



North

Yorkshire County Council

Waste Core Strategy Site Assessment Methodology Report December 2011

North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework

Business and Environmental Services

A responsive County Council providing excellent and efficient local services

**North Yorkshire County Council
Waste Core Strategy**

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

Introduction

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

- Potential strategic sites or locations for waste management;
- Potential other (non-strategic) sites or locations for waste management;

across North Yorkshire that could deliver agreed requirements for waste management capacity.

The methodology comprises of two elements:

- **Part A: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable locations and sites;**
- **Part B: Detailed evaluation of the potential locations 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 waste 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

3. Identification of features and designations relevant to waste allocations

This stage uses information from national and local legislation to identify a range of themes relevant to waste 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 waste allocations.

4. Mapping

This stage aims to map potential allocations identified in Part A together with features and designations identified in Part B stage 3 to identify relevant relationships which should be considered at the next stage of the methodology

5. 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.

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1. Introduction

In order to ensure that an adequate network of facilities for the management of waste is provided, North Yorkshire needs to plan for future waste management infrastructure. The Waste Core Strategy will identify broad areas and may identify specific strategic sites for the management of waste in North Yorkshire.

This methodology aims to identify and assess:

- Potential strategic waste management sites; and
- Potential other waste management sites;

across North Yorkshire that could deliver the required provision as set out within the Core Strategy. Consultation on a draft methodology took place between July and September 2011.

The types of site we may need to identify are set out below.

Allocation type	Working definition
Strategic waste management sites	Strategic waste management sites are locations where the development is considered feasible within a known boundary. These sites will be subject to policy support within the Waste Core Strategy and <i>will be those sites considered to be essential for the delivery of the Core Strategy</i> . Such sites may include extensions to current operations as well as completely new sites. Boundaries will be defined on the submission proposals map.

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

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 waste management development, including non strategic facilities (set out in Table 2 below). The methodology includes appraisal processes to ensure final waste allocations meet the policy requirements.

Allocation type	Working definition
Other non strategic sites	Specific sites are locations where waste management is considered feasible within a known boundary, which are subject of policy support for development and which may include extensions to current operations as well as completely new sites. Boundaries will be defined on the submission proposals map.

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

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 locations and sites;**
- Part B: Detailed evaluation of the potential locations and sites identified under Part A.**

2. Part A: Identification and initial screening of potentially suitable sites

Part A of the methodology seeks to identify potential allocations for inclusion within the Waste Core Strategy and any subsequent Site Allocations DPD. It will include an initial broad screening of these to remove any potential allocations which are fundamentally unsuitable for inclusion within either the Waste Core Strategy or any subsequent site allocations DPD.

Stage 1: Identification

Potentially suitable waste management allocations may be identified through:

- Submission of sites by the waste industry/landowners, or other relevant parties 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 waste management sites (to consider opportunities for extensions);
- 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 waste 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:

Broad screening question	Response and details as necessary	Progress to Part B of assessment methodology?
Is the land/site likely to provide a viable contribution to future requirements for waste management infrastructure needs (including consideration of waste management needs to be set out in the Core Strategy) ?		Y/N (delete as applicable)
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, Groundwater Protection Zone 1, functional flood plain) such that the development is unlikely to be deliverable?		
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Table 3: Broad Screening Questions

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 5 of the process.

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3. Part B: Detailed evaluation of the potential sites.

Part B of the methodology will provide a detailed, consistent and comparable appraisal of those sites which have passed through from the **Part A Identification (stage 1) and Screening (stage 2)** process.

The aim of this part of the assessment process is to facilitate identification of the most suitable locations for waste management development through more 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 3: Identification of features and designations relevant to waste 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 4.

In addition to the constraints/themes identified, each potential allocation is likely to require the consideration of unique local factors which could affect its allocation 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 5.

Stage 4: Mapping

This stage will use a Geographical Information System to map proposed sites along with the features and designations identified at stage 3. At this stage the methodology seeks to:

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

It is important to note that any potential interaction between a proposed allocation and features/designations will depend significantly on the type and scale of waste management 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:

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

Table 4: Features and Designations Record

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 5 of the methodology.



Stage 5: Assessment of Potential Allocations

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

North Yorkshire County Council will convene an expert panel to discuss all potential waste 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
- 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
- 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 Waste Core Strategy, with the evidence available to view within an appendix.

Site 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 Waste Allocation Reference N ^o	

Table 5: Final Site assessment matrix

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.

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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
- Other Government guidance and Circulars etc.

Regional and Local Policy

- 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 help establish the most suitable locations for development. These form the basis for Stage 4 of the methodology.

Biodiversity & Geodiversity

- SAC / SPA / Ramsar
- SSSI / NNR
- LNR / SINC / 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
- Green Belt

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 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 waste 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. In terms of cumulative impacts it will be necessary to consider each potential waste 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 waste/enabling waste to be dealt with at the nearest appropriate location
- Scope for co-location with complementary facilities

Cumulative

- Impacts and opportunities arising from extensive and/or prolonged waste developments in any particular area