

Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Plan

Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainable development is that which seeks to strike a balance between economic, environmental and social factors to enable people to meet their needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) requires the TFNP to demonstrate how the plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development. The NPPG suggests that a Sustainability Appraisal may be a useful approach for doing this. The Steering Group has acted on this advice and decided to use Pendle Council's Sustainability Appraisal templates to appraise the plan – both the policies and the sites. In doing so, the Group intends that this approach will show that the TFNP has selected the most sustainable options for the area and make clear why it decided to dismiss any reasonable alternatives.

The Sustainability Appraisal Process

The Pendle Council Sustainability Appraisal is described in considerable detail on the Council's website at:

http://www.pendle.gov.uk/downloads/file/9462/local_plan_part_2_sustainability_appraisal_scoping_report

The TFNP has adopted the methodology described in that Scoping Report.

The Appraisal is in two parts:

- Appraisal of Policies
- Appraisal of Sites

Both parts use the same set of 14 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives:

1. Housing
2. Employment
3. Sustainable Living and Revitalisation
4. Health and Wellbeing
5. Transport
6. Land Use
7. Water Resources
8. Flood Risk
9. Air Quality
10. Climate Change
11. Waste and Natural Resources
12. Biodiversity and Geodiversity
13. Cultural Heritage
14. Landscape and Townscape

A qualitative scoring system was used as illustrated in Table 4.4 of the Scoping Report. The scoring system uses the following notations:

Significant Positive Effect	++
Minor Positive Effect	+
Neutral	0
Minor Negative Effect	-
Significant Negative Effect	--

Where there is no clear relationship between a Policy and the achievement of the objective, or the relationship is negligible, the symbol ~ is used.

To guide the appraisal, specific definitions have been developed for what constitutes a significant effect, a minor effect or a neutral effect for each of the 14 SA objectives; these definitions can be found in Appendix D of the Scoping Report.

Note: Because the Neighbourhood Plan is relying on the Pendle Local Plan's Sustainability Appraisal process, this TFNP Sustainability Appraisal should be read in conjunction with the Sustainability Appraisal for the Pendle Local Plan (Parts 1 and 2).

The Results of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Plan

The findings of the appraisals are presented in matrices in Appendices S1 and S2.

Appraisal of Policies

The TFNP contains the following 9 policies:

Policy 1	Build within the Settlement Boundary
Policy 2	The Allocation of Development Sites
Policy 3	Windfall Sites
Policy 4	Off-road Parking
Policy 5	Wycoller Country Park
Policy 6	Conserve & Enhance Trawden's Heritage Assets
Policy 7	Areas of Townscape Character
Policy 8	Protect Locally Valued Resources
Policy 9	Protect Local Green Spaces

The matrices in Appendix S1 (Pages 1-5) show the detailed scores for each of the TFNP's nine policies when appraised against the 14 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives. Comments regarding the effect of the policies on each objective, any mitigating factors, assumptions and uncertainties appear in Appendix S1A. This should be read alongside the 5 pages of matrices.

In summary, the policies had a negative effect on three of the 14 sustainability objectives. The policies were 'neutral' with regard to three of the objectives (that is

they had no effect on the achievement of those objectives). Against the remaining 8 objectives, the policies had a cumulative positive effect on sustainability.

The Objectives against which the Policies were shown to have a cumulative negative effect were the ones dealing with water resources (objective 7), flood risk (objective 8) and waste (objective 11). Inevitably, additional housing is likely to have a negative effect on water usage and on waste creation, but the number of new dwellings involved is only in the order of 50-100 so the effect is relatively small.

The TFNP has selected 6 sites (in Policy 2) and 3 of those sites are in Flood Risk Zone 3. For this reason the Steering Group commissioned an external body to perform a Sequential Test on the full list of sites, and to follow that with the appropriate Exception Tests for those sites.

These have demonstrated that the three developments in Flood Risk Zone 3 provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk, and that the developments will be safe for their lifetimes taking account of the vulnerability of their users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall.

Appraisal of Sites

The matrix in Appendix S2 shows the detailed results of the scoring exercise for the 11 sites considered for Site Allocation. The Site reference Numbers 003 to 018 relate to the sites shown in the Site Assessment Scores Summary in Appendix X. Each site was scored against the 14 Sustainability Appraisal Objectives as recommended in the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Pendle Local Plan Part 2.

A simple accumulation of the scores for each site resulted in the following ranking of the 11 sites in terms of their sustainability:

1 st	Site 013	Concept Staging (P287)	Score +++++++
2 nd	Site 009	Land N of Dean Street (P276)	Score +++++
3 rd	Site 012	Rear Black Carr (across river)	Score +++
4 th =	Site 014	Hall House Farm (P959)	Score ++
4 th =	Site 015	Black Carr Mill	Score ++
6 th	Site 011	Land adjacent to 37 Hollin Hall (P279)	Score 0

7 th	Site 003	Back Side (Bright Terrace) (P221)	Score -
8 th	Site 018	Land adj to Goat House, Rock Lane (P271)	Score ---
9 th	Site 016	Joe Meadow and Little Wood (P269)	Score -----
10 th	Site 004	S of Green Meadow (P229)	Score -----
11 th	Site 005	E of Ryecroft (P121)	Score -----

Therefore the results of the Sites Appraisal clearly support the Site Allocations (Policy 2) of the Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Plan, in that:

- (a) The top six sites in the Sustainability Appraisal are the same six that scored highest in the Site Assessment exercise.

- (b) The top six sites have an accumulated score which suggests an overall positive or neutral effect on sustainability, whereas the bottom 5 sites have accumulated scores which suggest a negative effect overall.

Conclusion

Based on these detailed appraisals against the Sustainability Objectives, overall the Trawden Forest Neighbourhood Plan has been shown to contribute to achieving sustainable development. Furthermore, the Sustainability Appraisal of Sites clearly endorses the Site Allocations made in Policy 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan.