

Appendix 3

Report of Sustainability Appraisal

Background

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a systematic process undertaken during the preparation of a plan or strategy, as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The appraisal will assess the extent to which the emerging policies and proposals will reflect relevant environmental, social and economic sustainability objectives. It will identify any adverse effects needing to be addressed and promote areas for achieving sustainability performance.

Government guidance on undertaking SA of Development Plan Documents presents a five-stage process, each of which contains criteria to fulfil that requirement. These stages are described in Government guidance in the following manner:

- Stage 1: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.
- Stage 2: Developing and refining options and assessing effects and mitigation by testing plan objectives against the SA Framework.
- Stage 3: Documenting the appraisal and preparing the SA Report.
- Stage 4: Consulting on the plan's proposed submission documents and SA Report.
- Stage 5: Monitoring the significant effects from implementing the plan.

Stage 1: a draft Scoping Report was produced in December 2006, as a basis for consultation.

Those who were consulted but did not comment were:

- Countryside Agency;
- English Nature;
- Broadland District Council;
- Breckland District Council;
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council;
- Mid Suffolk District Council;
- Norwich City Council;
- The Broads Authority;
- Waveney District Council;
- Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers;
- Commission for Racial Equality;
- Friends, Families and Travellers;
- National Association of Health Workers with Travellers;
- National Association of Teachers of Travellers;
- National Travellers Action Group;
- The Gypsy Council
- Norfolk Traveller Education Service;
- The Gypsy Council for Health, Education and Welfare;
- Norfolk Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Group

Parish Councils within and adjoining the District were also informed of Scoping Report, that it was available on the Council's website, and how it fits into the consultation process for the DPD, and were offered the opportunity to comment.

Comments were received from:

- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Children's Services, Norfolk County Council
- Landscape department, Norfolk County Council
- Highways and Transport, Norfolk County Council
- Traveller Liaison Service, Norfolk County Council
- Thorpe St. Andrew Parish Council

Following amendments in response to these comments, the Scoping Report was adopted by the Council's Cabinet in April 2007. The Scoping Report is available at: <http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk/planning/2165.asp>

Stage 2: the following schedules assess the options which were put forward in the "Issues and Options" consultation on this DPD, during March and April, 2007.

Stages 3 and 4: this Appendix sets out the results of the SA, and represents the SA Report (Stage 3), as a basis for consultation (Stage 4).

The Government guidance in PPS 12 (see Appendix 7) in paragraph 4.42, advises that SA should be proportionate to the plan in question. We consider that the scale of development proposed in this DPD is so small that it would not be practicable to undertake a meaningful SA at a more detailed level, particularly in terms of economic and social objectives, and taking into account that the chosen option is to avoid environmentally-sensitive sites.

Summary of findings – SA of Options

A – sites anywhere, except environmentally-sensitive areas;

B – in the "corridors" of need, but excluding environmentally-sensitive areas;

C – "do nothing".

Overall impacts	Environmental factors	Social factors	Economic factors
Option A	Neutral	Positive	Neutral
Option B	Neutral	Positive	Neutral
Option C	Negative	Strongly negative	Neutral