

21 November 2013



Martin Small  
Historic Environment Planning Adviser  
English Heritage  
Eastgate Court  
195-205 High Street  
Guildford  
Surrey  
GU1 3EH

[martin.small@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:martin.small@english-heritage.org.uk)

(sent by email only)

Dear Mr Small,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)  
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) (the SEA regulations)**

**RE: West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMWDPD)**

**Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environment Assessment Scoping Consultation Response**

Thank you for your response and associated comments in regard to the aforementioned Scoping Consultation dated 18 October 2013.

As you are aware West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) is currently in the early stages of producing the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMW DPD) which will form part of the West Berkshire Local Plan.

The purpose of the WBMW DPD is to provide a local planning policy framework against which planning applications for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire will be assessed.

Pursuant to the SEA regulations, a Sustainability Appraisal is being undertaken to assess the likely economic, social and environmental effects of the WBMWDPD alongside their preparation. The first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process was the Scoping Report to which we received responses from the relevant statutory consultees.

Your organisation was consulted on the Scoping report because in line with Regulation 4(1) of the SEA regulations the relevant consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

Planning and Countryside

Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5LD

Our Ref: WBMWDPD / SA/SEA Scoping  
Your Ref: HD/P6034/

Please ask for: Mr A Morrow  
Direct Line: (01635) 519117

e-mail: [amorrow@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:amorrow@westberks.gov.uk)

Each issue raised in your response has been addressed below:

- *The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valetta Convention), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* have all been added to the relevant plans, policies and programmes.
- References to the Berkshire Historic Environment Character Zoning Project and the West Berkshire Historic Environment Action Plan have been added to the Scoping report.
- A reference to non-designated heritage assets has been added to the baseline information for the historic environment. *The Historic Environment Record* and the *English Heritage Heritage at Risk Register* have been identified as sources of information. Paragraph 54 of Appendix 2 now uses the latest information from the 2013 Heritage at Risk Register, which identifies three buildings, six Scheduled Monuments, three historic parks and gardens and one battlefield at risk.
- Paragraph 46 of the main report now states:  
  
*“There is a need to conserve and enhance West Berkshire’s rich historic environment and diverse historic landscape character.”*
- Sustainability Objective 5 now refers specifically to heritage assets. The indicators for Sustainability Objective 5 now include:
  - *“The number of designated heritage assets”;*
  - *“The number and percentage of designated heritage assets at risk from minerals or waste development”;*
  - *“The number of applications approved contrary to the advice of the Council’s conservation or archaeological advisor”;*
  - *“Proximity to, and (potential) impact on:*
    - *Scheduled Monument*
    - *Listed Building*
    - *Conservation Area*
    - *Historic Park or Garden*
    - *Historic Battlefield*
    - *Site identified in the Historic Environment Record”*
- In regard to indicators for Sustainability Objective 5, your letter stated that:

*“Proximity to nearest (including its setting).....’ is not appropriate and that the important consideration is the effect of a development on the significance of a heritage asset.”*

While it is accepted that the impact of a development on the significance of a heritage asset is overall the most important issue, it is considered that the nature of the impact can be influenced by the proximity of the minerals/waste site (allocation) to the heritage asset, and therefore this has been left in as part of the indicator, while

*“...and (potential) impact on...”*

has been added as can be seen above.

- Again in regard to indicators for Sustainability Objective 5, your letter stated that an indicator should be:

*“Number of quarries supplying sources of traditional building stone”.*

While the logic of including this indicator is understood and the importance of traditional building stone in many areas is acknowledged, due to the geological makeup of the West Berkshire area, the deposits that are worked are generally ‘geologically sharp’ sand and gravel and ‘soft’ sand. Therefore it is considered highly unlikely that there would be quarries supplying dimensional stone in West Berkshire. For these reasons officers have opted not to include this as an indicator.

- Minerals Objective B has been amended to read:

*“To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect and seek to improve the quality of life of residents, the quality and diversity of areas of nature conservation interest, historic and heritage assets, water environment and landscape character;”*

- Minerals Objective D (previously Minerals Objective C) has been amended to read:

*“To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments, Special Areas of Conservation, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Battlefields and Conservation Areas”*

- Waste Objective P (previously Waste Objective O) has been amended to read:

*“To ensure appropriate protection of the natural and cultural heritage in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related development in accordance with the NPPF”*

- The last sentence of paragraph 59 (previously paragraph 57) of Appendix 2 has been amended so that the end of it reads:

*“...if care is taken over location and design”.*

- Paragraph 60 (previously paragraph 58) of Appendix 2, now reflects the fact that both listed buildings and scheduled monuments enjoy specific legal protection and have separate consenting regimes to the planning process.
- The last sentence of Paragraph 64 (previously paragraph 62) now reads:

*“Where loss or harm is unavoidable, the remains should be properly recorded and the record made publicly available”.*

I trust that this is satisfactory. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Morrow', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Andrew Morrow  
**Senior Minerals and Waste Policy Officer**

21 November 2013



Gareth Johns  
Planning Liaison Officer  
Environment Agency  
South East Regional Office,  
Kings Meadow House,  
Kings Meadow Road,  
Reading,  
Berkshire,  
RG1 8DQ

Planning and Countryside  
Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5LD

Our Ref: WBMWDPD / SA/SEA Scoping  
Your Ref: WA/2006/000267/SE-05/SP1-L01

Please ask for: Mr A Morrow  
Direct Line: (01635) 519117  
e-mail: [amorrow@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:amorrow@westberks.gov.uk)

[gareth.johns@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.johns@environment-agency.gov.uk)

(sent by email only)

Dear Mr Johns,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)  
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) (the SEA regulations)**

**RE: West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMWDPD)**

**Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environment Assessment Scoping Consultation Response**

Thank you for your response and associated comments in regard to the aforementioned Scoping Consultation dated 18 October 2013.

As you are aware West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) is currently in the early stages of producing the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMW DPD) which will form part of the West Berkshire Local Plan.

The purpose of the WBMW DPD is to provide a local planning policy framework against which planning applications for minerals and waste development in West Berkshire will be assessed.

Pursuant to the SEA regulations, a Sustainability Appraisal is being undertaken to assess the likely economic, social and environmental effects of the WBMWDPD alongside their preparation. The first stage of the Sustainability Appraisal process was the Scoping Report to which we received responses from the relevant statutory consultees.

Your organisation was consulted on the Scoping report because in line with Regulation 4(1) of the SEA regulations the relevant consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

Each issue raised in your response has been addressed below:

- We acknowledge the recommendation that the level 1 SFRA, and level 2 SFRA should be updated. We are in the process of updating these documents. Where necessary this will include revised information from fluvial and surface water model outlines.
- Reference to the Water Framework Directive has been added to the '(Sustainability) Objective 2 Potential Indicators' section.
- The following objectives have been added to WBMWDPD minerals and waste objectives:
  - Minerals Objective C - Where practicable to locate minerals development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised;
  - Waste Objective Q - Where practicable to locate waste development in appropriate locations in order that the potential negative impact from flooding is minimised.

I trust that this is satisfactory. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Morrow', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Andrew Morrow  
**Senior Minerals and Waste Policy Officer**

21 November 2013



Alison Appleby  
Land Use Operations  
Natural England  
15 Andover Road  
Winchester  
SO23 7BT

Alison.Appleby@naturalengland.org.uk  
(sent by email only)

Planning and Countryside

Council Offices  
Market Street Newbury  
Berkshire RG14 5LD

Our Ref: WBMWDPD / SA/SEA Scoping  
Your Ref: 101507

Please ask for: Mr A Morrow  
Direct Line: (01635) 519117  
e-mail: [amorrow@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:amorrow@westberks.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Appleby,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)  
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) (the SEA regulations)**

**RE: West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMWDPD)**

**Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environment Assessment Scoping Consultation Response**

Thank you for your response dated 24 October 2013 and subsequent email dated 21 November in regard to the aforementioned scoping consultation.

As you are aware West Berkshire District Council (WBDC) is currently in the early stages of producing the West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Development Plan Document (WBMW DPD) which will form part of the West Berkshire Local Plan.

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Your organisation was consulted on the Scoping report because in line with Regulation 4(1) of the SEA regulations the relevant consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.

Each issue raised in your response has been addressed below:

- You indicated that we may wish to consider adding a reference to the protection of tranquillity within the sustainability objectives. SA Objective 12 now states:

*“To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development.”*

- Regarding sustainability objective 1, you indicated that we may wish to consider adding as a potential indicator a reference to priority species and habitats, referencing the Berkshire Biodiversity Strategy. This issue has been addressed through the addition of an appropriate indicator.
- Regarding sustainability objective 12, you indicated that we may wish to consider adding as a potential indicator a reference to ‘enhancement of people’s access to nature (either as linear routes or as open space)’. This issue has been addressed through the addition of an appropriate indicator.
- We acknowledge that para 123 of the NPPF states that:

*“Planning policies and decisions should aim to... identify and protect areas of tranquillity which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.”*

Thank you for suggesting that we look into whether data exists on ‘tranquillity’ in the ‘CPRE national tranquillity map’. This map provides a useful overview of the areas in England disturbed by the presence of noise and visual intrusion from major infrastructure such as motorways and A roads, urban areas and airports.

- You indicate that a mention of ‘local sites’ in paragraph 64 of the main report would be welcomed. Paragraph 64 now states:

*“Mineral working has a number of key environmental effects which must be considered by the Plan. These include; noise, air quality; mineral waste; dust; visual intrusion on the local setting and wider landscape; archaeological and heritage features; traffic; groundwater; surface water; landscape character; and internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, protected or sensitive species and plant and wildlife habitats.”*

I trust that this is satisfactory. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely



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Andrew Morrow  
**Senior Minerals and Waste Policy Officer**