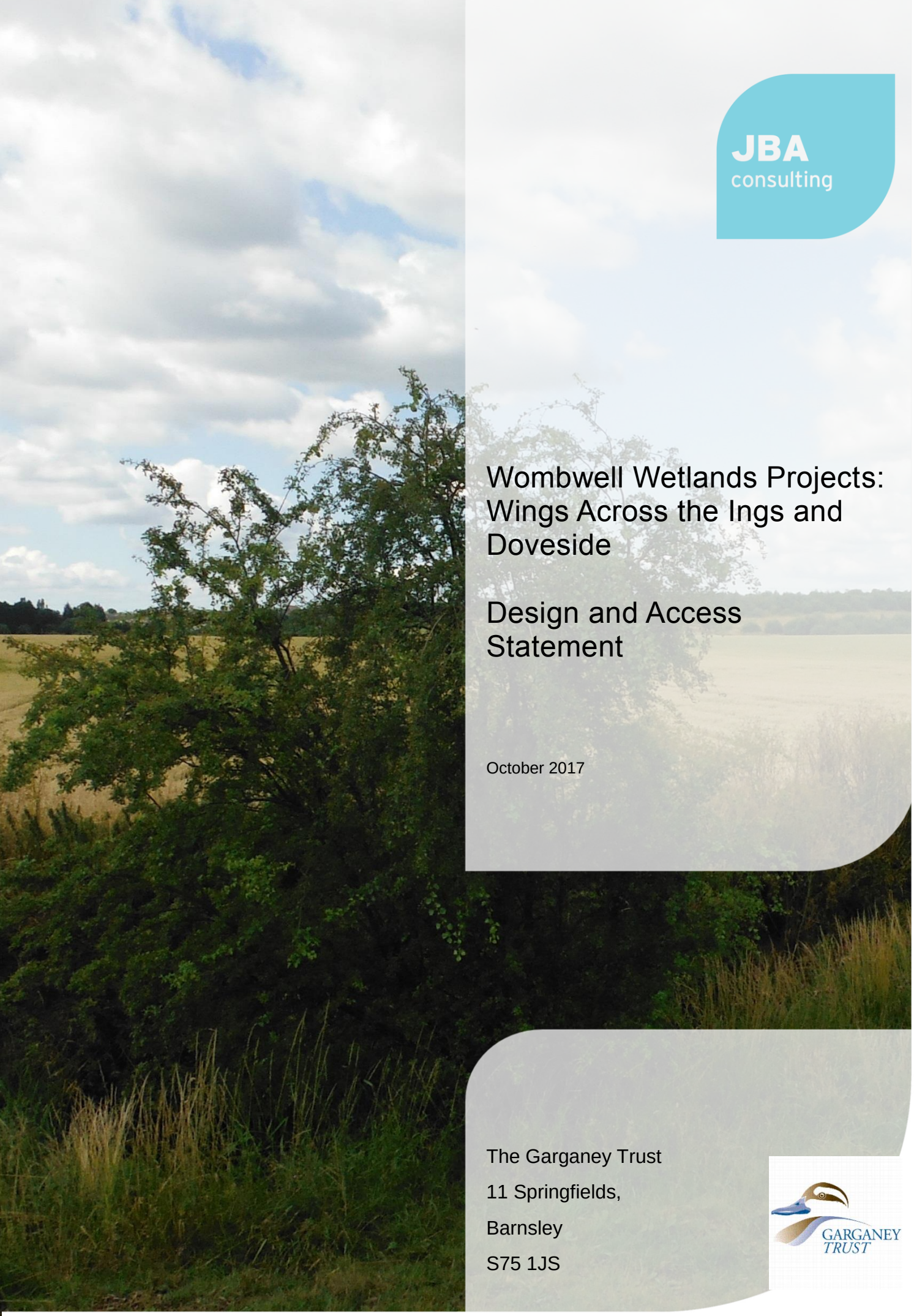

Wombwell Wetlands Projects: Wings Across the Ings and Doveside

Design and Access Statement

October 2017

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Revision History

Revision	Status	Issued	Comments
V1-0	DRAFT	4/9/17	For Planning
V2-0	DRAFT	4/9/17	For Planning. Minor amendments

Contract

This report describes work commissioned by Jeffrey Lunn, on behalf of Garganey Trust. Alex Craven and Nick Allin of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Purpose

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Executive Summary

This Design and Access Statement (DAS) accompanies a planning application for two wetland and habitat creation schemes between Wombwell and Darfield, South Yorkshire. The schemes are separate but located around 250m apart. These are referred to as Wings Across the Ings (WATI) and Doveside. A single planning application will be submitted for both sites.

Both schemes are intended to contribute to the wider strategic objective of developing a mosaic of habitats within the Dearne Valley catchment, with the more specific aim of linking habitats in and around the adjacent Local Wildlife Sites of Broomhill Flash (managed by the Garganey Trust) and Wombwell Ings (managed by the RSPB). The proposals will enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity, particularly for species of declining waterfowl; mitigate the impact of past alterations to the river; contribute to improved water quality; and locally reduce flood risk. They will accord with wider aspirations for an enhanced Green and Blue Infrastructure network, as outlined in both local and national planning policy; and will accord with strategies and recommendations for the local Landscape Character type, as described in the Barnsley Landscape Character Assessment.

The two sites are within the Green Belt. However, neither proposals will introduce any new built form or substantial earthworks, therefore it is not considered that there will be any change to the openness within the designated area.

The schemes are summarised as follows:

Wings Across the Ings (WATI)

WATI comprises 9.31ha of open agricultural land 1.25km east of Wombwell and south of the Bulling Dyke and parallel Ings Lane, a bridleway. To the north are areas of open water fed within Wombwell Ings nature reserve fed by a series of ditches, whilst a similar area to the south—Broomhill Flash— is managed as a nature reserve by the Garganey Trust. There is no public access to the site; farm access is via a track running from Everrill Gate Lane to the south.

The proposal involves:

- A new wetland to the right bank of Bulling Dike, with reed bed and wet grassland habitats, to be fed by two sources of water. The reed bed will vary from 0 to 1m deep in order to encourage a diverse and distinctive range of habitats and associated species. Water will be taken from Bulling Dike into the reed bed and released back into Bulling Dike as necessary.
- Creation of new wet grassland areas in the east of the site, with a network of scrapes: shallow depressions which seasonally hold water. These scrapes create in-field wet features that are attractive to wildlife. The wet grassland will be fed by overflow from Broomhill Flash to avoid a water deficit through the summer months.
- Construction of control structures and a culvert to direct water to where it is needed to maintain habitat areas.
- Creation of a bund to prevent flooding from Bulling Dike into surrounding areas, particularly a nearby caravan site
- Sowing of native meadow seed mixes to reprofiled areas to create more ecologically valuable grassland habitats.
- Letting of part of the site to a tenant farmer with changes in farming practices to benefit farmland bird species
- Diversion of an existing section of Bulling Dike, with the redundant section retained as wetland habitat for floodplain connectivity and flood storage.
- Creation of reptile refugia and otter holts.

The site will be owned and managed by the Garganey Trust. There will be no public access to the site.

The scheme is intended to create new habitats to connect, expand and increase populations of wetland and farmland wildlife, especially nationally declining and priority species of water birds such as lapwing, snipe and redshank. A change in farming practices with the aim of supporting nature conservation will also represent a significant improvement in biodiversity.

Flood risk will be reduced by the creation of new flood storage, the partial re-routing of Bulling Dike through the site and the creation of new flood defences which will reduce flood risk for an adjacent caravan site, as well as businesses and residents further downstream.

No evidence for protected or notable species was recorded during ecological survey and these are unlikely to be affected by the works.

Doveside

Doveside is situated north of WATI, immediately to the south of Darfield and covers approximately 4.4ha of woodland, scrubland, grassland alongside two ponds and associated wetland margins. The site is bounded by the River Dove to the south and residential development within Darfield to the north. To the west and east are pastoral fields and areas of woodland.

The proposal involves:

- Creation of new wetland and wet meadow areas by raising water levels on the site.
- Excavation of two scrapes to increase the area of inundation and persistence of standing water in drought periods. These scrapes create in-field wet features that are attractive to wildlife.
- Construction of small drop-board weir structure within the existing outfall ditch to raise water levels on site
- Construction of bunds and drains to the western and eastern boundaries to ensure water levels outside the site are not raised

It is intended that Doveside will remain in the ownership of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council but the land will be managed by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT).

To avoid a negative effect on local residents, public access will be restricted by the addition of new wet boundary ditches and repaired fencing.

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1 Background

1.1 Name of the scheme

This document represents the Design and Access Statement (DAS) to support a full planning application for the Wombwell Wetlands Scheme, which comprises two proposals: WATI and Doveside.

The Applicant is The Garganey Trust. The Agent and Design Consultants are JBA Consulting.

1.2 Ownership

The majority of the site at WATI is owned by the Garganey Trust. A small area of Yorkshire Water land will be used during construction access. Land at Doveside is owned by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

2 Site Details

2.1 Site overview

The two sites are located at the intersection of the Dove and Dearne Valleys. Doveside is located approximately 0.24km north of WATI. The River Dove flows between the two, forming the southern boundary of Doveside, before joining the River Dearne half a kilometre to the east. A watercourse known as Bulling Dike flows east from Wombwell to Old Moor RSPB reserve and forms the northern boundary for WATI.

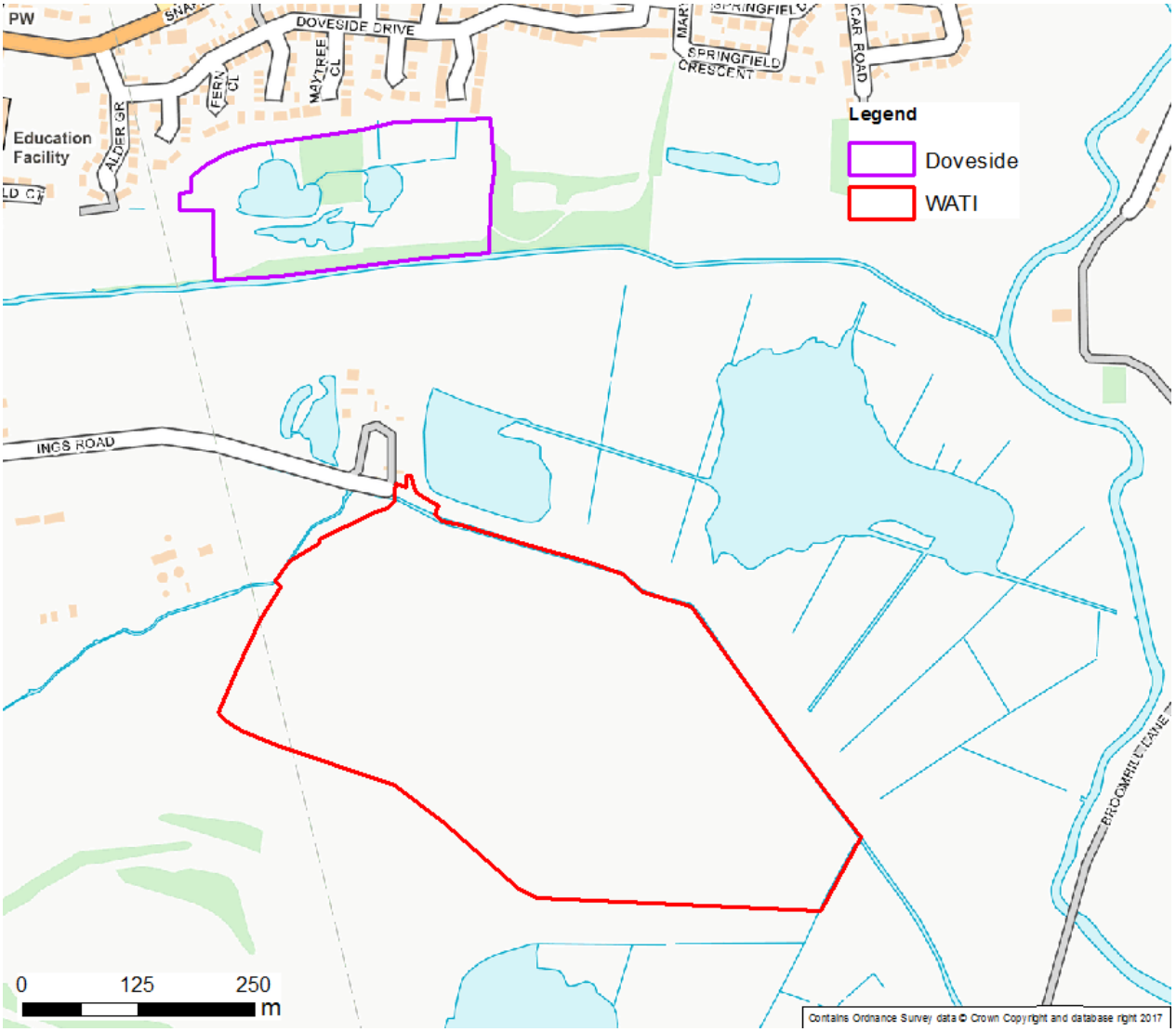

Figure 3.1: Scheme location

2.1.1 WATI

This 9.31ha site is situated in the Dearne Valley, 1.25km from the centre of Wombwell. The grid reference for the centre of the site is 441379,403379.

It comprises two fields. The largest field is a large, gently sloping arable field located to the west side of the site. The eastern field is smaller, roughly a sixth of the size. An gappy native hedgerow separates the two fields.

The River Dearne flows 0.21km to the east, with the River Dove 0.24km to the north. The site lies adjacent to Broomhill Flash nature reserve to the south, which is managed by the Garganey Trust. Bulling Dike forms the northern boundary, beyond which is an area of pasture and subsidence flashes known as Wombwell Ings. Farm access is via a private track running from Everill Gate Lane 0.6km to the south. There is currently no public access to the site.

2.1.2 Doveside

Doveside is located on the southern edge of the village of Darfield, approximately 1.6km east from the centre of Wombwell. The grid reference for the centre of the site is 441195, 403896.

The River Dove flows east forming the southern boundary, before joining the River Dearne 0.56km to the east of the site. To the west are areas of pastoral land mixed with scrub or clumps of trees. A playing field and area of open woodland mosaic adjoins the site to the east. Wombwell Ings lies on the other side of the River Dove. Access to the site is via a private farm track running from the corner of Springfield Crescent and Mary Lane in Darfield.

2.1.3 Site context

The landscape in which the sites are located reflects a diversity of land uses. The historic influence of mining is evident through several subsidence flashes in nearby fields, such as Broomhill Flash to the south of WATI. The sites themselves are a mixture of pastoral, arable, woodland, scrub and open wetland,

Both are located in a pocket of open space surrounded to the north, west and south by a virtually continuous band of development, including Darfield to the north and Wombwell to the south. This forms part of wider development that stretches south towards Rotherham.

Although adjacent to WATI, the Wombwell Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) is well-screened from the site by surrounding trees. Views to other surrounding areas are generally open. Nearby settlements are visible from the sites due to their relatively elevated locations.

2.2 Description of proposal

Wings Across the Ings (WATI)

The Garganey Trust is proposing to create new wetland habitats on existing agricultural land adjacent to Bulling Dike, between Wombwell Ings and Broomhill Flash in the Dearne Valley, South Yorkshire. The proposed works also provide a flood risk benefit for the travellers' caravan site to the north-west.

The proposed wetland, to be constructed on the right-bank (southern) floodplain of Bulling Dike, will comprise both reed bed and wet grassland habitats and would be fed by two sources of water. The wet grassland is fed by overflow from Broomhill Flash (controlled by the Garganey Trust). A water balance analysis has shown that the wet grassland area is likely to be in water deficit from May to August most years. The current management of Broomhill Flash involves building up and holding a high water level through the winter, before lowering the water level in the spring. This stored water will be used to feed the wet grassland area through the summer months.

Any excess water from the wet grassland will be fed into a reed bed area, via a stop log structure, which can be used to control levels in the wet grassland area. The reed bed can also be fed by water from Bulling Dike, and has an overflow structure to allow water to spill out of the reed bed back into Bulling Dike. Stop log structures will be used to provide a simple, robust method of water level control in both the reed bed and the wet grassland area. The proposed reed bed will have significant variations in water depth (1m to dry), to encourage a diverse and distinctive variety of habitats and associated species.

The areas of the site that are intended to be seasonally inundated by water will be seeded with proprietary mixes of native wet-meadow grass and wildflower species from reputable sources. The margins of the reed bed areas will be planted with species ideally sourced from local wetlands. This will ensure locally adapted species are introduced.

The area of the site remaining suitable for agriculture will be let out to a tenant farmer. The farming methods will be tailored towards nature conservation involving spring-sown crops, creating 'skylark plots' and field margins; and retaining winter stubble. This will be a significant improvement in biodiversity over the current farming practices.

There will be diversions to public rights of way to the left bank of the Bulling Bike. The construction phase will result in a temporary diversion to a bridleway (Wombwell 10) and footpath (Wombwell 11). There will be a permanent change in levels to both routes where they cross a new bund. There is no public access to the site, which will remain unchanged on completion.

Doveside

The proposals at Doveside seeks to increase the extent and depth of water inundation over the site, for the purposes of improving the provision of wetland habitat for wildlife. This will be achieved by the installation of a new outfall weir structure to raise the water depth. A new flapped inlet culvert will allow water into the site from the adjacent River Dove at times of high flow or drought. A drop-board sluice will allow the water influx to be controlled.

Two large naturalistic scrapes will be excavated to increase the inundated area during drought periods. The scrapes have been sited towards the southern side of the site in order to protect visible archaeological features present to the north-east of the site. A berm and ditch, which the latter will outfall into the River Dove, will be situated to both the east and west site boundaries. These will prevent changes to the water levels in the adjacent fields, including the decommissioned landfill to the east.

There is currently no public access to the site, although informal entry is observed. The site will be secured through fencing and dykes on completion, with the aim of restricting access for wildlife conservation purposes.

3 Policy

This section provides a brief review of local and national planning policy relevant to the site and the scheme.

3.1 National Planning Policy

3.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) must be taken into account in the determination of planning applications. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

Underpinning the NPPF is the importance of the planning system to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Paragraph 7 outlines the three dimensions that contribute: economic, environmental and social. One aspect of the environmental role of planning is *…contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity…*

Paragraph 9 states that pursuing **sustainable development** involves *…seeking positive improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment, as well as in people's quality of life…including (inter alia):*

- *Moving from a net loss of bio-diversity to achieving net gains in the future*
- *Replacing poor design with good design*
- *Improving the conditions in which people live, work, travel and take leisure*

Paragraph 17 outlines the **12 core planning principles** that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. Of relevance to this scheme are the following:

- *always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings;*
- *take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it;*
- *contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.*

Section 7 is titled **Requiring Good Design**, which is considered as a *…key aspect of sustainable development…and should contribute positively to making places better for people*. Planning decisions should ensure that (Paragraph 58) developments:

- *will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;*
- *establish a strong sense of place… to create attractive and comfortable places to live, work and visit;*
- *respond to local character and history, and reflect the identity of local surroundings and materials, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation;*
- *are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and appropriate landscaping.*

Section 9 relates to protecting **Green Belt** land, which states that the fundamental aim of the designation is to prevent sprawl by keeping land permanently open: the essential characteristics of the Green Belt are their openness and permanence.

Paragraph 81 states:

Once Green Belts have been defined, local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide

opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.

Section 11 relates to climate change and flood risk. Paragraph 103 states that applications should be determined to ensure that flood risk in not increased elsewhere.

Section 11 is titled **Conserving and Enhancing the Natural environment**. Paragraph 109 states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance this by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes; and by minimising impacts on biodiversity.

Section 12 is concerned with the historic environment. It notes that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource that should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. In determining applications, planning authorities should require the applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected. It states that *significance may be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting*.

Paragraph 135 states:

The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Paragraph 136 states:

Local planning authorities should not permit loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

Planning Practice Guidance

The National Planning Policy Framework is accompanied by a suite of web-based Planning Practice Guidance documents that provide advice on many aspects of the planning process. Sections particularly relevant to this report include those on:

- Design
- Natural environment, including Landscape
- Flood risk and coastal change

Within the **Design** section, the importance of good design is highlighted.

Good design is an important part of sustainable development. Achieving good design is about creating places, buildings, or spaces that work well for everyone, look good, last well, and will adapt to the needs of future generations. Good design responds in a practical and creative way to both the function and identity of a place. It puts land, water, drainage, energy, community, economic, infrastructure and other such resources to the best possible use – over the long as well as the short term.

Landscape is covered within guidance on the **Natural Environment**, which refers to the principle that planning should recognise the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and indicates that local plans should have policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment, including landscapes, both designated and the wider countryside.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is described as *a network of multifunctional open space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities….as a network it includes…open spaces…[and] water bodies.*

GI is stated as being important to the delivery of high quality sustainable development. It provides…*multiple benefits, notably ecosystem services, at a range of scales, derived from natural systems and processes, for the individual, society, the economy and the environment. To ensure that these benefits are delivered, GI must be well planned, design and maintained.*

> *Well-designed GI helps create a sense of place by responding to, and enhancing, local landscape character. It can also improve public health and community wellbeing by improving environmental quality, providing opportunities for recreation and exercise and delivering mental and physical health benefits. GI also helps reduce the impacts of extreme heat and extreme rainfall events. It can also help mitigate the risk associated with climate change and support adaptive management in coastal areas.*

Furthermore, the PPG states:

The components of green infrastructure exist within the wider landscape context and should enhance local landscape character and contribute to place-making. High quality networks of multifunctional green infrastructure provide a range of ecosystem services and can make a significant contribution to halting the decline in biodiversity.

Where appropriate, planning proposals should incorporate GI in line with local and neighbourhood plan policies and site specific considerations.

The **Flood Risk and Coastal Change** section advises how to take account of and addresses the risks associated with flooding in the planning process. It highlights the potential for reducing flood risk in the area and beyond through Green Infrastructure and the appropriate application of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

3.1.2 Local Planning Policy

The current Statutory Development Plan for Barnsley includes the Core Strategy and saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan. These will be replaced in due course by the new Local Plan, which is currently undergoing examination.

Current Local Plan

This comprises the **Core Strategy**, saved policies of the **Unitary Development Plan**, the policy map and supplementary planning documents.

The UDP proposals map indicates that both sites are within the Green Belt.

The following **Core Strategy** Policies are relevant to this proposal:

Core Policy SP 1 Climate Change which states that action will be taken to locate and design development to reduce the risk of flooding; promote the use of sustainable drainage systems; and promote investment in Green Infrastructure to promote and encourage biodiversity gain.

Core Policy CSP 29 Design states that development should take advantage of and enhance the distinctive features of Barnsley, including Green Infrastructure assets, important habitats and other natural features; views and vistas and landscape character. It should also contribute to place making and be of a high-quality that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment.

Core Policy CSP 30 The Historic Environment states the development should be expected to protect or improve, inter alia, archaeological remains of local importance.

Core Policy CSP 33 Green Infrastructure is intended to protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets that are attractive; enhance the quality of life; help meet the challenges of climate change; enhanced biodiversity and landscape character; improve opportunities for recreation; and respect local distinctiveness. The site is located within the River Dove Valley Corridor, which forms part of the strategy GI network in Barnsley.

Core Policy CSP 35 Green Space relates to any land within or close to towns and villages that has or could have demonstrable value for recreation or wildlife. Development that results in the loss of green space will only be allowed where, *inter alia*, it is for small-scale facilities needed to support or improve the proper function of the green space.

Core Policy CSP 36 Biodiversity and Geodiversity states that development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity features of the Borough by protecting habitats, species including those identified in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan; and conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the rive corridors of the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.

Core Policy CSP 35 Landscape Character states that development should retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Area within which it is located. These areas are described in Section 5.2.

The following **saved UDP policies** are relevant to this proposal:

Saved Policy BE4 states that where the LPA has decided that the physical preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not justified, and that development which would destroy the remains should proceed, it will ensure prior to granting planning permission that appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains has been made.

Saved Policy GS6 relates to the Green Belt, alongside the more localised WW7. These relate to protection of the designation through other local policies (which mainly relate to buildings) as well as 'other associated development controls'.

New Local Plan

The new Local Plan will replace the current Core Strategy and saved UDP policies when adopted, which is currently likely to be spring 2018. It is currently undergoing examination.

Site-specific emerging policies that may be of relevance include those relating to the **Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area** (NIA) (as yet undefined) for both sites; and draft policies **GS1 Green Space**, and **CC3 Flood Risk** for the Doveside site.

4 Design development

4.1 Background

The following technical reports have been produced in order to inform the designs:

- WATI Flood Risk Assessment

  - Appendix B: Wombwell Wetlands Extension: Outline Design and Modelling; including the following Appendices:

  - Appendix (B) A: Wombwell Wetland Extension: Phase 1 Geo-Environmental Desk Study

  - Appendix (B) B: Design Drawings - Note - not included as a planning document as design has been superseded

  - Appendix (B) C: Caravan Site Survey - Note - not included as a planning document

  - Appendix (B) D: FEH Calculation Record

  - Appendix (B) E: Rainfall Volumes

  - Appendix (B) F: Model User Report
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment Survey (Hazelwood Ecology 2016)
- Flood risk Assessment, Doveside
- Heritage desk study - FAS Heritage
- Ground Investigation Report - WYG

4.2 Ecology

A Preliminary Ecological Assessment Survey (PEA) was produced for WATI site by Hazelwood Conservation.

Key findings include:

- Impacts upon the ecology of the site, and potential temporary disturbance impacts upon the adjacent Local Wildlife Site, as a result of the proposed works are considered to be low, if the suggested requirements and recommendations are implemented
- The completed project will result in an overall gain in biodiversity at the site. It will also increase the area of a Habitat of Principal Importance by creating floodplain grazing marsh, link together two areas of an existing LWS, and provide long term management of the site for the benefit of wildlife, in particular species of declining waterfowl.

No tree survey has been completed, as the PEA for WATI states that no trees will be affected; whilst the nature of works at Doveside are such that the potential to directly affect trees is very limited. Furthermore, the rise in water levels conditions at the Doveside site should improve conditions for the development of wet woodland.

4.3 Flood risk management

4.3.1 Doveside

The flood risk assessment shows that the scheme is flood-risk neutral.

The site lies in a topographical hollow formed by the edge of the River Dove flood plain on the northern boundary; historic landfill on the eastern boundary; a flood defence embankment to the southern boundary; and rising ground to the west. Within this hollow, two ponds have been created. Currently, the hollow drains to the River Dove through a culvert in the flood embankment. The water levels in the ponds on site are not formally controlled at present. High points in bed of the drains formed by woody debris control water levels on site.

The flood risk assessment reaches the following key conclusions:

- Due to the nature of the hollow and its current poor drainage, there will be a negligible reduction in floodplain storage from the creation of areas of shallow inundation on the lowest parts of the site.
- Formalising the drainage on the east and western boundaries will lead to two improvements:
    - The land to the east and west would not be reliant on drainage through the site drainage, which currently is hard to access.
    - The catchment of the site will be reduced, reducing the inputs into the site from rainfall run-off events.
- The functionality of surface water drainage discharge points from the housing to the north will not be reduced at the inverts of the sewer outfalls are significantly higher than the design water levels on site.
- The drop-board sluice will allow for flexibility in managing water levels, and the rise in water levels could be reversed if required.

WATI

The WATI scheme will provide flood benefits. The realigned Bullings Dyke, flood defence embankment and new read bed/wetland grassland would result in following:

- Protection of the caravan site against a 1 in 100 year flood event from Bullings Dyke,
- Increased flood plain storage through the excavation of the wetlands,
- Reduction in water levels in Bullings Dyke upstream of the site, bringing benefits to receptors such as the Waste Water Treatment Works,
- Negligible effects on water levels downstream of the scheme.

4.4 Heritage

There are no designated heritage assets within the two development sites. Given the nature both schemes, neither are considered likely to result in adverse effects on the setting of any designated heritage assets. The nearest are a Scheduled Monument (Cross in the churchyard of All Saints

Church, Darfield) around 0.75km NE and a Site of Special Scientific interest (Stairfoot Brickworks), around 3.2km NW. It is not intervisible with the Scheduled Monument.

The WATI site includes a non-designated enclosure and associated field system, likely to be of Iron Age or Roman-British origin. Management advice is that such features should be protected by minimising ground disturbance, particularly from ploughing at depth.

Following liaison with FAS Heritage and the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service, a desk-based assessment has been commissioned. A geophysical survey may be required, depending on timescales, in order to gain an understanding of the significance of any features present and inform any future evaluation and/or mitigation work. This could include trail trenching, input into the design process to achieve preservation *in situ* or excavation.

4.5 Construction

The construction phase will necessitate on-site plant, excavation, stockpiling of material and traffic movement. No public rights of way or public routes will be affected for Doveside. A temporary diversion order will be required for a bridleway and footpath which cross the WATI site.

Public roads will be used during the construction works. Access to WATI will be by Everill Gate Lane. Access to Doveside will be via Mary Lane. Apart from a slight increase in construction, disruption is expected to be limited.

Contractors will comply with best practice in terms of site management and maintenance of plant and equipment.

Two access route maps have been provided with the submission. Access the Doveside site will be on land owned by Barnsley Council via Mary Lane and around the edge of the adjoining recreational field. The WATI site will be accessed via a track off Evergill Gate Lane, through land owned by the Garganey Trust.

Table 4.1 describes the considerations in providing an assessment of the likely traffic movements from the site.

Table 4-1: Traffic Considerations

Doveside	WATI
Daily site access. It is expected that the scheme will take less than a month to implement and require typically no more than four contractors on site per day	Daily Site Access It is expected that the scheme will take circa 3 months to implement and require typically no more than four contractors on site per day
Site Compound The site compound (if required) will be located on the adjoining recreation area so there will be limited tracking of plant on and off the site during the period	Site Compound This will be located on site, so there will be limited tracking of plant on and off the site during the period
Additional traffic may be experience during the installation of the weir on site (delivery of the weir and additional equipment to install the piling supporting the weir) but this is expected to be limited to 2 to 3 days	All excavated material will be reused on site, so there will be no traffic associated with removal of spoil
	Additional traffic may occur on specific days when civil engineering structures are installed including - 2 culverts including headwalls - 1 small weir

Overall it is expected that Doveside will take 1 month to complete and WATI 3 months. During that period daily traffic will typically be limited to circa 4 vehicles. Specific operations may require additional traffic, but these periods will be limited. Overall traffic movements are limited as no material will be removed from the site.

5 Access

5.1.1 WATI

There will be no public access to the site. A 9m maintenance access will be provided along each side of the redirected Bulling Dike, as required by the local Internal Drainage Board (Danvm Drainage Commissioners) to allow routine maintenance of the channel.

The bridleway (Wombwell 10) which runs along the left bank of Bulling Dike and the junction with Wombwell Footpath 11 (immediately to the north) will be affected by the works and will require temporary diversion for the duration of the construction phase. After construction, the bridleway will be returned to its present alignment. The route will cross the proposed bund with ascent and descent provided by a 1:12 slope. See 2016s3858-WT09 - Footpath Diversion Plan for details.

5.1.2 Doveside

Currently there is no formal public access onto the site. The dilapidated post and wire fence to the eastern boundary would appear to allow informal access.

The proposed wet ditches to the west and east boundaries, and repaired fencing, would result more secure site which is more difficult to access for members of the public. This is intended to benefit residents living adjacent to the site who will see a reduction in informal public access, noise and visual disturbance as well as an improvement in security as a result of the works.

5.2 Landscape character and visual amenity

5.2.1 Landscape character

The Barnsley Landscape Character Assessment (2002) classifies the LPA area into 6 broad Landscape Types (LT) and 17 geographically-specific Landscape Character Areas (LCA). For each, a description of character, management issues and objectives and guidelines for development are provided.

The site is within **LT C Lowland River Floor**, **LCA C4: Dove Lowland Valley Floor**. Together, LT C form almost continuous green corridors running through both rural and developed landscapes as part of the River Dearne system. It is described a distinctive valley floor landscape, unified by topography and landscape elements such as watercourses, scrub and woodland and a scarcity of incongruous elements.

Landscape strategies that are relevant to this proposal for LCA C4 include:

- *Conserve the open undeveloped character of the valley floor by protecting against development.*
- *Conserve and enhance existing green corridors (e.g. the almost continuous, undeveloped valley floor) for the migration of wildlife, by protecting against truncation by development.*
- *Conserve farmland by maintaining existing links to intact farmland on valley sides and by preventing further fragmentation.*
- *Conserve and enhance existing wildlife habitats such as scrub, wetland and open water in order to retain and improve their quality.*
- *Strengthen hedgerows that have occasional gaps.*
- *Manage mature trees, woodland and scrub in order to promote long term regeneration.*
- *Protect the valley floor from urban pressures such as litter and fly tipping.*
- *Conserve the quality and condition of water features such as the River Dove and its tributaries, and reservoirs.*
- *Conserve recreational …and continue to manage for people and wildlife.*

An update to the LCA in 2016 indicated that the strength of character and landscape condition remain strong and good respectively, as they did in in 2002.

The works provide scope for multiple benefits to the existing landscape that will accord with the above strategies. New habitats will include wetland areas, scrapes, and improved management of farmland these, will allow for a more interconnected series of improved ecological and Green/Blue

Infrastructure networks, complementing and reinforcing the nearby Broomhill Flash, Wombwell Ings and Old Moor nature reserves.

The character of the local area as an area of interconnected mosaic of wetland and farmland environments will be strengthened. The sites form part of a wider green and blue corridor that provides separation between nearby built up areas. This proposal will help reinforce the long-term protection of these sites as nature reserves. Greater connectivity will benefit a variety of riparian, aquatic flora and fauna, as well as farmland birds.

Excavated material from the construction of scrapes or reedbeds will be used to create the proposed bunds. No substrate material will be brought onto or removed from either site.

5.2.2 Visual amenity

Visual effects of the development will be limited, due to the nature of the scheme; it is likely to represent a neutral or beneficial change in the view, where visible.

Views of the WATI site are available from the bridleway (Wombwell 10) and footpath (Wombwell 11) immediately to the north.

Views of Doveside are largely restricted to residential properties along the northern boundary. Views from the footpath Wombwell 11 are generally screened by trees.

There will be short-term, temporary adverse visual effects during the construction phase, but these are not considered to be of significance.

5.3 Maintenance

The design has proposed a low-maintenance approach to the newly created habitats. Following the defects and establishment period the grounds maintenance for WATI will be carried out by Garganey Trust / tenant farmer. The maintenance for Doveside will be carried out by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

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