A Vision for the Trent Valley

At the Issues and Options stage of the Minerals Plan in 2010, you supported the development of a strategic long term approach, which would guide the future allocation and restoration of sand and gravel workings in the Trent Valley. This approach is now embodied in the draft vision and objectives of the Minerals Plan.

As a result, we are developing a strategic overview of the environmental sensitivity of the Trent Valley. This involves using three sets of environmental data, including information relating to the historic environment, nature conservation and data showing how intact the landscape is in visual terms. From this, the attached map has been developed which could form a baseline for assessing the relative sensitivity of the Trent Valley in environmental terms and, along with further detailed site assessment work, could enable the assessment of sites which are put forward for sand and gravel extraction.

The most sensitive areas are those that are above average with respect to their ecology, historic environment and landscape qualities, and will be most susceptible to change (shown in red on the map). Those areas defined as the least sensitive (shown in pink on the map) have the potential for more change and, in particular, changes that can help to deliver a range of environmental and community benefits that will help to make the local environment more attractive and accessible.

This work has the opportunity to create more resilient landscapes through the conservation of areas of current value, with robust mitigation where some change is proposed and the enhancement of areas currently deficient in these environmental assets with resultant environmental and community benefits in all cases.

Do you think that this approach will form a good strategic basis for assessing whether sites should be permitted and if so how they are restored?