

North Yorkshire Joint Waste and Minerals Plan

Policies of the Ryedale Plan and other documents material to statements written for the EIP by Councillor Paul Andrews

The Ryedale Plan

Policy SP12: “ *Distinctive elements of Ryedale’s historic environment will be conserved and where appropriate enhanced. The potential of heritage assets to contribute towards the economy, tourism, education and community identity will be exploited including:*

.....The individual and distinctive appearance of Ryedale’s market towns and villages.....

To assist in protecting the District’s historic assets and features, the Council will:

.....Seek to ensure the sensitive expansion, growth and land use change in and around Market Towns and villages, safeguarding elements of the historic character and value within their built up areas, including Visually Important Undeveloped Areas, as well as surrounding historic landscape character and setting of individual settlements.....”

NB: Malton’s Town Centre is a Conservation Area, which includes a historic church, the mediaeval “York House” and individual shops from the Georgian and Victorian periods and buildings which include remains from the mediaeval period. Old Malton is the site of an abbey and the historic abbey church is still in use. Both Malton and Norton are a centre for the northern horse racing industry. The site of the old racecourse in Norton can still be made out, and the Georgian “Assembly Rooms” in Malton contains the ballroom which was used during the races.

Both Malton and Norton are situated in the Vale of Pickering. The land on the Western boundary of Malton Parish is included in the Howardian Hills AONB. The town clearly forms part of the setting of the AONB and the River Derwent SSSI passes between both Malton and Norton.

Para. 7.12 states: “*Ryedale has five distinctive landscape character areas, which are:.....Centrally and to the East – the Vale of Pickering, a flat relatively open landscape which is the relic of a large glacial lake. Together with the rising land of the Fringe of the Moors and the Wolds, this area contains internationally important and exceptionally rare archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period, providing a continuous record of human settlement to the present day*”

Policy SP13 states: “*The quality, character and value of Ryedale’s diverse landscapes will be protected and enhanced by encouraging new development and land*

management practices which reinforce the distinctive elements of landscape character within the District's broad landscape character areas of :Vale of Pickering.....(and) protecting the special qualities, scenic and natural beauty of the Howardian Hills AONB, the setting of the AONB and the setting of the North York Moors National Park."

NB The Vale of Pickering is an integral part of the setting for both the National Park and the AONB.

"Development proposals should contribute to the protection and enhancement of distinctive elements of landscape character that are the result of historical and cultural influences, natural features and aesthetic qualities including:

.....

The pattern and presence of distinctive landscape features and natural elements (including field boundaries, woodland, habitat types, landforms, topography and watercourses)

Visually sensitive skylines, hill and valley sides

The ambience of the area, including nocturnal character, level and type of activity and tranquillity, sense of enclosure/exposure....."

Outside of the AONB and National Park *"the Council will carefully consider the impact of development proposals on the following broad areas of landscape which are valued locally....."*

The Vale of Pickering

The Vale of Pickering.....are of significant historic landscape value and loss or degradation of the elements that are integral to their historic landscape character make these landscapes particularly sensitive to change."

Para 5.30 states: *"Tourism is an integral and valuable part of the District's economy with visitors contributing £390M to the local economy each year and generating a value equivalent to 8,500 jobs. Approximately 15 million visitors are attracted to Ryedale annually (Yorkshire Economic Impact model). This is a significant contribution and it is essential that the District's tourism industry can continue to develop.....it is important that a balance is struck and that new tourist accommodation, attractions and locations and facilities are located in places where the scale, nature of activity and visual intrusion can be accommodated, for example, in terms of the character and sensitivities of the locality, wider landscape and road network"*

Para 5.32 states: *" Whilst Ryedale experiences approximately 1.9 million day trips each year, over half a million trips each year are made by people who stay in the District for a short break or holiday. The provision of a wide range and choice of*

tourist accommodation in a choice of locations is an important way in which staying visitors can be attracted to Ryedale throughout the year”

Para 5.33 states: *“This strategy supports the provision of a range of tourist accommodation across the district.....”*

Policy SP8 states: *“Tourism in Ryedale will contribute to a sustainable and diverse economy. The Council will seek to encourage sustainable tourism which minimises its environmental impact on the district. This will be achieved by supporting: the provision of a range and choice of quality tourist accommodation, the business plans and operational requirements of existing tourist and visitor attractions and event arenas where appropriate, encouraging all year round tourism subject to occupancy conditions set out in policy SP21, cultural and creative businesses in Ryedale inspired by Ryedale’s unique environment.....And by maximising the opportunities to further develop tourism, outdoor education and recreation using the District’s natural, cultural and historic assets as an economic driver, including the potential provided by: the archaeological landscapes of the Vale of Pickering and the Yorkshire Wolds..... Malton and Norton’s longstanding association with horse racing, local food production, farm and rural diversification and biodiversity and the development of nature tourism”*

Policy SP8 also prescribes the the types of accommodation which will be supported in service villages and other settlements. These include tourist caravan and camping sites and static caravan and chalet self-catering accommodation of an appropriate scale and in appropriate location on the edge of settlements.

Policy 5.34 of the adopted Ryedale Plan states: *“Land-based economic activity is integral to the District’s economy, cultural heritage and identity. Farming, forestry and the equine industry, in particular horse racing, have all been longstanding and traditional components of economic activity. Many of these activities have helped to ensure that Ryedale’s valued landscapes are carefully and sensitively managed.....”*

NB. At present farms can sell their produce as “local produce” to local shops and many people will prefer to buy local produce which is in season to centrally purchased produce sold in supermarkets. The risk of contamination to crops and meat obtained from fracking areas is well-known, and this will probably make “locally grown” produce less attractive than food marketed centrally.

Policy 5.14 of the Ryedale Plan (which deals with employment land) states: *“There may be a demand for major industrial processes in the open countryside due to their need to be sited close to the natural materials or assets that the operation is related to. These processes can include food production, raw materials for renewable energy generation and mineral extraction and can be significant employment generators. New major uses in the open countryside can be sensitive in terms of landscape impact, visual impact and the amenity of neighbouring occupants. It is essential that*

these proposals, where they are required, take into account these potential impacts. Where possible, the most suitable site for this use should be considered which results in the lowest overall impact and the greatest economic benefit.”

Planning Documents which inform both the emerging County Minerals Plan and the adopted Ryedale Plan

In determining the weight to be attached to the provisions of the emerging JWMP regard must be had to the evidence base.

It is understood that the following documents (which informed the Ryedale Plan) are also included in the evidence base which informs the emerging minerals plan:

- The Landscapes of Northern Ryedale (an assessment of the Vale of Pickering and the Fringe of the North York Moors National Park with management guidelines for the future) prepared by Gillespies August 1999;
- Vale of Pickering: Statement of Significance prepared by English Heritage (date not stated but after 2011)
- National Character Area Profile: 26. Vale of Pickering prepared by Natural England
- North Yorkshire and York Landscape and Characterisation Project prepared by Chris Blandford Associates dated May 2011.

All of the above documents have been included in the evidence base of the Ryedale Plan, which was adopted in 2013 following examination in public. So, although the Ryedale Plan is not concerned with mineral matters, considerable weight should be given to the above documents, by virtue of their acceptance as part of the evidence base of the Ryedale Plan.

According to English Heritage, essential to an understanding of significance are the following matters:

- The topography, shape and form of the Vale of Pickering – the integrity of its physical form allows an understanding and visualisation of its geological sequence and development;
- The distinctive topography is essential in understanding how people interact with the landscape, with parish and estate morphology linked to transects through the multiple environments and habitats, from wetland to dryland, to valley edges;

- The remarkable and complete sequence of human activity identified within the Vale of Pickering from the late Palaeolithic period, to human presence in the landscape in all subsequent periods up to the present day;
- The distinct human, natural and cultural interface that makes the Vale of Pickering “special” is a quality that chimes well with the UNESCO description of a “cultural landscape – as distinct geographical area” representing the combined work of nature and of man.
- One of the key sites is Star Car, which has remains from the Mesolithic period which have been fortuitously preserved as a result of the high water table, and which will be destroyed if the water table is lowered. This may also apply to many other archaeological sites.

Landscapes of Northern Ryedale recommends that development would be generally detrimental to the character of the area.

The area profile of the Vale of Pickering identifies five opportunities for the Vale:

- *SEO 1: Enhance the network of wetland habitats in the Vale to provide public benefits in improved flood mitigation and water quality and to reduce habitat fragmentation and increase the resilience of habitats and species to environmental change;*
- *SEO 2: Protect and enhance the historic landscape and geodiversity of the Vale, promoting greater understanding of this to inform current and future decisions on how the landscape is used;*
- *SEO3: manage the agricultural landscape to enhance the sustainable future of farming, strengthen landscape character, protect soils and water, and enhance biodiversity through improved connectivity of semi-natural habitats, creating ecological networks that are resilient to environmental change;*
- *SEO 4: Ensure that developments are successfully integrated into the landscape, making a contribution to biodiversity and habitat networks, and that they do not compromise the sense of tranquillity and openness of the rural landscape, or delivery of other important ecosystem services, including mitigating and adapting to climate change;*
- *Protect and enhance the natural and cultural environment of the Vale of Pickering and the understanding and enjoyment of the area.*

NB. The Ryedale Plan and copies of the policy documents referred to have been supplied.

