

**OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS & WASTE CORE STRATEGY****PROPOSED COMMON CORE POLICIES FOR MINERALS AND WASTE****Policy C1: Climate change**

Minerals and waste development proposals, including operational practices and restoration proposals, must take account of climate change for the lifetime of the proposed development. This will be through measures to minimise generation of greenhouse gas emissions, and by measures to allow flexibility for future adaptation.

Proposals should set out how this will be achieved, including:

- Identifying the likely generation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the development and other greenhouse gases and measures to monitor this over the lifetime of the development;
- Demonstrating how the location, design and transportation related to the development will limit greenhouse gas emissions;
- Setting out how the proposal will make use of renewable energy, eg opportunities for energy from waste (waste proposals only), use of energy generated on site and renewable or low carbon energy;
- Incorporation of sustainable drainage schemes to minimise flood impacts;
- Creation of flood water storage capacity through mineral restoration schemes where appropriate;
- The creation of carbon sinks through the development of habitat creation through mineral restoration or landscaping schemes.

**Policy C2: Environmental protection**

- a. Proposals for minerals and waste development will be considered in the light of the following criteria:
  - The likely impact of development (both individually and cumulatively with other development) on local communities and highway safety, including impact on sensitive receptors (including residential property, schools, offices and institutional uses) from noise, dust, odour, other air emissions, vibration, vermin and litter.
  - The protection of and potential for enhancement of sites designated internationally, nationally and locally for their nature conservation importance, including the Oxfordshire Conservation Target Areas, and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the setting of those areas.
  - The likely impact of the development on the local landscape character and the measures proposed to mitigate adverse visual impact through siting, design and landscaping.

- The protection of surface and ground water quality and resources and of watercourses and canals of significant landscape, nature conservation or amenity value.
  - The protection and conservation of Oxfordshire's historic assets and the setting of those assets, including Blenheim Palace, scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic battlefields, and registered parks and gardens.
- b. Sites of nature conservation importance should not be damaged. Proposals for development which would affect an area designated for its nature conservation interest will be assessed by taking into account their impact on the integrity of the site, the proposed significance and duration of the impact on the site and the extent to which mitigation measures can provide a robust alternative for the nature conservation interest.
- c. Mineral working should not damage or destroy irreplaceable habitats or biodiversity, including ancient woodland and species rich grassland, even if these are only significant in a local context. Proposals which would affect such habitats will be assessed by taking into account the importance of the habitat economically, ecologically and for its contribution to the landscape; the local abundance or scarcity of the habitat; the extent of any replacement proposed; and the time it is expected to take for replacement habitat to make a positive contribution to the landscape.
- d. The County Council will seek the enhancement of Conservation Target Areas to implement Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets within and close to areas of mineral workings. Mineral extraction will not be permitted unless the long term maintenance of BAP Priority Habitats and appropriate contributions to Oxfordshire BAP targets through the Conservation Target Area approach have been secured.
- e. Scheduled Ancient Monuments, other archaeological remains of national importance and their settings should be preserved in situ. For all other remains of regional or local importance preservation in situ will be preferred. Where this is not appropriate, and for all other remains, adequate provision should be made for their excavation and recording.
- f. Before determining an application for mineral extraction the County Council will normally require the applicant to carry out a preliminary, desk-based archaeological assessment to determine the nature and significance of any archaeological assets. The County Council may, subject to the results of this initial assessment, require an archaeological field evaluation of the site to determine the appropriate means for mitigating the impact of extraction on the archaeological assets.

### **Policy C3: Flooding**

Where possible, new minerals and waste development should take place in areas that are not liable to flooding. Development may take place in an area at risk of flooding where all reasonable alternative locations have been explored and discounted.

Appropriate flood risk assessment should demonstrate that buildings, plant, screen bunds, stockpiles or any other form of engineering works associated with minerals and waste development will not;

- impede the flow of floodwater;
- displace floodwater;
- increase the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- reduce the capacity of existing flood storage capacity;
- adversely affect the functioning of existing flood defence structures.

Proposals for the restoration of quarries located in areas liable to flood should consider and, where possible, incorporate measures for the storage of floodwater.

#### **Policy C4: Transport and rights of way**

Minerals and waste development will only be permitted where provision is made for convenient access to and along the primary road network in a way that maintains or improves:

- the safety of all road users including pedestrians;
- the efficiency and quality of the road network;
- residential and environmental amenity.

Proposals for mineral working should

- a) wherever possible, transport minerals by rail, water, pipeline or conveyor, rather than by road
- b) minimise the number of miles that have to be travelled to reach markets if this can be achieved using roads suitable for lorries

The rights of way network should be maintained and individual rights of way retained in situ. Diversions should be safe, attractive and convenient and should be reinstated as soon as possible. Improvements and enhancements to the rights of way network will be encouraged and public access will be sought to restored mineral workings, especially if this can be linked to wider provision of green infrastructure.