

CABINET – 13 MARCH 2011

**OXFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN:
MINERALS AND WASTE CORE STRATEGY – PROPOSED
SUBMISSION DOCUMENT**

**Report by Deputy Director for Environment & Economy
- Growth & Infrastructure**

Introduction

1. The County Council is preparing a new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval to submit the revised policies for the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy to the full County Council on 3 April with a view to then submitting the Core Strategy to the Government.
2. The Core Strategy will set out the vision and strategic objectives together with the spatial strategy, core policies and implementation framework for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire over the period to 2030. Detailed site allocations will be identified in a subsequent document.
3. Draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies were agreed by Cabinet on 19 July 2011 and were published for consultation in September. Responses were received from 779 individuals and organisations. Most of these were on minerals, including 548 objections to a proposed new mineral working area at Cholsey. The responses have been published in full on the Council's website and are available in the Members' Resource Centre.
4. Overall the consultation has not led to any new substantive issues being put forward that call into question the principles on which the draft strategies were prepared. A number of more detailed issues have been raised, in response to which some changes to the strategy policies are proposed.
5. A summary of the consultation was reported to the member Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group on 21 December 2011. Possible changes to policies in response to issues raised were considered at a further meeting of the Working Group on 24 February 2012, when it endorsed the proposed changes as the basis for consideration by the Cabinet.
6. The key issues and proposed changes arising out of the consultation were considered by the Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 February 2012. The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee are set out later in this report.

Key Minerals Issues and Changes to Policies

Policy M2 – Provision for Mineral Working

7. There was a mix of objections received with regard to the use of locally-derived figures for primary aggregates provision. Some respondents argued the proposed figures were too low; others that they were too high. Some respondents suggested there was insufficient consideration given to the potential for secondary/recycled aggregates to reduce the need for primary aggregates. Finally, there was concern expressed that insufficient consideration had been given to cross-boundary movements and the needs of adjoining areas.
8. The figures in the draft strategy were based on a report prepared by consultants Atkins. That report has been reviewed further in light of the comments made; at the same time account has been taken of 2009 data on inter-authority movements which shows that Oxfordshire was a net importer of sand and gravel. Notwithstanding the concerns expressed, no other figures were put forward through the consultation that can be demonstrated as being more soundly based than the figures in the draft strategy.
9. We have written to other mineral planning authorities in response to their comments explaining the reasoning underpinning the figures in the draft Plan. Some authorities have accepted our position, whilst others continue to express their concern.
10. On balance we consider that the figures in the draft strategy (including 1.26 million tonnes a year for sand and gravel) remain a sound basis for the Plan and that as a consequence there is no need to change policy M2. These figures have sufficient flexibility to allow production to increase to meet local needs and reduce the need for material to be imported.
11. Whilst actual production is currently at a lower level, the Plan needs to provide a framework for the long-term. But the Plan will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and this will provide the opportunity to take account of changes in local circumstances (for example an increase in economic activity) and the implications this may have on the requirement for aggregates supply.

Policy M3 – Strategy for the Location of Mineral Working

12. The key issues raised through the consultation in respect of this policy can be summarised as being:
 - General comments – the distribution of sand and gravel areas was considered by some to have over-reliance on working in west Oxfordshire; concerns were expressed that the identification of only one new area (Cholsey) meant that the Plan lacked flexibility; and the level of assessment undertaken in respect of potential sand and gravel areas was considered by some to be inadequate (particularly in relation to Cholsey).

- Habitats Regulations Assessment – Natural England expressed concern about the possible impact of working on Oxford Meadows and Cothill Fen Special Areas of Conservation.
- Archaeology – English Heritage expressed concern about the potential for further loss of important archaeology in parts of the Lower Windrush Valley.
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) – the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns AONB Boards expressed concerns about the potential impact of mineral working at Cholsey and Caversham on the adjacent AONBs.
- Flooding – there were objections to the Caversham area on the basis that national policy on flooding had not been correctly applied.
- Groundwater – the Environment Agency questioned whether an assessment of groundwater vulnerability had been undertaken.
- Birdstrike – there were objections (particularly at Cholsey) that the feasibility of extracting and restoring sand and gravel workings within airfield safeguarding areas in a way acceptable to the MoD had not been adequately assessed.
- Cholsey area – the objections submitted suggested that there had been inadequate consultation on the proposal; expressed concern that the draft Plan was site-specific and lacked the detailed assessment that would be expected to support such a proposal; expressed concern as to the impact the proposal would have on residents in Cholsey and Wallingford (including the new proposal for housing at Winterbrook); and expressed concern as to the potential impact of mineral workings on the local economy and tourism.

13. In response to these issues the following actions have been undertaken:

- The proposed distribution of sand and gravel supply between west and southern Oxfordshire has been reviewed in relation to the expected locations of demand across the county and the availability of least constrained resources. 55% of growth over the next 15 years is expected to be in the southern part of the county, with 45% in the northern part, based on population forecasts. Planned economic development is almost evenly divided between the northern and southern parts of the county.
- We have checked our approach to the assessment of sand and gravel areas; this review has confirmed that the assessment methodology has been consistently applied and all relevant strategic issues have been covered, including groundwater vulnerability.
- Consultants have undertaken further work on Habitats Regulations Assessment, the scope of which was agreed with Natural England. This

has concluded that, subject to the exclusion of parts of the Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton area and the inclusion of appropriate safeguards in the policy, the Special Areas of Conservation should not be adversely impacted.

- Clarification has been received from English Heritage as to the areas in the Lower Windrush Valley that they wish to see protected from mineral working: we have established that the remainder of the area could provide the sand and gravel required without important archaeology being affected.
 - A landscape assessment of the Cholsey and Caversham areas has been undertaken, in consultation with AONB Officers: this has concluded that mineral working could be carried out in those areas without adversely impacting on the AONBs.
 - Confirmation has been received from the Environment Agency that national flooding policy has been correctly applied in the assessment of mineral working areas.
 - The MoD has confirmed they have no fundamental concerns about the proposed strategy and that any issues they might have with regard to the potential for birdstrike can be addressed as part of specific planning applications.
 - We have reviewed the consultation process to date and consider it has been appropriate and has met procedural requirements; we have reconsidered the suitability of the Cholsey area for inclusion within the Plan as a strategy area and have concluded that it is; we have looked again at our assessment of the Cholsey area in the light of the objections, including the new housing proposal at Winterbrook, and we have concluded that there are potential local impacts from mineral working but that these can be addressed as part of specific planning applications, and that Cholsey is the most appropriate location for a new area for sand and gravel working.
14. As a result of the work set out above, we have concluded that the strategy for mineral working set out in the draft Plan is soundly based and forms an appropriate base for submitting the Plan for examination. Consequently no substantive change is proposed to policy M3.
15. The only changes proposed to this policy are to take out part of the Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton area and to include requirements to safeguard the Oxford Meadows and Cothill Fen Special Areas of Conservation, to reflect the outcome of the further work on Habitats Regulations Assessment. We are satisfied that neither these changes nor the need for issues such as affect on water levels and birdstrike risk to be addressed through specific planning applications are likely to prevent delivery of the minerals strategy.

16. An addition to policy M3 is proposed to preclude aggregates working within AONBs.

Key Waste Issues and Changes to Policies

Policy W2 – Waste Imports

17. Representations made through the consultation suggested that the proposals for dealing with the provision for waste from elsewhere were inflexible, gave insufficient consideration to the needs of other areas and were not compliant with national policy.
18. In light of the comments received we have reviewed the draft policy in consultation with the Environment Agency and have sought the views of other waste planning authorities.
19. As a result of this work we have concluded that the policy should be amended. The proposed revised policy wording emphasises the need for any proposal for a new facility to treat waste from outside the county (including London) to be able to demonstrate that there is no prospect of a site nearer to the source of the waste.

Policies W3 & W4 – Waste Management Targets and Provision of Additional Waste Management Capacity

20. Representations on the draft policies argued that the recycling targets were too low and that the landfill reduction targets were unrealistically high. Objections were received suggesting that the need for additional residual waste treatment facilities (e.g. waste to energy or mechanical biological treatment) was overstated. There were also concerns that inadequate consideration had been given to the implications of non-delivery of already permitted facilities.
21. The recycling targets have been reconsidered in the light of proposals emerging through the review of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and in consultation with the Environment Agency.
22. As a result we have concluded that the recycling and composting targets for municipal waste and also for commercial and industrial waste should be increased, to 70% by 2025; and that the maximum landfill target should be changed to 5%. This reduces the residual waste treatment target to 25%.
23. As a consequence of these changes there is a need to increase the provision to be made for additional recycling capacity (particularly for commercial and industrial waste). This in turn removes the need to make provision for additional residual waste treatment capacity.

Policy W5 – Provision for Waste Management

24. Objections to the draft policy highlighted concerns that the strategy was too prescriptive and lacked flexibility with regard to the location of facilities (particularly for recycling) and to allowing for provision to be made for contingencies. Representations also highlighted the need for more focus on facilities to serve Oxford and that the need for a waste treatment plant in southern Oxfordshire was not proven.
25. We have reconsidered the strategy for provision of waste facilities in the light of the amended requirements for new capacity; the locations of existing and planned facilities in relation to where waste will arise; and the likely delivery of facilities that already have planning permission.
26. As a consequence it is proposed that policy W5 is amended so that it sets out a broad approach to the provision of strategic facilities, with emphasis given to serving the Bicester-Oxford-Abingdon-Didcot area and other facilities being provided to serve the other main towns and small-scale facilities elsewhere.
27. It is proposed that a statement be included that gives general encouragement to the provision of additional recycling and composting facilities; and that the provision made in the draft policy for a treatment plant in the Abingdon-Didcot-Wantage/Grove area be replaced by a more general requirement that the need for any new residual waste treatment facility has to be demonstrated on a case-by-case basis.

Policies W8 & W9 – Hazardous and Radioactive Waste

28. Objections were received that the draft policies were too restrictive and placed too much reliance on facilities outside Oxfordshire, contrary to national policy. In particular concerns were expressed that the policies failed to appreciate the need to consider the storage, management and disposal of radioactive waste in the wider context of national policy.
29. We have reviewed the draft policies in consultation with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – the Government agency responsible for the management of nuclear waste. This work has reconsidered the expected types and quantities of these wastes and their management requirements, together with the availability of facilities in Oxfordshire and elsewhere in the Country, in the light of national policy.
30. The proposed changes to policies W8 and W9 provide for Oxfordshire's waste management needs to be met within the county insofar as this is appropriate; and would enable facilities to accommodate waste from outside the county only where it can be demonstrated that there is no adequate provision elsewhere.

Other Issues and Changes to Policies

31. We have considered all the other issues that were raised in the consultation responses and as a consequence a number of other changes to policies are proposed:
- Policy M3 – Locations for mineral working: The parts covering non-aggregate minerals are moved to a new policy, leaving policy M3 to cover aggregates only.
 - Policy M5 – Safeguarding: This policy should cover mineral deposits only; the parts on rail depots and recycled aggregate facilities are moved to policies M4 and W10.
 - Policy M6 – Restoration of mineral workings: The provisions for securing long-term management of restored sites are strengthened; and a requirement for restoration to provide flood storage capacity is added.
 - Policy W6 – Sites for waste management facilities: The policy is amended to accord better with national green belt policy; and to link temporary development as an exception at mineral working and landfill sites with general policy on green field sites.
 - Policy W7 – Landfill: It is clarified that this policy does not cover hazardous or radioactive waste; and greater emphasis is given to use of inert waste in restoring quarries, with landfill only being permitted elsewhere if there would be environmental benefit.
 - Policy C1 – Flooding: Reference to the sequential test and exceptions test, from national policy, is included.
 - Policy C4 – Biodiversity and geodiversity: The policy is amended to accord better with legislation and national policy on designated sites; and to clarify policy on the contribution developments should make to maintenance and enhancement of habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity.
 - Policy C5 – Landscape: Clearer reference is made to landscape character and assessments; and a section on proposals affecting Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty is added.
 - Policy C6 – Historic environment and archaeology: The policy is amended to accord better with national policy.
 - Policy C7 – Transport: The term ‘primary road network’ is replaced by ‘advisory lorry routes’; and a requirement for financial contributions towards infrastructure improvements is included.
 - Policy C8 – Rights of way: A requirement for provision to be made for improvements to rights of way and public access, including financial contribution, is included.

- An additional policy is proposed on development affecting high grade agricultural land and management of soils.
32. Policy C7 seeks to minimise the distance minerals need to be transported by road and, together with policy M4, encourages and enables the use of rail to transport minerals where this is practicable. The proposed strategy for mineral working is consistent with these policies, taking into account the distribution of mineral resources in relation to locations of demand and the limited realistic opportunities for transporting minerals by rail.

County Council Response to Consultation Responses

33. A summary of the comments made in the responses to the September 2011 consultation on the draft Minerals and Waste Planning Strategies consultation, with proposed County Council responses, has been prepared and is available in the Members' Resource Centre.
34. The proposed changes to policies, including additional minor amendments to policy wording, are set out in Annex 1 to this report.
35. Related to the changes to policies, some changes are proposed to the vision and objectives for both waste and minerals planning. These proposed changes are set out in Annex 2 to this report.
36. We have prepared a series of background papers to explain and support the strategy policies. These have been updated since they were published alongside the consultation draft strategies in September 2011, and are available in the Members' Resource Centre.
37. The proposed changes to the policies will require related changes to be made to the supporting text of the Core Strategy. In addition, the text needs to be updated in places; and the separate minerals and waste strategy consultation documents need to be brought together as a single Proposed Submission Document and the text amended to reflect the changed status of the Plan. It is proposed that authority to make these changes to the text be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Growth and Infrastructure.

Sustainability Appraisal

38. Sustainability appraisal (incorporating strategic environmental assessment) has been carried out as an integral part of preparation of the Core Strategy. A sustainability appraisal of the proposed changes to the policies has been carried out by consultants and is available in the Members' Resource Centre. This does not raise any fundamental issues necessitating further changes to policies.

Recommendations of Scrutiny Committee

39. The Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee recommended five aspects of the Core Strategy on which it considered the Cabinet should satisfy itself:
- i) That the proposed figure for sand and gravel provision of 1.26 million tonnes per annum is sufficiently robust;
 - ii) That the proposed strategy is sufficiently robust as to be deliverable;
 - iii) That the process of preparing the Core Strategy had been undertaken in a way that enables the views of local communities to engage in it: specifically that the residents of Cholsey had had sufficient opportunity to have their views considered adequately;
 - iv) That sufficient encouragement is given to the need to reduce the amount of lorry miles;
 - v) That sufficient encouragement is given to the use of rail facilities as a means of transporting material.
40. The proposed figure for sand and gravel provision is based on advice commissioned by the County Council to provide an evidence base to replace that used to prepare the South East Plan (which set a much higher level of provision for Oxfordshire).
41. The role of a strategic long-term framework is to provide the context within which planning for the supply of minerals can take place. It is inevitable that over the life-time of this planning framework that the demand for minerals will vary – with the level of material provided in any one calendar year being potentially higher or indeed lower than the longer term average. Inherent within the planning system is the requirement to monitor delivery of any long-term planning framework and to undertake regular reviews as appropriate.
42. The deliverability of the proposed strategy has been tested throughout its preparation. As a long-term planning framework it is not the role of the strategy to consider in detail matters pertinent to individual planning applications. At this stage, the evidence indicates that the strategy is robust and deliverable.
43. The proposal to include the Cholsey area within the core strategy was considered at length in preparing the consultation document. The need to identify a new area in the southern part of the County and the basis for identifying the Cholsey area is documented. The points raised in respect of this issue through the consultation have been fully considered and the proposed response set out earlier in this report.
44. The proposed strategy seeks to encourage a reduction in lorry miles and use of the rail network. However, it is important to remember that the timescale associated with mineral workings is by its very nature longer-term. The

location of existing mineral workings by and large dictates current patterns of movement. In addition, as a commercially driven industry travel patterns are in part dictated by market considerations that are beyond the scope of a planning framework.

Next Steps

45. Subject to approval by full Council on 3 April, the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Proposed Submission Document will be published in May, to enable formal representations to be made on the soundness of the Plan, and will be submitted to the Government in July, for independent examination by a planning inspector. Public examination hearings would be expected to be held in the autumn and the Inspector's report received in spring 2013. Subject to a favourable report, the Council would then be able to adopt the Core Strategy.
46. It should be noted that the core strategy policies have been prepared within the context of the current national planning policy framework. The working assumption is that the publication of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework later this spring will not substantially change the national context in so far as it is relevant to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

47. The Minerals and Waste Plan will contribute to the Council's strategic objectives of world class economy, healthy and thriving communities and environment and climate change.

Financial and Staff Implications

48. The programme of work for the Minerals and Waste Plan is included within the Directorate work priorities and funding for this project is included in the medium term financial plan. This report does not raise any additional financial or staffing implications.

Legal Implications

49. The County Council is required to prepare a minerals and waste plan under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The effect of the European Waste Framework Directive, 2008 (2008/98/EC) is to require waste planning authorities to put in place local waste plans. The requirements of the Waste Framework Directive, as clarified in the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, will be met by the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and the proposed subsequent site allocations document.

Risk Management

50. The complexity of the Minerals and Waste Plan process and the potential implications for major mineral working and waste management proposals emphasise the importance of good project management and regular reporting on risk management.

RECOMMENDATION

51. **The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**
- (a) agree the amended minerals, waste and core policies in Annex 1 and the amended minerals and waste vision and objectives in Annex 2 as the basis of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document for approval by the full County Council.**
 - (b) delegate authority to finalise the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document, including amendments to the supporting text, to the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure.**
 - (c) delegate authority to finalise the County Council’s responses to the comments made in response to the Minerals Planning Strategy and Waste Planning Strategy Consultation Drafts, September 2011 to the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure.**
 - (d) RECOMMEND to the full County Council that the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Proposed Submission Document as finalised by the Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure be approved and be published to enable representations to be made and submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.**

MARTIN TUGWELL

Deputy Director for Environment & Economy - Growth & Infrastructure

Background papers:

- i. Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group 21 December 2011 – Paper MW1 – Responses to Consultation on Draft Minerals and Waste Strategies and Main Issues Raised.
- ii. Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group – Note of Meeting 21 December 2011.
- iii. Minerals and Waste Plan Working Group 24 February 2012 – Paper MW1 – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Core Strategy: Changes to Policies for Proposed Submission Document.

- iv. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper on Provision for Aggregates Supply, February 2012.
- v. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Provision for Aggregates Supply: Summary of Engagement with other Mineral Planning Authorities, January / February 2012.
- vi. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Preliminary Assessment of Minerals Site Nominations, revised February 2012.
- vii. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening report for mineral and waste strategy options, August 2011.
- viii. Land Use Consultants & Maslen Environmental – Habitats Regulations Assessment for Oxfordshire Minerals Planning Strategy: Technical Supplement, January 2012.
- ix. Oxfordshire County Council – Strategic Landscape Assessment of potential minerals working at Cholsey and Caversham: impacts on Protected Landscapes, February 2012.
- x. English Heritage – Letter 17 January 2012 to Oxfordshire County Council on Minerals Plan Consultation 2011.
- xi. Correspondence between Oxfordshire County Council and the Ministry of Defence on draft minerals planning strategy and birdstrike, October and December 2011.
- xii. Environment Agency – Emails 20 December 2011 and 20 January 2012 to Oxfordshire County Council on mineral working, flooding and groundwater issues.
- xiii. Correspondence between Oxfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency on waste issues, December 2011 to February 2012.
- xiv. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 1: Environmental and Community Protection and Planning for Mineral Working, revised February 2012.
- xv. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 2: Flooding and Minerals Development in Oxfordshire, revised February 2012.
- xvi. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 3: Quarry Restoration, revised February 2012.
- xvii. Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy – Background Paper No. 7: Heritage assets and archaeology, February 2012.

- xviii. URS – Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework: Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Pre Submission Minerals and Waste Core Strategy: Sustainability Appraisal Report, March 2012.

All the above documents are kept in the Minerals and Waste Policy Team, Speedwell House, Oxford.

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March 2012

**Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan
Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
Proposed Changes to Minerals, Waste and Core Policies**

For each policy, the proposed policy wording in **bold** is followed by the consultation draft wording in regular text with deletions and additions shown by ~~strike-through~~ and underline respectively.

MINERALS POLICIES

Policy M1: Provision for secondary and recycled aggregates

The production and supply of secondary and recycled aggregates, in place of land won aggregates, will be encouraged.

Provision will be made for facilities to enable the supply of at least 0.9 million tonnes of secondary and recycled aggregates a year, comprising:

- **Permanent facilities; and**
- **Temporary facilities at aggregate quarries and inert waste landfill sites.**

Provision will be primarily through recycling of construction, demolition and excavation waste but also through recycling of road planings and rail ballast and recovery of ash from combustion processes.

No changes are proposed to this policy.

Policy M2: Provision to be made for working aggregate minerals

Permission will be granted for mineral working to enable landbanks of reserves with planning permission to be maintained of at least 7 years for soft sand and sharp sand and gravel and 10 years for crushed rock, based on the following rates of extraction:

- **Sharp sand and gravel – 1.01 million tonnes a year;**
- **Soft sand 0.25 – million tonnes a year; and**
- **Crushed rock – 0.63 million tonnes a year.**

No changes are proposed to this policy, but a change is proposed to the policy title as follows:

Policy M2: Provision to be made for ~~mineral~~ working aggregate minerals

Policy M3: Locations for working aggregate minerals

The principal locations for sharp sand and gravel working, as indicated in figure 7, will be at:

- i. existing areas of working at:
 - Lower Windrush Valley;
 - Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton;
 - Sutton Courtenay; and
 - Caversham;
 through extensions to existing quarries or new quarries to replace exhausted quarries; and
- ii. a new area of working at Cholsey, to replace Sutton Courtenay when reserves there become exhausted;

Within the Lower Windrush Valley and Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton areas further working will only be permitted if it would not lead to an increase in the overall level of mineral extraction or mineral lorry traffic above past levels within these areas combined.

Within the Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton area further working will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it would not lead to changes in water levels in the Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation; and land to the east and north east of the River Evenlode will not be identified as specific sites for mineral working in a site allocations development plan document.

The principal locations for soft sand working, as indicated in figure 7, will be:

- East and south east of Faringdon;
- North and south of the A420 to the west of Abingdon; and
- Duns Tew.

Within the area north and south of the A420 to the west of Abingdon further working will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it would not lead to changes in water levels in the Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation.

The principal locations for crushed rock working, as indicated in figure 7, will be:

- North of Bicester to the east of the River Cherwell;
- South of the A40 near Burford; and
- East and south east of Faringdon.

Additional working of ironstone for aggregate use will only be permitted in exchange for revocation, without compensation, of an existing permission containing workable resources.

Preference will be given to extensions to existing soft sand and crushed rock quarries. New quarries will only be permitted if sufficient provision cannot be made through extensions.

Planning permission will not be granted for working aggregate minerals outside the locations identified in this policy unless the required provision cannot be met from within these areas.

Further working of minerals for aggregate use will not be permitted within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Policy M3: ~~Strategy for the Locations for~~ of mineral working aggregate minerals

The principal locations for sharp sand and gravel working, as ~~shown~~ indicated in figure 7, will be at:

- i existing areas of working at:
 - Lower Windrush Valley;
 - Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton;
 - Sutton Courtenay; and
 - Caversham;
 through extensions to existing quarries or new quarries to replace exhausted quarries; and
- ii a new area of working at Cholsey, to replace Sutton Courtenay when reserves there become exhausted;

~~Permission for further working~~ Within the Lower Windrush Valley and Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton areas further working will ~~not~~ only be permitted if it would not lead to an increase in the overall level of mineral extraction or mineral lorry traffic above past levels within these areas combined.

Within the Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton area further working will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it would not lead to changes in water levels in the Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation; and land to the east and north east of the River Evenlode will not be identified as specific sites for mineral working in a site allocations development plan document.

The principal locations for soft sand working, as ~~shown~~ indicated in figure 7, will be:

- East and south east of Faringdon;
- North and south of the A420 to the west of Abingdon; and
- Duns Tew.

Within the area north and south of the A420 to the west of Abingdon further working will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it would not lead to changes in water levels in the Cothill Fen Special Area of Conservation.

The principal locations for crushed rock working, as ~~shown~~ indicated in figure 7, will be:

- North of Bicester to the east of the River Cherwell;
- South of the A40 near Burford; and
- East and south east of Faringdon.

Additional working of ironstone for aggregate use will only be permitted in exchange for revocation, without compensation, of an existing permission containing workable resources.

Preference will be given to extensions to existing soft sand and crushed rock quarries. New quarries will only be permitted if sufficient provision cannot be made through extensions.

The working of clay will normally be permitted only from areas where sand and gravel is being worked in the following locations:

- Lower Windrush Valley;
- Eynsham/Cassington/Yarnton; and
- Sutton Courtenay.

Planning permission will not be granted for ~~mineral~~ working aggregate minerals outside the locations identified ~~above~~ in this policy unless the required provision cannot be met from within these areas.

Further working of minerals for aggregate use will not be permitted within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

~~Applications to work fullers earth, oil, gas, coal or any other minerals not currently worked in the county will be considered in the light of national and development plan policies.~~

~~Permission will be granted for extensions to existing quarries and new quarries for extraction of building stone where a local need for the material has been demonstrated and provided that the quarrying is at a scale appropriate to the locality and will not harm the environment or local amenity.~~

Policy M4: Aggregates rail depots

Existing and permitted rail depots will be safeguarded for importing aggregates at:

- Banbury (Hennef Way);
- Kidlington;
- Sutton Courtenay (Appleford Sidings); and
- Shipton on Cherwell Quarry.

Where proposals for development would result in the loss of a rail depot site, a suitable alternative site should be provided.

The development of further aggregates rail depots will be encouraged at suitable locations outside the Green Belt.

Development which would prejudice the operation or establishment of existing or permitted aggregates rail depots identified in or subsequently permitted under this policy will not be permitted. Development sensitive to disturbance that could be adversely impacted by the operation of a rail depot will not be permitted in proximity to an existing or permitted rail depot.

Policy M4: Aggregates rail depots

Existing and permitted rail depots will be safeguarded for importing aggregates at:

- Banbury (Hennef Way);
- Kidlington;
- Sutton Courtenay (Appleford Sidings); and
- Shipton on Cherwell Quarry.

Where proposals for development would result in the loss of a rail depot site, a suitable alternative site should be provided.

The development of further aggregates rail depots will be encouraged at suitable locations outside the Green Belt.

Development which would prejudice the operation or establishment of existing or permitted aggregates rail depots identified in or subsequently permitted under this policy will not be permitted. Development sensitive to disturbance that could be adversely impacted by the operation of a rail depot will not be permitted in proximity to an existing or permitted rail depot.

Proposed new policy:

Policy Mx: Non-aggregate mineral working

Permission will be granted for extensions to existing quarries and new quarries for extraction of building stone where a local need for the material has been demonstrated and provided that the quarrying is at a scale appropriate to the locality and will not harm the environment or local amenity.

The working of clay will be permitted only from areas where sand and gravel is being worked in the following locations:

- Lower Windrush Valley;
- Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton; and
- Sutton Courtenay;

unless it can be demonstrated that there is a local need for clay which either cannot be met from these areas or can be met from elsewhere with less overall environmental impact.

Applications to work chalk, fullers earth, oil, gas, coal or any other minerals not currently worked in Oxfordshire will be considered in the light of national and development plan policies.

Proposed changes to policy wording taken from draft policy M3 are shown below:

Policy Mx: Non-aggregate mineral working

Permission will be granted for extensions to existing quarries and new quarries for extraction of building stone where a local need for the material has been demonstrated and provided that the quarrying is at a scale appropriate to the locality and will not harm the environment or local amenity.

The working of clay will ~~normally~~ be permitted only from areas where sand and gravel is being worked in the following locations:

- Lower Windrush Valley;
- Eynsham / Cassington / Yarnton; and
- Sutton Courtenay;

unless it can be demonstrated that there is a local need for clay which either cannot be met from these areas or can be met from elsewhere with less overall environmental impact.

Applications to work chalk, fullers earth, oil, gas, coal or any other minerals not currently worked in ~~the county~~ Oxfordshire will be considered in the light of national and development plan policies.

Policy M5: Safeguarding mineral resources

Mineral resources will be safeguarded for the future and development which would prevent or otherwise hinder the possible future working of minerals will not be permitted unless it can be shown that:

- **The need for the development outweighs the economic and sustainability considerations relating to the mineral resource; or**
- **The mineral will be extracted prior to the development taking place.**

Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be defined, and identified in detailed maps, and will include the following mineral resources:

- **Sand and gravel in the main river valleys and in other areas where there is a proven resource;**
- **Soft sand, limestone and ironstone in existing areas of working, including the areas proposed for working in policy M3;**
- **Fuller's earth.**

Policy M5: ~~Mineral~~ Safeguarding mineral resources

Mineral resources will be safeguarded for the future and development which would prevent or otherwise hinder the possible future working of minerals will not be permitted unless it can be shown that:

- The need for the development outweighs the economic and sustainability considerations relating to the mineral resource; or
- The mineral will be extracted prior to the development taking place.

Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be defined, and identified in detailed maps, and will include the following mineral resources:

- Sand and gravel in the main river valleys and in other areas where there is a proven resource;
- Soft sand, limestone and ironstone in existing areas of working, including the areas proposed for working in policy M3;
- Fuller's earth.

~~Development which would prejudice the operation or establishment of existing or permitted aggregates rail depots identified in or subsequently permitted under policy M4 will not be permitted. Development sensitive to disturbance that could be adversely impacted by the operation of a rail depot will not be permitted in proximity to an existing or permitted rail depot.~~

~~Permanent secondary and recycled aggregate production facilities will be safeguarded.~~

Policy M6: Restoration of mineral workings

Minerals workings should be restored to a high quality in a timely and phased manner to an after-use appropriate to the location and the capacity of the transport network and which is sympathetic to the character of the surrounding landscape and the amenity of local communities. Restoration and afteruse should accord with any restoration strategy for the area concerned in a site allocations development plan document.

Planning permission will not be granted for mineral working unless satisfactory proposals have been made for the restoration, aftercare and after-use of the site, including the means of securing them in the long term. Where appropriate, operators and landowners will be expected to make provision for the management of restored mineral workings for an extended period, beyond any aftercare period required by condition, including making appropriate financial contributions.

Where mineral working is proposed on best and most versatile agricultural land, the restoration should be back to agricultural land if this is practicable.

Within the floodplain restoration of mineral workings should where possible include provision for increased flood storage capacity to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere.

Where restoration could assist or achieve priority habitat or species targets and/or Biodiversity Action Plan targets, the relevant biodiversity after-use should be incorporated within the restoration scheme.

Where restoration could protect and/or improve geodiversity and improve educational opportunities this should be incorporated into the proposed restoration scheme, such as by providing for important geological faces to be left exposed and enabling access to the faces.

Where a mineral working site has the potential to provide for local amenity uses, including appropriate sport and recreational uses, these uses should be incorporated into the restoration scheme.

Policy M6: Restoration of mineral workings

Minerals workings should be restored to a high quality ~~as quickly as possible~~ and in a timely and phased manner to an after-use appropriate to the location and the capacity of the transport network and which is sympathetic to the character of the surrounding landscape and the amenity of local communities. Restoration and afteruse should accord with any restoration strategy for the area concerned in a site allocations development plan document.

Planning permission will not be granted for mineral working unless satisfactory proposals have been made for the restoration, aftercare and after-use of the site, including the means of securing them in the long term. Where appropriate, operators and landowners will be expected to make provision for the management of restored mineral workings for an extended period, beyond any aftercare period required by condition, including making appropriate financial contributions.

Where mineral working is proposed on best and most versatile agricultural land, the restoration should be back to agricultural land if this is practicable.

Within the floodplain restoration of mineral workings should where possible include provision for increased flood storage capacity to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere.

Where restoration could assist or achieve ~~the creation of~~ priority habitat or species targets and/or Oxfordshire Biodiversity Action Plan targets, the relevant biodiversity after-use should be incorporated within the restoration scheme.

Where restoration could protect and/or improve geodiversity and improve educational opportunities this should be incorporated into the proposed restoration scheme, such as by providing for important geological faces to be left exposed and enabling access to the faces.

Where a mineral working site has the potential to provide for local amenity uses, including appropriate sport and recreational uses, these uses should be incorporated into the restoration scheme.

~~Where appropriate, operators and landowners will be expected to contribute towards the management of restored mineral workings for an extended period beyond any formal aftercare period.~~

WASTE POLICIES

Policy W1: The amount of waste to be provided for

Provision will be made to enable Oxfordshire to be net self-sufficient in the management of municipal waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction, demolition and excavation waste.

Provision should be made for waste facilities sufficient to manage the following amounts of waste over the period to 2030:

- **Municipal Solid Waste – 370,000 tonnes per annum;**
- **Commercial and Industrial Waste – 640,000 tonnes per annum;**
- **Construction Demolition and Excavation Waste – 1,300,000 tonnes per annum.**

No changes are proposed to this policy

Policy W2: Imports of residual non-hazardous waste

Provision will be made for disposal of a declining amount of residual non-hazardous waste from London and elsewhere outside Oxfordshire at existing landfill sites. New facilities which provide substantially for the treatment of residual non-hazardous waste from outside Oxfordshire will not be permitted unless there is no prospect of a site nearer to the source of waste being identified.

Policy W2: ~~Waste Imports~~ of residual non-hazardous waste

Provision will be made for disposal of a declining amount of residual non-hazardous waste from London and elsewhere outside Oxfordshire at existing landfill sites. New facilities which provide substantially for the treatment of residual non-hazardous waste from outside Oxfordshire will not be permitted unless there is no prospect of a site nearer to the source of waste being identified ~~would be clear benefits within Oxfordshire.~~

Policy W3: Waste management targets

Provision will be made for waste to be managed in accordance with the following targets, to provide for the maximum diversion of waste from landfill.

Oxfordshire waste management targets 2010 – 2030

Waste Management / Waste Type	Target Year				
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Municipal waste:					
Composting & food waste treatment	28%	31%	33%	35%	35%
Dry Recycling	24%	31%	32%	35%	35%
Treatment of residual waste	0%	30%	30%	25%	25%
Landfill	48%	8%	5%	5%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Commercial & industrial waste:					
Recycling and composting & food waste treatment	50%	60%	65%	70%	70%
Treatment of residual waste	0%	15%	25%	25%	25%
Landfill	50%	25%	10%	5%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Construction, demolition & excavation waste:					
Recycling	50%	50%	60%	60%	60%
Landfill/Restoration	50%	50%	40%	40%	40%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

MSW targets for 2010 approximate to actual performance for 2010/11

Policy W3: Waste management targets

Provision will be made for waste to be managed in accordance with the following targets, to provide for the maximum diversion of waste from landfill.

Oxfordshire waste management targets 2010 – 2030

Waste Management / Waste Type	Target Year				
	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Municipal waste:					
Composting & food waste treatment	2928%	3031%	3133%	3135%	3135%
Dry Recycling	2524%	3131%	3132%	3135%	3135%
Treatment of residual waste	0%	3730%	3630%	3625%	3625%
Landfill	4648%	28%	25%	25%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Commercial & industrial waste:					
Composting & food waste treatment	0%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Recycling and composting & food waste treatment	50%	5060%	5565%	6070%	6070%
Treatment of residual waste	0%	4315%	3825%	3325%	3325%
Landfill	50%	225%	210%	25%	25%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Construction, demolition & excavation waste:					
Recycling	50%	50%	60%	60%	60%
Landfill/Restoration	50%	50%	40%	40%	40%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

MSW targets for 2010 approximate to actual performance for 2010/11

Policy W4: Provision of additional waste management capacity

Provision for additional waste management capacity will be made in accordance with the following guideline figures.

Oxfordshire: additional waste capacity required (tonnes per annum)

Waste Type / Management Type	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Composting:					
Municipal / Commercial & Industrial	–	–	–	–	–
Recycling:					
Municipal / Commercial & Industrial	–	*	*	190,000**	210,000
Construction, Demolition & Excavation	–	–	80,000	390,000	500,000
Residual Treatment:					
Commercial & Industrial	–	–	–	–	–

All figures rounded to nearest 10,000 tonnes

Figures based on estimates of waste arising +10% contingency

* Zero requirement assumes that facilities with permission but not yet built will be delivered; if permitted facilities are not built, there may be a requirement for additional recycling capacity in these years.

** The requirement for additional capacity begins soon after 2020.

Policy W4: Provision of additional waste management capacity

Provision for additional waste management capacity will be made in accordance with the following guideline figures.

Oxfordshire: additional waste capacity required (tonnes per annum)

Waste Type / Management Type	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Composting:					
Municipal / Commercial & Industrial	–	–	–	–	–
Recycling:					
Municipal / Commercial & Industrial	–	–*	–*	50,000 <u>190,000**</u>	100,000 <u>210,000</u>
Construction, Demolition & Excavation	–	–	80,000	390,000	500,000
Residual Treatment:					
Commercial & Industrial	–	200,000 <u>–</u>	180,000 <u>–</u>	160,000 <u>–</u>	160,000 <u>–</u>

All figures rounded to nearest 10,000 tonnes.

Figures based on estimates of waste arising +10% contingency.

* Zero requirement assumes that facilities with permission but not yet built will be delivered; if permitted facilities are not built, there may be a requirement for additional recycling capacity in these years.

** The requirement for additional capacity begins soon after 2020.

Policy W5: Strategy for provision of waste management facilities

Strategic facilities will be located in a broad area around Bicester, Oxford, Abingdon and Didcot as identified in the key diagram (figure 7). Facilities to serve more local needs will be located where they are well related to the other main sources of waste (Witney/Carterton, Wantage/Grove and Banbury). Only small scale facilities, in keeping with their surroundings, will be located elsewhere in Oxfordshire.

Facilities for reuse, recycling and composting of waste and for food waste treatment will generally be encouraged in order to move the management of Oxfordshire's waste further up the waste management hierarchy. Provision will in particular be made for:

- **A household waste recycling centre to serve Banbury;**
- **Municipal waste transfer stations to serve the south and west of the county;**
- **Recycling plants for commercial and industrial waste and for construction, demolition and excavation waste (to produce recycled aggregates and soils).**

Additional plants for treatment of residual municipal and/or commercial and industrial waste arising in Oxfordshire will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that there is a need for additional treatment capacity to divert residual waste away from landfill that cannot reasonably be met by existing capacity within the county.

Waste sites will be expected to meet the criteria in policy W6 and the Core Policies.

Policy W5: Strategy for provision of additional waste management facilities

Strategic facilities will be located in a broad area around Bicester, Oxford, Abingdon and Didcot as identified in the key diagram (figure 7). Facilities to serve more local needs will be located in relation to the other main sources of waste (Witney/Carterton, Wantage/Grove and Banbury). Only small scale facilities, in keeping with their surroundings, will be located elsewhere in Oxfordshire.

Facilities for reuse, recycling and composting of waste and for food waste treatment will generally be encouraged in order to move the management of Oxfordshire's waste further up the waste management hierarchy. Provision will in particular be made for:

For municipal waste, provision will be made for:

- A household waste recycling centre to serve Banbury;
- Two residual Municipal waste transfer stations in the Abingdon / Didcot / Wantage & Grove and the Witney / Carterton areas to serve the south and west of the county.
- Recycling plants for commercial and industrial waste and for construction, demolition and excavation waste (to produce recycled aggregates and soils).

Additional plants for treatment of residual municipal and/or commercial and industrial waste arising in Oxfordshire will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that there is a need for additional treatment capacity to divert residual waste away from landfill that cannot reasonably be met by existing capacity within the county.

Waste sites will be expected to meet the criteria in policy W6 and the Core Policies.

For the other main waste types, provision will be made for:

- ~~Additional permanent recycling plants for commercial and industrial waste at or close to towns in the northern (Bicester) and southern (Abingdon; Didcot; Faringdon; Henley; Thame) areas of the county;~~
- ~~A plant for treatment of and recovery of resources from residual commercial and industrial waste (which is not recycled) in the Abingdon / Didcot / Wantage & Grove area;~~
- ~~Additional permanent recycling plants for construction, demolition and excavation waste (to produce recycled aggregates and soils) at or close to Oxford and the large and smaller towns in the rest of the county; and temporary recycling plants located at landfill and quarry sites across Oxfordshire.~~

~~Broad locations that are proposed for strategic waste facilities are identified in the key diagram (figure 7). Waste management facilities will be permitted at suitable sites within these broad locations.~~

~~Small scale facilities to serve local needs may be acceptable outside these locations where they meet the criteria in policy W6. Sites for new waste management facilities will be identified in a site allocations document.~~

Policy W6: Sites for waste management facilities

Priority will be given to siting waste management facilities on land that:

- **is already in permanent waste management or industrial use; or**
- **is previously developed, derelict or underused; or**
- **involves existing agricultural buildings and their curtilages; or**
- **is at a waste water treatment works.**

Waste management facilities will not be permitted on green field land unless there is an over-riding need that cannot reasonably be met elsewhere. At mineral working and landfill sites, waste management facilities will be permitted provided that the development is related to and will be removed on completion of the mineral working or landfill operation.

Within the Green Belt, waste management facilities may be permitted provided that very special circumstances are demonstrated. Proposals for such facilities will need to demonstrate that they are required to serve a recognised need arising in Oxford and that there is no reasonable prospect of an alternative site becoming available outside the Green Belt. Controls may be

imposed to ensure that such facilities serve a waste management need arising in Oxford.

Within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, only small-scale waste management facilities to meet local waste needs will normally be permitted.

Policy W6: Sites for waste management facilities

~~In providing for additional capacity priority will be given to on~~ Priority will be given to siting waste management facilities on land that:

- is already in permanent waste management or industrial use; or
- is previously developed, derelict or underused; or
- involves existing agricultural buildings and their curtilages; or
- ~~adjoins is at a waste water treatment sewage works or other uses compatible with waste management development.~~

Waste management facilities will not be permitted on green field land unless there is an ~~established over-riding need~~ that cannot reasonably be met elsewhere and it has been demonstrated that there are no more suitable sites available. At mineral working and landfill sites, waste management facilities will be permitted provided that the development is related to and will be removed on completion of the mineral working or landfill operation.

~~Within the Green Belt, waste management facilities to serve the needs of Oxford may be allowed in the Green Belt~~ permitted provided that very special circumstances are demonstrated. Proposals for such facilities will need to demonstrate that they are required to serve a recognised need arising in Oxford and that there is where it can be shown that there is an established over-riding need and no reasonable prospect of an alternative site becoming available outside the Green Belt such that very special circumstances are demonstrated. Controls may be imposed to ensure that such facilities ~~do genuinely serve the a~~ waste management needs of arising in Oxford.

Within Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, only small-scale waste management facilities to meet local waste needs will normally be permitted.

~~Temporary waste management facilities will be permitted at mineral working and landfill sites where the waste development is related to and will be removed on completion of the mineral working or landfill operation.~~

Policy W7: Landfill

Priority will be given to the use of inert (construction, demolition and excavation) waste which cannot be recycled as infill material at active or unrestored quarries where such material is required in order to achieve satisfactory restoration for appropriate afteruse. Permission will not be granted for disposal of inert waste elsewhere unless there would be overall environmental benefit.

Permission will not be granted for new landfill sites for non-hazardous waste. Existing non-hazardous landfill capacity will be husbanded for the disposal of residual non-hazardous waste. Permission will be granted to extend the life of existing non-hazardous landfill sites where this is necessary to meet the need for disposal of residual non-hazardous waste or to enable completion and restoration of the landfill.

Landfill sites should be restored in accordance with policy M6 for restoration of mineral workings.

Policy W7: Landfill

~~Priority will be given to the use of Provision will be made for additional landfill capacity for inert (construction, demolition and excavation) waste which cannot be recycled as infill material at active or unrestored quarries where such material is required in order to achieve satisfactory restoration for appropriate afteruse, at quarries that require infilling for restoration. Permission will normally not be granted for disposal of inert waste only where it is required for the restoration of mineral workings or where elsewhere unless there would be overall environmental benefit or where there is a demonstrated need that cannot otherwise reasonably be met.~~

Permission will not be granted for new landfill sites for non-hazardous waste. Existing non-hazardous landfill capacity will be ~~safeguarded~~ husbanded for the disposal of residual non-hazardous waste. Permission will ~~normally~~ be granted to extend the life of existing non-hazardous landfill sites where this is necessary to meet the need for disposal of residual non-hazardous waste or to enable completion and restoration of the landfill.

Landfill sites should be restored in accordance with policy M6 for restoration of mineral workings.

Policy W8: Hazardous and non-legacy radioactive wastes

Permission will be granted for facilities for the management of hazardous waste where they are designed to meet a requirement for the management of waste produced in Oxfordshire. Facilities that also provide capacity for hazardous waste from a wider area should demonstrate that they will meet a need for waste management that is not adequately provided for elsewhere.

Policy W8: Hazardous and non-legacy radioactive wastes

Permission will be granted for facilities for the management of hazardous waste where they are designed to meet a requirement for the management of waste produced in Oxfordshire. Facilities that also provide capacity for hazardous waste from a wider area should demonstrate that they will meet a need for waste management that is not adequately provided for elsewhere. ~~and they are reasonably~~

~~required to meet a need for waste management that is not adequately provided for elsewhere.~~

Policy W9: Legacy radioactive waste

Provision will be made for:

- **Storage of Oxfordshire's intermediate level legacy radioactive waste at Harwell Oxford Campus, pending its disposal at a planned national disposal facility elsewhere;**
- **Temporary storage (if required) of low level legacy radioactive waste at Harwell Oxford campus and Culham Science Centre pending its disposal.**

Permission will be granted for the disposal of low level legacy radioactive waste at bespoke facilities at Harwell Oxford Campus or Culham Science Centre only if it can be demonstrated that no other suitable disposal facility is available elsewhere.

Policy W9: Legacy radioactive waste

Provision will be made for:

- Storage of Oxfordshire's intermediate level legacy radioactive ~~nuclear legacy~~ waste ~~from sites in Oxfordshire~~ at Harwell Oxford Campus, pending its disposal at a planned removal to a national disposal facility elsewhere;
- Temporary storage (if required) of low level legacy radioactive ~~nuclear legacy~~ waste at Harwell Oxford Campus and Culham Science Centre pending its disposal.

~~Broad locations that are proposed for strategic waste facilities are identified in the key diagram (figure 7).~~

~~Permission will only be granted for the storage of intermediate level radioactive waste from outside Oxfordshire at Harwell if there is an overriding need and there would be clear benefits within Oxfordshire.~~

~~Permission will only be granted for the management or disposal of low level legacy radioactive waste at existing landfill sites or at a new bespoke facility facilities at Harwell Oxford Campus or Culham Science Centre only if it can be demonstrated that no other suitable disposal facility is available elsewhere and there is an overriding need to dispose of the waste in Oxfordshire.~~

~~Permission will not be granted for the management or disposal of radioactive waste at other locations in Oxfordshire.~~

Policy W10: Safeguarding

Existing and proposed permanent waste management sites will be safeguarded for waste management use. Proposals for other development that would prevent or prejudice the use of a safeguarded site for waste management will not normally be permitted unless either provision for new waste management capacity is made at a suitable alternative location or it can be demonstrated that the site is no longer needed or suitable for waste management use.

No changes are proposed to this policy

CORE POLICIES

Policy C1: Flooding

Minerals and waste development will, wherever possible, take place in areas that are not at risk of flooding. Where development takes place in an area of identified flood risk this should only be where alternative locations in areas of lower flood risk have been explored and discounted (using the Sequential Test and the Exceptions Test as necessary) and where a flood risk assessment is able to demonstrate that the risk of flooding from all sources is not increased, including:

- any impediment to the flow of floodwater;
- the displacement of floodwater and increased risk of flooding elsewhere;
- any reduction in existing floodwater storage capacity;
- an adverse effect on the functioning of existing flood defence structures.

Policy C1: Flooding

Minerals and waste development will, wherever possible, take place in areas that are not at risk of flooding. Where development takes place in an area of identified flood risk this should only be where alternative locations in areas of lower flood risk have been explored and discounted (using the Sequential Test and the Exceptions Test as necessary) and where a flood risk assessment is able to demonstrate that the development will not risk of flooding from all sources is not increased, including:

- ~~impede~~ any impediment to the flow of floodwater;
- ~~displace~~ the displacement of floodwater and ~~increase the~~ increased risk of flooding elsewhere;
- ~~reduce~~ any reduction in existing floodwater storage capacity;
- ~~adversely affect~~ an adverse effect on the functioning of existing flood defence structures.

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

Policy C2: Water environment

Minerals and waste development will need to demonstrate that there would be no unacceptable adverse impact on or risk to:

- the quantity or quality of surface or groundwater resources required for habitats, wildlife or human activities;
- the quantity or quality of water obtained through abstraction unless acceptable alternative provision can be made;
- the flow of groundwater at or in the vicinity of the site.

Proposals for minerals and waste development should ensure that the River Thames and other watercourses and canals of significant landscape, nature conservation or amenity value are adequately protected.

Policy C2: Water environment

Minerals and waste development will need to demonstrate that there would be no unacceptable adverse impact on or risk to:

- The quantity or quality of surface or groundwater resources required for habitats, wildlife or human activities;
- The quantity or quality of water obtained through abstraction ~~currently experienced by water abstractors~~ unless acceptable alternative provision can be made;
- The flow of groundwater at or in the vicinity of the site.

Proposals for minerals and waste development should ensure that the protection of River Thames and other watercourses and canals of significant landscape, nature conservation or amenity value are adequately protected.

Policy C3: Environmental and amenity protection

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment, residential amenity and other sensitive receptors.

No changes are proposed to this policy

Proposed new policy:

Policy Cx: Agricultural land and soils

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that they take into account the presence of any best and most versatile agricultural land.

Best and most versatile agricultural land should only be used where it can be shown that there is a need for the development which cannot reasonably be met using lower grade land, taking into account other relevant considerations.

Development proposals should make provision for the management and use of soils in order to maintain soil quality, including making a positive contribution to the long-term conservation of soils in any restoration.

Policy C4: Biodiversity and geodiversity

Minerals and waste development should not take place where it would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest, either individually or in combination with other development.

Minerals and waste development should not damage or destroy irreplaceable habitats or biodiversity, including ancient woodland and species rich grassland.

Where proposals for minerals and waste development would affect a site designated for its national or local importance for nature conservation, the development proposals should include appropriate measures to protect, conserve and enhance the nature conservation interest of the site.

Nationally and locally important geological features and sites should be protected from harmful development and retained in situ unless there are exceptional reasons justifying their removal, in which event their presence should be appropriately recorded.

Proposals for mineral working and landfill should demonstrate that the development will make an appropriate contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of local habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity. Where mineral working or landfill is located in or close to a Conservation Target Area, developers will be expected to make an appropriate contribution to the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets through the maintenance and enhancement of the Conservation Target Area and relevant BAP priority habitats.

Policy C4: Biodiversity and geodiversity

Minerals and waste development should not take place where it would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest, either individually or in combination with other development.

Minerals working and waste management development should not damage or destroy irreplaceable habitats or biodiversity, including ancient woodland and species rich grassland.

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that the development will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on sites designated as internationally, nationally or locally important for nature conservation, including the Oxfordshire Conservation Target Areas and the setting of those areas.

Where proposals for minerals and waste development would affect a site designated for its national or local importance for nature conservation, the development proposals should include appropriate measures to protect, conserve and enhance the nature conservation interest of the site.

Nationally and regionally locally important geological features and sites including geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites should be protected from harmful development and retained in situ unless there are exceptional reasons justifying their removal, in which event their presence should be appropriately recorded.

~~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 working. 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.~~

Proposals for mineral working and landfill should demonstrate that the development will make an appropriate contribution to the maintenance and enhancement of local habitats, biodiversity and geodiversity. Where mineral working or landfill is located in or close to a Conservation Target Area, developers will be expected to make an appropriate contribution to the achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) targets through the maintenance and enhancement of the Conservation Target Area and relevant BAP priority habitats.

Policy C5: Landscape

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that they respect and where possible enhance local landscape character, and are informed by landscape character assessment. Proposals should include measures to mitigate adverse impacts on landscape, including through siting, design and landscaping.

High priority will be given to conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Proposals for minerals and waste development within or that would affect the setting of an AONB should demonstrate that they take this into account and are informed by the relevant AONB Management Plan. Development within AONBs should normally only be small-scale and should be sensitively located and designed.

Policy C5: Landscape

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that they respect and where possible enhance local landscape character, and are informed by landscape character assessment. the development will protect and where possible enhance the landscape quality of Oxfordshire and will take account of the landscape character areas identified in the Oxfordshire Wildlife and Landscape study. Appropriate Proposals should include measures should be taken to mitigate potential adverse visual impacts on landscape, including through siting, design and landscaping.

High priority will be given to conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the landscape in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Proposals for minerals and waste development within or that would affect the setting of an AONB should demonstrate that they take this into account and are informed by the relevant AONB Management Plan. Development within AONBs should normally only be small-scale and should be sensitively located and designed.

Policy C6: Heritage assets and archaeology

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that they will not cause loss or harm to designated heritage assets and the setting of those assets, including Blenheim Palace, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic battlefields, and registered parks and gardens, or to archaeological assets which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to a scheduled monument.

Minerals and waste development may be permitted on a site of local archaeological interest if proposals demonstrate that suitable archaeological evaluation, recording of assets and publication of findings is carried out, proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance.

Policy C6: ~~Historic environment~~ Heritage assets and archaeology

Proposals for minerals and waste development should demonstrate that they will not cause loss or harm to designated heritage will be considered in the light of the need to protect and conserve 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, or to archaeological assets which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to a scheduled monument.

Minerals and waste development may be permitted on a site of local archaeological interest if proposals demonstrate that suitable archaeological evaluation, recording of assets and publication of findings is carried out, proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance.

~~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.~~

Policy C7: Transport

Minerals and waste development will be expected to make provision for adequate and convenient access to and along advisory lorry routes in a way that maintains and if possible leads to improvements in:

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

Where improvements to the transport network are required to achieve this, developers will be expected to provide the improvements or make an appropriate financial contribution.

Where practicable minerals and waste developments should be located, designed and operated to enable the transport of minerals and/or waste by rail, water, pipeline or conveyor.

Where minerals and/or waste will be transported by road:

- a) mineral workings should as far as practicable be in locations that minimise the road distance to locations of demand for the mineral, using roads suitable for lorries, taking into account the distribution of potentially workable mineral resources; and
- b) waste management and recycled aggregate facilities should as far as practicable be in locations that minimise the road distance from the main source(s) of waste, using roads suitable for lorries, taking into account that some facilities are not economic or practical below a certain size and may need to serve a wider than local area.

Policy C7: Transport

Minerals and waste development will be expected to ~~only be permitted where provision is made for~~ make provision for adequate and convenient access to and along the ~~primary road network~~ advisory lorry routes in a way that maintains or ~~improves~~ and if possible leads to improvements in:

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

Where improvements to the transport network are required to achieve this, developers will be expected to provide the improvements or make an appropriate financial contribution.

Where practicable minerals and waste developments should be located, designed and operated to enable the transport of minerals and/or waste by rail, water, pipeline or conveyor.

Where minerals and/or waste will be transported by road:

- a) mineral workings should as far as practicable be in locations that minimise the road distance to locations of demand for the mineral, using roads suitable for lorries, taking into account the distribution of potentially workable mineral resources; and

- b) waste management and recycled aggregate facilities should as far as practicable be in locations that minimise the road distance from the main source(s) of waste, using roads suitable for lorries, taking into account that some facilities are not economic or practical below a certain size and may need to serve a wider than local area.

~~Proposals for mineral working and waste facilities should:~~

- ~~a) wherever possible, transport minerals or waste by rail, water, pipeline or conveyor, rather than by road;~~
- ~~b) as far as possible, minimise the distance of mineral workings from locations of demand for aggregates, via roads suitable for lorries;~~
- ~~c) as far as possible, minimise the distance of waste facilities from locations of waste production, via roads suitable for lorries, taking into account that some facilities are not economic or practical below a certain size and may need to serve a wider than local area.~~

Policy C8: Rights of way

The integrity of the rights of way network should be maintained and if possible retained in situ in safe and useable condition. Diversions should be safe, attractive and convenient and, if temporary, should be reinstated as soon as possible. If permanent diversions are required, these should seek to enhance and improve the public rights of way network.

Improvements and enhancements to the rights of way network will generally be encouraged and public access sought to restored mineral workings, especially if this can be linked to wider provision of green infrastructure. Where appropriate, operators and landowners will be expected to make provision for this as part of the restoration scheme, including making appropriate financial contributions.

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**Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan
Minerals and Waste Core Strategy
Proposed Changes to Minerals and Waste Vision and Objectives**

For each vision and set of objectives, the proposed changes to the wording in the consultation draft strategies is shown by deletions (~~strike through~~) and additions (underline).

MINERALS PLANNING VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Minerals Planning Vision

The vision for Oxfordshire's minerals planning strategy is that:

- a) In the period to 2030, the supply of aggregate materials to meet the development needs of Oxfordshire and help sustain its world class economy, and to make an appropriate contribution to wider needs, will be met by:
 - an increased use of secondary and recycled aggregate materials;
 - the continued import of materials such as hard crushed rock that are not available locally; and
 - ~~a reduced proportion of~~ the balance of provision from locally produced sand and gravel, soft sand, limestone and ironstone; and
- b) Mineral working will be located and managed to minimise:
 - the distance that aggregates are transported by road;
 - the use of unsuitable roads through settlements; and
 - other harmful impacts of mineral extraction and transportation on Oxfordshire's environment and communities.
- c) The restoration of mineral workings will enhance the quality of Oxfordshire's natural environment and the quality of life for Oxfordshire residents by:
 - contributing to the creation of habitats and protection of biodiversity, particularly in relation to the Conservation Target Areas;
 - providing access to the countryside and opportunities for recreation; and
 - seeking to reduce the risk of flooding and providing flood storage capacity.

Minerals Planning Objectives

The Oxfordshire Minerals Planning Vision is supported by the following ten planning objectives which set out the principles which underpin the minerals strategy ~~draft plan~~.

- i. Enable Oxfordshire to meet the locally determined requirements for supply of sand and gravel, soft sand, crushed rock and secondary and recycled

- aggregates over the plan period to meet planned economic growth and social needs and to make an appropriate contribution to wider needs.
- ii. Enable a continued supply of limestone and ironstone for building and walling stone from small scale quarries for the maintenance, repair and construction of locally distinctive buildings and structures.
 - iii. Provide a framework for investment and development by mineral operators and landowners through a clear and deliverable spatial strategy which is sufficiently flexible to meet future needs and which is based on existing and planned infrastructure provision.
 - iv. Facilitate the economically and environmentally efficient supply of minerals in Oxfordshire and encourage the maximum practical recovery of aggregate resources from secondary and recycled materials for use in place of primary aggregates.
 - v. Minimise the impact of minerals development on flood risk and contribute to climate adaptation through restoration schemes which provide flood storage capacity in the floodplain. ~~Minimise the impact of mineral development on climate change by identifying areas for mineral extraction which reduce the need to transport minerals and which minimise the impact of mineral working on areas vulnerable to flooding.~~
 - vi. Minimise the distance minerals need to be transported by road and encourage where possible the movement of aggregates by conveyor, pipeline, rail and on Oxfordshire's waterways in order to reduce adverse impacts of mineral transportation on local communities, ~~and~~ the environment and climate change; and minimise the impact of mineral traffic on local communities through implementation, ~~and~~ monitoring and enforcement of routeing agreements.
 - vii. Protect Oxfordshire's communities, important landscapes, the River Thames and ecological, geological, archaeological and heritage sites, ~~and archaeological and heritage~~ assets from harmful impacts of mineral development and transportation.
 - viii. Provide benefits to Oxfordshire's natural environment and local communities through the restoration of mineral workings by contributing to nature conservation, enhancing the quality and extent of Conservation Target Areas, contributing to landscape character, improving access to the countryside, safeguarding local amenity and providing opportunities for local recreation.
 - ix. Safeguard resources of sand and gravel, crushed rock, ~~building stone~~ and Fuller's Earth to ensure that these resources are potentially available for future use and are considered in future development decisions; and
 - x. Safeguard permanent facilities for producing secondary and recycled aggregate and for importing aggregates into Oxfordshire by rail.

WASTE PLANNING VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Waste Planning Vision

The vision for Oxfordshire's waste planning strategy is that:

- a) By 2030 there will have been a transformation in the way that waste is managed in Oxfordshire manages its waste, with:
 - increased re-use, recycling and composting of waste;
 - treatment (so far as is practicable) of all residual waste that cannot be recycled or composted; and
 - only the minimum amount of waste that is necessary being disposed of at landfill sites.
- b) The county will remain largely self-sufficient in dealing with the waste it generates. An economically and environmentally efficient network of clean, well-designed recycling, composting and other waste treatment facilities will have been developed to recover material and energy from the county's waste and support its thriving economy.
- c) Waste management facilities will be distributed across the county, with larger-scale and specialist facilities being located at or close to large towns, particularly the growth areas, and close to main transport links, and with smaller-scale facilities ~~at or close to small towns serving more local areas~~. This network will have helped to build more sustainable communities that increasingly take responsibility for their own waste and ~~reduce~~ keep to a minimum the distance waste needs to be moved within the county.

Waste Planning Objectives

The Oxfordshire Waste Planning Vision is supported by the following eight waste planning objectives which set out the principles which underpin the waste strategy draft Plan.

- i. Provide for waste management capacity that enables Oxfordshire to be net self-sufficient in meeting its own waste needs and makes an appropriate contribution towards wider specialist waste needs.
- ii. Support initiatives that help to reduce the amounts of waste produced and provide for the delivery, as soon as is practicable, of waste management facilities that will drive waste away from landfill and as far up the waste hierarchy as possible; in particular facilities to meet the targets for that will enable increased reuse, recycling and composting of waste and the recovery of resources from remaining (residual) waste and avoid its disposal to landfill and for the treatment and diversion from landfill of Oxfordshire's remaining (residual) waste.
- iii. Provide for waste to be managed as close as possible to where it arises to:
 - minimise the distance waste needs to be transported by road;

- reduce adverse impacts of waste transportation on local communities and the environment; and
 - ~~allow~~ enable communities to take responsibility for their own waste; ~~and generally providing provide~~ for a broad distribution of facilities whilst recognising that some types of waste management facility are uneconomic or not practical below a certain size and therefore will need to serve a wider area.
- iv. Recognise that waste management is an integral part of community infrastructure and take opportunities to locate facilities in or close to the communities they serve, including in conjunction with planned growth, and for recovery and local use of energy (heat and power) from waste.
 - v. Recognise that waste will continue to be imported into Oxfordshire from London and elsewhere for disposal by landfill and seek to limit this to residual waste (following recycling and treatment elsewhere) and for the quantity of this waste to decrease over time as ~~new~~ additional waste management facilities are provided closer to where the waste is produced.
 - vi. ~~Give~~ Avoid the loss of green field land, giving priority to the use of previously developed land for permanent waste development, ~~including land within the Green Belt if appropriate,~~ and ensure that new waste management facilities are sensitive to the amenities of local communities and do not cause unnecessary harm to the County's distinctive natural and built environment.
 - vii. Promote sustainable waste practice in ~~new~~ construction and demolition work based on the principle of keeping waste to a minimum, managing waste on site where possible, recycling construction waste as aggregate, and creating buildings and layouts that facilitate the recovery of resources from waste and take advantage of opportunities for the use of combined heat and power.
 - viii. Secure the satisfactory restoration of landfill sites and other temporary waste management sites, where the facility is no longer required ~~or~~ and acceptable in that location, ~~in keeping with the surrounding area.~~