

## Appendix 8 - SA/SEA and HRA review of Main Modifications

**Appendix 8 - Review of SA/SEA and HRA in light of Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan****1 Introduction**

A number of Main Modifications have been proposed to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan in order for it to be found sound and, ultimately so it can be adopted by the Council. As these modifications propose changes to the plan they have been reviewed in light of the SA/SEA objectives to determine whether the changes have resulted in any changes to the outcomes of the SA/SEA and in relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The table below sets out the Proposed Main Modifications and the outcome of the HRA and SA/SEA review. Where changes have been made to the HRA, SA/SEA or the SA/SEA appendices this is noted and the changes are shown in the updated HRA, SA/SEA and accompanying appendices.

For clarification the main modifications are shown as:

- **Additional text** (bold text, underlined)
- **~~Deletions~~** (bold text, strikethrough)

A number of Additional Modifications have also been made to the plan, however, these do not change the substance of the plan, and therefore, have not been subject to SA/SEA review.

All modifications are shown in context in the 'Tracked Changes' version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

## 2 Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Review

The HRA has been reviewed in light of the proposed Main Modifications and no changes or updates are required. The HRA has been updated following updated information from Natural England regarding the status of the River Lambourn SAC. However, this does not change the outcome of the HRA.

## 3 SA/SEA Review

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM1	2.9	Increasingly construction and demolition waste is being used, where the specification allows, as a substitute for primary aggregates. This poses new and different demands on the construction aggregate supply industry in finding sites and processing capacity to recycle and deliver these materials. <del>Since 2012 the sales of recycled aggregates from sites in West Berkshire have exceeded the sales of primary aggregates won from mineral extraction sites within the district.</del>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM2	Vision	To facilitate the planned delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity which meet the requirements for West Berkshire in accordance with national planning policy. In particular to plan for the delivery of mineral resources and waste management capacity in locations which meet the needs of West Berkshire in the most sustainable way, <u>and taking into account climate change.</u>	The Vision was not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but it has been assessed for compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the compatibility of the Vision with the SA/SEA objectives.
MM3	M2	To attain the principles of sustainable development set out in the NPPF by taking into consideration the demand for all mineral resources and the need to protect the quality of life of residents, and protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, <u>taking into account climate change.</u>	The Objectives were not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but they were assessed for their compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the compatibility of the MWLP Objectives with the SA/SEA Objectives.
MM4	M4	To maintain a stock of permitted reserves (a landbank) for aggregate minerals, in accordance with current Government advice to ensure an adequate and steady supply of minerals, as far as is practical, from outside the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments and	The Objectives were not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but they were assessed for their compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the

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		Conservation Areas <b><u>whilst also taking into account the potential for future contribution that should be made from mineral working in West Berkshire towards the aggregate supply needs of other areas.</u></b>	compatibility of the MWLP Objectives with the SA/SEA Objectives.
MM5	W8	To ensure appropriate protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment in West Berkshire from the adverse effects of waste management related to development in accordance with the NPPF <b><u>and taking into account climate change.</u></b>	The Objectives were not subject to detailed SA/SEA, but they were assessed for their compatibility with the SA/SEA Objectives. The Main Modifications do not change the compatibility of the MWLP Objectives with the SA/SEA Objectives.
MM6	New paragraph after 4.13	<b><u>MHCLG have undertaken the Aggregate Minerals Survey for 2019, which along with sales, reserves and permissions, also includes movements of minerals between Mineral Planning Authorities. Once published, the results of this survey, particularly in relation to movements of aggregate minerals into West Berkshire, will be critical to determining West Berkshire's future projections of need for aggregate minerals. The findings of this survey and any other relevant future surveys will be considered within future LAAs.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM7	Policy 3	<p>In order to ensure the appropriate management of waste arisings within West Berkshire the Council will seek to maintain net self-sufficiency, where the total waste management capacity provided from sites in West Berkshire is greater than the total waste arisings within West Berkshire over the plan period to 2037.</p> <p>The level of need for new waste management capacity to meet net self-sufficiency <b><u>as well as capacity surplus/deficits by waste management type</u></b> will be kept under review through the production of Authority Monitoring Reports.</p> <p>The Council will seek to drive waste up the waste hierarchy by requiring waste development proposals to demonstrate that the waste being managed cannot reasonably be managed higher up the waste hierarchy than that proposed.</p>	<b>No:</b> Change is related to monitoring of waste capacity and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

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MM8	4.23	Therefore there will always be a movement of waste across administrative boundaries, however it is considered that planning for net self-sufficiency should mean that the authority is in the position where the necessary level of waste movement is reduced. It is accepted that West Berkshire will always be reliant on other local authorities to manage some waste arising within West Berkshire. This is because there is no non-hazardous landfill capacity within the authority meaning that such wastes destined for landfill will have to be exported. Similarly there is only a small volume of waste recovery capacity in West Berkshire (there being a small number of facilities that use waste wood to generate electricity of produce heat and some on farm anaerobic digestion capacity). <b><u>However, these potential shortfalls in capacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operations and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM9	New paragraph after para 4.23	<b><u>National policy does not necessarily expect every waste planning area to provide the full range of facilities required to manage waste arising within the Plan Area, given economies of scale and the operation of the market transcending administrative boundaries. This means that each WPA may aim to achieve self-sufficiency overall ('net' self-sufficiency), which means that flows into and out of the Plan area are balanced and offset. For West Berkshire the lack of capacity to manage residual waste is more than offset by the capacity of facilities providing other forms of waste management in the district such as recycling. Therefore, overall waste management capacity in the district exceeds that of the waste generated and it can be said that the objective of net self-sufficiency can be met. Where a specific lack of capacity exists (for example residual waste management), this has been addressed through the Duty to Cooperate.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM10	New paragraph	<b><u>As already outlined, West Berkshire does not have sufficient capacity to manage residual waste either through energy recovery or non-hazardous landfill (The Local Waste Assessment identifies a need for 85,117 tpa for</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

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	after new para above	<p><b><u>energy recovery and 34,000 tpa for non-hazardous landfill by 2037)</u></b>. <b><u>However, notwithstanding this shortfall in capacity, it is still possible for West Berkshire to be net self-sufficient in waste management over the Plan period. This is because even though there is a lack of non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity, the surplus capacity at other types of waste management facility in the district more than offsets this shortfall. Therefore, the total waste management capacity in the district still exceeds the quantity of waste generated. The principle of planning for ‘net’ self-sufficiency has been agreed with other Waste Planning Authorities in the South East of England, through the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) Statement of Common Ground (para 2.1). In addition, Policy 7 allows for proposals for non-hazardous landfill to come forward where they meet the requirements of that policy, and a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared to address the lack of non-hazardous landfill and recovery capacity over the Plan period.</u></b></p>	
MM11	4.24	<p><del><b>However these potential shortfalls incapacity are at the lower end (or bottom in the case of landfill) of the waste hierarchy that is set out in National Planning Policy for Waste. As such the vast majority of existing operating and permitted waste management facilities in West Berkshire are at the upper end of the waste hierarchy.</b></del>The Local Waste Assessment (LWA) (2020) that has been produced to inform the development of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan has considered the volume of waste arisings in West Berkshire by waste stream and also uses various methods to project the volume of waste arisings anticipated at the end of the plan period (2037). The full detail can be found in the LWA but in all cases the Council has sought to use the least conservative (but still reasonable) forecasting method when projecting future waste arisings. Such an approach has been adopted to ensure that the projections in the LWA are sufficiently robust to ensure that the policy approach adopted in the MWLP is the most appropriate.</p>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM12	Policy 4	<p>Allocated Sites The following sites are allocated to meet the need for primary aggregates:</p>	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		<p>Sharp Sand and Gravel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tidney Bed, Ufton Nervet (Policy 30 'Tidney Bed')</li> </ol> <p>Soft Sand</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Chieveley Services, Chieveley (Policy 31 'Chieveley Services')</li> </ol> <p>A map showing the location of the allocated sites is given in Appendix 1 'Allocated Sites'.</p> <p><b><u>There will be a presumption in favour of construction aggregate extraction proposals only in the following circumstances Planning permission will be granted for construction aggregate extraction where the following criteria are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is allocated for mineral extraction in this plan, provided that the identified site specific requirements are satisfied; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for a borrow pit; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to the extraction of minerals prior to a planned non mineral development (prior extraction); or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal relates to a proposal for another beneficial and acceptable use and mineral extraction is a necessary part of the proposed development; or</li> <li>• The extraction proposal is required to maintain the requirement provisions in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In addition, for soft sand planning permission will additionally be granted for extraction where the following criteria are met:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is located within an area of search for soft sand; or</li> <li>• For proposals within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the requirements of the exceptional circumstances test in the NPPF are satisfied.</li> </ul>	<p>policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.</p>

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		<del>Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy</del> <u>In addition to the requirements identified in this policy</u> , proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.	
MM13	New paragraph after 4.39	<u>For soft sand, the Plan identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Services). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.</u>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM14	New paragraph after new para above	<u>As the allocated site cannot be relied upon to fully meet need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Council has also identified areas of search (Figure 3 'Soft Sand Areas of Search') within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.</u>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM15	4.42	<del>As imports from Oxfordshire cannot be relied upon to fully meet the need for soft sand identified in Policy 2, the Plan also identifies one soft sand site for allocation (Chieveley Services). As the site is within the North Wessex Downs AONB, the Council has carried out an exceptional circumstances test in line with the NPPF to determine that extraction within the AONB is justified (as set out in the Soft Sand Topic Paper). This test has demonstrated that there is a pressing need for soft sand within West Berkshire, and has determined that the alternatives for extraction within the AONB are not sufficient to meet the identified need. It has also been determined that the allocated soft sand site is able to be developed without significant adverse effects on the environment, landscape or recreational opportunities.</del>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

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MM16	4.43	<del>The Council has also identified soft sand areas of search (Figure 3 ‘Soft Sand Areas of Search’) within which permission for soft sand extraction may be granted, provided that the criteria of this policy and all other relevant policies in the Plan are met.</del>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM17	4.40	<del><b>Due to the fact that in recent years the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB),</b></del> For soft sand the Council commissioned a specific Soft Sand Study to investigate all potential supply options for delivering West Berkshire’s identified level of need for soft sand. <del><b>due to the fact that in recent years, the only deposits of soft sand worked in West Berkshire have been located in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).</b></del> The Soft Sand Study concluded that the only realistic alternative to providing for extraction within the AONB in West Berkshire, <u><b>as required by the exceptional circumstances test in paragraph 176 of the NPPF,</b></u> would be to supply soft sand from quarries in the south of Oxfordshire. The Soft Sand Study identifies that <del><b>part of the current some of the</b></del> soft sand sales pattern in Oxfordshire comprises supply to West Berkshire, so this would be a continuation of <del><b>the current this</b></del> situation. Therefore, if Oxfordshire were <u><b>to continue</b></u> to make provision to enable <del><b>the current these</b></del> levels of sales to continue, then it could be inferred that <del><b>the current these</b></del> movements of soft sand from Oxfordshire to West Berkshire will be able to continue. This would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports <del><b>from Oxfordshire as is currently understood to be the case.</b></del> However, this would rely on a formal agreement with Oxfordshire County Council to make provision for supplying West Berkshire as well as addressing its own requirements.	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM18	4.41	Therefore, liaison has been undertaken through the Duty to Cooperate regarding whether Oxfordshire County Council could make provision through their emerging Site Allocations Document to enable <del><b>current the</b></del> levels of soft sand	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version

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		supply <b>as set out in the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy and as identified within their Local aggregates Assessment to continue through their emerging Site Allocations Document.</b> A Statement of Common Ground has been prepared regarding the arrangement of soft sand supply between the authorities and outlining agreement from Oxfordshire County Council to make provision to enable <b>current</b> levels of supply to continue which would enable at least some of the identified need for soft sand in West Berkshire to be met by imports from Oxfordshire, as is currently understood to be the case.	of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM19	4.44	It is acknowledged that the one allocated soft sand site is not sufficient to meet the identified requirement for soft sand in Policy 2 'Landbank and Need'. However, it is considered that the Council has undertaken all measures to identify potential soft sand supply options for the District as set out in the West Berkshire Soft Sand Study and Soft Sand Topic paper. The shortfall in soft sand supply of 120,000 - 390,000 tonnes, (6,667 – 21,667 tpa) is expected to be made up from windfall sites <b>from the soft sand areas of search and if that does not result in sufficient permissions to meet the identified requirement, a Statement of Common Ground has been prepared with Oxfordshire which agrees some supply of soft sand. Supply from Oxfordshire.</b>	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan (and mainly re-orders or re-words the original paragraphs included in the Submitted version of the plan) and therefore, does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM20	4.47	Allocated sites identify areas where <b>planning permission will be granted if the criteria and policies in the Plan are met. There will be a presumption in favour of development.</b> The mineral allocations have been selected as the least damaging potential sites for extraction in terms of the effect on environmental and social sustainability. <b>It therefore, follows as a general principle that outside the allocated sites there will be a general presumption against planning permission being granted unless the additional requirements of the policy are met.</b>	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM21	Policy 5	<b>There will be a presumption in favour of</b> <u>Priority will be given</u> to waste management development proposals (excluding landfill) <b>only</b> in the following areas:	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing sites with permanent planning permission for waste management development; or</li> <li>- Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8 land uses) or within suitable protected employment areas; or</li> <li>- On previously developed land; or</li> <li>- Agricultural or forestry buildings and their curtilages where they are demonstrated to be redundant; or</li> <li>- In the case of inert waste management facilities, in aggregate quarries and inert landfill sites for the duration of the host facility.</li> </ul> <p>Waste development outside these areas will only be permitted <b><u>where they meet the other relevant policies in the Plan, in exceptional circumstances</u></b> and consideration will be given to the proximity of the proposed development to the source of waste arisings.</p> <p>The co-location of waste management activities within existing permanent waste management sites will be supported, where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts. Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy, proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM22	4.56	<p><del>The policy seeks to steer waste development away from greenfield sites, giving</del> <b><u>The Plan gives priority</u></b> to existing waste sites, industrial and employment areas, the re-use of previously developed land and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings in line with the National Planning Policy for Waste. In the case of inert waste recycling facilities, these often have functional linkages with the restoration of aggregate quarries and inert landfill facilities, and therefore, these are appropriate locations for this type of waste management. Policy 16 'Temporary Minerals and Waste Infrastructure' provides greater detail on this situation. Within the specified areas there will be a presumption in favour of waste management development. However, consideration will also need to be</p>	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

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		given to all other polices in the plan that are relevant to the development proposal and any other material considerations.	
MM23	4.58	The main types of waste facility that could be developed in accordance with this policy include, <b>but is not limited to</b> , waste transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, inert waste recycling facilities, energy from waste, Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment (WEEE) waste facilities and scrap metal facilities.	<b>No:</b> Change relates to the context of the plan by providing clarification, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM24	Policy 6	Planning permission will be granted for specialist waste management facilities, including facilities to manage agricultural, <b>equine</b> and hazardous wastes and waste water where:	<b>No:</b> The change provides further clarity to the policy, it does not change the substance of the policy and therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM25	Policy 7	<p><del>There will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b>Proposals for</b> land filling or permanent deposit of waste <b>only will be permitted</b> in active or planned mineral extraction sites where the restoration of the mineral site requires the use of imported materials to achieve an acceptable restoration and afteruse.</p> <p>Only waste from which no further value can reasonably be obtained shall be landfilled. Proposals for landraising will normally be refused.</p> <p><del>In exceptional circumstances p</del> <b>Permanent deposit of inert material may be permitted where it is an essential element of another beneficial and necessary development proposal.</b></p>	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM26	Policy 9	<p>'Minerals Safeguarding Areas' (MSAs) have been defined which safeguard the following from sterilisation by non-mineral development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known construction aggregate mineral deposits<sup>29</sup>;</li> <li>• Existing (including those with planning permission yet to be implemented) and allocated mineral extraction sites;</li> </ul> <p><b><u>In addition, the following Minerals Infrastructure is safeguarded against</u></b></p>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the policy. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

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		<p><b><u>development that would unnecessarily prevent or prejudice the operation of the infrastructure:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential, planned and existing minerals associated infrastructure, including rail sites and mineral processing plant sites.</li> </ul> <p>Non-mineral development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas <b><u>or affecting Minerals Safeguarded Infrastructure</u></b> may be considered acceptable in the following circumstances:</p>	
MM27	4.90	<p>Waste management sites are often perceived by the wider community as a bad neighbour use, which can make finding and developing new waste management sites challenging. In addition the demand for land in West Berkshire is generally very high and the availability of land is often constrained. These factors have the potential to inflate land values, meaning that only high value uses are viable. In addition there is a high level of demand for housing development, which further puts pressure on land. <b><u>The NPPF prescribes that existing businesses should not have unreasonable restrictions placed on them as a result of encroaching development, and that any new development (the ‘agent of change’) should provide suitable mitigation where existing businesses could have a significant adverse effect on the new development.</u></b></p> <p>Safeguarding of waste facilities, where they are viable, is important to ensure the existing permitted sites are retained and not lost or sterilised due to competing land uses.</p>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM28	Policy 12	<p><i>Exploration and appraisal</i></p> <p>Proposals for exploratory drilling for conventional and unconventional oil and gas will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, other than in exceptional circumstances;</li> </ul>	<b>Yes:</b> The reference to water quality in the policy has improved the SA/SEA score in relation to the impact on water quality (from ? / - to ? / +) however, this has not impacted on the overall SA/SEA assessment of the policy.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and</li> <li>• The development proposals provide for the timely and high quality restoration and aftercare of the site.</li> </ul> <p><i>Commercial production</i></p> <p>Proposals for the commercial production of conventional and unconventional oil and gas, or for the establishment of related plant, will be permitted provided that all of the following are demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment is not in a location within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and in the public interest;</li> <li>• A full appraisal for the oil and gas field has been completed;</li> <li>• The development site and associated exploratory equipment do not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or community; and</li> <li>• The proposed location has been demonstrated as the most suitable taking into account all planning considerations.</li> </ul> <p>Particular consideration will be given to the location of hydrocarbon development involving hydraulic fracturing regarding impacts on <b>water quality</b>, water resources, seismicity, local air quality, landscape, noise, traffic and lighting impacts. Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there would not be an unacceptable impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ), Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), or the local environment or community.</p> <p>In addition, proposals for conventional and unconventional oil and gas development must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	
MM29	Policy 14	Proposals for the re-working of old <b>inert</b> landfill sites will only be permitted where all of the following are demonstrated:	<b>No:</b> the change provides further clarity to the policy in line with the policy title (re-working old

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			Inert Landfill Sites), it does not change the substance of the policy and therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM30	Policy 15	<p><del>There will be a presumption in favour of</del> <b>Proposals for</b> permanent construction aggregate infrastructure <b>will be permitted</b> in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing sites with permanent planning permission for mineral processing or handling; or</li> <li>• Existing sites with permanent planning permission for industrial development (B2 and B8).</li> </ul> <p>The co-location of construction aggregate infrastructure with existing suitable operations will be supported, where appropriate where it would not result in intensification of uses that would cause unacceptable harm to the environment or communities in a local area due to cumulative impacts.</p> <p>Although there is a presumption in favour of development in the areas identified in this policy all proposals must meet the requirements of all relevant policies in this plan.</p>	<b>No:</b> The change relates to how the policy is phrased rather than to the substance of the policy and does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM31	Policy 19	<p>Major mineral and waste development proposals within <del>or in the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB will only be considered acceptable in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in the public interest. Consideration will be given to whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an overriding need for the development to take place in the proposed location;</li> <li>• The need for the development can be met in some other way, or from a site outside the AONB; and</li> <li>• Any detrimental impact of the development on the environment, landscape and recreation can be satisfactorily mitigated;</li> </ul>	<b>No:</b> The changes to the policy provides clarification for proposals within the setting of the AONB in line with the NPPF. However, this has not changed the outcome of the SA/SEA as the policy still seeks to protect and enhance the AONB.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM32		<p>Other minerals and waste development proposals within <del>or affecting the setting of</del> the North Wessex Downs AONB will be considered acceptable only where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal is for a small scale facility to meet local needs that can be developed without an unacceptable impact on the environmental and landscape of the area; and</li> <li>The proposals conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</li> </ul> <p>Restoration and aftercare proposals should seek to enhance the natural beauty of the AONB.</p> <p><b><u>Development proposals within the setting of the AONB should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the AONB.</u></b></p>	
MM33	5.28	<p>There are currently three SACs within West Berkshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain – <b><u>which supports one of the most extensive known populations of Desmoulin’s whorl snail in the UK. The conservation objective related to the sites’ designation is to maintain the habitat in favourable condition for the Desmoulin’s whorl snail.</u></b></li> <li>River Lambourn – <b><u>with good water quality, coarse sediments and extensive beds of submerged plants the river supports Bullhead and Brook Lamprey populations.</u></b></li> <li>Kennet Valley Alderwoods – <b><u>the woodland forms the largest remaining fragments of damp, ash-alder woodland in the Kennet floodplain. Conservation of the site is dependent upon maintaining a constantly high groundwater level.</u></b></li> </ul>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM34	New paragraph after 5.28	<b><u>The measures specified in this policy will ensure that the requirements of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations are satisfied in order to protect these internationally designated sites.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
MM35	5.31	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are nationally designated sites which have important wildlife or geological value. There are currently 51 SSSIs within West Berkshire covering 1480 hectares, <b><u>which includes the Rivers Lambourn and Kennet.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM36	5.34	The District contains important watercourses such as the Rivers Kennet, Lambourn and Pang. The rivers Lambourn and Kennet are also designated as SSSIs, <b><u>in addition the river Lambourn is designated as a SAC.</u></b> Mineral working in West Berkshire has historically been concentrated along the Kennet Valley where sharp sand and gravel is predominantly found. Riparian corridors create important linkages for biodiversity and therefore mineral working and restoration in these areas have the potential to contribute towards relevant biodiversity enhancements.	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM37	New paragraph after 5.39	<b><u>A buffer zone must be established between a Mineral site and the bank top of a watercourse to protect the river bank and the hydrology of the river. Applicants are likely to need an Environmental Permit from the Environment Agency to quarry or excavate minerals within 16 metres of a main river. Therefore the buffer zone should generally be a minimum 16m for main rivers and smaller (minimum 5m) for ordinary watercourses. This zone should be fenced while the mineral site is active and there must be no mineral extraction and no tracking of vehicles or storage of any materials or plant etc unless the habitat is of low ecological value and the activity will not impact on the river. This zone should be included in the red line boundary and enhanced for biodiversity in the restoration plan.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM38	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>This zone may have to be wider when adjacent to the designated Rivers Kennet and Lambourn if the mineral extraction is likely to have an adverse impact on these rivers, for example if the hydrology was likely to be impacted.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM39	New paragraph	<b><u>An additional stand-off zone of no extraction but where, for example, tracking of vehicles and the temporary storage of minerals would be</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
	after new para paragraph above	<b><u>allowed, may also be required at certain sites. This is likely to be required to protect designated rivers such as The River Kennet Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and The River Lambourn SSSI and Special Area of Conservation. The buffer and stand-off zones should be included in the restoration plan, thereby giving opportunities for river restoration and the restoration of the river corridor. These could include the creation or enhancement of wetland habitats and reconnecting the river with its floodplain.</u></b>	the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM40	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>Similar buffer/stand-off zones may be required between Waste Sites and watercourses to protect their water quality and hydrology. The width will depend on the specific circumstances, and will be determined as part of the Environmental Permit application.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM41	New paragraph after new paragraph above	<b><u>Regarding other designated sites (e.g. other SSSIs and SACs that are not river sites), for both Mineral Sites and Waste Sites, the specific distance from the designated site should be determined through consultation with NE, taking into account the activity and the sensitivity of the protected site's designated features.</u></b>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM42	Policy 25 bullet point 3	Avoiding areas vulnerable to climate change and flood risk through application of the Sequential Test, Exception Test and Sequential Approach <b>where appropriate;</b>	<b>No:</b> The change removes unnecessary text from the policy rather than making any change to the substance of the policy. It does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM43	Monitoring Framework Policy 3, Indicators 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total amount of waste managed within West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b><u>and management type.</u></b></li> <li>Waste management capacity in West Berkshire for the specified waste streams <b><u>and management type.</u></b></li> </ul>	<b>No:</b> Changes to text provide additional context, it does not materially change the meaning of the supporting text. It does not result in any change to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM44	4.55	No waste sites are to be allocated through the plan as there is sufficient waste management capacity in existing sites which will be safeguarded over the plan period (Policy 10 'Waste Safeguarding'). However, this policy sets out where <b><u>there will be a presumption in favour of priority will be given to</u></b> waste	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore,

Mod Ref	Section / Policy / Paragraph	Change	SA/SEA Update Required?
		management development. This approach will enable flexibility for sites to cope with changes in waste practices and allow for new and emerging waste technologies to come forward on existing sites and ensure that old technology can be replaced with new and emerging technologies.	it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.
MM45	4.59	Waste developments may be acceptable outside the locations specified in the policy <del>in exceptional circumstances where they meet the requirements of</del> <b>other relevant policies in the plan</b> , including where facilities are proposed in rural areas. Such facilities would only be acceptable where there is a good relationship between the location of the site and the source of the waste.	<b>No:</b> Change reflects the wording change of the policy, but does not materially affect the meaning of the policy/supporting text, therefore, it does not result in any changes to the effects upon the SA Objectives.

### 3.1 Updates to the SA/SEA tables in Appendix 5

As noted above the Main Modifications have only resulted in updates to one of the assessment tables in Appendix 5. This updated table is included below, as well as having been updated within Appendix 5 of the SA/SEA.

#### 3.1.1 Policy 12: Energy Minerals (MM28)

SA Objective	Criteria	Effects of site allocation on SA objectives	Justification for assessment	Mitigation / enhancement	Comment
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity and geological diversity throughout West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on biodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on biodiversity		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on geodiversity?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on geodiversity.		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	Is there likely to be an impact on water quality?	2/- +1?	Depending on the energy mineral to be extracted there is potential for a negative impact on water quality.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no detrimental impact on water quality. <u>The policy now specifically includes</u>	There is potential for a negative impact on environmental sustainability, depending on the energy mineral to be extracted, without mitigation measures

				<u>reference to protecting water quality.</u>	in the short/medium term. In the long term, as mineral extraction is temporary in nature, there should be a neutral impact on sustainability. <u>The modification to the policy in relation to water quality should help to minimise any impact on environmental sustainability.</u>
	Is there likely to be an impact on water resources?	? / -	Some forms of energy mineral extraction require significant amount of water, therefore, there could be an impact on water resources, depending on the mineral resource to be extracted.	Mitigation measures, including consideration of water conservation, would be required.	
3) To minimise the risk and impact of flooding	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of flood risk?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on flood risk		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
4) To maximise the sustainable use of land and the protection of soils, safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land	Is there likely to be an impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land?	-	Sites put forward for consideration under this policy could be located on the best and most versatile agricultural land	Mitigation measures would be required, including restoration back to agriculture and retention of soils for the restoration scheme.	There is a potentially negative impact on environmental sustainability in the short/medium term, however, in the longer term with good restoration there should be an overall neutral impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on soil quality?	-	There is potential for a negative impact on soil quality.	Mitigation measure would be required, including retention and storage of soils for the restoration of the site.	
	Would previously developed land be utilised?	0	Mineral extraction usually takes place on Greenfield sites, however, sites are required to be restored returning them to Greenfield in the longer term, meaning overall there would be no impact on the use of previously developed land.		

5) To conserve and enhance the character of the historical environment, cultural heritage assets, and features of archaeological importance	Is there likely to be an impact on the historic environment?	?	Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the historic environment.	Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the historic environment.	There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.
6) To minimise the impact on landscape and townscape character	Is there likely to be an impact on the townscape?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on townscape		There may be an unknown impact on the environmental sustainability depending on the location of the sites being considered in the short/medium term, however, in the long term the overall impact should be neutral following restoration of the site.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the landscape?	?	Depending on the location of the sites being considered there could be an impact on the <del>historic environment</del> <u>landscape</u> .	Mitigation measures may be required in the short/medium term to mitigate any impact on the landscape. The policy states that development in the AONB would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.	
7) To protect air quality in West Berkshire	Is there likely to be an impact on air quality?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on air quality, with dust and traffic emission associated with the site.	Mitigation, including dust suppression and traffic management measures would be required.	There is a potential negative impact on environmental and social sustainability without mitigation measures. In the longer term there should be a neutral impact as minerals development is only temporary in nature.
8) To maximise energy efficiency, the proportion of energy generated from renewable	Is there likely to be an impact on the amount of renewable energy capacity being provided in West Berkshire?	-	The policy is focused on the extraction of primary energy minerals.		There is likely to be a negative impact on environmental sustainability.

sources and adaptability to climate change	Is there likely to be an impact with regard to adaptability to climate change?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on adaptability to climate change.		
9) To ensure the sustainable management of waste, minimise the quantity of waste sent to landfill, and to maximise the re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	Is this likely to have an impact on the amount of waste going to landfill?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on landfill.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is this likely to have an impact in terms of the quantity of waste being reused, recovered and/or recycled?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on reuse, recovery and recycling of waste		
10) To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and waste within West Berkshire	Is it likely that rail or waterborne transportation would be used?	-	There are limited opportunities for rail/water transport.		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term while the sites are operational. In the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should not be an impact on sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact on the transport network (including the local road network and the Strategic Road Network)?	-	Extracted material will require transportation from the sites, which is likely to be by road, therefore, there is potential for a negative impact on the transport network.	Mitigation measures, including traffic management measures would be required.	
11) To conserve mineral resources in West Berkshire through safeguarding of primary aggregates and encouragement of the use of recycled aggregate where possible and appropriate	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of safeguarding of primary aggregates?	0	Unlikely to have an impact on safeguarding of primary aggregates and the policy does not propose safeguarding of energy mineral deposits.		Unlikely to be an impact on any element of sustainability.
	Is there likely to be an impact in terms of the use of recycled aggregate/construction and demolition wastes?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on recycled aggregates.		

12) To protect human health and well being and maintain the quality and quantity of public open space amenity across West Berkshire, and protect areas of tranquillity in the context of minerals and waste development	Is there likely to be an impact on the quality and quantity of open space amenity?	0 / +	Unlikely to be an impact on open space amenity, however, restoration of any sites considered under this policy could result in improvements to open space amenity.		Overall there is likely to be an unknown impact on environmental sustainability, however there could be a negative impact on social sustainability without adequate mitigation measures being provided in the short/medium term. In the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be no impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to areas of tranquillity?	-	Mineral extraction can have an impact on tranquillity.	Mitigation measures would be required to ensure no impacts on tranquillity.	
13) To minimise public nuisance	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to odour?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on odour		Without mitigation measures there could be a negative impact on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the longer term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there would be unlikely to be an impact on sustainability.
	Is it likely that there would be an impact on noise levels?	-	Mineral extraction can impact on noise levels.	Mitigation measures will be required.	
	Is it likely that there would be an impact with regard to light pollution?	0	Unlikely to be an impact on light pollution		
14) To support opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from waste and minerals related activities	Is there likely to be an impact on the local and wider economy?	+	Development of sites for energy mineral extraction would have a positive impact on the economy.		There could be a positive impact on economic sustainability as a result of job creation from sites considered under this policy.
	Specifically, is there likely to be an impact in terms of employment?	+	Any site coming forward could provide employment opportunities.		

**Summary of Effects:**

<b>Effect:</b>	<b>Likelihood:</b>	<b>Scale:</b>	<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Timing:</b>
Predominantly neutral	Medium	District Wide	Temporary	Short/Medium term

Overall there is likely to be a neutral impact on sustainability as a result of this policy. There are a number of potential negative impacts on environmental and social sustainability in the short/medium term. However, in the long term, due to the temporary nature of mineral extraction there should be an overall

neutral impact on sustainability once the sites considered under this policy have been restored. There are potential positive impacts on economic sustainability through the creation of jobs and meeting the need for energy minerals.

The main modification (MM28) to this policy has slightly changed the SA/SEA assessment in terms of the impact on water quality, as protection of water quality is now specifically referred to in the policy. However, this has not changed the overall SA/SEA assessment for the policy.

#### **4 Conclusion**

The Proposed Main Modifications to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan have been reviewed in light of the HRA and the SA/SEA. The Proposed Main Modifications do not require any changes to the HRA and where changes have been made to the SA/SEA as a result of the Main Modification they have not changed the overall outcome of the assessment.