Your ref:

Our ref: MCS12/January-2011

Planning Services

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31st January 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Minerals Core Strategy Call for Proposals for Consideration for Mineral Development

In order to ensure that an adequate supply of minerals is provided, North Yorkshire County Council as the Minerals Planning Authority needs to plan for future minerals development infrastructure. The Minerals Core Strategy for the period until 2030 is one of the Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which will form part of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) for the parts of the County outside the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks. This will set out the vision, strategy and objectives for minerals development in the county and will identify broad areas and may identify specific strategic sites⁽¹⁾ for the management and extraction of minerals in North Yorkshire. It is expected that a subsequent Site Allocation DPD will identify other minerals extraction sites and sites for other mineral development infrastructure required to meet the overall needs identified in the Core Strategy.

At this stage it is difficult to give a precise definition of what may be considered to be a strategic site because the strategy and objectives have not yet been developed. It is therefore difficult to determine what strategic site allocations may be central to delivery of the strategy. However, as mentioned above the intention, subject to consultation during the next year, is that some or all of the following will be identified within the Core Strategy:

Strategic mineral extraction sites

Locations where mineral extraction is considered feasible within a known boundary, which will be subject to policy support within the Minerals Core Strategy and which will be essential for the delivery of the Core Strategy. Such sites may include extensions to current extraction operations as well as completely new sites.

Footnote 1. Government guidance makes it clear that only strategic sites can be allocated in Core Strategies. See Paragraph 4.6 of Planning Policy Statement 12

Strategic sites for other mineral development infrastructure
 Strategic sites for mineral development are key locations where minerals are bulked,
 transported, processed or treated in the absence of any extraction activities, which will
 be subject to policy support in the Minerals Core Strategy and which will be essential for
 the delivery of the Core Strategy. Types of sites/development may include major sites
 for production and/or processing of secondary or recycled aggregates, wharfs and
 depots.

Areas of search

Broad areas of land where mineral extraction is considered feasible and will be supported in principle through policy but where specific sites are not yet identified.

As part of the preparation of the Core Strategy we are compiling the evidence base which will inform the strategy. This will include consideration of the current levels of provision for mineral facilities and the potential future levels of provision we should plan for. Consequently, we are now asking mineral site operators, landowners and other interested parties to put forward outline proposals for consideration for mineral uses, including minerals extraction sites and other mineral development infrastructure such as wharves, rail depots and secondary aggregate facilities. We would also be interested in proposals for recycling aggregate facilities where these are to be associated with minerals development. Information regarding recycling aggregate facilities associated with waste developments or as independent operations will be sought in due course during the preparation of the Waste Core Strategy.

You may be aware that there were previous calls for proposed sites in 2006/7 in respect of earlier work on a Minerals Core Strategy which was not subsequently carried forward. It would be helpful to include confirmation as to whether any of the sites proposed now are identical to those previously submitted or, if changed, what has changed. Likewise although information has previously been requested and supplied in connection with existing mineral extraction sites, there are mineral wharves, rail depots and opportunities for aggregate recycling and secondary aggregate production and processing facilities which also need to be considered as part of the plan making process. We would therefore be grateful for details of any such existing or proposed potential new or expanded facilities for these forms of development.

The process of site assessment will form an important part of the DPD preparation. At this stage it is important that as many potential options for future development are made available for consideration and the Council would like to encourage you to become involved in this process at an early stage. The minimum information that we require at present is the following, but please note we may need to come back to you for further information as preparation of the Minerals Core Strategy progresses:

Information required	Minerals	Other
	Extraction	development
Name, company, address and contact details	✓	✓
Name and address of landowner(s) (if different from the	✓	✓
above)		
Location and address of the proposed site or area (Please	✓	✓
include a site or area map on an Ordnance Survey plan,		
clearly showing the site boundary and adjacent areas which		
have already been worked/are operation if applicable)		
What mineral type is proposed for extraction	√	

Information required	Minerals Extraction	Other development
What tonnage of material is anticipated to be available in the site/resource area (please indicate if this information is based on detailed geological information including borehole surveys already undertaken or is a desk-based assessment).	√	
What output/throughput and/or potential capacity is anticipated for the site or facility	✓	√
When is it anticipated that the development would commence and for how long is it anticipated that the site would be operational.	√	√
Any other information you consider would be helpful	✓	✓

Details of the Sites and Areas Assessment methodology that will be used to help decide which sites or areas may be suitable for future minerals development can be found on the County Council's website at http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=13289.

We are requesting that information in respect of the above matters is submitted to us by 11th March 2011. Our preferred method for submission of this information is through the M&WDF page of the County Council's website www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwdf, however, we would also be happy to received the information by email MWDF@northyorks.gov.uk or by post.

If you or other representatives of your company or organisation would like to meet with us to discuss this process or any other aspect of the North Yorkshire MWDF, please let us know by email MWDF@northyorks.gov.uk or phone 0845 8727374. If you do not wish to be included in future correspondence in connection with the MWDF, please let us know and we will remove your details from our database. If you have received this letter by post and would prefer to be contact by email in the future, again, please let us know and we will update your details.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Pillar Senior Planning Policy Officer