



North

Yorkshire County Council

Minerals Core Strategy Site and Area Assessment Methodology Report September 2010

North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework



Business and Environmental Services

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**North Yorkshire County Council
Minerals Core Strategy**

**Non Technical Summary
Site Identification and Assessment Methodology**

Introduction

The Site Identification and Assessment Methodology aims to identify and assess:

- Potential strategic mineral extraction sites;
- Potential broad areas of search for future minerals extraction; and
- Potential other mineral extraction and development sites;

across North Yorkshire that could deliver agreed requirements for minerals.

The methodology comprises of two elements:

- **Part A: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable areas and sites;**
- **Part B: Detailed evaluation of the potential areas and sites identified under Part A.**

Part A is split into two stages:

1. Identification

Identifies the sources of information to be used in identifying potential mineral allocations

2. Initial broad screening

Sets out a range of broad screening questions aimed at identifying potential major constraints which may prevent allocations from progressing to Part B of the methodology.

Part B is split into three stages

1. Identification of features and designations relevant to mineral allocations

This stage uses information from national and local legislation to identify a range of themes relevant to mineral allocations. The scoped legislation and themes are available in Appendix 1, and have been used to identify a range of features and designations which should be considered when judging potential minerals allocations.

2. Mapping

This stage aims to map potential allocations identified in Part A together with features and designations identified in Part B stage 1 to identify relevant relationships which should be considered at the next stage of the methodology

3. Assessment of Potential Allocations

The final stage of the methodology is the use of a panel of experts to review the information collected throughout the methodology and inform the final decision on which potential allocations should be included for consultation.

Any decisions on the final choice of sites for allocation will be taken by elected members following public consultation.

North Yorkshire County Council Minerals Core Strategy

Site Identification and Assessment Methodology

Introduction

In order to ensure that an adequate supply of minerals is provided, North Yorkshire needs to plan for future minerals development infrastructure. The Minerals Core Strategy will identify broad areas and may identify specific strategic sites for the management and extraction of minerals in North Yorkshire.

This methodology aims to identify and assess:

- Potential strategic mineral extraction sites;
- Potential broad areas of search for future minerals extraction; and
- Potential other mineral extraction and development sites;

across North Yorkshire that could deliver the required provision as set out within any agreed sub-regional apportionment.

For those minerals not subject to sub-regional apportionment the methodology also includes any local assessment of requirements identified through preparation of the Core Strategy. This will help maintain landbanks to ensure an adequate supply of aggregates and other minerals over the plan period. This is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Site Allocations to be included within the Core Strategy

Allocation type	Working definition
Area of search	Areas of search are large areas of land where mineral extraction is considered feasible and will be supported in principle through policy but where specific sites cannot yet be identified. Unless evidence suggests otherwise, the location of such allocations will be shown on the Minerals Core Strategy key diagram, with detailed boundaries shown on the submission proposals map where practicable.
Strategic mineral extraction sites	Strategic mineral extraction sites are locations where mineral extraction is considered feasible within a known boundary. These will be subject to policy support within the Minerals Core Strategy and <i>which will be essential for the delivery of the Core Strategy</i> . Such sites may include extensions to current extraction operations as well as completely new sites. Boundaries will be defined on the submission proposals map.
Strategic sites for other mineral development infrastructure	Strategic sites for mineral development are key locations where minerals are bulked, processed or treated in the absence of any extraction activities, which will be subject to policy support in the Minerals Core Strategy <i>and which will be essential</i>

	<i>for the delivery of the Core Strategy.</i> Types of sites/development may include sites for processing of secondary or recycled aggregates, wharfs and depots and coating and batching plants. Boundaries will be defined on the submission proposals map.
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The methodology will also help with the identification of site specific allocations for inclusion within any subsequent Site Allocations DPD, such as any proposed specific sites for minerals development, including non strategic mineral extraction, processing, batching/coating plants as well as wharfs and depots for mineral transportation (set out in Table 2 below). The methodology includes appraisal processes to ensure final mineral allocations meet the policy requirements.

Table 2: Site Allocations to be included within any Site Allocation DPD

Allocation type	Working definition
Mineral extraction sites	Specific sites are locations where mineral extraction is considered feasible within a known boundary, which are subject of policy support for development and which may include extensions to current extraction operations as well as completely new sites. Boundaries will be defined on the submission proposals map.
Sites for other mineral development infrastructure	Other mineral development sites are locations where minerals are bulked, processed or treated in the absence of any extraction activities and which are subject of policy support for development. Types of sites/developments may include sites for processing of secondary or recycled aggregates, wharfs and depots and coating and batching plants. Boundaries will be defined on the submission proposals map.

In addition to the above allocations North Yorkshire County Council is required by MPS 1 to identify *Mineral Safeguarding Areas* within the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. This methodology will not set out how such areas will be identified or assessed at this stage, as this methodology focuses on areas of search and specific sites only, but they will be included at a later stage.

The methodology broadly comprises of two elements and these are detailed in the rest of this document:

- Part A: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable areas and sites;**
- Part B: Detailed evaluation of the potential areas and sites identified under Part A.**

Part A: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable areas and sites

Part A of the methodology seeks to identify potential allocations for inclusion within the Minerals Core Strategy and any subsequent Site Allocation DPD. It will include an initial broad screening of these to remove any identified potential allocations which are fundamentally unsuitable for inclusion within the overall Minerals and Waste Development Framework.

Stage 1: Identification

Potentially suitable mineral allocations may be identified through:

- Analysis of minerals resource information, particularly British Geological Survey minerals resource data;
- Submission of sites/areas by the minerals industry/landowners for consideration (in some cases this may include re-submission or revision of information about sites or areas put forward during previous Minerals and Waste Development Framework work undertaken by the Council);
- Review of permitted mineral sites (to consider opportunities for extensions);
- Review of information on secondary and recycled aggregates, including site information, levels of arisings, recycling rates and markets.
- Review of existing site specific information (aerial photographs, recent map information etc) and the application of local knowledge (specifically including potential allocations identified through a 'call for sites' process).

Stage 2: Initial broad screening

Potentially suitable mineral allocations 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 Part B of the assessment will be set out in the table:

Table 3: Broad Screening Questions

Broad screening question	Response and details as necessary	Progress to Part B of assessment methodology?
Is the land/site likely to contain a viable resource of mineral, the extraction of which could contribute to future requirements for minerals as identified in the strategic approach to identification of mineral needs to be set out in the Core Strategy?		Y/N (delete as applicable)

Does the land/site provide a potential opportunity for the more sustainable use of minerals (e.g. could it facilitate increased use of alternatives to primary minerals or the more sustainable transport of minerals)?		
Is the land/site likely to be available for the intended form of development within the relevant time period?		
Are there any major infrastructure constraints (eg absence of potential access to the land/site) such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable?		
Are there any overriding major environmental constraints (for example the site is within an area designated as being of international significance, an SPA, Groundwater Protection Zone 1 functional flood plain for non-sand and gravel sites) such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable?		

Any location receiving a negative response to one of more of the broad screening questions will not necessarily be removed from further consideration at this stage, where the outcome of initial screening is uncertain, locations flagged up through this stage of the methodology will be reviewed by the panel as part of Part B stage 3.

Part B: Detailed evaluation of the potential areas and sites identified under Part A.

Part B of the methodology will provide a detailed, consistent and comparable appraisal of those sites or areas which have passed through from the **Part A Identification and Screening** process.

The aim of this part of the assessment process is to facilitate identification of the most suitable locations for minerals-related development through detailed appraisal, taking into account any identified future requirements as set out within the Core Strategy. The scope and content complements strategic mandatory assessments (i.e. Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment, Assessment under the Habitats Regulations and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) and thus informs the findings of the statutory appraisals.

Stage 1: Identification of features and designations relevant to mineral allocations

The purpose of this stage is to identify the main attributes of land put forward for allocation in terms of physical and environmental features and designations. Features and designations will be identified at this stage to help indicate the range of factors that may be relevant to assessment of the potential allocation; these will be assessed in more detail at the next stage of the methodology.

National and local policy and guidance have been scoped to identify relevant themes/constraints. The range is not intended to be exhaustive, rather it seeks to identify those factors that will enable meaningful comparison of site suitability, sensitivity and potential impacts, bearing in mind that the purpose of identifying areas and sites in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework is to establish suitability in principle, with more detailed assessment taking place through the development management process as and when any specific planning applications are submitted. The information included within this broad scoping process is set out in Appendix 1 and has been used to inform Stage 2.

In addition to the constraints/themes identified, each potential allocation is likely to require the consideration of unique local factors which could affect its designation within the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. Therefore, in addition to the features and designations identified within Appendix 1, specific details relating to local or technical knowledge of the site or area will be recorded against each potential allocation at Stage 3.

Stage 2: Mapping

This stage will use a Geographical Information System to map proposed areas of search/sites along with the features and designations identified at stage 1. At this stage the methodology seeks to:

- Identify local/non statutory features and designations within 1km of potential allocation; and
- Identify international/national statutory designations within 10km of any potential allocation.

It is important to note any potential interaction between a proposed allocation and features/designations will depend significantly on the type and scale of minerals development, and would need to be assessed in detail at the planning application stage.

Results of the GIS exercise will be set out in a table as indicated below:

Table 4: Features and Designations Record

Potential Mineral Allocation Reference N°	Local/non statutory features and designations within 1km (list details)	International/ national statutory designations within 10km (list details)

In addition to the results table above, a map of each potential allocation will be produced as a visual representation of the features and designations identified around each potential allocation. This will be used at Stage 3 of the methodology.

Stage 3: Assessment of Potential Allocations

The purpose of this stage is to assess the potential allocations identified throughout the methodology through the application a range of expert knowledge and local understanding.

North Yorkshire County Council will convene an expert panel to discuss all potential mineral allocations included at this stage. The process will include consideration of the factors identified as being relevant to each potential allocation 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
- Potential mitigation measures that could be applied.

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

- Transport
- Ecology and biodiversity
- Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage
- Planning and Landscape
- Flooding and the water environment
- Geology
- Development Management
- Economy
- Regeneration

The Panel will draw on their expert knowledge and take a balanced view on the relevant considerations. In order to record the discussions Table 5 will be populated and a final outcome for each potential allocation recorded.

The table will be used to inform the inclusion of potential allocations within an appropriate public consultation on the Minerals Core Strategy, with the evidence available to view within an appendix.

Table 5: Final Site/Area assessment matrix

Site/Area to be included as a potential allocation within the emerging Core Strategy	Y/N
Comments / Details (record local and technical knowledge and deliverability issues)	
Cumulative	
Locational	
Economic	
Restoration Opportunities	
Deliverability	
Climate Change	
Flooding and Water Environment	
Transport	
Land Use	
Amenity	
Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage	
Landscape, Townscape and Visual Impact	
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	
Potential Mineral Allocation Reference N ^o	

Wider Consultation and decision making

It is intended that initial wider consultation with the public and other stakeholders will take place once a range of potential allocations have been identified, with further consultation taking place once any recommendations are available as to which sites are ultimately considered suitable for allocation. Any decisions on choice of sites for allocation in the final (submission) document will be taken by members of the County Council.

Appendix 1

Scoped themes from relevant plans, policies and programmes (including areas identified through consultation)

The following literature has been considered to help identify the features and designations which will be used to assess the identified locations derived through Part A:

Relevant national planning guidance

- PPS 1: Delivering Sustainable Development
- PPS 1: Planning and Climate Change - Supplement to PPS 1
- PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment
- PPS 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- PPS 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- PPS 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
- PPS 12: Local Spatial Planning
- PPS 23: Planning and Pollution Control
- PPS 25: Development and Flood Risk
- PPG 13: Transport
- PPG 17: Planning for Open space, Sport and Recreation
- MPS 1: Planning and Minerals
- MPS 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England
- MPG 7: Reclamation of Minerals Workings
- Good Practice Guidance on the Environmental Appraisal of the Provision of Aggregates' (ODPM, Jan 2004)
- 'Planning and Minerals: Practice Guide' (CLG, Nov 2006)
- Other Government guidance and Circulars etc.
- The evidence base used to inform the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy (GOYH, May 2008) where this remains relevant.
- North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Sustainability Appraisal objectives
- Emerging Core Strategy policies

The scoped themes are the following:

- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Landscape, Townscape and Visual Impact
- Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage
- Amenity
- Land Use
- Transport and suitability of the road network
- Flooding and the Water Environment
- Climate change
- Deliverability
- Restoration
- Economic
- Locational
- Cumulative

Within these themes a number of features and designations have been identified in order

to establish the most suitable areas for development. These form the basis for Stage 2 of the methodology.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

- SAC / SPA / Ramsar
- SSSI / NNR
- LNR / SINCR / RIG
- Ancient woodland / veteran trees
- Protected species

Landscape, townscape and visual impact/ Amenity / Land Use

- AONB
- National Park
- Residential/local amenity (schools, hospital, offices, existing and proposed residential properties)
- Leisure, recreational facility or open space
- PROW
- Agricultural Land Classifications
- Airfields Safeguarding Areas
- Local Landscape Character

Historic Environment and Cultural Heritage

- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Heritage Coast
- World Heritage Sites
- Scheduled Monument
- Important non-scheduled archaeology
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Registered battlefields
- Historic Landscape Character

Transport/Climate change

- Suitability of road network
- Railhead
- Wharfs
- Canal

Flooding and Water Environment

- Watercourses or bodies
- Flooding Zones
- Groundwater Source Protection Zones
- Water abstraction information

Deliverability

It is important that sites allocated within the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy are deliverable. Sites which are identified within this methodology which cannot fulfil their purpose should not be included in future stages of the Plan. Information about any allocation is required to determine whether it can be delivered during the plan period. This will be drawn from the overall methodology and supplemented with information from the minerals industry and/or landowners to establish the deliverability of potential site

allocations.

Deliverability will be explored and recorded at Stage 3 of this methodology. At Stage 3, where it is clear that an operational site cannot come forward, the site will be excluded from further consideration.

The following areas have been identified as requiring specific consideration for each potential allocation being considered. Each potential allocation will have particular contribution to make in terms of possible restoration and economic opportunities and in many cases it will be useful to consider markets for minerals. In terms of cumulative impacts it will be necessary to consider each potential mineral allocation against the backdrop of other development to gain an understanding of any cumulative impacts such as noise or traffic and opportunities such as employment or redevelopment.

The bullets included under each area are not intended to be exhaustive, rather they will provide a starting point for discussions under Part B, Stage 3.

Restoration

- Green Infrastructure

Economic

- Contribution to the local and wider economy (including potential positive and negative effects)
- Employment

Locational

- Proximity of sources of supply of minerals to principle markets

Cumulative

- Impacts and opportunities arising from extensive and/or prolonged minerals working in any particular area