



RYEDALE  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



# **Sustainability Statement**

Ampleforth Conservation Area Assessment and  
Management Plan Supplementary Planning  
Document

**North York Moors National Park Authority  
Ryedale District Council**

**April 2010**



## **Contents**

1.	Introduction	1
2.	Sustainability Appraisal Process	3
3.	Influence of the Sustainability Appraisal	5
4.	Monitoring	6
5.	Habitats Regulation Assessment	7

## **Appendices**

1.	Summary of Comments Received at Scoping Stage	8
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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Ampleforth Conservation Area Assessment and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document was adopted by Ryedale District Council on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and by the North York Moors National Park Authority on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010.
- 1.2 Whilst there is no longer a requirement to undertake Sustainability Appraisal of Supplementary Planning Documents<sup>1</sup>, as Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken during the production of the Supplementary Planning Document it is considered appropriate to produce a Sustainability Statement for completeness.
- 1.3 Table 1 shows how the Sustainability Appraisal (and Habitats Regulations Assessment, see section 5) is integrated with the process of producing a Supplementary Planning Document.

**Table 1 – Integration of Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment**

SPD Stage	SA/SEA Stage	HRA Stage
Stage 1: Pre-production – Evidence gathering	Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	Evidence gathering
Stage 2: Production – Prepare draft SPD	Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing affects  Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Report	Establish likely significant effects  If significant effects are likely undertake the Appropriate Assessment and ascertain the effect on site integrity  Identify mitigation measures and alternative solutions
Consult on draft SPD	Stage D1: Consulting on draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report	Make findings available to the public
Make changes to SPD following consultation	Stage D2: Assess significant changes	Revisit AA if any substantial changes to SPD

<sup>1</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 and accompanying Explanatory Memorandum

Stage 3: Adoption	Stage D (3): Making decisions and providing information  Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD	Publish final AA
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- 1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in 'Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents'<sup>2</sup>. The appraisal was undertaken by planning officers of the North York Moors National Park Authority on behalf of both authorities.
- 1.5 The purpose of this statement is to show how sustainability considerations have formed an integral part of the production of the Supplementary Planning Document, and how the adopted Supplementary Planning Document is consistent with meeting sustainability objectives.

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<sup>2</sup> Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (ODPM, 2005)

## 2. Sustainability Appraisal Process

### ***Scoping***

- 2.1 To meet the requirements of Stage 1 (scoping) a Scoping Report was produced in September 2007 and was consulted upon with the three statutory bodies (Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England). The Scoping Report relates to all Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Documents produced by the North York Moors National Park Authority, including those which are produced jointly with adjoining Councils. It was considered not necessary to undertake wider consultation as the Scoping Report was based largely upon the Scoping Report for the National Park Authority's Core Strategy and Development Policies Development Plan Document which had been widely consulted upon.
- 2.2 Comments were received from all three bodies and a summary of these is contained in Appendix 1. These comments were taken on board where appropriate when finalising the scope for the Sustainability Appraisal or, where relevant, in drafting the Supplementary Planning Document.

### ***Sustainability Appraisal***

- 2.3 Firstly, Sustainability Appraisal was undertaken on the policies upon which the Supplementary Planning Document is to be based where these have not previously been subject to Sustainability Appraisal.<sup>3</sup> This concluded that the Conservation Area policies are consistent with sustainability objectives in relation to protecting the historic environment and therefore supporting tourism, however there could be inconsistencies with meeting climate change objectives where renewable energy installations may harm the Conservation Area.
- 2.4 Sustainability Appraisal was then undertaken on two options which were put forward. These were:
- Option 1: Rely on existing policies
  - Option 2: Produce SPDs for Conservation Areas.

This concluded that Option 2 would be preferable.

- 2.5 Sustainability Appraisal was then carried out on the objectives of the Supplementary Planning Document to ensure that any conflicts can be addressed through the production of the Supplementary Planning Document. This concluded that:
- The objectives will have a positive impact upon sustainability objectives which seek to conserve and enhance settlement character and historic environment;
  - This has indirect (minor) benefits in relation to tourism;
  - Uncertainties exist around whether the objectives will be consistent with climate change and renewable energy objectives.
- 2.6 The Sustainability Appraisal of the draft Supplementary Planning Document was carried out during the drafting of the Supplementary Planning Document, prior to public consultation in June 2008. The Sustainability Appraisal Report was made

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<sup>3</sup> Ryedale Local Plan (2002) – policies C4 and C5, Planning Policy Statement 1 – Delivering Sustainable Development and Planning Policy Guidance 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment. This also related to Policy BE1 of the North York Moors Local Plan which has now been superseded by Development Policy 4 of the North York Moors Core Strategy and Development Policies (2008) which has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal. Planning Policy Guidance 15 has now been superseded by Planning Policy Statement 5.

publicly available alongside the draft Supplementary Planning Document as part of the consultation.

2.7 The Sustainability Appraisal of the draft Supplementary Planning Document concluded that:

- The Supplementary Planning Document will have a positive impact upon sustainability objectives which seek to conserve and enhance settlement character and the historic environment;
- This has indirect (minor) benefits in relation to tourism;
- Uncertainties exist around whether the Supplementary Planning Document will be consistent with climate change and renewable energy objectives.

2.8 The following mitigation measures were proposed:

<b>Effect</b>	<b>Recommended Mitigation</b>
Uncertainties exist around whether the Supplementary Planning Document will be consistent with climate change and renewable energy objectives.	The North York Moors National Park Authority is currently producing a Supplementary Planning Document which will provide guidance on ensuring that renewable energy installations can be successfully integrated into the National Park environment. However, it may be useful to include a paragraph in the Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document which suggests how renewable energy may be incorporated in Ampleforth.

2.9 No comments were received in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal during the consultation.

2.10 The mitigation measure identified in the Sustainability Appraisal Report has been taken forward in the final Supplementary Planning Document through the inclusion of a section on Renewable Energy.

2.11 It is considered that the Supplementary Planning Document has not changed sufficiently following consultation on the draft to warrant undertaking further Sustainability Appraisal. The Sustainability Appraisal Report produced for the consultation on the Draft Supplementary Planning Document is therefore the final Sustainability Report.



### **3. Influence of the Sustainability Appraisal**

- 3.1 The Sustainability Appraisal has influenced the production of the Ampleforth Conservation Area Assessment and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document in the following ways.
- 3.2 The Sustainability Appraisal has involved the identification of possible inconsistencies between adopted policies and sustainability objectives, as outlined in paragraph 2.3. These inconsistencies have been addressed through the Supplementary Planning Document.
- 3.3 The appraisal of different options, as set out in paragraph 2.4, helped to ensure that producing the Supplementary Planning Document was the most sustainable option. Option 2 was identified as the most sustainable as it is most consistent with meeting the sustainability objectives.
- 3.4 The objectives of the Supplementary Planning Document were appraised to ensure that there were no significant inconsistencies either between the Supplementary Planning Document objectives themselves, or between the Supplementary Planning Document objectives and sustainability objectives, and that if there were these could be addressed from the outset. This appraisal concluded that the objectives were generally compatible with each other. The objectives were found to be broadly compatible with sustainability objectives, apart from possible inconsistencies with sustainability objectives relating to climate change which has been addressed through the mitigation measures.
- 3.5 The Supplementary Planning Document was itself appraised against the sustainability objectives. As outlined in paragraph 2.7, this confirmed that, generally, the Supplementary Planning Document is consistent with meeting sustainability objectives. Some potential inconsistencies have been identified in relation to the sustainability objectives relating to climate change and these have been addressed through the mitigation measures identified in paragraph 2.8.
- 3.6 In addition to recommending changes to the Supplementary Planning Document it is considered that the Sustainability Appraisal process was important in confirming that the Supplementary Planning Document was, in the main, consistent with meeting the sustainability objectives.
- 3.7 The Sustainability Appraisal process also helped to ensure that sustainability was considered from the outset. As the Sustainability Appraisal was conducted in-house this meant that sustainability considerations were integral to the production of the document. This is demonstrated by the fact that only a few mitigation measures were identified.

## **4. Monitoring**

- 4.1 The process of Sustainability Appraisal does not end when a document is adopted, and it is important to monitor the impact of the Supplementary Planning Document. As set out in section 7 of the Sustainability Report, monitoring undertaken as part of the Annual Monitoring Reports of both authorities will monitor general progress on sustainability across the authorities' areas. Monitoring of the Supplementary Planning Document itself will relate to the completion of those works identified in the Management and Enhancement of the Conservation Area section of the document.

## 5. Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 5.1 Assessment is also required under the Habitats Directive<sup>4</sup>. Habitats Regulations Assessment however follows different principles to Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment and therefore was undertaken separately. Certain elements such as information gathering and developing options can be undertaken simultaneously and these were integrated at the scoping stage. A separate Habitats Regulations Assessment report was produced which concluded that the Ampleforth Conservation Area Assessment and Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document is not likely to cause any significant effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites within or close to the Plan area. It was therefore not necessary to proceed to an Appropriate Assessment of the Supplementary Planning Document. Natural England were involved in the process of undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment and concur with the conclusions. Table 1 shows how the Habitats Regulations Assessment was integrated with the Supplementary Planning Document process.

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<sup>4</sup> The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive) (Directive 92/43/EEC)

## Appendix 1 – Summary of Comments Received at Scoping Stage

Organisation	Comments
Natural England	Consider that the Scoping Report is generally fit for purpose.
	Other plans, programmes and objectives should be referred to (list given).
	The SPD should be informed by Countryside Character Volume 3: Yorkshire and Humber – Character Area 25: North York Moors and Cleveland Hills, and local Landscape Character Assessment.
Environment Agency	Noted and agree with the environmental section 5.3A and the reference to Catchment Flood Management Plans in Appendix 2.
English Heritage	Endorse the approach set out in the Scoping Report.
	A methodology should be developed to monitor the impact of development upon the character of Conservation Areas.