



DRAX RE-POWER

**O F F - S I T E
M I T I G A T I O N
S T R A T E G Y**

for

**NORTH YORKSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
& SELBY DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

November 2018



**MARTIN
WOOLLEY
LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS**

The Assembly Rooms
29 Market Place, Bedale
North Yorkshire DL8 1ED

T: 07887 573222 E: admin@mwla.net

DOCUMENT CONTROL

TITLE: OFF-SITE MITIGATION STRATEGY

PROJECT: DRAX RE-POWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UNDER EXAMINATION

JOB NO: L2.460

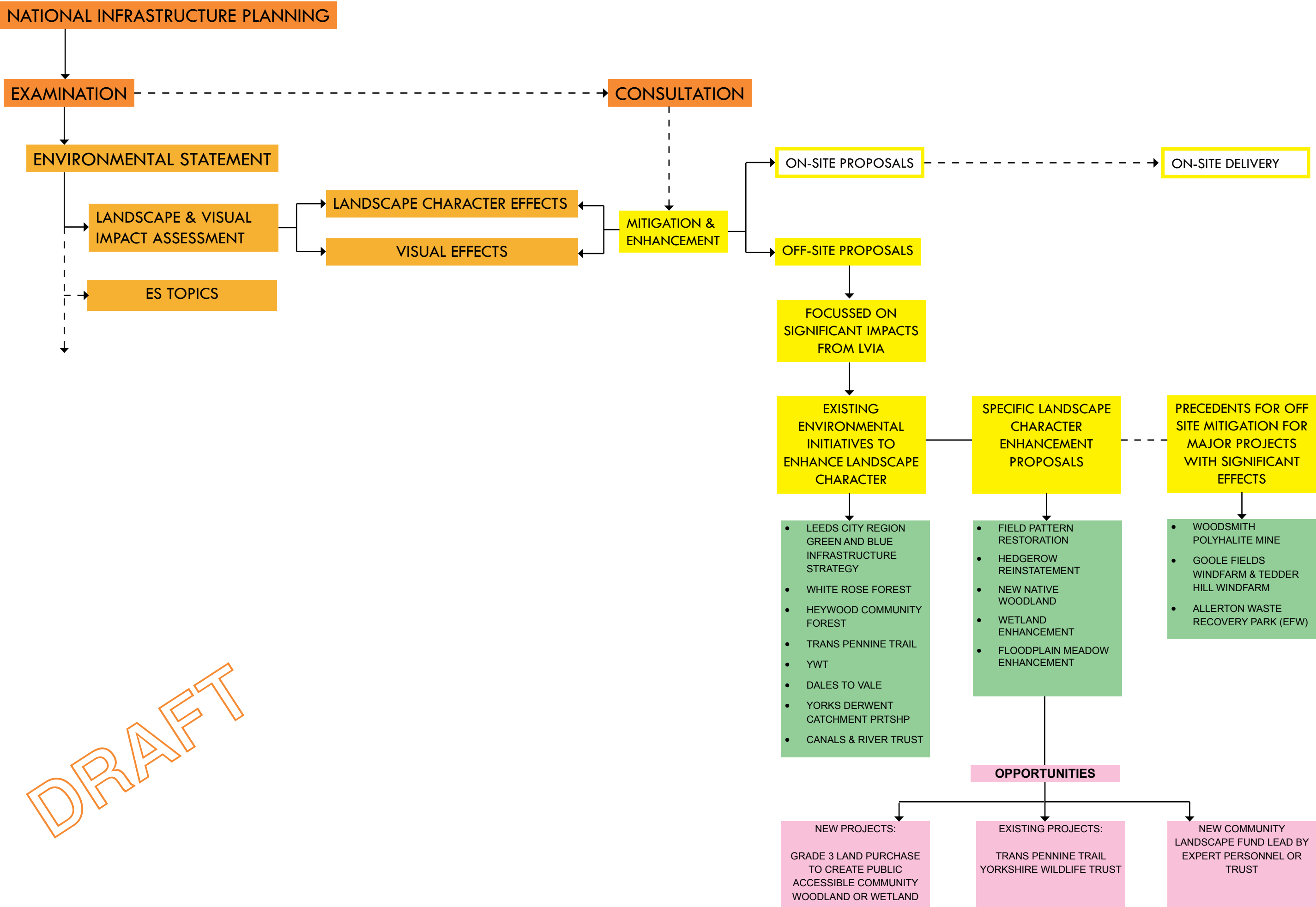
CLIENT: NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL & SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

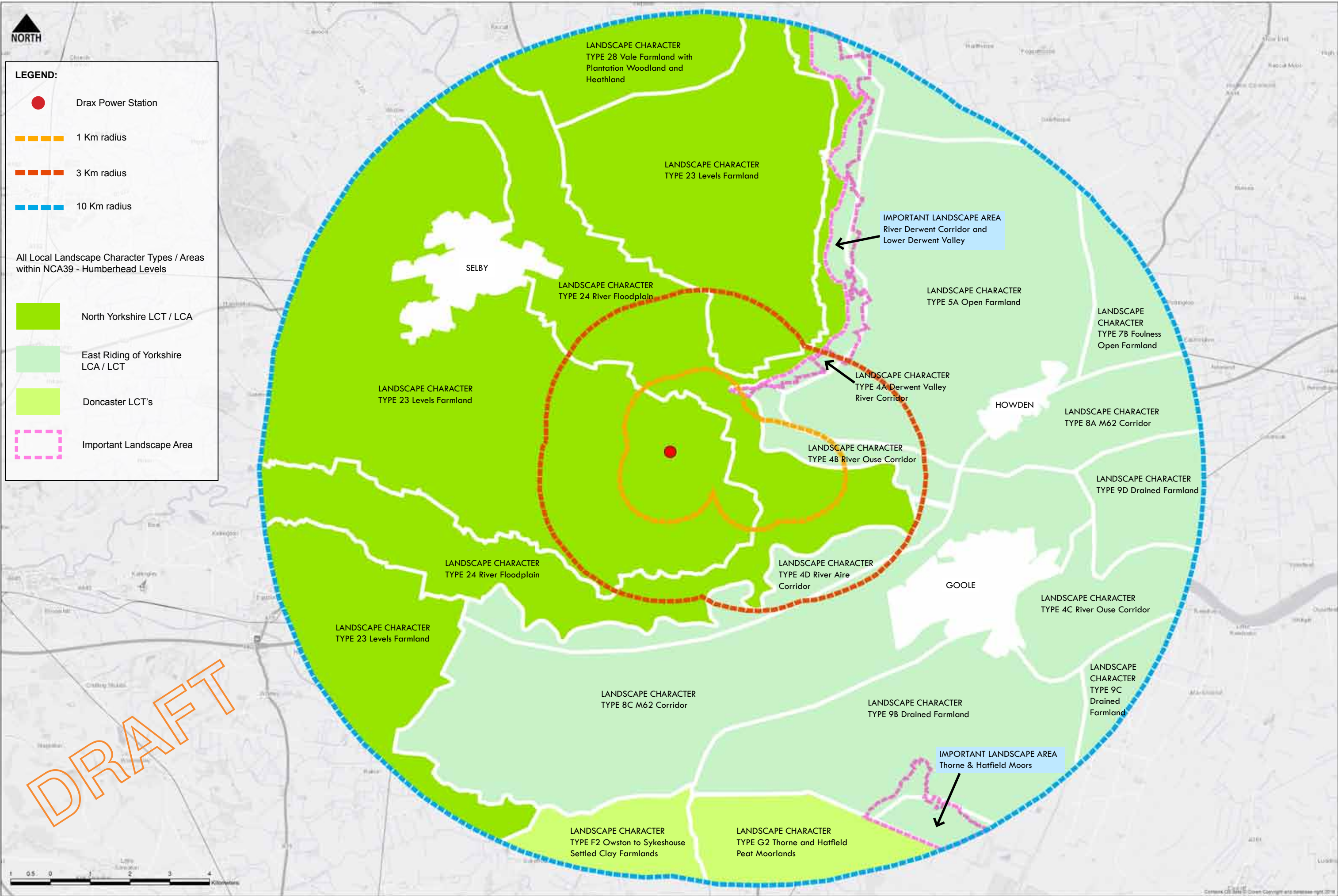
Copyright of Martin Woolley Landscape Architects. All Rights Reserved

Status	Date	Notes	Revision	Approved
DRAFT	29 Nov 2018	For meeting with NYCC & Selby DC 3.12.18		MW
DRAFT	2 Dec 2018	For meeting with NYCC & Selby DC 3.12.18	1	MW
DRAFT	3 Dec 2018	For Examination	2	MW

CONTENTS

PLANNING CONTEXT DIAGRAM	1
LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS WITHIN 10KM	2
LVIA PREDICTED EFFECTS	
TABLE OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTER EFFECTS	3
SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER	4
SIGNIFICANT VISUAL EFFECTS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY	5
SIGNIFICANT VISUAL EFFECTS ON TRANS PENNINE TRAIL	6
OFF-SITE MITIGATION PRECEDENTS	
EXISTING OFF-SITE MITIGATION TO MAJOR PROJECTS	7
OFF-SITE MITIGATION DEVELOPMENT	
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ENHANCEMENT EXAMPLE WITHIN 3KM	8
LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ENHANCEMENT EXAMPLE WITHIN DERWENT VALLEY ILA	9
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY FLOODPLAIN & RIPARIAN WOODLAND POTENTIAL	10
TRANS PENNINE TRAIL CURRENT PROJECTS	11
YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST CURRENT PROJECTS	12
AGRICULTURAL LAND CLASSIFICATION WITHIN 10KM RADIUS	13
GRADE 3 AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR SALE EXAMPLE	14
GRADE 3 AGRICULTURAL LAND WITHIN 10KM RADIUS	15
CONCLUSIONS	
CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	16

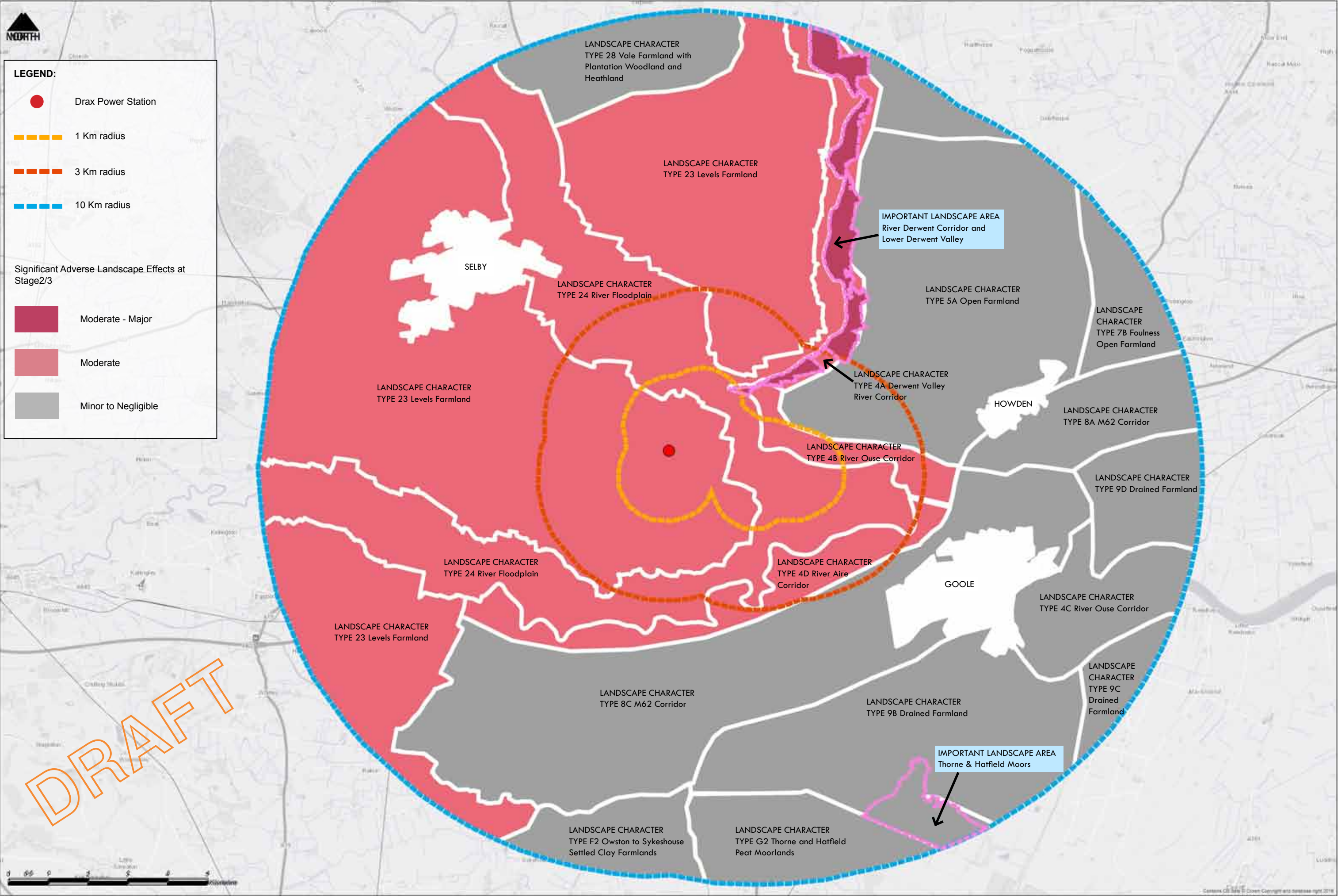


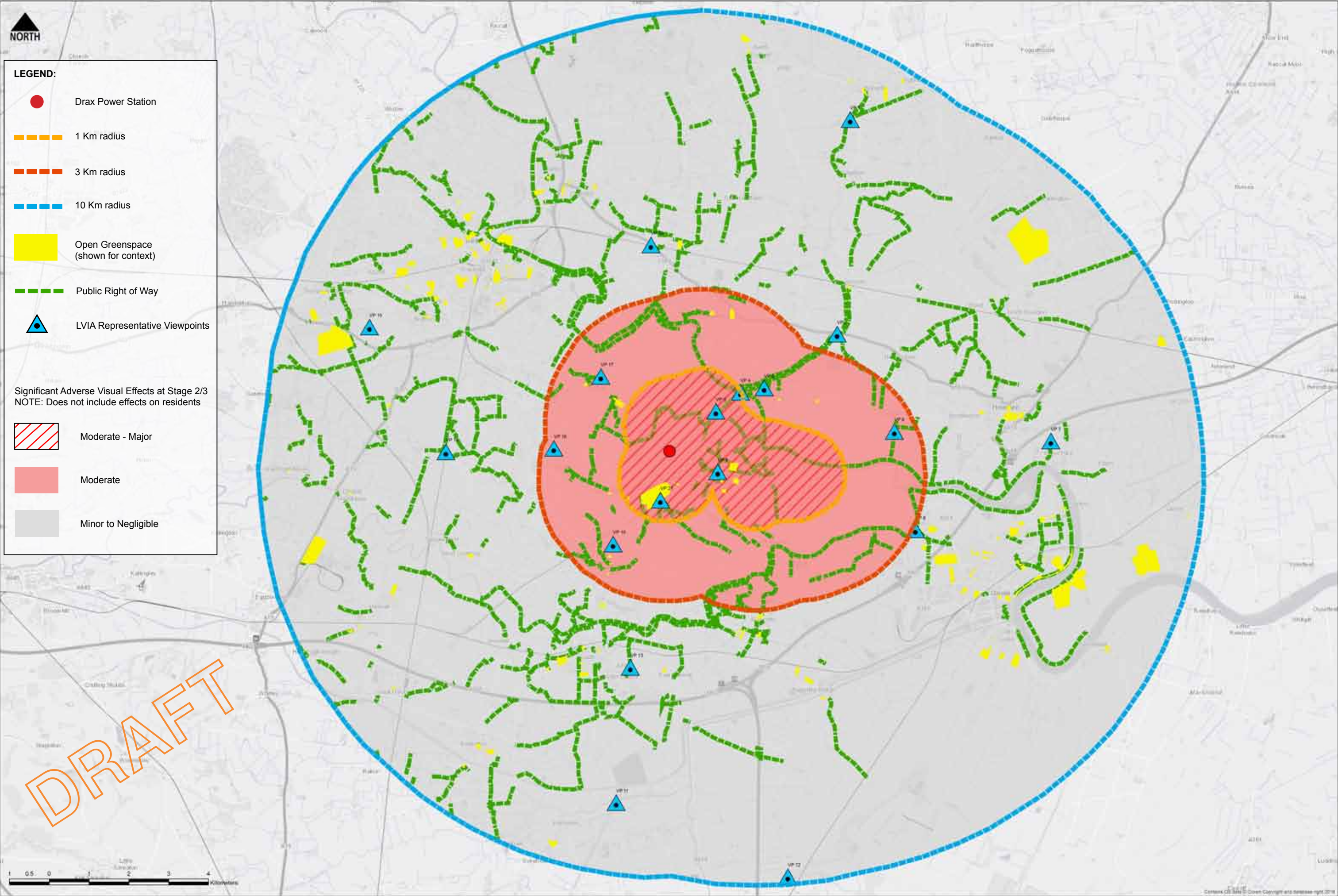


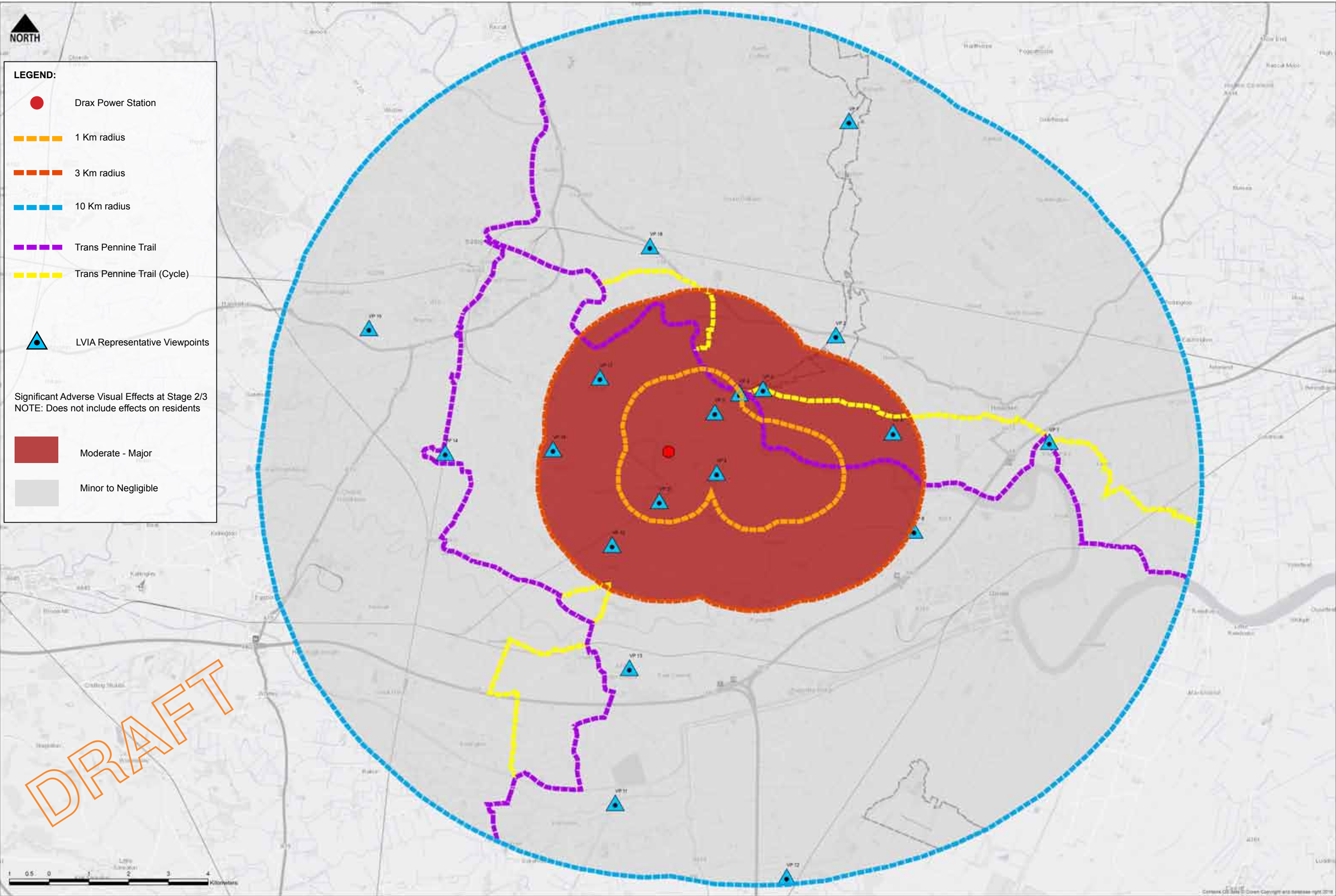
LCA AFFECTED WITHIN 10KM	AREA (HA)	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECT	MITIGATION / ENHANCEMENT	MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FROM EXISTING LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS
CT 23 Levels Farmland	37,513	Moderate Adverse	None Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use existing hedgerows and biomass planting to integrate built development in the landscape; • Maintain high water tables to prevent the drying out of soils and damage to archaeological evidence; • Encourage the re-creation of a wider range of habitats in arable areas, including the introduction of permanent grassland field margins, grass buffers along water courses, and linking them where possible to create a grassland habitat network; • Introduce a wide range of arable options to enhance habitats for birds and insects; • Incorporate miscanthus and short rotation coppice into the landscape, with particular consideration to landscape character, avoiding peatland sites and areas of historic field patterns; • Manage watercourses to encourage emergent vegetation, including rare species and to improve habitats for water voles; • Extend natural washlands to increase areas of wetland habitats and assist in flood risk management.
LCT 24 River Floodplain	15,268	Moderate Adverse	None Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective catchment management to sustain water quality; • Encourage the creation of new woodland along appropriate riverbanks, which complements the existing woodland pattern; • Conserve the natural form of the rivers by avoiding engineered solutions to water management, such as canalisation, bank hardening and river straightening; • Conserve natural river floodplain features, such as meanders, oxbows, old river channels, ponds and islands; • Conserve valuable floodplain habitats (such as lngs) by encouraging low intensity grazing in the remaining semi-natural habitats (which include mire, fen, flushes, marshy grassland and wet • Restore and enhance wetland habitats; • Target agri-environment scheme support for management of broadleaved woodland, wetland pasture and meadow habitats; • Encourage conservation of existing key habitats and landscape features and expand the resource through habitat restoration and re-creation guided by ecological networks.
LCT 4 River Corridors LCA 4A Derwent Valley	593	Moderate Adverse	None Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance watercourse network • Create species rich grassland along floodplain landscape • Conserve medieval field pattern • Protect long distance views • Avoid impacts on remoteness and tranquillity • Encourage river corridor habitat diversity
LCT 4 River Corridors LCA 4B River Ouse Corridor	453	Moderate Adverse	None Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance watercourse network • Create species rich grassland along floodplain landscape • Conserve medieval field pattern • Protect long distance views • Avoid impacts on remoteness and tranquillity • Encourage river corridor habitat diversity
LCT 4 River Corridors LCA 4D River Aire	468	Moderate Adverse	None Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance watercourse network • Create species rich grassland along floodplain landscape • Conserve medieval field pattern • Protect long distance views • Avoid impacts on remoteness and tranquillity • Encourage river corridor habitat diversity
Lower Derwent Important Land- scape Area	484	Moderate-Major Adverse	None Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance watercourse network • Create species rich grassland along floodplain landscape • Conserve medieval field pattern • Protect long distance views • Avoid impacts on remoteness and tranquillity • Encourage river corridor habitat diversity

TOTAL AREA (HA)

54,779







WOODSMITH POLYHALITE MINE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
LPA: NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK



KEY FEATURES

The Sirius Minerals Foundation is an independent charity set up as a community fund to spend a share of revenues from Sirius Minerals' Woodsmith Mine near Whitby. The first funding of £2 million has become available following the recent commencement of construction of Sirius' mine. Sirius Minerals will contribute an annual royalty of 0.5% of sales from its Woodsmith Mine to the Foundation for 100 years. This commitment to the community will see the Foundation ultimately benefit from millions of pounds a year, with estimates putting the figure at over £10 million per year.

The fund includes landscape and ecology as a target to support Green Infrastructure initiatives and specifically includes tree planting for carbon sequestration, habitat improvements, ecology projects, traditional boundary restoration, and public access improvements.

GOOLE FIELDS WIND FARM, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
LPA: EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL



KEY FEATURES

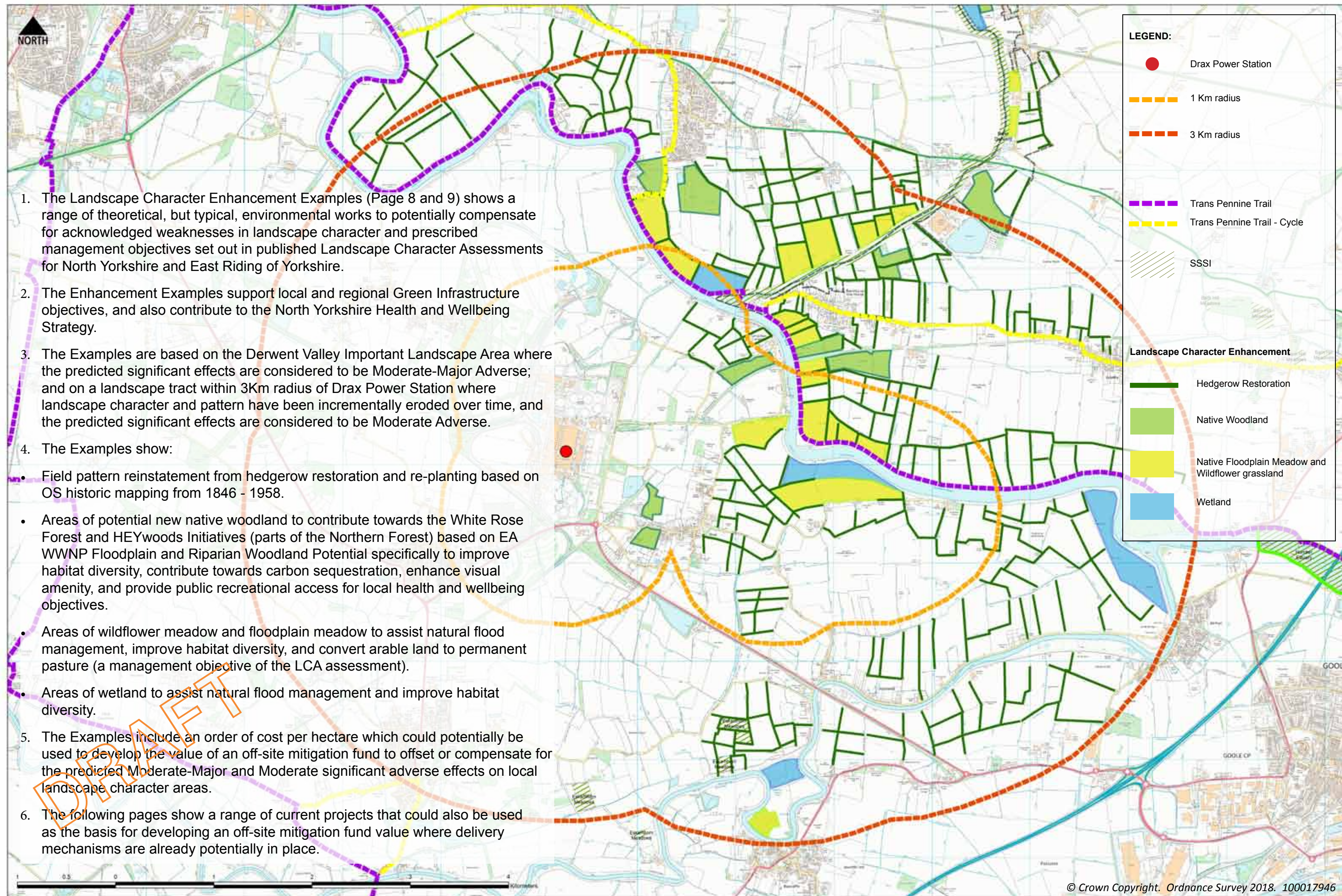
The first Goole Fields Wind Farm started operating in 2014 which also saw the introduction of a community fund. Innogy Renewables UK (innogy), the wind farm operators made an annual donation to this fund, enabling it to support a wide range of projects which were of benefit to the local community. The commissioning of the second wind farm (Goole 2) in late 2016 brought with it a further donation. The Goole Fields Winds Farm Community Fund now receives a substantially increased funding from the operator. From January 2018 the annual donation from innogy will be nearly £250,000 per annum. A proportion of the additional Goole 2 funds will be ring fenced to a separate fund for an East Riding wide area of benefit which will be launched during 2018.

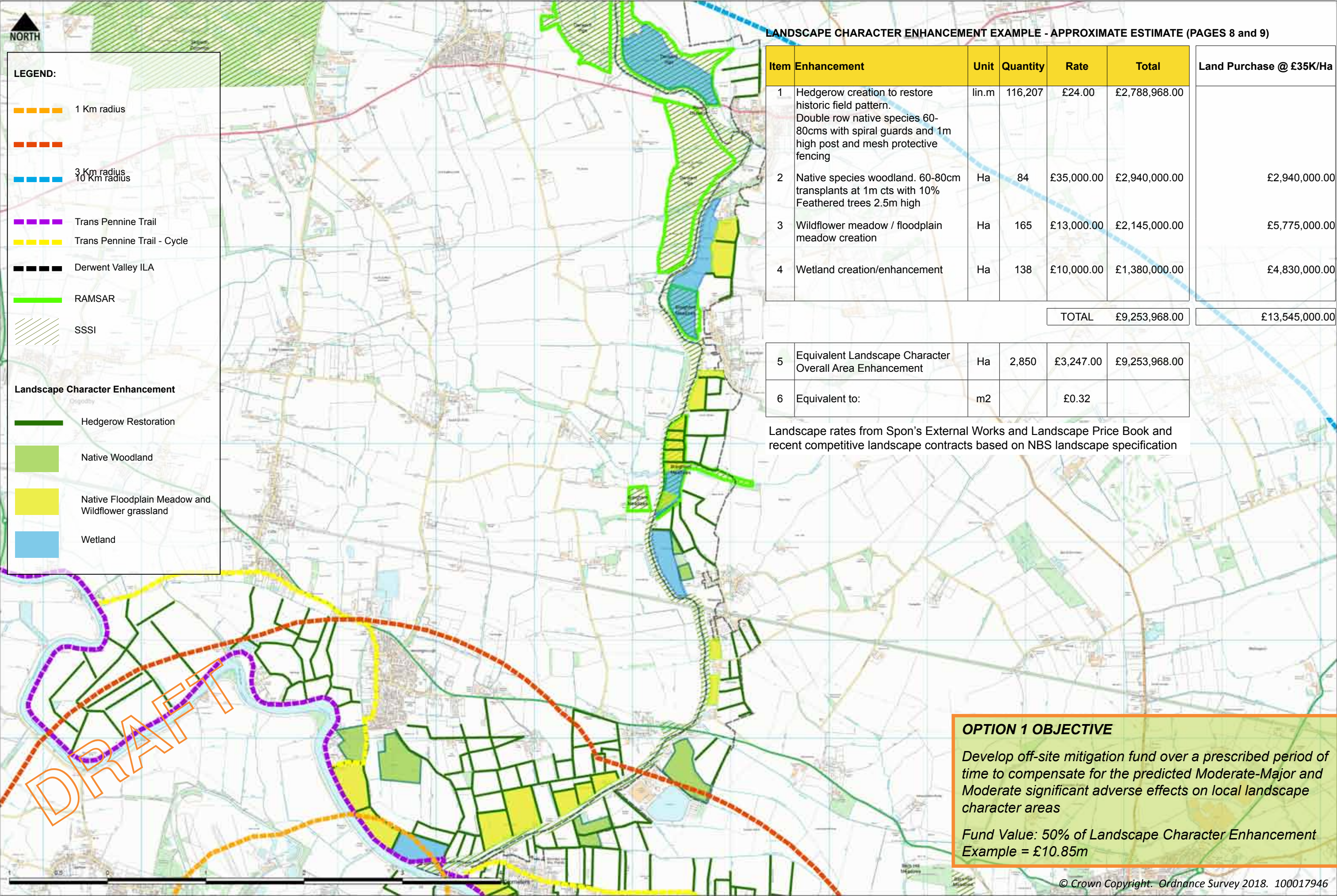
ALLERTON WASTE RECOVERY PARK, NORTH YORKSHIRE
LPA: NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

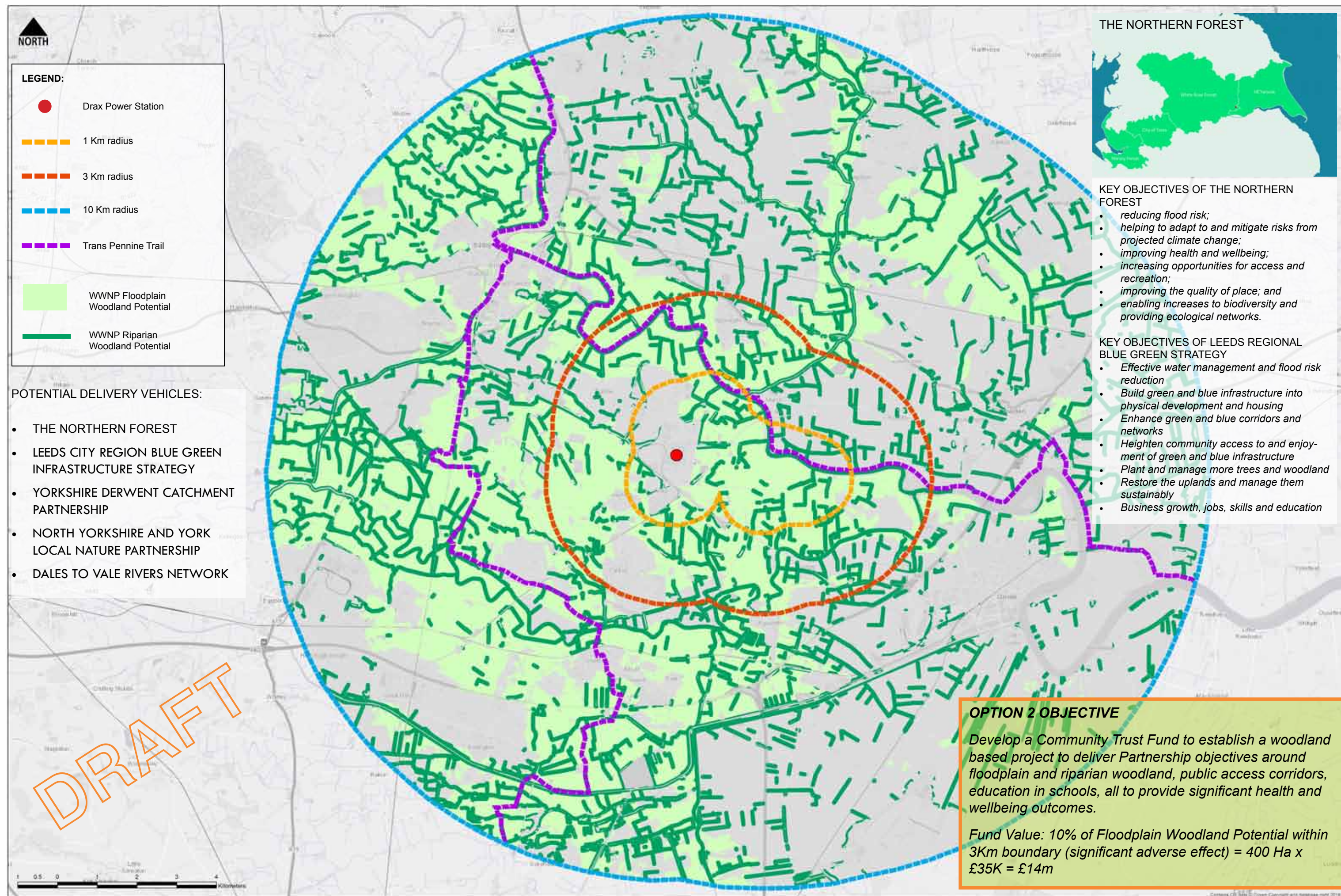


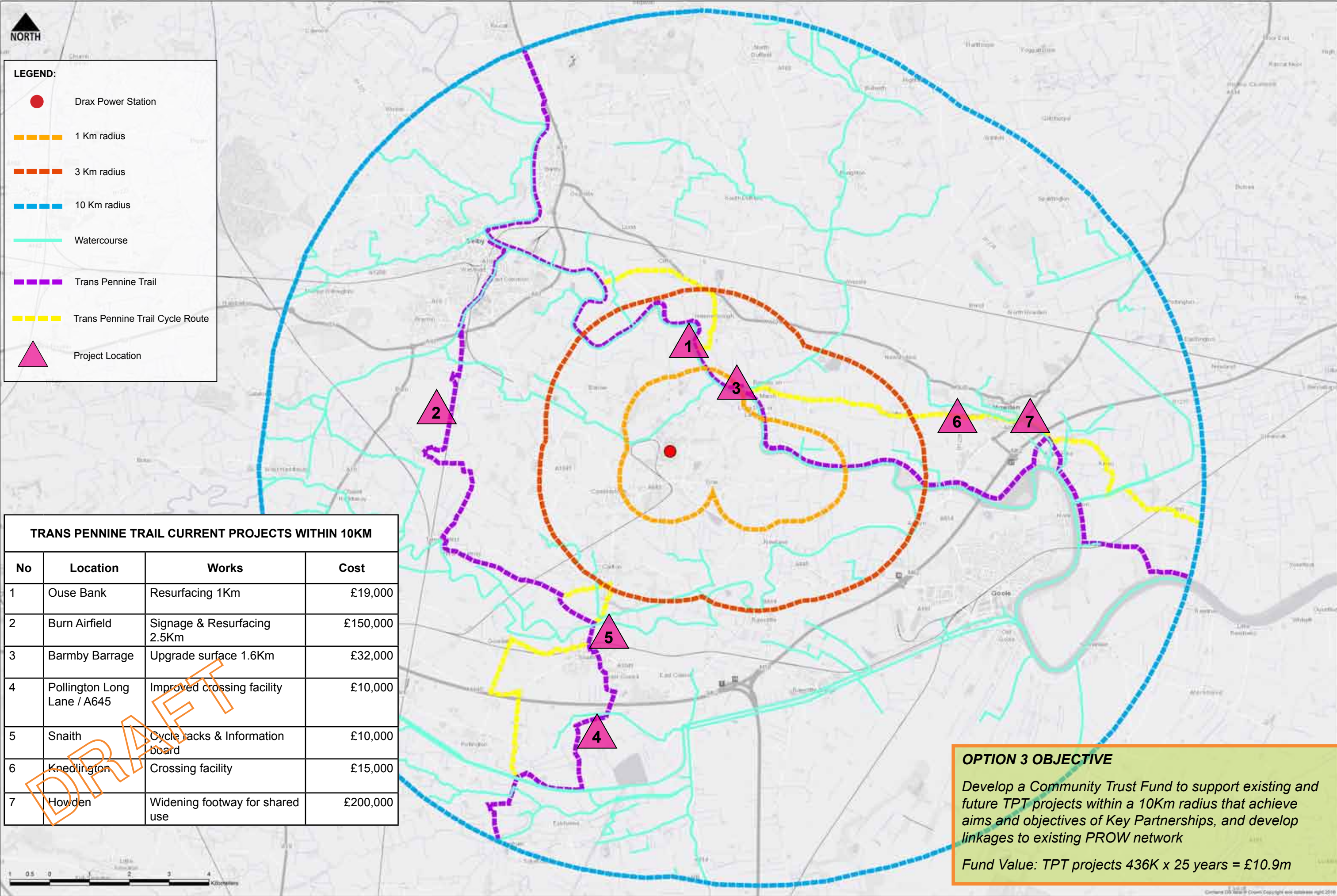
KEY FEATURES

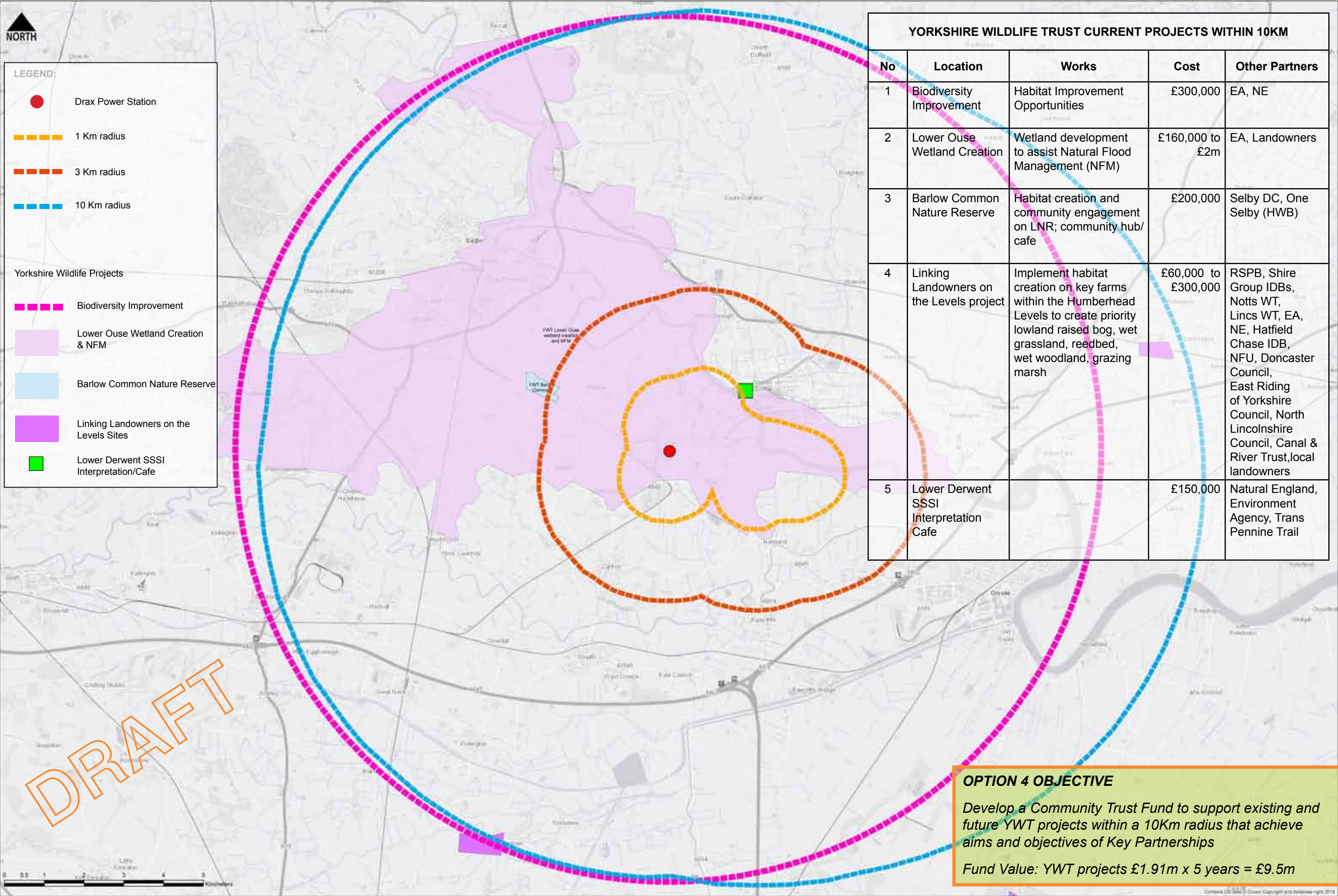
Allerton Waste Recovery Park was granted planning permission on 14 February 2013. A Landscape & Cultural Heritage Fund (LCHF) was established as part of the Section 106 planning permission to deliver proposals to enhance and strengthen landscape character, biodiversity, and cultural heritage interests. The fund value of £840,000 was calculated from a range of theoretical, but typical, landscape screening and enhancement projects designed to reduce landscape and visual impacts over the areas most affected by the development over a five year period. The fund is administered by Two Ridings Community Foundation (TRCF) on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council. The fund provides for a Small Grants Scheme (up to £1,000), a Medium Grants Scheme (£1,000 to £10,000), and a Large Grants Scheme (£10,000 to £50,000). The LCHF is in addition to a further S.106 fund of £1.3m to restore aspects of Allerton Park, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.

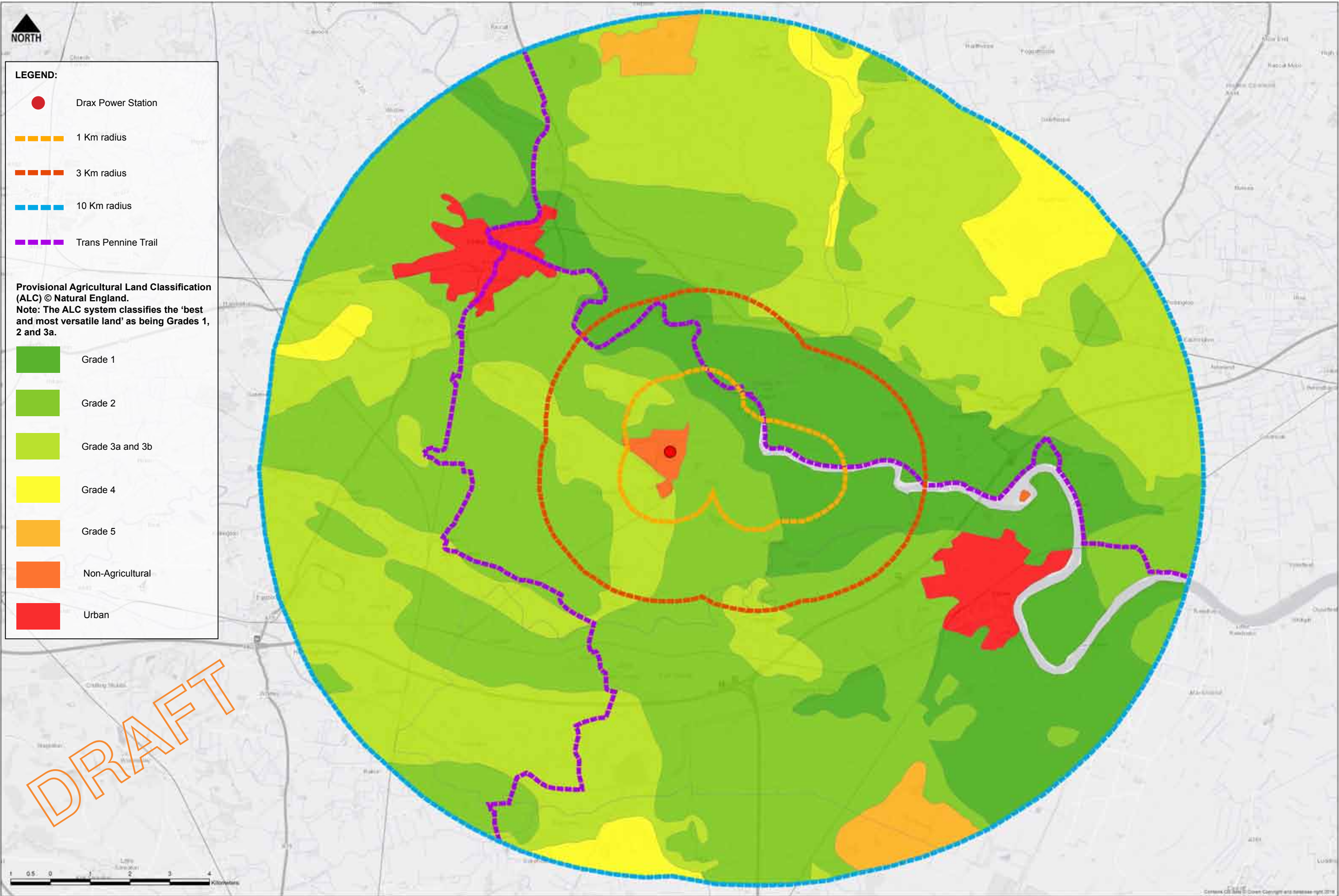




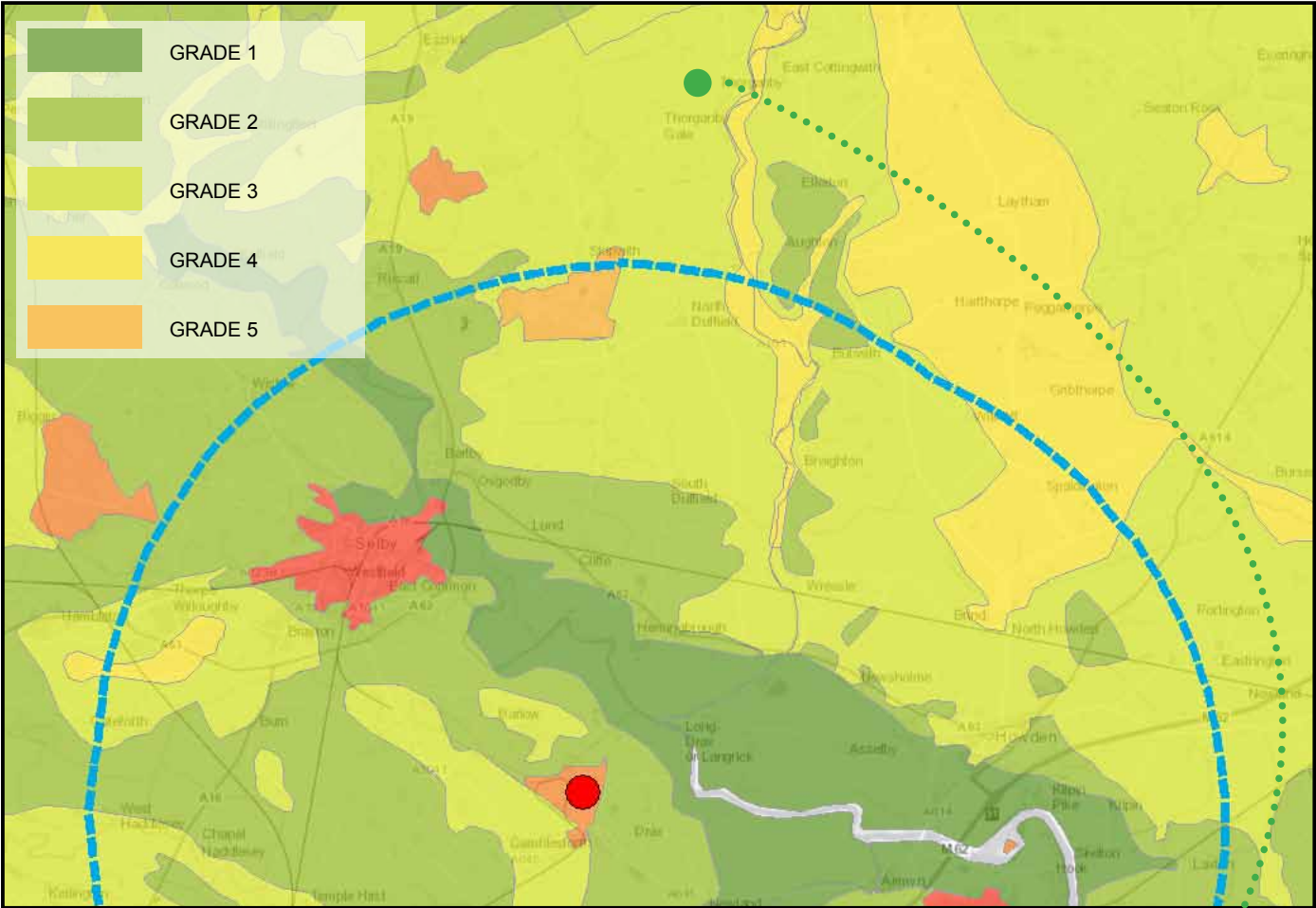








LOT 2:			
A parcel of permanent grassland accessed from Southmoor Road. The purchaser will be responsible for the western boundary.			
Field Number	2017 Cropping	Ha	Ac
5108	Permanent Grass	1.51	3.73
LOT 2 TOTAL		1.51	3.73
LOT 3:			
A parcel of permanent grassland accessed from Westfield Lane. The purchaser will be responsible for the western boundary.			
Field Number	2017 Cropping	Ha	Ac
6108	Permanent Grass	3.23	7.98
LOT 3 TOTAL		3.23	7.98
LOT 4: SOLD STC			
A parcel of permanent grassland accessed from Westfield Lane. The Purchaser will be responsible for establishing a new entrance at their own cost.			
Field Number	2017 Cropping	Ha	Ac
8201	Permanent Grass	1.52	3.75
LOT 4 TOTAL		1.52	3.75

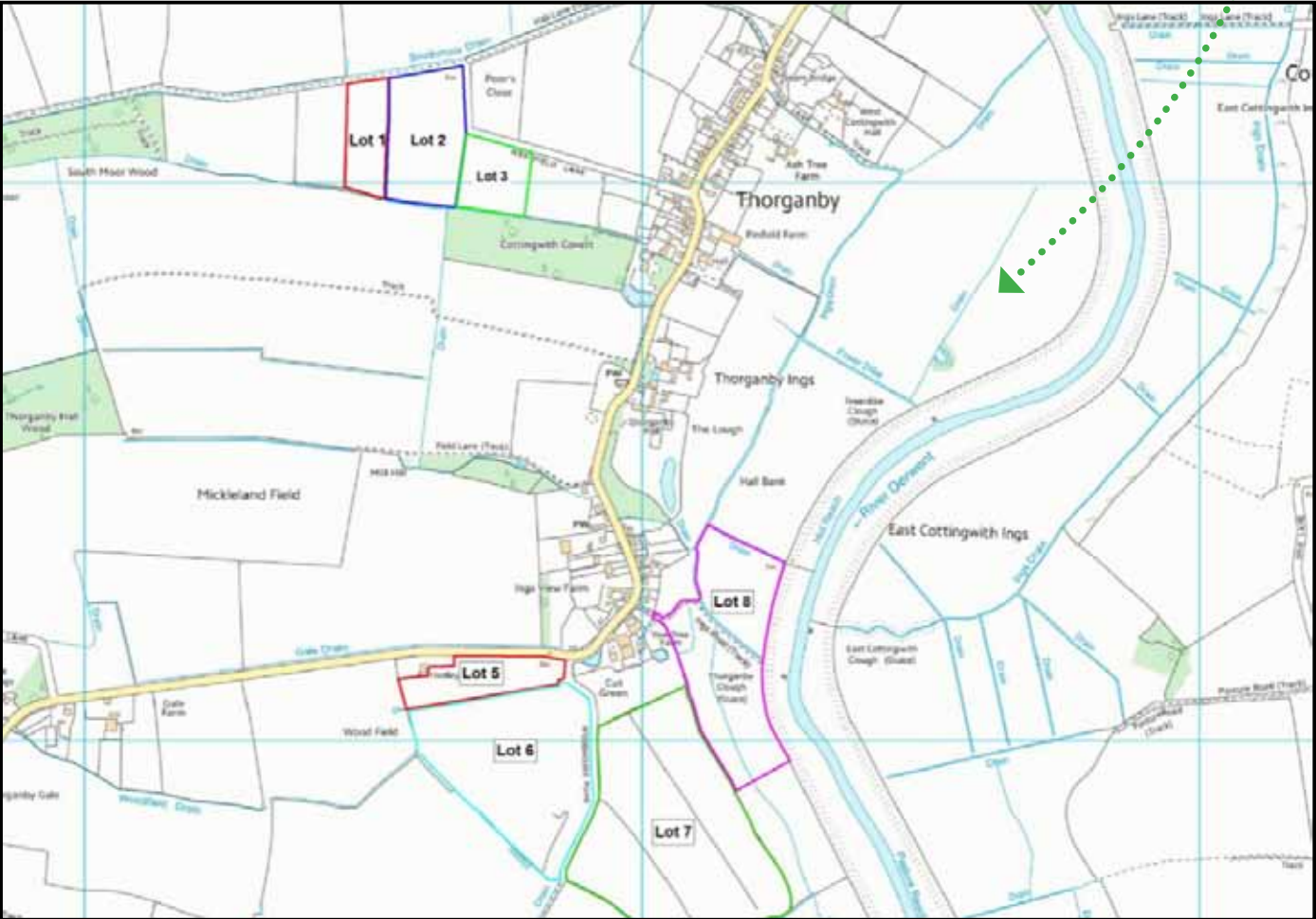


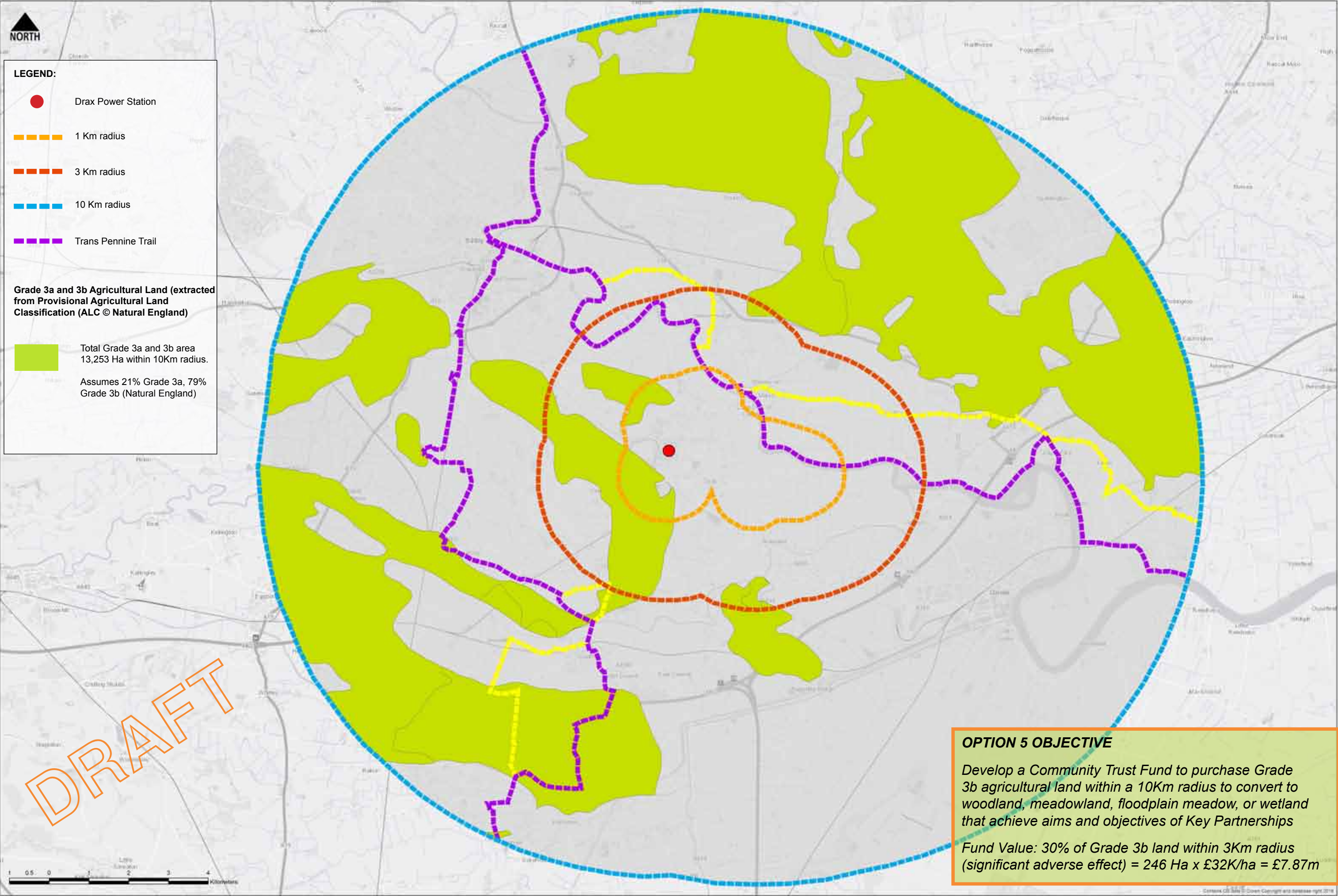
APPROXIMATE COST OF GRADE 3 LAND

DESCRIPTION	AREA (HA)	AREA (ACRES)	GUIDE PRICE	PRICE PER HA	PRICE PER ACRE
LOT 2	1.51	3.73	£50,000	£33,112	£13,405
LOT 3	3.23	7.98	£95,000	£29,411	£11,905
LOT 4	1.52	3.75	£50,000	£32,894	£13,333

ESTIMATE OF COSTS TO PURCHASE LAND AND TRANSFORM TO NATIVE WOODLAND

DESCRIPTION	AREA (HA)	PURCHASE	FENCING	PLANTING	TOTAL
LOT 2	1.51	£50,000	£9,650	£52,850	£112,500
LOT 3	3.23	£95,000	£18,000	£113,050	£226,050
LOT 4	1.52	£50,000	£10,000	£53,200	£113,200
					£451,750





1. Significant Major Adverse Effects on Landscape Character Areas are recognised in the LVIA but not mitigated or 'offset' in the application. National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) acknowledges it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site.
2. The Examining Authority may take into account any development consent obligations that an applicant agrees with local authorities. These must be relevant to planning, necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms, directly related to the proposed development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development, and reasonable in all other respects.
3. It is reasonable and appropriate that Significant Adverse Effects on existing landscape character areas should be compensated for in the form of landscape enhancement measures to address acknowledged weaknesses in landscape character, and management objectives described in North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessments.
4. It is reasonable and appropriate that Significant Adverse Effects on PROW's and the Trans Pennine Trail should be compensated for in the form of measures that contribute to Green Infrastructure and Health and Wellbeing objectives.
5. It is also reasonable and appropriate to take account of Selby District Council Policy SP12 (Access to Services, Community Facilities and Infrastructure); Policy SP18 (Protecting and Enhancing the Environment); and Policy SP19 (Design Quality).
6. Further site survey and analysis work is required to produce detailed and costed landscape enhancement proposals tailored to individual character areas with input from landscape and ecology professionals taking account of existing important acknowledged biodiversity sites. (RAMSAR, SSSI, SINC, SAC, SPA)
7. Recent precedents for off-site mitigation exist in North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire for major projects to contribute towards landscape, tourism, cultural heritage, health and wellbeing, and climate change.
8. Regional initiatives are already in place that any off-site mitigation works would contribute towards, such as The Northern Forest (White Rose Forest and HEYwoods) and The Leeds City Region Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy that includes Selby District.
9. There are several existing environmental projects administered by YWT and Trans Pennine Trail that could provide an immediate delivery mechanism for off-site mitigation measures.
10. There is approximately 10,500 hectares of Grade 3b agricultural land within a 10Km radius of Drax Power Station that through acquisition could provide land for the creation of new native woodland, or establishment of native wildflower and floodplain meadows to enhance landscape character where affected, and also contribute to natural flood management, habitat diversity, and climate change measures such as carbon sequestration.

1. There are many cross boundary government and charitable agencies, that have interests within a 10Km radius of Drax Power Station with ongoing and planned projects. These include:
 - Selby District Council
 - East Riding of Yorkshire Council
 - North Yorkshire County Council
 - Environment Agency
 - Natural England
 - North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership
 - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 - Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust (Dales to Vale Rivers Network)
 - Canal and Rivers Trust
 - Trans Pennine Trail
2. Following consultation with these organisations, the Off-Site Mitigation Strategy has put forward 5 different options to potentially offset or compensate for the significant adverse landscape and visual effects predicted by the Applicant's LVIA. Each Option, albeit in different ways, supports the wider objectives of The Northern Forest, The Leeds City Region Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy, and the North Yorkshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The average fund value of the 5 options put forward is £10.6m
3. This Strategy recommendation is to establish a Community Trust project lead by qualified and experienced personnel to 'grant aid' existing projects and future projects that contribute to the above strategies and that can be reasonably said to repair acknowledged weaknesses in landscape character and address the landscape character management objectives from the published North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessments.

DELIVERY:

- Delivery Organisation: North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership
- Delivery Mechanism: Ring fenced Community Trust Fund
- Delivery Personnel: Ring fenced new expert officers within NY&YNP
- Fund: £10 million + project setup costs of £250K with base within 10Km radius
- Timescale: 25 Years with 25% of fund available at Year 1
- Priority Projects Yr1: TPT & YWT current projects
Purchase Grade 3b land for woodland creation and public access
Develop PROW network and links to open space network and TPT