

■ INTRODUCTION

- 14.1 Considerable benefits can result from the promotion of sport and recreation. Participation in sport and recreation is important to the health and well-being of individuals and can foster the development of community spirit and identity. Success in sport can reflect well on the District and improve the general morale of residents. A good range of sport and recreational facilities can contribute to the economy by making the District a more attractive place to live and work in and to visit. These benefits are recognised in PPG17 which states that it is the Government's policy to promote sport and recreation opportunities for everybody, including disadvantaged or special groups, and to encourage as wide a participation as possible.
- 14.2 The Plan seeks to ensure that all residents and visitors have access to a wide choice of facilities and opportunities capable of enhancing their health, environment and quality of life. At the same time it seeks to balance the demand for sport and recreation against the competing claims of other land uses and the interests of conservation. Particular importance is attached to safeguarding land of recreational value as this is under increasing threat from development. The countryside too is under increasing pressure to meet the demand for sport and recreation. Since an important theme of the Plan is the protection of the open countryside, policies will ensure that sport and recreation uses are in harmony and appropriate.
- 14.3 Significant progress has been made with the provision of formal sports and recreation facilities in the District and all five market towns now have a major high quality facility. This distribution has ensured that the widest population is served and the best use is made of limited resources. Despite this there remain gaps in provision, mainly relating to small scale local facilities and specialist facilities.
- 14.4 Children are one of the greatest users of outdoor space and it is particularly important that children gain the maximum learning experience from play activities. Trends show that there will be an increase in the number of children of primary and early secondary school age. The Plan aims to ensure that the needs of children are given particular emphasis. The trends also reveal a significant increase in the number of elderly people who may demand more provision for passive recreational pursuits.
- 14.5 The Council has prepared a Leisure Strategy, one aim of which is to secure a broad range of leisure facilities for all sections of the community. This has analysed the need for sport and recreation provision, identified deficiencies and opportunities and defined the priorities for future provision. More specifically it states what the Council will provide itself and what it wishes other agencies or the private sector to assist in providing.
- 14.6 The Leisure Strategy contains proposals for major indoor and outdoor sports facilities, small scale local facilities and a commitment to define local standards for the provision of formal and informal play space.

OBJECTIVES

14.7 The Sport and Recreation Policies of the Plan have the following main objectives:

1. To protect and improve existing public and private open space and other land of recreational value.
2. To ensure that the quantity and quality of sport and recreation facilities meet the needs of the resident population.
3. To encourage the recreational use of the countryside where there are no overriding conflicts with other land uses, the interests of conservation or the quiet enjoyment of others.
4. To ensure that the sport and recreation needs of children and disadvantaged or special groups are properly addressed.

OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS FACILITIES

POLICY SR1

PROTECTION OF LAND OF RECREATIONAL VALUE

Development which would result in the loss of public or private land of recreational value, including playing fields, allotments, children's play areas (formal and informal) and sports facilities, will not be permitted. Where it has been possible, the sites to which this Policy relates are identified on the Inset Maps. Development will only be permitted on these and other sites which may subsequently be identified where:

1. The site is no longer needed and taking into account Policy SR2 and the long term recreation needs of the local population, is unlikely to be required in the future; or
2. An alternative facility can be provided of equivalent area and/or of equal recreational value to the local population; or
3. The recreational value of the site to the local population can be secured or improved through the development of a small part; or
4. The development is required for an extension or improvement to an existing County Council function.

JUSTIFICATION

14.8 The Council fully supports the importance that the Government attaches in PPG17 to the retention of land of recreational value. It will strongly resist the loss of such space either through development or inclusion in private gardens. However, if the only means of gaining public access or retaining or enhancing a site is through the development of a small part, or if an alternative site is provided which is of equivalent community value and accessibility, then favourable consideration may be given to a development proposal.

14.9 Although many sites of recreational value have been identified on the Inset Maps other sites may exist or be provided at a future date. The fact that some sites may not be identified should not diminish their importance.

14.10 The protection of sites includes some land to which the public do not have access, such as school playing fields and land owned by private sports clubs. If no longer required for its original purpose such land will be protected if there currently is, or would be in the future, a deficiency in recreational land in the area. In the case of schools, full account must be taken of a possible future upturn in school rolls to establish that the facility will not be required in the long term for school use.

POLICY SR2

OUTDOOR PLAYING SPACE

Provision will be made for outdoor playing space throughout the Plan area to a minimum standard of 2.43 hectares (6 acres) for every 1,000 population.

Depending on the population profile of the locality, the provision should be met by an aggregation of space within the following ranges:

YOUTH AND ADULT USE

Sports pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, athletic tracks, etc 1.6 - 1.8 ha (4.0 - 4.5 acres)

CHILDREN'S USE

Equipped playgrounds 0.2 - 0.3 ha (0.5 - 0.7 acres)
Casual/informal playing space within housing areas 0.4 - 0.5 ha (1.0 - 1.2 acres)

In areas deficient in outdoor playing space, advantage will be taken of opportunities to make better use of existing open space and to provide new areas of open space.

Outdoor playing space for children should be within 5 minutes walking distance of the homes it is meant to serve and should not involve crossing a busy road or using an otherwise dangerous route.

Outdoor playing space for youths and adults should normally be within 15 minutes walking distance of the homes it is meant to serve. Such provision may be further away depending upon the type of provision.

JUSTIFICATION

- 14.11 The quality and distribution of outdoor playing space is as important as the quantity. Nevertheless, minimum standards must be set in order to assess local needs for outdoor playing space and to identify deficiencies. The Policy reflects the minimum standard advocated by the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) which is widely used by local authorities. An assessment of the existing outdoor playing space in the District's market towns set against the NPFA standard is contained in Appendix 8.
- 14.12 The minimum 2.43 hectare (6 acre) target includes parks, sports pitches, bowling greens, tennis courts, athletic tracks, putting greens, training areas, outdoor equipped playgrounds for children and areas for casual or informal recreation. Open space which is not primarily designed for recreation (e.g. grass verges and grass areas where no ball games are permitted) and recreational facilities not available for public use will not be counted as making a contribution to supply.
- 14.13 Easy, convenient and safe access to public open space for residents is a major consideration in assessing the adequacy of provision.
- 14.14 All weather pitches are an important element in sports provision for youths and adults. Their potential for improving the standard of sports provision is considerable. They can accommodate a variety of sports at all levels of performance, provide a consistent playing surface, be used in adverse weather conditions and be used intensively. The Council considers that there should be an all-weather pitch in each market town and work is in progress to identify sites.

14.15 Outdoor bowling greens are available in the market towns and in several villages. These are only usable in the summer and there is no provision for bowling in winter. An indoor bowls hall would enable participation in the sport throughout the

year and would be of particular benefit to the elderly. A facility of this nature at either Northallerton or Thirsk would serve the entire District and work is in progress to identify a site.

POLICY SR3

OPEN SPACE ALLOCATIONS

The following sites, identified on the Inset maps, are allocated for public recreation:

	SITE	INSET MAP	AREA		USE
			HECTARES	(ACRES)	
1.	Bedale, Grange Close	1	0.7	(1.7)	Informal recreation
2.	Bedale, Pinewood Grove	1	0.2	(0.5)	Children's play
3.	Bedale, South End	1	0.6	(1.5)	Children's play and informal recreation
4.	Easingwold, Millfield Lane	34	13.5	(33.5)	Informal recreation
5.	Easingwold, Claypenny	34	0.6	(1.5)	Children's play
6.	Easingwold, Gate Grains Lane	34	1.0	(2.6)	Children's play and informal recreation
7.	Easingwold, South of Highland Court	34	0.3	(0.8)	Children's play and informal recreation
8.	Hutton Rudby, Station Road	82	1.6	(4.0)	Children's play and informal recreation
9.	Leeming, Mill Lane	15	0.6	(1.6)	Children's play
10.	Linton-on-Ouse, Priests Garth	41	0.8	(2.0)	Children's play and informal recreation
11.	Northallerton, Knotto Bottom Way	70	0.4	(1.0)	Children's play
12.	Northallerton, Sandy Bank	70	4.3	(10.6)	Sports pitches and informal recreation
13.	Sandhutton, Cradock Row	115	0.1	(0.4)	Children's play
14.	Sowerby, Gravel Hole Lane	124	2.0	(5.0)	Children's play and informal recreation
15.	Sutton-under- Whitstonecliffe, Part OS 9976	121	0.4	(1.0)	Children's play
16.	Thirsk, Dowber Way	124	2.8	(7.0)	Children's play and informal recreation
17.	Thirsk, Wetlands Lane	124	1.2	(3.0)	Children's play and informal recreation

JUSTIFICATION

14.16 Although the Plan area is reasonably well provided with recreation facilities and also has large areas of countryside with potential for informal recreation, some settlements suffer either a complete lack of public open space or lack specific types of open space. PPG17 states that it is a function of the local plan to ensure that adequate land is allocated to meet such shortfalls.

14.17 The Policy contains a number of proposals for additional areas of public open space. These address known shortfalls and particular opportunities.

14.18 It is very important that children have the opportunity to play together safely, close to where they live. The needs of children are, therefore, given particular emphasis in the open space allocations.

14.19 The Council envisages that the allocations will be used as follows:

1. Bedale, Grange Close

This is an orchard surrounded by residential development and is intended to provide informal recreation space for quiet passive use. The undulating ground and trees on the site provide an opportunity to create an attractive amenity area.

2. Bedale, Pinewood Grove

This is a derelict site which has potential as a equipped children's play area. The land is close to residential areas and accessible by footpath.

3. Bedale, South End

This is allocated as a children's play and for informal recreational use. It is intended to serve the new housing in the area.

4. Easingwold, Millfield Lane

A detailed scheme for the layout of this substantial site has been prepared after consultation with local residents. The site will mainly be used for informal recreational pursuits such as walking and will be laid out to have a natural/rural character. The layout includes woodland planting and the creation of areas of nature conservation interest. Parking provision will be made within the site to accommodate users.

5. Easingwold, Claypenny

This is allocated as a children's play area and for informal recreational use. It is intended to serve the new housing on the Claypenny hospital site.

6. Easingwold, Gate Grains Lane, and

7. Easingwold, south of Highland Court

Both sites are to provide children's play areas but also have scope for additional informal recreational use. The land at Gate Grains Lane will be implemented as part of a new housing development. The land south of Highland Court will be laid out and conveyed to the Council when the adjacent site is developed.

8. Hutton Rudby, Station Road

Hutton Rudby has been in need of a children's play area for many years. This site has been chosen after a lengthy examination of all the options. The site is large enough to provide for children's play and informal recreation for the wider community.

9. Leeming, Mill Lane

The site is intended for children's play. It is large enough to accommodate both an equipped playground and kick-about area.

10. Linton-on-Ouse, Priests Garth

This site is intended for children's play. It will be large enough to provide an equipped playground and kick-about area.

11. Northallerton, Knotto Bottom Way

This site is adjacent to large areas of residential development. It is intended as an equipped children's play area to serve this development.

12. Northallerton, Sandy Bank

The allocation at Sandy Bank is to be an area of sports pitches but it could also be used as an informal recreational area.

13. Sandhutton, Cradock Row

This site is part of a scheme for new housing in the village. The provision of the children's play area is required, by a legal obligation, to be provided by the developer.

14. Sowerby, Gravel Hole Lane

This site is intended for children's play. It is large enough to also be used for informal recreation by the wider community.

15. Sutton-under-Whitstonecliffe, Part of OS 9976

The site is large enough for an equipped children's playground and kick-about area.

16. Thirsk, Dowber Way

This allocation will alleviate an acute shortage of outdoor playing space in east Thirsk. It will provide for children's play and for informal recreation for the wider community.

17. Thirsk, Wetlands Lane

This site is intended for children's play. It is large enough to also be used for informal recreation by the wider community

SPORT AND RECREATION IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

POLICY SR4**INFORMAL COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION**

Proposals for small scale facilities which will enable people to undertake informal countryside recreation will be encouraged and will be permitted provided that all of the following criteria are met:

1. It will not introduce levels of activity inappropriate to the area;
2. It will not adversely affect the character or appearance of the countryside;
3. It will not result in a detrimental impact on road safety and the free flow of traffic on the adjacent highway network;
4. It will not result in an unacceptable nuisance to, or impact on, adjoining land uses, the amenity of people living nearby or the enjoyment of other countryside users;
5. It will not adversely affect sites of nature conservation value or archaeological or historic importance;
6. It will not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land.

Any new buildings or structures should be of a good standard of design and satisfactorily blend into the landscape in terms of their design, siting, materials and landscaping.

JUSTIFICATION

14.20 The countryside in the District is an important recreational resource for both residents and visitors. Informal countryside recreation is generally based on its natural qualities and can be carried out without harm to the landscape or nature conservation interests. It can also be a positive force for conservation. The future recreational use of the countryside in the Plan area lies mainly in the quiet enjoyment of its natural qualities.

14.21 Informal countryside recreation includes a wide range of activities such as nature trails, walks, cycling, sight seeing and picnicking. Many of these will not require planning permission, however, the provision of facilities such as lay-bys, small

car parks and picnic areas may be necessary to assist visitors enjoy the countryside.

14.22 The Council will normally support proposals which increase opportunities for informal countryside recreation where such activities would not conflict with agriculture, forestry, landscape and nature conservation or the amenities of local residents. All proposals should make a positive contribution to countryside conservation.

14.23 Footpaths and bridleways are an important recreational resource and these are dealt with separately under Policy SR8.

POLICY SR5**FORMAL SPORT AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

Subject to Policies SR6, SR7 and SR11 proposals for formal sport and recreational facilities of an open nature will be permitted outside Development Limits provided the proposal meets all of the following criteria:

1. It cannot be located inside a built-up area;
2. It will not adversely affect the character or appearance of the countryside;
3. It is accessible to those on foot or who rely on public transport, exceptions will be made for those facilities dependent on a unique natural resource;
4. It does not result in a volume of traffic which exceeds the capacity of the surrounding road network or requires changes to the road network which would adversely affect the character of the area;
5. It does not involve the construction of large buildings or structures;
6. It will not have a significantly detrimental effect on the character or setting of settlements, the amenity of people living nearby, adjoining land uses or the enjoyment of other countryside users;
7. It will not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land;
8. It will not adversely affect sites of nature conservation value or archaeological importance, or buildings of historic or architectural interest.

Proposals in the AONBs, Special Landscape Areas, Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest, SSSIs and the Green Belt will not be permitted where they are incompatible with the objectives behind these designations.

JUSTIFICATION

14.24 Sports and recreational development requiring spacious sites, such as football pitches and cricket grounds, are unlikely to be practical in built-up areas. Often these are appropriate on the edge of settlements, where they can act as a buffer between urban uses and agriculture, or in rural locations.

14.25 Whilst sport and recreational uses which cannot be accommodated in built-up areas may be acceptable in the countryside they must be appropriate and in harmony with it. Proposals involving large buildings or which would adversely affect the character and quality of the landscape or other conservation interests will not be appropriate in the countryside. It is also important that such uses do not lead to the irretrievable loss of high quality agricultural land.

14.26 The Government is encouraging farmers to develop alternative sources of income. Sports and recreational facilities may form part of diversification proposals. Proposals arising from farm diversification will be considered under Policy EM16 and Policies SR6, SR7 and SR11 where appropriate.

14.27 The Policy also aims to ensure that, as far as possible, new facilities are accessible to as many users as possible. Sites adjacent to settlements will, therefore, be preferred. Exceptions may have to be made for those activities which depend on a particular resource or set of conditions.

POLICY SR6**GOLF COURSES**

New golf courses or driving ranges and extensions to existing courses will be permitted provided that the proposal meets all of the following criteria:

1. It is designed and located to ensure harmony and good visual integration with the surrounding countryside and it will not adversely affect the character or appearance of the countryside;
2. It makes provision for the retention and management of important landscape features and any landscaping reflects the area's character in form and choice of species;
3. It will not result in the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land;
4. It will not adversely affect sites of nature conservation value or archaeological or historic importance;
5. Any new buildings and hardstandings are essential to the functioning of the golf course and are of a high standard of design;
6. It will not result in a volume of traffic which exceeds the capacity of the surrounding road network or requires changes to the road network which will adversely affect the character of the area;
7. It will not adversely affect the amenity of residents in the vicinity;
8. It will not adversely affect the enjoyment of other users of the countryside, particularly those using the public rights-of-way network.

Proposals in the AONBs, Special Landscape Areas, Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest, SSSIs and the Green Belt will not be permitted where they are incompatible with the objectives behind these designations.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposal is viable in its own right and will not require additional development to support it.

JUSTIFICATION

14.28 There has been considerable interest in creating new golf courses in the District as a result of the increasing popularity of the sport and removal of land from agricultural production. PPG17 recognises that unless carefully designed, golf courses can damage the countryside, particularly the landscape, wildlife habitats and historic and archaeological features.

14.29 Strict criteria are laid down in the Policy to ensure harmony with the surrounding countryside and to conserve the natural environment. Special care must be taken with proposals in the AONBs, Special Landscape Areas, Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest, SSSIs and

the Green Belt. Golf courses will not normally be permitted on high quality agricultural land because it is unlikely to be able to be returned to agricultural use without loss of quality.

14.30 The Council will normally require all proposals to be accompanied by the following details:

- A draft course layout showing the location of buildings, accesses and parking areas and also the effect on public rights-of-way;
- A landscaping scheme showing existing and proposed features with details of species;

- An earthwork plan showing existing and proposed topography and the extent of earth moving;
- A drainage and irrigation plan showing existing and proposed drainage and reservoirs;
- A wildlife plan showing existing and proposed habitats.

14.31 In areas of lower landscape quality, such as the Landscape Enhancement Areas identified under Policy L11, golf courses

may help improve landscape quality. Generally the Council will expect to see proposals for environmental enhancement, such as new habitat features and improved access to the countryside.

14.32 Development sometimes associated with golf courses such as housing, hotels, conference centres or leisure facilities could have a significant adverse effect on the character and appearance of the countryside. Proposals involving this kind of additional development will normally be refused.

POLICY SR7

NOISY SPORTS

Proposals for noisy sports in the countryside will only be permitted if the proposal meets the criteria of Policy SR5 and it can be demonstrated that the proposal would not cause excessive noise disturbance to other users of the countryside, land uses, or residents in the area.

JUSTIFICATION

14.33 Noisy sports, including activities such as motor sports, war games, airsports, gun sports and powered water sports, can be disruptive to the enjoyment of the countryside. When these take place for short periods of the year they may not require planning permission, however, new accesses, buildings or car parks are likely to require permission, as are activities that take place for long periods or are within an SSSI.

14.34 The criteria for the selection of sites for regular use must include the potential impact on the site and on adjacent land

uses and nearby residents. It is also important that people using the countryside for other recreation activities do not have their enjoyment spoiled. Where such sports cannot keep noise within acceptable limits they will not be permitted.

14.35 Where appropriate, conditions will be imposed to keep noise within acceptable limits by controlling the hours of operation and the nature of activities carried out. Other measures such as mounding and baffle fencing may be required.

POLICY SR8**FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

Development which would have an adverse impact on the recreational value of public footpaths and bridleways will not be permitted.

The creation of new rights-of-way which increase access to and enjoyment of the countryside will be supported. Where possible new routes and improvements to existing routes should be designed to be accessible to people with mobility difficulties.

JUSTIFICATION

- 14.36 Footpaths and bridleways are a key recreational asset and an effective means of meeting informal recreation demands in a way compatible with the conservation policies of the Plan. The Countryside Commission has identified the improvement of the rights-of-way network as an important element of 'Recreation 2000', the Commission's strategy for enhancing enjoyment of the countryside by the year 2000.
- 14.37 The Council attaches great importance to safeguarding rights-of-way and protecting their character and attractiveness. Rights-of-way should be retained on their existing alignments unless there are very good reasons for their diversion or closure. Where they cross a development site their routes should be protected in a landscaped setting.
- 14.38 Where possible the network should be extended to make it more attractive and effective to all who use it including those with mobility difficulties. Encouragement will be given to improving links between town and countryside and to the creation of off-road circular walks.
- 14.39 The public rights-of-way network is mainly the responsibility of the County Council,
- although the Council also has powers to create or extinguish rights-of-way. Negotiations with landowners and other interested bodies will be the primary means by which improvements can be achieved.

POLICY SR9**PROPOSED FOOTPATHS**

The creation of the following new rights-of-way, as shown on the Proposals Map and Inset Maps, will be supported:

1. **Along the River Ure and Ouse from Aldwark Bridge to Linton Lock;**
2. **Along the Cod Beck, Thirsk, linking The Holmes to The Flatts;**
3. **From the Claypenny Hospital site to the junction of Church Hill and Millfield Lane;**
4. **Along the disused railway line between Coxwold and Husthwaite;**
5. **Through the grounds of the Manor House, Stokesley.**

JUSTIFICATION

14.40 The following new footpaths are proposed to fill gaps in the footpath network:

1. Along the River Ure and Ouse from Aldwark Bridge to Linton Lock

There are large gaps in the footpath along the River Ure and Ouse. The Plan, therefore, proposes the creation of a continuous riverside footpath, with links to points of vehicular access, to facilitate both long distance and circular walks. This entails the creation of a new stretch of footpath from Aldwark Bridge to Linton Lock.

2. Along the Cod Beck, Thirsk, linking The Holmes at Norby to Sowerby Flatts

This proposal is to fill gaps in the riverside footpath through Thirsk to form a continuous public footpath from The Holmes at Norby to The Flatts at Sowerby. New sections of route are required along the west bank of Cod Beck, skirting the scheduled monument at Millgate, along the east bank at Waterside, and from the library to The Flatts along the west bank.

3. Claypenny Hospital to the junction of Church Hill and Millfield Lane

This proposal will provide a convenient footpath link from the new housing development at Claypenny Hospital to Church Hill, which is on the edge of the town. The route would also be used by cyclists (see Policy T19).

4. Along the disused railway line between Coxwold and Husthwaite.

This will provide a safe and pleasant off road footpath between Coxwold and Husthwaite. This section of disused railway line is used as a footpath by local residents, its formal designation will safeguard its use and may help secure finance for its repair and improvement.

5. Through the grounds of the Manor House, Stokesley.

This proposal will provide a safe and convenient footpath link between Manorside and the south side of the High Street.

POLICY SR10**WOODLAND ACCESS AGREEMENTS**

Where the Forest Authority is to dispose of a wood the Council will enter into an access agreement with the Authority, to secure continued public access, where all of the following criteria are met:

1. The wood is currently used for recreation;
2. The wood is accessible from a public highway;
3. The wood is not less than 5 hectares;
4. Access would not conflict with nature conservation interests.

Where there is no existing recreational use, the Council will enter into an access agreement, subject to criteria 2, 3 and 4 above; and

1. The wood will allow new links to be formed with the existing rights-of-way network or there is a demand for public access; and
2. The wood is suitable for safe and convenient use.

JUSTIFICATION

14.41 Woodlands owned by the Forest Authority, some of recreational value, are being sold to the private sector. To protect public access the Forest Authority gives local authorities the opportunity to enter into access agreements prior to sale.

14.42 The Council will enter into access agreements but, because of the costs, this will be on a selective basis. The most appropriate woods for access agreements

are those currently used for recreation and which are accessible from roads, footpaths or bridleways. Woods should also be large enough to provide a worthwhile facility.

14.43 The Council will also enter into access agreements where there is keen interest in securing access where none currently exists or access would result in an improvement in the footpath network.

POLICY SR11**HORSES AND EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES**

Proposals for development involving the keeping and riding of horses for recreation and/or commercial purposes, including stables, fences, jumps and other equipment, will be permitted where all of the following criteria are met:

1. The proposal is of a scale and nature appropriate to the character of the site and the ability of the local environment to absorb the development;
2. There will be no adverse impact on the character or appearance of the countryside;
3. Buildings and structures are of a high standard of design and satisfactorily blend into the landscape in terms of their siting, design and materials;
4. The amount of horse-riding on or across roads that is likely to result will not have a detrimental impact on road safety and the free flow of traffic;
5. Where appropriate the proposal is located in an area with an adequate provision of suitable off-road horse-riding routes;
6. There will be no adverse effect on the amenity of residents in the vicinity or the enjoyment of other countryside users;
7. There will be no adverse effect on sites of nature conservation value or archaeological or historic importance.

Proposals in the AONBs, Special Landscape Areas, Parks and Gardens of Historic or Landscape Interest, SSSIs and the Green Belt will not be permitted where they are incompatible with the objectives behind these designations.

JUSTIFICATION

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| <p>14.44 The keeping and riding of horses for private recreational purposes or as part of commercially based equestrian activities, such as riding schools or livery stables, is increasingly popular in the countryside. It can provide a new use for unused farmland and employment in rural areas.</p> | <p>bridleways can cause maintenance and management problems and conflict with the amenity of other users of the countryside.</p> |
| <p>14.45 However, problems can arise with horse-based sport and recreation. Stables and other buildings together with all weather surfaces and jumps can have an adverse effect on the landscape. The heavy use of</p> | <p>14.46 Where stables are sited away from bridleways, roads must be negotiated and this can lead to conflicts with vehicular traffic.</p> |
| <p></p> | <p>14.47 Where serious problems arise, which cannot be satisfactorily overcome, planning permission is likely to be refused.</p> |

WATER - BASED RECREATION

POLICY SR12

RIVER-BASED RECREATION

The recreational use of rivers and streams in the Plan area will generally be restricted to quiet informal uses.

The development of small scale formal facilities directly related to the use of the river for recreation will be allowed in the 'Area of Concentration' on the River Ure and Ouse, as shown on the Proposals Map, provided the proposal meets all the following criteria:

1. It is of a scale and nature appropriate to the character of the site and the ability of the local environment to absorb the development;
2. It will not seriously conflict with other recreational activities;
3. It will not adversely affect the character and landscape of the river corridor;
4. It will not adversely affect sites of nature conservation value or of archaeological or historic importance;
5. It will not have an adverse impact on the amenity of people living nearby;
6. It only includes buildings or structures which are of a good standard of design and satisfactorily blend into the landscape in terms of their siting, design and materials;
7. It does not include proposals for permanent moorings, new moorings should be for overnight use only;
8. It will not create unacceptable highway problems.

The remainder of the River Ure and Ouse and the whole of the River Tees in the Plan area are designated as 'Quiet Areas' in which new recreational facilities, except those which accord with Policy SR4, will not be permitted.

JUSTIFICATION

The Ure and Ouse

- 14.48 The River Ure and Ouse is a valuable resource for a variety of recreational activities and is important in a national context because it provides a link in the inland waterways network serving other parts of the country.
- 14.49 For much of its length in Hambleton the river is relatively inaccessible and free from recreational developments. This area has been designated as a 'Quiet Area' where the priority will be to protect its undeveloped character from intensive recreational development or uses incompatible with its quiet nature. Emphasis will be given to pursuits such as

angling, walking and other quiet countryside recreation activities.

- 14.50 An 'Area of Concentration', intended to become the focal point for water-based recreational activity, is defined at Linton Lock. Linton Lock is already a centre of activity and has potential for expansion and improvement without detriment to its character. Recreational developments could include moorings for visitors, landing facilities, toilets and boating services such as fuelling and sanitary facilities, a chandlery and shop. New moorings should be for overnight use only. Permanent bankside moorings can be visually intrusive and conflict with other recreational activities by restricting access to the river and reducing its width.

- 14.51 In any development in the 'Area of Concentration' the environmental improvement of the area should be given a high priority.

The Tees

- 14.52 The River Tees Barrage will maintain the river at a constant high water level as far upstream as Low Worsall and improve water quality, creating the right conditions for water-based recreation. The public right of navigation will extend to Holme Farm to the west of Low Worsall and the river up to this point will become an attraction for motor boats.
- 14.53 However, the length of the Tees in the Plan area is remote and rural in character and has less ability to sustain recreation activity than the downstream sections of the river. This length of the river is suitable for quiet

recreation uses only, such as angling, walking, motor cruising and canoeing and has, therefore, been designated a 'Quiet Area'. Marinas and facilities for activities such as power boating, water skiing and jet-skiing would be incompatible with the rural character of the river and will not be permitted.

General

- 14.54 Wherever development takes place on rivers and streams it will be essential that it is undertaken to a high standard of design, using appropriate materials and paying due regard to its landscape setting (see Policy L12).
- 14.55 Land-based recreational activities in the vicinity of the rivers such as camping and caravanning will be considered against other policies of the Plan.

POLICY SR13

PUBLIC LAUNCHING POINTS

The construction of launching points for general public use will not be permitted on the River Ure and Ouse or River Tees.

JUSTIFICATION

- 14.56 Public launching or storage facilities will not be permitted because these generally require extensive parking for cars and trailers which can appear inappropriate particularly in remote rural locations.

POLICY SR14**LINTON LOCK CANOE CENTRE**

Proposals for the development of a major canoeing centre in the 'Area of Concentration' at Linton Lock, as shown on the Proposals Map will receive favourable consideration.

JUSTIFICATION

- 14.57 There is the possibility of a major canoeing centre being developed at Linton Lock by the construction of a slalom course on the island adjacent to the weir. Here the fish ladder is already an important site of 'white water' canoeing.
- 14.58 The British Canoe Union believes that this has the potential to become a facility of regional or even national significance.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

POLICY SR15**COMMUNITY AND VILLAGE HALLS**

Within Development Limits the construction of new community and village halls or the extension and improvement of existing halls will be permitted provided that the proposal meets all of the following criteria:

1. It will not cause significant disturbance to adjoining land uses and the amenity of people living nearby;
2. It will not create unacceptable highway problems and adequate parking can be provided on site;
3. The proposal is of an acceptable scale, materials and design and will not adversely affect the character of the area.

Wherever possible new community and village halls should be constructed to provide for a wide range of recreational and community uses, should cater for people with mobility difficulties and should be situated in or close to town or village centres.

JUSTIFICATION

- 14.59 Community and village halls provide a valuable focus for social, community, cultural and recreational activities. They are important to the well being and vitality of communities.
- 14.60 The design, size and condition of such halls varies greatly and sometimes limits the activities that can be undertaken. Some halls would benefit from upgrading and extension, others, particularly those of a temporary construction and those too small for present day requirements may need to be replaced.

- 14.61 The Council will support local efforts to repair, improve or replace community and village halls. As far as possible new buildings should be designed to accommodate a variety of activities and should be located close to other community facilities such as playing fields. There should be adequate provision for off-street parking and they should also be close to town or village centres to be easily accessible to all residents, particularly those on foot or who rely on public transport.

POLICY SR16**COMMUNITY FACILITY ALLOCATIONS**

The following sites, identified on the Inset Maps, are allocated for community use:

SITE	SETTLEMENT	INSET MAP	USE
1. South of Highland Court	Easingwold	34	Community unit for the elderly
2. St John the Baptist's Church	Easingwold	34	Cemetery
3. Highway Depot	Stokesley	91	Community hall

Additionally the Council will seek to assist with the provision of a suitable site for a central Primary Care Health Facility in Northallerton town centre.

JUSTIFICATION

14.62 The provision of a range of community facilities is important to the quality of life of residents and the well being of communities. It is the aim of the Council to ensure that the location and range of community facilities reflects the needs of residents.

14.63 Throughout much of the District there is a good range of community facilities, however, the Policy contains the following proposals to meet known shortfalls:

1. South of Highland Court, Easingwold

This site is allocated for a community unit for the elderly intended to

provide day facilities as well as residential accommodation. Access will be from Crabmill Lane and the layout of the land should allow for the maintenance of the public right-of-way to the east of the site.

2. St John the Baptist's Church, Easingwold

Land to the north of the Church is allocated for burial purposes.

3. Highway Depot, Stokesley

Stokesley Town Hall is inadequate to meet current demands and a new community centre is required.

POLICY SR17**PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Within Development Limits, the construction of new places of worship or the extension and improvement of existing places of worship will be permitted, subject to Policy HH17 and HH18, provided that the proposal meets all of the following criteria:

1. It will not cause significant disturbance to adjoining land uses and the amenity of people living nearby;
2. It will not create unacceptable highway problems and adequate parking can be provided on site;
3. The proposal is of an acceptable scale, materials and design and will not adversely affect the character of the area.

JUSTIFICATION

14.64 There has been interest in providing new places of worship to meet current and anticipated needs. Proposals must avoid harmful effects on residential amenity and highway safety.

14.65 Many churches are listed buildings of outstanding quality. Proposals for the extension of or alteration to listed churches need to be very carefully designed to meet the criteria of Policies HH17 and HH18.

