Support the movement towards a circular economy as well as appropriate waste management and disposal methods.	N	Minimal changes are proposed in relation to the waste indicator. Changes to Policy NE1 (MM43) ensure that waste forms a consideration in terms of 'urban edge effects' when assessing the requirement for a Habitats Regulation Assessment.
Climate Change & Energy	18	Support energy efficiency measures and a reduction in energy use.	N	Minor changes to Policy CP7 (MM6) slightly weaken policy requirements in relation to incorporating renewable energy and resilient heating into developments, however these are still encouraged by the policy, so not materially impact on the sustainability indicator. Overall policy provisions in relation to climate change and renewable energy development are not altered. The deletion of two housing site allocations on flood risk grounds (MM47, PM3 & PM4) partly reflects a need to ensure that development is resilient to climate change.
	19	Support appropriate development of, and research into, renewable energy generation.	N	
	20	Take action to adapt to the changing climate, mitigate against further changes and increase resilience to climate change.	N	
Public Enjoyment & Understanding	21	Support sustainable tourism.	N	Changes to Policy E5 (MM29) are for clarity and ensure better understanding of the policy protections against loss of tourism uses. Changes to Policies E9 & E10 (MM33& MM34) combine the camping and touring caravan policies but do not affect the overall policy intent or sustainability outcomes. Changes to policies E11 & E12 & E15 (MM35 & MM36 & MM38) are minor and do not affect the overall policy intent or sustainability outcomes. Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area and represent a positive move towards visitor enjoyment of that area by adding spatial detail to the policy and clarity in its application, however the overall policy intent remains largely unchanged.
	22	Maintain and improve opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park.		
	23	Understand and respond to the changing patterns of visitors to the National Park.		

Appendix 1 - Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Economy & Employment	24	Provide conditions which encourage growing, diverse and resilient economy and the diversification of existing enterprises.	U	The reallocation of Baliol School (SED4) (MM47, PM 5) from business to housing results in the loss of potentially significant employment and economic growth in Sedbergh. This warrants further analysis of the overall sustainability implications, hence it is rated here as 'unknown'.
			N	The remaining changes proposed are neutral or slightly positive: Changes to Policy E1 (MM25) are only relatively minor and clarify the policy, while the justification corrects information on allocated employment sites so that it corresponds to Appendix 4. Changes to Policy E4 (MM28) are minor and do not affect the overall policy intent or sustainability outcomes. Changes to Policies E7 & E8 (MM31 & MM32) combine the home working and live work policies but do not affect the overall policy intent or sustainability outcomes. Changes to Policy E6 (MM30) provide clarification on the scope and purpose of Rural Estate Plans to help promote economically viable long-term management for the mutual benefit of the economy and special qualities. Changes to Policy E14 (MM37, PM8) serve a similar purpose and, alongside the identification of the Bolton Abbey Visitor Area, help to provide greater certainty in the application of the policy. Changes to Policy E2 are covered under the agriculture heading below. Changes to Policies E5, E9 & E10 are covered above under the sustainable tourism indicator. Changes to other policies contained in the Economy section of the Plan are sufficiently minor as to not give rise to any material sustainability implications.
Transport	25	Locate development so that it supports a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality.	N	Changes to Policy CP3 (MM2) to do alter the Plan's approach to sustainably locating development in relation to a settlement hierarchy. Changes to Policies AC3 & AC5 (MM12 & MM14) combine the active travel and vehicle movements policies but do not affect the overall policy intent or sustainability outcomes. Changes to Policy AC4 (MM13) ensure clarity in the protection of railway lines and seek to strike a balance between potential reinstatement and multi-user access. Changes to Policy E3 (MM27) are relatively minor and include promoting re-use of buildings only in locations that are suitable having regard to the nature of the use and vehicle movements the use will generate.

Appendix 1 - Collective impact of all main modifications by sustainability indicator

Sustainability indicator			Score	Sustainability implications from main modifications proposed
Agriculture	**26**	Understand and respond to changes in agricultural policy and land management change.	N	Changes to Policy E2 (MM26) give more positive intent to the policy while ensuring that controls are in place to ensure development is necessary. As a result, the policy continues to strike a balanced approach that can support appropriate agriculture and farm diversification.
	27	Support appropriate agriculture, including opportunities for farm diversification.	N	
Special Qualities	28	Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.	N	No changes are proposed to the overarching policy provisions that relate to this sustainability indicator i.e. Policy CP2 (National Park Purposes) and Appendix 1 (Special Qualities). Other related sustainability indicators (e.g. dark skies, biodiversity, landscape, water, archaeology/built heritage are dealt with separately above.
			U	Changes to Policy E14 (MM37 & PM8) will result in the designation of a Bolton Abbey Visitor Area. While the policy references the need to have regard to a range of factors relevant to national park purposes, this area makes a significant contribution to special qualities and so the implications warrant further appraisal.

Appendix 2

Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM1	Policy CP1 Sustainable Development	Criterion added to the policy relating to land instability Criterion added relating to safe design 'historic environment' replaced with wording 'cultural heritage'	This change recognises that land instability can be an issue constraining development or requiring mitigation in certain areas. Crime and safety have been added to the Policy as issues than can affect design. Cultural heritage has been substituted as a concept wider than the historic environment and because it directly relates to National Park purposes. No significant effects for sustainability.
MM2	Policy CP3 – Spatial Strategy and Housing Target	CP3 has been cross referenced with Appendix 4 and Policy C1 so that it is clear that housing allocations are made as a strategic policy and cannot therefore be overridden by a Neighbourhood Plan. 50dwelling per annum is clarified to be a minimum. The role of housing development boundaries is clarified in the modified text. The term 'within or on the edge of' is modified throughout the Plan to provide consistency. A housing trajectory has been added to the Local Plan text. It presents the latest supply situation including the modifications to the housing allocations A Table has been added to the Plan to make clear which housing tenure applies to which type of housing development.	This modification ensures that Neighbourhood Plans will comply with the strategic policies in the Local Plan including Policy CP3, the Spatial Strategy. It should help reinforce the social and economic objectives of new housing by ensuring that Neighbourhood Plans are in accordance with the spatial strategy set out in the Local Plan This modification clarifies that the Plan target of 50 houses completed per year is confidently expected to be a long-term minimum. This supports the social and economic objectives of the Local Plan housing target. This modification provides consistency and clarity for decision making about sites within or on the edge of settlements, especially in relation to the housing development boundaries. It does not change any of the policy outcomes and therefore any of the sustainability impacts. This modification moves a table out of background evidence into the Local Plan text, for the purpose of clarity. It does not change any outcomes. This has been added at the request of the Inspector to clarify housing tenure for each type of housing site. It is intended for information and does not change the policy outcomes.
MM3	Policy CP4 – Flood risk	Clarifications are provided in relation to the correct application of the policy requirements and updated guidance on surface water flood risk Policy footnotes are simplified	These modifications ensure that the policy mirrors national policy. It increases its effectiveness in ensuring that development avoids areas at risk of flooding. It is therefore beneficial in terms of flood risk and climate change indicators.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM4	Policy CP5 - Sustainable Drainage – Foul and Surface Water	Reference to ‘domestic’ wastewater flows has been deleted.	The word ‘domestic’ has been deleted to clarify that there are also other wastewater flows in the Local Plan area e.g. from commercial premises. All types of wastewater flows will be treated similarly to domestic releases. This does not change any outcomes.
		Artificial water supply channels have been exempted from the policy requirement to uncover culverts	A minor modification recognising the particular circumstances of water supply. This will not have any sustainability implications
		Wording has been added to clarify that all applications should be supported by a strategy for foul and surface water management.	This is a modification requested by the Environment Agency. It will require developers to supply information with which to determine whether the issues around flooding and water treatment will be appropriately managed. It should contribute towards objectives around reducing downstream flooding and safeguarding water quality.
		Reference to ‘ground water’ has been added to the justification to clarify that it is part of local water supplies.	A minor modification for the sake of accuracy and completeness.
		Reference to nitrogen has been added to the text to include it within nutrient neutrality, within catchments other than the River Eden.	A minor modification for the sake of accuracy and completeness.
		Text clarified regarding the requirement for a Habitats Regulations Assessment where nutrient neutrality is an issue.	This is a procedural issue. This should ensure appropriate protection of key biodiversity assets.
		Wording amended to explain that development proposals not requiring a HRA will still need to mitigate for phosphorous and nitrate run off.	A minor amendment to clarify a source of mitigation
		The text has been amended to ensure developers are guided towards the correct Natural England nutrient budget calculators.	A minor modification needed to direct applicants to the most up to date set of Natural England guidance.
		Wording amended to reference mitigation measures for phosphate and nitrate run-off.	Additional wording added around this water quality and biodiversity issue.
		Reference to the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans has been added to the justification.	A minor modification for the purpose of comprehensiveness.
MM5	Policy CP6 – Design	Amend wording to include references to landscape/townscape character and landscape character/visual amenity, cross referencing Policy CP8.	A minor amendment affecting landscape sensitivity analysis.
		Clarification has been added that development briefs will be produced for allocated housing sites.	This is clarification that development briefs will be prepared for the larger sites. Development briefs will influence pre application discussion and scheme design and will help ensure that the housing sites will meet the necessary requirements of the Local Plan and sustainability objectives.
		Habitat enhancement for small mammals such as hedgehogs has been added. Text modified to remove “should demonstrate” and replace with “are encouraged to”	A minor amendment just to include specific reference to hedgehogs. A slightly less restrictive form of words. Should not affect outcomes.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM6	CP7 – Energy requirements	Text included to acknowledge the need to balance improved energy efficiency with the significance of heritage assets.	A modification requested by Historic England to ensure that renewable energy proposals have regard to the significance of heritage assets. This clarification may make the trade off against heritage assets slightly more restrictive.
MM7	CP8 – Landscape Character	Replace “be guided and informed by with “have regard to”	A minor change of wording to provide consistency with the rest of the local plan where ‘have regard to’ is used. No change to outcomes.
		Wording amended to explain that a Landscape and Visual Appraisal or Assessment could be required. Wording amended to clarify that landscape capacity is subject to high quality design and appropriate scale and siting of development.	Minor additional wording that will not affect the outcome of development. Additional text just to reinforce the point that scale, siting, materials and design are important forms of landscape mitigation. No effect on outcomes.
MM8	Policy CP9 – Biodiversity conservation and enhancement	This is a substantive change in policy to remove repetitions of national policy & legislation relating to BNG.	This is a fundamental change to policy for the purpose of legal conformity. The Inspector has recommended the removal of Policy CP9 where it repeats national legislation. Since this is a change to comply with national policy there should not be any significant change in outcome. The modified policy points to the legislative requirement and process for biodiversity net gain in the Environment Act 2023 but retains reference to small scale ecological enhancement such as bat roosts and swifts bricks which can be inserted inexpensively into most new proposals. These ecological measures, which are otherwise overlooked by conventional biodiversity net gain, will require planning applications to include wildlife features in all scales of development, including those exempt from biodiversity net gain. The details of what is possible will be set out in the new design guide which will supplement the Local Plan.
MM9	Policy CP10– Major Development	A significant editing of the justification text to remove contextual information and more closely reflect national policy.	This is a significant change to the policy justification for major development. The Inspector has removed all reference to what does or does not constitute major development including in relation to the supply of allocated housing sites. This is a legal compliance matter because the decision on what constitutes major development is required to be taken at the point of planning application decision making and not through the examination of the development plan. The Policy itself remains mostly unchanged and simply repeats current national policy. This amendment should not change the eventual outcome or impact on sustainability from major development inside the National Park.
MM10	Policy AC1 – Infrastructure needed to support development	The final line of the policy about gigabit connection has been deleted and moved into the justification instead.	A minor change to the policy wording. It does not affect sustainability or the outcome of development.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM11	Policy AC2 - New and improved infrastructure	Modifications improve cross-referencing and make it clear that there needs to be an 'adverse' visual impact to require justification.	These are minor changes to increase policy effectiveness. They will ensure greater effectiveness in terms of the community and transport indicators.
MM12	Policy AC3 – Sustainable Travel and Vehicle Movements	Combine policies AC3 & AC5 . Combined policy to be titled "Active & Sustainable Travel and Vehicle Movements"	A significant change to the Plan. Policies AC3 and AC5 have been combined into one policy. It does not however have any implications for development outcomes.
		The definition of active travel has been amended to ensure consistency with national policy and to include reference to horse riders.	This provides clarification but does not affect the outcome of the Policy.
MM13	Policy AC4 - Development within railway corridors	Additional wording in the supporting text that allows some flexibility to depart from the original trackbed where required/necessary.	The justification has been amended to allow a departure from the protected route of proposed recreational routes, where a suitable alternative is available. This should not have a significant effect on the intended outcome of the Policy.
MM14	Policy AC5 - Vehicle movements	Supporting text added to say that development briefs will consider if a Travel Plan is necessary.	Additional text to require a Travel Plan for certain housing sites where management of future travel movements may be necessary.
MM16	Policy AB2 – Conversion of Traditional Buildings - acceptable uses	Wording changes to simplify AB2 and its footnotes. Clarification that AB2 applies to subdivision and multi-unit conversion schemes which will be subject to local occupancy. Policy has been clarified in respect of exceptions applied to listed buildings, former dwellings and rural estate diversification. The policy in relation to multiple conversions and affordable housing requirements has been clarified. Make policy clearer in respect of exceptions applied to listed buildings, former dwellings and rural estate diversification.	Changes have been made to the wording of Policy AB2 to clarify the situation with certain types of residential conversion. This is a complex policy that has required modification to provide sufficient clarity. None of these amendments will affect the outcome of the Policy. A clarification is added that an exception is made for listed buildings so that the policy can help safeguard heritage assets by allowing a wider range of new uses for them. Clarification added to make it clear that the conversion of multiple units will be restricted to local occupancy. This will help widen the supply of locally targeted housing. Clarifications added to policy but no change in terms of anticipated outcomes.
MM17	Policy AB3 - Conversion of traditional buildings - treatment	A change of wording to require the proposals have regard to the design guide, rather than conform to it	This minor wording change will have little impact on sustainability indicators but, through good design, will ensure that proposals result in positive outcomes for built heritage.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM18	Policy C1 – Housing in Towns and large Villages	Additional sources of evidence added to the SHMA to justify site housing mix. 45% 1-2bed requirement rounded up to 50%, unless specific evidence is provided which justifies an alternative mix'	Additional reference to local housing need surveys, housing waiting list data and market intelligence has been made to expand the potential source of data informing site dwelling mix. This modification could slightly affect development outcomes by steering the type of housing permitted more closely towards actual needs and demands. The Inspector has requested a slight rounding up to 50% but added a caveat that specific evidence might justify a departure from this. The evidence for 50% is based in the current Housing Market assessment. This policy is intended to ensure that smaller single and two person dwellings are delivered as well as larger homes. Rounding up may make a slight sustainability improvement to outcomes against the community indicator.
		Supporting text to clarify that indicative housing site capacity can go up or down and that development briefs will clarify true capacity. Policy modified to include reference to development briefs adopted by the Authority (prepared by YDNPA or developers). Total dwelling yield from site allocations updated to reflect: 1) Deletion of NLU2 &ORT1; 2) Allocation of Baliol for housing Text added to confirm the basis of a negotiation of the amount of affordable housing to be provided, in the event the viability makes the policy requirement undeliverable. Text added to refer to Heritage Impact Assessments.	A modification that recognises that the indicative housing site capacities will likely change as the details for each site are worked out. Overall this will not affect the outcome. An additional modification to clarify the role of development briefs in shaping pre application design for each housing site. The development briefs are a tool for delivering the policy requirements and therefore the sustainability benefits of appropriate new housing. A factual modification to update the housing land supply figure following the loss of two sites and the gain of one new one. The overall outcome is a slight increase but with less distribution across the Westmorland area. Additional text added to explain how the Authority will approach a situation where viability is not working in accordance with the assumptions made in the policy. The modification will seek to maintain the public interest of securing affordable housing yet balance that with delivery. Heritage impact assessments have been prepared to consider the sensitivities of some of the housing sites which are in proximity to listed buildings, known underground earthworks and Conservation Areas. This additional reference will serve as a reminder that the site development briefs and the eventual pre application design process should have regard to the assessments.
MM19	Policy C2 New build housing in Small Settlements	Clarification needed that this policy relates to new build houses only	Minor change just to clarify that this policy relates to new build houses and that other policies guide residential conversion. No effect on outcomes.
MM20	Policy C3 - Rural exceptions sites	Clearer form of wording needed for exceptions sites (first line of policy) Clarification added that dwellings will be affordable in perpetuity	Clarity about where rural exception sites may be permitted. No change to the policy outcome. Additional clarity that rural exceptions sites will be affordable in future as well as at the point of initial occupation.
MM21	Policy C4 - Rural workers' dwellings	Policy amended to specify that 120 sq. m restriction relates to internal floor area.	Clarification that 120sqm is floor area, not necessarily the building footprint.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM22	Policy C5 - Shared housing, Sub-division, Residential Annexes and Replacement dwellings	Policy simplified so that it applies to all buildings with no mention of 'large' or 'high streets' (see amendment below) Policy amended to explain that the change of use of buildings in established residential uses to multiple shared household occupancy, will be permitted subject to the following, with requirements itemised separately.	Simplification of policy wording which will make shared housing a slightly wider available option. This could have minor sustainability benefits by for example extending shared housing use of small buildings and allowing shared housing uses beyond high street areas. The rewrite of this policy has slightly expanded its potential application. This could have benefits for housing and the economy around the provision of shared accommodation, in particular for young workers.
MM23	Policy C7 – Accommodation for Elderly and Vulnerable Adults	Minor changes to ensure consistency in wording and cross-referencing.	These changes will improve policy interpretation but are unlikely to significantly alter sustainability outcomes.
MM24	Policy C9 – Important open space	A minor wording change relating to sporting and recreational open spaces.	This change will improve policy interpretation but are unlikely to significantly alter sustainability outcomes.
MM25	Policy E1 - Business Development Sites	Reference to Baliol School as an employment site has been deleted as the site will now be re-allocated for housing.	This is a significant change to delete a potential future site for employment and business uses and instead allow the former school site to be developed for housing. This will provide a trade off in favour of housing but against employment and the potential for new economic uses. The impact on sustainability is covered by a detailed assessment below.
MM26	Policy E2 - Rural Land-based Enterprises	The policy has been simplified to make it more effective. The policy has been amended to require development must be *necessary to* enable farm operations Reference to 'large' buildings has been removed because large isn't defined and the policy requirements should not be restricted only to large buildings.	This is a rewrite of the policy to try to make it clearer. The wording 'is necessary' has been added in relation to development that is needed to meet animal health or environmental regulations. In most cases that should be easy to prove and will not significantly erode the business benefits of the policy. It omits specific reference to large scale buildings which means that the policy is now slightly more restrictive because it might also restrict smaller buildings if they too would have a harmful impact on the landscape or other special qualities of the National Park. The cumulative sustainability impact of these changes would be to slightly restrict potential economic development for the benefit of environmental safeguarding, although the policy will still permit development where a business case is made providing evidence of the need.
MM27	Policy E3 - Re-use of existing buildings and Brownfield Land	Requirement added to make reference to locations suitable for the movements being generated	An additional criterion added about vehicle movements. In theory that would make the policy slightly more restrictive and therefore have a slight impact on economic sustainability in return for maintained environmental capacity and highway safety.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM28	Policy E4 – High street and retail uses	Rewording of policy requirements for clarity	These changes will improve policy interpretation but are unlikely to significantly alter sustainability outcomes.
MM29	Policy E5 – Safeguarding employment and tourism uses	Rewording of policy requirements for clarity	These changes will improve policy interpretation but are unlikely to significantly alter sustainability outcomes.
MM30	Policy E6 - Rural Estate Plans	Reference removed to employment and economic uses, as other uses are permitted by the policy. Revisions to policy and justification made to clarify the weight that will be given to Rural Estate Plans and explanation of what they may cover and how they should be prepared.	The effect of this modification is to remove a specific reference to economic and employment uses, in doing so to widen out the policy to other uses as well. This should be beneficial economically but does raise an element of risk for new uses that might be less suitable in environmental terms. The policy will rely on safeguards elsewhere in the Local Plan and through the Estate Planning Process itself to appraise what the suitable new uses may be. This modification represents an overall increase in economic sustainability and potentially other benefits which may flow to National Park purposes and Management plan objectives, such as suitable new facilities for visitors.
MM31	Policy E7 – Home working	Policy deleted and absorbed into justification of E8	Home working and live work policy have been combined. The reason is because quite a lot of home working is already considered to be permissible development that does not require specific consent or specific policy encouragement. There are no sustainability impacts of combining the two policies.
MM32	Policy E8 - Live/Work Units	Policy deleted and absorbed into justification of E8 Policy expanded to embrace elements of home working policy (deleted) and text clarified.	

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM33	Policy E9 - Camping and Touring caravan Sites	'Deliver environmental benefits' replaced with 'minimise environmental impacts' Policies E9/E10 merged to provide a single policy for all camping, caravanning and motor home sites (new & extended) Modification added for campsite proposals in flood risk areas to be required to produce emergency evacuation plans. Definition of camper van added to assist policy interpretation and application.	This modification lowers the threshold for development to meet, although it may also deliver the same outcome. It is slightly beneficial in terms of economic impacts and slightly less positive in terms of some environmental objectives. This is quite a substantive change to the Plan but it does not really affect sustainability as the combined policy would be neither more nor less restrictive than the submission version. This is an Environment Agency requirement for vulnerable development. It is about safety rather than downstream flood risk so will not really have an impact on sustainability. This is a technical amendment to help with conditioning development and ultimately enforcement. It doesn't change the policy outcome but should make it a bit easier for the policy to meet its objectives and to avoid impacts further up the Dales where the roads may be less suitable for larger vehicles.
MM34	Policy E10 – Touring caravan sites		
MM35	Policy E11 – Sustainable visitor accommodation	Re-titled policy and one minor wording change.	The policy title ensures consistency with the policy text but will not affect sustainability outcomes.
MM36	Policy E12 – Visitor infrastructure	One minor wording change for grammatical consistency	This modification will not affect sustainability outcomes.
MM37	Policy E14 - Bolton Abbey Visitor Area	Cross-reference to visitor area on Policies Maps, inserted. Bolton Abbey policy changed so that it embraces housing development	This is a substantive change to the Policies Map. See more detailed appraisal below. Housing is specifically added to the list of development opportunities. There is already a housing allocation in the village and the policies on rural workers and staff accommodation would also permit appropriate development within the Estate. This is a factual change and does not affect the balance of outcomes.
MM38	Policy E15 - Staff Accommodation	Minor factual change with cross-referencing.	This change will ensure effectiveness and clarity but won't affect sustainability outcomes.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM39	Policy L1 – Crushed rock quarrying	Minor amendment to policy wording to better correspond with the policy title. Change to justification to ensure major development status of proposals is not prejudiced.	These changes ensure consistency but will not affect sustainability outcomes.
MM40	Policy L2 – Building stone	One minor wording change for grammatical consistency	This modification will not affect sustainability outcomes.
MM41	Policy L3 – Re-working mineral waste	Transfer of wording from justification into policy text.	This change ensures effectiveness through an additional policy requirement that relates directly to the justification. It will ensure beneficial outcomes for landscape indicators by ensuring proposals for re-working mineral deposits are justified.
MM42	Policy L6 - Dark Night Skies	The word 'Only' has been inserted into the policy	'Development proposals will *only* be permitted where they maintain or enhance the special quality of the Yorkshire Dales Dark Sky Reserve'. This makes the policy slightly more restrictive which helps the special qualities regarding conservation of the dark night skies but may add more expense and erode utility in some situations.
MM43	Policy NE1 - Protecting Wildlife Sites, Species and Networks	Policy changed to ensure it reflects national policy/legislation on derogation tests (supersedes modification to footnote proposed in hearing statement)	This is a legal amendment to conform with the Habitats Directives. It ensures that the correct level of habitat scrutiny is applied.
		Reference to invasive species inserted since these are a threat to the biosecurity of the National Park. Additional policy explanation added in relation to 'urban edge' effects that might need to be considered through a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Additional policy explanation added in relation to mobile species and functionally linked land. that might need to be considered through a Habitats Regulations Assessment. Additional policy explanation added in relation air pollution from traffic movements that might need to be considered through a Habitats Regulations Assessment.	Reference to invasive species is added to the justification. This is an important consideration and its addition is a useful reminder to applicants, the Authority and the public, about some of the risks of development to wildlife habitat and even human health. Specific reference to invasive species may prompt decision makers to make greater use of conditions avoiding their spread. This is a specific Habitats regulations impact that has been found to be an issue in some contexts, particular where a large housing proposal would lead to a significant increase in population and emissions and could have detrimental impacts on wildlife habitat and species. Including it in the justification will remind decision makers to take account and mitigate its impacts. This is a requirement of Natural England to have regard to certain species that search for food or rely on a sizeable catchment well beyond the designated site. Its inclusion is intended to widen the scope of assessment and avoid unintended harm. Research into traffic movements and associated air quality emissions make this an additional issue to consider in the assessment of effects on sites from development in proximity to them. Thresholds can be modelled as part of the Planning assessment.
MM44	Policy NE2 - Protecting irreplaceable habitat, trees, hedgerows and walls	Justification amended to refer to potential for off-site provision of compensatory trees.	Reference to compensatory off site tree planting may be helpful to developers and enable a wider range of solutions to be found with fewer trade-offs against economic objectives.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM45	Glossary changes	Several definitions expanded or clarified	These changes will aid policy interpretation but will not affect sustainability outcomes.
MM46	Appendix 2 – Policies to be replaced	Change to clarify policies replaced upon adoption of the Local Plan.	This change ensures clarity over the status of the development plan. It is a procedural issue that doesn't affect sustainability outcomes.
MM47	Appendix 4 - Allocated housing and employment sites	NLU2 housing site allocation deleted due to deliverability issues associated with flood risk.	This is a substantive change. This is a small housing site (7 units) that is being deleted from the Plan because of new evidence of flood risk from the Environment Agency. Deleting the site is a significant loss to potential community and economic benefits around new housing in this location. Unfortunately, flooding is a serious and long term matter and this trade off must be made where there is evidence of significant risk.
		ORT1 housing site allocation deleted due to deliverability issues associated with flood risk.	This is a substantive change. This is a small housing site (8 units) that is being deleted from the Plan because of new evidence of flood risk from the Environment Agency. Deleting this site is a significant loss to potential local community and economic benefits in this area. Unfortunately, flooding is a serious matter and the trade-off must be made where there is evidence of significant risk.
		Explanation added for Threshfield sites (THR4/5 & THR8) to clarify that, although the footprint of housing development will be limited to the area shown in the Submission version of the Local Plan, additional ancillary land will be required to facilitate development (e.g. for access, landscaping, drainage).	This change to the Policies Map will not affect the capacity of the site, in terms of the number/type/mix of dwellings that are likely to be supported. It will provide more scope for ancillary development such as planting, landscaping, vehicular access, active travel and attenuation of surface water runoff. A better scheme of supporting infrastructure will have both environmental and community benefits and will ensure a better prospect of deliverability.
		Supporting text amended to make clear that indicative capacity can go up or down and that development briefs will clarify true capacity.	This is just a factual modification. Whilst housing numbers can be estimated in terms of size and average density, the precise number of units is dependent on an agreed layout plan which will follow after the Plan has been adopted.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
MM48	Appendix 7 - Affordable Housing	Text added that clarifies commuted sums will be paid to YDNPA and it will determine how and to what they will be committed. Rounding of affordable requirements and payment of commuted sums has been clarified. Cross boundary flexibility has been added to affordable housing schemes in the National Park by allowing occupancy from neighbouring housing authority areas and settlements adjacent to the National Park boundary; The time taken to move between geographical areas will be agreed at the point of permission.	This is just clarification about the Commuted sums process. This is a slight change to policy. Commuted sums will be payable on the fraction of affordable housing requirement that falls below a single unit. This will not change the policy per se, but it should mean that the public interest does not lose out to rounding down. In terms of sustainability there will be a slight benefit to community objectives, but it shouldn't affect economic viability. This is a logical modification that is intended to have community benefit in situations where a housing site is on the edge of two housing authority areas. The National Park is a landscape boundary and because local authority boundaries tend to follow watersheds it means that housing sites in the Park are sometimes on the edge of two housing market areas. From a community perspective it makes sense for affordable housing schemes in the Park, to address needs from either side of the housing authority boundary. This modification should bring a small benefit to community housing objectives without any impact on economic or other objectives.
MM49	Appendix 8 - Local occupancy	The appendix has been shortened to focus on the detailed aspects of local occupancy, rather than the justification for the policy. Some of this content has been moved to the policy justification of Policy C1.	The changes largely amount to reordering or relocating text. They do not affect sustainability outcomes.
MM50	Appendix 9 - Principal Residency	References to securing principal residency by condition have been removed because they will now be secured through Section 106 agreements.	This policy modification seeks to change the mechanism used to secure principal residency from use of a Planning condition to use of a legal agreement. Legal agreements are more expensive and slower which will slightly affect economic objectives but in terms of long term enforcement and delivery, legal agreements will be more secure and future proof. They are less likely to be avoided and should therefore give communities greater confidence that principal residency will be maintained.
PM1	Policy Map	The housing development boundary in Settlement map 20 (Casterton) has been amended to include domesticated land at Newlands.	This is a modification to slightly expand the housing development boundary in Casterton. It could possibly release a small amount of future land for housing which would have economic and community benefits for very little additional environmental impact.
PM2	Policy Map	Marske Conservation Area has been added to Settlement map 68 (Marske) to reflect extension adopted in September 2025.	This is just a factual modification to indicate the extent of the recently expanded Marske Conservation Area.
PM3	Policy Map	The housing site on Settlement map 75 (Newbiggin on Lune) has been deleted due to deliverability issues associated with flood risk.	See above
PM4	Policy Map	The housing site allocation on Settlement map 76 (Orton) has been deleted due to deliverability issues associated with flood risk.	See above
PM5	Policy Map	The Baliol site allocation has been changed from an employment site to a housing site on Settlement Map 80 (Sedbergh east)	This is a significant modification to the Plan that will have a significant effect on sustainability outcomes. See full sustainability appraisal below.

Appendix 2 - Sustainability impact by Main Modification

Modification Ref.	Local Plan Policy, or Policies Maps	Summary of Modifications	Sustainability impact
PM6	Policy Map	Settlement map 81 (Sedbusk) has been amended to include stretches of verge as designated important open spaces.	A very minor modification to identify several small patches of land as important open space. Slight positive impacts for landscape conservation.
PM7	Policy Map	Threshfield sites (THR4/5 & THR8) are now shown as a footprint of housing development together with a wider area of ancillary land required to facilitate development (e.g. for access, landscaping, drainage).	This change to the Policies Map will not affect the capacity of the site, in terms of the number/type/mix of dwellings that are likely to be supported. It will provide more scope for ancillary development such as planting, landscaping, vehicular access, active travel and attenuation of surface water runoff. A better scheme of supporting infrastructure will have both environmental and community benefits and will ensure a better prospect of deliverability.
PM8	Policy Map	Bolton Abbey Estate visitor area has been added to the Policies Map	See full appraisal below

Appendix 3

Detailed sustainability appraisal of selected modifications with potential for significant sustainability implications

- 3a Reallocation of former Baliol school site (SED4)
- 3b Deletion of housing site, Newbiggin on Lune (NLU2)
- 3c Deletion of housing site, Orton (ORT1)
- 3d Identification of Bolton Abbey visitor area

Appendix 3a - Reallocation of former Baliol School (SED4)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
Biodiversity	1	Safeguard and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats.	N	No impact on national network. Site is currently identified as an unconnected ecological stepping stone because it has partially regenerated since its last active use and because of its mature trees and scrub cover. Allocation for housing (or employment) will mean the loss of this habitat through higher density development. Biodiversity net gain associated with an eventual approved layout will help mitigate against this loss.
Landscape	2	Reduce large scale extraction of aggregate minerals.	~	N/A
	3	Prevent detrimental impacts on the landscape.	+	Sensitive conversion and reuse of the former Baliol house will improve the current appearance of the site. Careful design, layout, protection of views and landscape planning of the rest of the site will improve the unmanaged and detrimental appearance of the site. Reallocation for housing may mean that reuse of the site takes place more quickly than reuse for employment would, thereby bringing an improvement in appearance to the derelict Baliol school building.
	4	Safeguard and enhance geodiversity.	~	N/A
Water	5	Promote sustainable water supplies and appropriate waste water treatment methods.	N	This is a previously developed site that would have consumed water and generated waste water. Redevelopment of the site for housing will once again consume water and generate renewed water treatment requirements. However, appropriate design and mitigation should minimise demand and raise standards. Water supply is adequate in this area.
	6	Safeguard and enhance water quality through the reduction and prevention of pollution incidents.	N	Appropriate layout and attention to surface water management should reduce risk of pollution.
	7	Prevent vulnerable development in flood risk areas and ensure appropriate land management and development that does not contribute to downstream flood risk.	N	Site is in a low flood risk zone. Mitigation of runoff within the site should avoid contributing to downstream flood risk
Pollution	8	Avoid harmful emissions of light and noise and maintain air quality across the National Park.	N	Lighting scheme to be compliant with dark skies policy and mitigation measures.
Archaeology/ Built Heritage	9	Protect below ground archaeology and preserve nationally important remains.	N	Scheme may require archaeological assessment to investigate postulated Roman Road between Sedbergh and Kirkby Stephen.
	10	Conserve and enhance above ground archaeology including built heritage, listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.	+	Scheme will conserve and reuse Baliol House, a non-listed heritage asset. An appropriate layout design will protect some of its key views and setting. Change of use to housing may speed up the timeframe for conservation of the building.

Appendix 3a - Reallocation of former Baliol School (SED4)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
	11	Ensure a high quality of design that respects or enhances its setting.	N	Design policy, Local Plan appendix, design guide, development brief and previous pre application discussions, should all provide plenty of context to secure a positive benefit on this site. Reallocation for housing will not however affect the standard of design.
Community	12	Encourage a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.	+	Site will provide flats and probably a range of house sizes that will bring overall positive community benefit (30 units). This will provide net gain in the overall number of dwellings from housing site allocations in the Local Plan, partially offset by the deletion of two smaller sites in the former Eden District. Redevelopment will resolve the blight presented by this long disused site, which has been a matter of concern to the community due to anti-social behaviour. All dwellings will be restricted to principal residency to address underoccupancy and prevent use for holiday or second home purposes, ensuring they are permanently occupied and therefore more likely to contribute to the social and economic wellbeing on the town and preventing their alternative use as second homes or holiday letting properties. However, vacant building credit on this site will probably prevent a more significantly beneficial housing outcome because it will greatly reduce the amount of policy compliant affordable housing that would otherwise be possible. This will significantly reduce the overall benefit in terms of meeting a range of identified housing needs.
	13	Safeguard and improve access to services.	+	Additional residents living ion this site will help sustain provision of existing services and support use of future services in the Sedbergh area.
	14	Contribute to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and inclusive communities.	+	An increase in residents will help support community vibrancy, social networks and existing services.
	15	Support a fair and representative system of governance, encouraging widespread participation and public involvement.	+	Additional residents should generally contribute to more vibrant and better supported local governance.
	16	Work to ensure that the maximum possible number of households have access to mobile signal and high speed broadband.	N	This site should be capable of high speed broad band and mobile connectivity
Waste	17	Support the movement towards a circular economy as well as appropriate waste management and disposal methods.	N	This will depend on local Authority services and methods supported by the new residents.
Climate Change & Energy	18	Support energy efficiency measures and a reduction in energy use.	+	Modern homes are likely to more energy efficient. Reuse of the former building is an effective way to make good use of existing materials.
	19	Support appropriate development of, and research into, renewable energy generation.	+	Air source heat pumps, battery storage and solar PV should be possible on this site.
	20	Take action to adapt to the changing climate, mitigate against further changes and increase resilience to climate change.	+	This site avoids alternatives at higher risk of flooding. Appropriate design and reuse of the existing building should help minimise carbon emissions and provide shelter and resilience to storms and high rainfall events.

Appendix 3a - Reallocation of former Baliol School (SED4)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
Public Enjoyment & Understanding	21	Support sustainable tourism.	-	Losing the site for employment and business uses will now preclude it from making a contribution to the tourism economy in the town.
	22	Maintain and improve opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park.	~	The increase in residents will slightly increase the opportunities for more of the public to benefit from proximity to National Park resources.
	23	Understand and respond to the changing patterns of visitors to the National Park.	-	Losing the site for employment and business uses will preclude it from making a contribution to visitor enjoyment or Management plan objectives for visitors.
Economy & Employment	24	Provide conditions which encourage growing, diverse and resilient economy and the diversification of existing enterprises.	-	The loss of the site as an employment allocation has removed the only remaining serviced site in the north west of the National Park and the service centre of Sedbergh. This could have a negative impact for short or medium term economic potential in the town Another site will have to be released elsewhere either through a future development plan review or as an exception to policy. The funding for that is not yet available meaning a potential shortfall in employment land availability. However, the site had laid dormant for more than 10 years with no compelling evidence that it was in demand for employment or business reuse. Future development for housing will also support some local employers and support local spending in the economy and no doubt some home working activity.
Transport	25	Locate development so that it supports a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality.	+	This site is within walking, cycling and active travel distance of the town centre. It is connected by pavement to the high street and other services.
Agriculture	26	Understand and respond to changes in agricultural policy and land management change.	~	N/A
	27	Support appropriate agriculture, including opportunities for farm diversification.	~	N/A
Special Qualities	28	Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.	N	The site has qualities associated with the heritage asset of the former school building but it is not a special quality of the National Park.

Appendix 3b – Deletion of housing site: Land at The Warehouse, Newbiggin-on-Lune (NLU2)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
Biodiversity	**1**	**Safeguard and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats.**	N	The land will remain unallocated in the Plan although it will remain inside the housing development plan. This is a small site so biodiversity net gain would be unlikely to make a significant difference to its ecological status.
Landscape	2	Reduce large scale extraction of aggregate minerals.	~	N/A
	3	Prevent detrimental impacts on the landscape.	N	This is a small previously developed site. Removing its allocation would have a broadly neutral impact on landscape
	4	Safeguard and enhance geodiversity.	~	N/A
Water	5	Promote sustainable water supplies and appropriate waste water treatment methods.	+	Deletion of this site would remove potential future neighbour conflict with the nearby sewage treat works and would slightly improve local water supply and water treatment outcomes.
	6	Safeguard and enhance water quality through the reduction and prevention of pollution incidents.	N	Deletion of the allocated site should slightly reduce the risk of pollution in the event of a flooding incident.
	7	Prevent vulnerable development in flood risk areas and ensure appropriate land management and development that does not contribute to downstream flood risk.	+	The site has been deleted because of more recent flood risk modelling (March 2025) which indicates a more extensive area of surface water risk and an increased risk from river flooding, potentially combining with the nearby fish pools. Deletion of the housing allocation will represent a lowering of future flood risk.
Pollution	8	Avoid harmful emissions of light and noise and maintain air quality across the National Park.	N	Deletion of the scheme would avoid any small scale increase in lighting on this site. It would also avoid potential contamination issues with this previously developed land.
Archaeology/ Built Heritage	9	Protect below ground archaeology and preserve nationally important remains.	N	No information about any archaeological sensitivity on this site
		Conserve and enhance above ground archaeology including built heritage, listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.	N	Deleting this site will have a neutral effect on heritage.
	11	Ensure a high quality of design that respects or enhances its setting.	N	Deleting this site will remove the potential for a high quality design, but a high quality design is not guaranteed so the overall impact on design is probably neutral.
Community	12	Encourage a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.	-	Deleting the site as a housing allocation will reduce its potential to contribute to housing need and demand in a part of the National Park that has a significant lack of site options. The site will still remain in the housing development boundary and part (outside of the flood constraint) might still be delivered as a windfall site. Had the site been allocated, the affordable housing yield would have been limited and so this is not a significant loss of community benefit.
	13	Safeguard and improve access to services.	-	Deleting the site will remove its potential to support local services

Appendix 3b – Deletion of housing site: Land at The Warehouse, Newbiggin-on-Lune (NLU2)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
	14	Contribute to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and inclusive communities.	-	Deleting the site will remove its potential to contribute to vibrant and inclusive communities.
	15	Support a fair and representative system of governance, encouraging widespread participation and public involvement.	N	Removing this site will have a broadly neutral impact on this indicator.
	16	Work to ensure that the maximum possible number of households have access to mobile signal and high speed broadband.	N	This site should be capable of high speed broad band and mobile connectivity
Waste	17	Support the movement towards a circular economy as well as appropriate waste management and disposal methods.	N	The impact on this would be broadly neutral
Climate Change & Energy	18	Support energy efficiency measures and a reduction in energy use.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
	19	Support appropriate development of, and research into, renewable energy generation.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
	20	Take action to adapt to the changing climate, mitigate against further changes and increase resilience to climate change.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
Public Enjoyment & Understanding	21	Support sustainable tourism.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
	22	Maintain and improve opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park.	~	N/A
	23	Understand and respond to the changing patterns of visitors to the National Park.	~	N/A
Economy & Employment	24	Provide conditions which encourage growing, diverse and resilient economy and the diversification of existing enterprises.	-	Deleting the allocation will mean the site cannot be used for home working and a loss of potential spending in the local economy.
Transport	25	Locate development so that it supports a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact

Appendix 3b – Deletion of housing site: Land at The Warehouse, Newbiggin-on-Lune (NLU2)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
		and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality.		
Agriculture	26	Understand and respond to changes in agricultural policy and land management change.	~	N/A
	27	Support appropriate agriculture, including opportunities for farm diversification.	~	N/A
Special Qualities	28	Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact

Appendix 3c - Deletion of housing site: Land east of Ashfield Court, Orton (ORT1)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
Biodiversity	**1**	Safeguard and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats.	+	The deletion of this greenfield site for housing would have a slightly positive effect for biodiversity by avoiding the development and clearing on the site. It would however also mean no potential biodiversity net gain from the scheme.
Landscape	2	Reduce large scale extraction of aggregate minerals.	~	N/A
	3	Prevent detrimental impacts on the landscape.	+	This is a greenfield site on the edge of the village. Removing its allocation would avoid impact on the landscape, although the site is well screened from public view.
	4	Safeguard and enhance geodiversity.	~	N/A
Water	5	Promote sustainable water supplies and appropriate waste water treatment methods.	+	Deleting this site for housing would have a minor beneficial impact on existing water supply and water treatment
	6	Safeguard and enhance water quality through the reduction and prevention of pollution incidents.	+	Deletion of the allocated site should slightly reduce the risk of pollution in the event of a flooding incident.
	7	Prevent vulnerable development in flood risk areas and ensure appropriate land management and development that does not contribute to downstream flood risk.	+	The site has been deleted because of more recent flood risk modelling (March 2025) which indicates a more extensive area of surface water risk and an increased risk from river flooding, potentially combining with the nearby fish pools. Deletion of the housing allocation will represent a lowering of future flood risk.
Pollution	8	Avoid harmful emissions of light and noise and maintain air quality across the National Park.	N	Deletion of the scheme would avoid any small scale increase in lighting on this site
Archaeology/ Built Heritage	9	Protect below ground archaeology and preserve nationally important remains.	N	No information about any archaeological sensitivity on this site
		Conserve and enhance above ground archaeology including built heritage, listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.	+	Deleting this site will ensure that the setting of the Orton Conservation Area is fully conserved.
	11	Ensure a high quality of design that respects or enhances its setting.	N	Deleting this site will remove the potential for a high quality design, but a high quality design is not guaranteed so the overall impact on design is probably neutral.
Community	12	Encourage a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.	-	Deleting the site as a housing allocation will reduce its potential to contribute to housing need and demand in a part of the National Park that has a significant lack of site options. Given the flood risk constraint, it is difficult to envisage that the site could be brought forward as a rural exceptions site, therefore the loss of housing potential (and community benefit) is likely to be total. Had the site been allocated, the affordable housing yield would have been limited and so this is not a significant loss of community benefit.

Appendix 3c - Deletion of housing site: Land east of Ashfield Court, Orton (ORT1)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
	13	Safeguard and improve access to services.	-	Deleting the site will remove its potential to support local services
	14	Contribute to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and inclusive communities.	-	Deleting the site will remove its potential to contribute to vibrant and inclusive communities.
	15	Support a fair and representative system of governance, encouraging widespread participation and public involvement.	N	Removing this site will have a broadly neutral impact on this indicator.
	16	Work to ensure that the maximum possible number of households have access to mobile signal and high speed broadband.	N	This site should be capable of high speed broad band and mobile connectivity
Waste	17	Support the movement towards a circular economy as well as appropriate waste management and disposal methods.	N	The impact on this would be broadly neutral
Climate Change & Energy	18	Support energy efficiency measures and a reduction in energy use.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
	19	Support appropriate development of, and research into, renewable energy generation.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
	20	Take action to adapt to the changing climate, mitigate against further changes and increase resilience to climate change.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
Public Enjoyment & Understanding	21	Support sustainable tourism.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact
	22	Maintain and improve opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park.	N	Deleting this site which is largely screened from public would have a mostly neutral impact on public perception of the Park.
	23	Understand and respond to the changing patterns of visitors to the National Park.	~	N/A
Economy & Employment	24	Provide conditions which encourage growing, diverse and resilient economy and the diversification of existing enterprises.	-	Deleting the allocation will mean the site cannot be used for home working and a loss of potential spending in the local economy.
Transport	25	Locate development so that it supports a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact

Appendix 3c - Deletion of housing site: Land east of Ashfield Court, Orton (ORT1)

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
		and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality.		
Agriculture	26	Understand and respond to changes in agricultural policy and land management change.	~	N/A
	27	Support appropriate agriculture, including opportunities for farm diversification.	~	N/A
Special Qualities	28	Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.	N	Deleting the allocation will have a broadly neutral impact

Appendix 3d – Identification of Bolton Abbey visitor area

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
Biodiversity	1	Safeguard and enhance internationally, nationally and locally important species and habitats.	-	The Bolton Abbey visitor development area identified on the Policies Map is an extensive area between Barden and Bolton Bridges. It includes the core ecological network of Strid Wood and both banks of the River Wharfe together with a wider buffer area. This is an area where Policy NE1 only permits development in exceptional circumstances, because of the need to conserve and enhance priority wildlife habitat. New development will be excluded within this part of the core visitor area unless it is small scale and will improve the management of the ecological network e.g. path maintenance and low key infrastructure. Development of new visitor facilities such as accommodation, car parking and washrooms etc should avoid the core ecological habitat area unless it is in an already developed area and is capable of implementation without harm to the priority habitat there. Sites outside the core ecological area but within the visitor area, are strongly preferred by the policy. By avoiding development in the core habitat areas significant harm can be avoided. Undeniably though, there remains a risk given the proximity of the habitat to visitor uses and infrastructure.
Landscape	2	Reduce large scale extraction of aggregate minerals.	~	N/A
	3	Prevent detrimental impacts on the landscape.	-	Additional visitor development is likely to have an impact on the landscape and will require mitigation through careful design. It is unlikely however to improve the landscape of this area.
	4	Safeguard and enhance geodiversity.	~	N/A
Water	5	Promote sustainable water supplies and appropriate waste water treatment methods.	N	Modern development will tend to use resources efficiently and apply good, packaged treatment solutions.
	6	Safeguard and enhance water quality through the reduction and prevention of pollution incidents.	N	Modern development should include modern forms of treatment and attenuation of runoff which should avoid additional harmful impacts on river quality.
	7	Prevent vulnerable development in flood risk areas and ensure appropriate land management and development that does not contribute to downstream flood risk.	N	Areas of high risk of flooding can be avoided given the flexibility within the area identified on the Proposals Map.
Pollution	8	Avoid harmful emissions of light and noise and maintain air quality across the National Park.	-	Noise and light can be mitigated to an extent but new development of visitor facilities, accommodation, parking etc will tend to increase rather than reduce light and noise. Applying careful design and visitor management and minimising lighting will help minimise emissions.
Archaeology/ Built Heritage	9	Protect below ground archaeology and preserve nationally important remains.	-	Development is likely to have some impact on below ground archaeology even after careful assessment. Pre and during development assessment could however reveal new data and new records for the historic environment database.

Appendix 3d – Identification of Bolton Abbey visitor area

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
	10	Conserve and enhance above ground archaeology including built heritage, listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments.	+	Careful design, siting and landscaping will be needed to fit in with the high quality heritage assets in this area. Additional revenue should help improve future conservation, repair, interpretation quality of existing assets.
	11	Ensure a high quality of design that respects or enhances its setting.	+	The estate, in consultation with the Authority and other partners, is very likely to be able to plan for and deliver high quality design solutions.
Community	12	Encourage a mix of housing types and tenures in order to ensure all have the opportunity to meet their housing needs in accommodation of adequate quality.	+	A small amount of new housing for staff and affordable housing could be beneficial outcomes.
	13	Safeguard and improve access to services.	+	More visitors and more living and working households will support existing services.
	14	Contribute to the creation and maintenance of vibrant and inclusive communities.	+	New development and more people should support more vibrant communities.
	15	Support a fair and representative system of governance, encouraging widespread participation and public involvement.	~	The number of additional residents is unlikely to significant.
	16	Work to ensure that the maximum possible number of households have access to mobile signal and high speed broadband.	N	May attract better broadband and mobile connections, unless overwhelmed by visitor use.
Waste	17	Support the movement towards a circular economy as well as appropriate waste management and disposal methods.	-	More visitors and more development will tend to generate more waste
Climate Change & Energy	18	Support energy efficiency measures and a reduction in energy use.	+	Modern homes and new development is likely to be energy efficient.
	19	Support appropriate development of, and research into, renewable energy generation.	+	Opportunity for solar panels, air or ground source heat pumps and perhaps micro hydro.
	20	Take action to adapt to the changing climate, mitigate against further changes and increase resilience to climate change.	+	New development can design in resilience measures and avoid at risk locations.
	21	Support sustainable tourism.	++	The objective of identifying the visitor area is to provide opportunities for sustainable visitor development at this key gateway area.

Appendix 3d – Identification of Bolton Abbey visitor area

Sustainability Appraisal Framework			Score	Sustainability implications
Public Enjoyment & Understanding	22	Maintain and improve opportunities for the public to understand and enjoy the National Park.	++	This is a good opportunity to deliver some of the National Park management Plan objectives around outreach, diversity of visitors, visitor economy, visitor activity etc.
	23	Understand and respond to the changing patterns of visitors to the National Park.	++	This is an opportunity to further target more diverse markets and improve visitor facilities at an accessible gateway locations to modern needs and standards.
Economy & Employment	24	Provide conditions which encourage growing, diverse and resilient economy and the diversification of existing enterprises.	++	The allocation should help add spending, jobs, training and diversity to the economy by growing existing business and markets.
Transport	25	Locate development so that it supports a sustainable transport network which encourages the use of public transport, cycling and walking which minimises traffic congestion and improves air quality.	+	The walking and cycling opportunities can connect to existing and improved networks outside the allocated area. There are opportunities for coach, bus and even train travel into or adjacent to the site. Traffic congestion, emissions and noise are however likely to remain issues.
Agriculture	26	Understand and respond to changes in agricultural policy and land management change.	+	Further diversification should help support farming and land management within the estate
	27	Support appropriate agriculture, including opportunities for farm diversification.	+	Further diversification could help support farming and land management within the estate
Special Qualities	28	Conserve and enhance the special qualities of the National Park.	+	Identification of the Bolton abbey Visitor area could potentially result in some negative impacts on the special qualities, although increased economic viability should also support long term conservation management of the habitat and heritage assets there. Safeguards in the policy and elsewhere in the Plan should minimise the impacts.