

Sites and Areas Assessment

Approximately 70 site proposals for possible future minerals or waste uses have been put forward for consideration for allocation in the Plan.

Sites allocated in the Plan will be regarded as suitable in principal for the proposed uses.

The findings from the SA, HRA and SFRA have been incorporated into the overall assessment of the suitability of the various sites put forward for consideration, along with other evidence such as transport assessments, views from panels of professionals, comments provided in earlier consultations and individual site visits. This helps to provide a balanced and justified decision on each.

The overall decision on each site is recorded in **Appendix 1** of the main Preferred Options consultation document.

More detailed assessment information is available on the website at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwsites

Further work on assessment of sites and areas will take place as work on the Plan continues. This will include taking into account views received during the 'Preferred Options' consultation.

How to get involved

We have prepared several reports to support the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Preferred Options consultation including :

- Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
- Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

As well as being available on their own specific web pages they are also included on the main Minerals and Waste Joint Plan consultation page at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwconsult .

The Minerals and Waste Joint Plan Sustainability Appraisal consultation asks a series of questions and a response form has been provided on the consultation page to help with any comments.

If you have comments on any of the documents you can send them to: **mwsustainability@northyorks.gov.uk** or to the postal address below, the closing date is **5pm 15th January 2015**.

Contact us

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Waste and Countryside Services, North
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Minerals and Waste Joint Plan



Preferred Options

**Sustainability Appraisal and
other assessments**

November 2015

Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability Appraisal is a key part of developing a successful Local Plan. The process involves testing the draft policies to check their impact on a range of environmental, social and economic objectives. Work on Sustainability Appraisal commenced at the same time as work on the Plan, which has now reached 'Preferred Options' stage.

The preferred policies have been compared against 17 sustainability appraisal objectives which are based on earlier consultations. The objectives consider issues such as climate change, water quality, historic environment, biodiversity and geodiversity, economic growth and recreation and leisure and learning.

A sustainability appraisal summary and recommendation for each of the preferred policies is included in the main Preferred Options document, but a report containing the more detailed assessment is available on the website www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwconsult.

The Minerals and Waste Joint Plan also includes potential future minerals and waste sites, which have also undergone assessment using the same 17 sustainability appraisal objectives to assess their possible impact on the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area.

We are currently consulting on the results of the Sustainability Appraisals and your views would be welcome.

For earlier work on the Sustainability Appraisal process please go to www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26217/Sustainability-appraisal

Why are assessments needed?

All Local Plans, including this Minerals and Waste Joint Plan, are subject to national and European legislation that require certain assessments to be carried out. These include a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

The Government's National Planning Policy Framework states:

'the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'



Collectively the assessments all contribute to checking the sustainability of the new Plan.

The benefit of carrying out assessments is that they ensure that any policies produced as part of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan promote sustainable development, with controls put in place to minimise any impacts.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

The Habitats Regulation Assessment is used to establish whether the emerging policies and potential sites in the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan will have any effect on internationally important nature conservation sites within the Plan area.

The HRA will give an indication of whether further, more detailed assessment is likely to be necessary if the preferred policy or preferred site is to be included in the Plan.

If you would like to find out more about where we are up to with the HRA please visit www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26219/Habitats-regulation-assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The aim of Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is to assess whether implementation of a plan may have a significant impact on flooding and flood risk, directing development away from areas of highest risk.

It looks at the risk of flooding from all possible sources including rivers, canals, sewers and groundwater. All of the potential sites have been assessed for their vulnerability to flooding.

Information about how the assessment has been undertaken and the results of the assessment are available at:

www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/26167/Strategic-flood-risk-assessment
