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The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites should be updated to reflect the key recommendations outlined in the Level 2 SFRA (2020).

**1.247** Through the implementation of the above policies, the supporting text in the MWLP, the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and the above recommendation, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 10: Climate Change.

## SA Objective 12 – Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity and geodiversity

**1.248** Sites M05, M20, W05 and W13 have all been identified as having uncertain significant negative effects with regard to SA objective 12: Biodiversity & Geodiversity as they are located within 250m of either the River Wye SAC and/or the River Lugg SSSI. The SA assessment also identifies uncertain significant negative effects for site M13 as it is within 250m of the Black Mountains SSSI. An uncertain significant negative effect (as part of a mixed effect) is also identified for site W45 at Wellington Quarry as it is adjacent to the River Wye SAC and the River Lugg SSSI. Mixed effects (uncertain minor positive/uncertain significant negative) are identified for sites M10a and M10b as they either contain (as is the case for M10a) or are adjacent (as is the case for M10b) to the Perton Roadside Section Quarry SSSI. The Screening Assessment in the HRA Report (LUC, 2020) also identifies for sites M05, M12, W45 and Area of Search C potential for significant effects on the River Wye SAC and potential for significant effects on the Wye Valley and Forest Dean Bat Sites SAC (for site M12 only) (LSEs on water quality are addressed in SA objective 14: Water).



**1.249** Furthermore, the Screening Assessment in the HRA Report identified a lack of certainty as to whether the following policies would result in LSEs on European sites (LSEs on water quality are addressed in SA objective 14: Water):

- Policy M3: The winning and working of sand and gravel (River Wye SAC – physical damage and loss of habitat, non-physical disturbance, and non-toxic contamination); and,
- Policy W6: Preferred locations for construction, demolition and excavation waste management facilities (River Wye SAC – physical loss of or damage to habitat, non-physical disturbance, non-toxic contamination).

**1.250** There may also be negative secondary impacts from the development of mineral sites within an Aerodrome Safeguarding Zone (i.e. M04, W44, Area of Search B and Area of Search D) as there is potential for adverse impacts on aircraft safety from bird-strike and potential negative cumulative impacts from quarries that are clustered at the same location as these may have adverse effects on biodiversity through habitat fragmentation or species disturbance. The following Core Strategy policies, policies and supporting text in the MWLP, Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and HRA Report recommendations, provide mitigation for these effects on SA objective 12: Biodiversity & Geodiversity.

**1.251** Policy LD2: Biodiversity and geodiversity of the Core Strategy requires development proposals to conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity assets, through the:

- Retention and protection of nature conservation sites and habitats, and important species in accordance with their status as follows:
  - Development that is likely to harm sites and species of European Importance will not be permitted;
  - Development that would be liable to harm Sites of Special Scientific Interest or nationally protected species will only be permitted if the conservation status of their habitat or important physical features can

be protected by conditions or other material considerations are sufficient to outweigh nature conservation considerations;

- Development that would be liable to harm the nature conservation value of a site or species of local nature conservation interest will only be permitted if the importance of the development outweighs the local value of the site, habitat or physical feature that supports important species;
- Development that will potentially reduce the coherence and effectiveness of the ecological network of sites will only be permitted where adequate compensatory measures are brought forward;
- Restoration and enhancement of existing biodiversity and geodiversity features on site and connectivity to wider ecological networks; and,
- Creation of new biodiversity features and wildlife habitats.

**1.252** It also states that, where appropriate, the Council will work with developers to agree a management strategy to ensure the protection of, and prevention of adverse impacts on, biodiversity and geodiversity features.

**1.253** For the description of Core Strategy policy LD2: Biodiversity and geodiversity, the Publication Draft MWLP states that the minerals and waste industries present significant opportunities to provide a net gain in biodiversity and to improve the coherence and resilience of habitats and ecological networks, enabling wildlife to respond to a range of environmental pressures. Site reclamation will be expected to contribute at a landscape scale towards achieving nationally identified habitats of principal importance, taking account of the attributes of the site and of nearby areas, to support coherent and resilient networks of habitats that link the site with relevant ecological features in the wider landscape. Management strategies associated with a minerals or waste development may include a buffer within the development site to protect vulnerable features. Minerals and waste development proposals will also be expected to avoid unacceptable impacts on geodiversity value. Planning applications should demonstrate how the proposed development will deliver objectives of UK and Herefordshire Geodiversity Action Plans, such that

geodiversity features are successfully incorporated with green infrastructure into reclamation and after-use, through measures such as:

- Providing safe public access to geological features, whilst avoiding damage to them;
- Involving geologists, geodiversity groups and museums in advising on, recording and sampling geodiversity;
- Incorporating geodiversity considerations into site management plans to protect and maintain exposures;
- Providing information to support understanding, interpretation and enjoyment of the features; and,
- Creating links beyond the site boundary into the wider landscape.

**1.254** Policy SP4: Site Reclamation in the Publication Draft MWLP requires mineral sites and greenfield sites for waste use to be reclaimed, at the earliest opportunities, to a beneficial after-use. The supporting text states that reclamations schemes should take account of the proximity and purpose of airfields and be designed accordingly. Chapter 5 of the MWLP provides further explanation of Core Strategy policy SD1: Sustainable design and energy efficiency stating that proposals for site working, restoration and after-use will be required to consider aviation safety in demonstrating the appropriateness of water management and site reclamation schemes.

**1.255** The HRA Report (LUC, 2020) concludes that adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley and Forest Dean Bat Sites SAC will be avoided, due to avoidance and mitigation measures already included within the Core Strategy and MWLP, and providing that the recommended mitigation measures outlined in the HRA Report are incorporated into the Publication Draft MWLP. The recommended mitigation measures include requiring site-specific HRA for sites M05/W45 including detailed protected species surveys for otter; project-level/site-specific HRA and targeted ecological surveys for proposals within Area of Search C; and, site-specific Ecological Mitigation Plans and dust assessments for minerals and waste developments.

**1.256** The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites in the Publication Draft MWLP require applications to:

- Demonstrate the level of effect on geodiversity and incorporate mitigation measures as appropriate. Mitigation will include recording, protection or recovery of any assets (M04, M03, M05, M07, M10, M13, M20, W44, W43, W45);
- Design site to deliver a net gain in biodiversity and providing enhancement for priority bird species (M04, M03, M05, M07, M10, M12, M17, M18, M13, M16, M20, W58, W59, W60, W61, W62, W63, W64, W65, W66, W19, W10, W07, W05, W19, W44, W43, W45);
- Undertake an Appropriate Assessment to demonstrate likely significant effects on the River Wye SAC. Demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in the River Wye SAC (M03, W43, M05, W45, M10, M12, M20, W58, W59, W60, W61, W62, W63, W65, W66, W19, W10, W05, W19);
- Demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in the River Wye SAC (M04, W44);
- Demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC (M12); and,
- Demonstrate the level of effect on the River Lugg SSSI (M03, M05, M10, W62, W63, W05, W19, W43, W45) / River Teme SSSI and River Lugg (M07) / Caeiron Meadow SSSI and Pikes Farm Meadows SSSI (M17, M18) / Black Mountains SSSI (M13) River Wye SSSI (W58, M20).

## Recommendation:

The policies and supporting text in the MWLP and Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites should be updated to reflect the key recommendations outlined in the HRA Report (2020). The Key Development Criteria relating to biodiversity and geodiversity should be cross-checked with the SA findings for each site and updated accordingly.

**1.257** Through the implementation of the above policies, the supporting text in the MWLP, the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and the above recommendation, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 12: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

## SA Objective 13 – Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces

**1.258** Uncertain significant negative effects are identified for Areas of Search C and D in relation to SA objective 13: Landscape as they either contain part of the Wye Valley AONB, areas of open space, or areas identified as being of high sensitivity according to The Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis. There are also potential cumulative adverse effects on landscape character and quality where several sites are proposed in the same locality. The following Core Strategy policies, policies and supporting text in the MWLP, and the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites provide mitigation for these effects on SA objective 13: Landscape.

**1.259** Planning applications for mineral extraction in the Areas of Search will be assessed against Core Strategy policy LD1: Landscape and townscape which requires development proposals to conserve and enhance the natural, historic and scenic beauty of important landscapes and features, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, nationally and locally designated parks and gardens, and conservation areas. The policy also requires proposals to demonstrate that character of the landscape has positively influenced the design and scale of the development. Proposals should also incorporate new landscape schemes to ensure development integrates appropriately into its surroundings. For the description of policy LD1, the Publication Draft MWLP outlines a number of mitigation measures that could minimise impacts on the landscape from mineral and waste developments including:

- Protecting, enhancing or creating views;

- Interpretation boards at publicly accessible areas to enable greater understanding of the landscape, historic landscape character and influence of the underlying geology;
- Designing waterbodies to be of a type, shape and scale that fits with the local landscape character and optimises biodiversity gains;
- Protecting or re-instating historic landscape features such as hedgerows or woodland; and,
- Ensuring any planting is appropriate to the landscape character, using locally present species to optimise biodiversity gains.

**1.260** For the description of Core Strategy policy SD1: Sustainable design and energy efficiency, Chapter 5: Strategic Policy and General Principles of the Publication Draft MWLP states that the Council will expect proposals to incorporate best practice measures to minimise the effects of visual intrusion and care should be taken to ensure that screening measures are appropriate and are not, in themselves, a source of visual intrusion.

**1.261** Other policies which planning applications will be assessed against include:

- Policy LD3: Green Infrastructure of the Core Strategy which requires development proposals to protect, manage and plan for the preservation of existing and delivery of new green infrastructure;
- Policy SP4: Site Reclamation of the Publication Draft MWLP which supports site reclamation schemes that deliver landscape scale benefits and/or integrated green infrastructure appropriate to its location; and,
- Policy SP2: Access to Open Space and Recreation from Minerals and Waste Development of the Publication Draft MWLP which supports the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure and open space as part of mineral and waste developments.

**1.262** The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites in the Publication Draft MWLP require applications to:

- Deliver priorities of the Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy during operation and reclamation phases. Design sites to incorporate key features of the landscape character (all mineral sites, W13);
- Design sites to incorporate key features of the landscape character (all waste sites); and,
- Demonstrate the level of effect on the surrounding landscape (W62, W63, W64, W65, W66, W19, W10).

**1.263** Through the implementation of the above policies, the supporting text in the MWLP, the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 13: Landscape.

## SA Objective 14 – Value, protect and enhance the quality of watercourses and maximise the efficient use of water

**1.264** The SA identified uncertain significant negative effects for sites M04, M05, M13, M16, M20, W05, W07, W13, W44, W45 and all four Areas of Search. The Screening Assessment in the HRA Report (LUC, 2020) identified that, due to hydrological connectivity, LSEs for sites M05/W45, M20, M12, W05, W63, W66 and Area of Search C on water quality and quantity at the River Wye SAC, Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar and Wye Valley and Forest Dean Bat Sites SAC, cannot be ruled out in the absence of appropriate safeguards and mitigation measure. The Screening Assessment in the HRA Report also identified a lack of certainty as to whether the following policies would result in LSEs on water quality in the River Wye SAC and Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, Ramsar:

- Policy M3: The winning and working of sand and gravel;
- Policy M5: The winning and working of building stone (sandstone);
- Policy W3: Agricultural waste management;



- Policy W4: Wastewater management;
- Policy W5: Preferred locations for solid waste treatment facilities; and,
- Policy W6: Preferred locations for construction, demolition and excavation waste management facilities.

**1.265** There may also be potential negative cumulative effects on water resources through changing surface water drainage patterns, particularly where sites are located in proximity to each other. The following Core Strategy policies, policies and supporting text in the MWLP, Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and HRA Report recommendations, provide mitigation for these effects on SA objective 14: Water.

**1.266** Policy SD3: Sustainable water management and water resources of the Core Strategy requires development proposals to reduce flood risk; to avoid an adverse impact on water quality; to protect and enhance groundwater resources; and, to provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity, health and recreation.

**1.267** For the description of Core Strategy policy SD3: Sustainable water management and water resources, the Publication Draft MWLP states that proposals for minerals extraction and waste management should ensure protection of water resources, particularly when river abstraction and/or groundwater sources may be affected. The potential for impact on water quantity, quality and flow should be assessed through hydrological and hydrogeological assessments to establish the base line position and ensure operations are appropriately designed, monitored and managed. The Council will seek to avoid:

- Significant change to groundwater or surface water levels, for example, the process of 'dewatering' (when water is pumped out of a pit to allow dry working below the water table) must be carefully monitored, to ensure no adverse impacts on surrounding water availability; and,
- Pollution of ground and surface water by chemicals and other contaminants, for example a considerable amount of water can be used



when processing wastes or aggregates; drainage during site operations and any discharge to local watercourses, must be controlled to comply with standards set by the Environment Agency.

**1.268** Policies W3: Agricultural Waste Management and W4: Wastewater Management promote wastewater management, enabling the treatment and reuse of water, outline that works undertaken should contribute to achieving nutrient neutrality, or betterment, within the River Wye SAC, and that wherever practical, phosphorus should be recovered for beneficial uses which would improve the chemical and ecological status of the watercourses in the catchment.

**1.269** The HRA Report (LUC, 2020) concludes that adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC and Wye Valley and Forest Dean Bat Sites SAC will be avoided, due to avoidance and mitigation measures already included within the Core Strategy, the MWLP and Key Development Criteria for each allocated site which includes specific reference to achieving nutrient neutrality or betterment, achieving reductions in phosphate releases and encouraging phosphate recovery for beneficial uses.

**1.270** The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites in the Publication Draft MWLP require applications to:

- Demonstrate any contamination on site will be identified and remediated, particularly with reference to protection of drinking water (W58, W19);
- Demonstrate how any pathways for contamination of the Source Protection Zones will be identified and avoided (W62, W63, W65);
- Demonstrate potential risks to the water environment as glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits represent a secondary aquifer in hydraulic continuity with watercourses (M04, M03, M05, W44, W43, W45);
- Demonstrate potential risks to the water environment as site located within the hard rock of the Silurian Aymestry Limestone Formation / St. Maughans sandstone bedrock formation, classified as a secondary aquifer (M07, M10, M13, M16);

- Demonstrate potential risks to the water environment and private drinking water supply as site located within Brownstones formation, classified as a secondary aquifer and adjacent to a groundwater spring Source Protection Zone for public drinking water supply (M12);
- Demonstrate potential risks to the water environment and drinking water supply as site located within secondary aquifer of the Devonian (M20);
- Demonstrate the level of effect on water quality and hydrology in Pinsley Brook (M04, W44) / River Monnow (M13, M16) / Widemarsh Brook and Yazor Brook (W59, W60) / River Leadon (W64, W05) / Wellington Brook and Moreton Brook (W66, M05, W45) / Little Lugg River (W13) / River Lugg SSSI (M03, M05, M10, W62, W63, W05, W19, W43, W45) / River Teme SSSI and River Lugg (M07) / River Wye SSSI (W58, M20);
- Undertake an Appropriate Assessment to demonstrate likely significant effects on the River Wye SAC. Demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in the River Wye SAC (M03, W43, M05, W45, M10, M12, M20, W58, W59, W60, W61, W62, W63, W65, W66, W19, W10, W05, W19);
- Demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in the River Wye SAC (M04, W44); and,
- Demonstrate nutrient neutrality or betterment in the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC (M12).

## Recommendation:

The policies and supporting text in the MWLP and Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites should be updated to reflect the key recommendations outlined in the HRA Report (2020). The Key Development Criteria relating to the water environment should be cross-checked with the SA findings for each site and updated accordingly. The supporting text in Chapter 5 of the MWLP should be updated to refer to the protection of Source Protection Zones and designated waterbodies.

**1.271** Through the implementation of the above policies, the supporting text in the MWLP, the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and the above recommendation, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 14: Water.

## **SA Objective 15 – Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment**

**1.272** Mineral site M05, eight waste sites (W13, W45, W58, W60, W61, W62, W63, W64 and W66), and Areas of Search A-C are expected to have uncertain significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 15: Flooding as they are within Flood Zones 2, 3a or 3b or are likely to increase flood risk elsewhere. The SFRA states that all sites assessed in the SFRAs pass the Sequential Test and are appropriate for proposed development as set out in the MWLP, noting that a sequential approach may still need to be applied within sites to steer development to areas at lowest flood risk (sites M12, M17, M18 and the Areas of Search were not assessed in the SFRA). Where flood risk areas have been identified and the Exception Test is required, it is likely that this can be best managed through the appropriate location of more vulnerable development in areas at lower flood risk and, where required, there are feasible mitigation measures that can be implemented to manage these risks without increasing flood risk elsewhere. The SFRA recommends mitigation measures including site-specific FRAs; detailed hydraulic modelling of nearby watercourses; and shallow infiltration and attenuated discharge to nearby watercourses. The following Core Strategy and MWLP policies provide mitigation for these effects on SA objective 15: Flooding.

**1.273** Policy SP4: Site Reclamation supports site reclamation schemes which have the potential to create wetland habitats, thereby providing flood storage.

**1.274** Policy SD3: Sustainable water management and water resources requires development proposals to reduce flood risk; to avoid an adverse

impact on water quality; to protect and enhance groundwater resources; and, to provide opportunities to enhance biodiversity, health and recreation. It also states that developments will be located in accordance with the Sequential Test and Exception Test (where appropriate).

**1.275** The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites in the Publication Draft MWLP require applications to:

- Demonstrate that the site will be safe in the event of a flood; risk is not increased on site or elsewhere; and where possible, flood risk is decreased. Flood alleviation should be considered in designing site reclamation (M04, W44, M05, W45, M12, M20, W59, W61, W62, W63, W64, W66, W13); and,
- Undertake a site-specific flood risk assessment to demonstrate compliance with a Local Development Order (W58).

## Recommendation:

The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites should be updated to reflect the key recommendations outlined in the Level 2 SFRA (2020).

**1.276** Through the implementation of the above policies, the supporting text in the MWLP, the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and the above recommendation, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 15: Flooding.

## SA Objective 16 – Minimise noise, light, and air pollution

**1.277** Sites M05, W05, W07, W10 and W45 are expected to result in uncertain significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 16: Pollution as, whilst

they are not within an AQMA, they are within 100m of settlements which could result in adverse effects on sensitive receptors. All four Areas of Search are considered to have potential to result in significant negative effects given that there are sensitive receptors including schools, settlements and churches within these areas. There could be potential for cumulative negative effects on local air quality where waste management facilities are combined with other facilities within existing industrial estates or Strategic Employment Areas or potential negative cumulative effects from noise at mineral sites that are in close proximity. The following Core Strategy policies, supporting text in the MWLP, and Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites provide mitigation for these effects on SA objective 16: Pollution.

**1.278** Policy SD1: Sustainable design and energy efficiency of the Core Strategy applies to minerals and waste developments and requires planning proposals to ensure that new development does not contribute to, or suffer from, adverse impacts arising from noise, light or air contamination. Core Strategy policy SS6: Environmental quality and local distinctiveness requires proposals to consider their impact on residential and local amenity, including light pollution and air quality.

**1.279** For the description of Core Strategy policy SS6: Environmental quality and local distinctiveness, Chapter 5: Strategic Policy and General Principles of the Publication Draft MWLP provides an explanation of how mineral and waste developments should seek to mitigate impacts on local amenity, air quality and tranquillity. It states that all applications will be expected to incorporate robust measures to ensure that proposed developments do not cause unacceptable adverse impacts on either the environment or local communities, many of which can be overcome by implementing standard measures such as:

- Limiting working hours;
- Locating plant, machinery and haulage routes away from sensitive receptors;
- Advanced tree planting;
- Phasing so the development moves away from sensitive receptors;

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- Acoustic screening measures;
- Enclosing plant and machinery;
- Plant being fitted with silencers and white noise alarms;
- Sheeting of lorries;
- Cleaning of lorry wheels before they exit the site;
- Good maintenance of bunds and stockpiles;
- Avoiding or minimising the use of blasting explosives; and,
- Careful design of external lighting to confine its influence to the point of use.

**1.280** It also states that the Council expects planning applications to include a proportionate consideration of cumulative impacts. Appropriate measures to optimise benefits and to avoid or mitigate harm should be made clear within the planning application.

**1.281** The Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites in the Publication Draft MWLP require applications to:

- Demonstrate that lighting will be kept to the minimum required to ensure safe working conditions on site (M07, M10, M12, M17, M18, M13, M16, M20);
- Demonstrate the level of effect on residential amenity at nearby properties (M03, M04, M18, M20, W44, W43);
- Demonstrate the level of effect on the amenity, health and safety and environment of nearby sensitive properties (schools, housing, medical facility, hotel, picnic site) (M05, W59, W60, W61, W62, W63, W64, W45); and,
- Demonstrate effect on air quality, particularly within the Hereford AQMA (W59, W61).

## Recommendation:

The Key Development Criteria for sites M07b Leinthall Quarry and M10b Perton Quarry should be updated to 'demonstrate the level of effect on residential amenity at nearby properties' (i.e. at Leinthall Earls, Upper Dormington, Dormington).

**1.282** Through the implementation of the above policies, the supporting text in the MWLP, the Key Development Criteria for the allocated sites, and the above recommendation, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 16: Pollution.

## SA Objective 17 – Value, protect and enhance soil quality and resources

**1.283** Four mineral sites proposed in the Publication Draft MWLP are expected to have uncertain significant negative effects in relation to SA objective 17: Soil as development on mainly (>50%) high quality Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (Grade 1, 2 and 3a) or on large areas of greenfield (>20ha) will result in that land being lost to other uses (M03a, M03c, M04 and M0). Uncertain significant negative effects are identified for Areas of Search A, B and C as these areas comprise Grade 2 and Grade 3 Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land. A significant negative effect is identified for site W10 as the Grade 2 agricultural land has already been lost as this is an operational sites. There may also be potential negative cumulative effects on the soil environment from the loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land to minerals extraction and waste developments. The following Core Strategy policies, and policies and supporting text in the MWLP provide mitigation for these effects on SA objective 17: Soil.

**1.284** Policy SP4: Site Reclamation in the Publication Draft MWLP supports site reclamation schemes which have the potential to return sites to agricultural use, thereby safeguarding the long-term potential of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land and conserving soil resources.

**1.285** Policy SS7: Addressing climate change of the Core Strategy supports the protection of best agricultural land, where possible. The supporting text states that “areas of lower quality agricultural land will be utilised in preference to the best and most versatile agricultural land, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (Para 112), where possible” (p.44).

**1.286** For the description of Core Strategy policy LD2: Biodiversity and geodiversity, Chapter 5: Strategic Policy and General Principles of the Publication Draft MWLP provides an explanation of how mineral and waste developments should protect and conserve soil resources. According to the Publication Draft MWLP, planning applications should consider the following in demonstrating that mineral development on the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land is necessary:

- Whether there is an available alternative;
- Whether the need for development outweighs the adverse impact upon agricultural land quality;
- Whether proposals will affect the long term agricultural potential of the land or soils; and,
- Whether alternative land of lower agricultural value has considerations which outweigh the adverse impact upon agricultural land quality.

**1.287** It also states that the protection of the original soils removed prior to mineral extraction should always be a priority. Furthermore, the stripping and storage of soils for reuse and restoration can lead to degradation, although best practice in soil management can minimise the impacts of this damage. Planning applications should demonstrate how best practice measures for soil handling and storage will be achieved on site, throughout the life of the development.



Reclamation schemes should incorporate remediation activities and after-use proposals that optimise the storage and use of best and most versatile soils.

**1.288** The supporting text in the MWLP for Core Strategy policy SD1: Sustainable design and energy efficiency states that proposals should demonstrate the measures to be used to ensure that quarry sides and slopes are stable and will not result in landslip, either within the site or on adjoining land, both during and after the lifetime of the development. Waste stockpiles and mineral waste tips should be constructed and accessed so that they are unlikely to give rise to danger through instability, using suitable vegetation which can assist with stability and bring environmental benefit. Where there is any likelihood of instability, a stability report should be provided setting out measures appropriate to ensure the continued stability and integrity of infrastructure adjoining or close to the development site.

**1.289** Through the implementation of the above policies and the supporting text in the MWLP, there will be no residual significant negative effect in relation to SA objective 17: Soil.

## Monitoring

**1.290** A number of suggested indicators for monitoring the potential significant effects of implementing the Plan are set out below. Where possible, the indicators proposed draw from those in the monitoring framework presented in the Publication Draft MWLP. However, additional indicators have been proposed where no relevant indicators are included in the Publication Draft MWLP (shown in italics).

**1.291** The data used for monitoring in many cases will be provided by outside bodies. Information collected by other organisations (e.g. the Environment Agency) can also be used as a source of indicators. It is therefore recommended that the Council continues the dialogue with statutory environmental consultees and other stakeholders that has already been commenced, and works with them to agree the relevant sustainability effects to be monitored and to obtain information that is appropriate, up to date and reliable.

**Table 1.13: Proposed Monitoring Framework for the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

SEA Objective	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>3. Protect and improve the health of the people of Herefordshire and reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically.</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of new public access to outdoor spaces and impact on open spaces and rights of way.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that were for operational ‘improvements’ to existing sites to mitigate adverse effects on public health and/or enhance local amenity.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused where concerns over public health acted as part of the reason for refusal.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning noise, hours of operations, traffic and lighting.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on cumulative impact grounds.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on more general health and amenity grounds.</li> </ul>
<p>5. Reduce road traffic, congestion and pollution, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the county.</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of on-site transport methods and associated green infrastructure.</li> <li>■ Record of materials and/or energy recovered and indication of final destination.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on transport grounds.</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Proposed monitoring indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste permissions that included non-road based transport.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning air pollution control.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste permissions that included one or more of the following highway conditions: restricted vehicle numbers; restricted tonnages; restricted routings; and highway mitigation measures – the need for wheel washing, lorry sheeting etc.</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Highways England.</li> </ul>
<p>6. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county’s historic environment and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on historic grounds.</li> <li>■ Number and % of all consented minerals and waste applications that included conditions related to archaeology.</li> <li>■ Number and % of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England).</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Historic England.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste applications refused on townscape sensitivity/character grounds per annum.</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Proposed monitoring indicators
<p>10. Reduce Herefordshire’s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of on-site transport methods and associated green infrastructure.</li> <li>■ Data from Economic Development Team to indicate circular economy type activity.</li> <li>■ Record of materials and/or energy recovered and indication of final destination.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste permissions that included non-road based transport.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning air pollution control.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications consented that include low carbon energy initiatives/sources.</li> </ul>
<p>12. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity and geodiversity.</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on biodiversity and geodiversity grounds.</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Natural England.</li> <li>■ Condition status of River Wye and River Lugg SAC/SSSIs (Natural England).</li> </ul>
<p>13. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its</p>	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context.</li> </ul>

SEA Objective	Proposed monitoring indicators
rural areas and open spaces.	<p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Number and % of minerals and waste applications refused in AONB.</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste applications refused on landscape sensitivity/character grounds per annum.</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Natural England.</li> </ul>
14. Value, protect and enhance the quality of watercourses and maximise the efficient use of water.	<p>Included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Record of waste management practice(s) presented and water quality assessments of the River Wye and River Lugg.</li> </ul> <p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on water quality/safeguarding grounds.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning water pollution control.</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Natural England and/or Environment Agency.</li> </ul>
15. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.	<p>Not included in the Publication Draft MWLP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on flooding grounds.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions to mitigate flood risk.</li> <li>■ The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused/consented in flood risk zones 2b and 3.</li> <li>■ Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency.</li> </ul>















Report produced by LUC

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