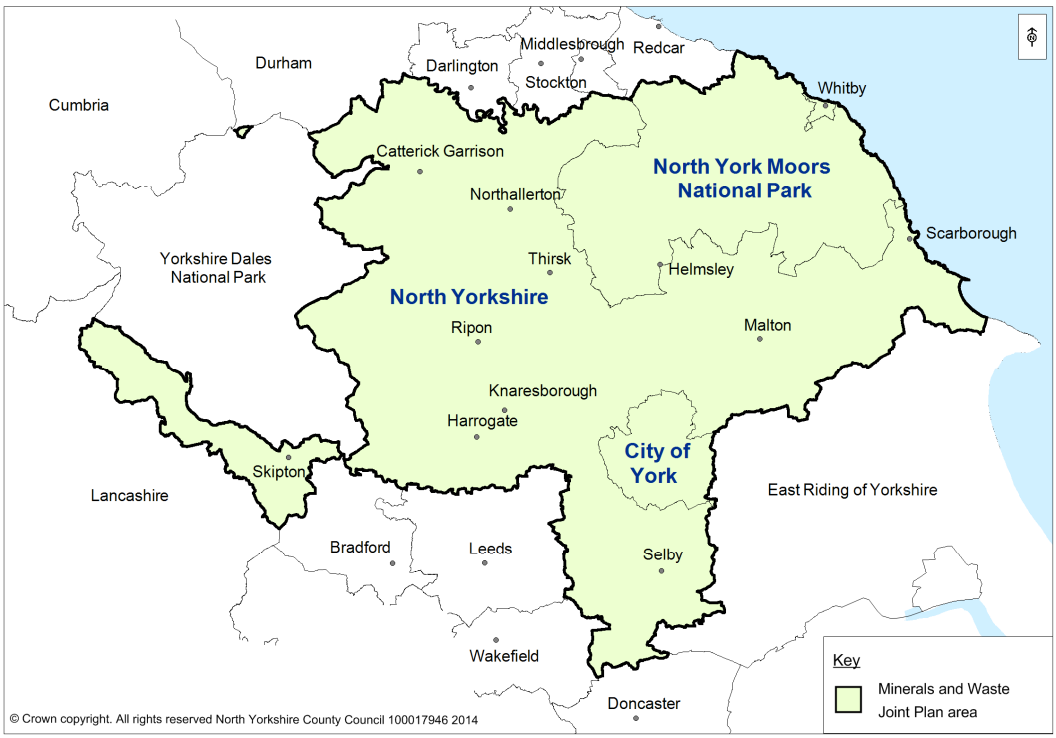
Minerals and Waste Joint Plan



Site Identification and Assessment Methodology and Scope

January 2015

City of York Council

North York Moors National Park Authority

North Yorkshire County Council

Contents

Introduction

North Yorkshire County Council, City of York Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority have decided to work together to prepare a Minerals and Waste Joint Plan ('the Joint Plan'). This plan, to 2030, takes forward recent work on minerals and waste planning issues and evidence undertaken by the three authorities. However, there is a recognition that minerals and waste planning issues often affect larger than local areas and can best be tackled at a wider than local level. The Joint Plan will contain the spatial framework for future minerals and waste development across the three authorities and present land use policies and allocations for future minerals and waste development.

As part of the Joint Plan preparation process there arises a need to consider the potential to identify specific sites and/or areas for the management and extraction of minerals and the management of waste.

During work in 2011 towards preparation of Minerals and Waste Core Strategies, North Yorkshire County Council developed initial site selection methodologies for minerals and waste, which were subject to consultation. Following the decision early in 2013 to move to preparation of a Minerals and Waste Joint Plan, those methodologies have been reviewed and revised and a draft methodology for the identification and assessment of sites in the Joint Plan was discussed at workshops in June 2013 and issued to technical stakeholders in July 2013 for their comments[1].

In February 2014 the Joint Plan authorities consulted on the revised methodology with a wider audience alongside the Joint Plan issues and options consultation. A number of comments were received on this consultation and this has resulted in a number of further changes to the methodology[2].

In addition to previous consultations undertaken on this methodology, a new National Planning Policy for Waste and accompanying National Planning Practice has been issued by the Government which has prompted further refinement of the methodology. The draft methodology presented here represents the outcome of that process.

A key aspect of this methodology has been to seek to integrate the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process within the methodology, in line with the updated SA Framework that has been prepared to support preparation of the Joint Plan[3].

National planning policy requires that Local Plans should allocate sites to promote development and flexible use of land. Specifically in relation to planning for aggregate minerals, the NPPF states that Mineral Planning Authorities should make

[1] The findings of this consultation can be viewed in a separate consultation outcomes report (see http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26217/Sustainability-appraisal).
[2] The findings of this wider consultation are contained in the 'Site Identification and Assessment Consultation Outcomes Report (for Consultation Undertaken in Spring 2014)' (http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26220/Site-and-area-assessment)
[3] The SA Framework for the Joint Plan is contained within the Joint Plan Sustainability Appraisal scoping report (see http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26217/Sustainability-appraisal)

provision for aggregates in the form of specific sites, preferred areas and/or areas of search and locational criteria as appropriate. Supporting Government guidance on the Managed Aggregates Supply System states that provision for land won aggregates extraction should take the form of specific sites, wherever possible, but preferred areas and/or areas of search may be appropriate. Of particular relevance to the Joint Plan, the NPPF also states that land banks for non-energy minerals should be provided for from outside National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas. In addition, National Planning Practice Guidance on minerals states that preferred areas or areas of search are not expected to be designated in National Parks.

With regard to waste, Government policy set out in the National Planning Policy for Waste indicates that Waste Planning Authorities should *'identify, in their Local Plans, sites and/or areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities in appropriate locations'*[4].

Table 1 below provides definitions of Sites and Areas for minerals and waste development.

Table 1: Definitions of Sites and Areas

Type of Site / Area	Description
Minerals Sites	These are considered to be sites with existing and viable mineral resources and with a clearly defined boundary where development is acceptable in principle.
Waste Sites	These are considered to be sites with a clearly defined boundary where certain types of waste management related development is acceptable in principle.
Minerals Infrastructure Sites	These are considered to be sites with a clearly defined boundary which are acceptable in principle for the locating of facilities which help ensure the supply of minerals or mineral products to the market. They only include sites which are not co-located with operational minerals extraction sites. Examples might include sites for railheads for minerals transport or the manufacture of concrete or other mineral products, and other mineral processing sites.
Preferred Areas	Preferred Areas are clearly defined areas of known minerals resources or locations of opportunity for waste development. However, they are subject to a lesser degree of precision with regard to the definition of the actual site, which may be suitable in principle for development. Preferred Areas may need to be subject to a more detailed evaluation to identify the extent of the development area with more precision.
Areas of Search (minerals only)	Areas of Search are likely to be more geographically extensive areas, generally defined with a lesser

[4] Department for Communities and Local Government, 2014. National Planning Policy for Waste [URL: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364759/141015_National_Planning_Policy_for_Waste.pdf]

	degree of precision than Preferred Areas. They are likely to be characterised by less robust information about the extent and viability of the potential resource. Areas of Search are therefore intended to direct potential developers to areas where suitable sites may be located and where support in principle, subject to identification of a suitable site, is likely to be provided by the planning authority.

This methodology seeks to support the identification and assessment of more specific locations (which may be capable of definition at either the Preferred Area or specific Site level)[5]. A variant of this methodology (see 'Consideration of Areas of Search' below) will also be used for the identification and assessment of broader Areas of Search. Infrastructure Sites are also considered in a slightly different way (see the 'Consideration of Infrastructure Sites' section of this report). For the purposes of this document broader areas of search are referred to as 'Areas' and Specific Sites and Preferred Areas are referred to as 'Sites'.

The methodology broadly comprises a series of steps. These are:

Step 1: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable Sites and Areas;
Step 2: Identification and mapping of key constraints;
Step 3: Initial sustainability appraisal of Sites;
Step 4: Panel review of initial SA findings and feedback to Sustainability Appraisal report

The panel review is expected to take place prior to the Preferred Options stage of Plan development. Public consultation on the Sites and Areas assessment and on the Sites selected for inclusion within the Plan will take place at Preferred Options stage.

This document also includes a guide to the 'baseline' data that has been gathered to support it in Appendix 4. This has largely involved extending the scope of the existing Joint Plan Sustainability Appraisal baseline, but some key datasets have been made available on an online interactive map (www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26220/Site-and-area-assessment).

Step 1: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable Sites and Areas

Step 1 of the methodology seeks to identify potential Sites[6] and Areas for inclusion within the Joint Plan. It will include an initial broad screening of these to remove any identified potential Sites or Areas which, if it is apparent at this stage of the process, are fundamentally unsuitable for inclusion within the Plan. This is a desktop exercise that will be carried out by local authority planning staff from the joint authorities.

[5] At this stage of Plan preparation it is not yet known the extent to which it will be necessary to seek to identify Areas of Search for development as opposed to more specific Sites or Preferred Areas
[6] From the outset potential Sites include both Strategic and Non-Strategic Sites.

Step 1, Stage 1: Identification[7]

The first step in any allocation process is to identify a 'long list' of Sites and Areas that can then be mapped and reviewed using the assessment process outlined in the rest of this paper.

The main means by which both minerals and waste Sites and Areas have been identified for consideration by the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan is via the submission of Sites/Areas by the minerals and waste industry/landowners for consideration.

Alongside the First Consultation on the Joint Plan carried out in May / June 2013, a call for sites was issued. This provided an opportunity for relevant parties to submit details of sites they would wish to see identified as being suitable for future minerals or waste related development. Two previous 'call for sites' exercises had also been issued by City of York Council in August 2012 and North Yorkshire County Council in 2011.

Details of the Sites submitted were published in Appendix 1 of the Issues and Options Report. This is further updated through the Supplementary Sites Consultation Report.

Areas of Search and Preferred Areas, where required, will be defined through a more strategic review. Areas of Search, which apply to minerals alone, will be identified through analysis of minerals resource information, particularly British Geological Survey minerals resource data. Preferred Areas for minerals are also likely to utilise resource data for minerals alongside local knowledge received through the call for sites process. Such local knowledge will also be utilised where Preferred Areas for waste are defined.

Step 1, Stage 2: Initial broad screening

Potentially suitable mineral and waste Sites and Areas identified in Stage 1 will be explored in relation to a series of screening questions (set out in the table below). A technical judgement will be made on the broad suitability of each potential Site/Area Allocation, and the justification for progress (or otherwise) to the next part of the assessment (step 2) will be recorded in the table

Table 1: Broad Screening Questions

If a Minerals Site/Area the following broad screening questions will be asked	**If a Waste Site/Area the following broad screening questions will be asked**	**Response and details as necessary**
Is the land / Site likely to contain a viable resource of mineral, the extraction of which	Is the land / Site likely to provide a viable contribution to future requirements for waste	

[7] A separate approach to step 1 has been developed for infrastructure sites – see page 17

could contribute to future requirements for minerals? (This will include whether the site provides a contribution to future requirements for minerals supply in line with needs expected to be identified in the Plan.)[8]	management infrastructure needs? (This will include whether the site provides a contribution to future requirements for waste management in line with needs expected to be identified in the Plan.)	
Is the land/Site likely to be available[9] for the intended form of development within the relevant time period?		
Are there any major infrastructure constraints (e.g. absence of potential access to the land/Site) such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable?		
Are there any major human population constraints such that the development type proposed is unlikely to be deliverable?[10]		
Are there any overriding major environmental constraints such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable? (This will include that the site is within an area designated as an SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, within Groundwater Protection Zone 1 or an area of functional flood plain.[11])		
Should the Site progress to Step 2 of the Assessment Methodology? (Include justification.)		

After the broad screening questions in Table 1 have been completed, a judgement will be made as to which Sites and/or Areas to exclude from further assessment. In most cases this judgement will not be based on a single negative outcome on any of the broad screening questions. Rather, it will be based on the balance of outcomes

[8] As part of the Joint Plan preparation process evidence has been gathered on the minerals resources within the plan area via a series of topic papers. These are published at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwevidence]. The Plan will identify those minerals for which it will be necessary / appropriate to allocate sites.

[9] As a minimum there needs to be general landowner support for the development and there are no known physical or other reasons why the site could not be brought forward for development for the intended purpose within the relevant time period.

[10] This will include human receptors that would make a particular site undeliverable. Obviously these constraints will vary markedly between categories of development, so we are unable to create a definitive list of constraints in a document such as this, and will rely on professional judgement, established good practice and evidence to determine whether such a constraint is likely to curtail the development potential of the Site.

[11] For non-sand and gravel sites

reported. If the outcome of initial screening is uncertain, locations will still be allowed to progress to Step 2 of the Site Assessment Methodology and uncertainties will be reviewed by the panel assembled at Step 4.

Should any site be screened out at Step 1, the judgement will be made available to the site promoter and that person or organisation will be able to offer evidence to counter the judgement, which if considered valid would allow sites to remain in the assessment process and progress to step 2.

Distinct approaches for the identification and assessment of Areas of Search and Infrastructure Sites that support minerals and waste development are set out at the end of this report.

Step 2: Identification and mapping of key constraints

This step will use a Geographical Information System to map proposed Areas or Sites along with a range of features that may represent a constraint or opportunity in relation to future development. A list of key constraints / opportunities that will be mapped where practicable is included in Table 2.

Table 2: Key Constraints / Opportunities to be Mapped[12]

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
The Natura 2000 Network (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas) and Ramsar wetland sites	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (Local Wildlife Sites) Important Bird Areas	UK Priority Habitats
England Habitat Network and local habitat networks / Green Infrastructure corridors / Living Landscapes	Ancient woodland / Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites
National Nature Reserves	Nature Improvement Areas
Local Nature Reserves	RSPB Reserves
Landscape	
National Parks[13], AONBs, Heritage Coast	District level landscape designations
Green belt[14]	Inheritance Tax Exemption Land[15]
Water and soil	
Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	Groundwater Source Protection Zones
Environment Agency Flood Zones	Agricultural Land Quality[16]
Air	
Hazardous substances consent sites	Air Quality Management Areas[17]

[12] Note: Not all constraints identified here can be made publicly available due to restrictions on use

[13] Note that National Park purposes relate to their wildlife and cultural heritage as well as landscape, and to the provision of opportunities for understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities but have been listed under 'landscape' for the purposes of this exercise. All factors important to the National Park designation will be considered as part of the assessment.

[14] Green belt is an example of a constraint that is considered differently for minerals and waste development. For minerals development, Green Belt is considered by the NPPF not to be an inappropriate location; while waste related development is not listed in the exceptions to the approach to inappropriate development in the Green Belt. However, the National Planning Policy for Waste states that 'waste planning authorities, including by working in partnership with other planning authorities, should first look for suitable sites and areas outside of the Green Belt for waste management facilities that, if located in the Green Belt, would be inappropriate development. Local planning authorities should recognise the particular locational needs of some types of waste management facilities when preparing their Local Plan'.

[15] This includes areas of land or other assets have been exempted from Inheritance Tax in order to preserve national heritage for the benefit of the public, provided certain conditions, including public access, are complied with. A full description of the 'Tax Exempt UK Heritage Assets' scheme is available from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/exemption.htm

[16] Defra make available maps of the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) System that cover grades 1 to 5, but do not distinguish between grades 3a and 3b. Grades 1, 2 and 3a are considered to be Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. At this screening stage grades 1 to 3 will be considered to be of higher quality, while grades 4 and 5 will be considered of lesser quality. However, in certain limited areas more up to date information that does distinguish between grades 3a and 3b is available. This will be reviewed where applicable.

[17] Air Quality Management Areas which are close to being declared will also be reviewed.

Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	
Conservation Areas	Registered Parks and Gardens / Registered battlefields
World Heritage Sites[18]	Scheduled Monuments
Listed buildings	
Population and Human Health / Communities	
Built development	
Recreation and leisure	
Rights of way / open access land and the National Cycle network	Registered village greens and common land
Material Assets and Resources	
MOD Safeguarding	Other airfields
Allocations in other Local Plans covering the Joint Plan area	Land instability / Gypsum dissolution where available
Anaerobic digestion facilities	Existing Active / Dormant Minerals sites and Waste Sites[19]
National grid (energy and gas)	BGS Minerals Resource Areas
Transport	
Timber Routes Map[20]	Rail / Road / Canal network and railheads / wharves facilities
Waterways with potential capacity for freight movements	

Not all constraints are available as mapped GIS files. In order to more fully assess site constraints a site visit to each potential site will be required, the purpose of which will be to supplement desktop data and make a photographic record of the Site.

In addition, a range of contextual information has been gathered during previous work on North Yorkshire's Minerals and Waste Development Framework. In particular, the 'Managing Landscape Change' project supported by North Yorkshire County Council and English Heritage has mapped landscape character and undertaken Phase 1 habitat assessment for key Areas of Surface Minerals Resource Potential[21]. This information will be collated and be used to inform Step 3: 'initial Sustainability Appraisal of Sites'.

Other studies such as North Yorkshire's Landscape Character Assessment and the North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment will also inform the wider context to sites. A review of the relevant District or Borough Local Plan policies and supplementary planning guidance will also be undertaken to ascertain whether there are any issues which are relevant to the site in terms of, for example, providing support or not for particular end-uses.

Similarly, evidence is currently being gathered to support the Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the Joint Plan which will help provide additional information to inform the assessment of sites and areas. The

[18] Including buffer zones
[19] The mapping of site boundaries for the current Active/Dormant minerals sites and waste site is in progress and would need data verification prior to use
[20] Shows agreed routes and restriction on routes for timber freight which may act as an indication of cumulative effects
[21] This relates only to the North Yorkshire Planning Authority Area.

SFRA in particular, may through application of the Sequential Test, require that sites be located away from particular levels of flood risk. In such circumstances, any new location would need to be worked through the methodology from Step 1.

Table 3 shows the additional desktop sources that will be considered.

Table 3: Key (non-mapped) desktop sources to be used when identifying constraints and opportunities

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment	Site of Special Scientific Interest Citations
RSPB Futurescapes (web map)	Tree Preservation Orders
The Development of Draft Biodiversity Targets Arising from Minerals Extraction In the Yorkshire and Humber Region (Unpublished Draft Report)	
Landscape	
National Character Area Profiles	Managing Landscape Change project reports
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment	North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment
District / AONB level landscape character assessments where available	Localised height restrictions
Water and soil	
North Yorkshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (draft)	York Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
North East Yorkshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	North East Shoreline Management Plan 2
Catchment Flood Management Plans	River Basin Management Plans
Contaminated Land Registers	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy[22]
Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	
Historic Environment Records	York Heritage Topic Paper
Citations for historic assets (e.g. list entries for scheduled monuments, World Heritage Sites, citations for Registered Parks and Gardens etc.)	English Heritage Vale of Pickering Statement of Significance
Population and Human Health / Communities / Employment, Education and Deprivation	
Indices of deprivation	
Material Assets and Resources	
BGS / Coal authority information relating to mine workings	HSE Pipelines and Sites, other pipelines[23]
Coal mining hazards	HSE Consultation Zones
Transport	
Existing transport modelling / publicly available transport growth studies where available	Infrastructure Delivery Plans
Other	
Previous planning applications	Aerial photographs where available

[22] In particular, the groundwater management unit resource availability will be noted.
[23] This data is sensitive and will not be made publicly available

Environment Agency 'Guidelines for Developments Requiring Planning Permission and Environmental Permits (England)'.	

Step 2 is a desktop exercise that will be carried out by local authority planners from the joint authorities alongside the Sustainability Appraisal team. Much of the mapped data has already been gathered through the SA Scoping Report http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwsustainability and some of the data has also been made available on the interactive web map at www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26220/Site-and-area-assessment .**Appendix 4 of this report gives a detailed summary of the constraints and opportunities considered to date, and where to access mapped information.**

It should be noted that not all constraints or opportunities apply in equal ways to minerals and waste development. For instance, different national policy approaches to the consideration of green belt apply to minerals and waste development, while physical differences between development types may have varying effects on constraints. Also, different constraints hold a greater level of weight than others, for example the effects on a National Park or AONB would be of greater significance than the same effects applied to a local landscape designation. The distinctions between minerals and waste development are dealt with further in step 3.

Step 3: Initial Sustainability Appraisal of Sites

As the Joint Plan develops, options for policies within it will be assessed against a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Framework. The SA Framework includes a series of headline Sustainability Appraisal objectives along with sub objectives and indicators by which the predicted performance of policy options can be evaluated. The finalised SA Framework is set out in the Joint Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report available at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwsustainability .

The SA Framework within the scoping report is a tool that will allow comprehensive assessment of the likely sustainability effects of *policies and other strategic aspects* of the plan, including their secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects[24]. As a tool, it is written primarily with assessment at a strategic scale in mind. However, assessment at a *site* level requires the SA Framework to be adapted to ensure that specific receptors, or vulnerable areas, for sustainability effects are considered at the individual site level. Site level assessment also requires that additional social,

[24] Annex I of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive defines the types of effects which should be considered in an Environmental Report (SEA is a mandatory part of the Sustainability Appraisal being carried out on the Joint Plan): "effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects'. **Secondary effects** are effects that might occur as the result of an initial effect – so pollution of a river may lead to the secondary effect of pollution of a downstream estuary. **Cumulative effects** are the combined effects of more than one development – so two or three developments placed close to a habitat might isolate that habitat, to the detriment of species within it, significantly more than just one development on its own. **Synergistic effects** are similar to cumulative effects, however, sometimes a 'synergy' can occur between impacts – for instance several air pollutants may combine with sunlight in the atmosphere to create a smog which may have a greater effect than air pollutants on their own.

environmental and economic effects[25] that may occur as a result of locating a site near to another site or some other development are considered.

The SA Framework has therefore been adapted so that the headline objectives within it are followed by a series of site specific questions. At this stage the SA Team will assemble key information that will help to answer the Site level questions and make initial observations as to the relative contribution each site makes to sustainable development by attributing scores ranging from '++' (major positive contribution) to '- -' (major negative contribution). Consideration will be given to the constraints and opportunities identified in Tables 2 and 3 in terms of the status / legal protection applied to these and any relevant policy considerations. As the contributions sites make towards objectives may become evident at different periods during (and after) the plan period, scores will be assigned to short term (S), medium term (M) and long term (L) time periods, where short term equates to effects observed within five years of work commencing on the Site, medium term represents five to fifteen years from work commencing on a Site and long term is sixteen to thirty years from work commencing. Appendix 1 shows the scoring system alongside the adapted Site Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

It is important to note that the SA will utilise information gathered at earlier stages of the Site assessment process as well as additional desktop sources, such as local studies including landscape character assessments (see also Steps 1 and 2 above). It should also be noted that, while the site SA Framework identifies specific questions to ask of each site, some flexibility in approach should be retained by the assessors, for instance if additional constraints not identified by the questions or the evidence gathered are apparent then this should be noted.

At this stage we are not proposing to commission additional studies to answer the questions in the SA Framework. In most cases the analysis and scoring will be based upon review of desktop sources (such as the evidence gathered at step 2 as well as the use of relevant research and guidance documents) and the application of professional judgement. Where necessary, established techniques for appraisal may be employed to support judgements made (see 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'[26] for a description of evaluation techniques).

Step 3 will be carried out by the Sustainability Appraisal team. This partnership team comprises:

Development Officer (Spatial Evidence) – City of York Council
Senior Planning Policy Officer – North York Moors National Park Authority
Principal Environmental Policy Officer – North Yorkshire County Council
Environmental Policy Officer – North Yorkshire County Council

[25] Including the types of effects identified in Annex I of the SEA Directive (see footnote 6 above). It should be noted that the review of other local plans will help identify cumulative effects.
[26] Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, 2005. A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment [URL: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf]

The diagram in appendix 2 shows how the Site Identification and Assessment Methodology and the wider Joint Plan Sustainability Appraisal relate to one another.

Step 4: Panel review of Initial SA findings and feedback to Sustainability Appraisal Report

Once scores have been awarded to Sites on the basis of the initial Sustainability Appraisal, a panel will be assembled to discuss the findings. The purpose of this stage is to evaluate the potential Site Allocations identified throughout the methodology through the application of a range of expert knowledge and local understanding.

The Joint Plan partners (City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority) will convene an expert panel made up of local authority professionals and key statutory bodies to the planning process to discuss all potential mineral and waste Sites and Areas included at this stage. The process will include consideration of the factors identified as being relevant to each potential Site or Area such as:

- The main potential adverse impacts resultant from Site development;
- Any opportunities that may arise as a result of the development (e.g. through contribution to delivery of green infrastructure through the site restoration process); and
- How might the impacts identified from the Site combine with the impacts of other development?
- Potential mitigation measures that could be applied.

Representation on the panel will be drawn from the following professions as appropriate / available:

- Transport
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Environmental Protection
- Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage
- Planning
- Health and public safety
- Landscape
- Flooding and the water environment
- Geology
- Development Control / Management
- Economy and Regeneration
- Tourism
- Sustainability
- Public Rights of Way

Membership of the Panel at any given time will be published on the North Yorkshire County Council website at www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26220/Site-and-area-assessment .

In order to allow all panel members an equitable opportunity to air their views in open debate, representation will be restricted to a maximum of just one professional per topic listed in the above list of professions. However, the outcomes of panel discussions will be circulated to relevant professionals to gain additional input where the need to do this arises (for instance, where partner authorities and statutory bodies taken together have more than one professional working on a certain topic area).

The panel will draw on their expert knowledge and take a balanced view on the relevant considerations. In order to record the discussions Table 4 will be populated and the outcome for each potential Site Allocation recorded.

Appendix 3 of this report sets out the 'terms of reference' for this panel.

The table will be used to help complete the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal and to inform the inclusion of potential allocations within the Joint Plan. The findings of the process will be recorded as a supporting document to a Sustainability Appraisal update report that will accompany the Preferred Options consultation.

Table 4: Form for Recording Panel Comments

Site / Area to be Assessed	Panel comments (include examples or key evidence where applicable)
Review of initial SA findings: Please list any findings you disagree with, recording the objective number and the points you disagree with.	
Is the Site likely to be deliverable? What factors have led you to your conclusion?	
If the site is in a National Park or AONB would its development be likely to trigger the major development test?[27]	

[27] The NPPF states that 'Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated they are in the public interest. Consideration of such applications should include an assessment of: -the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy; -the cost and scope for having the development outside the designated area, or meeting the need in another way; -any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and extent to which that could be moderated'. The NPPF does not define the point at which any given development becomes a major development. To this end, the Joint Plan Issues and Options document states that 'major development in the context of the Major Development Test is not defined and is determined on a case by case basis'. However, it goes on to state that major development 'is considered to be development which may have the potential to

Are there secondary, synergistic or cumulative effects associated with development of this Site? How significant are these?	
How can the main likely negative effects associated with development of this Site be mitigated?	
What are the main likely opportunities arising from development of this Site?	
This assessment has been made on the information available to the panel. Has this limited your assessment and what further information may help refine the assessment?	
Please list the panel members present when making this assessment	

Once the panel have completed their review, the Site Sustainability Appraisal Framework forms for each site will be updated.

Decisions on which sites to progress with, as well as being broadly consistent with the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal, will need to be consistent with the preferred policy approach. While it is not possible to identify this preferred policy approach until a preferred approach has been defined, a further strategic assessment of all sites will be carried out and published alongside the Preferred Options stage of plan preparation.

As sites / areas should be deliverable in relation to their environmental, social and economic context, as demonstrated by this assessment methodology, and also consistent with the strategic context, all sites / areas will need to demonstrate acceptable results across both this Site / Area assessment and the proposed strategic assessment to be considered for allocation.

These assessments will then form the basis for decisions to be taken on which sites to progress with and which to discard, subject to other considerations as set out in the Limitations section below and the consideration of consultation responses received.

cause significant harm to the special qualities of, and/or the statutory purposes related to, the designated area due to either its scale or nature or both'.

Consideration of Areas of Search

Areas of Search will also be considered using the approach outlined in this paper. However, the broader nature of Areas of Search means that the questions highlighted in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework at Step 3 will be less relevant as the questions are location specific. Instead the Sustainability Appraisal Framework used for consideration of the Joint Plan as a whole will be used to undertake an initial assessment of these Areas, and relevant key facts associated with the sub objectives in that Framework will be made available to the panel. The SA Framework for the plan as a whole is located at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwsustainability

Consideration of Minerals Infrastructure Sites

The Local Plan will also consider allocating supporting infrastructure to minerals and waste Sites, such as transport or important processing infrastructure. As this infrastructure can only be considered necessary if it plays some supporting role to existing sites or other potential Areas and Sites to be identified in the Plan, a separate approach to Step 1 has been developed. The Infrastructure Sites would then be considered in line with steps 2 to 4 of this methodology. Step 1 for Infrastructure Sites is shown at table 5 below.

Table 5: Step 1 Screening Table for Infrastructure Sites

Question	Response and details as necessary
Is the site necessary to help ensure the supply of minerals or mineral products in accordance with Plan objectives?	
Is the Site likely to be available[28] for the intended form of development within the relevant time period?	
Are there any major constraints (e.g. absence of potential access to the Site) such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable?	
Are there any major human population constraints such that the development type proposed is unlikely to be deliverable?	
Are there any overriding major environmental constraints (this will include that the Site is within an area designated as an SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, within Groundwater Protection Zone 1 or an area of functional flood plain[29])) such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable?	

[28] As a minimum there needs to be general landowner support for the development and there are no known physical or other reasons why the site could not be brought forward for development for the intended purpose within the relevant time period.
[29] For non-sand and gravel sites

Should the Site progress to Step 2 of the Assessment Methodology (include justification)?	

Limitations

Although this Site assessment process will give a broad assessment of the suitability of Sites and Areas it should not be treated as a standalone assessment. While all four elements of the assessment process will inform the final allocations in the Joint Plan, there are also other key considerations that must be taken into account. For instance, the broader spatial approach of the Plan will inform where Sites identified as suitable through the Site assessment process can be allocated. As previously mentioned, consistency with the strategic / broad spatial approach will be demonstrated via a separate strategic assessment of each Site and Area. Similarly, Sites will also be subject to other assessments, such as Strategic Flood Risk Assessment or Habitats Regulations Assessment, which may identify significant obstacles to an otherwise suitable Site being allocated. However, in most cases such constraints would be picked up through the Site Assessment Methodology process as these additional assessments will be kept under review.

It should also be noted that the Site assessment process is largely an assessment of above ground planning constraints and issues. There are also additional underground and geological considerations that may have a bearing on Sites, such as the issue of potential subsidence associated with underground operations. Such considerations will be included in the Site assessment process where appropriate and where relevant information is available, however, strategic assessment of underground constraints is not a substitute for detailed geophysical survey.

An additional limitation is that the Site assessment is aiming to identify a range of Sites that would be suitable for allocation in a plan. This is not the same as identifying specific developments that would be suitable on those Sites. The planning process, and the requirement to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment on many minerals and waste Sites, will provide an up to date assessment of the suitability of specific development proposals at any given Site. This process sits alongside pollution control regimes which require the permitting of many environmental impacts to be controlled by regulatory bodies. In this respect, this assessment does not attempt to pre-empt information that would ordinarily be expected to be provided through the planning application process.

This last point is particularly pertinent to step 3 of this methodology. Evaluating the environmental, social and economic effects of any action can be a process that relies on a high degree of detail to reach a firm conclusion. With Site allocations the details of any future development will be unknown, therefore it can be extremely difficult to estimate the actual magnitude of any particular impact. However, we can often indicate the likelihood that a positive or negative impact might occur as a result of putting development in a particular place. Such predictions can range from being predictions made with a high degree of confidence to predictions made with a lesser degree of confidence. We will indicate where conclusions are uncertain in the SA Framework pro forma. We will also note any sources used in making the

assessments and how professional judgment has been utilised.

Ultimately, decisions about which sites or areas should be identified in the Plan will be a matter for the three planning authorities involved in preparation of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan, taking into account views received through public consultation as well as the various assessment and appraisal processes to be used.

It should be noted that where wider public consultation (e.g. on other Joint Plan draft documents) has provided additional relevant information on sites or areas that we previously have not had access to we will take this into account whilst undertaking the assessment.

Next Steps

While we consider this methodology to be a workable methodology for the assessment of Sites and Areas, the diverse range of sites that it will be required to review, as well as the scale of the Joint Plan area, means that we will keep this document under review. However, between now and the Preferred Options consultations on the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan we will assess sites using the steps outlined in this methodology. This will culminate in the publication of a draft Sites and Areas assessment findings report for public consultation alongside the Preferred Options consultation.

Ultimately the finalised conclusions of this work will have informed the preparation of the Joint Plan, and will be documented in an annex to the final Sustainability / Environmental Report that will be submitted for Examination. We will publish a draft of this report at the Pre-Submission stage of Plan preparation. After the Sustainability Report has been through Examination a final report showing how the Sustainability Appraisal (including the assessment of Sites) has been taken into account in the adopted Joint Plan, as well as the arrangements for monitoring, will be published.

Contact details:

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If you would like to contact someone in any of the three authorities, please use the contact details below:

North Yorkshire County Council: Environmental Policy Officers - mwsustainability@northyorks.gov.uk 01609 536493

North York Moors National Park Authority: – policy@northyorkmoors.org.uk, 01439 772700

City of York Council: integratedstrategy@york.gov.uk

Appendix 1: The Site SA Framework with Columns for Recording Initial Observations

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
1. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geo-diversity and improve habitat connectivity	How far is the Site from key biodiversity and geo-diversity assets, i.e.: international, national and local nature / geology designations, ancient woodlands or habitats of principal importance? Would development of the Site be likely to have any significant effects on the integrity of an SAC, SPA or Ramsar site?[32] Would future development at the Site be likely to have an adverse effect on any Site of Special Scientific Interest or locally designated nature conservation site or network? Are there likely to be protected or nationally important habitats or species[33] on the Site or within a distance where they are likely to be affected? Would development of the Site be likely to result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland? Does the Site contain any woodland or trees or is it likely to affect any	Example: The site is 50 metres from [name of SAC]. This may be significant as there is likely to be hydrological connectivity between the Site and the SAC. There is also a range of habitats on the Site including woodland and the UK principal habitat [name of principal habitat] which is likely to support a number of species including protected species such as [name of protected species].			

[30] In the final environmental / sustainability report predicted effects on key indicators will also be taken into account in the appraisal. For a list of the indicators that accompanies each sustainability objective see the Joint Plan Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwsustainability .

[31] It is important to note that, when deciding whether a score should be awarded we will employ 'source – pathway – receptor' thinking to help determine if an observed effect has a larger or smaller impact on relevant receptors. For a full explanation of the 'source – pathway – receptor' approach users should consult the SA scoping report. However, readers should note that sources will be derived from the site allocation considered alongside the range of possible impacts associated with either developing the site per se, or where more detail is known on the use of the site, by considering the table of effects of minerals and waste development identified in the sustainability appraisal issues and options report (http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26217/Sustainability-appraisal). Receptors will be considered in terms of their sensitivity and capacity to accommodate change wherever possible, and will broadly align with the constraints and opportunities identified at step 2.

[32] This will be determined through Habitats Regulations Assessment of Sites and Areas

[33] Nationally important habitats and species are those listed as habitats and species of principal importance by the Secretary of State in consultation with Natural England in line with the requirements of Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006. The latest lists of such habitats and species can be found at http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140605090108/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
	adjacent woodland? Would developing the Site be likely to damage geological assets such as Local Geological Sites or RIGS or enhance them? Is there an opportunity to improve the connections between, increase the area of, or improve the condition of nationally important habitats? Might locating development at this Site increase or inhibit the distribution of invasive species? Does allocating the Site represent an opportunity for people wishing to access the natural environment, or will allocating the Site block access? Are there adjacent habitats that could be affected by possible / likely future de-watering of at the Site if developed? (Minerals only.) Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on biodiversity / geo-diversity resulting from nearby planned developments?	The SAC is known to be affected by invasive plant species such as [name]. Movement of vehicles on Site may increase fertility close to the boundary of the SAC through pollution deposition. Initial assessment of the Site shows that it has a (-) negative influence on biodiversity.			
2. To enhance or maintain water quality and improve efficiency of water use	Would future development of the Site be likely to affect surface or ground water quality and quantity and would it be likely to prevent that water body reaching good status? Is the Site on a significant aquifer and is this likely to be affected? Would development at the Site divert water from a Source Protection Zone? Is the topography of the Site conducive to run off, and if the Site were developed would this affect any sensitive receptors? Is the Site in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and is this likely to be affected? Will allocating the site impact significantly on water availability? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on water resulting from nearby planned developments?				
3. To reduce transport miles and associated emissions from transport and encourage the use of sustainable modes of transportation	How far is the Site from significant markets or sources? Is the location justifiable given other locational factors (such as the distribution of minerals) or would the location be likely to generate more traffic impacts than alternative Site options? Are there opportunities for sustainable movement of minerals or waste to and from the Site, if developed? For example, is there a railhead or wharf that could be used nearby? Is the site proximal to the strategic road network? Is the Site accessible to employees (e.g. close to a rail station or cycle route) or is it likely to involve long road journeys?				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
	Does the road system close to the Site have sufficient capacity to accommodate the levels of traffic likely to be generated by the Site if developed? Does the Allocation safeguard any transport infrastructure? Would potential traffic from the Site, if developed, be routed through settlements? Are there any opportunities to utilise biogas or other sustainable fuels for transport from minerals and waste operations? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on transport resulting from nearby planned developments?				
4. To protect and improve air quality	Would development at the site and the associated generation of traffic, be likely to cause air pollution? Would it be likely that significant dust would be generated? Is the Site close to areas or populations that are sensitive to pollution or dust deposition? Are there other Sites close by that are likely to add to any air pollution problems that might be associated with the site? Is the Site, or are likely transport routes, in or close to an Air Quality Management Area or near to an AQMA that is close to being declared? Will possible development at a Site generate bio-aerosols and would this affect any receptors? (Waste sites only.) Will possible development at a Site generate significant odours? (Waste sites only.) Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on air resulting from nearby planned developments?				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
5. To use soil and land efficiently and safeguard or enhance their quality	Is the Site in Agricultural Land Classification Zones 1 to 3a (where 3a can be differentiated)? Is the Site on brownfield land? How much land would be lost to the Site, temporarily or permanently, if developed? Would development of the Site present an opportunity to enhance soil or agricultural land quality? Would the Site allocation support a process that is likely to recover nutrient value from biodegradable waste or provide nutrient value from minerals? If the site is on contaminated land, how would its development be likely to affect the water environment? Would land instability be likely to be an issue? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on soils and land resulting from nearby planned developments?				
6. Reduce the causes of climate change	Is the land on the Site likely to hold significant carbon stocks (e.g. would woodland, deep peat, heathland, bogs or other significant carbon stores be lost)? Is access to the Site likely to degrade habitats important for carbon storage? Is the site allocated for a purpose that is likely to move existing waste up the waste hierarchy thereby reducing emissions? How far is the Site from significant markets or sources? Is this likely to be a significant source of unnecessary CO2? Does the site have potential for the creation of new carbon sinks? Could the site offer opportunities for renewable or low carbon energy production as part of its development for minerals or waste? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on climate change resulting from nearby planned developments?				
7. To respond and adapt to the effects of climate change	Is the Site in an area that is likely to flood? Is allocating the Site likely to block the ability of neighbouring land uses to adapt to climate change? (E.g. will the site form a barrier to the formation of a coherent ecological network?) Would development of the Site be likely to provide an opportunity to deliver climate change adaptation? (E.g. habitat refuge etc.) Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on climate adaptation				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
	resulting from nearby planned developments?				
8. To minimise the use of resources and encourage their re-use and safeguarding	Would the Site be allocated for a purpose likely to facilitate the recycling or re-use of minerals or waste? Would the Site be allocated for a purpose that is likely to facilitate the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy (thereby reducing demand for future virgin materials)? (Waste sites only.) Would the Site safeguard infrastructure that may support more sustainable minerals and waste development? Are the minerals proposed to be extracted necessary to meet identified requirements? (Minerals sites only.) Could the Site enable the use of redundant buildings and their curtilages?				
9. To minimise waste generation and prioritise management of waste as high up the waste hierarchy as practicable	Would the Site be allocated for a purpose which moves waste management up the waste hierarchy? (waste sites only) Would the Site be likely to increase the opportunities for local people and businesses to access waste management infrastructure? (waste sites only) Would allocating the Site offer the potential to enable otherwise wasted resources to be utilised (e.g. through co-locating to allow utilisation of waste heat energy)? Would the Site contribute to the Joint Plan Authorities' ability to manage their own waste arisings?				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
10. To conserve or enhance the historic environment and its setting, cultural heritage and character	Is development of the Site likely to result in harm to or enhance elements which contribute to the significance of the following: <u>Designated Heritage Assets</u> -World Heritage Sites -Scheduled Monuments -Listed buildings -Historic parks and gardens -Historic battlefields -Conservation Areas <u>Non-designated Heritage Assets</u> -Archaeological features -Assets on Historic Environment Registers Is development at the Site, taken together with other developments, likely to diminish the historic character / environment of the area (either cumulatively or synergistically)? Would the development of the Site provide building or roofing stone which could be used to conserve the heritage assets of the area or reinforce the distinctive character of the Plan area?				
11. To protect and enhance the quality and character of landscapes and townscapes	Would the Site be within a nationally protected landscape (National Park or AONB)? Will the Site affect an area of heritage coast or an area that is conditionally exempt from heritage tax? Is it within a locally protected landscape? Is the Site likely to affect views from key visual receptors such as National Parks, AONBs or locally identified important landscapes areas, or affect the setting of these areas? How might the Site be likely to negatively alter (or enhance) the landscape setting of a settlement or its townscape? Can the landscape in which the Site is located, taken together with other				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
	Sites, accommodate the level of change which the allocation may enable (including cumulative and synergistic change)? Is the Site in the Green Belt and will it work against the purposes of Green Belt? Is the Site likely to significantly increase visual intrusion (e.g. by being in a high or prominent location or by increasing light pollution)? Is the Site in a particularly tranquil area? Is the Site screened? Are there any local factors that suggest a design led approach to mitigating landscape / townscape might not be possible? Will vehicle movements from the Site change the character of the surrounding area?				
12. Achieve sustainable economic growth and create and support jobs	Would development of the Site be likely to increase local employment opportunities? Would allocating the Site be likely to enable value to be added to products from the waste or minerals industry? Would allocating the Site be likely to enable new business opportunities to emerge or help support existing businesses? Would the location of the Site be likely to hinder or enhance the development of low carbon development? Would development of the Site be likely to hinder other economic or employment opportunities? Would the costs of minerals or waste management be reduced through allocating the Site? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on the economy resulting from nearby planned developments?				
13. Maintain and enhance the viability and vitality of local communities	Would allocating the Site be likely to enable opportunities that would boost tourism? Would future development at the Site allow for new local job creation, training or learning opportunities? Would allocation of the Site be likely to enable the provision of locally available construction materials or recycled construction materials? Would allocating the Site allow for local infrastructure for the management of waste higher up the waste hierarchy? (waste sites only)				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
	Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on community vitality resulting from nearby planned developments?				
14. To provide opportunities to enable recreation, leisure and learning	Would development of the Site impact upon the ability of people to understand and enjoy a National Park? Will the Site allow an opportunity for recreation, leisure and learning through development of the site including restoration or after-use? Would the Site if allocated / developed reduce access to / detract from the experience of recreation, leisure and learning opportunities including public rights of way?' Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on recreation, leisure and learning resulting from nearby planned developments?				
15. To protect and improve the wellbeing, health and safety of local communities	Would development of the Site be likely to increase the level of noise, vibration, vermin, litter or other amenity impact experienced by local communities? Would dust from the Site likely to have an amenity or health impact? Would the Site or traffic levels associated with it be likely to cause any issues of severance to be experienced in communities or impair access to community facilities in any way? Would allocating the Site be likely to lead to increased danger to other road users or pedestrians? Would developing the Site obstruct access to any public rights of way or other routes? Would development of the Site be likely to have an impact on levels of crime in the area? Are there issues of land instability at the site? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on wellbeing, health and safety resulting from nearby planned developments?				

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
16. To minimise flood risk and reduce the impact of flooding	Is the location of the Site likely to be susceptible to flooding?[34] Is development at the Site likely to be classified as 'water compatible'? Will allocating the Site increase the chances of flooding anywhere else? Could development or restoration of the Site reduce flooding in a catchment? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on flooding resulting from nearby planned developments?				
17. To address the needs of a changing population in a sustainable and inclusive manner	Would allocating the Site likely to support community led waste management schemes or increase public access to waste management? (waste sites only) Would development of the Site be likely to prevent other allocated development from taking place? Would the Site make a small or large contribution to self-sufficiency in minerals or waste supply? Are there any cumulative or synergistic effects on a changing population resulting from nearby planned developments?				

Score	Significance[35]
++	The Site option is predicted to have major positive effects on the achievement of the SA objective. For example, this may include a significant contribution to issues or receptor of more than local significance, or to several issues or receptors of local significance.

[34] Much of the information in relation to flooding will come from strategic flood risk assessments

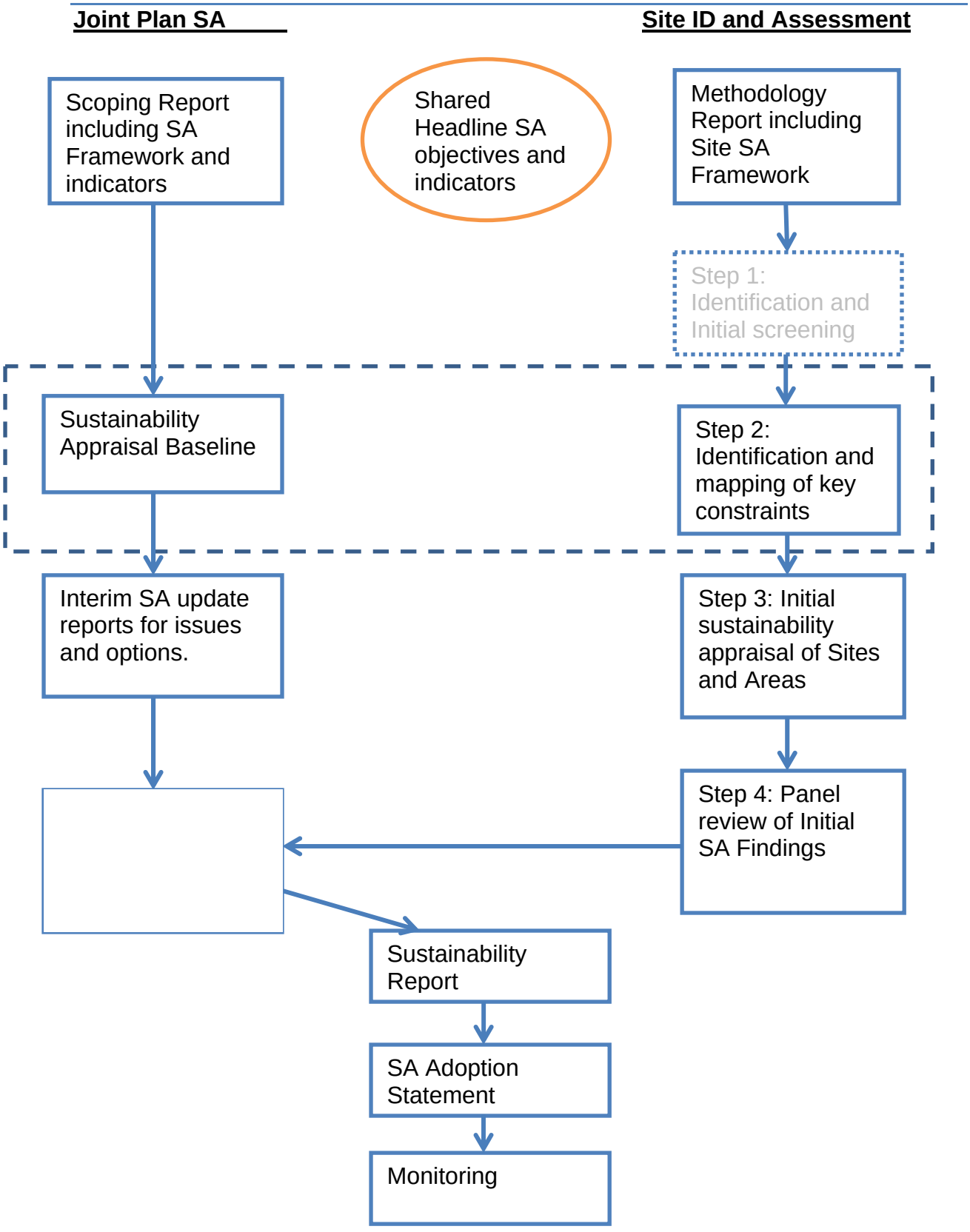
[35] The SEA Directive makes reference to criteria for determining what significant effects might be in relation to deciding whether plans or programmes require SEA. However, these provide a useful indication of the issues to consider when establishing significance in relation to Site assessment. The criteria listed in the SEA Directive are:

- *"The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects*
- *The cumulative nature of the effects*
- *The trans-boundary nature of the effects*
- *The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)*
- *The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)*
- *The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:*
  - Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; - Exceedance of environmental quality standards or limit values; -Intensive land use
- *The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status"*. (Annex II: 2.)

Proposed Sustainability Objective	Questions to Ask of Each Site[30]	Key Facts for Consideration by the Assessment Panel and Initial Observations on Significance	Score[31]		
			S	M	L
+	The Site option is predicted to have minor positive effects on achievement of the SA objective. For example, this may include a significant contribution to an issue or receptor of more local significance.				
0	The Site option will have no effect on the achievement of the SA objective[36].				
-	The Site option is predicted to have minor negative effects on the achievement of the SA objective. For example, this may include a negative contribution to an issue or receptor of local significance.				
--	The Site option is predicted to have major negative effects on the achievement of the SA objective. For example, this may include a significant negative contribution to an issue or receptor of more than local significance.				
?	The impact of the Site option on the SA objective is uncertain.				

[36] This includes where there is no clear link between the site SA objective and the site

Appendix 2: Diagram to Show the Relationship between the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Joint Plan and the Site Identification and Assessment Methodology.



Appendix 3: Terms of Reference for Site Assessment Panel

North Yorkshire, York and North York Moors Site Assessment and Advisory Panel

Purpose of the group

-To evaluate the suitability and deliverability of minerals and waste Sites and Areas under assessment for identification in the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan
-To record the results of their evaluation and feed this information to the Plans Team and Sustainability Appraisal Team

Membership and Secretariat

Membership of the core panel is open by invitation of the three planning authorities to a defined set of professionals with technical expertise in an area of relevance to Site assessment. The outcome of all discussions will be placed in the public domain (in the Sustainability Update Report at preferred options) and will be open to comment and critique by any interested party.

The panel membership may be updated from time to time, but at the time of writing confirmed members of the panel are:

-[This section to be completed once arrangements have been made for panel sessions]

Secretariat functions will be carried out by North Yorkshire County Council. This will include organising meetings of the panel and ensuring the accurate recording of Site assessments.

Accountability

Panel members will be required to declare any interests which may be perceived to influence their objectivity in relation to any particular site prior to panel discussions.

All outcomes of Panel discussion will be placed in the Sustainability Appraisal Update Report and posted on the North Yorkshire County Council website alongside the preferred options consultation.

Appendix 4: Guide to the Baseline for Site Assessment

Topic	Links to baseline data
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	A full description of the biodiversity, flora and fauna baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The following interactive map layers are also available on the North Yorkshire County Council website: National Nature Reserves; Local Nature Reserves; York Nature Conservation Sites; Ramsar sites; Special Areas of Conservation; Sites of Importance Nature Conservation; Site of Special Scientific Interest. The developing Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment assesses the impact of the local plan on European nature conservation sites and is available at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26219/Habitats-regulation-assessment Sites of Special Scientific Interest citations can be viewed at http://www.sssi.naturalengland.org.uk/special/sssi/search.cfm Tree Preservation Orders are made at a district level. Some districts have mapped these, e.g. http://data.gov.uk/dataset/harrogate-district-tree-preservation-orders
Landscape	A full description of the landscape baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The following interactive map layers are also available on the North Yorkshire County Council website: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Greenbelt; Heritage Coasts; National Parks National Character Area (NCA) profiles divide the plan area (and the whole of England) into areas defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geo-diversity and cultural and economic activity. Within the Plan area are parts of 16 NCAs. The NCA profiles can be viewed via a web map at http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/map?category=587130 The Managing Landscape Change project was commissioned to develop an environmental evidence base and assess

	environmental sensitivities and capacity in North Yorkshire to inform a spatial planning strategy for the extraction of minerals. It is available to view at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26667/Local-core-documents---managing-landscape-change-project-April-2012 North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment describes the landscape of the area and the influences that have shaped it. It can help inform the sustainable management of the countryside. It is available at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25431/Landscape-character-assessment . The North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment is also available at http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/looking-after/our-projects/lime-and-ice/landscape-character Landscape Character Assessments are also available at smaller scales, for example district level landscape character assessments.
Water and Soil	A full description of the water and soil baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The following interactive map layers are also available on the North Yorkshire County Council website: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. Much of the mapped data, such as the flood map and Nitrate Vulnerable Zones, is also available on the Environment Agency website 'What's in your Backyard?' maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?ep=maptopics&lang=_e Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) enables development to be located in areas less prone to flooding through the collation of flood risk data. The North Yorkshire SFRA is in development, while two other SFRAs cover other parts of the Plan Area. These are: North east Yorkshire SFRA http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/241637/REPORT-North-East-Yorkshire-Strategic-Flood-Risk-Assessment-PPS25-Update.pdf York SFRA http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200406/ldf_evidence_base_documents/465/ldf_evidence_base_documents/2 According to the Environment Agency 'Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) give an overview of the flood risk

	across each river catchment. They recommend ways of managing those risks now and over the next 50 to 100 years'. The CFMPS are available at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/114022.aspx River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) consider the status of surface and ground water bodies and the action that needs to be taken to improve water quality. The Plan Area mostly falls within the Humber RBMP, with a smaller area in the Northumbria RBMP (https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans) Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies for river catchments in the Yorkshire and Humber region show how water resources will be managed in terms of allowable extraction and are available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/water-abstraction-licensing-strategies-cams-process The North East Shoreline Management Plan 2 (Tyne to Flamborough Head was published in 2007 and sets out the headline policies for future coastal management. Contaminated Land Registers are available at District Councils and for the City of York. These will be checked where there is substantive evidence that land might be contaminated (e.g. where a historic use at the site may have led to contamination)
Air	A full description of the air baseline is available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf Health and Safety Executive Planning Advice for Developments near Hazardous Installations (PADHI) is not available for public view, however this will be referred to when checking for constraints. It will be important to check the PADHI system and where necessary consult with the HSE. For further information on Hazardous Substances Consent and its relationship to planning see the Health and Safety Executive factsheet 'HSE's Current Approach to Land Use Planning'[37] Ultimately sites that impact on air, soils or water may require an environmental permit to operate. The Environment Agency publish 'Guidance for Developments Requiring Planning Permission and Environmental Permits': https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/297009/LIT_7260_bba627.pdf
Cultural Heritage and Historic Environment	A full description of the cultural heritage baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-

[37] HSE, undated. HSE's Current Approach to Land Use Planning [URL: http://www.hse.gov.uk/landuseplanning/lupcurrent.pdf]

	Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The following interactive map layers are also available on the North Yorkshire County Council website: Conservation Areas; Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, York Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, World Heritage Sites The Historic Environment Record (HER) is a system for recording information about historic sites and finds, designated sites, historic landscapes and buildings and other landscape features. There are HER resources at North Yorkshire County Council, the City of York and the North York Moors and a national online database at http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx . A key historic landscape of considerable importance in the Plan Area is the Vale of Pickering. The Vale of Pickering Statement of Significance is published by English Heritage and is available at http://m.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=22213&p=0 City of York has produced a Heritage Topic Paper that helps define the special character and significance of York. This is available from http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/2137/heritage_topic_paper
Population and Human Health / Communities / Employment, Education and Deprivation	A full description of the population and human health and communities baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf Built development is shown as the base layer to the interactive maps on the North Yorkshire County Council website. Further work will be undertaken to define the composition of built development through a review of local plans and through site visits. The Indices of Deprivation identify the most deprived areas across the country by considering a range of indicators combined into a single score covering economic, social and housing issues. In North Yorkshire and York the 2010 Index of Deprivation is shown on the Stream website http://www.streamlis.org.uk/
Recreation and Leisure	A full description of the recreation and leisure baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The City of York and North Yorkshire County Council maintain registers of common land and village greens. These are available

	for checks to be made, though a map that corresponds to the Joint Plan area is not available. Checks will be made of registers during the site assessment process. See http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/25404/Common-land-and-village-green-register for details of how to access the North Yorkshire Register. See http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200394/planning_guidance/350/planning_guidance/8 for details of how to access the York Register See http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/rcbcweb.nsf/Web+Full+List/94C9470409E71A6E80257522004B003A?OpenDocument for details for Redcar and Cleveland.
Material Assets and Resources	A full description of the material assets and resources baseline and maps are available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The Coal Authority publishes a web map showing development high risk areas which indicate where subsidence due to coal mining may be an issue. This is available at: http://coal.decc.gov.uk/en/coal/cms/publications/data/map/map.aspx The same map also shows coal resources and surface mining (past and current). Indicative data on existing and dormant minerals sites is contained within the Joint Plan evidence base 'Minerals Specific Evidence Paper at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23884/Evidence-Paper-2---Minerals-Specific-Evidence-updates-May-2013/pdf/Draft_Evidence_Paper_2_-_Minerals_Specific_Evidence_updates__May_2013.pdf . Topic papers published at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwevidence also contain information on existing and dormant minerals sites. Information on many extant waste sites is shown in the Waste Specific Evidence Paper at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23874/Waste-Specific-Evidence-Base-Final-Jan-Update-2012/pdf/Waste_Specific_Evidence_Base_(Final)_(Jan._Update_2012).pdf . Topic papers published at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwevidence also contain information on existing waste sites. BGS minerals resource data maps are reproduced in the evidence base in the Minerals Topic papers at www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwevidence
Transport	A full description of the transport baseline is available in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report: http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/media/23877/Volume-2---

	Sustainability-Appraisal-Scoping-Report-Baseline/pdf/Volume_2_-_Sustainability_Appraisal_Scoping_Report_Baseline.pdf The timber routes map shows agreed routes and restrictions on routes for timber freight. This is available as web map at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/timbermap .

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