

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning Control](#)  
**Subject:** FAO Amy Taylor Principal Planning Officer Re NY/2025/0030/ENV  
**Date:** 10 January 2026 15:43:19

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Dear Ms Taylor

Re: Planning Application NY/2025/0030/ENV – Construction of a temporary wellsite for the appraisal of gas

I am writing to formally request that determination of the above planning application be deferred, pending the outcome of the Government’s consultation entitled “Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system” (December 2025).

The consultation includes draft revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which propose a more restrictive approach to the extraction of coal, oil and gas, including the removal of the long-standing policy position that affords “great weight” to the benefits of mineral extraction for onshore oil and gas development (draft Policy M3).

The proposal under consideration clearly constitutes onshore gas appraisal and extraction-related development, and therefore falls squarely within the scope of the proposed policy changes. The draft NPPF represents a clear and significant shift in national planning policy, particularly in relation to climate change, net zero objectives, and the planning balance to be applied to fossil fuel proposals.

While the consultation proposals are not yet adopted policy, they are a material consideration. The weight to be afforded to emerging national policy increases where, as in this case:

- the policy direction is explicit and unambiguous;
- it aligns with legally binding climate change obligations under the Climate Change Act;
- and it directly affects the type of development proposed.

Proceeding to determine the application before the consultation concludes, and before the Government’s policy direction is finalised, risks a decision being made on the basis of a national policy framework that is in the process of fundamental change. This could undermine the robustness of the decision and increase the risk of challenge or inconsistency with imminent national policy.

A short deferral would allow the Council to:

- fully consider the final outcome of the consultation;
- apply the most up-to-date national planning policy;
- and ensure that any decision taken is sound, defensible, and aligned with national objectives on climate change and sustainable development.

I therefore respectfully request that North Yorkshire Council defer determination of application NY/2025/0030/ENV until the Government consultation has concluded and the implications for national planning policy are clear.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely

John Buckley

41 Alder View Court

1A Newby Farm Road

Scarborough

YO12 6WA

Sent from my iPad