



# Draft Guisborough Conservation Area Management Plan

## Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment

This statement sets out the Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's determination of the need for a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) under European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') and associated Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 ('Habitat Regulations') for the Guisborough Conservation Area Management Plan (CAMP).

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 requires that:

“A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

  - a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and
  - b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.”
- 1.2. The screening stage is the first stage in the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) process for a plan or programme, not directly connected to the necessary management of a European site. This stage is to establish whether a “significant effect” upon the conservation objectives of the site is likely. A significant effect is “any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation action objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects”.
- 1.3. This statement has been prepared to set out the Council's determination as to whether the Guisborough CAMP is likely to have a significant effect on a European site and whether it should be subject to further stages of the HRA process.

### 2. The Guisborough CAMP Update

- 2.1. The Guisborough Conservation Area provides protection to parts of the historic environment of Guisborough that are of special architectural or historic interest. To ensure conservation areas are preserved and enhanced, local planning authorities

are required to formulate plans for their conservation. The Guisborough CAMP meets this requirement and will illustrate the positives and negatives of the Guisborough Conservation Area and provide a series of actions for the Council that will be instrumental in ensuring preservation and encouraging enhancement of the area.

- 2.2. The Guisborough Conservation Area is also covered by a legal direction (known as an Article 4 Direction) which means that some changes to dwellings within the conservation area, such as replacing windows and doors or erecting new fences, require planning permission. The Guisborough CAMP will also include guidance for residents on what type of changes are likely to be supported, encouraging residents to also consider the preservation of the conservation area and will provide guidance to support the implementation of Local Plan Policy HE1.

### **3. Conclusions**

- 3.1. The Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan was subject to a Habitat Regulations Assessment (including screening and full appropriate assessments) prior to its adoption. This assessment considered that Policy HE1 would not result in potential for likely significant effects upon a European site and the screening assessment, therefore, confirmed that a full appropriate assessment would not be required for this policy.
- 3.2. The draft Guisborough CAMP provides a number actions for the Council that relate to the protection of the existing historic environment and will provide guidance for developers of future projects in the conservation area but is not a project in its own right. It also expands upon Policy HE1 of the Redcar & Cleveland Local Plan, which was judged to have no significant effect on the integrity of European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 3.3. The scope of the CAMP is limited to the historic built environment of an urban area. The CAMP does not include new policy nor does it introduce new proposals for development. The Council, therefore, considers that the Guisborough CAMP is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site and would not require an appropriate assessment in the context of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.