

MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

DRAFT SUBMISSION MINERALS CORE STRATEGY

2007

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Contents

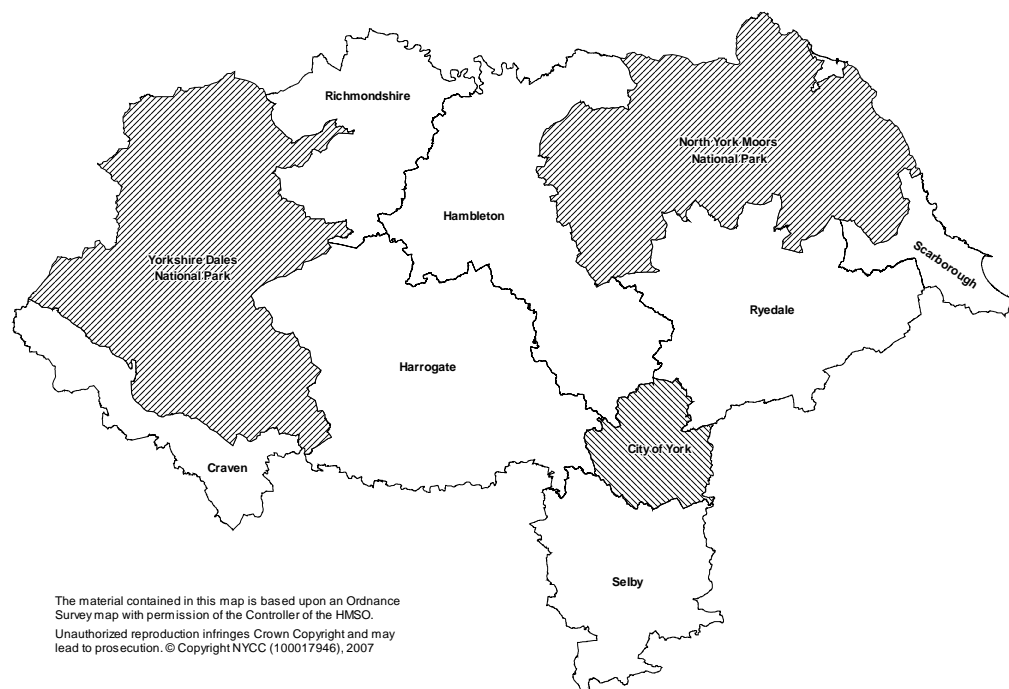
CONTENTS	- 3 -
1 INTRODUCTION	- 5 -
SCOPE OF THE CORE STRATEGY	- 5 -
PURPOSE OF THE CORE STRATEGY	- 5 -
FORMAT OF THE CORE STRATEGY	- 6 -
RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER DOCUMENTS	- 6 -
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORE STRATEGY	- 7 -
OPERATION OF POLICIES	- 7 -
2 CONTEXT OF NORTH YORKSHIRE	- 10 -
GENERAL SPATIAL PORTRAIT	- 10 -
3 ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES	- 17 -
INTRODUCTION	- 17 -
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL GUIDANCE	- 17 -
REGIONAL ISSUES	- 18 -
LOCAL ISSUES	- 19 -
DATA	- 20 -
4 VISION AND STRATEGIC AIMS	- 21 -
VISION	- 21 -
STRATEGIC AIMS	- 21 -
5 PROVISION AND PROTECTION OF MINERALS	- 24 -
INTRODUCTION	- 24 -
SECURING THE PROVISION OF MINERALS	- 24 -
SAFEGUARDING NON-RENEWABLE MINERAL RESOURCES	- 25 -
6 DELIVERING SPECIFIC TYPES OF MINERALS WITHIN NORTH YORKSHIRE	- 29 -
INTRODUCTION	- 29 -
AGGREGATE MINERALS	- 29 -
ENERGY MINERALS	- 39 -
NON-AGGREGATE MINERALS	- 44 -
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS	- 47 -
7 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	- 51 -
INTRODUCTION	- 51 -
LOCAL AMENITY	- 51 -
TRANSPORT	- 53 -
8 ENVIRONMENT	- 56 -
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	- 56 -
LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	- 59 -
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	- 62 -
ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS	- 66 -
SITE RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION	- 71 -
9 LINKS TO SITE ALLOCATIONS DPD	- 75 -
10 MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION	- 77 -
GLOSSARY	- 78 -

1 Introduction

Scope of the Core Strategy

- 1.1 North Yorkshire County Council is the authority responsible for dealing with minerals planning matters in those parts of North Yorkshire outside the City of York and the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, as shown in Key Diagram 1.

Key Diagram 1: Local Authority Boundaries of North Yorkshire County and Plan Area



- 1.2 As Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, the County Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF), containing policies and proposals to guide minerals and waste planning decisions. The Minerals Core Strategy (MCS) is a key part of the MWDF and will provide a local strategic planning context for minerals planning over the period to 31st December 2021¹. It applies to all mineral working and mineral related development.

Purpose of the Core Strategy

- 1.3 The Minerals Core Strategy sets out:

- a long term spatial vision for North Yorkshire,

¹ For the purposes of calculating mineral requirements up to this date, the base date for the Framework has been determined as being 1 January 2005.

- strategic spatial aims and objectives,
- a general spatial strategy,
- the core policies necessary to deliver the vision, aims, objectives and strategy,
- links to other bodies who will assist in this delivery,
- key diagrams which show how the policies operate in a strategic spatial context,
- a monitoring and implementation framework, and
- a glossary of terms.

1.4 The MCS, along with the corresponding Waste Core Strategy, are the first elements in a hierarchy of other Local Development Documents (LDDs), including:

- a **Minerals Site Allocations document** which identifies sites or areas that the County Council considers suitable for use for mineral development along with site specific policies to mitigate any potential negative effects,
- a **Proposals Map** which identifies allocated sites and constraints,
- a **Minerals Safeguarding Areas LDD**,
- a range of Supplementary Planning Documents which provide further detailed policy in support of the Core Strategy.

Format of the Core Strategy

1.5 The Core Strategy will comprise the following elements:

- Spatial Vision – the strategic direction of the strategy,
- Strategic Aims – to deliver the spatial vision,
- Strategic Policies – to guide mineral development over the period to 2021,
- Development Control Policies – to ensure the efficient operation of minerals sites, minimise any potential adverse effects and maximise any opportunities for benefits that may arise from minerals development, and
- Monitoring and Implementation Framework – to ensure the Core Strategy is having its intended effects and to enable effective review.

1.6 Evidence used in preparing this strategy, including detailed links to national guidance, the outcomes of the sustainability appraisal, consultation responses and the results of monitoring, is contained in the Report of Evidence which accompanied the Core Strategy at Examination².

Relationship with other documents

1.7 The MMDF is not an isolated document. The Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber (RSS) and district and borough LDFs within the plan area³ form a part of the overall framework of documents which may be used to guide spatial planning and the determination of planning applications, alongside the MCS. The Core Strategy aims not to duplicate policy guidance in these other documents so plan users should ensure that their proposals have due regard to other relevant documents as appropriate.

² Available on the County Council's website at www.northyorks.gov.uk

³ The Local Development Frameworks of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby that lie within the plan area and the LDFs of the North York Moors National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park that adjoin the plan area. The LDFs of adjoining authorities will also be taken into account when development that lies close to their boundary may have cross boundary impacts.

Implementation of the Core Strategy

- 1.8 The objectives of the MCS will mainly be delivered through the grant of planning permission in accordance with National Planning Policy Statements (PPS), Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), Minerals Planning Guidance (MPG), Minerals Planning Statements (MPS), RSS and LDFs. However, some activities which can affect the delivery of the MDF vision may rely on the operation of other policies, the work of other agencies, the behaviour of the general public and the actions of industry. Such projects, place making activities, investment decisions and behaviour include:
- The programmes and projects of the statutory agencies e.g. Catchment Management Plans of the Environment Agency,
 - Procurement decisions of companies and organisations e.g. housebuilders,
 - The actions and decisions of infrastructure providers, and
 - Implementation of the Local Transport Plan.
- 1.9 Production and implementation of these strategies, and the actions of these other bodies, may impact upon planning for mineral development within the Plan area and the County Council will take them into account as necessary, including through the process of monitoring and review. Where possible, the MCS identifies agents who can assist in the implementation of the policies and other plans and programmes which may have a bearing on development decisions, but because these other agencies are not subject to the same timescales or operational context as the MCS, it is not possible to identify all such links.
- 1.10 The County Council will endeavour through its influence, procurement policies and liaison with agencies across the sub-region to encourage the use of local materials, the use of recycled minerals and the efficient use of resources.
- 1.11 From an organisational perspective the County Council will seek to meet the MCS objectives through its own actions such as:
- Corporate procurement,
 - The forthcoming Economic Development Strategy,
 - Building Schools for the future, and the
 - Implementation of the Local Transport Plan.

Operation of policies

- 1.12 The policies in the MWDF will operate within a wider decision making framework ranging from national guidance, particularly MPS1 and 2, through RSS policy, as informed by data updates from the Regional Aggregates Working Party to policies within other DPDs and the LDFs of other authorities. The Regional Assembly will operate its role as statutory consultee on all significant minerals development proposals in line with criteria for identifying applications of regional significance⁴.
- 1.13 The policies in this MCS will be used to inform choice of site allocations in the Minerals Site Allocations DPD and to guide decisions on individual planning applications which may come forward. All relevant policies will be taken into account when considering

⁴ Available from the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Assembly

proposals.

- 1.14 Those who intend to propose significant development are urged to carry out pre-application discussions with North Yorkshire County Council and, where appropriate, other implementation agencies and bodies noted in this document. This will assist in an earlier identification of areas of issue which can assist in speeding up the planning process and provide more clarity to operators. In particular, the implementation of policies on environmental protection and enhancement in chapter 7 will require consideration at an early stage.
- 1.15 Although mineral extraction is temporary in nature, it can lead to significant impacts upon local amenity over the life of the operation. Robust development control policies can help to prevent development that may have unacceptable environmental effects, or reduce any potential impacts where development is allowed to proceed⁵.
- 1.16 Development Control is the process by which planning applications for development are determined. Development control policies set out the issues that the County Council will need to be satisfied on before planning permission may be granted. The strategic policies within this MCS will also inform the approach to determining planning applications for significant new development.
- 1.17 The County Council may impose planning conditions appropriate to the potential impact of operations on the environment, the highway and local communities and to ensure a high level of restoration commensurate with the intended after-use of the site.
- 1.18 The Council may also seek planning obligations⁶. There are no criteria that a particular development would need to fulfil in order to trigger a requirement for the developer to enter into a planning obligation. It remains for the planning authority to decide whether such agreements can make acceptable development that would otherwise be unacceptable.
- 1.19 In order to secure the most effective planning of minerals development in the County, and to ensure that community views and aspirations are taken into account, applicants and operators are encouraged to work with local communities in the development and implementation of their schemes. This may include consulting local communities at an early stage in the preparation of schemes and, where appropriate, reflecting community views in the details of any final proposals brought forward. Operators are also encouraged to keep communities informed on the progress of their development. This may include the establishment of formal or informal liaison arrangements. Such an approach is in line with the Councils adopted Statement of Community Involvement which was prepared as a key first stage in the production of the MWDF.
- 1.20 For its part, the County Council will also seek to keep communities informed of matters related to minerals planning and to undertake effective monitoring and inspection of permitted sites in order to ensure that development is carried out appropriately. Communities can contribute to this objective by taking an interest in planning activities in

⁵ National Guidance on controlling and mitigating the effects of minerals extraction is set out in MPS2

⁶ Guidance in ODPM Circular 05/2005: Planning Obligations, defines Planning obligations as "...private agreements negotiated, usually in the context of planning applications, between local planning authorities and persons with an interest in a piece of land (or "developers"), and intended to make acceptable development which would otherwise be unacceptable in planning terms.

their area and keeping in touch with the Council on issues of interest or concern.

2 Context of North Yorkshire

General Spatial Portrait

- 2.1 North Yorkshire is one of the country's most attractive and varied counties. The plan area has a high proportion of designated countryside, it adjoins two National Parks, contains a World Heritage Site, three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and two significant lengths of Heritage Coast. The County also contains significant areas defined as tranquil by the Campaign to Protect Rural England. These assets attract a very large number of visitors to the County each year.
- 2.2 The plan area is very extensive at over 5,000 km². However, it has just over half a million residents. 20% of the population live in the principal urban areas of Scarborough and Harrogate, which are sub-regional centres. Elsewhere it is a sparsely populated County with only three towns of over 15,000 people and approximately 40% of the total population living in parishes with fewer than 1,000 people. The County is characterised by this low density of population and a dispersed network of market towns and villages set in extensive areas of open countryside.
- 2.3 The economy of the plan area is healthy with an employment rate higher in North Yorkshire than for the region as a whole. The Gross Value Added per head is marginally higher than the region and the number of businesses registering for VAT has remained constant over the past five years suggesting a small but strong business stock and healthy economic base. Despite this high level of economic activity earnings of residents are around the regional average (earnings for those who live and work in the County are low, but there is a significant daily out-commute of residents to jobs in the adjoining city-regions).
- 2.4 The County's economy is largely based on agriculture with over 76 % of the total land area in some form of agricultural use. 51.7 % is of Grade 3 quality or above with Grades 1 and 2 accounting for 14 % of this resource. The area supports a large number of livestock. It is one of the most important pig production areas in the UK and also supports significant numbers of breeding ewes, beef and dairy cattle.
- 2.5 In addition the service economy (especially hotels and restaurants) and manufacturing sectors are important, with comparatively low proportions in business services. This reflects the largely rural nature of the plan area and its tourism orientation on the one hand and, on the other, the predominance of businesses in the sub-regional centres. Within the plan area local economies differ significantly.
- 2.6 The minerals industry makes a significant contribution to the North Yorkshire economy and the largest single employer is Kellingley Colliery which employs around 400 people. The industry also sustains a significant number of indirect jobs e.g. in haulage.
- 2.7 The plan area contains significant mineral resources which are an important national and regional asset providing basic and essential materials for the construction, manufacturing, transport, power and agricultural industries. There are approximately 60 active mineral workings in the plan area. These are broadly distributed but concentrations exist in the Swale and Ure Valleys and parts of Selby District.
- 2.8 There are two locations within the plan area which are anticipated to see a great deal of change throughout the plan period. To the north of the County the Ministry of Defence

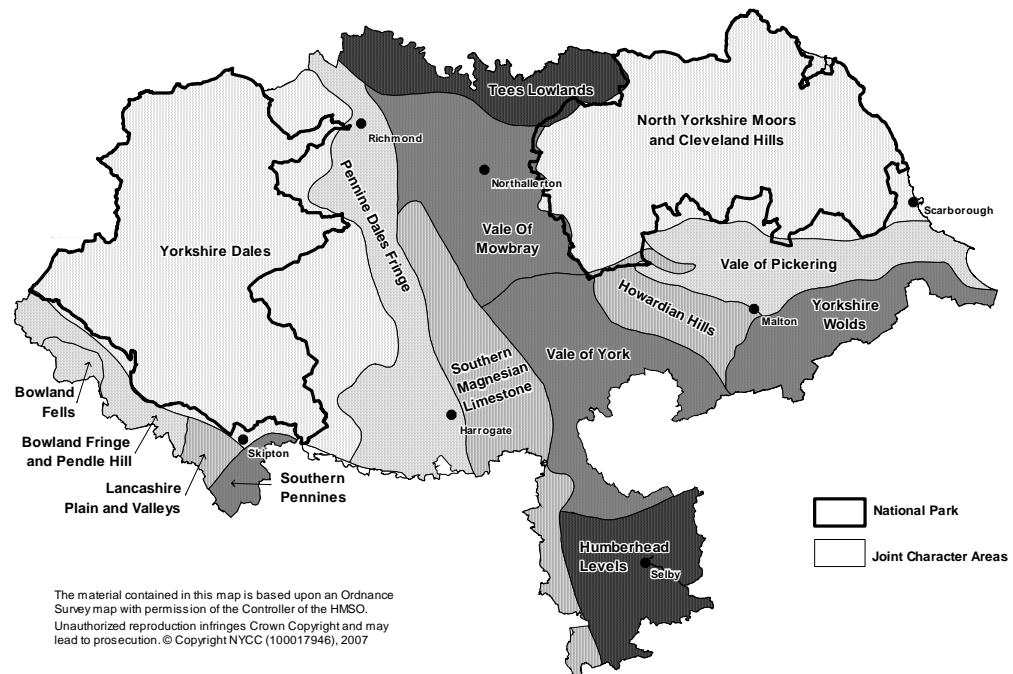
has a Long Term Development Plan in place for Catterick Garrison which may see it double its resident population. To the south, Burn Airfield has been earmarked for significant employment development, either as part of the European Spallation project or other high technology industries. Elsewhere major development will be limited and confined to the sub-regional centres and principal service centres.

- 2.9 It is anticipated through the operation of Regional Spatial Strategy policies of restraint in the plan area that housing growth will fall to just over 2200 dwellings a year for the plan area as a whole throughout the plan period.

Natural and Historic Environment

- 2.10 Most of the County constitutes the catchment for the River Ouse, with the rivers which drain the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks also flowing through the plan area.
- 2.11 Substantial parts of the County are covered by Green Belt designations. These areas, to the north and east of Leeds and around York, are designed to restrict built development between large conurbations and maintain openness.
- 2.12 England's countryside has been mapped by Natural England into Joint Character Areas and there are 15 which wholly, or partly, fall within North Yorkshire. These are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Joint Character Areas



- 2.13 The plan area also contains significant national and local landscape designations shown

in Table 1.

Table 1: Landscape Designations

Area	Statutory	Guidance	Significance
National Parks <i>North York Moors & Yorkshire Dales*</i>	Yes	National Planning Act 1947	National
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty <i>Howardian Hills, Nidderdale & the Forest of Bowland</i>	Yes	National Planning Act 1947	National
Heritage Coasts <i>Flamborough Headland & North Yorkshire and Cleveland</i>	No	Natural England	National
Special Landscape Areas**	No	Local Development Frameworks	Local
Locally distinctive landscapes	No	PPS7, European Landscape Convention, Village Design Statements	Local

* these areas have separate planning authorities, who are responsible for developing their own planning policy **areas of high landscape value and areas of great landscape value

- 2.14 The county of North Yorkshire has a number of various types of sites protected for their biodiversity or geodiversity value, for their rarity or extraordinary qualities. North Yorkshire contains significant proportions of the total national resource of some habitats and contains some species that are not found elsewhere in the UK. These are set out in Table 2:

Table 2: Biodiversity Designations

Area	Statutory	Guidance	Significance
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Yes	Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994	International
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Yes	Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994	International
Ramsar Sites	Yes	Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994	International
National Nature Reserves (NNRs)	Yes	National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949, section 35 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended	National
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	Yes	Section 28 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended	National
Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)	Yes	PPS9	National
Ancient Woodland	No	PPS9	Local
Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation	No	PPS9	Local

(SINC)*			
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* Many SINC sites in the plan area are of the same quality as SSSI even though they are not registered as such.

- 2.15 There are currently records of approximately 50,000 archaeological sites and features in North Yorkshire. Of these, over 1,600 are given statutory protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and a national programme seeks to increase this substantially. Studley Royal/Fountains Abbey is designated as a World Heritage Site. North Yorkshire has over 250 Conservation Areas covering a small area such as the older core of a village or town centre. North Yorkshire examples of such sites are detailed in Table 3.

Table 3: Historic Environment Designations

Area	Statutory	Guidance	Significance
World Heritage Site	No	World Heritage Convention, PPG15	International
Conservation Areas	Yes	Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990	International & National
Listed Buildings	Yes	Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990	National
Scheduled Monuments	Yes	Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act 1979	National
Registered Historic Parks & Gardens	No	National Register, PPG15	National
Registered Historic Battlefields	No	National Register, PPG15	National
Non-Scheduled Archaeology	No	PPG15 & PPG16	National Regional or Local
Important Local Structures	No	PPG16, Local Listings, Local Development Frameworks	Local

Climate Change

- 2.16 In “Warming up the region - The impacts of climate change in the Yorkshire and the Humber region” (2002) climate scenarios predict that the plan area will be between 1 and 2.3°C warmer by the 2050s and between 1.6 and 3.9°C warmer by the 2080s. This warming will occur throughout the year with the greatest rises in the summer months of up to 2.9°C. This warming will be accompanied by wetter winters and drier summers. The 2002 scenarios suggest that summers will be drier in the plan area and, along with drier springs and autumns, will lead to a reduction in average annual rainfall of between 10 and 20%. The climate in the region could change significantly by the 2050s and dramatically by the 2080s; and changes by the 2080s could include:

- increases in sea levels of between 6 and 82 cm,
- an increase in high rainfall intensities during the winter across the region, causing flooding problems,
- enhanced coastal erosion due to an increase in frequency and intensity of storm events,
- increases in the number of very hot days throughout the region with the greatest impact in urban areas away from the coast,

- an increase in the length of the growing season by between 45 and 100 days along the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coasts.

2.17 While changing average conditions will affect many activities and natural processes, the main impacts of climate change are likely to be related to changing extreme events.

Air Quality

2.18 Within North Yorkshire, Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale DC and Selby have completed air quality management reviews and assessment of air quality and have concluded that there is no requirement for declaration of AQMAs. Scarborough BC has also completed a review and is evaluating the possible need for an AQMA.

Health

2.19 Health in North Yorkshire is generally good, however there are pockets of poor health within the County e.g. in the Scarborough area.

Transport

2.20 North Yorkshire is well served by a road, rail, air, and sea network which provides excellent links for business and tourism. The A1 through the County is the principal North/South highway for the East of England and southern Scotland. This and the A19 link in to the Trans-Pennine routes of the A66 and M62. The settlement pattern in the County reflects topography and historic factors such as river crossings and highways. It results in a very extensive road and rights of way system which, away from the principal routes, is often poorly aligned to cope with modern traffic; this is especially so in the County's extensive rural areas.

2.21 Volume and mode of transport are key issues when assessing the broad impacts upon the environment. Road traffic accidents are also a key issue when assessing the impacts of development on the sustainability objectives. Despite significant interventions through transport policy, there were over 3,500 road traffic casualties in the Yorkshire and Humber in 2003.

2.22 Each district within North Yorkshire displays a similar ownership of a car / van which is a reflection of the rural population and access to key services.

2.23 North Yorkshire has a limited local rail network, but a strong north-south link via the East Coast mainline. Therefore many rural areas remain isolated. Most freight rail lines are concentrated in the south. This limited network severely restricts the use of rail for mineral transportation. There are two rail linked depots for aggregates transport in Selby District. Elsewhere, there is limited inland access for freight in North Yorkshire.

2.24 Sea-going vessels can be accommodated at Selby with connecting terminals at Howden and Caldaire before access to the Humber estuary. In the process of moving minerals, alternative transportation modes would primarily be required before transferring freight to water-based movement.

2.25 Local rights of way consist of footpaths, cycle tracks, bridle ways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic. There are just over 6,000 km of rights of way in the plan area. These range from urban paths and local community routes to long distance and

sometimes nationally recognised trails.

Waste

- 2.26 North Yorkshire has traditionally relied upon landfill as a means of waste management for most waste streams, although substantial improvements in performance relating to recycling and composting have been achieved in recent years particularly for municipal waste and through the implementation of the Waste Core Strategy, the County Council seeks to further divert waste away from landfill.
- 2.27 Landfill activity is generally associated with former mineral working, and is relatively widely distributed, often in relatively rural locations. Other waste management activities are more closely associated with the more urbanised parts of the County.

Minerals

- 2.28 In the area outside the National Parks, North Yorkshire contains extensive deposits of economically valuable minerals. These include aggregates (sand and gravel and crushed rock) used by the construction industry, energy minerals (coal and gas) and non-aggregate minerals (clay, building stone, silica sand).
- 2.29 Sand and Gravel – sand and gravel resources comprise glacial, fluvio-glacial and fluvial deposits in the lowland areas of the A1 corridor and the Vale of Pickering. Older deposits of sand outcrop south of Selby and North of the M62 and near the southern fringe of the Vale of Pickering. North Yorkshire contributes a significant proportion of the Region's total supply of sand and gravel. In 2004 approximately 2.8 million tonnes of sand and gravel was extracted in North Yorkshire, almost 60% of the total sand and gravel sales in the Yorkshire and the Humber Region.
- 2.30 Crushed Rock – in North Yorkshire crushed rock is formed from limestone deposited over three different geological periods together with a small contribution from chalk.
- 2.31 Carboniferous limestone outcrops around the fringes of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Magnesian Limestone outcrops in a narrow band running north-south through the County and Jurassic limestone and chalk outcrop on the fringes of the Vale of Pickering and the Yorkshire Wolds.
- 2.32 Over the period 1998-2003 production of crushed rock averaged out at approximately 4 million tonnes per year, although 2003 did see a 10% drop in crushed rock sales from the previous year.
- 2.33 Energy Minerals – The major coal resources in the County form part of the concealed Yorkshire coalfield lying at some depth below the surface. There are no significant outcrops or shallow seams and therefore no demand for opencast working.
- 2.34 Despite the closure of the Selby Coalfield in 2004, the County remains a significant producer of coal due to the working of seams from Kellingley Colliery.
- 2.35 The Vale of Pickering remains a major resource area for onshore gas with further exploration continuing offshore in the North Sea near to the Yorkshire Coast.
- 2.36 Other Minerals – In addition to the aggregate and energy minerals referred to above,

North Yorkshire also has resources of other minerals. Industrial minerals in the form of silica sand are worked at two sites within the County, although one of these is mothballed, and four sites within the County produce clay, although again one of these is mothballed. There are also a small number of sites in the County producing building stone. However output from these sites is not significant in terms of tonnage.

- 2.37 Recycled and Secondary Aggregates - Secondary aggregates are aggregate materials derived as by-products of industrial processes, for example power station ash produced during power generation or colliery spoil remaining after processing deep mined coal. Recycled aggregates are mainly produced by processing construction and demolition materials to create an aggregate product that can be re-used.
- 2.38 In terms of volume, the most important source of secondary aggregate within the County is power station ash, with approximately 1.3 million tonnes being sold in 2003. Colliery spoil also plays an important role in secondary aggregate provision. It is currently not known in detail how much construction and demolition waste is recycled in the County.

3 Issues, problems and challenges

Introduction

- 3.1 This chapter summarises the drivers that have led to the development of the policies within the MCS. These exist at different levels from national and regional guidance to local issues. It is the intention of the MCS not to repeat guidance that is already explicit, particularly at a national level.

National and Regional Guidance

- 3.2 Mineral planning is carried out against a background of national and regional planning policy guidance. This Mineral Core Strategy has been developed having due regard to this guidance. In some instances, the requirements of national guidance constrain significantly the nature and range of policies that the County Council can develop in the Core Strategy⁷.
- 3.3 National planning policy in relation to minerals is set out in Minerals Planning Guidance Notes and Statements (MPGs and MPSs) and cover many aspects of mineral planning. Some of the most relevant MPGs and MPSs are summarised below. Minerals development is also influenced by a wider range of national guidance⁸.
- 3.4 MPS 1 – Planning and Minerals replaces a number of MPGs. This document sets out the Government’s objectives for minerals planning and identifies policy in relation to provision of minerals, safeguarding, protection of heritage and countryside, supply, bulk transportation and environmental protection. It also provides advice on how to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals at the best balance of social, environmental and economic cost, whilst ensuring that extraction and development are consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
- 3.5 MPS 2 – Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Mineral Extraction in England sets out the policies and considerations in relation to the environmental effects of mineral working that the Government expects to be followed in the preparation of development plans and the determination of applications.
- 3.6 MPG 3 – Coal Mining and Colliery Spoil Disposal provides a policy framework to ensure that the extraction of coal and disposal of colliery spoil takes place at the best balance of social, environmental and economic cost, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.
- 3.7 MPG 7 – The Reclamation of Mineral Workings contains guidance on how minerals sites can beneficially be reclaimed or restored to a range of afteruses.
- 3.8 MPG 15 – Provision of Silica Sand in England provides guidance on how an adequate and steady supply of this nationally sparse material may be maintained and sets out a framework to develop policies for silica sand.

⁷ See Report of Evidence Supplementary Core Strategy Document and NYCC Core Strategy Self-Assessment for more details.

⁸ Links with other National Guidance are detailed in the Sustainability Appraisal Report and Sustainability Appraisal Adoption Statement (to be published at adoption of the Core Strategy).

- 3.9 National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision – These guidelines cover the period 2001 – 2016 and set out national and regional requirements for aggregates, which in turn form the basis for identifying local requirements.
- 3.10 Draft Regional Spatial Strategy; the draft Yorkshire and Humber Plan (RSS) guides development in the Region for the period up to 2021. This document apportions the guidelines for aggregate provision contained within MPS1 into a regional and sub-regional context as well as seeking the safeguarding of mineral deposits, maximisation of the use of secondary aggregates and reduction in aggregate production in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Local Development Documents such as the Minerals Core Strategy have to be in general conformity with the RSS.

Regional Issues

- 3.11 At the time of preparation of this Core Strategy, RSS policies for minerals remain in draft and subject to an examination in public Panel Report. The Panel Report recommends a number of changes to the draft policies. The draft RSS policies focus particularly on planning to meet requirements for aggregate minerals and it is expected that Regional policies for non-aggregate minerals will be developed more fully when RSS is reviewed. The approach to aggregates planning set out in RSS is to seek to maximise the use of secondary and recycled materials to reduce the need for the extraction of primary aggregates, and to seek a reduction in the proportion and amount of aggregates supplied within National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Region. In particular, draft RSS notes that there is no strategic need for the release of new reserves of crushed rock in such areas, given the scale of existing permitted reserves.
- 3.12 With regard to sand and gravel, work commissioned by the Regional Assembly is underway at the time of submission of this MCS to re-examine the approach to the sub-regional apportionment of sand and gravel guideline requirements. This work is intended to inform a move away from the current approach of apportioning requirements on the basis of perpetuating the historic proportion that each sub-region has provided towards the overall Regional requirement. The expectation is that this work will feed into a revised approach to apportionment to be set out in the next review of RSS. This could have significant implications for the amount of sand and gravel that North Yorkshire may be expected to provide in future. It is likely that any significant revisions to sub-regional apportionment of sand and gravel will result in a need to review the strategic policies for sand and gravel provision set out in the MCS.
- 3.13 North Yorkshire has, historically, provided a substantial amount of the Regions' total supply of crushed rock and sand and gravel. Significant quantities of this aggregate are transported out of the County, particularly into the West and South Yorkshire areas, with smaller amount travelling into Teeside and County Durham. Smaller amounts of aggregate, often of a particular type or quality which cannot be produced in the County, are brought into North Yorkshire to meet local requirements. It is expected that these flows will continue over the period to 2021, although in the longer term Regional flows could be influenced by diminishing reserves of crushed rock in the National Parks and AONBs and as a result of the impacts of any change to the approach to sand and gravel apportionment resulting from RSS work noted above. Any significant alterations in the pattern of Regional and sub-regional movement of aggregate, which are subsequently reflected in revised national or regional guidelines, may result in the need to review the policies in the MCS. Monitoring of aggregate supply patterns takes place every 4 years through the Regional Aggregates Working Party survey work and this will feed into the

monitoring framework accompanying this Core Strategy.

- 3.14 In addition to potential changes in minerals movements there may be increased demand for minerals over the plan period as a result of higher rates of economic growth and population increase. At the time of drafting the MCS, revised national household projections are not reflected in regional guidance. The Panel Report on RSS considered that such amendments to housing apportionment figures should be addressed in review of RSS.

Local Issues

- 3.15 A Minerals Local Plan for North Yorkshire (outside the National Parks) was adopted in 1997. The Plan was intended to cover the period to 31 December 2006. Following the introduction of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, proposals to save certain policies within the Minerals Local Plan were submitted to Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber in 2007. These proposals envisage saving a number of policies until 2009, pending the adoption of updated policies for minerals, to be contained in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework. It is intended that the policies in the MWDF will, upon adoption, replace those in the Minerals Local Plan. Although the policies in the Minerals Core Strategy represent a new approach to minerals planning for the County, they draw on a number of principles and approaches established in the 1997 Minerals Local Plan, where these are considered to have been successful in securing the effective planning of the area.
- 3.16 The Local Development Frameworks of the District and Borough Councils are in various stages of production. These Local Development Frameworks are implementing an approach of providing housing and employment land to meet regional targets. The Panel Report on RSS does not propose significant increases in housing numbers for the plan area. Of more significance are potential developments such as the expansion of Catterick Garrison and the Spallation Source Project at Burn Airfield and further A1 upgrading. These may impact on local requirements for minerals over the plan period.
- 3.17 Several issues were identified through the Sustainability Report as being important in North Yorkshire in general. Those that the most direct bearing on the implementation of policies contained in the MCS are detailed below:
- Sustainable Freight Distribution – *there is a need to manage the volume of freight on the local and strategic road network and also to encourage non-road freight movements, but while the presence of a rail infrastructure in the south of the plan area should be maximised, opportunities for water borne transport are limited*
 - Promoting conservation and enhancement of landscape, ecology and heritage – *general recognition that the assets which make North Yorkshire a distinctive and attractive area should be protected for their own right and also to support local amenity and the economic base*
 - Population characteristics – *a growing population which the regions plans seeks to direct towards the city-regions, urban areas and principal service centres.*
 - High dependence on agriculture and tourism sectors – *a need to ensure that the economic base and character of North Yorkshire are not harmed by inappropriate development*
 - Facilitating a Rural Renaissance and Village Renewal – *ensure the maintenance of local amenity*

3.18 North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership; Community Strategy 2005-2008 provides a vision for North Yorkshire, which the members of the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership will seek to realise through their own efforts and through partnership working. The Community Strategy has the following themes:

- Secure a thriving economy
- Provide everyone with the opportunity to develop their full potential
- Help people in need
- Promote socially inclusive, safe and sustainable communities
- Take care of our heritage, landscape and environment
- Ensure that people's need for access to jobs and services of all kinds are met as effectively as possible
- Plan for emergencies and cope with their aftermath

3.19 The North Yorkshire Community Strategies and those of the District and Borough Councils and adjoining authorities have a bearing on the MCS approach. Alongside objectives around securing a thriving economy, promoting sustainable communities, taking care of our heritage, landscape and environment, ensuring access to jobs and services and planning for emergencies such as climate change and flooding, the North Yorkshire Community Strategy highlights three particular needs: those of the rural economy, especially through the renaissance of market towns, those of coastal communities and those of the Selby area in terms of responding to the decline of coal mining and the need to promote inward investment as a key part of the Leeds City Region.

3.20 The community strategies of the districts and borough councils within and adjoining the plan area contain similar objectives to those of the NY Community Strategy. The County Council considers that the policies within the MCS help support their delivery. The Community Strategies within the plan area are additionally influenced by Local Area Agreement targets, which are reflected in the monitoring arrangements contained in the MCS.

Data

3.21 Data on minerals production is most readily available for aggregate as there are formal regional arrangements in place, through the Regional Aggregates Working Party, to monitor sales and reserves of aggregate on a mineral planning authority basis. This data has been used in planning for aggregates requirements over the plan period. Data on production of and requirements for other minerals is more limited and in particular is constrained by requirements to preserve commercial confidentiality. Information on non-aggregate minerals referred to in the MCS has been derived from a variety of sources. Monitoring will take place in order to improve and refine data availability where practicable.

4 Vision and strategic aims

4.1 This chapter sets out the vision and strategic aims which will provide an overall strategic guide to the development and implementation of policies within the MCS.

Vision

The vision for the Minerals Core Strategy is to ensure that over the period to 2021:

- **secondary and recycled materials, especially aggregates, are increasingly used in all development where practicable so as to conserve the natural mineral resources of North Yorkshire,**
- **the strong and diverse economies of North Yorkshire and the neighbouring City-Regions are supported by an adequate and steady supply of minerals,**
- **in achieving this, the distinctive natural and historic environment of North Yorkshire, along with the quality of life of those who live and visit here, is protected, and**
- **benefits arising from the working and particularly the reclamation of minerals sites are maximised.**

Strategic Aims

4.2 The Strategic Aims set out below flow directly from the above vision and set out in principle how the County Council will approach minerals planning in North Yorkshire. The Strategic Aims form the basis for the production of all Minerals related Development Plan Documents, including the policies within the MCS.

SA 1 Conserve and enhance natural resources

- conserving mineral resources as far as possible by safeguarding their long term viability and promoting the efficient use of primary resources,
- encouraging the use of acceptable substitute or recycled materials in place of primary minerals wherever practicable,
- developing linkages between minerals and waste policies to enhance the availability of suitable secondary and recycled materials,
- minimising production of mineral waste,
- conserving, and where possible, enhancing the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased through high standards of reclamation,
- safeguarding the long-term potential of land for a wide range of afteruses.

SA 2 Protect the rural communities of North Yorkshire and their local amenity by:

- securing sound working practices so that the environmental impacts of extraction and the transportation of minerals are kept to a minimum,
- encouraging, through the reclamation of mineral workings, the long term protection of local amenity and public safety,
- minimising the potential for conflict with non-mineral related development,

- conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the County that are attractive to residents, investors and visitors.

SA 3 Ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals in accordance with national and regional guidelines

- making an appropriate contribution to the supply of minerals for North Yorkshire, the Yorkshire and Humber Region and beyond,
- securing supplies of the material needed by society and the economy from environmentally acceptable sources,
- Identifying, where appropriate, additional mineral resources to maintain adequate landbanks for sand and gravel and crushed rock throughout and at the end of the plan period,
- directing new minerals development to where extraction could take place, subject to the imposition of appropriate environmental safeguards,
- protecting minerals resources for the future.

SA 4 Conserving and enhancing the environment

- conserving & enhancing the distinctive natural and built environment of North Yorkshire
- protecting the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks; Howardian Hills, Forest of Bowland and Nidderdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty from inappropriate development,
- protecting areas covered by the Habitats Regulations, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and SSSIs
- protecting the historic environment, including archaeological sites, Fountains Abbey world heritage site, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields and conservation areas,
- protecting and conserving the County's historic environment around the villages, market towns and Harrogate and Scarborough urban areas,
- maximising the opportunities for incorporating beneficial biodiversity elements or features into the design of developments,
- conserving the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites,
- conserving and enhancing the character of landscapes outside statutory and non-statutory designations,
- minimising the impact of minerals development on ground and surface water, air quality and land,
- preventing inappropriate development within areas at risk of flooding.

SA 5 Sustain the contribution of the minerals industry to a strong and diverse rural economy

- maintaining an appropriate contribution from the minerals industry, in accordance with Government guidance, to North Yorkshire's rural economy, taking into account the principles of sustainable development
- sustaining the contribution of mineral related employment to the rural economy

SA 6 Operating within the guiding principles of Sustainable Development

- respecting the limits of the environment, resources and biodiversity
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society

- building a strong, stable and sustainable economy
- promoting good governance at a local level
- using sound science responsibly

SA 7 Ensure that efforts to meet regional climate change targets are made

- ensuring that greenhouse gases emissions are limited,
- encouraging forms of minerals site restoration which help to mitigate climate change impacts,
- reducing the need to transport minerals long distances by encouraging their production close to sources of demand where practicable,
- encouraging the use of alternatives to the road transport of minerals.

5 Provision and Protection of Minerals

Introduction

- 5.1 Minerals are a finite resource and can only be worked where they are found in economically viable configurations. It is therefore important to ensure that the overall resource is managed and protected for the future.
- 5.2 The Vision of the MCS notes that the County Council will ensure that the natural mineral resources of North Yorkshire are conserved and an adequate and steady supply of minerals is provided to support the strong and diverse economies of North Yorkshire and the neighbouring City-Regions. This chapter addresses these potentially conflicting issues. It assists in delivering the Community Strategy theme of 'securing a thriving economy'.

Securing the provision of minerals

- 5.3 In North Yorkshire, the extraction of minerals can make a significant contribution to the local economy through direct employment and the utilisation of local services. The provision of minerals can also help to develop strong and sustainable communities. Minerals provide the basic raw materials needed for the construction and other industries. They help to provide the facilities that North Yorkshire and the neighbouring city-regions need and the use of local materials in construction can help to maintain our distinctive local character and maintain a sense of place.
- 5.4 It is the responsibility of the County Council to ensure that sufficient provision is made to meet the anticipated need for minerals. Subsequent chapters of this document will deal with the different types of mineral found within the County and detail the methods by which the County Council intends to secure the provision of each type. But first, through Policy CSM1, the Minerals Core Strategy demonstrates a general commitment to securing the supply of mineral in accordance with anticipated needs.

POLICY CS M1 SECURING THE PROVISION OF MINERALS

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL, THROUGH THE ALLOCATION OF SITES AND GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION, PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY OF MINERALS TO MEET THE ANTICIPATED NEEDS OF NORTH YORKSHIRE AND THE NEIGHBOURING CITY REGIONS THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD TO 2021 IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS.

Links to other strategies:

Yorkshire and Humber Plan
Regional Aggregates Working Party Reports
Waste Core Strategy

Implementation:

NYCC – identify appropriate sites to meet anticipated shortfalls in mineral supply
Minerals Industry – bring forward proposals in the right place at the right time
Waste Industry – bring forward proposals which facilitate the use of secondary/recycled aggregates in the right place at the right time
Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP)

Monitoring:

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Links to other Policies and Strategic Aims:

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Safeguarding Non-Renewable Mineral Resources

- 5.5 Primary minerals are a non-renewable resource; once worked they no longer exist in their original form. It is therefore important to encourage the efficient use of mineral resources, the use of alternatives to primary mineral resources and to ensure that minerals are not needlessly sterilised by other development. The following two policies, CSM2 and CSM3, seek to deliver these objectives by encouraging the more sustainable use of mineral resources and the protection of minerals from other forms of development.

Sustainable Use of Minerals

- 5.6 In North Yorkshire, providing further primary resources to replenish existing, diminishing, mineral reserves is likely to involve higher environmental costs as potential new sources become increasingly constrained. Nevertheless, it is recognised that further such resources will need to be released to ensure that requirements for minerals are met.
- 5.7 The County Council will seek to protect the resources of primary minerals within the County by promoting the efficient use of minerals and encouraging the substitution of primary mineral resources with appropriate substitute/recycled materials.
- 5.8 An important facet in enabling the sustainable use of minerals will be to influence the decision making of those who undertake significant development. The procurers and developers of infrastructure, including the County Council, can all play a role in helping to reduce the amount of primary mineral used in development by seeking to use alternatives wherever possible. Local Planning Authorities can also play a key role by encouraging the use of alternatives to primary mineral resources during pre-application discussion on building design and when determining planning permission for non-mineral development.
- 5.9 The County Council intends to produce a Supplementary Planning Document dealing with waste minimisation and this will provide further advice to developers on the sustainable use of resources.

POLICY CS M2 SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT MORE SUSTAINABLE USE OF MINERALS IN NORTH YORKSHIRE THROUGH:

- i. ENCOURAGING THE MAXIMUM USE OF APPROPRIATE SUBSTITUTE AND RECYCLED MATERIALS WHERE PRACTICABLE IN ALL DEVELOPMENT,

- ii. ENCOURAGING ALL BUILT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN NORTH YORKSHIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MINIMISATION OF WASTE AND THE EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES THROUGH THEIR DESIGN, BUILDING PRACTICES AND USE, AND
- iii. CONTROLLING THE RELEASE OF PRIMARY MINERALS WHILST MAINTAINING AN ADEQUATE AND STEADY SUPPLY.

Links to other strategies:

Yorkshire and Humber Plan (Policy ENV4)
 District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
 NYCC Waste Core Strategy NYCC Local Transport Plan
 NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement

Implementation:

NYCC – implement policies to encourage use of secondary/recycled materials
 Minerals Industry – prudent use of primary materials
 District and Borough Councils – include policies in LDFs requiring waste minimisation
 Highways Agency – use of substitute and recycled materials in procurement
 Highway Authority – use of substitute and recycled materials in procurement

Monitoring

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Links to other Policies and Strategic Aims

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The Protection of Mineral Resources

- 5.10 Minerals are a finite natural resource and unlike many other forms of development, the potential location of mineral working is restricted, because minerals can only be worked where they are found. Mineral working is also becoming increasingly constrained by the need to protect the key environmental, heritage and amenity assets of North Yorkshire, which limits the amount of resource which is available in practice.
- 5.11 The County Council will therefore safeguard important surface and near surface mineral resources and mineral related infrastructure (such as recycling facilities), through the implementation of Policy CSM3, to ensure their long term availability is maintained.
- 5.12 To prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources, the County Council will work closely with District and Borough councils in North Yorkshire to resist inappropriate permanent development. These authorities are responsible for producing planning policy and determining planning applications in relation to almost all built development in the County. Where proposed developments have the potential to adversely impact upon the viability of a mineral resource or infrastructure or lead to conflict between the two, local planning authorities should consult the County Council.
- 5.13 The Community Strategies of the sub-region and other emerging local and regional policies indicate that a substantial proportion of future built development will be directed towards previously developed land, in and around existing settlements and in accessible locations. To that end, it is considered that the County Council need only establish Minerals Consultation Areas where conflict between development and mineral resources is most likely to occur. The exception to this will largely involve the re-use of rural

buildings.

- 5.14 To deliver this safeguarding approach, the County Council will produce a Local Development Document setting out specific Mineral Safeguarding and Consultation Areas, which will be based on the general extent of the resource shown on the Proposals Map. Within these areas Local Planning Authorities, when considering proposals for certain non-mineral development, in accordance with Policy CSM3, will be required to consult the County Council. The County Council will carry out consultation with relevant stakeholders during the preparation of this LDD.
- 5.15 The County Council will draw on the following criteria to define Safeguarding and Consultation areas:
- the extent of key areas of minerals resources, particularly aggregates, silica sand and clay,
 - the location of Preferred Areas, Areas of Search, including any such proposed areas not taken forward at this stage, and extant planning permissions for mineral development,
 - the extent to which development of the resource may be constrained by other factors, such as nationally or internationally designated areas,
 - the wider development strategy for the County identified in RSS and LDFs.
- 5.16 The County Council is not suggesting that mineral working would necessarily be appropriate in safeguarded areas, or that minerals development is necessarily incompatible with other forms of development. Furthermore, Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas are not intended to be a barrier to development, because each case must be considered on its merits. The purpose of the safeguarding and consultation arrangements will be to ensure that the strategic importance of the resource is taken into account in planning decisions.

POLICY CS M3 STRATEGIC PROTECTION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

- A. PROPOSALS FOR PERMANENT DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD STERILISE SAFEGUARDED MINERAL RESOURCES WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE PROVISION IS MADE FOR EXTRACTION PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OR IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE NEED FOR OR BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OUTWEIGHS THE NEED FOR OR BENEFITS OF EXTRACTING THE MINERAL.
- B. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL DEFINE IN A MINERALS SAFEGUARDING DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT DETAILED MINERAL SAFEGUARDING AND CONSULTATION AREAS AND CRITERIA WHERE DISTRICT AND BOROUGH COUNCILS SHOULD CONSULT THE MINERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY BEFORE DETERMINING PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIFIED FORMS OF DEVELOPMENT.

Links to other strategies

Yorkshire and Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Waste Core Strategy
NYCC Local Transport Plan
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement

NYCC Minerals Site Allocations DPD

Implementation

NYCC – develop Minerals Safeguarding and Consultation Areas DPD

District and Borough Councils – undertake appropriate consultation in safeguarded areas.

Monitoring

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Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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6 Delivering Specific Types of Minerals within North Yorkshire

Introduction

- 6.1 In addition to the general strategic intent to secure the provision of minerals whilst safeguarding the minerals resource, the MCS contains detailed policies on specific types of mineral found within the plan area and specific development control policies dealing with extensions, borrow pits and ancillary development. Addressing these issues assists in delivering the Community Strategy theme of 'securing a thriving economy'.

Aggregate Minerals

- 6.2 Aggregate Minerals are essential raw materials for the construction industry. Primary sources of aggregate minerals are sand and gravel and crushed rock, with secondary sources coming from recycled aggregates and by-products of industry such as power station ash. Aggregate minerals form the majority of minerals produced within North Yorkshire and are used for purposes such as concrete manufacture, roadstone and bulk fill.
- 6.3 National Policy Guidance on the provision of aggregates is set out in Minerals Planning Statement 1 (MPS1) and in the National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision In England 2001-2016. This sets out the amount of aggregate mineral required nationally, broken down to a regional basis. This Regional requirement has been further broken down into a sub-regional apportionment, which was approved by the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Assembly in 2004.
- 6.4 Tables 4 and 5 below show the agreed Regional and Sub-regional requirements for aggregate minerals over the period to 2016. Subsequent sections of this document provide detail on how the requirements identified below could be satisfied.

Table 4: Regional aggregate requirements 2001-2016 (million tonnes)

2001 - 2016	
Land won – Sand & Gravel	73
Land won – Crushed Rock	220
Marine Sand and Gravel	3
Alternative Materials	128

Table 5: Agreed Sub-Regional Apportionment of 2001-2016 Aggregates Guidelines for Yorkshire and the Humber (million tonnes).

	Land won sand & gravel	% of regional total	Land won crushed rock	% of regional total
North Yorkshire Total	42.1	58%	140.8	64%
Of which North Yorkshire County Council	42.1	58%	74	34%
Yorkshire Dales National Park	-	-	66	30%
North York Moors National Park	-	-	0.8	0.36%

Source – RAWP Report 2003

- 6.5 MPS1 requires Mineral Planning Authorities to identify how they intend to ensure the supply of minerals and indicate the places where mineral extraction is most likely to take place. This can be done through identifying either Preferred Areas (areas of known resources where planning permission might reasonably be anticipated subject to the usual tests of acceptability) or Areas of Search (broader areas, where knowledge of mineral resources may be less certain, but within which planning permissions for particular sites could be granted to meet any shortfall in supply).
- 6.6 The County Council intends, so far as is practicable, to identify Preferred Areas for aggregate mineral working. This will enable the County Council to ensure the continued supply of minerals in accordance with the agreed sub-regional apportionment, and to provide greatest certainty over the potential location of future workings. Identification of preferred areas for mineral working, including aggregates, will be identified in the Minerals Site Allocations DPD. The MCS provides a local strategic context for the preparation of this DPD.
- 6.7 Bearing in mind the inevitable constraints on the development of differing spatial approaches to minerals provision, given that minerals can only be worked where they occur, the County Council has identified two possible spatial options to guide the identification of Preferred Areas for aggregate. These two options were the subject of public consultation in September 2006 and can be summarised as follows:
- Identify Preferred Areas for aggregate mineral workings, concentrated in those areas identified in the 1997 Minerals Local Plan as Areas of Search; or

- Identify Preferred Areas for aggregate mineral working based on the distribution of the overall resources of aggregates in the County, which could be either inside or outside the Minerals Local Plan Areas of Search.

6.8 The County Council's Preferred Approach is the second of these options, and is reflected in Policy CSM4. This is likely to generate the greatest potential to identify sufficient sites to meet possible shortfalls in aggregate minerals production, particularly for sand and gravel. The overall extent of the aggregate resource is shown schematically in Key Diagrams 2 and 3.

POLICY CS M4 AGGREGATE MINERALS

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ENSURE AN ADEQUATE AND STEADY SUPPLY OF AGGREGATE MINERALS OVER THE PERIOD TO 2021 BY:

- IDENTIFYING PREFERRED AREAS AND/OR AREAS OF SEARCH FOR AGGREGATE MINERAL WORKING IN THE MINERALS SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT, BASED ON THE FULL EXTENT OF THE AGGREGATE RESOURCE OUTSIDE THE NIDDERDALE MOORS, HOWARDIAN HILLS AND FOREST OF BOWLAND AONBS,
- SUPPORTING PROPOSALS FOR THE WORKING OF ALLOCATED SITES, AND
- SUPPORTING PROPOSALS FOR THE WORKING OF UNALLOCATED SITES WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE MINERAL IS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE AND STEADY SUPPLY OF AGGREGATE AND SUFFICIENT MINERAL CANNOT BE OBTAINED FROM ALLOCATED SITES.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
 District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
 Regional Aggregates Working Party Reports
 AONB Management Plans
 NYCC Minerals Site Allocations DPD

Implementation

NYCC – identify appropriate sites to meet anticipated shortfalls in mineral supply
 District/Borough Councils – identify NYCC allocations on their Proposals Maps
 Minerals industry – bring forward proposals in the right locations

Monitoring

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Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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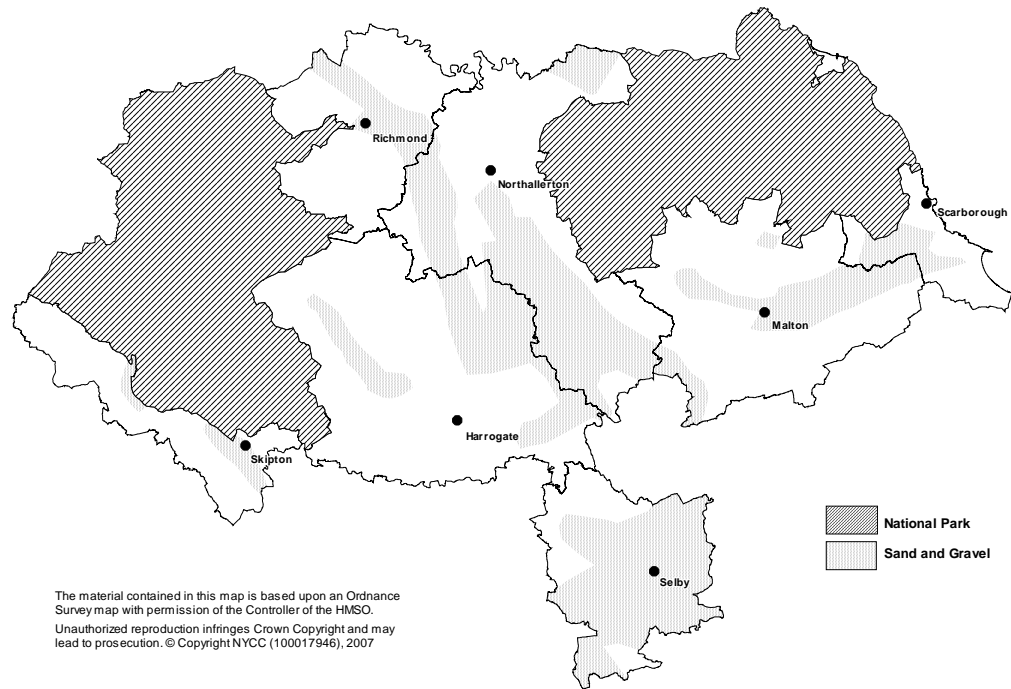
6.9 More information on the scale of future provision required for sand and gravel and crushed rock is set out in the following sections.

Sand & Gravel

6.10 Sand and Gravel resources in the County are situated mainly in the lowland areas along

the A1 corridor and in the Vale of Pickering, where glacial and fluvio-glacial sand and gravels occur, together with fluvial deposits. Older deposits of sand crop out south of Selby and north of the M62 and near the southern fringe of the Vale of Pickering. The generalised strategic distribution of this resource is shown on key diagram 2.

Key Diagram 2: Sand and Gravel Resource



- 6.11 In the period 1999-2004, sand and gravel production in North Yorkshire has averaged approximately 2.6 million tonnes per year. This material serves markets within North Yorkshire, as well as being exported out of the County to Teesside and County Durham and West and South Yorkshire.
- 6.12 The Sub-Regional Apportionment (SRA) of the Aggregates Guidelines 2003, agreed by the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly in January 2004, requires 42.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel to be provided in the whole of North Yorkshire in the period 2001 to 2016. This total must be provided only within the area for which North Yorkshire County Council is the mineral planning authority, i.e. excluding the National Parks as these areas do not contain resources of sand and gravel. This equates to an annual equivalent production level of around 2.63 million tonnes for this 16 year period.
- 6.13 MPS1 also requires that, for sand and gravel, mineral planning authorities should maintain at all times a stock of reserves with planning permission equal to at least 7 years of anticipated production. This stock of reserves is known as a landbank.
- 6.14 In North Yorkshire, the sand and gravel landbank has historically been further disaggregated to reflect the general market destinations of the mineral and its end use, including a northwards distribution area, a southwards distribution area and a separate landbank for building sand, which is concentrated in Selby District and a number of

isolated locations and which serves different end uses. This approach has worked well in providing sufficient material for each of the markets. However, permitted reserves of sand and gravel are now increasingly concentrated in the northwards distribution area, based around Catterick. Consultation during preparation of the MCS invited comments on whether the sub-division of the landbank remained appropriate. The response from the majority of those that answered this question was that this approach should be maintained. The MCS seeks to adopt this approach, which reflects the benefits of locating sources of mineral supply relatively near to areas of demand, although this strategy can only be maintained subject to the identification of appropriate sites in the relevant distribution areas.

- 6.15 For the period 2001-2016, North Yorkshire must in total seek to provide 42.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel, equating to 2.63 million tonnes per annum.
- 6.16 In order to effectively plan for the provision of sand and gravel for the period to 2021, it is assumed that the same annual provision will apply for the years 2017 to 2021. This assumption will be reviewed in light of subsequent SRAs following publication of any updated national and regional guidance.
- 6.17 Tables 6 and 7 below show the overall requirement for sand and gravel, the indicative status of reserves and any potential shortfall in requirements over the period to 2021. The information in the Tables shows that further reserves of sand and gravel will need to be provided in order to meet the guideline requirements.

Table 6: Sand and Gravel Requirements 2005-2021

	Million tonnes
a) North Yorkshire Apportionment (2005 base year – 2016)	31.56
b) Assumed requirement (2017 – 2021)	13.15
c) Total requirement 2005-2021 (a+b)	44.71

Table 7: Sand and Gravel Requirements and Shortfalls

Landbank area	Million tonnes
Sand and Gravel (Northwards) Requirement	14.31
Reserves at 31.12.04	12.93
Planning Permissions since 01.01.05	Nil
Shortfall 2005 - 2021	1.38
Sand and Gravel (Southwards) Requirement	27.72
Reserves at 31.12.04	12.99
Planning Permissions since 01.01.05	Nil
Shortfall 2005 - 2021	14.73
Building Sand Requirement	2.68
Reserves at 31.12.04	2.12
Planning Permissions since 01.01.05	1.26
Shortfall 2005 - 2021	Nil
Total Shortfall	15.41

- 6.18 Mineral Policy Statement 1 indicates that there is no need to provide for maintenance of a seven year landbank of sand and gravel at the end of the Plan period. The Development Framework system is intended to be a flexible system that is continuously rolling forward. Should the sand and gravel landbank fall significantly below the required 7 years over the period to 2021, then a review of the MCS policies and/or accompanying Minerals Site Allocations DPD will, if necessary, be implemented to address the issue.
- 6.19 In order to address the indicative shortfall in sand and gravel requirements over the plan period, the County Council asked the minerals industry, their agents and landowners to identify sites or areas that were considered to have potential for mineral working. The County Council will identify in the Minerals Site Allocations DPD those areas considered suitable for mineral working based upon these submissions and the identified requirements. The County Council's preferred option with respect to sand and gravel provision is to maintain the current north/south split in order to help reduce the need to transport the mineral over long distances, however, at the time of Core Strategy preparation it is not known if it is possible to meet the forecast shortfall in provision in full through the allocation of the sites that have been submitted as this would depend on the suitability of the sites put forward. This issue will be subject to ongoing monitoring and review as necessary.
- 6.20 For the purposes of the MCS the sand and gravel northwards distribution area is defined as including sites and resources in the northernmost parts of Hambleton District and the north eastern parts of Richmondshire District. The southwards distribution area includes all other areas of the County with the exception of Building Sand sites and resources.
- 6.21 The Regional Assembly is undertaking work to better understand the distribution and availability of sand and gravel resources within the Yorkshire and Humber Region. This study will consider the capacity of sub-regional areas to produce sand and gravel and may inform future changes to the way in which the sub-regional apportionment of sand and gravel requirements are calculated. It is expected that this work will lead to revised RSS policy on aggregates provision in due course and which may, in turn, result in a need to review the local approach to sand and gravel provision set out in the MCS.

- 6.22 In view of the foregoing considerations, it is therefore important that the MCS retains flexibility for provision and can accommodate changes in circumstance. It is recognised that the current approach to the apportionment of sand and gravel requirements may not continue over the whole of the period to 2021. The County Council's preferred approach during the early life of the MWDF will be to seek to continue to identify separate north/south landbanks for sand and gravel and for building sand and to make provision accordingly. The Council will monitor the effectiveness of this approach and review its policies if necessary. Policy CSM5 sets out specific guidance for the provision of sand and gravel.

POLICY CS M5 AGGREGATES (SAND AND GRAVEL)

A. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ENDEAVOUR TO MAINTAIN A LANDBANK OF AT LEAST 7 YEARS FOR SAND AND GRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD TO 2021.

B. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO ALLOCATE LAND IN THE MINERALS SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT TO PROVIDE 15.41 MILLION TONNES OF SAND AND GRAVEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING INDICATIVE DISTRIBUTION:

- 1.38 MILLION TONNES IN THE NORTHWARDS DISTRIBUTION AREA
- 14.73 MILLION TONNES IN THE SOUTHWARDS DISTRIBUTION AREA

WHERE SUFFICIENT ALLOCATIONS CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED WITHIN THE NORTHWARDS AND SOUTHWARDS DISTRIBUTION AREAS TOTAL ALLOCATIONS EQUIVALENT TO 15.41 MILLION TONNES WILL BE IDENTIFIED ACROSS THE WHOLE OF THE PLAN AREA.

C. NO ALLOCATIONS WILL BE MADE FOR THE EXTRACTION OF BUILDING SAND.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
AONB Management Plans
NYCC Minerals Site Allocations DPD

Implementation

NYCC – ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals
Minerals Industry – bring forward proposals in the right place and at the right time.

Monitoring

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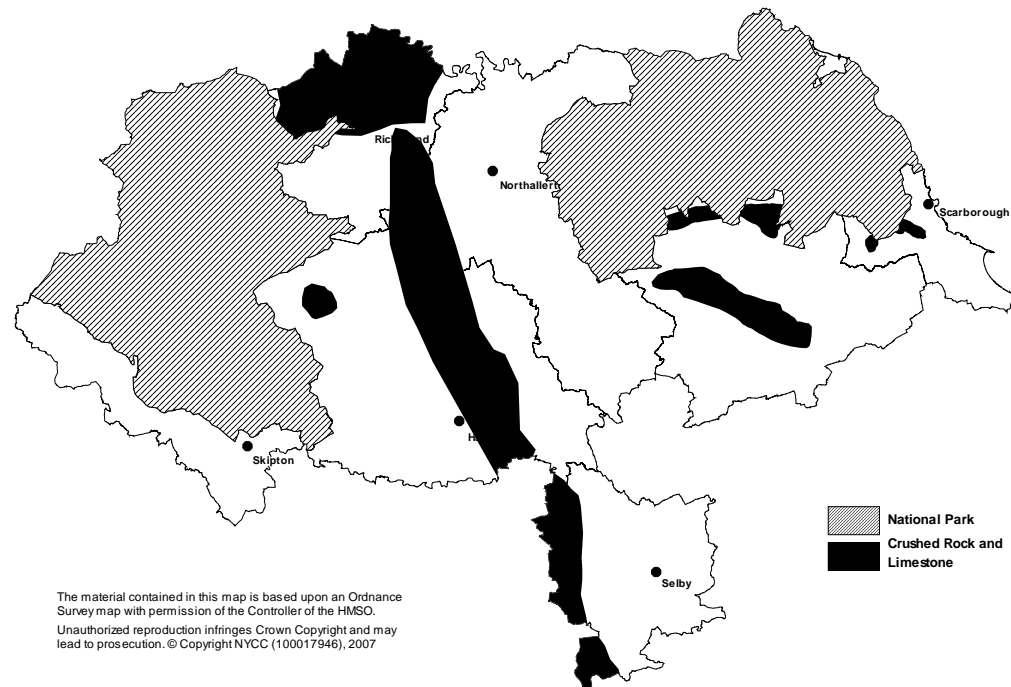
Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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Crushed Rock

- 6.23 Crushed rock output comes from the extraction of limestone that has been deposited over three geological periods. Carboniferous limestone crops out around the fringes of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Magnesian limestone crops out in a narrow band running north-south through the County from Darlington towards Doncaster. Jurassic limestone and chalk crop out on the fringes of the Vale of Pickering and in the Yorkshire Wolds. The generalised strategic distribution of this resource is shown on key diagram 3.

Key Diagram 3: Crushed Rock Resource



- 6.24 Within North Yorkshire as a whole (i.e. including the two National Parks) production has averaged about 8.25 million tonnes per year for the period 1999-2004. Unlike sand and gravel, a significant proportion of crushed rock output from North Yorkshire comes from sources located within the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks (approximately 48% in 2004). For the area covered by the MCS, production of crushed rock has averaged approximately 4 million tonnes for the period 1999-2004. National and regional minerals policies seek a reduction in the supply of aggregate from National Parks. However, very substantial committed reserves of crushed rock remain the National Park and no significant reduction in output is expected in the near term.
- 6.25 As with sand and gravel, national requirements for the production of crushed rock have been established for the period 2001-2016. These have been apportioned on a sub-regional basis by the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Assembly following advice from the Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP). This sub-regional apportionment requires North Yorkshire to provide some 140 million tonnes of crushed rock over the period 2001-2016. However, once the contribution from the two National Parks is removed, the remainder of the County is required to provide 74 million tonnes of crushed rock for this period. This equates to a production level of 4.63 million tonnes per year. In order to Plan for the period 2017 to 2021, the Council assumes that the annual requirement will continue at the same rate.
- 6.26 As with sand and gravel, the County Council is required to maintain a landbank of permitted reserves. MPS1 indicates that a minimum period for crushed rock landbanks should be 10 years. It is considered that this period is sufficiently robust for the maintenance of an adequate and steady supply of crushed rock in the County.

6.27 Table 8 below shows the requirement for crushed rock over the plan area for the period to 2021. The figures provided can be used to determine if any further planning permissions will be required for the production of crushed rock throughout the life of the MWDF.

Table 8: Crushed Rock Requirements 2005-2021

	Million tonnes
a) North Yorkshire Apportionment (2005 base year – 2016)	55.56
b) Assumed requirement (2017 – 2021)	23.15
c) Total requirement 2005-2021 (a+b)	78.71

6.28 Table 9 suggests that there are currently sufficient crushed rock reserves within the County to last some six years beyond the plan period. However, the assessment of reserves does not take into account factors such as productive capacity, mineral quality or accessibility.

Table 9: Crushed Rock Reserves and Landbank

	Reserves at 31.12.04 (million tonnes)	Sub-regional Apportionment (million tonnes per annum)	Landbank at 31.12.04 (Years)
North Yorkshire (outside the National Parks)	105.35	4.63	22.7

Source: Regional Aggregates Working Party Report

6.29 Annex 1 to MPS1 advises that Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) should seek to maintain a landbank for crushed rock equivalent to at least 10 years of production. Where MPAs consider landbanks to be excessive, new permissions should only be given where it can be shown that demand for the mineral could not be met from existing permitted reserves for reasons of quality and/or distance from market.

6.30 Recent Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government has indicated that mineral reserves, with planning permission but contained within sites that have been classified as Dormant under either the Planning and Compensation Act 1990 or the Environment Act 1995, should not be included within landbank calculations. These sites are old mineral permissions, often granted permission in the 1940s, and cannot be worked until a new schedule of planning conditions has been agreed by the County Council. There are currently seven sites within the County that fall into this category. Given the age of these planning permissions, and the absence of reliable information on reserves within them, the County Council is not in a position to accurately assess the contribution that these sites make to the overall landbank figure quoted above. However, it is considered realistic to assume that approximately 10% of the total landbank is currently made up of sites that are classed as dormant. A 10% reduction in the overall landbank figure would equate to approximately 10 million tonnes. This would indicate that available reserves may be closer to 95 million tonnes, the equivalent to just

over 20 years production.

- 6.31 It is unlikely therefore that significant additional crushed rock reserves will be required until the latter part of the plan period at the earliest. The County Council considers that the most effective means of maintaining an adequate supply of crushed rock will be through the appropriate extension of existing, established mineral workings. Such an approach reflects the positive role that such sites make to the local economy and the benefits of the continued use of established infrastructure. The County Council intends to identify and allocate Preferred Areas for extensions to crushed rock sites on this basis, and will keep under close review the requirement for further allocations if necessary to maintain an adequate landbank.
- 6.32 The County Council recognises that the landbank for crushed rock may fall below 10 years in the latter stages of the plan period, dependent on the extent of new reserves which may be brought forward through extensions to existing sites and will review the policies relating to crushed rock provision as necessary to ensure that adequate supplies are maintained. Policy CSM6 sets out the specific approach to the provision of crushed rock.

POLICY CS M6 AGGREGATES (CRUSHED ROCK)

- A. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ENDEAVOUR TO MAINTAIN A LANDBANK OF AT LEAST 10 YEARS FOR CRUSHED ROCK THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD TO 2021.
- B. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL, THROUGH THE ALLOCATION OF LAND AND THE GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION, SUPPORT EXTENSIONS TO ESTABLISHED CRUSHED ROCK SITES.
- C. PROPOSALS FOR NEW “GREENFIELD” CRUSHED ROCK SITES WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
AONB Management Plans
NYCC Minerals Site Allocations DPD
Implementation

Lead Role

NYCC – ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals
Minerals Industry – bring forward proposals in the right time and in the right place

Monitoring

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Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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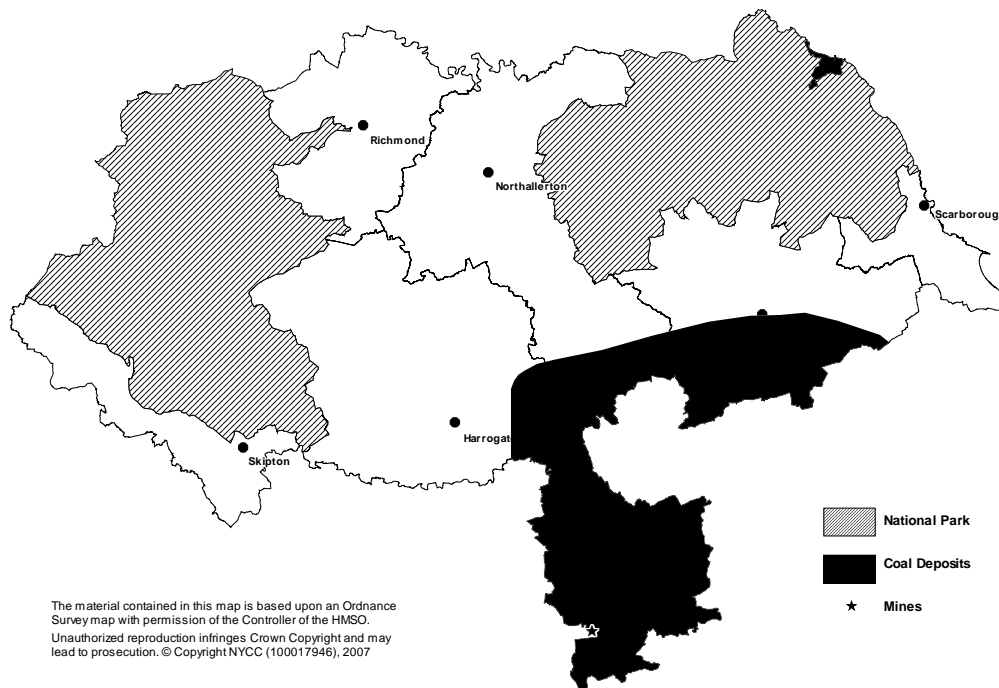
Energy Minerals

- 6.33 North Yorkshire has significant resources of coal and gas which constitute a valuable economic resource of energy minerals, for example supporting coal-fired power generation in the Selby area.

Coal

- 6.34 The major coal resources in the County form part of the concealed Yorkshire Coalfield, lying at some depth below the surface. There are no significant outcrops or shallow seams and therefore no demand for opencast working. Other smaller coal deposits are associated with upland limestones and were worked in association with early lead, iron and lime burning operations. These deposits are of little commercial interest. The generalised strategic distribution of this resource and active coal mines is shown on key diagram 4.

Key Diagram 4: Coal resources and coal mines



- 6.35 The production of deep mined coal in North Yorkshire has declined significantly since the closure of the Selby Coalfield in 2004. Coal production in North Yorkshire is now limited to Kellingley Colliery. A report prepared jointly by Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Assembly and Yorkshire Forward in 2004 indicates a potential future life in excess of 20 years for the Colliery, although unforeseeable economic, geological and industrial relations issues could affect future life expectancy and output. Planning permission for an underground extension was granted in 2007. There is no evidence of a strategic need to identify further resources at this stage. Policy CSM7 does not allow for the development of new mines in the plan area but supports the extension of existing

underground mining in appropriate circumstances.

- 6.36 Government guidance in Mineral Planning Guidance Note 3 “Coal Mining and Colliery Spoil Disposal” advocates a criteria based approach to the formulation of policy for the extraction of coal.
- 6.37 This approach was followed by the County Council in the 1997 Minerals Local Plan and has enabled the determination of applications that have come forward throughout the life of the Plan. This criteria based approach is therefore rolled forward into the MCS, updated to take account of recent guidance and circumstances.
- 6.38 Because of the scale of underground mining and the fact that deep mined coal is predominantly used for power generation at power stations where rail infrastructure is in place, the County Council would expect that coal from any new workings would be transported by rail.
- 6.39 Mining of coal generates colliery spoil. A significant proportion of spoil arising at Kellingley Colliery, in the form of coarse discard, is already used off-site as secondary aggregate and the County Council encourages the maximum practicable use for such purposes. Nevertheless there will remain a requirement for the disposal of spoil. Capacity exists at the existing dedicated spoil disposal facility at the former Womersley Quarry. The North Yorkshire Waste Core Strategy sets out a policy framework for considering proposals for any further capacity that may be required over the plan period.
- 6.40 Spoil already disposed of constitutes a potential source of secondary aggregate and there are a number of former spoil tips associated with the Selby Coalfield, including the very substantial Gascgoine Wood spoil mound. These have now become established landscape features, reclaimed to a good standard to appropriate afteruses. The County Council will only support the re-excavation of previously deposited spoil from within tips which are still active and where it can be demonstrated that the overall standard of reclamation will not be compromised, and subject to compliance with other policies in the MCS.

POLICY CS M7 COAL AND COLLIERY SPOIL

- A. PROPOSALS FOR THE EXTRACTION OF COAL, BY THE EXTENSION OF EXISTING UNDERGROUND MINING, AND/OR FOR THE DISPOSAL OF COLLIERY SPOIL, WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT, WHERE APPROPRIATE:
- i. SUBSIDENCE CAN BE MONITORED AND CONTROLLED TO EFFECTIVELY LIMIT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES,
 - ii. ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS ARE IN PLACE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SPOIL LIKELY TO BE GENERATED OVER THE LIFETIME OF THE WORKING. WHERE NEW DISPOSAL FACILITIES ARE REQUIRED THESE SHOULD SEEK TO UTILISE EXISTING VOIDS OR DERELICT OR DE-GRADED LAND,
 - iii. THE POTENTIAL FOR THE TRANSPORT OF COAL AND SPOIL BY MODES OTHER THAN ROAD HAS BEEN FULLY EXPLORED AND WHERE PRACTICABLE SUCH OTHER MODES ARE UTILISED, AND
 - iv. ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS EXIST ON SITE TO SUPPORT THE MAXIMUM PRACTICABLE REUSE OF COLLIERY SPOIL AS SECONDARY AGGREGATE.

- B. PROPOSALS FOR THE RE-EXCAVATION AND BENEFICIAL REUSE FOR SECONDARY AGGREGATE PURPOSES OF SPOIL FROM ACTIVE SPOIL DISPOSAL SITES WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE OVERALL QUALITY OF RECLAMATION WILL BE MAINTAINED.

PROPOSALS FOR THE RE-EXCAVATION OF SPOIL FROM RESTORED SPOIL MOUNDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SELBY COALFIELD WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Local Transport Plan
NYCC Waste Core Strategy

Implementation

NYCC – ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals
Minerals Industry – ensure timely promotion of appropriate development
Selby District Council

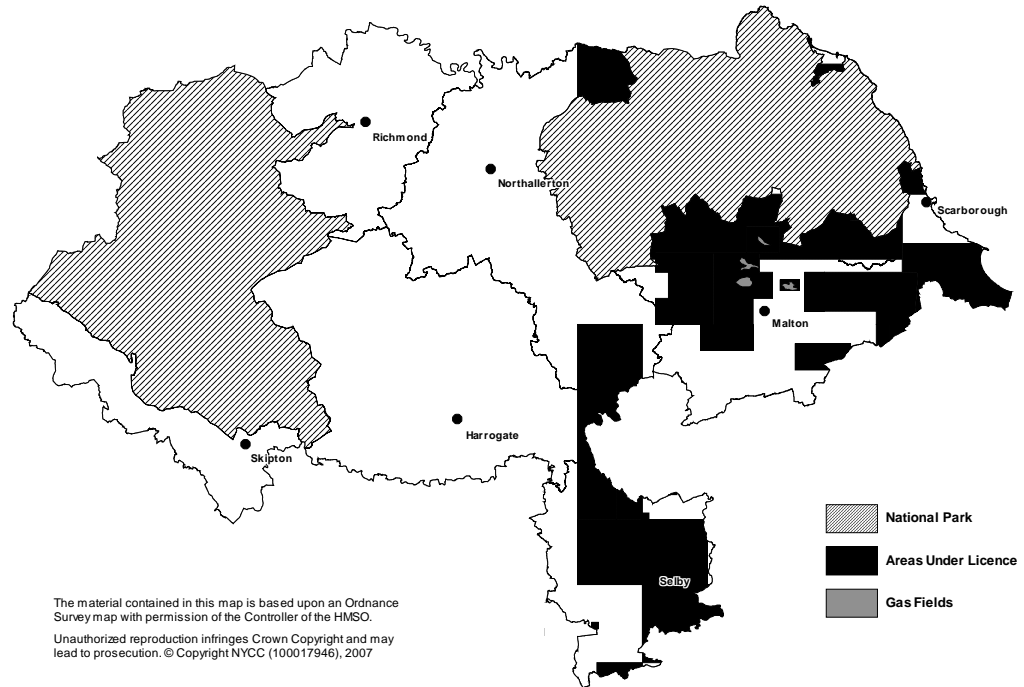
Monitoring

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On-shore Oil and Gas

- 6.41 Oil and gas are found as naturally occurring hydrocarbons, usually held in sedimentary structures at great depths. They derive from the decay of organic material over geological time and migrate into porous limestone and sandstone structures until they become trapped by overlying impervious rock strata. Conventional oil and gas extraction has taken place in the UK for over 80 years. Gas was first discovered in North Yorkshire in the 1940's with significant further gas finds since then. Key diagram 5 shows the areas under license for oil and gas exploration, together with the location of known gasfields.

Key Diagram 5: Oil and Gas Resources



- 6.42 This section seeks to control the development of oil and gas, encourage the utilisation of emerging technologies to maximise the potential of the County to contribute to the production of energy but limit the location of such development in order to minimise potential environmental impacts and safeguard local amenity.
- 6.43 There are currently four potential methods of oil and/or gas development:
- conventional on-shore oil and gas development i.e. the extraction of petroleum or hydrocarbon oils and gases by drilling and, if necessary, pumping, from land based sites;
 - capture of methane from coal mines – methane that has accumulated in, and may be freely venting from, mine voids;
 - coalbed methane – extraction by drilling into unmined coal seams to release methane; and,
 - underground coal gasification – drilling into and subsequent controlled underground gasification of pressurised coal seams.
- 6.44 So far in North Yorkshire only conventional drilling and methane capture have been utilised.
- 6.45 With the exception of coal gasification, all the above processes are regulated by a separate licensing system operated by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in addition to the need to obtain planning permission.

- 6.46 Most of the County outside the Yorkshire Dales National Park has been the subject of exploration licences, with the principal production area for gas located in the Vale of Pickering. Methane capture from the Selby Coalfield is taking place at the former Stillingfleet Mine site in Selby District. Of the other technologies mentioned above, only the extraction of coal bed methane and methane capture have been carried out in the UK, and only on a small-scale.
- 6.47 However, the Government's short to medium term aim is to maximise the potential of conventional oil and gas reserves, encourage the development of clean coal technologies and encourage the capture of methane from coal mines where this would be environmentally acceptable. It is therefore important that a policy framework is in place to deal with any proposals which may come forward.
- 6.48 While the overall scale of development is currently expected to be low and potential locations are significantly influenced by geology and the licensing regime, the County Council will seek to implement Policy CSM8 where proposals for oil and gas arise.
- 6.49 Whilst many of the potential impacts associated with the surface infrastructure for oil and gas exploitation are similar in nature to those associated with other forms of mineral development, there may be a need to ensure so far as practicable that a co-ordinated approach to resource development takes place. This need may arise where a number of licensed operators are seeking to develop a single geological resource. Overall impacts may be minimised, and the benefits of the resource maximised, by joint working and careful site selection across licensed areas.

POLICY CS M8

ON-SHORE OIL AND GAS

PROPOSALS FOR THE EXPLORATION, APPRAISAL AND PRODUCTION OF ONSHORE OIL AND GAS, INCLUDING GAS DERIVED FROM THE UNDERGROUND GASIFICATION OF COAL, COAL MINE AND COAL BED METHANE WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE:

- i. THE SITE IS LOCATED WITHIN THE POTENTIAL OIL OR GAS RESOURCE AT THE LOCATION WHERE IT WOULD HAVE LEAST IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITY, SUBJECT TO TECHNICAL AND GEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS,
- ii. WITHIN THE HOWARDIAN HILLS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY AND THE CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE HERITAGE COASTS AND FLAMBOROUGH HEADLAND HERITAGE COASTS, A VERY HIGH STANDARD OF DESIGN AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, MITIGATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED,
- iii. IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SITE CAN BE RESTORED TO AN APPROPRIATE STANDARD WITHIN A REASONABLE TIMESCALE,
- iv. IN THE CASE OF PRODUCTION, IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT SITE SELECTION HAS HAD REGARD TO THE LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT OF THE OVERALL RESOURCE WITHIN THE GAS OR OILFIELD, AND
- v. ANY NEW INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIRED FOR THE TRANSPORT OF ENERGY MINERALS OR ENERGY FROM THE SITE CAN BE DEVELOPED WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT OR AMENITY.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
 NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
 NYCC Local Transport Plan

Implementation

Lead Role Support Roles

NYCC – ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals

Minerals Industry – ensure timely promotion of appropriate development

DTI – identify areas licensed for exploration and production

Yorkshire Forward

Monitoring

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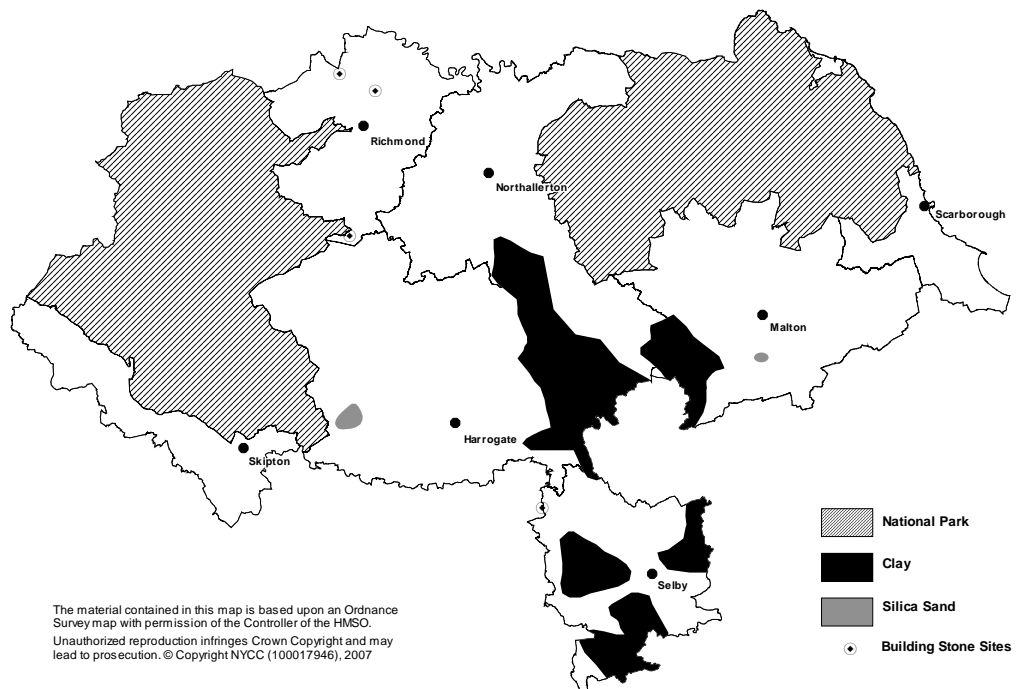
Preferred Policy Approaches

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Non-aggregate minerals

- 6.50 Non-aggregate minerals in North Yorkshire comprise a range of specific mineral types including clay, silica sand and building stone, which are exploited for a range of uses. The generalised strategic distribution of these resources or sources of supply is shown on key diagram 6.

Key Diagram 6: Non-aggregate minerals



Clay

- 6.51 Clay is primarily used for the production of materials such as bricks, pipes, tiles and blocks for the construction industry. These end uses may require resources of clay which meet particular quality requirements. There are currently four sites within the County that retain productive capacity for clay production. These sites are located at Alne, Hemingbrough, Escrick and Littlethorpe.
- 6.52 There is no evidence to suggest any significant pressure for the development of new “Greenfield” clay extraction sites but it is probable that proposals will come forward for the extension of workings at existing sites during the Plan period. The principle of continuing production at these sites is supported in order to maintain an adequate supply of reserves and to reflect the contribution that such sites make to the local economy and enhancement of the distinctive built environment of North Yorkshire. Such proposals will be treated on merit having regard to the development control policies in the MCS. It is also appropriate to safeguard known resources of clay from incompatible development to maintain their viability for the future. This will be addressed through the safeguarding approach identified in Policy CSM3.

Industrial Minerals

- 6.53 Silica sand has many different industrial applications, including use in the glass and foundry industries. Future demand for this type of material is uncertain due to the potential for substitution with other materials. There are two areas of the County containing resources of silica sand. Within these areas there are two sites: Burythorpe Quarry to the south of Malton and Blubberhouses Quarry to the west of Harrogate, although the latter has been mothballed for a number of years. Silica sand is an important national resource, the exploitation and use of which makes a significant contribution to the regional and national economy.
- 6.54 National Planning Policy for the provision of silica sand is set out in Mineral Planning Guidance Note 15 (Provision of Silica Sand in England). Mineral Planning Authorities should aim to maintain a landbank of permitted reserves of at least 10 years for individual sites and safeguard potential reserves from inappropriate development.
- 6.55 The two sites that currently have planning permission contain sufficient reserves to meet that landbank requirement, although in the case of Blubberhouses, the current planning permission only allows for mineral extraction to continue until 2011. It is therefore likely that a planning application will come forward seeking to extend the permitted life of this reserve and potentially extend the site further into the resource. PPG15 also recognises that where new investment in infrastructure is necessary, a landbank of 15 years reserves may be needed.
- 6.56 The County Council has conducted an Assessment under the Habitats Regulations⁹ to assess any potential impacts that might arise from implementation of Policy CSM9. This revealed that while there are no significant negative impacts at a strategic level upon the integrity of the North Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area adjacent to the silica sand resource in the west of the plan area, specific development proposals and/or site allocations within this silica sand resource should be

⁹ Habitats Regulations 1994 implementing Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)

subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Regulations.

Building Stone

- 6.57 There are currently four building stone quarries in North Yorkshire, three in Richmondshire and one to the west of Tadcaster.
- 6.58 Increasingly, new development, or the renovation of existing buildings and features such as dry stone walls, requires the provision of locally produced stone. With such a limited supply, it can prove difficult for the construction industry to meet requirements. A need has been identified by a number of consultees for the provision of further, small-scale supply of building stone to maintain the quality and character of the built environment in North Yorkshire.
- 6.59 However, as building stone sites tend to have a low output, working intermittently over a long period of time, it is difficult to assess the extent of any future demand that may arise during the period of the MWDF. The County Council therefore will encourage the development of sites for the extraction of building stone, particularly where they would serve an identified local need, support the maintenance and repair of historic buildings or monument in the North Yorkshire sub-region (particularly where it can be demonstrated that, in the case of reopening old workings, the quarry was the original source of stone) and satisfy other environmental and amenity policies in the MCS. Existing permitted sources of building stone will also be safeguarded from inappropriate development.

POLICY CS M9 NON-AGGREGATE MINERALS

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NON-AGGREGATE MINERALS BY:

- i. SUPPORTING PROPOSALS TO MAINTAIN A LANDBANK OF AT LEAST 10 YEARS RESERVES AT INDIVIDUAL SILICA SAND SITES WHERE APPROPRIATE EXTENSIONS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND WHICH DO NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE INTEGRITY OF THE NORTH PENNINE MOORS NATURA 2000 SITE,
- ii. SUPPORTING PROPOSALS TO MAINTAIN SUPPLIES OF CLAY AND BUILDING STONE, PARTICULARLY AT EXISTING SITES WHERE APPROPRIATE EXTENSIONS CAN BE IDENTIFIED,
- iii. SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SITES FOR SMALL SCALE BUILDING STONE PRODUCTION, INCLUDING FROM APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS WITHIN THE HOWARDIAN HILLS, FOREST OF BOWLAND AND NIDDERDALE MOORS AREAS OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY WHERE THE SITE WOULD MEET AN IDENTIFIED LOCAL NEED AND/OR SUPPORT THE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS IN THE NORTH YORKSHIRE SUB-REGION.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
AONB Management Plans
NYCC Heritage Strategy

Implementation

NYCC – ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals
Minerals Industry – ensure timely promotion of appropriate development

English Heritage

Monitoring

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Preferred Policy Approaches

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Additional considerations

Extensions to extant mineral extraction sites

- 6.60 The County Council recognises that, for various reasons, proposals for the extension or continuation of working at extant mineral sites may come forward over the plan period, including in circumstances where the specific potential for extension is not identified in either the Core Strategy policies or the Minerals Site Allocations DPD. Whilst the role that extensions may play in ensuring the continued availability of adequate supplies of minerals is already recognised in Core Strategy policies CSM6, CSM7 and CSM9, the Council recognises that there may be other instances where the limited extension of sites may be acceptable in some circumstances. Such proposals may represent an appropriate means of maintaining continuity of supply, ensuring the provision of minerals to local markets, sustaining the site's contribution to the local economy or utilising established infrastructure such as processing plant capacity.
- 6.61 To that end, the County Council will, through the implementation of Policy CSM10, support the limited lateral or vertical extension, or extended duration of extraction where remaining reserves exist in a time-limited permission, of extant mineral workings where acceptable in environmental and amenity terms. In order to ensure that implementation of such a policy does not undermine the specific MCS policies for particular minerals, such extensions should be of a limited size appropriate to the scale of the site and its local context. In assessing the scale of proposals in relation to Policy CSM10, the Council will take into account additional factors including, but not limited to: site area and depth, rate of output, duration of working, planning history, local context and any cumulative impact arising from earlier and/or ongoing mineral extraction in the vicinity. The Council will also have regard to any benefits which could arise through enhanced standards of working and restoration.

POLICY CS M10 EXTENSIONS TO EXTANT SITES

PROPOSALS FOR THE LIMITED EXTENSION OF ESTABLISHED SITES ON LAND NOT ALLOCATED FOR WORKING IN THE MINERALS SITE ALLOCATIONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE APPROPRIATE.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and Humber Regional Plan

Implementation

NYCC – grant planning permission in appropriate circumstances
Minerals industry – bring forward appropriate proposals

Monitoring

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Links to other policies

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Borrow Pits

- 6.62 Borrow pits are generally small scale and relatively short term mineral workings associated with, and directly linked to, specific development projects such as road building or flood defence schemes. The use of borrow pits for specific projects can alleviate potential environmental impacts associated with the transport of minerals and can represent a sustainable approach to minerals supply.
- 6.63 A number of borrow pits have been successfully utilised in the County and the Council supports the principle of such development. To be acceptable, borrow pits should be located on or directly adjacent to the corridor of disturbance generated by the construction project being supplied with minerals. Mineral should be supplied to the project without the need for transport on the public highway. Any minerals extracted from borrow pits should be used only in connection with the associated construction project and extraction should also be linked to the life of the project being supplied, with site restoration taking place within a timetable compatible with the completion of the construction project.
- 6.64 To ensure consistency with other MCS objectives to promote the increased use of secondary and recycled aggregates, proposals for borrow pits should be supported with evidence to demonstrate that the requirement cannot practicably be met from these alternative sources of supply.

POLICY CS M11 BORROW PITS

PROPOSALS FOR BORROW PITS WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT:

- i. IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE MATERIAL FROM SECONDARY OR RECYCLED SOURCES,
- ii. THE SITE IS LOCATED ON OR DIRECTLY ADJOINING THE ZONE OF DISTURBANCE OF THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT,
- iii. THE MINERAL CAN BE SUPPLIED TO THE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WITHOUT THE NEED FOR ROAD HAULAGE, AND
- iv. THE SITE CAN BE WORKED AND RECLAIMED TO AN APPROPRIATE AFTERUSE WITHIN THE OVERALL TIMESCALE OF THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and Humber Plan

Implementation

NYCC – ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals

Minerals industry – bring forward proposal in the right place

Construction industry – recognise the role of borrow pits in appropriate circumstances.

Monitoring

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Links to other policies

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Ancillary Development

- 6.65 At many mineral workings, additional activities are carried out to add value to the minerals extracted. Common examples include concrete manufacture and roadstone coating at aggregates quarries. Often, the plant and equipment associated with such activities is small in scale and may, in some instances, not require the benefit of planning permission. In other cases, the development may be of large scale and/or carry the potential for significant impact. The Council will support appropriate ancillary development at mineral extraction sites and in considering any proposals will have regard to the environment, amenity and transport policies in the MCS. The life of ancillary development will be expected to be limited to that of the host development to which it relates.
- 6.66 In order to promote the increased use of secondary and recycled aggregates, support will also be given to proposals at extant aggregate extraction sites for facilities for the importation, processing and despatch of secondary and recycled aggregates, provided that the scale of such activity is compatible with the scale of activity at the associated quarry. Such proposals will be favoured at locations where there is good access to the strategic road network and which are well located in relation to sources of arisings of secondary and recycled material and to potential markets.

POLICY CS M12 ANCILLIARY DEVELOPMENT

- A. PROPOSALS FOR ANCILLIARY DEVELOPMENT AT EXTANT MINERAL EXTRACTION SITES WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE THEIR SCALE AND NATURE ARE APPROPRIATE IN RELATION TO THE HOST DEVELOPMENT.
- B. PROPOSALS FOR IMPORTATION, PROCESSING AND BLENDING OF SECONDARY AND RECYCLED AGGREGATE AT EXTANT AGGREGATE EXTRACTION SITES WILL BE SUPPORTED WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SITE IS WELL LOCATED TO THE ROAD NETWORK AND IN RELATION TO ARISING OF, AND MARKETS FOR, THE MATERIAL.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and Humber Regional Plan

Implementation

NYCC – grant permission in appropriate locations
Minerals industry – bring forward proposals in appropriate locations

Monitoring

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Links to other policies

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7 Sustainable Communities

Introduction

- 7.1 The County Council recognises that minerals development can give rise to impacts on local communities. In many cases such impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level through appropriate siting, design and control of development. The policies in this chapter seek to guide proposals so as to ensure the maintenance and development of sustainable communities. These policies will be implemented in conjunction with all policies relating to specific minerals.
- 7.2 They also assist in delivering the Community Strategy theme of 'promoting socially inclusive, safe and sustainable communities' and 'ensuring that peoples access to jobs and services of all kinds are met as effectively as possible'.

Local Amenity

- 7.3 By its very nature mining and quarrying can have a significant effect on rural and residential amenity. During the operational life of workings, the location and operation of heavy fixed and mobile plant and other quarry infrastructure, including site lighting can cause a significant element of visual impact and disturbance. It is, therefore, essential to incorporate appropriate measures, which may be both on and off-site, within the design of proposals to minimise visual impact and disturbance and to integrate proposals into the surrounding landscape as effectively as possible.
- 7.4 Noise levels generated by mineral working may be a particular concern. There are measures which can be adopted to control and reduce noise levels and noise control should be seen as an integral part of operational design. Protection is possible by earth mounding and advance planting and the incorporation of areas of "stand off" (i.e. areas not be worked), although sometimes reducing the extraction area, may be necessary in order to reduce disturbance. The incorporation of noise attenuation works within quarry plant should also be addressed.
- 7.5 Quarry operations, particularly those working limestone, may give rise to the generation of dust. The effective control of dust is essential in minimising the impact of quarrying on local amenity and control and monitoring measures should be incorporated in project design. Prevention of the deposit of dust or other material on the highway is also important. Sheeting of vehicles and cleaning of the highway should be incorporated in site management practice.
- 7.6 Advances in technology and practice have introduced the possibility of greater control of the effects of blasting. However, any proposals should be supported by accurate assessments of predicted impacts from ground vibration levels and air over-pressure and for monitoring and mitigation. Mineral Policy Statement 2 gives guidance on reducing and mitigating these impacts.
- 7.7 Many localised and specific impacts associated with mineral working can be contained to an acceptable level provided that appropriate controls and safeguards are incorporated. In implementing Policy DCM13 the County Council will require proposals to be accompanied by information identifying and addressing the impacts that may arise. Developers should contact the County Council at an early stage in project design to

determine the scope of any assessments that may be required.

- 7.8 Environmental Management Systems (EMS) can be used to help reduce long term local environmental impacts, comply with relevant legislation, and demonstrate that organisations are managing their environmental risks and liabilities responsibly. The County Council encourage developers to consider the use of EMS at an early stage so that they may be used to influence the design and operational stages of development.
- 7.9 Off-site vehicle movements are often of concern to local communities and developers should give careful consideration to the suitability of the local highway network and the need for appropriate limits on the number, timing and routing of vehicle movements when bringing forward proposals.
- 7.10 To ensure that disturbance from mineral development on residential and rural amenity is kept to a minimum, it may be necessary in some instances to establish stand-off areas from sensitive areas. It would be inappropriate to establish a set stand-off distance as each mineral site is unique in its circumstance; however in determining appropriate stand-off distances, the County Council will also take into account the potential for the sterilisation of mineral that may occur as a result.
- 7.11 In some instances, a number of impacts associated with an individual site, or individual impacts from a number of sites in close proximity, may lead to combined “cumulative” impacts¹⁰ (see paras 8.6 and 8.7). The Council will have regard to such potential impacts when implementing Policy DCM13.

POLICY DC M13 LOCAL AMENITY

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE SCALE, SITING AND DESIGN OF THE DEVELOPMENT ARE APPROPRIATE AND THAT UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT WILL NOT ARISE FROM:

- VISUAL INTRUSION,
- AIRBORNE EMISSIONS, INCLUDING DUST,
- NOISE,
- BLASTING,
- VEHICLE MOVEMENTS, BOTH ON AND OFF SITE, AND
- CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Community Strategy
NYCC Minerals Site Allocations DPD

Implementation

NYCC – ensure operations carried out in compliance with planning permission
Environment Agency – ensure operations carried out in accordance with relevant legislation

¹⁰ Cumulative effects on local amenity will be assessed in a similar way to those on the environment.

District/Borough Council Environmental Health Officers – ensure operations carried out in accordance with relevant legislation

Monitoring

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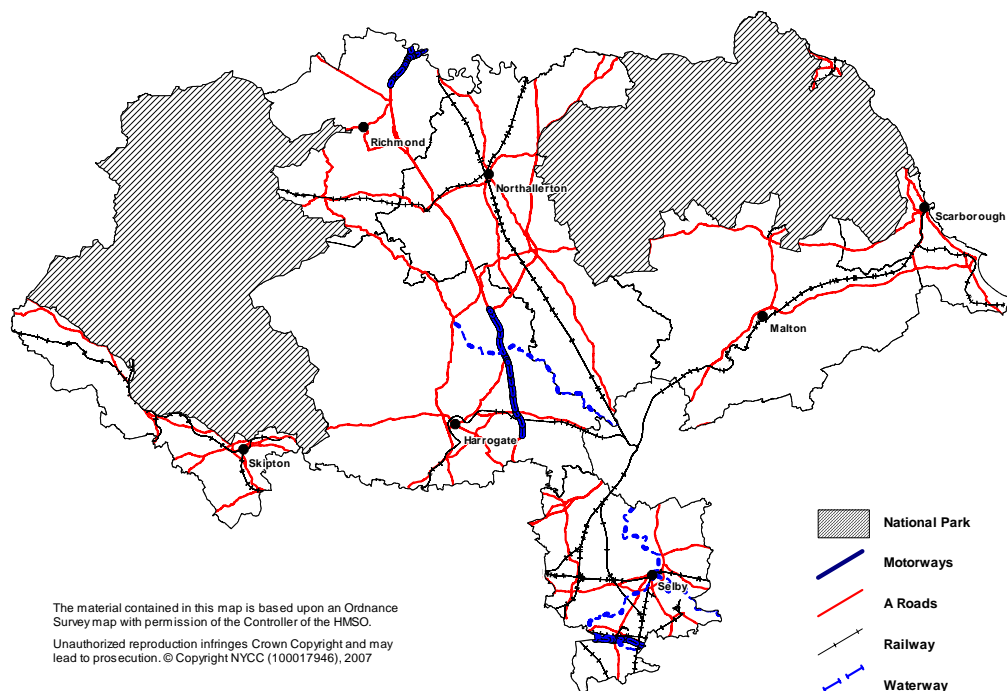
Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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Transport

- 7.12 Both the movement of extracted minerals and the import of inert waste to reclaim mineral workings can generate large volumes of traffic within and outside of the plan area.
- 7.13 Within North Yorkshire few opportunities arise for mineral products to be transported other than by road. Moreover, the number of locations to which these commodities are transported, and the dispersed nature of the sites, means that road transport is expected to remain the main transport mode over the plan period. The strategic transport network of the plan area is shown on Key Diagram 7.

Key Diagram 7: Transport Network



- 7.14 However, given the potential benefits of rail freight transport, further utilisation of this mode is encouraged, especially in the Selby area¹¹, where most infrastructure exists
- 7.15 In addition water transport was once important in Selby District and there is still significant tonnage transported along the Aire & Calder Navigation to Ferrybridge Power Station. However, traffic has declined in recent years, with some wharves and navigable channels falling into decay.
- 7.16 The use of new water-based inter-modal technology has potential to allow water borne loads to travel as far as Boroughbridge and Ripon on the Rivers Ouse and Ure. Even more so than with rail transport, the main factor holding back investment is the lack of a major customer to facilitate the improvement or infrastructure; in some cases the cost is many times more than for the equivalent length of road.
- 7.17 The County Council has recently adopted the second North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan¹². The LTP identifies that there are significant barriers in North Yorkshire to a shift away from road transport but that where opportunities do arise, these should be exploited. This is particularly the case for mineral workings.
- 7.18 As minerals can only be worked where they are found, it is not often possible to utilise other forms of transportation or seek to locate minerals development in the most accessible parts of the County. Where there are no realistic alternatives to the transport of minerals by road, the County Council will consider the impact of vehicle movements on surrounding areas.
- 7.19 Where new minerals development or extensions to existing operations that utilise the road network are proposed, the County Council, through the implementation of Policy DCM14, will consider the impact of vehicle movements on surrounding areas. Planning applications for minerals development should be accompanied by a transport assessment examining any impacts that may arise as a result of road, rail or water haulage. Where the County Council considers these impacts to be unacceptable, planning permission will not be granted. Developers should consider the timing and frequency of heavy vehicles and seek to ensure that travel occurs outside network peak periods where practicable. Improvements to access and highway infrastructure may be required if an impact on the local or strategic road network is identified in accordance with Policy DCM14.
- 7.20 Vehicle movements may not only impact on local communities but may have a wider impact on sensitive areas such as the AONBs. Any such impacts will be taken into account when assessing proposals against the MCS environment policies.
- 7.21 Where appropriate the County Council will encourage the establishment of Freight Quality Partnerships between minerals operators, the local authority and local communities.

¹¹ Drax and Eggborough power stations received coal by rail. Limestone resources have been transported to Drax, and gypsum waste from Drax to Cumbria and the East Midlands by rail.

¹² This covers the period 01 April 2006 to 31 March 2011 and sets out the aims and objectives for transport in North Yorkshire. It includes 7 objectives: accessibility, safety, environment, congestion, quality of life, economy and efficiency.

POLICY DC M14 MINERAL TRANSPORT

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD UTILISE RAIL AND WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

WHERE THIS IS NOT PRACTICABLE THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS WHERE IT IS SATISFIED THAT VEHICLE MOVEMENTS WOULD NOT HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT ON THE LOCAL OR STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Local Transport Plan

Implementation

NYCC – ensure decisions take into account impact on Highways
Highways Agency - provide sound advice on Highways issues
NYCC Highway Authority - provide sound advice on landscape issues
Network Rail – assist in the maximisation of rail infrastructure

Monitoring

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Links to other Policies

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8 Environment

Introduction

- 8.1 The mineral resource of North Yorkshire often coincides with those parts of the County that contain important environmental assets and designations. Elsewhere, development may give rise to particular local environmental issues.
- 8.2 Minerals development can impact upon the environment to varying degrees. At the individual site level such impacts may be obvious, but development can have effects on environments and assets outside the site. Mineral extraction, by its very scale and nature, may also provide opportunities for substantial landscape change and environmental benefits which can make a positive contribution to the environment of North Yorkshire. The County identifies three general strategic environmental factors that all minerals proposals should address where appropriate: green infrastructure, cumulative effects and climate change. Following this, the MCS identifies specific local environmental issues that may be relevant to individual proposals depending on their location.
- 8.3 These policies will be implemented in conjunction with all policies relating to specific minerals.
- 8.4 Together, these policies help deliver the Community Strategy themes of 'taking care of our heritage, landscape and environment' and 'plan for emergencies' i.e. deal with climate change and flood risk.

Strategic Environmental Issues

Green Infrastructure

- 8.5 Environmental assets often co-exist in the same areas and represent a "green infrastructure". This concept has been supported by Planning Policy Statement 9, Regional Guidance and will form a key part of the North Yorkshire Countryside Strategy. This "green infrastructure" is made up of a network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces and greenway linkages, such as rights of way, river corridors and flood plains. Green infrastructure is especially important in dealing with the effects of climate change on the North Yorkshire environment through the maintenance and enhancement of migration routes and features of the landscape which are important as wildlife corridors. Minerals development can have significant negative and positive impacts upon green infrastructure. The County Council encourages developers through Policy DCM15 to ensure that proposals maintain and enhance the integrity of this network. More information on the types of green infrastructure and areas of importance will be available in the County Council's Countryside Strategy.

Cumulative Effects

- 8.6 Mineral development can cause effects on the local environment through operational impacts and permanent landscape change. Where a number of sites are located in a particular area, or where there has been a prolonged sequence of individual sites, they may give rise to cumulative effects that could create opportunities or threats to the green infrastructure. In North Yorkshire there are a number of areas where concentrations of

present and former workings exist, particularly in proximity to the Swale and Ure river corridors and in the southern part of Selby District. The Council will have particular regard, through the implementation of Policy DCM15, to the potential positive and negative cumulative effects arising from potential future working and reclamation in these areas.

- 8.7 Cumulative effects¹³ are likely to arise as incremental effects e.g. noise from a number of separate developments (existing or proposed); the combined effect of individual impacts, e.g. noise, dust and visual impacts, from one development; or from several developments (either past, present or proposed) with different insignificant impacts individually but which together have a cumulative effect e.g. synergistic effects.
- 8.8 The County Council will expect planning applications for minerals development which require Environmental Impact Assessment, or which are located in sensitive areas, to be accompanied by an assessment of the cumulative impacts of the proposal. Information as to how the proposal relates to existing minerals development and how cumulative impacts can be mitigated and maximised through phasing, design and operation should be included.

Climate Change

- 8.9 The County Council recognises that climate change is an important issue for the plan to tackle. The North Yorkshire sub-region will have to deal with the consequences of climate change and the County Council signed the Nottingham Declaration in 2007¹⁴.
- 8.10 The MCS can help to meet the Yorkshire and Humber Region's target¹⁵ to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through mitigation and adaptation measures.
- 8.11 The Sustainability Report concludes that minerals development is likely to have a negative impact on climate change. However, if minerals were not extracted from North Yorkshire there would be greater pressure on the need to transport them from further afield. These actions in themselves would have negative climate change impacts. Government guidance is clear that the focus should be on reducing the impact of such development and adapting to our changing environment. Minerals development proposals can achieve this in the following ways:
- using alternatives to road transport where practicable,
 - maximising renewable energy capacity by generating at least 10% of onsite energy from renewable sources in line with Draft RSS Policy ENV 5,
 - assisting in minimising flood risk,
 - minimising the impact on agricultural land, which may be managed differently in the future as growing seasons extend,
 - minimising the effects of surface water run off and water erosion, and
 - minimising the impacts on ground water.
- 8.12 The County Council will take these actions and others that may arise into account when

¹³ 'EC Guidelines on the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact interactions'

¹⁴ This means that the County Council pledges to actively tackle climate change in the County and work with others to reduce emissions country-wide.

¹⁵ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2010 and 25% below 1990 levels by 2015. (See Regional Spatial Strategy Policy YH2)

assessing proposals through Policy DCM15.

POLICY DC M15 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- A. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT AND RECLAMATION WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE INTEGRITY OF THE COUNTY'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE MAINTAINED AND, WHERE PRACTICABLE, ENHANCED.
- B. PARTICULAR REGARD WILL BE HAD TO REDUCING NEGATIVE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF PROPOSALS AND ENHANCING POSITIVE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS, ESPECIALLY FOR NEW WORKINGS IN PROXIMITY TO THE SWALE AND URE RIVER CORRIDORS AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF SELBY DISTRICT.

PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD GIVE RISE TO UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED.

- B. DEVELOPERS ARE ENCOURAGED THROUGH THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF THEIR PROPOSALS TO HELP MEET REGIONAL TARGETS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Community Strategy
NYCC Waste Site Allocations DPD
NYCC Heritage Strategy
Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber
Landscape Character Assessments
Biodiversity Action Plans
Environment Agency Catchment Management Plans

Implementation

NYCC – consideration of development control policies in determination of planning applications
Waste Industry – ensure compliance with planning conditions
Local Communities

Monitoring

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Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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Local Environmental Issues

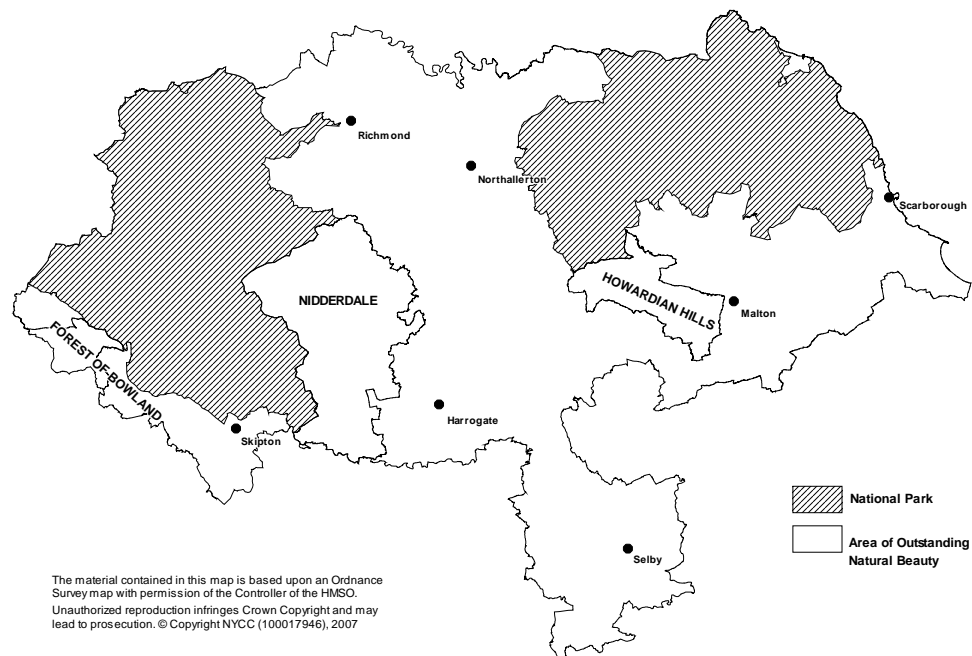
Introduction

- 8.13 The County Council considers that the landscape, natural environment and historic environment of North Yorkshire are of particular sub-regional importance and form major contributors to green infrastructure.
- 8.14 Joint Character Areas (JCAs) shown in Figure 2 combine English Nature's Natural Areas and the former Countryside Commission's Landscape Character Areas. They should form a starting point for gathering information in support of mineral proposals in relation to landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity considerations. JCAs will be used to support development of the NYCC Countryside Strategy.

Landscape

- 8.15 North Yorkshire contains diverse landscapes such as coastal areas in the east and upland areas in the west (see Table 1). The County Council recognises that the landscape of North Yorkshire changes over time as a result of different land uses. Landscape change can be positive, provided that it is managed in a way that protects the most unique landscapes and is in sympathy with those locally distinctive landscapes that make the county so attractive for those who live, work and visit. Key Diagram 8 shows the strategic distribution of AONBs and Heritage Coasts [to be added].

Key Diagram 8: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts



- 8.16 The geology of the Howardian Hills and Nidderdale AONBs is such that they contain extensive areas of Jurassic and Carboniferous limestone respectively. There are

currently important active mineral workings within both these areas, including the largest production unit for crushed rock in the County. National and regional guidance¹⁶ advises that along with National Parks, AONBs have the highest status of protection in terms of landscape and scenic beauty. Further major development should be avoided within these areas unless there are exceptional circumstances. However, small scale mineral extraction e.g. for local building stone may be appropriate if it meets a local need (see Policy CSM9 Non-aggregate minerals).

- 8.17 There are two lengths of Heritage Coast in North Yorkshire. Small sections of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coast extend into the County around Whitby and Scalby, while a small length of the Flamborough Headland Heritage Coast also extends around Speeton and Reighton. Heritage Coast designation does not have any statutory status, however it is nationally recognised and Government guidance discourages development which does not require a coastal location, with mineral exploration and excavation in particular required to be undertaken with considerable care.
- 8.18 North Yorkshire contains additional distinctive landscape areas. These landscapes are explained in detail through the Joint Character Areas and Landscape Typology resource¹⁷. These pieces of work provide varying degrees of information on regionally and sub-regionally important landscapes at a strategic level. Those Joint Character Areas which have substantial resources of minerals include the vales of York, Mowbray and Pickering and the southern magnesian limestone landscapes of Selby District. Mineral development in these areas should have regard to the particular landscape characteristics.
- 8.19 At a local level, Landscape Character Assessments (LCA) are prepared by the District and Borough Councils to look at specific areas in more detail¹⁸. The Council support the use of LCAs as a technique to develop a consistent and comprehensive understanding of what gives the countryside its character. However, not all areas of North Yorkshire have complete or comparable LCAs, so that, at the time of preparation of the MCS, they do not provide a sound evidence base for developing local strategic policy. Once coverage is complete, it may be practicable to reflect their content in future reviews of the Core Strategy.
- 8.20 In the meantime the County Council will encourage proposals for the extraction of minerals to be accompanied by a study and evaluation of local landscape character and an assessment of how the proposal will impact upon it in line with any relevant LCA, or through a local assessment using a compatible methodology, appropriate to the scale of the development proposed. In particular the potential individual and cumulative effects on the following should be addressed:
- landscape character i.e. visual intrusion, the layout and scale of buildings and designated spaces, the built fabric, public access and

¹⁶ Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS 7) and The Yorkshire and Humber Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) further emphasises the protection of the AONBs within Policy ENV 10. Policy ENV 4 of the RSS seeks a progressive reduction in the amount of aggregate produced from National Parks and AONBs, noting that there is no strategic need for new crushed rock sites in these areas.

¹⁷ Prepared by the former Countryside Agency, now Natural England.

¹⁸ PPS7 encourages the use of LCA

- landscape sensitivity and capacity i.e. local distinctiveness, condition, historic patterns, attributes, semi-natural habitats, remoteness and tranquillity, noise and light pollution.

8.21 These criteria will be used to inform decisions that the County Council take in line with Policy DCM16.

POLICY DC M16 LANDSCAPE

- A. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE THE USE OF LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT IN SUPPORT OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT.
- B. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL PRESERVE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE LANDSCAPE OF THE HOWARDIAN HILLS, NIDDERDALE MOORS AND FOREST OF BOWLAND AONBS AND HERITAGE COASTS BY PREVENTING MAJOR NEW MINERAL WORKING, INCLUDING EXTENSIONS TO EXISTING SITES, UNLESS EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE DEMONSTRATED IN LINE WITH NATIONAL GUIDANCE.

PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE IMPACT ON LANDSCAPE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
 District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
 NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
 NYCC Community Strategy
 NYCC Waste Site Allocations DPD
 NYCC Heritage Strategy
 Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber
 Local Landscape Character Assessments
 Biodiversity Action Plans
 Environment Agency Catchment Management Plans

Implementation

NYCC – consideration of development control policies in determination of planning applications
 Waste Industry – ensure compliance with planning conditions
 Local Communities

Monitoring

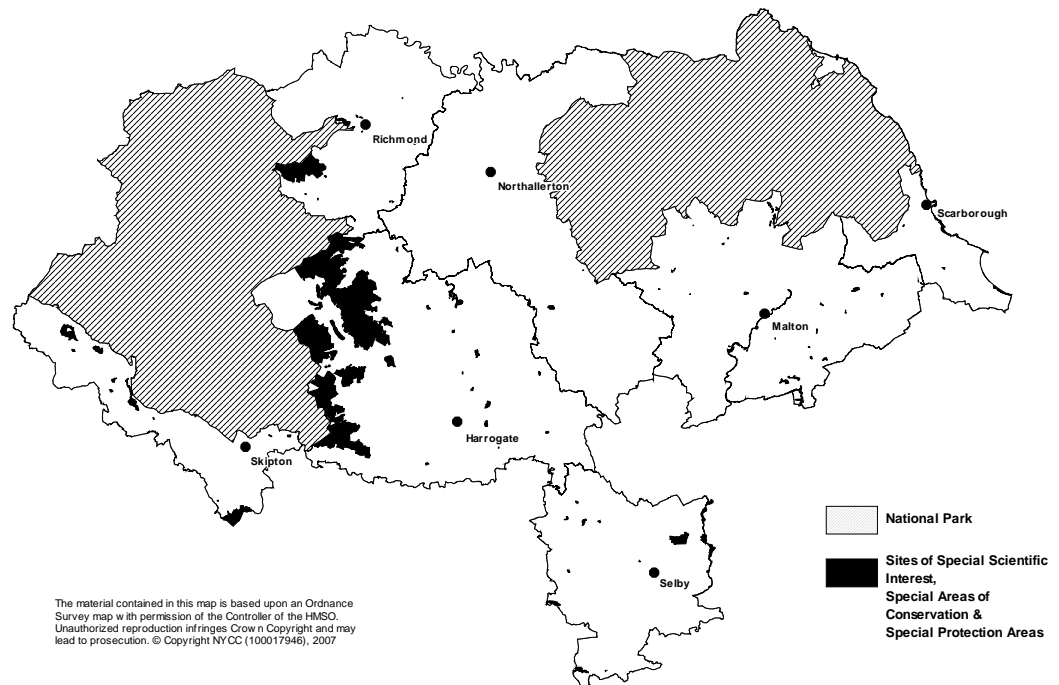
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Natural Environment

Biodiversity

- 8.22 North Yorkshire has many sites designated for their biodiversity value, including those listed in Table 2. The strategic distribution of sites protected by international law is shown on Key Diagram 9. Twenty I Habitats are covered by the North Yorkshire Biodiversity Action Plans. The county has some very scarce habitats, including a tiny patch of saltmarsh in Whitby; wetland habitats are also infrequent, but land drainage schemes have resulted in the loss of most of them.

Key Diagram 9: Key Sites Protected by International Convention or National Law



- 8.23 The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was produced by the Government in 1994 to ensure that the biodiversity of the UK is conserved for the future. BAPs are also produced locally and for North Yorkshire there is one for each of the seven Districts / Boroughs. These documents describe the wildlife resource of a particular area, identify the key species and habitats and outline the objectives, targets and actions necessary to protect and enhance biodiversity. Twenty-five rare species are covered by North Yorkshire BAPs, including the Water Vole. BAPs will be used to inform policy-making, particularly in relation to individual sites in the Minerals Site Allocations DPD, which may be able to make significant contributions to the targets and objectives outlined in the relevant BAP.
- 8.24 The County Council will, when implementing Policy DCM17, will take into account the methodology for assessment of impact on biodiversity contained within PPS9 and its

Good Practice Guide.

Geodiversity

- 8.25 Geodiversity is the variety of rocks, minerals and landforms that represent the geological history of the Earth. Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) are designated by locally developed criteria and are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as SSSIs.
- 8.26 Local Geodiversity Action Plans (LGAPs) set out actions to conserve and enhance the geodiversity of a particular area. Mineral extraction has the potential to enhance the accessibility of sites of geological and geomorphological importance, both during and after working and the Council will have regard to this, and other objectives of Geodiversity Action Plans, when considering proposals in accordance with Policy DCM17.
- 8.27 Developers should ensure that, where appropriate, suitable surveys are carried out to determine potential impact in accordance with recommendations in PPS9 good practice guidance.

POLICY DC M17 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAINTAIN AND WHERE PRACTICABLE ENHANCE THE VALUE OR STATUS OF:

- DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL SITES OF BIODIVERSITY OR GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION VALUE,
- LEGALLY PROTECTED SPECIES, AND
- OTHER IMPORTANT HABITATS AND SPECIES.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING THE TARGETS SET OUT IN LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS.

Links to other strategies

PPS 9 and Good Practice Guidance
Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Community Strategy
NYCC Waste Site Allocations DPD
NYCC Heritage Strategy
Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber
Landscape Character Assessments
Biodiversity Action Plans (especially list OF Priority Habitats)
Geodiversity Action Plans
Environment Agency Catchment Management Plans

Implementation

NYCC – consideration of development control policies in determination of planning applications
Waste Industry – ensure compliance with planning conditions
RIGS groups - record and, where practicable, conserve and enhance geodiversity; to increase public awareness of, and involvement with, geodiversity; and to contribute to the conservation of geodiversity on a national and international scale.

Monitoring

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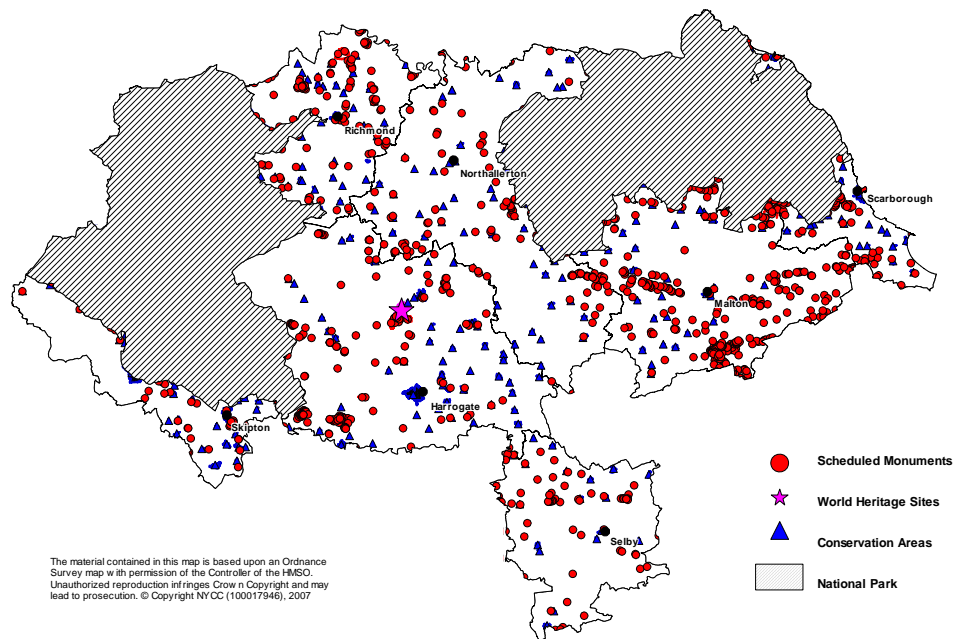
Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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Historic Environment

8.28 Historic buildings and features and archaeological remains¹⁹ are non-renewable, finite resources that have intrinsic value to the people of North Yorkshire and help to create a sense of place. Together they make a valuable contribution to tourism, and arts and culture, providing evidence of the lives of those who have lived before us. Table 3 lists the types of historic environment assets found in North Yorkshire and their level of significance. The extent of conservation areas and scheduled ancient monuments is shown in key diagram 10. The NYCC Historic Environment Record contains records of over 20,000 other archaeological sites, monuments and finds. It is important to be aware that many archaeological sites remain undiscovered and the full extent and significance of remains is often uncertain.

Key Diagram 10: Historic Environment Assets



¹⁹ Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) sets out national guidance on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in both urban and rural settings. Planning Policy Guidance 15 (PPG15) Planning and the Historic Environment provides guidance on the approach to wider historical interests

- 8.29 Mineral extraction, as a relatively extensive use of land which is constrained by geological and other factors, has the potential to impact on the historic environment. As well as presenting a potential threat to archaeological sites and historic landscapes, including the industrial archaeology associated with old quarry sites, mineral working can also affect the settings of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. However, mineral working can also provide opportunities to advance the understanding of archaeological sites.
- 8.30 Minerals Policy Statement 1: Planning and Minerals (MPS1) advises a presumption in favour of preservation of Nationally Important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, in situ. In addition, three areas have been identified in the Draft RSS as being of particular archaeological importance in North Yorkshire, all of which contain known resources of minerals, particularly aggregate:
- The Vale of Pickering, where extensive contiguous (in close proximity without actually touching) remains exist often in peat formations.
 - The Vale of York, including the area around the Thornborough Henges, where discrete monuments and localised remains can be found.
 - The Southern Magnesian Limestone ridge, where prehistoric and Roman archaeology and Iron Age / Romano British remains are present.
- 8.31 Where the historic environment record or other reliable sources of archaeological information indicate the potential presence of archaeological remains, developers will be required, in accordance with Policy DCM18, to undertake an assessment of the archaeological resource and, where appropriate, field evaluation prior to the planning application being determined.
- 8.32 Where proposals can demonstrate that a site, or part of a site, is not sufficiently important or cannot support a practical solution for physical preservation in situ, planning permission may be granted subject to the applicant having made appropriate and satisfactory provision for a mitigation strategy. This may require prior investigation and recording and the post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and long term curation of the archive along with recommendations on sympathetic restoration.

POLICY DC M18 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

- A. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MINERAS DEVELOPMENT WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT NO UNACCEPTABLE IMPACTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT WOULD ARISE.

PARTICULAR REGARD WILL BE HAD TO PROPOSALS WHICH MAY IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANT SITES OR FINDS WITHIN THE COUNTY THAT DO NOT HAVE STATUTORY PROTECTION INCLUDING:

- WORLD HERITAGE SITES,
- REGISTERED HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS,
- REGISTERED HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS,
- THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE OF THE VALES OF YORK, MOWBRAY AND PICKERING AND THE SOUTHERN MAGNESIAN LIMESTONE RIDGE.

- B. THERE WILL BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THE PHYSICAL PRESERVATION IN SITU OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT, AND WHEREVER PRACTICABLE, LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT, ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND ABOVE GROUND HISTORIC FEATURES ALONG WITH THEIR SETTINGS.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Community Strategy
NYCC Waste Site Allocations DPD
NYCC Heritage Strategy
Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber
Landscape Character Assessments
Biodiversity Action Plans
Environment Agency Catchment Management Plans

Implementation

NYCC – consideration of development control policies in determination of planning applications
Waste Industry – ensure compliance with planning conditions
Local Communities

Monitoring

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Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

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Additional Environmental Considerations

- 8.33 Mineral development may give rise to a range of further environmental considerations. These are considered in the following section. Before submitting proposals, developers should liaise with the County Council and other agencies where appropriate, e.g. the Environment Agency, to establish an appropriate methodology to assess potential impacts and utilise existing evidence. This methodology should take into account any need for a specific impact assessment and the value afforded to the environmental asset by other plans, policies and programmes. The County Council will implement Policy DCM19 having regard to the findings of such assessments.

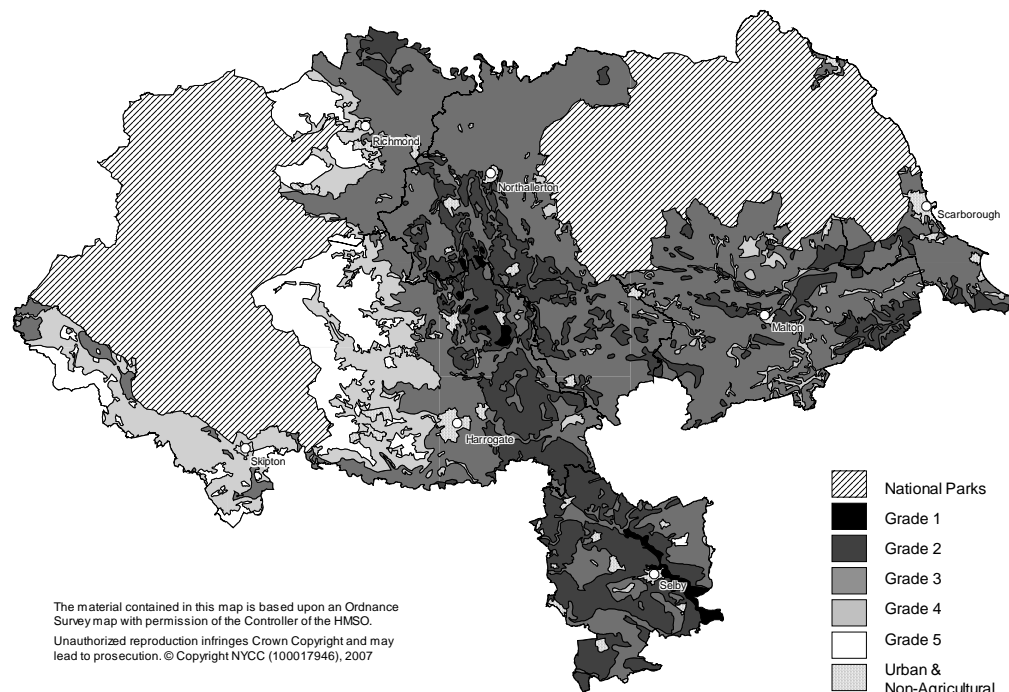
Environmental Impact Assessment

- 8.34 Depending upon the nature of a proposed development, mineral development can be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This is a formal procedure set out in the Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations (1999). Where formal EIA is required, the County Council will expect applicants to enter into pre-application discussions at the earliest opportunity. The County Council also encourage potential applicants to make formal requests under the 1999 Regulations for Screening and Scoping Opinions. This will provide useful information to potential applicants as to whether EIA is formally required and, if so, what information is likely to be required to assess the impact of the proposal. Requesting these opinions at the pre-application stage can save time later and speed up the planning process.

Agricultural Land Quality and Conservation of soil resources

- 8.35 The Agricultural Land Classification Scheme classifies land into 5 grades, with grade 3 further sub-divided into 3a and 3b. Best and Most Versatile Land (BMV land) is that which falls within Grades 1, 2 and 3a, being the most flexible, productive and efficient and which can best deliver future crops for food and non-food uses.
- 8.36 In the past, development on BMV land was to be avoided wherever possible, however Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas advises that it is for local planning authorities, in consultation with DEFRA, to decide whether BMV land should be developed.

Key Diagram 11: Agricultural Land



- 8.37 North Yorkshire has substantial areas of BMV agricultural land shown on Key Diagram 11 and much of this is concentrated in areas of the County with substantial mineral resources. Mineral extraction on BMV land will only be supported, in line with Policy DCM19, where provision is made for high standards of soil management that would, potentially, enable restoration to a condition suitable for agricultural use. To demonstrate this, the County Council will, where appropriate, expect soil handling strategies to be submitted alongside applications for such development, based upon the DEFRA Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils and emerging EU Directives²⁰. Planning decisions on the suitability of working and reclamation proposals, where BMV land is affected, will take into account Policy DCM20 in determining strategic priorities for reclamation and after-

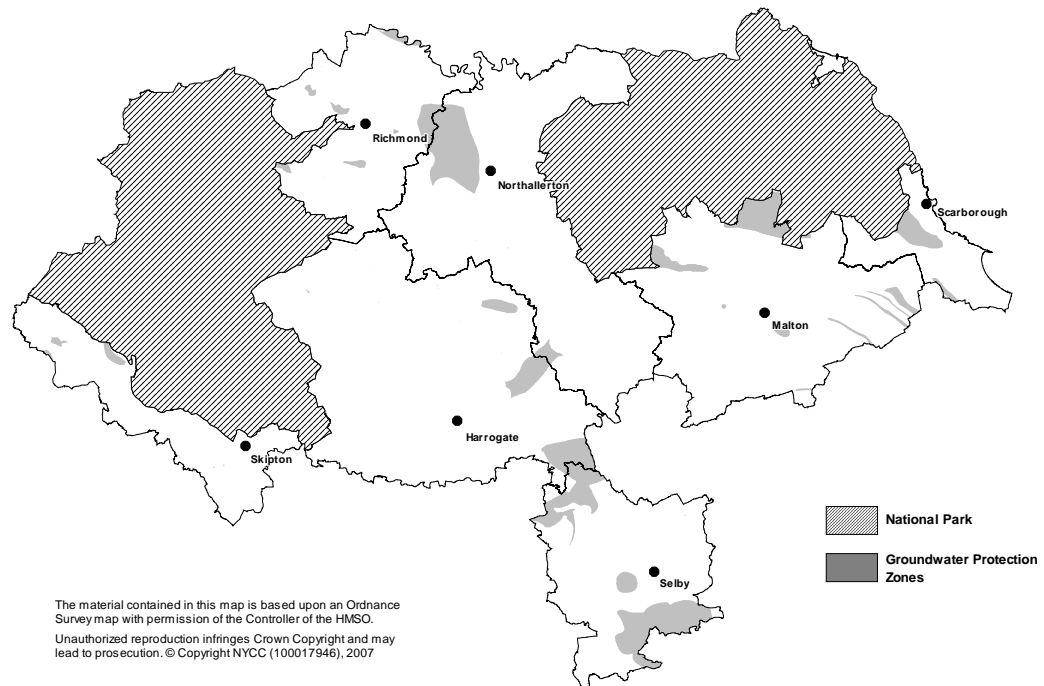
²⁰ See EU Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection and Soil Framework Directive

USE.

Ground and Surface Water Protection

- 8.38 Mineral development, particularly extraction, has the potential to impact on surface and ground waters, for example through the de-watering of excavations or the interference with surface water courses. The Environment Agency has a key role to play in advising on, and controlling, potential effects. The County Council will expect planning applications for minerals development, and ancillary operations to include an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed development on surface and ground waters and the measures to be employed to minimise the risks to ground and surface water quantity and quality. Proposals that would have an unacceptable adverse impact, especially on the groundwater protection zones identified on Key Diagram 12, will not be permitted in accordance with Policy DCM19.

Key Diagram 12: Groundwater Protection Zones

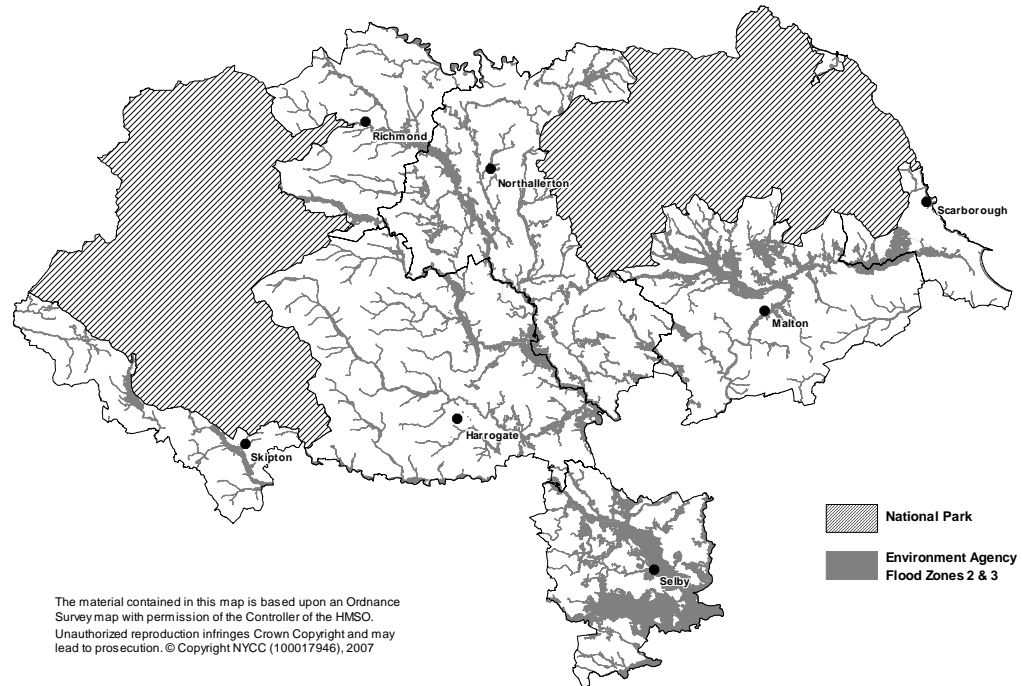


Flood Risk

- 8.39 Mineral development in flood plains, including extraction and processing activity and associated mitigation such as screen bunds can have significant impacts upon the flow of water during flood events and can cause significant pollution incidents should flooding occur. It is therefore important that operations do not impact adversely upon the capacity of the floodplain or increase the risk of flooding elsewhere or pose an unacceptable pollution risk.

- 8.40 Planning Policy Statement 25, Development and Flood Risk (PPS25) sets out a sequential approach to identifying flood risk which seeks to avoid locating development in areas at greatest risk of flooding i.e. zones 2 and 3 as shown on Key Diagram 13²¹.

Key Diagram 13: Flood Risk Zones



- 8.41 In North Yorkshire the sand and gravel resource is largely located within zones 2 and 3, i.e. at a greater risk of flooding. PPS25 acknowledges this natural relationship through its vulnerability classification and identifies sand and gravel working as “water compatible”. However, the County Council (as a result of its Strategic Flood Risk Assessment) and the Environment Agency encourages developers through site layout, design and access to minimise the impacts of all minerals development on flood risk. In particular, plant and access roads should preferably be sited, in accordance with the sequential test, in areas at lowest risk of flooding. This will be taken into account in the implementation of Policy DCM19. All other mineral working and processing is defined as “less vulnerable” by PPS25.
- 8.42 The County Council will expect planning applications for all mineral development within areas at potential risk of flooding to be accompanied by a flood risk assessment demonstrating how the flood risk to the development itself and to others will be managed. In addition, proposals will be considered having regard to the sequential test set out in Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk. Proposals that would have an unacceptable impact upon flooding or would be at significant risk should flooding occur will not be permitted.
- 8.43 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment undertaken during preparation of the MCS noted

²¹ Note that these are updated annually and should be obtained from the Environment Agency.

that the mineral extraction and reclamation process can help to manage or reduce flood risk, for example through increasing flood storage capacity both during and after working, depending on the restored landform. The connection between the distribution of mineral resources, particularly sand and gravel, and major river valleys, particularly of the Swale and Ure, provide a potential opportunity in this respect. Planning for the mitigation of the impacts of climate change is likely to increase the focus on mineral extraction and reclamation as a mechanism for flood management. The Council will take into account opportunities to achieve this when allocating land and considering proposals in appropriate locations.

Public Rights of Way

- 8.44 The public rights of way network is an important means by which residents and visitors to North Yorkshire can access and enjoy the countryside. It is therefore important that this network and the public using it are protected from any adverse impacts arising from mineral development. Operators will be required to protect existing users and to provide acceptable alternative arrangements, with a measure of segregation from areas of activity. Any diversion or stopping-up of an existing public right of way must have received the necessary legal sanction before being implemented.
- 8.45 Planning permission for mineral development will only be granted, in line with Policy M19, where satisfactory provision has been made for the protection of the existing public rights or for providing alternative arrangements both during and after working.
- 8.46 Developers should consult the County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan where development is likely to have an impact. The County Council will provide advice to developers to ensure that the network is retained, and work with developers to enhance the network where practicable as part of site reclamation.

Green Belt

- 8.47 Substantial parts of the County are covered by Green Belt designations. These areas, to the north and east of Leeds and around York, are designed to restrict built development between large conurbations. Mineral working is temporary in nature, therefore is not considered to be incompatible with the designation of land as Green Belt, provided that a high standard of development, with reclamation to an appropriate afteruse, takes place.

POLICY DC M19 ENVIRONMENT

THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MINERALS DEVELOPMENT WHERE IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT NO UNACCEPTABLE IMPACTS WOULD AFFECT:

- AGRICULTURAL LAND
- SOIL RESOURCES
- THE GREEN BELT
- GROUND AND SURFACE WATER
- FLOOD RISK
- PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Community Strategy
NYCC Minerals Site Allocations DPD
NYCC Countryside Strategy
NYCC Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber
Landscape Character Assessments
Biodiversity Action Plans
Environment Agency Catchment Management Plans

Implementation

NYCC – consideration of development control policies in determination of planning applications
Waste Industry – ensure compliance with planning conditions

Monitoring

...

Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

...

Site Reclamation and Restoration

- 8.48 Although some quarries may have a long life, mineral extraction on individual sites is a temporary activity. It is very important, therefore, that land worked for minerals is reclaimed as soon as possible to a suitable afteruse²². This process involves both the immediate reclamation of the land and any period of aftercare that may be necessary.
- 8.49 The mineral extraction process provides significant opportunities to deliver landscape, nature conservation, amenity and other objectives. Appropriate reclamation can be to the benefit of local communities and ensure that a valuable natural asset will be passed on to future generations. It may contribute towards strategic objectives such as the maintenance and enhancement of green infrastructure or catchment management programmes.
- 8.50 The County Council is therefore keen to ensure that opportunities for the reclamation of former mineral workings, in line with strategic priorities set out in the MCS and other plans, policies and programmes, are maximised.
- 8.51 Proposals for mineral working throughout the County will have to demonstrate, in accordance with Policy M20, that reclamation can be undertaken at the earliest opportunity to a standard suitable for the intended afteruse. The County Council encourages early pre-application discussions to identify the most appropriate opportunities for particular sites and areas of the County. For example this may include issues such as the need to define appropriate site boundaries to enable effective

²² This is one of the main aims of minerals planning control as referred to in MPG7 (para 1).

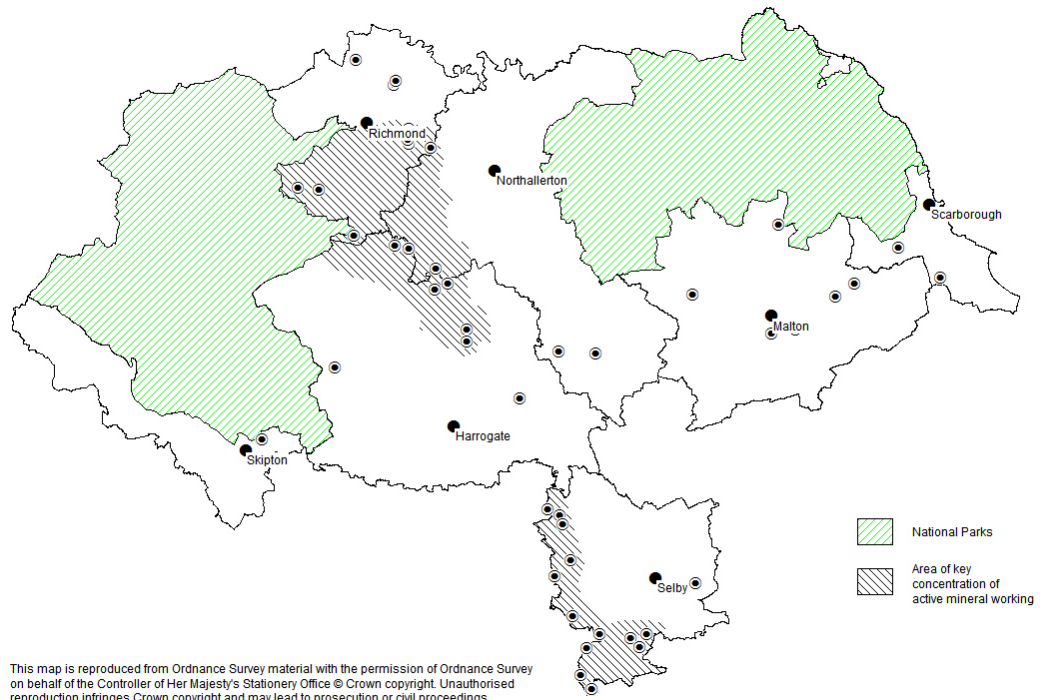
reclamation design, or to import suitable backfill materials so as to create less impact on the landscape and a more appropriate final landform that is in keeping with its surroundings. There may also be a requirement to avoid certain forms of wetland reclamation, particularly those which may give rise to birdstrike hazard, within areas constrained by Civil and Military Airfield Safeguarding Zones.

- 8.52 It is also important that the reclamation of mineral voids using imported waste does not impact on targets for the management of waste further up the waste hierarchy and complies with the policies of the Waste Core Strategy. The choice of reclamation of mineral workings by infilling with imported material should be supported by a demonstrable need to import waste to achieve a satisfactory reclamation of the mineral extraction void.
- 8.53 The process of reclaiming sites may in itself have significant impacts, for example, through the replacement of overburden or the importation of fill material. Any such impacts will be taken into account in the overall assessment of the effects of any proposals.
- 8.54 Pre-application discussion can determine an appropriate mix of afteruses for a site or area²³. Through Policy DCM20, the County Council considers that a co-ordinated approach to reclamation, especially in areas that may have a concentration of mineral workings, would support opportunities to enhance and maintain a green infrastructure, enhance positive cumulative effects and help reduce negative ones.
- 8.55 The County Council considers that two areas of the County contain concentrations of mineral working, where it will be appropriate to develop a more co-ordinated approach to site reclamation. These are shown on Key Diagram 14.
- Swale and Ure River Corridors area²⁴, where there are extensive deposits of sand and gravel. This lies mainly in The Vale of York and Mowbray Natural Area and is essentially a low-lying landscape, with a rolling landform created by glaciation. Rivers are important physical features of this area, the main rivers being the Swale and Ure. Wetlands have historically been an important part of the landscape due to the intrinsic geology of the area resulting from glaciation and the effects of intense or prolonged periods of rainfall or of river flooding.
 - Western Selby District, where there are extensive deposits of Magnesian Limestone suitable for use as a crushed rock aggregate. The Southern Magnesian Limestone Natural Area contains a limestone ridge, which is a relatively soft rock that weathers easily to form rounded hills, valleys, caves and crags and allows river to cut deep gorges. Limestone quarries provided stone for local buildings. The geology gives rise to flow-rich limestone grassland which exists in areas unsuitable for cultivation.

²³ Mineral Planning Guidance Note 7 advises that sites can be restored to a mix of afteruses.

²⁴ The County Council has been a partner in the production of the Swale and Ure Washlands, Mineral Restoration and Afteruse Strategy. While this document has not been adopted for planning purposes, the principle of a strategic approach to restoration is one that the County Council would wish to see developed further.

Key Diagram 14: Reclamation Areas



8.56 The County Council will take into account the particular constraints and opportunities afforded by site reclamation in these areas when considering the allocation of land and in the consideration of specific proposals. It is the County Council's intention to further develop reclamation strategy in these areas through the production of a Supplementary Planning Document. This document will give practical advice on the issues that need to be addressed when considering the approach to reclamation of mineral workings in general and these areas in particular in support of Policy DCM20.

POLICY DC M20 SITE RECLAMATION AND AFTER-USE

A. THE COUNTY COUNCIL WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR MINERAL DEVELOPMENT WHICH DEMONSTRATE THAT A HIGH STANDARD OF RECLAMATION AND AFTER-USE CAN BE ACHIEVED HAVING REGARD TO THE CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE AREA, AND WHICH MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- AIR, SOIL AND WATER QUALITY,
- AGRICULTURAL LAND RESOURCE,
- FLOOD WATER MANAGEMENT,
- BIODIVERSITY AND GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION,
- THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT, AND
- RECREATION AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY.

PROPOSALS FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION IN THE AREAS OF POTENTIAL CUMULATIVE IMPACT SHOWN ON THE KEY DIAGRAM SHOULD DEMONSTRATE

THAT REGARD HAS BEEN HAD TO ANY NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF MINERAL SITE RECLAMATION AND AFTERUSE.

B. RECLAMATION AND AFTERUSE SCHEMES SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT, SO FAR AS PRACTICABLE:

- LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AND QUALITY CAN BE MAINTAINED OR ENHANCED,
- RECLAMATION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN ON A PHASED OR PROGRESSIVE BASIS,
- AIRFIELD SAFEGAURDING REQUIREMENTS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND
- ANY NECESSARY AFTERCARE AND LONGER TERM MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO ENSURE SATISFACTORY ESTABLISHMENT OF AGREED AFTERUSES.

Links to other strategies

Draft Yorkshire and the Humber Plan
District and Borough Council Local Development Frameworks
NYCC Sustainable Development Policy Statement
NYCC Community Strategy
NYCC Waste Site Allocations DPD
NYCC Heritage Strategy
Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and the Humber
Landscape Character Assessments
Biodiversity Action Plans
Geodiversity Action Plans
Environment Agency Catchment Management Plans
MOD and CAA Airfield Safeguarding Zones

Implementation

NYCC – consideration of development control policies in determination of planning applications
Waste Industry – ensure compliance with planning conditions
Environment Agency – identify priority areas for flood management

Monitoring

Links to other Preferred Policy Approaches

W4-W14

9 Links to Site Allocations DPD

- 9.1 Where there is an identified need to allocate minerals sites in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework to meet the mineral needs of the North Yorkshire sub-region as well as the Yorkshire and Humber Region, the Council will identify sites or areas using a two stage assessment of the suitability, availability and accessibility of land for mineral extraction. The first stage will assess the sites against a number of high-level constraints and strategic considerations.
- 9.2 Stage 1: Strategic considerations of site location in relation to:
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
 - Heritage Coast
 - Listed Buildings and their settings
 - National Nature Reserves
 - Ramsar Sites
 - Registered Parks and Gardens
 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Special Protection Areas / Special Areas of Conservation
 - Potential markets for the mineral
- 9.3 The sites which satisfy the first stage analysis will be subject to further site examination and testing against additional local circumstances.
- 9.4 Stage 2: Locational considerations of site or area in relation to:
- Aerodrome safeguarding zone
 - Access
 - Archaeological impact
 - Availability
 - Best and most versatile agricultural land (Grade 1, 2, 3a)
 - Bio/geo diversity
 - Contribution to local economy
 - Greenbelt
 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology
 - Landscape impact
 - Mineral Resource (quality / quantity / need)
 - Operational constraints and nuisances
 - Planning History / Cumulative impact
 - Proximity to County Council primary road network
 - Proximity to sensitive uses
 - Public Rights of Way
 - Restoration opportunities and aftercare
 - Traffic impact / opportunities for transport by non-road means.
- 9.5 In assessing sites against the considerations, regard will be had to any positive impacts which the development may have, as well as any potential negative impacts.

- 9.6 These criteria along with the strategic policies in the MCS will be used to inform the choice of site allocations to be included in the Minerals Site Allocations DPD.

10 Monitoring and Implementation

- 10.1 To ensure the successful implementation of the policies contained within this document it is essential that effective monitoring be undertaken. This monitoring will be an ongoing exercise that will be reported annually in the Minerals and Waste Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 10.2 The AMR requires planning authorities to:
- review progress in the preparation of local development documents against the timetable and milestones set out in the local development scheme;
 - assess the extent to which policies are being implemented
 - explain why policies may not have been implemented, take steps to ensure their implementation or amend or replace the policies;
 - identify the significant effects of implementing policies and whether these effects are as intended; and
 - set out whether policies are to be amended or replaced.
- 10.3 The policy frameworks set out in this document have been designed in order to help the monitoring process. They set out how the policy areas link to other policies and policy documents and the main agencies involved in ensuring their successful implementation.
- 10.4 Outcomes of the monitoring process may reflect a need to update or review the plan. In addition the County Council may initiate a review of the plan under the following circumstances:
- Significant changes to national, regional and local requirements for minerals,
 - Significant changes in baseline data such as trends in mineral outputs and/or distribution,
 - Depletion of reserves such that landbanks may become inadequate, and
 - Significant changes to National Planning Policy Guidance.

GLOSSARY

[NB: Update to include specific references to minerals terminology]

Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) - Statutory document produced annually to monitor if the Council is meeting its LDS timetable and the success or otherwise of its policies.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – “The primary purpose of an AONB is to preserve and enhance natural beauty. The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 provided the legal basis for designation of nationally important landscapes and resulted in the creation of the National Parks and AONBs” (www.aonb.org.uk). A North Yorkshire example is Nidderdale AONB situated on the eastern edge of the Pennines.

Biodiversity - The variety, of plants, animals and other living things in a particular area or region. It encompasses habitat diversity, species diversity and genetic diversity.

Conservation Areas - Conservation areas give broader protection than listing individual buildings: all the features within the area are recognised as part of its character. Local authorities have the power to designate as conservation areas in any area of 'special architectural or historic interest' whose character or appearance is worth protecting or enhancing. This is judged against local and regional criteria, rather than national importance as is the case with listing.

Council / County Council – For the purposes of this document, this will refer to NYCC unless otherwise stated.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) –“DEFRA works for the essentials of life - water, food, air, land, people, animals and plants” (www.defra.gov.uk).

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) The central government department with responsibility for housing, urban regeneration, planning and local government. This department was formally known as the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) prior to 5 May 2006.

Development Control (DC) – The process of determining, or deciding, Planning Applications.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs) – The main DPDs that make up an LDF / MWDF. For NYCC they will be the Waste Core Strategy, Waste Site Specific Allocations, Minerals Core Strategy, Minerals Site Specific Allocations and Proposals map.

Freight Quality Partnerships - The development of Freight Quality Partnerships (FQPs) is a key element in the Department of Transport's Sustainable Distribution Strategy. By means of such partnerships, industry and local government can work together to develop more efficient, safer and cleaner means of local goods distribution. Examples of what FQPs can achieve include

agreements on routeing, load sharing and town centre access which can help reduce congestion, emissions and the number of vehicles in and around an urban centre.

Geodiversity - "The variety of geological environments, phenomena and processes that make those landscapes, rocks, minerals, fossils and soils, which provide the framework for life on earth." (Stanley, M. 2001. Welcome to the 21st century. *Geodiversity Update*. No. 1 p. 1.)

Green Infrastructure – This was launched as an initiative by the Countryside Agency in 2005. PPS9 states that it is a sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, greenspaces and greenway linkages including river corridors and floodplains, migration routes and features of the landscape which are important as wildlife corridors. It can also include other multifunctional open spaces within and between settlements.

Heritage Coast - The "heritage coast" classification scheme was initiated in 1972 to protect coastline of special scenic and environmental value from undesirable development. In England the heritage coasts are managed by the Countryside Agency, and many are part of larger National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).

Historic Parks & Gardens – This is the national record of the historic parks and gardens that make a contribution to our landscape. This record, known as the *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England* and now containing nearly 1450 sites, was established, and is maintained by, English Heritage.

Landbank - A landbank is a stock of land with planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals, usually expressed in terms of the supposed amount of mineral that can be recovered from the permitted area. A landbank is also defined on the basis of assumptions about annual production rates. However, it does not take account of the geographical locations of permitted reserves within the specified area, variations in availability of particular qualities of materials or the planning status of permitted reserves.

Listed Buildings - The word 'listing' describes one of a number of legal procedures which help English Heritage to protect the best architectural heritage. The older and rarer a building is, the more likely it is to be listed. Listing ensures that the architectural and historic interest of the building is carefully considered before any alterations, either outside or inside, are agreed.

Local Development Framework (LDF) - Comprises a portfolio of Development Plan Documents, which will provide the framework for delivering the spatial planning strategy for the area. Our MWDF is one of these LDFs.

Local Development Scheme (LDS) - Sets out the programme for the preparation of the DPDs. For further information, please see the Context section in the Introduction.

Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) – Non-statutory, non-executive body bringing together representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors. It is responsible for preparing the Community Strategy.

Minerals and Waste Development Framework (MWDF) – A minerals and waste LDF framework within which the DPDs, DPDs and SPDs sit to form a cohesive Minerals and Waste Policy for North Yorkshire.

National Park – “Areas designated as such to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area; and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public” (www.yorkshiredales.org.uk). The National Park Authority is responsible for these areas, two of which can be found in North Yorkshire: The North York Moors National Park and the Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) – The local authority that has the responsibility for the county of North Yorkshire. For planning purposes, this does not include the areas within the county boundary of The City of York Council and the North York Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

Ramsar Site – Wetlands of international importance listed under the Ramsar Convention.

Registered Battlefields - The establishment of the Battlefields Register in England in 1995 lists those battlefields considered of importance. There is no comparable conservation measure in place in the rest of the UK.

Scheduled Monuments - 'Scheduling' the process through which nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection by being placed on a 'schedule'. Scheduling is the only legal protection specifically for archaeological sites. Only deliberately created structures, features and remains can be scheduled.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) – A site may qualify as a SINC due to the presence of notable species or an important habitat. SINCs form part of a wider national network of non-statutory locally valued wildlife sites and are generally administered by local authorities in partnership with conservation organisations.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) - SSSIs are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. There are over 4,000 SSSIs in England, covering around 7% of the country's land area. Over half of these sites are internationally important for their wildlife, and designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites.

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) – These are areas that have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They provide increased protection to a

variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

Special Protected Areas (SPAs) – For rare and vulnerable birds as listed in Annex 1 to the European Union's Birds Directive.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – This document, which is one of the DPDs. It sets out how and when the community can get involved in the preparation of DPDs; our vision and strategy for community involvement and how this links to other initiatives such as the community strategy; and how the results will feed into DPD preparation.

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) – Minor policy guidance documents to supplement the policies and proposals in DPDs. They will not form part of the development plan or be subject to independent examination. They were formally known as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

Sustainability - The ability to provide for the needs of the world's current population without damaging the ability of future generations to provide for themselves. When a process is sustainable, it can be carried out over and over without negative environmental effects or impossibly high costs to anyone involved.

World Heritage Sites - World Heritage Sites are places of international importance for the conservation of mankind's cultural and natural heritage. In 2005, there were 812 of them, including 26 in the UK and overseas territories. World Heritage Sites are places that need to be preserved for future generations, as part of a common universal heritage. The World Heritage List set up by the Convention includes natural sites, and a wide variety of cultural sites such as landscapes, towns, historic monuments and modern buildings.