

**North Yorkshire County Council, City of York and North York Moors
National Park Authority Minerals and Waste Joint Plan
Examination**

Joint Plan Authorities' Supplementary Note for the Inspector with regard to Areas which Protect the Historic Character and Setting of York

Introduction

1. At the examination hearings relating to policies for hydrocarbons development, the Inspector asked for a note to justify the inclusion of "Areas which Protect the Historic Character and Setting of York" ("Areas") within the protection afforded by Policy M16(b)(i).
2. Paragraph 5.129 of the Joint Plan provides further explanation of the reference to the Areas in the policy.

"Although the City of York is not protected in the same way as National Parks and AONBs, the historic character and setting of the City is a key reason for having designated the York Green Belt, one of only six cities in England where this reason applies, and the historic City as a whole does not benefit from any other specific national policy protection. The relatively flat and low-lying landscape around York allows for long distance views of the Minster and other landmark buildings which are integral to the setting of the City..."

3. Paragraph 9.62 also states that:

"Evidence produced by City of York Council in 2013⁴⁷ identifies six principal defining characteristics which are strategically important to the historic character and setting of York, that set York apart from other similar cities in England [Footnote 47 refers to the City of York Heritage Topic Paper Update 2013]. These characteristics are:

- The City's strong urban form, townscape, layout of streets and squares, building plots, alleyways, arterial routes, and parks and gardens;
- The City's compactness;
- The City's landmark monuments, in particular the City Walls and Bars, the Minster, churches, guildhalls, Clifford's Tower, the main railway station and other structures associated and chocolate manufacturing heritage;

- The City's architectural character, this rich diversity of age and construction displays variety and order and is accompanied by a wealth of detail in windows and door openings; bay rhythms; chimneys and roofscapes; brick; stone; timber; ranges; gables; ironwork; passageways; and rear yards and gardens;
 - The City's archaeological complexity: the extensive and internationally important archaeological deposits beneath the City;
 - The City's landscape and setting within its rural hinterland and the open green strays and river corridors and Ings, which penetrate into the heart of the urban area, breaking up the City's built form.
4. The work which the City of York has carried out in relation to its Green Belt protection as well as the special character and setting of the historic city has informed the inclusion of the Areas within the protection afforded by Policy M16. This is explained further below.

Approach to defining the Areas

5. The Areas have been defined through long-standing work which has been carried out by the City of York Council in connection with its green belt and heritage protection. This has culminated in the preparation of the York Local Plan and inclusion of policies to inform and guide decisions around growth and change. Further information relating to the preparation of the Plan (which is currently at Regulation 19 consultation stage), is set out in Annex A, including policies SS1 and SS2.
6. Policy SS1 of the emerging York Local Plan identifies one of the spatial principles in locating development, as being "*...conserving and enhancing York's historic and natural environment. This includes the city's character and setting and internationally, nationally and locally significant nature conservation sites, green corridors and areas with an important recreation function*". The basis for the policy is that there are areas of land outside the existing built up areas that should be retained as open land due to their role in preserving the historic character and setting of York.
7. Local Plan Policy SS2 'The Role of York's Green Belt' sets the policy context for a green belt around York, noting that its primary purpose is to safeguard the setting and special character of York.

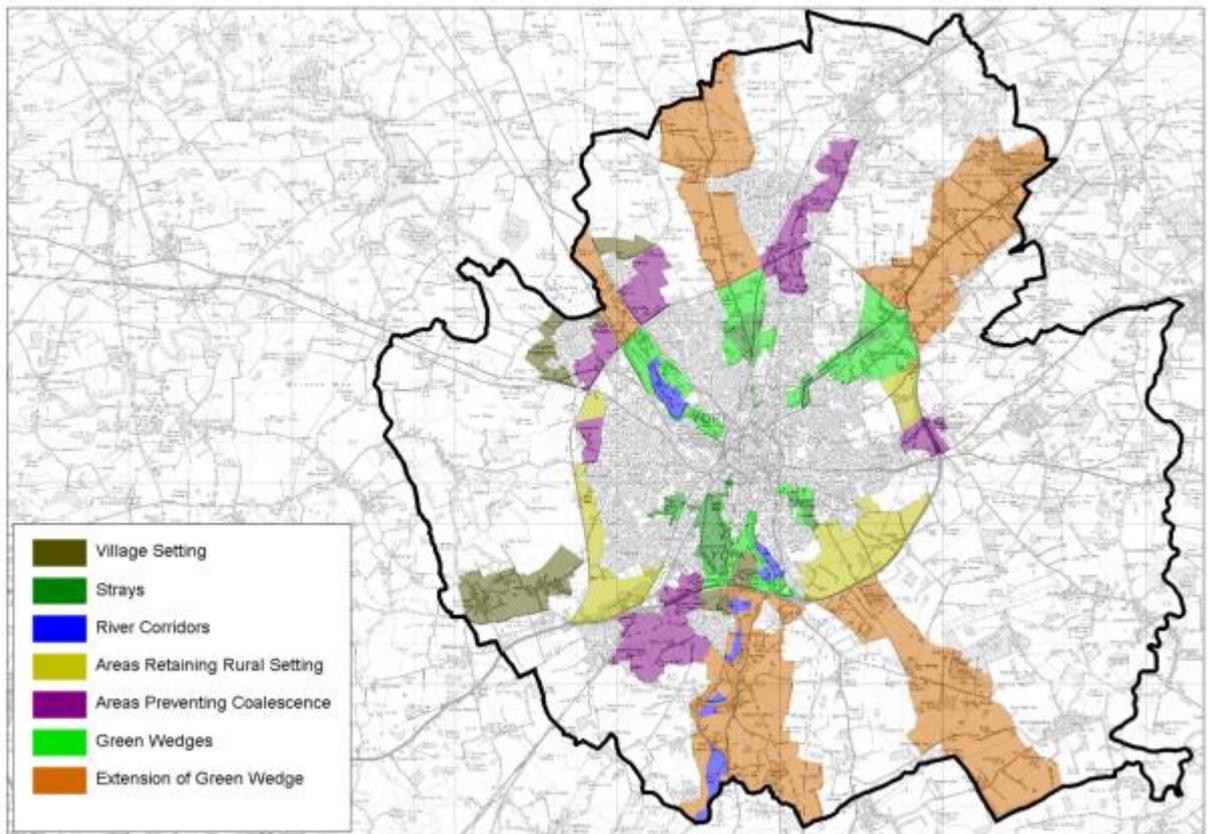
Further explanation of the background to Green Belt policy in York is set out at Annex B.

8. The emerging Local Plan makes use of a range of technical studies and evidence to inform and guide decisions around growth and change, reflecting the primary role of York's Green Belt in preserving the historic character and setting of the City.
9. This includes "The Approach to Green Belt Appraisal" (February 2003) [LPA80], as updated by Historic Character and Setting Technical Papers 2011 and 2013 [LPA81].
10. 'The Approach to Green Belt Appraisal' was produced as supporting evidence to the York Green Belt Review, to assist the Council in establishing a permanent Green Belt through the previous emerging City of York Local Plan [OEB18]. The appraisal consisted of three component parts: (a) a desk top study, which reviewed relevant written information and policy including PPG2, as well as considering in detail maps both historic and current of the City of York Council area; (b) field analysis (a considerable amount of time was spent in the field assessing the land outside of the City's Built up area); and (c) data collation and analysis (the output of the two stages above was analysed and evaluated to determine which areas of land re most valuable in Green Belt terms).
11. The appraisal document acknowledges the five purposes of Green Belts, as outlined in Planning guidance (then PPG2, 1995). It was considered that the purposes of preserving the setting and special character of historic towns was particularly significant in the context of York. The focus of work was therefore on defining what was meant by the historic character and setting of York.
12. The appraisal considered that the historic character and setting of the City should be defined in terms of the following elements (see pages 4-8 for further details):
 - Open approaches to the City;
 - Green Wedges;
 - Views of the Minster;
 - Character of the landscape;
 - Urban form;
 - Relationship between the urban edge and the countryside;
 - The relationship with the surrounding villages.

13. Using the analysis of the historic character and setting of York, these seven points were translated into broad categories that could be identified spatially. These areas are described in the report as follows:

Most valuable areas of Green belt - Categories of land

- Areas which retain, reinforce and extend the pattern of historic green wedges.
 - Areas which provide an impression of a historic city situated within a rural setting.
 - The setting of village whose traditional form, character and relationship with the surrounding agricultural landscape of which is substantially unchanged.
 - Areas which prevent the coalescence of settlements to retain their individual identity.
14. The report then contains more detailed analysis of how these categories are defined and spatially presents the areas on attached maps (pages 9-18). It considered the role of different areas in preserving the historic character and setting of York, as well as areas of land outside the built-up areas that should be retained as open land to preserve the historic relationship between York and its surrounding settlements.
 15. When the City of York began its preparation for a new Local Plan, technical papers were produced as the emerging plan was being prepared, to review and update the areas identified as important to the historic character and setting of York in the 2003 appraisal.
 16. A Historic Character and Setting Technical Paper 2011 was updated in 2013 [LPA81], to add or remove land from the areas previously identified. The study is used as a spatial shaper, providing buffered landscape areas within which strategic development is deemed inappropriate. It forms part of the current emerging City of York Local Plan's spatial strategy, as reflected in Policy SS1.
 17. Figure 3.1 of the Publication draft Local Plan [LPA82] represents the latest position as drawn from these studies and reflects the Areas which are proposed for inclusion within Policy M16:



18. Further technical work includes the 'Heritage Topic Paper' [LEB06], which was prepared to help provide a further definition of what elements contribute to the special historic character and setting of York. It aims to capture the significance of York's many historic assets, describing why these are special or unique to the city, and uses this to assess the impact of the emerging development strategy on those assets. It takes a strategic, high-level overview of historic environmental character and sensitivity to assist with determining the location and broad scale of development and change and provide a framework within which more detailed studies can be undertaken. This process has been subsequently endorsed by Historic England.
19. The Heritage Topic Paper was updated in 2014 [LPA84], and provides significant evidence to inform the preparation of the Plan,

the appraisal of alternative sites (in conjunction with Sustainability Appraisal) and in determining planning applications for potentially impactful development. The key part of the paper is the attempt to present in a linear narrative form a four-dimensional framework for exploring the special historic character and significances of the City of York. The narrative unfolds through three broad categories: Factors; Themes; and Characteristics. The Factors are large-scale, elements which have produced the historic environment. The Themes provide a high-level categorisation which allows the narrative of human action to develop across chronological divisions. The Characteristics then provide both the means of describing this special historic character and of testing the potential impacts of policy statements. They include: strong urban form; compactness; landmark monuments; architectural character; archaeological complexity; and landscape and setting (pages 31-63).

20. The paper identifies these characteristics as strategically important to the character and setting of York and state that they “set it apart from other cities in England” (para 7.3, page 63). They are consistent with the approach taken to the Technical Papers referred to above.
21. Following production of an endorsed Heritage Topic Paper, the characteristics identified helped to develop a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) [LPA85] methodology based upon the principles set out in the Heritage Topic Paper and informed by ongoing dialogue with Historic England.
22. The studies have informed the ongoing preparation of the Local Plan and associated Sustainability Appraisal (see Annex C).
23. Further, the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan necessarily includes reference to the Areas within the above policies to protect the historic character and setting of the city. This has been identified in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Joint Plan [CD31].
24. The SA Scoping Report [CD31] references the evidence base to the emerging York Local Plan regarding ‘York Green Belt Appraisal (2003) and Historic Character and Setting Technical Papers (2011/2013)’ within the Plans, Programmes and Policies (PPPs) (Appendix II).
25. The situation in York is unique, in that the detailed Green Belt boundaries have never been defined within a Local or any other statutory plan. The studies within the evidence base of the emerging local Plan identify a number of issues that shape an

understanding of the sustainability issues that are to be considered as part of the Appraisal.

26. Consequently, the SA Scoping Report incorporates York's historic character and setting as an issue to be considered in relation to the topic of Landscape (Table 6, page 33), and the SA Framework as a sub-objective under Objective 10: Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings (see Annex D).

Inclusion in Policy M16

27. The Areas as proposed for inclusion within Policy M16 therefore represent the outcome of significant technical work to identify areas of land which are valuable to protect the historic character and setting of York.
28. Consideration of York's historic character and setting has been integral to the SA appraisal process when considering policies and in the Joint Plan.
29. The Authorities consider that inclusion of the Areas within Policy M16 is a justified given the particular circumstances of York and the critical importance of preserving its historic character, as examined through the technical papers referred to above. Development relevant to Policy M16 would harm those elements that contribute to making York's historic character and setting unique and special, given its impact on openness and visual amenity. Protecting the areas identified in Figure 3.1 is critically important to maintain York's special character and supports the approach to spatial development set out in York's Local Plan.
30. The Authorities acknowledge that the Areas do not fall within the protected areas which are the subject of restrictions on surface development under the Onshore Hydraulic Fracturing (Protected Areas Regulations) 2016 (or policy in Annex A to Surface Development Restrictions for Hydraulic Fracturing: the government's response to the consultation (June 2016)).
31. But it is clear from the Regulations (which include World Heritage sites as protected areas) that heritage is an important area of concern when considering development involving hydraulic fracturing. The nature of this activity, as explained in evidence to the examination, shows that fracking is not compatible in Areas which have been specifically identified through detailed study for their importance in preserving York's historic character.

32. It is also clear that protection under the Regulations and policy is intended to apply to designations of national importance (including National Parks and AONBs). In the particular circumstances of this area, where a fracking industry is emerging in the context of not just national landscape and ecological designations, but a city with the heritage significance of York and its environs, a local application of national policy objectives is considered justified to protect identified areas in York which are of unique heritage importance. Figure 3.1 as set out above can be reproduced in the Policies Map for the Joint Plan to ensure consistency.
33. That Figure reflects substantial technical work carried out by the City of York, which has been reflected not only in its emerging Local Plan (that is shortly due to be submitted for examination), as well as the Sustainability Appraisal work which has informed the preparation of the Joint Plan itself. The Authorities consider that the inclusion of the Areas in Policy M16 is sound.

ANNEX A

York's Local Plan

1. City of York Council started production of a Local Plan in 2012 to ensure alignment with the NPPF and following the withdrawal of the Core Strategy from Examination. The plan has been through several consultations, including Preferred Options (2013), Further Sites consultation (2014), Preferred Sites consultation (2016) and Pre Publication (Regulation 18) consultation in 2017. In January 2018 Members agreed for the Plan to go progress to the next stage of plan preparation, Regulation 19. The Local Plan Publication draft concluded its Regulation 19 consultation on 6th April 2018. City of York Council is keen to submit the plan for examination and submission is scheduled for May 2018 as set out in the LDS [CD07], subject to Member approval.
2. A principal matter in the production of York's Local Plan relates to the need for the Plan to establish a permanent Green Belt as well as a long-term development strategy. The plan seeks to establish a Green Belt boundary for 20 years to ensure Green Belt permanence.
3. Whilst the general extent of the Green Belt is retained through the RSS policies (see Annex B), it is the role of the emerging development plan to set the detailed boundaries. As part of York's Local Plan preparation, City of York Council has considered the factors which underpin the Green Belt purposes set out in the NPPF as part of its spatial strategy, recognising that the Green Belt's primary function is to retain the Historic Character and Setting of the city.
4. The theme of York's heritage and landscape setting is set through the plan's vision and is referenced throughout the document. The evidence base recognises the unique historic character and setting of the city as well as its world-renowned heritage assets. On this basis the vision states under the "Protect the Environment" theme:

2.8 The built environment is the most tangible expression of a city's character and culture – its past, its present, and its aspirations for the future. Over the plan period, the Local Plan will help York to safeguard its outstanding heritage for future generations by promoting development which respects the city's special character and contemporary culture and encourages opportunities for rediscovering and reinterpreting those assets which make it an attractive, beautiful and accessible city. Enhancing York's physical appearance, improving accessibility and improving

its image and perception are vital if the city is to increase investment, employment, wealth and wellbeing.

2.9 The Plan will do this by supporting design excellence in the conservation and enhancement of the following six defining characteristics of York's built environment:

- *strong urban form;*
- *compactness;*
- *landmark monuments;*
- *unique architectural character;*
- *archaeological complexity; and*
- *landscape setting.*

5. Protection for York's historic character and setting forms a key principle to the future planning and development of the city and has been transposed into policy. Conserving and enhancing these assets is incorporated into Policy SS1: Delivering sustainable growth for York as one of the 5 spatial principles guiding development.

Policy SS1: Delivering Sustainable Growth for York

Development during the plan period will be consistent with the priorities below.

- provide sufficient land to accommodate an annual provision of around 650 new jobs that will support sustainable economic growth, improve prosperity and ensure that York fulfils its role as a key economic driver within both the Leeds City Region and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership area.
- Deliver a minimum annual provision of 867 new dwellings over the plan period to 2032/33 and post plan period to 2037/38. This will enable the building of strong, sustainable communities through addressing the housing and community needs of York's current and future population.

The location of development through the plan will be guided by the following five spatial principles.

- Conserving and enhancing York's historic and natural environment. This includes the city's character and setting and internationally, nationally and locally significant nature conservation sites, green corridors and areas with an important recreation function.
- Ensuring accessibility to sustainable modes of transport and a range of services.

- Preventing unacceptable levels of congestion, pollution and/or air quality.
- Ensuring flood risk is appropriately managed.
- Where viable and deliverable, the re-use of previously developed land will be phased first.

York City Centre, as defined on the Proposals Map, will remain the focus for main town centre uses.

The identification of development sites is underpinned by the principle of ensuring deliverability and viability. Additionally, land or buildings identified for economic growth must be attractive to the market.

6. Explanatory text to this policy in relation to historic character and setting states:

The Character and Setting of the City

3.4 The character and form of York provide an overarching narrative for the factors which shape the choices we make in how we accommodate the growth. Their main attributes of that character and form are:

- a compact urban form surrounded by relatively small settlements;
- a flat terrain providing views particularly of historic landmark features such as the Minster or Terry's Clock Tower;
- open land which brings the countryside into the city through ings, strays and associated land; and
- key arterial routes that influence urban form.

3.5 Technical work carried out by the Council indicates that, regardless of the extent to which the city may have to identify further land to meet its development requirements and needs, there are areas of land outside the existing built up areas that should be retained as open land due to their role in preserving the historic character and setting of York. This work also indicates that there are areas of land outside the built-up areas that should be retained as open land as they prevent communities within the environs of York from merging into one another and the city. These areas are considered to have a key role in preserving the identity of the settlements and villages around York. The relationship of York to its surrounding settlements is an important aspect of the city's character. The areas of land considered to serve this purpose are illustrated in Figure 3.1. Further detail on this can be found in the Historic Character and Setting Technical Paper Update (2013).

7. Policy SS2 in the Publication draft Local Plan sets out the strategic role of the Green Belt.

Policy SS2: The Role of York's Green Belt

The primary purpose of the Green Belt is to safeguard the setting and the special character of York and delivering the Local Plan Spatial Strategy. New building in the Green Belt is inappropriate unless it is for one of the exceptions set out in policy GB1.

The general extent of the Green Belt is shown on the Key Diagram. Detailed boundaries shown on the proposals map follow readily recognisable physical features that are likely to endure such as streams, hedgerows and highways.

To ensure that there is a degree of permanence beyond the plan period sufficient land is allocated for development to meet the needs identified in the plan and for a further minimum period of five years to 2038.

8. Explanatory text to policy SS2 states:

- 3.13 The boundary of the Green Belt is the consequence of decisions about which land serves a Green Belt purpose and which can be allocated for development. The Plan seeks to identify sufficient land to accommodate York's development needs across the plan period, 2012-2033. In addition, the Plan provides further development land to 2038 (including allowing for some flexibility in delivery) and establishes a Green Belt boundary enduring for at least 20 years. In this Local Plan the Green Belt's prime purpose is that of preserving the setting and special character of York. This essentially comprises the land shown earlier in the section at Figure 3.1.
- 3.14 Over and above the areas identified as being important in terms of the historic character and setting of York other land is included to regulate the form and growth of the city and other settlements in a sustainable way. This land will perform the role of checking the sprawl; safeguarding the countryside from encroachment; and encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.
- 3.15 In defining the detailed boundaries of the Green Belt care has been taken to follow readily recognisable physical features that are likely to endure such as streams, hedgerows, footpaths and highways. Clearly it will not always be possible to do this because of factors on the ground and where this is the case there will be a clear logic to the boundary that can be understood and interpreted on the ground.

ANNEX B

Green Belt: retained Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy policies for York

1. In order to explain the methodology employed to identify the Areas in the emerging York Local Plan, the present status of York Green Belt within the Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber saved policies needs to be recognised.
2. The City of York Local Authority area covers approximately 27,200ha. Of this, around 4500 ha is built up area, with the remainder being open countryside. The majority of land outside the built-up areas of York has been identified as draft Green Belt land since the 1950's, with the principle of York's Green Belt being established through a number of plans including the North Yorkshire County Structure Plan (1995-2006), and the Yorkshire and Humber Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 (2008). The main purpose of York's Green Belt is to preserve the setting and special character of York.
3. When the government considered revoking the RSS, it was identified in the Sustainability Appraisal that revocation would have a significant effect on the historic character and setting of York, in the absence of a statutorily defined Green Belt in a Local Plan. While the Regional Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber has otherwise been revoked when The Regional Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber (Partial Revocation) Order (2013) came into force, its York Green Belt policies were saved together with the key diagram insofar as the latter illustrates those policies and the general extent of the Green Belt around York.
4. The SEA Post Adoption Statement thus identified that a key issue was that "***In the short-medium term, revocation effectively removes the statutory basis for the York Green Belt, its general extent and purpose to prevent harm to the historic character. The longer the period between revocation and the adoption of local plans which are consistent with national green belt policy the greater the opportunity for the cumulative effects of development on the Green Belt to have a significant negative effect on the special character and setting of York***".
5. The Government's response in this statement concluded (Section 3, Table 3.2):

"The City of York is not covered by an adopted local plan. Consequently the regional strategy is the only part of the

development plan for York that confirms the existence of a Green Belt, and it includes policy requiring detailed boundaries to be defined in the local plan. Revocation would in effect remove the Green Belt protection, because there is a legal requirement to determine planning applications in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

York is one of a handful of settlements in England which has a Green Belt whose primary purpose is to preserve the setting and special character of a historic town. Of those settlements, York is unique insofar as it is the only one whose precise Green Belt boundaries have yet to be formally defined in an adopted Local Plan (other than for certain parts of its outer boundary which lie within neighbouring authorities).

In the absence of an adopted up to date York Local Plan that defines the Green Belt boundaries, retention of sections of two policies in the Yorkshire and Humber Plan, first sentence of Policy YH9 Part C and Policy Y1 Parts C1, C2 and parts of the Key Diagram which illustrate the general extent of the Green Belt around York and the indicative boundary of the inner Green Belt around the conurbation of York is likely to maintain the significant positive effect on cultural heritage by helping to protect the special character and setting of York. This is compared to revocation, which has the potential to cause negative effects on cultural heritage in the short term, possibly becoming significant in the medium term. This is because these two sections of policy relate to a specific action to define the inner boundaries of the York Green Belt in order to safeguard the special character and historic value of the city from the level of development proposed.

The updated Environmental Report concludes that there would be a risk during the period between revocation and the City Council adopting a local plan of development being approved on land that would otherwise be in the York Green Belt - with potentially cumulative significant adverse impacts on the special character and setting of the historic city.

In light of the findings of the updated Environmental Report and the consultation responses the Government has decided to retain certain policies in the Yorkshire and Humber Plan which relate to the Green Belt around the City of York ("the York Green Belt Policies"). These are: the title and first sentence of part C of policy YH9: Green belts, the title, opening line and parts C1 and C2 of policy Y1: York Sub-Area

Policy and parts of the Key Diagram which illustrate the general extent of the Green belt around York and the indicative boundary of the inner Green belt around the conurbation of York. The reasoning for this is set out in more detail in Chapter 5 of this Post Adoption Statement."

6. The revocation order states that the detailed boundaries of the outstanding sections of the outer boundary of the York Green Belt about 6 miles from York city centre and the inner boundary are to be defined in order to establish long term development limits that safeguard the special character and setting of the historic city. It is therefore the role of the Local Plan to define what land is in the Green Belt and in doing so establish detailed green belt boundaries. The retained RSS policies are as follows (The general extent of Green Belt was shown on Fig 3 Key Diagram to Policies Y1 and YH9):

a) *Policy Y1: York sub area policy - title, opening line and paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part C:*

"Policy Y1: York sub area policy

Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes for the York sub area should:

1. In the City of York LDF, define the detailed boundaries of the outstanding sections of the outer boundary of the York Green Belt about 6 miles from York city centre and the inner boundary in line with policy YH9C.

2. Protect and enhance the nationally significant historical and environmental character of York, including its historic setting, views of the Minister and important open areas."

b) *Policy YH9: Green Belts: title and first sentence of Part C:*

"Policy YH9: Green Belts

The detailed inner boundaries of the Green Belt around York should be defined in order to establish long term development limits that safeguard the special character and setting of the historic city."

c) *The Key Diagram, insofar as it illustrates the retained policies and the general extent of the Green Belt around the City of York.*

7. The main purpose of the Green Belt designation is to protect enhance and safeguard the historic character and setting of the City of York.
8. The emerging York Local Plan [LPA82] seeks to define the inner and outer boundaries of the Green Belt, and thus is not justifying changes to existing Green Belt boundaries, but defining them for the first time. It is in this context that the evidence base takes a holistic approach to assessing land which performs Green Belt purposes and also identifying specific areas in which development should not be permitted at all in order to protect the historic character and setting of York.

ANNEX C Consideration of York’s Setting and character in Sustainability Appraisal

York’s Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating SEA and outcomes of Heritage Impact Assessment

1. The Sustainability Appraisal [LPA86] produced to accompany the Local Plan Publication draft (2018) [LPA82] makes significant reference to York’s historic character and setting as key issue to address.
2. The SA Baseline incorporates consideration for both the Heritage Topic Paper [LPA84] and Approach to Green Belt Appraisal (2003 [LPA80], as amended [LPA81]), including reference to the Historic Character and Setting diagram. Sustainability issues in relation to these are summarised as follows (page 88):

SEA Topic	SEA Theme	Key Sustainability Issue
Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological	Landscape and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Historic character and setting is an integral part of the city’s past and future; ▶ The attractive and unique historic environment contributes to/influences the economy, social and environmental functioning of the city of York; ▶ Appreciating the value of heritage assets is key to preservation and enhancement as well understanding any future impacts; ▶ Consideration needs to be given to the key views and assets which are identified to have a positive experience for the City. ▶ There is a need to tackle heritage assets at risk.
Landscape	Landscape and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ York’s landscape is a primary feature of York’s historic character and setting; ▶ There are specific elements of the landscape that need to be preserved in order to appreciate the whole of York’s context; ▶ Views from and to the landscape and built environment features are an important feature of York’s character.

3. The SA Framework considers these issues under objectives 14 and 15 as follows:

SA Objective	Guide questions. Will the policy/proposal ...	SEA Directive Topic
14. Conserve or enhance York’s historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve or enhance the special character and setting of the historic city • Promote or enhance local culture • Preserve or enhance designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting • Preserve or enhance those elements which contribute to the 6 Principle Characteristics of the City as identified in the Heritage Topic Paper 	Cultural Heritage, Landscape
15. Protect and enhance York’s natural and built landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve or enhance the landscape including areas of landscape value • Protect or enhance geologically important sites; • Promote high quality design in context with its urban and rural landscape and in line with the “landscape and Setting” within the Heritage Topic Paper 	Cultural Heritage, Landscape

4. The Heritage Impact Assessment [LPA85] of the proposed policies/sites against the six principal characteristics set out in the Heritage Topic Paper has been used to inform the SA scoring of the draft strategic sites and policies (as reflected in Section 5 of the appraisal). The findings of the HIA have informed the appraisal of the draft Local Plan as part of the SA specifically in respect of SA Objectives 14 (Conserve or enhance York’s historic environment, cultural heritage, character and setting) and SA Objective 15 (Protect and enhance York’s natural and built landscape).

Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Sustainability Appraisal

5. The SA Scoping Report [CD31] identifies York’s historic character and setting as a key sustainability issue arising from the baseline, illustrated in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Key sustainability issues arising out of baseline data review

The Plan Area	York	North York Moors
Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna, Geodiversity, Landscape and Cultural Heritage Issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Large number of nationally designated wildlife sites and significant areas of internationally designated wildlife sites ➢ Outside of these areas there are large numbers and a wide distribution of locally important Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and UK BAP priority habitats ➢ Much of the farmland is covered by some form of agri-environment scheme ➢ Despite this many habitats in this area are fragmented and isolated ➢ Outside of the National Park, woodland is generally found in small fragments ➢ Invasive species are an increasing threat to native wildlife ➢ Although large parts of this area are relatively low lying, variation in geology, soils, topography and historical factors have helped create a range of distinctive and valued landscapes ➢ The North York Moors National Park makes up a large part of the Plan area and a significant portion of the Plan area lies within Areas of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Whilst open space in York includes approximately 480 hectares of parks and open space it is not distributed in a uniform manner across the city and therefore some areas are deficient in certain types of open space ➢ Quality of large parks and gardens in York is good with 5 designated as Green Flag Award status ➢ York has an abundance of important site for nature conservation at international, national, regional and local levels; ➢ The city’s nature conservation sites support a diverse range of flora and fauna ➢ Initiatives are on-going to support nature conservation / open space around the city to make a more environmentally friendly and healthy city ➢ York’s landscape is a primary feature of York’s historic character and setting ➢ There are specific elements of the landscape that need to be preserved in order to appreciate the whole of York’s context ➢ Views from and to the landscape and built environment features are an important feature of York’s character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Entire area is a protected nationally for its natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage ➢ Large areas of nationally and internationally protected wildlife sites ➢ Small number of RIGS sites but geology part of the Park’s established special qualities ➢ Relatively large areas of woodland and ancient woodland, and largest concentration of Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) in northern England ➢ Entire coastline is Heritage Coast ➢ Relatively very tranquil ➢ Over half of the area of the Park, and most of the moorland, is covered by agri-environment schemes ➢ Many habitats could be better connected ➢ Large number of Listed Buildings and the number of buildings at risk has significantly declined during recent years ➢ Contains a third of all of the Scheduled Monuments in the region, plus thousands more archaeological sites and features. Around a third of the Scheduled Monuments are at

33

6. The issue has subsequently been included for consideration within the SA Framework, as a sub-objective under Objective 10: Conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings as follows:

-To protect and enhance those elements, including setting, which contribute to the significance of:

- *World Heritage Sites*
- *Scheduled Monuments*
- *Archaeological Features*

- *Listed buildings*
- *Historic parks and gardens*
- *Historic battlefields*
- *Conservation Areas;*
- *The city of York*

-To provide appropriate protection for archaeological features in areas of potential development;

-To protect the wider historic environment from the potential impacts of proposed development and the cumulative impacts;

-To improve access to, and enjoyment of, the historic environment where appropriate;

-Preserve and enhance cultural heritage

-Safeguard those elements which contribute to the special historic character and setting of York.

-To ensure a steady supply of building and roofing stone for the repair and construction of buildings and structures

-Protect and enhance important non-designated heritage assets