



Draft MWLP

HEREFORDSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN
DRAFT PLAN

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1. The Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Herefordshire

1.1 About this document

- 1.1.1 This draft version of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Draft MWLP) sets out the council's preferred strategy for meeting the county's minerals and waste needs until 2031. This version is not the final plan but represents the council's preferred approach based on the evidence currently available and the results of the previous consultations in 2016 and 2017.
- 1.1.2 This Draft MWLP has been prepared following a comprehensive review of the evidence base and extensive consultation. It is prepared to enable Herefordshire Council to engage with local communities, businesses and other statutory and interested parties in line with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
- 1.1.3 At this stage in the plan's preparation we are seeking views on what the plan ought to contain and, where a preferred approach has been identified, whether that is appropriate. However, the Draft MWLP has been prepared to meet the Tests of Soundness set out in the National Planning Policy Framework; we would be interested in your views of whether this has been achieved.
- 1.1.4 The Tests of Soundness expect that a Local Plan should be:
- Positively prepared – the plan should be based on a strategy which seeks to meet objectively assessed development and infrastructure requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so and consistent with achieving sustainable development;
 - Justified – the plan should be the most appropriate strategy, when considered against the reasonable alternatives, based on proportionate evidence;
 - Effective – the plan should be deliverable over its period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic priorities; and
 - Consistent with national policy – the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework.
- 1.1.5 The responses received to this Draft MWLP will inform preparation of the Pre-Submission MWLP that will consequently be submitted for examination in public by an independent planning inspector.

1.2 Consultation Details

- 1.2.1 The Draft MWLP and supporting documents, as well as full details of how to make representations on the Draft MWLP, are available on the website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk.

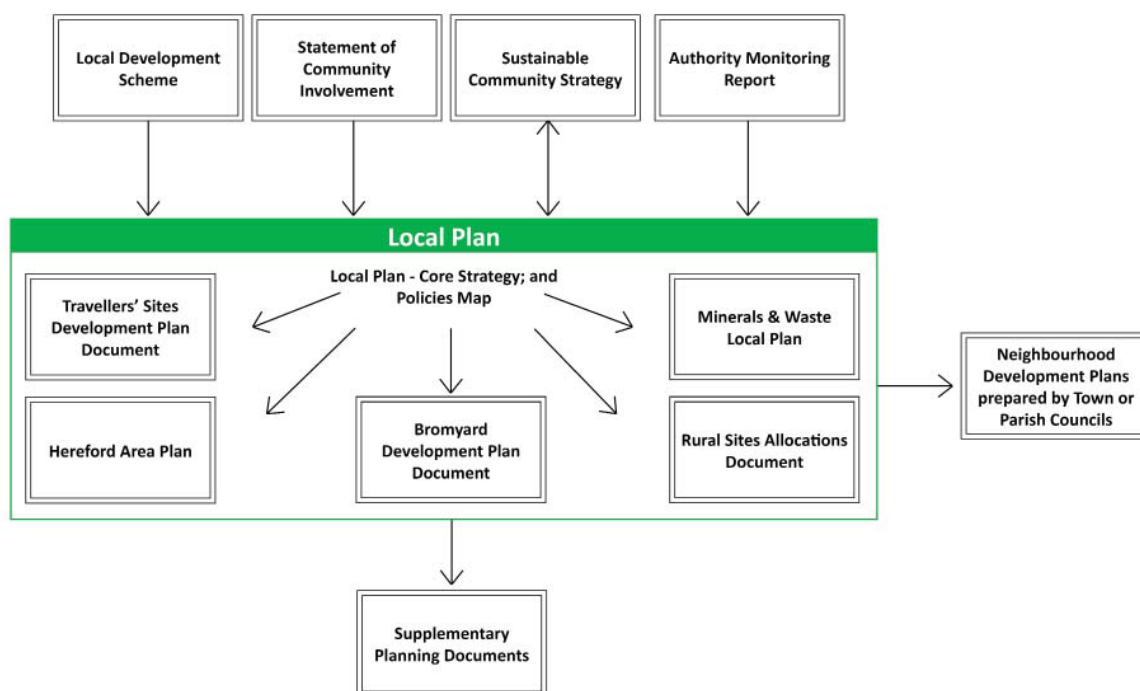
- 1.2.3 Paper copies of the documents will be available to view at the Herefordshire Customer Service Centre, Blueschool House, Blueschool Street, Hereford, HR1 2LX and at the following libraries:
- Hereford Library, Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9AU;
 - Leominster Library, 8 Buttercross, Leominster, HR6 8BN;
 - Kington Library, 64 Bridge Street, Kington, HR5 3DJ; and
 - Leintwardine Library, Leintwardine Village Hall, High Street, Leintwardine, SY7 0LB.
- 1.2.4 Please check the council's website for details of library opening hours.
- 1.2.5 We recommend that you use the response form provided as this will enable us to record your representations correctly. All representations should contain a paragraph and/or policy or site reference as relevant and appropriate.
- 1.2.6 You can submit your completed response form either:
- by email to: ldf@herefordshire.gov.uk;
 - or
 - by post to: Forward Planning – Draft MWLP, Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0LE.
- 1.2.7 If you would like to speak to someone about this Draft MWLP, please contact either:
- Kevin Singleton, Strategic Planning Manager, using email: ks1@herefordshire.gov.uk;
 - or
 - Victoria Eaton, Senior Planning Officer, using email: veaton@herefordshire.gov.uk.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Herefordshire Local Plan

- 2.1.1 The council has prepared a Local Plan, to comprise of a number of documents including the Core Strategy, to guide development and change in the county up to 2031. A list of all the Local Plan documents and the timetable for their preparation are set out in the Local Development Scheme.
- 2.1.2 This first document in the production of the Local Plan, and adopted in October 2015, is the Core Strategy¹. This development plan document shapes future development and sets the overall strategic planning framework for the county.
- 2.1.3 When adopted, the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be another element of the Herefordshire Local Plan as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Structure of the Herefordshire Local Plan



- 2.1.4 As set out in the Core Strategy (paragraph 1.10), this Draft MWLP establishes targets and planning policies relating to minerals and waste activities and associated development in Herefordshire to cover the plan period to 2031.
- 2.1.5 This is slightly shorter than the 15 year timeframe usually applied to local plans of this nature, but it is intended to have an end date to align with the Herefordshire Core Strategy. Analysis undertaken in the evidence base documents has considered the period up to 2035, in order to enable the MWLP to remain relevant after the end date.

¹ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200185/local_plan/137/adopted_core_strategy

2.1.6 The Draft MWLP has been produced taking account of the National Planning Policy Framework², Planning Practice Guidance³, up-to-date evidence base studies and ensuring close co-operation with neighbouring local authorities on cross-boundary issues. Regard has also been given to other plans and strategies produced by the council (particularly the Core Strategy) and other organisations.

2.1.7 The Draft MWLP is also underpinned by independent assessment:

- Sustainability Appraisal, which is assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of the Draft MWLP throughout the development of the document;
- Habitats Regulations Assessment, which has assessed any impacts on protected European sites; and
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), to assess flood risk in the plan area, and the risks to and from surrounding areas and as a result of minerals and waste development. The SFRA for Herefordshire is currently in the process of being updated.

2.2 Timeframe, scope and purpose of the Draft MWLP

2.2.1 The Draft MWLP will cover the period up to 31 December 2031 and applies across the administrative area of Herefordshire. More detail regarding the plan area and the consequent spatial strategy is set out in section 6.

2.2.2 The main purpose of the Draft MWLP is to provide guidance to developers, local communities and other interested parties on where and when minerals and waste development may be expected over the plan period, as well as how it will be managed to reduce adverse impacts and maximise benefits. Minerals development includes activities such as mining, quarrying and gas extraction. Waste development includes activities such as waste recycling and the treatment and disposal of waste.

2.2.3 The Draft MWLP forms part of the statutory development plan and the council will use it, along with the Core Strategy, as the starting point for decisions on planning applications for development relating to these activities. Where the Draft MWLP contains relevant policies, decisions will be made in accordance with those policies, unless there are other material considerations related to planning, which indicate otherwise.

2.2.4 The Draft MWLP must be read as a whole. Whilst the specific policies in the Draft MWLP are particularly significant in setting out the key principles on which decisions will be based, the supporting text explains in more detail how the individual policies will be interpreted and applied. It will therefore be used by the council, in conjunction with the policies, to guide its approach to decision-making.

2.3 Why does Herefordshire need to plan for minerals and waste?

2.3.1 Minerals and waste management infrastructure are essential to support a modern economy.

2.3.2 Minerals are important as they provide many of the raw materials necessary for construction, energy and industry. They are therefore essential in helping to sustain economic growth. For

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

these reasons, Government attaches importance to planning for their supply, whilst at the same time requiring that the impacts of extracting them are kept within acceptable limits. An important consideration in planning for minerals is that they can only be worked where they occur in sufficient quantity and quality, and this fundamental geological constraint will always be a key influence on minerals planning.

- 2.3.3 Minerals gained from across the UK are required throughout the construction, manufacturing, chemicals and energy industries; for example: sand and gravel are used to build houses; silica sand is used to make glass; and hydrocarbons are used to make energy. However, within Herefordshire minerals are primarily used in the construction industry, for example local building stone is used to repair historic buildings.
- 2.3.4 Dealing with waste is a major challenge for society and needs to be addressed alongside other initiatives to improve the sustainability of our environment and economy. Many items discarded as waste have the potential to be re-used, recycled or used as a resource.
- 2.3.5 Managing waste in these ways has benefits in reducing the amount of natural resources that are consumed. For example, re-using or recycling materials generated during demolition activity can reduce the need for extraction of new minerals. At the same time, it can reduce the need for landfilling of waste. Treating waste as a resource can also lead to new opportunities for the economy, with the outputs of modern waste management processes acting as inputs to businesses that can use them. The circular economy encapsulates this approach, seeking to keep materials at their highest value for the longest period of time.
- 2.3.6 A network of waste management facilities is required to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to maximise its potential use as a resource and to avoid significant adverse impacts on the environment and communities. For example, there is a network of household waste recycling centres across Herefordshire, which enables householders to deposit items no longer required at a location where they can be recycled or disposed of safely.
- 2.3.7 Whilst any minerals or waste development proposal would be subject to the Core Strategy, that development plan document does not specifically address these sectors. The Draft MWLP provides the strategic direction and development management policies necessary to enable sustainable minerals and waste development.
- 2.3.8 Minerals and waste policy is currently contained in the Unitary Development Plan, adopted in 2007. Much of the Unitary Development Plan has been replaced by the Core Strategy, with just the minerals and waste policies being saved. These policies will be replaced by the MWLP; it is important to update the minerals and waste policies to ensure a modern policy framework is in place.

2.4 Evidence Base

Call for Sites

- 2.4.1 In 2016 and 2017, Herefordshire Council made a 'call for sites', asking minerals and waste site operators and landowners to put forward site proposals to consider for future minerals or waste development and to outline future aspirations for existing sites.
- 2.4.2 These have been considered in the Spatial Context and Sites report.

British Geological Survey⁴

2.4.3 British Geological Survey is the standard provider of objective and authoritative geoscientific data, information and knowledge to help society to:

- use its natural resources responsibly;
- manage environmental change; and
- be resilient to environmental hazards.

2.4.4 British Geological Survey was commissioned to prepare comprehensive mapping of the geology and mineral reserves across Herefordshire. This information became available in early 2017 and has been used in the sites analysis.

Coal Authority⁵

2.4.5 Coal Authority is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. It manages the effects of past coal mining, including subsidence damage claims that are not the responsibility of licensed coal mine operators. It also deals with mine water pollution and other mining legacy issues.

2.4.6 Coal Authority prepares a series of maps that have been referred to in preparing the Draft MWLP.

Minerals and Waste Need Assessments

2.4.7 Separate minerals and waste need assessments were prepared in February 2017 and accompanied the Issues and Options consultation. Each assessment was then updated, to reflect comments made in the consultation responses and to incorporate new data that had become available. The updated need assessments were finalised in November 2018 and accompany the consultation on this Draft MWLP.

2.4.8 The need assessments seek both to identify current supply of minerals and waste management capacity and to forecast demand. They provide the essential evidence to determine what future requirements for both mineral supply and waste management capacity can reasonably be expected to be, such that this can be planned for in the MWLP.

Local Aggregate Assessment

2.4.9 Mineral planning authorities are required to prepare a Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) on an annual basis. They should be based on a rolling average of 10 years sales data and other relevant local information and include an assessment of all supply options for aggregates minerals.

2.4.10 In preparing the 2018 LAA, the relevant data and historical entries have been comprehensively reviewed, such that it provides a robust baseline for the mineral need assessment and for monitoring the MWLP.

Minerals Safeguarding Studies

2.4.11 The National Planning Policy Framework requires planning authorities to define Minerals Safeguarding Area, to protect resources from sterilisation by other forms of development. The analysis of the British Geological Survey data is presented in the Spatial Context and Sites

⁴ <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority>

3. Context

3.1 Spatial portrait of the plan area

Overview

- 3.1.1 A detailed portrait of the plan area can be found within evidence supporting the Draft MWLP and the Core Strategy, all of which can be viewed at www.herefordshire.gov.uk.
- 3.1.2 The plan area for the Draft MWLP comprises the administrative area of Herefordshire Council; a large, predominately rural, landlocked county situated in the south western corner of the West Midlands region, on the eastern border of Wales and to the north west of Gloucestershire.

Figure 2 The Plan Area



Minerals

- 3.1.3 Known mineral resources in Herefordshire are relatively limited in range, primarily consisting of aggregates for use in construction but also a small amount of building stone. Aggregates comprise: sand and gravel; crushed rock (limestone); and secondary or recycled materials gained from quarry and waste operations.

report. This data, and responses to the Issues and Options Report, have informed the approach to mineral safeguarding within the Draft MWLP.

Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulation Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

2.4.12 Sustainability Appraisal is a requirement for all development plan documents. Sustainability is about ensuring the long-term maintenance of well-being and the environment for our present and future communities. The process assesses the impact of the Draft MWLP on the environment, people and the economy. It incorporates the requirements of the European Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment.

2.4.13 Following consultation with key local, regional and national organisations such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, sustainability criteria have been agreed covering issues such as: air quality; water quality and quantity; landscape; health and economic performance. This Draft MWLP has been assessed against these sustainability criteria and the results can be found in the Sustainability Appraisal. The Draft MWLP has been amended to incorporate some of the recommendations from the Sustainability Appraisal.

2.4.14 The Draft MWLP has also been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to assess whether there would be likely significant effects on sites of international importance for wildlife (European designated sites). Where a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on such sites, an appropriate assessment must be carried out of the implications in respect of their conservation objectives. The screening exercise has considered potential effects on European sites within Herefordshire and made recommendations for the Draft MWLP. The Draft MWLP has been amended to incorporate the recommendations made in relation to the European sites.

2.4.15 An update SFRA will be completed prior to submission of the Pre-Submission MWLP.

2.5 Flexibility

2.5.1 The Draft MWLP has been prepared to enable appropriate development to occur within the context of changing circumstances both nationally and across the county. General changes could include: amendments to national policy and updates to the evidence base; or external impacts such as changes to waste management practices and mineral demand. More specifically, situations which may arise are: new minerals or waste management resource failing to come forward as planned, infrastructure not being provided at the same time as development and market changes adversely affecting the viability of development.

2.5.2 The evidence base will be kept up to date and specific studies e.g. the LAA will be reviewed annually. All of the policies are written to refer to national policy rather than repeat it and to refer to the evidence base. This allows the policies to be useable even where there are minor changes to higher level policies or the evidence base.

2.6 Consultation

2.6.1 One of the main principles of development plan preparation is that local communities are involved from the outset. This approach is set out in national policy and in Herefordshire's Statement of Community Involvement 2017, which forms part of the Herefordshire Local Plan. To ensure early engagement on the preparation of the Draft MWLP and the opportunity to

comment and help shape it, Issues and Options consultation was undertaken from 14 August to 6 October 2017.

2.6.2 This consultation sought feedback on:

- the evidence base developed to date, principally comprising the Minerals and Waste Need Assessments;
- the issues identified to be addressed within the Plan;
- the options that can be considered to address those issues;
- some principles for the Draft MWLP.

2.6.3 The responses received were carefully reviewed and have, where appropriate, informed the content of the Draft MWLP.

2.6.4 This Draft MWLP is another stage of consultation being undertaken prior to the Pre-Submission MWLP being prepared for examination.

3.1.4 Key areas for minerals in Herefordshire are :

- Sand and gravel:
 - River terrace deposits are mainly found in the river valleys of the Wye, Lugg and Arrow; and
 - Glacial deposits are present in the north and west of Herefordshire.
- Crushed rock:
 - Silurian limestone is found on the western side of the Malvern Hills and Ledbury, the Woolhope dome and in the north-west of the county in the Presteigne/Aymestrey areas;
 - Carboniferous limestone is present to the south-west of Ross-on-Wye in the northern flanks of the Forest of Dean; and
 - Igneous and metamorphic rock occurs in the Malvern Hills.
- Sandstone occurs extensively throughout much of Herefordshire and several operational quarries exist in the north, west and south of the county. The output is of particular importance for heritage restoration and in creating authentic character for new-build properties.

3.1.5 Coal was formerly worked in two locations, but it is no longer:

- the southern tip of the Wyre Forest Coalfield, which extended into the north of the county, near the boundary with Worcestershire and Shropshire; and
- a small outlier site of the Forest of Dean Coalfield, which extended into southern Herefordshire.

3.1.6 In 1999, the British Geological Survey reported⁶ that the hydrocarbon prospectivity of the county was low. Wells drilled to test the oil and gas potential of sandstones in the Worcestershire Basin and rocks in the Woolhope Inlier failed to discover hydrocarbons.

3.1.7 In December 2015, a small block of land in the south of the county was offered for onshore hydrocarbon exploration, appraisal and extraction in relation to coalbed methane, but this offer was declined by the energy company.

3.1.8 It is considered highly unlikely that there will be any activities relating to the exploration or extraction of hydrocarbons within Herefordshire in the short term. In the medium to long term, it is possible that this situation may change but, recognising current policy on minimising carbon emissions this is considered to be unlikely.

3.1.9 There are currently eleven permitted mineral workings in Herefordshire that could be worked during the plan period:

- Sand and gravel:
 - Upper Lyde Quarry
 - Shobdon Quarry

⁶ Mineral Resource Information for Development Plans: Phase One Herefordshire and Worcestershire: Resources and Constraints, British Geological Survey and the Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions, 1999

- Wellington Quarry
- Limestone/Crushed rock:
 - Leinthall Quarry
 - Perton Quarry
- Sandstone:
 - Callow Delve
 - Black Hill Delve
 - Llandraw Delve
 - Pennsylvani Delves
 - Sunnybank Delve
 - Westonhill Wood Delves

3.1.10 There are also a number of quarries that are mothballed, closed or abandoned.

3.1.11 Data that has been made available from the British Geological Survey, though not verified by them, indicates that Herefordshire provides 40 to 50% of its own sand and gravel demand, but only 20 to 30% of its crushed rock demand. This may be due to the particular quality of the limestone, which representatives on site described as quite soft and not suitable for road building. The most significant import of sand and gravel is from Staffordshire (30 to 40%). The most significant import of crushed rock is from Powys (40 to 50%).

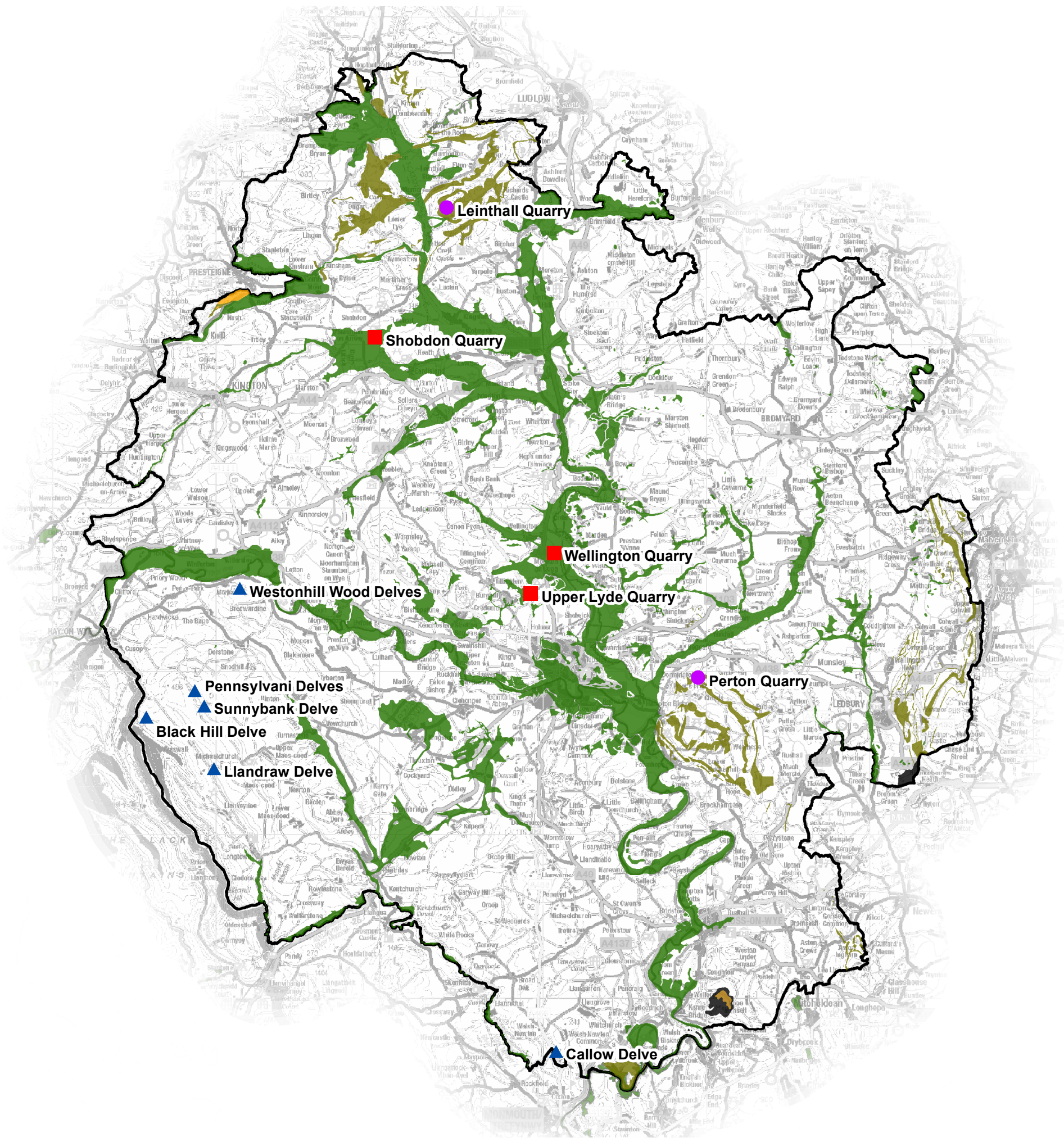
3.1.12 In addition, Herefordshire hosts some key elements of ancillary infrastructure, notably the Moreton-on-Lugg railhead used to transport mineral from Wellington Quarry to the south east of England, predominantly London. However, the mineral travelling by rail freight is crushed rock from quarries located in Wales. Otherwise, minerals travel by road as there is no other transport mode available within Herefordshire. Concrete batching plant, concrete block making plant and coating plant operate on working quarries and industrial estates around Herefordshire.

3.1.13 Secondary and recycled materials have an important role to play in the overall supply of aggregates. Secondary aggregates are minerals that are produced as a by-product of other mining or quarrying activities or as a by-product of an industrial process. Recycled aggregates arise from several sources, notably from the demolition of buildings or from civil engineering works such as asphalt planings from road resurfacing and railway track ballast. Recycling aggregates usually involves the removal of unwanted or inappropriate material such as fines, wood, plastic and metal, and some form of treatment (crushing, washing and/or screening) to reach industry standards for its re-use.

3.1.14 There are no known viable resources within Herefordshire for silica sand, clay or any other mineral. These are not considered further.

Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Figure 3
Minerals in Herefordshire and Permitted Quarries/Delves



Permitted Sites

- Limestone/Crushed Rock
- Sand and Gravel
- ▲ Sandstone

Mineral Reserves

- Brick clay
- Coal
- Limestone (including dolomite)
- Sandstone: Pre-Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian Greywacke
- Superficial sand/gravel



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Waste

3.1.15 Waste is generated from a wide range of domestic, commercial and industrial activities. The main waste types are:

- Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW, which includes household waste and other similar wastes collected by the local authorities);
- Commercial and industrial (C&I) waste, this includes waste from businesses and manufacturing companies;
- Construction, demolition and excavation (CD&E) waste, these wastes can be produced through a wide range of building projects, from home renovations to major redevelopments;
- Hazardous waste, waste is generally considered hazardous if it is harmful to humans or the environment, particularly through being toxic, corrosive or irritant, examples of hazardous waste include asbestos, chemicals such as brake fluid or print toner;
- Agricultural waste, includes both natural, such as animal manure, animal bedding and crop waste and non-natural, such as plastic wrapping or bottles;
- Low level (non-nuclear industry) radioactive waste, such as is used in research laboratories; and
- Waste Water, which is managed by Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water.

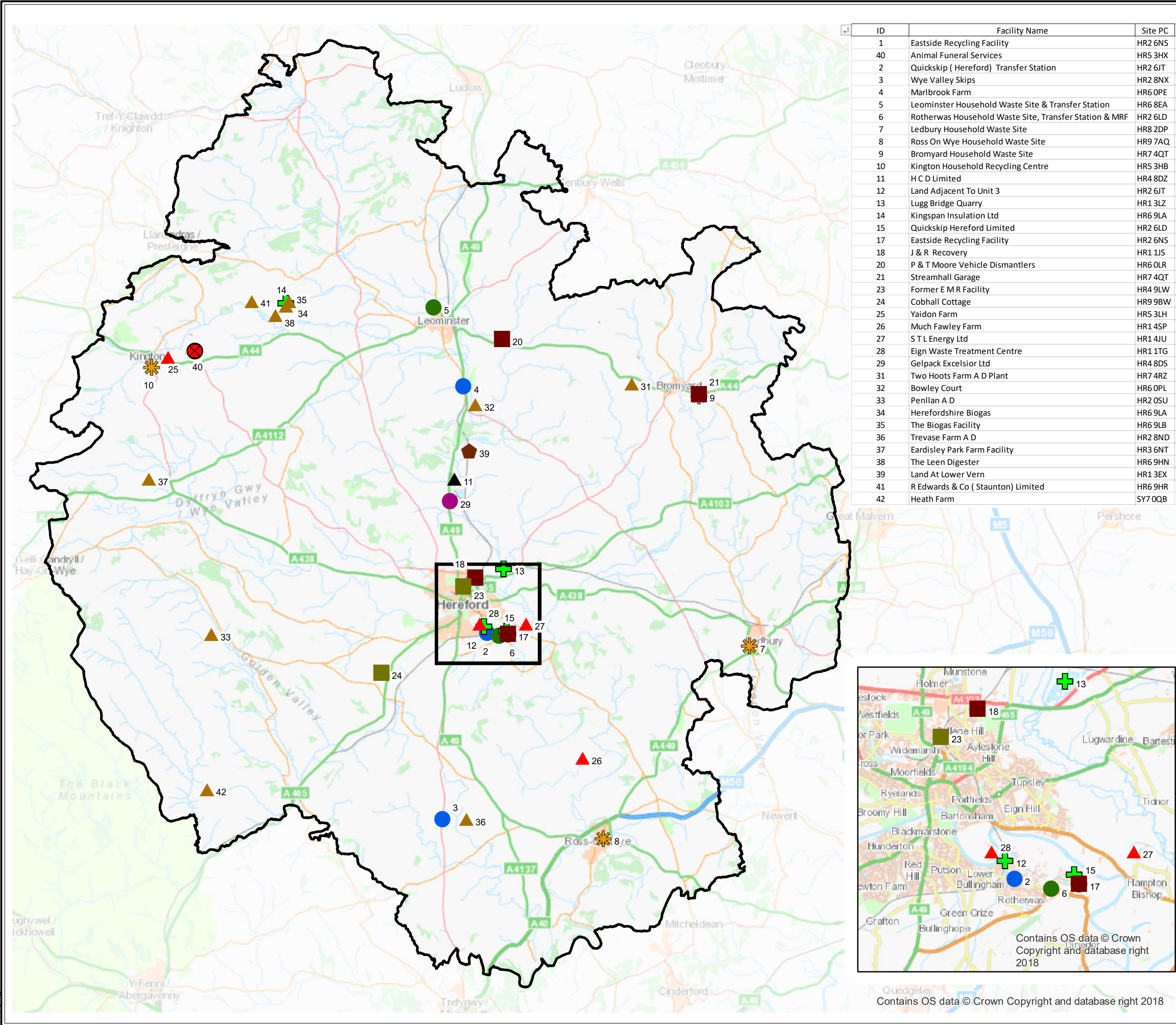
3.1.16 The amount and type of waste produced, and the ways in which it is managed, partly reflects the environmental, social and economic characteristics of the area. Concentrated populations and commercial/industrial activities, as are found in Hereford and the main county towns are the largest producers of waste, and this is generally reflected in the pattern of waste management facilities within Herefordshire. The more interesting pattern in Herefordshire is the number of anaerobic digestion and biological treatment facilities dispersed around the county, reflecting its strong agricultural sector.

3.1.17 The waste need assessments identify that most waste (86%) managed in facilities operating in Herefordshire were generated in the county. These facilities do also receive waste from other authorities, principally those in Wales, the West Midlands and Gloucestershire.

3.1.18 However, whilst there is a range of waste management facilities (including transfer, re-use and recycling) permitted in Herefordshire that address a variety of wastes, there are no residual waste management facilities such as energy from waste plant or landfill sites.

3.1.19 Herefordshire Council has historically worked with Worcestershire County Council to manage effectively the authorities' LACW. This collaboration has resulted in the production of a Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy and joint procurement of strategic waste management capacity. Whilst these facilities are not located in Herefordshire, this arrangement means that long-term capacity is available to manage Herefordshire's LACW throughout the plan period.

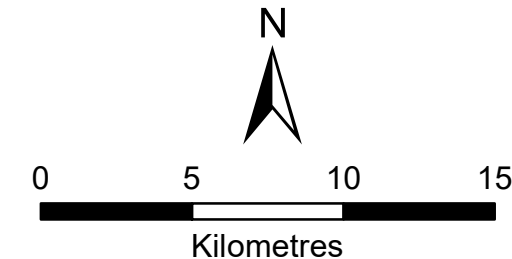
3.1.20 The next most significant exports of waste are made to the Vale of Glamorgan, Doncaster and Bristol. Most of this waste was sent for recovery and incineration, indicating a need for more residual waste management capacity in Herefordshire.



Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Figure 4
Herefordshire Waste Facilities

- Legend**
- Waste Facility Type**
- Anaerobic Digestion (Farm Waste)
 - Biological Treatment
 - CA Site
 - Non-Haz Waste Transfer
 - Non-Haz Waste Transfer & CA Site; Non-Haz Waste Transfer and CA Site
 - Non-Haz Waste Transfer / Treatment
 - Physical Treatment
 - Deposit of waste to land (recovery)
 - Car Breaker
 - Metal Recycling
 - Haz Waste Transfer
 - Material Recycling Facility
 - Herefordshire County Boundary



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01/11/2018

Minerals and waste development

- 3.1.21 There are important links between minerals and waste development. The efficient use of materials such as recycled aggregate, as alternatives to primary minerals, can help to conserve natural resources. Quarries may have potential for the disposal of waste via landfill, as part of the reclamation process, in circumstances where any need for landfill capacity has been identified, and in some cases, the disposal of residual inert waste via landfill can help to improve the quality of derelict or degraded land. These links need to be reflected in the content of the Draft MWLP.
- 3.1.22 Both forms of development, due to their nature, also have the potential to give rise to adverse impacts, for example on the landscape, through the impact of vehicle movements and the generation of noise or other forms of pollution.
- 3.1.23 Just as importantly, minerals and waste developments can also deliver benefits. For example, through the careful design, operation and reclamation of mineral sites it may be practicable to enhance wildlife habitats, improve the provision of floodwater storage capacity or deliver other environmental benefits to help support local businesses and the economy. Some waste developments may be able to produce power or heat for use by local consumers.
- 3.1.24 A key role for the Draft MWLP is to develop planning policies that promote appropriate development that meets the recognised market needs, whilst ensuring that detrimental impacts are minimized and opportunities for betterment are optimized.

3.2 Working with other authorities

Local Authority Collected Waste

- 3.2.1 Herefordshire and Worcestershire's Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy: Managing Waste for a Brighter Future⁷ (the Waste Strategy) was first published in 2004. It was prepared and adopted by the eight local authorities across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
- 3.2.2 A detailed review and republication of the Waste Strategy was completed in 2011. This set a suite of principles, policies and targets for the management of municipal waste across both counties. As part of this, and in line with Government guidance, the authorities committed to review the Strategy at least every 5 years.
- 3.2.3 An Addendum to the Waste Strategy was prepared in September 2017, to provide a summary of the 2016 review of the Waste Strategy. In particular it includes:
- information on significant changes/ developments in Government waste management policy since 2011, including potential future changes to European policy;
 - updates on waste management data including waste growth predictions; and
 - commentary on performance against key principles, policies and targets within the Strategy.
- 3.2.4 The review process and the production of the Addendum has been undertaken by the Strategic Waste Management Board, which represents the eight authorities across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

⁷ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1428/herefordshire_and_worcestershire_joint_waste_strategy

- 3.2.5 The Addendum confirms that the authorities continue to invest in the existing processing and collection capabilities, with the example of EnviroSort, the material reclamation facility having been refurbished to include the provision of a glass breaker and improved fire protection system. However, the Addendum also makes clear the challenges that lie ahead in delivering the Strategy, recognising financial constraints and budget cuts.
- 3.2.6 No new infrastructure is identified and the facilities in place should be available for the plan period and beyond.

Duty to co-operate

- 3.2.7 Herefordshire is a landlocked county that does not exist in isolation from its neighbours; both minerals and waste are materials driven by market demand that consequently readily cross administrative boundaries. The Draft MWLP should take account of these movements and the wider challenges, issues and opportunities presented by them.
- 3.2.8 Cross-boundary working is already in place through the joint waste management approach with Worcestershire County Council and discussions with other neighbouring authorities has taken place during the preparation of the Draft MWLP. This has been undertaken through on-going liaison with neighbouring authorities, discussions at regional levels, and through the review of proposals within adjoining local plans and other development plan documents.
- 3.2.9 Herefordshire is an active member of both the Technical Advisory Body (considering waste matters) and the Aggregates Working Party (considering minerals) comprising authorities of the former West Midlands Region and other interested parties, including representatives from the Environment Agency and industries.
- 3.2.10 Herefordshire has sought to provide a positive policy framework to bring forward deliverable development to meet its own needs and to provide for those identified through these meetings.

3.3 Policy Context

National policy

- 3.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2018) contains the Government's overarching policies on minerals planning. The NPPF identifies a need to ensure that a continuous supply of minerals is available to support the economy and states that great weight should be given to the economic benefits of minerals extraction, whilst also making clear that minerals should be used sustainably. It identifies a range of minerals that are of '*local and national importance*' for which planning authorities should have policies. Minerals of '*local and national importance*' that lie within Herefordshire are: aggregates; coal; gas; and building stone.
- 3.3.2 The NPPF sets out specific policies in relation to the supply of a number of types of minerals. Relevant to the Draft MWLP, it requires the maintenance of landbanks of at least 7 years for sand and gravel, and at least 10 years for crushed rock. It also requires planning authorities to consider how to meet demand for minerals for the repair of heritage assets.
- 3.3.3 In aiming to reduce the need to extract primary minerals and also find uses for waste materials, the NPPF requires planning authorities to take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials. It also places an emphasis upon safeguarding mineral resources for future use and safeguarding minerals infrastructure.

- 3.3.4 The NPPF also places emphasis upon conserving important landscape and heritage assets by requiring that landbanks for non-energy minerals are provided outside National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Scheduled Monuments and World Heritage Sites. In National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, many minerals and waste developments would be classed as 'major development' and should not be permitted except in exceptional circumstances, as defined by a series of considerations known as the 'major development test'.
- 3.3.5 The Draft MWLP can enable a steady and sustainable supply of minerals to be delivered through a positive policy approach, identifying sites for quarry working and preferred areas of search.
- 3.3.6 National waste planning policy is informed by European waste policy such as the Waste Framework Directive⁸ (2008), which introduced the concept of the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency and nearest appropriate installation.
- 3.3.7 The Landfill Directive⁹ (1999) is a key driving factor behind the diversion of waste from landfill and aims to reduce the negative effects of landfilling on the environment and human health. The Landfill Directive sets a 2020 target to reduce the total amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill by 35%, using 1995 as a baseline year.
- 3.3.8 A further important consideration, relevant to planning for both waste and minerals, is the Climate Change Act 2008¹⁰ and an associated requirement at a national level to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- 3.3.9 The NPPF does not contain specific policies on planning for waste management, although its policies generally remain relevant. National Planning Policy for Waste¹¹ (NPPW) was published in October 2014 and should be read alongside the Waste Management Plan for England.
- 3.3.10 NPPW states that planning strategies should help to drive waste up the waste hierarchy, deliver sustainable development and resource efficiency, provide appropriate infrastructure and enable businesses and communities to take more responsibility for their own waste without harming human health or the environment. The waste hierarchy places priority on the prevention of waste, followed by re-use, then recycling, then other recovery (which can include recovering energy from waste) and finally disposal as a last resort.
- 3.3.11 Enabling the management of waste at higher levels of the waste hierarchy will require actions by a wide range of businesses, other organisations and the public, as well as Herefordshire Council.
- 3.3.12 The Draft MWLP can play a role in moving waste up the hierarchy by encouraging and supporting proposals which facilitate reuse, recycling and recovery and discourage incineration without energy recovery and landfill. However, landfill can play an important role in the reclamation of mineral workings and therefore, in some circumstances, can be justified.
- 3.3.13 Currently, waste management is evolving to deliver the concept of the Circular Economy. A circular economy is about valuing our products differently and creating a more robust economy

⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/framework/>

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/landfill_index.htm

¹⁰ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

in the process. By assessing how we design, make, sell, re-use and recycle products we can determine how to get the maximum value from them, both in use and at the end of their life.¹²

Figure 5 Graphic representation of the circular Economy⁴



3.3.14 The concept of the Circular Economy is considered to incorporate the key priorities of the waste hierarchy and develop these to provide a positive environment within which new, innovative resource use and waste management solutions can be developed. Much of the circular economy priorities will be achieved outwith the Draft MWLP, for example through improved product design. However, the Draft MWLP can contribute through encouraging development of complementary sectors alongside each other and enabling new facilities to support the retention of waste at its highest value.

3.3.15 Self-sufficiency is an important principle, but cannot always be delivered. For example, the minerals evidence base suggests that the county simply does not have all the types of minerals required to support all the development that is likely to occur over the plan period. This limitation can be counterbalanced by optimising those factors that can be influenced. For example, through encouraging innovative solutions to maximise recycled products to replace virgin materials.

3.3.16 The management of waste is also not constrained by local authority boundaries. As explained above, Herefordshire Council has a joint contract with Worcestershire County Council. Evidence suggests that there are both imports and exports of waste across the West Midlands region, as well as imports of waste from authorities in Wales. Whilst some of these movements may be part of well-established patterns of waste management, other movements may take place in a more ad hoc way, depending on shorter term commercial and market considerations. There is nothing in legislation or policy that says accepting waste from another authority or region is a bad thing and, indeed, in many cases it may be the best economic and environmental solution.

3.3.17 The approach followed by authorities across the West Midlands is to seek to achieve 'equivalent self-sufficiency', which means that the capacity provided in any authority would be adequate to

¹² WRAP, formerly a government agency is now a charity that works with governments, businesses and communities to deliver practical solutions to improve resource efficiency. <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/how-wrap-supports-circular-economy>

treat waste that arises in that authority, but allows for the inevitable cross-boundary movements that occur.

- 3.3.18 Similarly, the authorities in the West Midlands seek to deliver the Managed Aggregate Supply System (MASS), the underpinning concept of which is that mineral planning authorities that have adequate resources of aggregates make an appropriate contribution to national as well as local supply, while making due allowance for the need to reduce environmental damage to an acceptable level.

Local policies and strategies

- 3.3.19 The Core Strategy and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy are important context documents for the Draft MWLP, which have been outlined above.
- 3.3.20 The Sustainable Community Strategy¹³ (2010) sets out a long-term vision for the county up to 2020, with a focus on improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of Herefordshire, in addition to providing an overarching framework within which other local strategies will sit. The policies and proposals within the Draft MWLP will help to deliver some of the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities.
- 3.3.21 The aim of Invest Herefordshire, Herefordshire's Economic Vision¹⁴ is to realise the full economic potential of the county through a coordinated plan. The Draft MWLP will help to deliver three of the four key priorities: to support the growth of Herefordshire; to attract investment to Herefordshire; and to raise the profile of Herefordshire and its investment opportunities.
- 3.3.22 There are two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in Herefordshire: the Malvern Hills; and the Wye Valley. The Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2019¹⁵ recognises that the striking scenery in the AONB is ultimately dependent on the rocks that lie beneath the ground surface and has a consequent aim to preserve, promote and wisely use the geodiversity of the AONB. The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2015-2020¹⁶ recognises the variety of geological outcrops and rich wildlife habitats, not least as reflected in the presence of separate Special Areas of Conservation. Conserving and, where necessary, enhancing the natural beauty of this unique landscape is a primary theme.
- 3.3.23 The Green Infrastructure Strategy¹⁷ (2010) was prepared as part of the evidence base for the Core Strategy. It provides a baseline of green infrastructure assets within Herefordshire and establishes a vision for their future, including producing guidelines for developer and identifying projects to achieve improvements across the county. The Draft MWLP will help to deliver some of these objectives, principally through site reclamation.
- 3.3.24 The Renewable Energy Study¹⁸ (2010) presents baseline data and identifies future renewable and low carbon energy resources. It recognises biomass (incorporating waste wood, municipal waste and agricultural waste) as a potential generation source for heat and electricity and

¹³ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/184/sustainable_communities_strategy

¹⁴ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200145/business/754/invest_herefordshire/1

¹⁵ <http://www.malvernhillsaonb.org.uk/managing-the-aonb/management-plan/>

¹⁶ <http://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/index.php/about-us/management-and-guidance/management-plan-2015-2020/>

¹⁷ <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure>

¹⁸ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/1689/renewable_energy_study

identifies the strategic urban extensions as potentially appropriate locations for combined heat and power facilities and/or district heating networks. The Draft MWLP will help to drive waste recovery facilities to these locations such that a beneficial contribution can be made to delivering renewable/low carbon energy to Herefordshire. Taking waste out of landfill is one of the most effective ways that the Draft MWLP will contribute to reducing Herefordshire's carbon emissions.

3.3.25 The Local Transport Plan 2016-2031¹⁹ was redrafted to reflect the Core Strategy and sets out the council's strategy for supporting economic growth, improving health and wellbeing and reducing the environmental impacts of transport. These principles have been incorporated into the Draft MWLP.

3.3.26 Welsh Water's Water Resources Management Plan²⁰ (2014) provides an overview of water resources across its delivery area, including Herefordshire, presents its approach to managing the supply and demand balance and identifies deficit zones. No such zones are identified in Herefordshire.

3.3.27 In May 2014, the Environment Agency and Natural England published the River Wye SAC Nutrient Management Plan, Evidence base and options appraisal²¹ (the River Wye SAC NMP). This identified that phosphate loss to watercourses is a particular issue in rural catchments with a high degree of agricultural activity, such as in the upper River Wye and River Lugg sub-catchments. In addition, Neighbourhood Planning Guidance Note 19: Sustainable water management in Herefordshire²², was revised in August 2015 and provides an overview of wastewater treatment priorities in Herefordshire.

3.3.28 The Rivers Wye, Lugg, Teme and Clun are identified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and that the River Wye, including part of the River Lugg, part of the River Clun and Downton Gorge on the River Teme are also designated as Special Areas of Conservation. Consequently, the water quality of Herefordshire's main rivers and their tributaries is of strategic importance. High levels of phosphates have been identified as a particular problem, with concentration levels exceeding targets along part of the rivers.

3.3.29 The Draft MWLP will provide a policy framework for the delivery of new wastewater treatment capacity; however, there are no insurmountable constraints identified in the period up to 2031. The relevant wastewater management companies are aware of growth forecast in the Core Strategy and have made appropriate provision in their investment plans.

¹⁹ https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2912/local_transport_plan_2016-2031_strategy

²⁰ <https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/My-Water/Water-Resources/Water-Resource-Management-Plan.aspx>

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nutrient-management-plan-river-wye>

²²

https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/3710/guidance_note_19_sustainable_water_management

3.4 Issues and Challenges

3.4.1 The issues and challenges considered to be of most significance are summarised below. These are addressed in more detail in the relevant sections of the Draft MWLP.

Minerals

- Ensuring a continuity of minerals supply to meet the social and economic needs of the county to 2031, taking account of cross-boundary supply challenges.
- Maximising the use of alternative sources of supply of minerals such as secondary and recycled aggregate to reduce the demand for aggregate supply from primary land won minerals.
- Maintaining the required landbanks for sand and gravel and crushed rock, but as far as practicable providing for these outside of the AONB.
- Continuing to provide a supply of building stone for the repair and maintenance of Herefordshire's traditional buildings and for new built development.
- Considering how to address the potential positive and negative impacts of exploiting unconventional hydrocarbon resources such as shale gas as well as planning for conventional forms of energy minerals.
- Safeguarding important minerals resources and infrastructure from sterilisation by other uses in order to meet local and regional needs by current and future generations.
- Ensuring there are sufficient safeguards in place to minimise the impacts of minerals extraction on communities, the environment and other important assets.
- Providing for a range of enhancements, including ecological services and biodiversity, particularly through reclamation of workings.
- Developing an appropriate locational strategy for minerals supply, reflecting where practicable the likely levels of economic and housing growth and future requirements for minerals.

Waste

- Enabling a circular economy to develop within Herefordshire and considering opportunities to co-locate waste management facilities with complementary uses.
- Promoting the management of waste further up the waste hierarchy i.e. reducing the amount going to landfill and encouraging the re-use, recycling, composting and recovery of waste, as well as supporting an overall reduction in the generation of waste.
- Developing an appropriate locational strategy for new waste management facilities, reflecting where practicable the likely levels of economic and housing growth and future requirements.
- Supporting the delivery of the additional waste management capacity expected to be required, taking account of cross-boundary movements where relevant.
- Incorporating flexibility to reflect uncertainties resulting from waste data limitations and evolving technologies and practice.

- Ensuring there are sufficient safeguards in place to minimise the local impacts of waste management on communities, the environment and other important assets.

General

- Establishing policies that are appropriate across the diverse characteristics of the plan area.
- Developing an appropriate approach to the protection and enhancement of the plan area's important landscapes, and natural and heritage assets, including the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, numerous Conservation Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas, Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, nature reserves and listed buildings and ground and surface water supply and quality; as well as the wide range of non-designated assets which are important for their own intrinsic value.
- Ensuring minerals and waste development contributes to and supports economic growth both within the plan area and nationally, including the employment opportunities that they provide.
- Seeking to reduce carbon emissions, particularly in relation to the transportation of minerals and waste, promoting re-use and recycling of materials and recovery of energy from waste; and providing opportunities to assist in adapting to the effects of climate change, such as reducing flood risk and enhancing habitat connectivity.
- Considering accessibility to major transportation networks and sustainable transport infrastructure, recognising the constraints on opportunities for the movement of minerals or waste.
- Recognising the potential for mutually beneficial links between minerals and waste activities, such as utilising specific waste streams in the sustainable reclamation of mineral workings.
- Ensuring an element of flexibility is built into the Draft MWLP.

4. Vision, Objectives and Spatial Strategy

4.1 Vision

- 4.1.1 Having a vision and objectives gives direction to the policies of a plan, identifying the priorities to be achieved through policy, and focussing attention on how this should be achieved.
- 4.1.2 The vision and objectives of the MWLP will not stand alone; they are complementary to those set out in the Core Strategy, providing a minerals and waste focus. Both minerals and waste are considered to be important assets within Herefordshire; being resources that should be used sustainably and to their full potential.
- 4.1.3 The Core Strategy vision is focussed on achieving sustainable development that is based upon success across society, economy and the environment; it also seeks to achieve self-reliance and resilience. These are all principles that are readily transferable to minerals and waste.
- 4.1.4 Key policy principles for minerals and waste include the following matters:
- Efficient use of minerals:
 - ensuring mineral resource is not prejudiced by other development; and
 - ensuring mineral is extracted and used efficiently, primarily achieved through the method of working and restoration.
 - Effective minimisation and use of wastes:
 - the Waste Hierarchy - giving priority to preventing waste in the first place; when waste is created, giving priority to preparing it for re-use, then recycling, then recovery, and last of all disposal (e.g. landfill); and
 - a Circular Economy - an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make, use, dispose) in which we keep resources for as long as possible, extract the maximum value from them whilst in use, then recover and regenerate products and materials at the end of each service life.
 - Enabling self-sufficiency:
 - through the provision of infrastructure and development to deliver the resources required, enabling sustainable communities to be developed and avoiding placing unnecessary demands on other authorities; and
 - minerals and waste move freely in the market according to the needs and characteristics of the sectors, Herefordshire will therefore seek to deliver 'equivalent self-sufficiency' by providing opportunities for mineral working and waste management for dealing with the forecast demands within the plan period and contributing to meeting some of the challenges faced by neighbouring authorities.
 - Enabling resilience
 - minerals development can enable resilience through: flood and water management opportunities; site betterment; and new opportunities for green infrastructure, public open space and recreation.

- waste development can enable resilience through: improved infrastructure provision; delivery of the circular economy; renewable energy generation; improved air quality and climate change measures; improved food and agricultural waste management measures that provide the opportunity to sequester carbon.

4.1.5 The Vision for the Draft MWLP should be ambitious and aspirational, it is the point to be achieved several years from now; it would be a stretch, but ultimately deliverable. Starting with the Core Strategy Vision and making it relevant to minerals and waste, the Vision for the Draft MWLP is:

Over the period to 2031, Herefordshire will deliver sustainable provision of minerals supply and waste management, balancing development needs whilst supporting the county's communities, protecting and enhancing environmental, heritage and cultural assets and strengthening the local economy. Sustainable provision within Herefordshire will be achieved through: efficient use and effective protection of mineral resources; efficient waste management infrastructure including delivery of the circular economy; taking a strategic approach to achieving high quality reclamation that provides site betterment; and optimising self-sufficiency and resilience.

4.2 Strategic Objectives

4.2.1 The Core Strategy has 13 strategic objectives. These have been the starting point for the objectives of the Draft MWLP, which have been developed through reference to national policy, local priorities and responses from consultation.

4.2.2 Table 1 presents the objectives developed for the Draft MWLP.

Table 1 Draft MWLP objectives

| Objectives | | Policies | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|------------|
| | | Core Strategy | MWLP |
| Social Progress | | | |
| 1 | To enable minerals and waste development to make an appropriate contribution to improve the health, well-being and quality of life of residents, through best practice operations, open space provision, educational and cultural information, green infrastructure and delivery of strategic, landscape scale site reclamation. | OS1, OS2, OS3, SD1 | OS4, SD5 |
| 2 | To prioritise the long-term conservation of primary minerals through enabling provision of sustainable alternatives, effective use of mineral reserves, and promoting efficient use of minerals in new development. | SD1 | SS8 |
| 3 | To safeguard appropriate mineral and waste resources within Herefordshire and the associated transport infrastructure for the future. | SD1 | M1, M2, W1 |

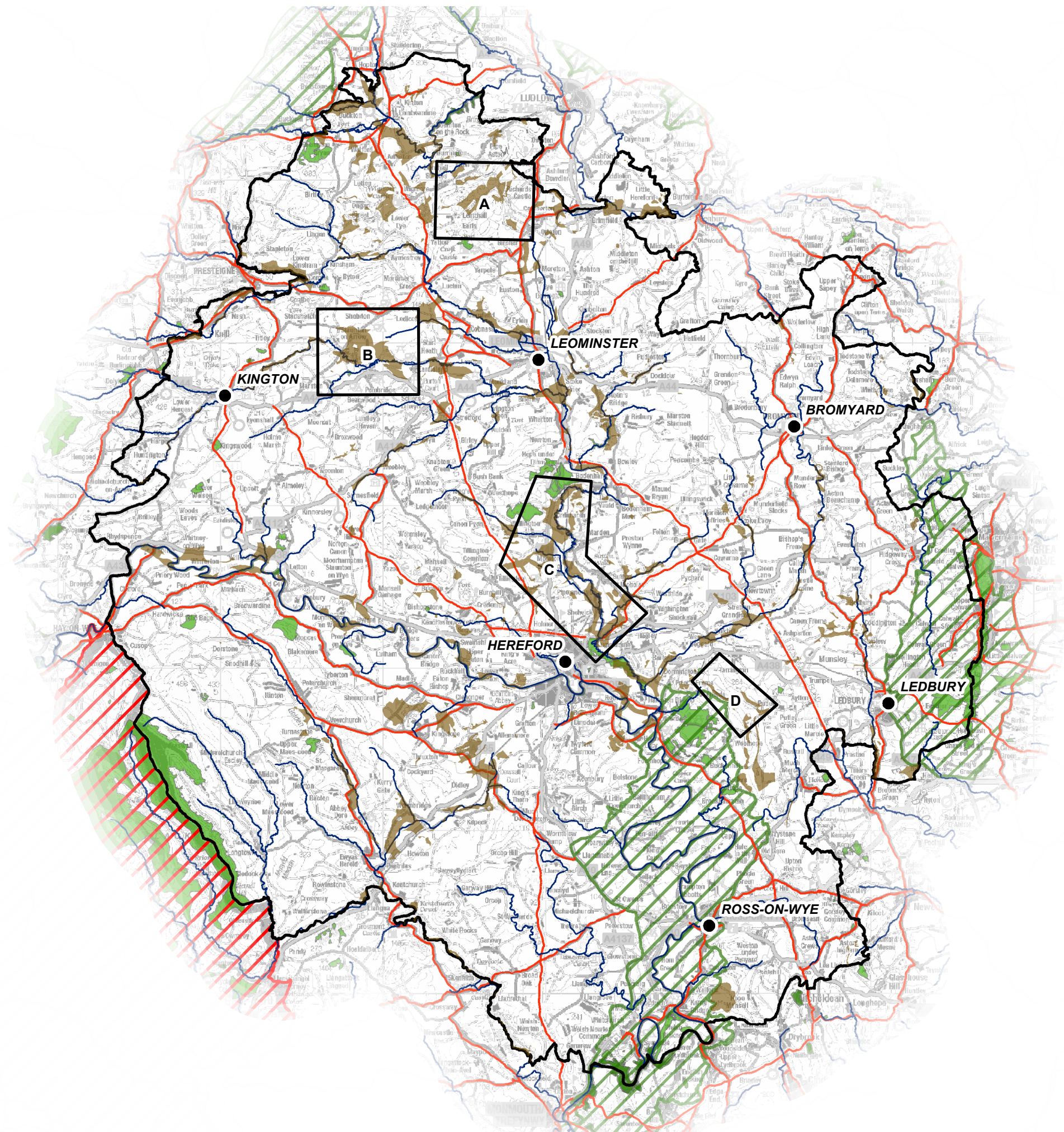
| Objectives | | Policies | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | | Core Strategy | MWLP |
| 4 | To enable the management of waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and to deliver a circular economy within Herefordshire. | SD1, SD2, SD3, SD4, | SS8, W1, W2, W3, W5, W6, W7 |
| Economic Prosperity | | | |
| 5 | To optimise the contribution that mineral working and waste management makes to Herefordshire's economy as land-based industries, balanced with effective protection of people, places and businesses from adverse impacts. | E1, SD1, SD3, SD2, SD3, SD4, LD1, LD2, LD3, LD4, ID1 | ALL |
| 6 | To plan for the steady and sustainable supply of minerals present within Herefordshire, to contribute to the county's economic growth, development and local distinctiveness and to make a reasonable contribution to the MASS. | E1, SD1 | M1, M2, M3, M4, M5, |
| 7 | To deliver new waste management infrastructure to enable Herefordshire to achieve equivalent self-sufficiency and to contribute to the county's economic growth, innovation development and energy demands. | E1, SD1, SD2 | W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, W7 |
| 8 | To reduce the need to travel and lessen the harmful impacts from traffic growth, promoting the use of alternatives to road transport and ensuring that new development is served by suitable transport networks. | SS1, SS2, SS4, MT1 | MT2 |
| Environmental Quality | | | |
| 9 | To identify suitable locations for minerals and waste development. | SS1, SS4, SS5 | M3, M4, M5, W3, W4, W5, W6 |
| 10 | To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment by delivering well-designed and well-operated minerals and waste development that use land efficiently, reinforce local distinctiveness, and are supported by the necessary infrastructure, including green infrastructure. | SD1, SD3, SD4, LD1, LD2, LD3, ID1 | ALL |
| 11 | To address the causes and impacts of climate change relating to minerals and waste development activity, including using opportunities arising from minerals and waste operations and reclamation activity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to leave a positive legacy. | SS7, SD1, SD2, SD3, SD4, LD3 | MT2, SS8, SD5, M1, M6, W1, W3, W7 |
| 12 | To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, heritage and cultural assets for the fullest benefits to the whole community, by safeguarding the county's current stock of valued heritage and significant environmental assets from loss and damage, reversing negative trends, ensuring best condition and site betterment, as well as appropriately managing future assets. | SS6, SS7, LD1, LD2, LD3, LD4 | MT2, OS4, SD5 and the key development criteria |

4.3 Spatial Strategy

- 4.3.1 The overarching spatial strategy of the Core Strategy is relevant to the Draft MWLP and forms the backbone to its spatial strategy. Consequently, waste development will be focussed at Hereford, Leominster and the market towns. However, it is recognised that some waste management development will likely be more dispersed; principally this is to deliver a locally identified demand such as agricultural or construction and demolition waste management. In line with the spatial strategy, such development will not be promoted in policy but may be acceptable on a specific site basis.
- 4.3.2 Minerals extraction can only take place where the mineral occurs; consequently, this urban focus cannot generally be followed for minerals development. The review of the underlying geology and natural and built environment of Herefordshire has identified both key areas of search for minerals development and those areas that should be constrained from future development. Not surprisingly, these areas generally follow the approach to development set out in both the NPPF and the Core Strategy, such as giving great weight to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 4.3.3 Sand and gravel working is to be focussed within the large expanse of reserve that wraps around the northern and eastern sides of Hereford and at Shobdon, to the north-west of Hereford. These reserves are well located to supply aggregate for the growth proposed in Hereford and having two areas brings resilience to supply.
- 4.3.4 Focusing future sand and gravel workings within these areas provides the industry with access to a large area of reserve, but means that a proliferation of minerals development across the county can be avoided. Optimal extraction can be promoted at these areas before new reserves are opened.
- 4.3.5 Limestone working will be preferred within the reserves located to the north of the county and to the east of Hereford. The two areas provide resilience to supply and provide more local supply potential to the main settlements of Herefordshire.
- 4.3.6 No preferred areas of search are identified for sandstone, clay, coal or gas. Sandstone is worked as a low-key development in small delves, whilst there is little evidence to suggest that clay, coal or gas will be exploited over the plan period.
- 4.3.7 The Key Diagram is at Figure 6 presenting the spatial strategy for minerals and waste development in Herefordshire.

Herefordshire Minerals and
Waste Local Plan

Figure 6
Key Diagram



- Brecon Beacons National Park
- AONB
- Natura2000 Sites
- UK Ecological Designations
- Preferred Search Areas
- General Search Areas
- Major Rivers
- Major Roads



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hendeca

5. Strategic Policy and General Principles

5.1 Principles

5.1.1 It is a basic tenet of planning law that any adopted development plan must be read as a whole; development proposals will be considered in relation to all relevant policies. Furthermore, proposals for minerals or waste development must be assessed not just in relation to the draft MWLP, but also against all parts of the development plan. Under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the development plan for proposals in Herefordshire comprises:

- the Core Strategy;
- the MWLP; and
- other documents that comprise the Herefordshire Local Plan as relevant to the development proposed.

5.1.2 Some Core Strategy policies are directly relevant to minerals and waste development. They are necessarily written at a strategic level of detail and their interpretation for minerals and waste development can be improved through further explanation, which is provided in this section of the Draft MWLP.

5.1.3 Additional policy of a strategic nature, and applicable to both minerals and waste development, is also presented in this section of the Draft MWLP.

5.1.4 Mineral working and waste management may also require an Environmental Permit, the application for which will also include consideration of potential impacts from the operations of such development. In determining planning applications, the council will focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves, where these are subject to approval under pollution control regimes.

5.1.5 It is often beneficial to submit the Environmental Permit application at the same time as the planning application, so that all the relevant details can be understood by the determining authorities, consultees and local communities. This approach is encouraged by Herefordshire Council but will not be required.

5.2 Sustainable Development – Core Strategy policy SS1

5.2.1 Minerals and waste developments can make a positive contribution to each of the three objectives of sustainable development:

- social – for example through job creation, the supply of virgin and secondary materials required for building houses, and providing outdoor public access;
- economic – for example through inward investment, underpinning communities with essential infrastructure, and supporting growth and innovation, such as delivery of the circular economy; and
- environmental – for example through avoided landfill, the provision of renewable/low carbon energy or a new priority habitat.

5.2.3 It can also cause harm:

- social – for example through disrupting access to the countryside or creating a poor quality built environment;
- economic – for example affecting two of Herefordshire's key industries tourism and agriculture through development in the wrong place; and
- environmental – for example through adverse landscape or cultural impacts or disturbance to habitats.

5.2.4 Many minerals and waste developments will be subject to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as may be amended) but not all. As identified in the Core Strategy, a sufficient level of information should be submitted with each planning application to enable the council to determine the effect.

5.2.5 Planning applications should also consider the potential for cumulative impacts to occur. It may be that impacts from an individual proposal would be acceptable, but that the effects of one or more existing or planned developments in the same vicinity could, in-combination, have impacts that would not be acceptable, even after mitigation. Opportunities to maximise positive impacts should be identified and implemented.

5.2.6 Whilst they can bring local benefit, minerals and waste development can be a source of concern to local communities (of people, places or business). The potential for both beneficial and adverse impacts will vary according to the nature, size, location and duration of the development, and can change over its lifetime. Taking local circumstances into account, to consider the potential for effect on people, businesses and the natural environment will enable minerals and waste developments to respond to the different opportunities for achieving sustainable development.

5.2.7 Early consultation will enable good design throughout the life of the site to be enhanced, especially for larger scale proposals. It is expected that developers will consult with local communities and other stakeholders on proposals for mineral development before the planning application is submitted. Positive consideration shall be given to development proposals that demonstrably take account of a local community's response.

5.3 Movement and transportation

Core Strategy policies SS4 and MT1

5.3.1 A large percentage of the vehicle movements associated with minerals and waste development are heavy goods vehicles, which are likely to be significant in volume. It may not always be possible to gain access directly to the strategic highway network from a site, but the proposed route should avoid local roads and settlements wherever feasible.

5.3.2 Any required improvements, alterations or agreed routes may be secured through the use of planning obligations, as set out in Core Strategy policy ID1.

5.3.3 Larger scale development, including new or extended mineral workings and strategic waste management facilities, will operate over a relatively long period of time, such that significant transport effects might be felt for many years. Such development proposals should demonstrate how green infrastructure would be incorporated in the working schemes. The following examples could be appropriate:

1. site access arrangements, or routes of conveyors or pipelines being:
 - a. designed/laid out to avoid damage to sensitive habitats or heritage assets;
 - b. designed/laid out to provide cycle links or footpaths upon reclamation of the site;
 - c. landscaped and/or enhanced to promote biodiversity; and
 - d. drained using SuDs methods;
 2. providing nature reserves and/or floristically rich roadside verges and sidings;
 3. implementing flood compensation measures or balancing ponds within an ecological framework.
- 5.3.4 Appropriate planting enables carbon sequestration, air pollutant absorption, aesthetic improvement and increased biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Wetland areas, used to store and slow down storm water and run-off, can also absorb carbon dioxide and reduce the pollutant load in road runoff. Such elements can provide a contribution to offsetting carbon emissions caused by minerals and waste related traffic, and such measures should be included as appropriate in development proposals. These elements may be acceptably located off-site.
- 5.3.5 Considering the whole life of the site at the application stage will enable a sustainable transport strategy to be put in place at the earliest opportunity. This approach can influence the overall design of the site, for example identifying appropriate locations for footpaths or parking areas for the proposed after-use that can be incorporated as the site is developed.

5.4 Environmental Quality and Local Distinctiveness – Core Strategy policies SS6; LD1; LD2; LD3; and LD4

- 5.4.1 Good design requires full consideration of the surrounding environment, its constraints and the opportunities for enhancement, including change for the better. A comprehensive approach, addressing exploration, construction, operation, buildings and machinery and people and place, across the lifetime of the site and through its aftercare, will enable sustainable development to be realised.
- 5.4.2 The consideration of cumulative or in-combination effects can be a legal requirement, for example as in Environmental Impact and Habitats Regulations Assessments. Even where this level of assessment is not required, 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.
- 5.4.3 All applications will be expected to incorporate robust measures to ensure that the proposed development does not cause an unacceptable adverse impact 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;
 - 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.

Landscape and townscape – Core Strategy policy LD1

5.4.4 Due to their potential size, and location, minerals and waste sites have the potential to make landscape scale change; a term commonly used to refer to action that covers a large spatial scale, usually addressing a range of ecosystem processes, conservation objectives and land uses.

5.4.5 Landscape scale conservation is characterised by the pursuit of multiple benefits across a defined area (e.g. water quality, biodiversity and access). The best examples also make links to wider economic and social priorities, where enhancing nature can provide benefits to the local economy and quality of life. There are strong links between the landscape scale approach and an 'ecosystems approach', which encourages an integrated approach to land management, considering the costs and benefits of land use decisions, and pursuing those that minimise risks and maximise opportunities for people, for nature and for the economy.²³

5.4.6 This might include measures such as:

- 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.

Biodiversity and geodiversity – Core Strategy policy LD2

5.4.7 A management strategy associated with a minerals or waste development may include a buffer within the development site to protect vulnerable features. The size and shape of the buffer will be defined on a site-by-site basis dependent on the attributes of the feature. Conversely, where greater benefit would be realised, for example through improved connectivity between habitats, it may be appropriate to work close to identified features.

5.4.8 The Core Strategy recognises that its soils are an essential element of the geodiversity of Herefordshire. The soils and geodiversity of Herefordshire underpin the agriculture and tourism

²³ From, The Natural Choice, Natural Environment White Paper, 2011

industries. Recognising that the winning and working of mineral in particular is likely to take place on greenfield sites, it is appropriate to consider soil quality in more detail.

- 5.4.9 The Agricultural Land Classification provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable sustainable choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. The system classifies land into five grades with the 'best and most versatile land' defined as grades 1, 2 and 3a. Development proposals should prioritise the use of areas of poorer quality land, especially where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary.
- 5.4.10 Planning applications should consider the following matters 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;
 - whether alternative land of lower agricultural value has considerations which outweigh the adverse impact upon agricultural land quality.
- 5.4.11 Protection of the original soils removed prior to mineral extraction should always be a priority. 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. Reference may be made to guidance published by Defra, including: 'Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites'; and the series 'Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils'.
- 5.4.12 Reclamation schemes should incorporate remediation activities and after-use proposals that optimise the storage and use of best and most versatile soils. It is not necessary for high quality land to be restored to agricultural use, but restoration and land use following mineral development should safeguard a site's long-term agricultural potential. Alternatively, it may be more beneficial for an area previously identified as best and most versatile agricultural land to be restored to another purpose, if this enables improved reclamation elsewhere on site. Reference should be made to 'Guidance for the Successful Reclamation of Mineral and Waste Sites', Defra (2004).
- 5.4.13 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. Agriculture and biodiversity enhancement/ habitat creation need not be incompatible land uses. A balance should be achieved between current and future agricultural need, site-specific biodiversity value and/ or potential, and other considerations. Well-designed agricultural restoration can still deliver significant benefits for biodiversity in the form of hedgerows, lakes and ponds, habitat features and small woodlands
- 5.4.14 Site reclamation will be expected to contribute at a landscape scale towards Biodiversity Action Plan targets, promoting the priorities of Herefordshire's Biodiversity Action Plans, 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. Water features in agricultural reclamation can contribute to agricultural irrigation, biodiversity,

flood alleviation and storage, and landscape enhancement in a multi- functional way, and should all be considered.

5.4.15 Minerals and waste development proposals will 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;
- creating links beyond the site boundary into the wider landscape.

Green infrastructure – Core Strategy policy LD3

5.4.16 As recognised in the Core Strategy, green infrastructure is a practical way to consider sustainable development. The preferred areas of search for minerals development and the spatial strategy for waste development reflect the priority areas of the green infrastructure concept diagram (see Core Strategy Figure 5.3). This overlap means that minerals and waste development have a good reference and potential to deliver integrated benefits on site and at a landscape scale.

5.4.17 Incorporating green infrastructure objectives will enable proposals to make a positive contribution to Herefordshire’s local character and distinctiveness, recognising the wider social, cultural and environmental benefits that multi-disciplined, integrated development can bring.

5.4.18 The delivery of green infrastructure can underpin the realisation of net gain from minerals and waste operations. This can be achieved at any time during the life of the site and should not be restricted to reclamation or after-use. The council will expect all opportunities for green infrastructure to be optimised and delivered throughout the life of the development proposed.

Historic environment and heritage assets – Core Strategy policy LD4

5.4.19 Minerals and waste development proposals should include a clear strategy for enhancing the historic environment character. Site reclamation and after-use may enable improved access to historic sites, enhance the setting of historic features (such as water meadows) reinstate historic features such as hedgerows, or provide on-site interpretation of the site and its history in association with publicly accessible areas.

5.4.20 Wet working of mineral sites may not be a viable option where there are potential archaeological assets, as this can significantly restrict the delivery of appropriate mitigation measures.

5.4.21 Historic England has published a number of documents useful to understand the significance of heritage assets and practical advice on how to incorporate the historic environment into

sustainable mineral working. One such document is titled 'Mineral Extraction and Archaeology: A Practice Guide'.

5.5 Addressing Climate Change

Core Strategy policy SS7

- 5.5.1 The built form of waste management facilities may more obviously align with the expectations of policy SS7, but minerals working can also make a significant impact.
- 5.5.2 Not least, minerals should be extracted efficiently. Development should propose to extract as much of the mineral as possible, whilst avoiding unacceptable harm and ensuring that a high quality of reclamation and afteruse can be achieved.
- 5.5.3 The winning and working of minerals, and some waste processing operations, is resource intensive. Reduced energy and water usage can be achieved through different ways, including good site design to reduce transport movements and circulating water within operations to reduce overall demand.
- 5.5.4 Buildings and plant can be designed to reduce resource requirements and consequent carbon emissions, for example through the use of ultra-low emission vehicles (including non-fossil fuels and electric vehicles) and renewable energy supply (including solar panels, open-loop ground source or surface water source heating and cooling systems). The council will expect increased resource efficiency measures in plant, buildings and operations in order to achieve climate change priorities.
- 5.5.5 Reclamation of sites also provides opportunities, for example in assisting ecological networks to be more resilient, enabling the movement of wildlife as it adapts to a changing climate. The after-use of a site can also deliver objectives to address climate change, for example creating a new habitat that also provides flood storage to alleviate risks elsewhere.

Resource Management, new policy SS8

- 5.5.6 Spatial planning goes beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function. This will include policies which can impact on land use by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but which are not capable of being delivered solely or mainly through the granting or refusal of planning permission and which may be implemented by other means.
- 5.5.7 The Core Strategy proposes substantial new development that should be delivered sustainably. Minerals and waste are key resources, their use and management affecting how sustainably the new development will be delivered. Sustainable design principles make efficient use of resource through location, design, positioning, specification and sourcing of materials, as well as improving the quality of development and enhancing their environmental performance.

Waste prevention

- 5.5.8 Waste prevention has clear links to spatial planning policy. Examples of waste prevention include buying goods without packaging, purchasing only the materials/services required and subsequently disposing of less waste. Longer life products reduce the need for replacements, which create waste in their own production. If communities are successful in reducing the

amount of waste produced, then the need for additional waste management facilities can be reduced.

- 5.5.9 Maintaining engagement with local authorities, businesses and community groups enables each sector of the community to act together, raising levels of awareness and understanding of waste issues. These initiatives can help inform investment and consumer decisions, helping to deliver the circular economy.
- 5.5.10 The draft MWLP can contribute positively through the promotion of waste prevention and reuse in new, waste and non-waste related, development, and in this way enable achievement of the circular economy in Herefordshire.
- 5.5.11 A circular economy is one where materials are retained in use at their highest value for as long as possible and are then re-used or recycled, leaving a minimum of residual waste. Herefordshire seeks to achieve a circular economy as this will save resources, increase the resource efficiency of the county's businesses, and help to reduce carbon emissions. The successful implementation of circular economy principles will help to reduce the volume of waste that Herefordshire produces. Waste management facilities are also an element of the circular economy, so long as the materials and/or energy recovered are put to beneficial uses.
- 5.5.12 Reuse has been practised throughout society for a long time and diverts materials from entering a waste stream. In recent years, the domestic reuse market has moved from the second-hand furniture/house clearance shops and returnable bottles, to charity shops and initiatives set up as small businesses. Car boot and jumble sales are probably the most common and well known form of waste reuse. Household Waste Recycling Centres and web-based exchange sites also provide opportunities for reuse. Exchange schemes could be developed on a multi-sector basis to encourage and increase reuse.

Resource audit

- 5.5.13 New development requires significant volumes of construction materials, and the facilities provided on site can affect how it performs through its operational lifetime. The planning system has a role to play encouraging the use of secondary or recycled construction materials and preventing waste generated in construction and redevelopment projects.
- 5.5.14 Any application for major development, defined as residential development of 10 units or more or 0.5ha or more, and all other development of 1ha or more will be required to be accompanied by a Resource Audit. Resource Audits will identify (quantifying where possible) the approach to materials used in construction, how waste will be minimised, what waste will be generated from the development and how this will be managed to promote the recovery of materials and/or energy from it. Such documents are expected to have an increasing role demonstrating how new development is delivered and managed in a sustainable manner; explicitly setting out how the use of raw materials will be minimised and how waste created can be reused, with priority given to the reuse of materials on site. Smaller applications, accompanied by Design and Access Statements, should include commentary on waste prevention measures.
- 5.5.15 In addition, new development should be designed to increase the potential for recycling waste. The details would be negotiated as relevant to each development proposal, but examples include: new residential development required to provide space for facilities for segregating and recycling waste; or to contribute (financially or through the provision of land) towards a household waste recycling centre. Industrial, commercial and retail development may be

required to provide more substantial waste segregation and collection facilities as part of the built development.

Policy SS8: Resource Management

The use of minerals and waste resources will be directed to contribute positively to addressing climate change through:

- 1. Herefordshire Council encouraging waste prevention through:**
 - a. promoting a more circular economy that improves resource efficiency and innovation to keep products and materials at their highest value for as long as possible;**
 - b. maintaining engagement with businesses, community groups, and the general public to raise levels of awareness and understanding of waste issues;**
 - c. working in partnership with other public bodies to ensure that waste prevention and the circular economy is addressed in all contracts for works and services; and**
 - d. leading by example in its activities.**
 - 2. the provision of a Resource Audit that identifies the approach to sourcing construction materials and the amount and type of waste which is expected to be produced by the development, both during the construction phase and once it is in use. The Resource Audit will set out how waste will be minimised and how it will be managed, in order to meet the strategic objective of driving waste management up the waste hierarchy. Information appropriate to the planning application shall be provided on the following matters:**
 - a. the steps to be taken to minimise the use of raw materials (including hazardous materials) in the construction phase, through sustainable design and the use of recycled or reprocessed materials;**
 - b. the steps to be taken to reduce, reuse and recycle waste (including hazardous wastes) that is produced through the construction phase;**
 - c. the type and volume of waste that the development will generate (both through the construction and operational phases);**
 - d. on-site waste recycling facilities to be provided (both through the construction and operational phases); and**
 - e. the steps to be taken to ensure the maximum diversion of waste from landfill (through recycling, composting and recovery) once the development is operational.**
-

5.6 Access to open space and recreation from minerals and waste development

Core Strategy policies OS1 to OS3

- 5.6.1 As recognised in the Core Strategy, open spaces and areas of outdoor recreation are enjoyed across Herefordshire and are an important element to people's quality of life. Mineral workings, waste sites and restored sites have an important contribution to make to the protection and enhancement of outdoor public access and recreation resources within Herefordshire.
- 5.6.2 Particularly for mineral sites, due to their location, they also have the potential to affect public rights of way. Consequently, **policy OS4** is relevant to minerals and waste development, in addition to Core Strategy policies OS1 to OS3.

Access to open space, new policy OS4

- 5.6.3 **Policy OS4** applies to all public rights of way and open spaces, whether definitive or permissive. Recreation assets will be expected to be natural or semi-natural, with a minimum of buildings and infrastructure; they might include community ownership areas (for example orchard or nature reserve) or mountain bike trails. Any potential for a greater level of built development is likely to require separate planning permission. The focus of **policy OS4** is on providing outdoor facilities from mineral workings and waste sites that benefit both wildlife and local communities.
- 5.6.4 Public access and recreation need not be restricted to the restoration phase and, mindful of the need for safety, should be made available at the earliest opportunity. Incorporating green infrastructure, proposals might include:
- simply making open spaces available to the public, which might be seeded and managed for wildlife and pollinator species;
 - providing access to archaeological or geodiversity assets, either across the site or as features along a route;
 - improving the route, surface or accessibility of rights of way or adding links to existing rights of way networks;
 - making outdoor areas accessible and engaging for people with disabilities;
 - providing information about the area and its significance; or
 - through providing new recreational assets that respect the surrounding environment.
- 5.6.5 Conversely, public access may not be appropriate, or may need to be restricted in some areas, for example due to safety hazards or to protect a particular habitat. These areas, and the reasons why public access is not appropriate, or needs to be restricted, should be made clear within the planning application.
- 5.6.6 The need to access mineral reserve, or deposit restoration material, and to implement appropriate safety measures may result in footpaths being temporarily or permanently diverted or, in exceptional circumstances, closed. Temporary diversions should follow the shortest route that delivers a suitable replacement and only be in place for the shortest duration required, which may not be the lifetime of the consent.
- 5.6.7 Footpaths are rooted in an historical and landscape context. A permanent diversion may sever important cultural links, but also brings the opportunity to improve a route that has been adversely affected, for example by flooding or a changed view. Permanent diversions should be

well designed, reflecting the local cultural and landscape context, to result in an enhancement to the rights of way network within Herefordshire. Enhancement can be achieved through improvements to the view from, surface of and/or route of the right of way, including making provision for disabled people.

- 5.6.8 Any closure of the right of way network, or existing open space, should be avoided. Where it is necessary, the council will expect compensatory provision to be made proportionate to the scale of the closure. This can include the provision of new or improved access or recreation facilities located off site. The council is clear that development should have the smallest impact as practicable and enhancement will be sought at every reasonable opportunity.

Policy OS4 Access to open space and recreation from minerals and waste development

1. **Planning permission will be granted for mineral development proposals that optimise opportunities to improve public access to open spaces, integrating green infrastructure as appropriate.**
2. **Development that affects a right of way or existing open space will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that:**
 - a. **any temporary diversion is designed to be for as short a distance and duration as practicable;**
 - b. **any permanent diversion is designed to achieve an enhanced route over that which was previously available; and**
 - c. **any closure occurs only in exceptional circumstances and compensatory provision is made.**

5.7 Sustainable design and energy efficiency – Core Strategy policy SD1

- 5.7.1 Policy SD1 applies to minerals and waste development. This section of the Draft MWLP supplements the Core Strategy by considering topics that are more specialised in relation to minerals and waste development.

Dust

- 5.7.2 Dust can arise from: mineral winning and working processes; the passage of vehicles over unpaved ground and dirt and debris tracked onto the public highway; handling dusty materials; mineral, soils and overburden movement; stockpiles and dusty surfaces.
- 5.7.3 If not properly controlled at source, dust can cause nuisance to people and businesses, and harm through deposition on property and farmland.
- 5.7.4 A dust assessment will be required where fugitive dust emissions are likely to cause a nuisance; atmospheric dispersion modelling may be required to determine whether there is a risk of health effects due to dust emissions. A separate dust assessment is not required where dust is addressed within an air quality assessment and/or health impact assessment as appropriate.
- 5.7.5 Reference should be made to appropriate advice, including that produced by the Institute of Air Quality Management: Guidance on the Assessment of Minerals Dust Impacts for Planning, May

2016; Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and constructions; Guidance on the Assessment of the Impacts of Construction on Air Quality and the Determination of their Significance, December 2011; and Guidance on Air Quality Monitoring in the Vicinity of Demolition and Construction Sites.

Odour

- 5.7.6 Particularly when handling biodegradable materials, waste management facilities can be a source of odour; though with good building design and operational practice it is readily capable of being controlled.
- 5.7.7 Mineral sites are unlikely to be a source of odour. However, there is potential for odour from water bodies on site, such as settlement and silt lagoons or restoration features, which are poorly designed or managed such that they become stagnant and odorous.
- 5.7.8 The council will expect all planning applications to identify any potential odour sources and to demonstrate how they will be managed effectively. The Environment Agency has issued guidance on odour that contains indicative benchmark levels for use in the assessment of potential impacts from industrial facilities subject to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2010). Further useful information may be gained from the Institute of Air Quality Management publication, Guidance on the Assessment of Odour for Planning, May 2014.

Vibration

- 5.7.9 Vibration associated with mineral operations is principally caused by lorry movements, particularly over uneven surfaces, or by blasting. Blasting can cause both ground vibration and air overpressure, which can be disturbing to the local community and harmful to wildlife habitats.
- 5.7.10 Where vibration, including air overpressure, is likely to occur, an assessment should be undertaken to demonstrate the extent of the impact and how it will be managed to an acceptable level.

Visual intrusion

- 5.7.11 Separately to the potential for landscape and/or visual impact, larger scale minerals and waste development can cause visual intrusion, an amenity concern, or be distracting to drivers, posing a road safety hazard.
- 5.7.12 The council will expect proposals to incorporate best practice measures to minimise the effects of visual intrusion; care should be taken to ensure that screening measures are appropriate and are not, in themselves, a source of visual intrusion.

Aviation safety

- 5.7.13 Modern waste management operations and the process of mineral extraction itself are unlikely to attract bird populations. On site infrastructure, such as settlement lagoons or open water bodies and reclamation to a nature reserve all have the potential to attract birds. Bird strike can cause significant damage to civil aviation and military aircraft. Most bird strikes occur at low altitudes affecting either low flying aircraft or aircraft taking-off or approaching an airfield.
- 5.7.14 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.

- 5.7.15 The Mineral Products Association document titled 'Mineral Sites and Bird Strike Hazard and Risk: Practice Guide for Mineral Development and Restoration within Aerodrome Safeguarding Areas', revised version published in May 2015, should be referenced.

Utilities

- 5.7.16 Planning applications should identify all existing and proposed utility services that cross, abut, or are adjacent to the proposed development site. The submitted details should demonstrate how such infrastructure would be protected, to ensure it remains operational and safe.
- 5.7.17 LinesearchbeforeUdig²⁴ is a free to use online search service that any individual can use to check their works against utility assets including underground and overhead pipelines and cables in the electricity, gas, high pressure fuel/oil, heating, water and fibre optic networks.

Land instability

- 5.7.18 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 can assist with stability and bring environmental benefit.
- 5.7.19 Unsafe ground conditions can be caused by water movement including changes in groundwater levels through de-watering, and increases in flow velocity at times of flood, which can cause scouring of pit sides, breaches of flood protection measures or erode banks of restored lakes. Good water management will integrate safety and environmental objectives.
- 5.7.20 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. Ensuring stability may require leaving unworked areas or margins within or around the site.
- 5.7.21 Overburden, mineral waste materials, and any other material or waste to be used in restoration, should be placed within the site to ensure that differential settlement does not occur, which could lead to instability in the future.
- 5.7.22 Coal has historically been worked in Herefordshire, in the far south of the county with the reserve largely contained within the Forest of Dean. It is the responsibility of the Coal Authority to map and monitor previous areas of extraction. Maps are available²⁵ on-line that show: surface coal resource areas; coal mining legacy areas; and coal mining risk areas. The area around Hope Mansell is identified as a high risk area and the Coal Authority should be consulted on certain types of development.

5.8 Renewable and low carbon energy generation – Core Strategy policy SD2

- 5.8.1 Waste management operations, including anaerobic digestion and incineration with energy recovery, are recognised as providing a supply of renewable/low carbon energy. The benefits can be optimised by providing heat as well as electricity. Policy W7 makes clear the expectation that these opportunities should be pursued.

²⁴ <https://www.linesearchbeforeudig.co.uk/>

²⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coalfield-plans-herefordshire-county-and-district-council-area>

5.9 Sustainable water management and water resources – Core Strategy policy SD3

- 5.9.1 Whilst waste processing facilities will require water supply and land reclamation can affect future water management. Quarrying is an activity that can physically remove aquifers and the usable groundwater resources contained within aquifers, which may lead to impacts on the water environment through altered groundwater flows.
- 5.9.2 Proposals for minerals extraction and waste management should ensure protection of water resources, particularly when river abstraction and/or groundwater sources may be affected.
- 5.9.3 The potential for impact on water quantity, quality and flow should be assessed through hydrological and hydro-geological 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.

5.10 Transportation within sites – new policy MT2

- 5.10.1 Minerals often need to be moved around within quarries, from the point at which they are extracted (the working face) to the processing plant, stockpiles, or areas where they will be treated or used to make product for sale. Other materials can be brought to site and may be deposited in one place for storage prior to their use.
- 5.10.2 A similar range of movements is also seen at landfill sites. This is particularly relevant in Herefordshire, where landfill is likely to be limited to inert wastes being used to restore former quarries.
- 5.10.3 All internal transport modes and routes need good design to reduce landscape, environmental and amenity impacts. The use of natural attributes, such as following an existing hedgerow, or wooded or lower lying area within the site, should be optimised, whilst sensitive or visually exposed land, or important landscape or historic features, should be avoided. Noise, dust and vibration can all have an adverse impact on both the environment and local communities. Flood risk on site should be considered to ensure there is a safe route from the working faces to the site exit or refuge point.
- 5.10.4 There are various options available to operators for the efficient movement of minerals and materials within sites, with resultant reductions in fuel use, carbon emissions, noise, dust and vibration effects. Electric vehicles, conveyors and pipelines offer environmental and amenity benefits over the use of fossil-fuelled vehicles as they are generally more energy efficient, generate reduced levels of emissions or fumes and tend to be quieter.
- 5.10.5 Considering the site in the context of green infrastructure principles can enable an appropriate solution to be found and help to deliver sustainable development; examples include:

1. internal transport routes designed and laid out to provide cycle links or footpaths upon reclamation of the site (and earlier where practicable);
 2. early landscaping of internal transport routes, to enable planting to mature pending reclamation of the site; and
 3. transport routes designed to protect existing wildlife movement and to enhance wildlife corridors.
- 5.10.6 Each site will have different spatial influences on transport design, requirements for the material to be moved, and receptors. An assessment should be undertaken to demonstrate that all relevant factors have been considered, with the level of detail within that assessment proportionate to the scale of development proposed. Development proposals should consider which transport mode (i.e. vehicular, conveyor, or pipeline) and route is most appropriate, finding the balance between practicability, energy and carbon efficiency, reduced impacts, integrated design and safety.

Policy MT2 Transport within sites

Planning permission will be granted for minerals or waste development where it is demonstrated that the arrangements for the transport of mineral, waste or other materials within the site minimises the potential for adverse impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions, and optimises the opportunities for green infrastructure. The use of conveyors and/or pipelines is required where they would be appropriate to the circumstances of the site and the nature of the material to be moved. Electric powered vehicles would be considered an appropriate alternative.

5.11 Reclamation of sites – new policy SD5

- 5.11.1 Mineral and waste developments can make a particular contribution to the environmental quality and local distinctiveness of Herefordshire through site reclamation and restoration.
- 5.11.2 The NPPF states that land worked for minerals should be reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high-quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites should take place. It also states that bonds and other financial guarantees to underpin planning conditions should only be sought in exceptional circumstances. These principles also apply to the reclamation of waste sites.
- 5.11.3 The nature of minerals development, which often involves permanent or long-term physical change to land, sometimes on a substantial scale, means that it is important that consideration is given to how sites are reclaimed and used once workings have finished. In contrast, many waste management facilities, particularly modern developments not involving landfill, are buildings located in urban areas that do not give rise to such considerations. However, the development of former mineral sites or greenfield sites for waste use, which may include landfill or temporary plant and buildings, can lead to the need for site reclamation. Whilst the main focus of this section is on minerals development, the policy it contains is also intended to be applied to relevant forms of waste development.
- 5.11.4 As waste is managed more sustainably, the traditional link between mineral working and reclamation back to original ground levels through landfill has been largely broken. There is no

non-hazardous landfill in Herefordshire and this is likely to continue as new arrangements for managing residual waste arising in the plan area are implemented. Increasingly, inert material is also being diverted away from landfill, as it is subject to more re-use and recycling. However, the quality of construction and demolition waste recovery is such that improved materials, which can meet quality protocols for soils, can now be used to reclaim former mineral workings and other sites to a higher standard overall.

- 5.11.5 All new mineral workings are only likely to receive planning permission where they provide for the restoration and aftercare of the site to a beneficial use, in a phased manner. The Town and Country Planning Act (as amended) gives the council, as the mineral planning authority, the ability to apply a restoration condition requiring such steps to be taken as may be necessary to bring the land to the required standard for use for agriculture, forestry or amenity. However, reclamation provides the opportunity for delivering a range of benefits to the environment and/or amenity and the council will welcome well-considered schemes that will deliver green infrastructure priorities on a landscape scale. A number of examples have been provided throughout the Draft MWLP.
- 5.11.6 Reclamation schemes should take into account the location and context of the site, including the implications of other significant permitted or proposed development in the area and the range of environmental and other assets and infrastructure that may be affected, including any important interactions between those assets and infrastructure. Reclamation schemes should take account of the proximity and purpose of airfields and be designed accordingly. They should be developed following discussion with local communities and other relevant stakeholders and, where practicable, the proposals should reflect the outcome of those discussions.
- 5.11.7 Phased working and reclamation of the site will enable impacts to be reduced and benefits to be delivered sooner. Consequently, phasing is consequently expected to form a part of any mineral working programme and is seen as one element of site reclamation. Phased working and reclamation should take care to avoid sterilisation of any viable mineral resource.
- 5.11.8 The council will require planning applications to present evidence of a practicable, long-term reclamation strategy that will reduce adverse effects, optimise benefits and which may extend beyond the boundary of the former operational site. As a starting point, developers should refer to the priorities identified in Key Development Criteria established for the allocated sites and the Green Infrastructure Strategy in place. Reclamation schemes should be comprehensive, addressing all relevant details. For example: the removal of all plant and infrastructure; the retention of appropriate surface water features; the proposed reinstatement of soils; planting proposals; and the provision of information to enhance the experience of those enjoying the restored site.
- 5.11.9 In all cases a high standard of reclamation will be expected, that integrates green infrastructure and leaves a positive legacy. Defra's Guidance for Successful Reclamation of Mineral and Waste Sites²⁶ is a useful reference document for designing reclamation schemes. Long-term management beyond the statutory five-year aftercare period will be required where appropriate, for example to establish a new habitat or to bring community benefit.

²⁶ Guidance for Successful Reclamation of Mineral and Waste Sites, Defra, 2004. <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090318074725/http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/land-use/reclamation/guidance-full.pdf>

Commitment for such provision will be gained through a planning obligation, as set out in Core Strategy policy ID1.

Policy SD5: Site Reclamation

Development that requires reclamation will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposal incorporates measures for safe working and satisfactory reclamation, including its delivery, at the earliest opportunity, and phasing where appropriate, to a beneficial after-use of the required standard. Satisfactory reclamation schemes shall accompany such applications and include the following:

- a. **proposals that take account of the geography of the site, its surroundings, and any development and development plan policies relevant to the area;**
- b. **proposals that deliver landscape scale benefits and/or integrated green infrastructure appropriate to its location;**
- c. **evidence to show that the scheme incorporates best practice advice, is practical to deliver and achievable;**
- d. **demonstration that the proposal responds to the existing (or likely future) characteristics of the site, its context and surrounding area;**
- e. **a Reclamation Plan, setting out the management requirements and process of returning the land to the agreed after-use and standard which includes both the restoration and the aftercare periods; and**
- f. **provision for a 5-year period of aftercare, as a minimum.**

Where appropriate, a planning obligation will be sought in order to secure the after-use, long-term management and maintenance of the site.

6. Minerals

6.1 Minerals Strategy

- 6.1.1 At the time of plan preparation, Herefordshire hosted: one active sand and gravel quarry; two active crushed rock quarries; and six active building stone delves. Two areas had previously been worked for coal and there was one Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence Block (So51a) covering a small part of the south of the county.
- 6.1.2 Similar to the waste hierarchy, a minerals hierarchy presents the favoured approach to mineral supply. The most sustainable option is to reduce the amount of mineral used, followed by use of secondary and recycled minerals, with the extraction of primary mineral likely to have the greatest impact. The Draft MWLP will help to influence all development so that minerals provision can move up the hierarchy.
- 6.1.3 Secondary aggregates are minerals that are produced as a by-product of other mining or quarrying activities or as a by-product of an industrial process. There is little or no secondary aggregate production within Herefordshire. The limestone is predominantly crushed for use as a primary aggregate and building stone offcuts from the sandstone delves is used in their restoration.
- 6.1.4 Recycled aggregates arise from several sources, notably from the demolition of buildings or from civil engineering works, such as asphalt planings from road resurfacing and railway track ballast. Recycling aggregates usually involves the removal of unwanted or inappropriate material such as fines, wood, plastic and metal, and some form of treatment (crushing, washing and/or screening) to reach industry standards for its re-use. There is production of recycled aggregate, with expansion potential, and this is further promoted in waste policy, in section 9.
- 6.1.5 Despite seeking to reduce demand, the extraction of primary minerals for construction is likely to continue to be required throughout the plan period, and **policy M1** makes commitment to identifying those areas where such development should be directed.
- 6.1.6 It is widely recognised that neither conventional nor unconventional hydrocarbon extraction is likely to occur over the plan period. Coal working in Herefordshire has ceased and shows little sign of recommencing. The Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence offered for block SO51a was not issued; however, it may be made available again within the plan period.
- 6.1.7 Further, the extraction of particularly coal, for energy does not fit easily with the climate change aspirations of the Core Strategy. Nevertheless, both conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons are included in **policy M1**, to retain flexibility should either resource become workable and of interest in the future.
- 6.1.8 Because mineral resources may be substantial, it is possible for more than one quarry to operate within a single reserve area, either through extensions or new quarries opening up in the vicinity of an existing site. This is generally seen to be advantageous, as it enables the resource to be worked efficiently and for infrastructure (conveyors, processing plant etc.) to be shared. Consequently, the policy priority will be to achieve efficient use of land, extracting the most mineral with the least adverse impact and avoiding a proliferation of built development.
- 6.1.9 The sterilisation of minerals occurs when other non-minerals developments take place on, or close to, mineral deposits and render them incapable of being worked. The council will seek to

ensure that, where practicable, known mineral resources are not sterilised or encroached upon by other forms of development. Figure 7 sets out the mineral reserve and key elements of infrastructure safeguarded by **policy M1**. **Policy M2** provides further detail.

6.1.10 The legislative requirements of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 and the Environment Act 1995 enable the review of old mineral permissions, commonly referred to as 'ROMP'. The ROMP provides an opportunity for the mineral planning authority to ensure mineral sites continue to work under modern conditions that reflect sustainability aspirations and offer appropriate environmental protection. Subject to certain legal provisions, the ROMP determination process is conducted in a similar way to the processing of a planning application. Consequently, the development plan, including the Draft MWLP, and other material considerations will apply in determining ROMP.

Policy M1: Minerals Strategy

The sustainable winning and working of mineral resources in Herefordshire will be delivered through:

- a. identifying sources of alternatives to primary mineral resources, and encouraging the development of facilities to process alternative materials either at the point of production or other suitable locations;**
- b. ensuring new-build and refurbishment developments contribute to the efficient use of resources, increasing the proportion of recycled materials used as an alternative to primary mineral where appropriate;**
- c. allocating preferred areas and sites that are considered appropriate in principle for construction minerals development;**
- d. establishing appropriate criteria to consider development proposals for unconventional hydrocarbons;**
- e. restricting the extraction coal to within the Surface Coal Resource areas and requiring compelling reasons to demonstrate why such development is necessary, acceptable and that it provides national, local or community benefits which clearly outweigh the likely impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions associated with both the extraction and use of coal for energy;**
- f. the efficient use of land, including shared use of associated infrastructure where quarries are worked in close proximity; and**
- g. identifying mineral resources and infrastructure within Herefordshire and safeguarding them from the encroachment of incompatible uses and sterilisation by built development.**

Safeguarding

6.1.11 Because minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make best use of them to secure their long-term conservation. The National Planning Policy Framework requires Minerals Safeguarding Areas to be defined in order that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not

needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, whilst not creating a presumption that resources defined will be worked.

6.1.12 Figure 7 presents the Minerals Safeguarding Areas for Herefordshire, incorporating: areas of reserve indicated by the British Geological Survey data; surface coal resource areas from the Coal Authority; currently permitted quarries and their associated infrastructure; the operating rail head at Moreton-on-Lugg; and the disused railhead at Moreton Business Park.

6.1.13 Non-minerals development could potentially sterilise the minerals resource where it takes place over shallow deposits or where the nature of the non-minerals use is classed as a sensitive receptor when in close proximity to extraction activities. In such instances, extraction of the mineral prior to the proposed development will be encouraged, where this would not significantly adversely affect the timing and viability of the non-minerals development. Any such prior extraction proposals must themselves comply with national and development plan policy.

6.1.14 Applicants for non-mineral development that fall within the minerals safeguarding areas will be required to submit an assessment of the effect of the proposed development on the mineral resource beneath or adjacent to the site of the development. This is often termed a mineral resource assessment. The assessment will provide the appropriate level of information to demonstrate to the council that the relevant mineral interests have been adequately considered and that known mineral resources will be appropriately protected from being sterilised or unduly restricted by other forms of development occurring on or close to the resource.

6.1.15 **Policy M2** applies to all minerals resources, regardless of whether they have been permitted to be extracted. Identification of these areas does not imply that any application for the working of minerals within them will be granted planning permission.

Policy M2: Safeguarding of Minerals Resources from Sterilisation

Within the minerals safeguarding areas, non-minerals development will only be permitted in the following circumstances:

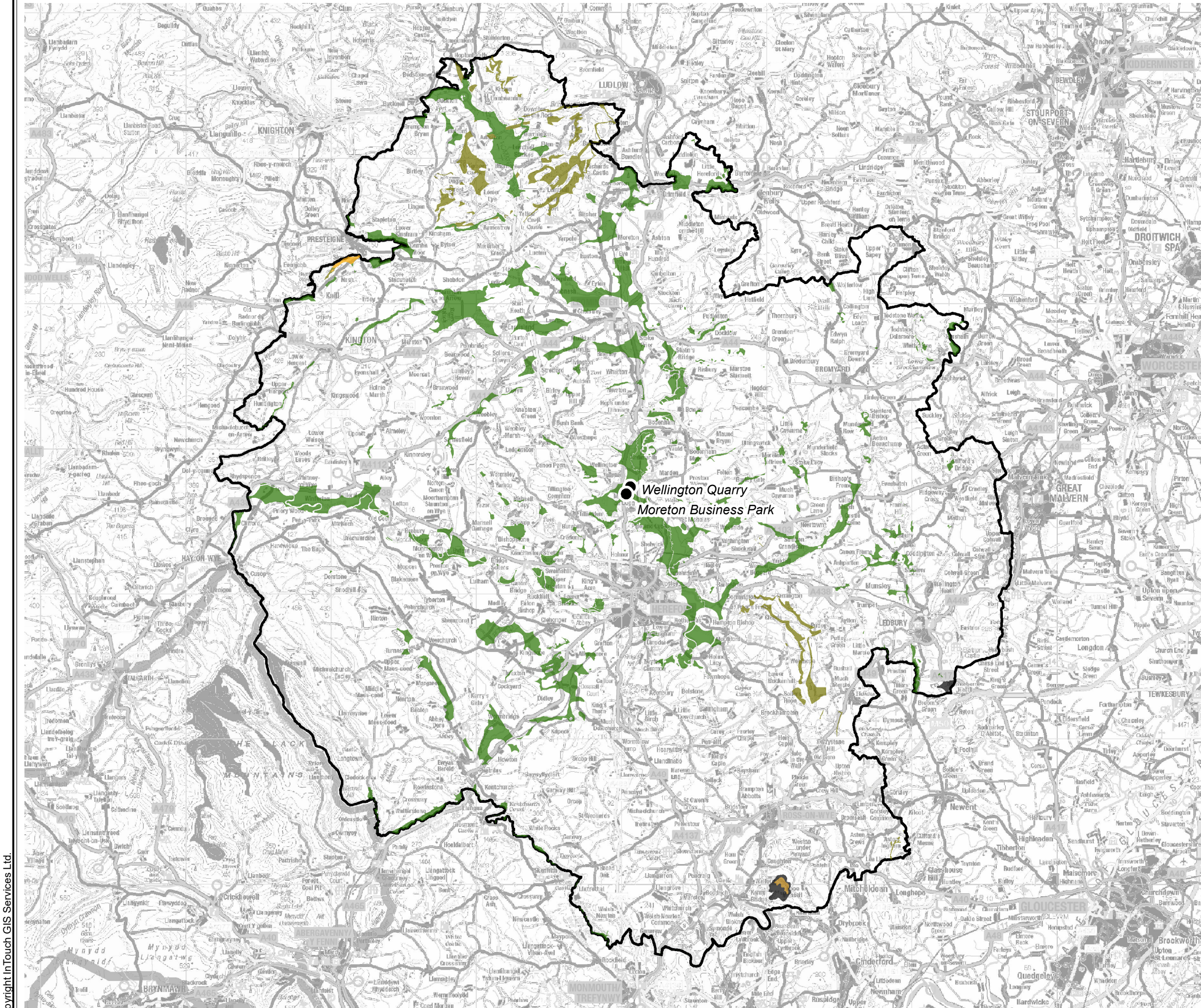
- a. the development would not sterilise or prejudice the future extraction of the mineral resource because it can be demonstrated that the resource: is not of economic value; occurs at depth and can be extracted in an alternative way; does not exist or has been sufficiently depleted by previous extraction; or**
 - b. the mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to non –minerals development without materially affecting the timing and viability of the non-minerals development; or**
 - c. the non-minerals development is of a temporary nature that can be completed and the site returned to a condition that does not prevent mineral extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed; or**
 - d. the need for the non-mineral development is strategic and can be demonstrated to outweigh the need for the mineral resource.**
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Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Figure 7
Minerals Safeguarded Areas and Rail Heads

Mineral Reserves

- Brick clay
- Coal
- Limestone (including dolomite)
- Sandstone: Pre-Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian Greywacke
- Superficial sand/gravel
- Rail Heads



6.2 Aggregates

- 6.2.1 Aggregate minerals are primarily used in construction, including concrete manufacture, road building and landscaping. The primary aggregate minerals extracted in Herefordshire are sand and gravel and crushed rock (limestone).

Sand and gravel

- 6.2.2 The MNA Update 2018 forecasts a range of future sand and gravel demand, indicating that the landbank at 2031 could be less than 7 years. In addition, at the time of preparing the Draft MWLP, Wellington Quarry was the only active sand and gravel quarry, with current planning conditions requiring that the winning and working of minerals must cease by 31 December 2026. Therefore, regardless of which forecast most closely represents the real outcome for sand and gravel over the lifetime of the Draft MWLP, there will be a need for additional reserves of sand and gravel to be permitted to meet demand from 2027 onwards.
- 6.2.3 Data released by the British Geological Survey for year 2014, indicates that Herefordshire was 40% to 50% self-sufficient in sand and gravel provision. This data is not verified, but provides the most comprehensive indication of mineral movements currently available. If Herefordshire were self-sufficient in sand and gravel production, reserves would fall even faster, to zero by 2025.
- 6.2.4 It would be advantageous for Herefordshire to increase its level of self-sufficiency (not least to reduce the environmental burdens from transport) and to make a reasonable contribution to the Managed Aggregate Supply System.
- 6.2.5 To ensure that an adequate supply (i.e. to maintain a landbank of at least 7 years) is available at the end of 2031 additional resources may be needed, depending on the actual scale of demand that arises. The Local Aggregates Assessment will be updated regularly, and it may be reasonably expected that the demand forecast may change over the plan period in response to new information. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to specify, at this stage, the precise level of further provision that may be needed in order to maintain a minimum 7-year landbank at 31 December 2031. This is a matter that can be addressed in monitoring of the Draft MWLP and via the five-year reviews, at which time the level of additional provision can be assessed, through the annual review of the Local Aggregates Assessment, with additional site allocations brought forward if necessary.
- 6.2.6 Recognising the advantages of working an area efficiently, sites for future sand and gravel extraction are allocated adjacent or near to existing permitted sites. Sand and gravel reserves at: Upper Lyde (Site M03); Shobdon (Site M04); and Wellington (Site M05) are all allocated in the Draft MWLP. Using information provided in the Call for Sites submissions these allocations would provide a minimum of nearly 3 million tonnes of sand and gravel resource.
- 6.2.7 In addition, **policy M3** identifies preferred areas of search, new operations in these areas of search would add to the robustness of sand and gravel supply within Herefordshire. Sand and gravel working is to be focussed within the large expanse of reserve that wraps around the northern and eastern sides of Hereford and at Shobdon, to the north-west of Hereford.

Policy M3: The winning and working of sand and gravel

1. **Total provision for sand and gravel over the plan period to 31 December 2031 will be 4.5 million tonnes. Additional provision shall be made through a mid-term review if necessary to maintain a landbank of at least seven years for sand and gravel at 31 December 2031 based on an annual rate of provision to be determined through the review.**
2. **In order of preference, sand and gravel extraction shall be permitted at the following locations:**
 - A. **Allocated sites – subject to the key development criteria set out at Annex A:**
 - **Upper Lyde Quarry, extension and adjacent sites; and/or**
 - **Shobdon Quarry, extension; and/or**
 - **Wellington Quarry, extension and adjacent sites.**
 - B. **Preferred areas of search:**
 - **Area B of the Key Diagram; and/or**
 - **Area C of the Key Diagram.**
 - C. **Other areas of search, where it is demonstrated to be necessary to maintain an adequate landbank or there is a shortfall in production capacity available in the preferred locations.**

Crushed rock (limestone)

- 6.2.8 The MNA Update 2018 makes two forecasts of future crushed rock demand, indicating that the landbank at 2031 could remain more than 10 years. However, at the time of preparing the Draft MWLP, there were two active crushed rock quarries in Herefordshire, with the planning conditions for Leinthall Quarry requiring that the winning and working of minerals at that site must cease by 31 August 2027. There may remain a need for additional reserves of crushed rock to be permitted to meet demand from 2027 onwards.
- 6.2.9 Data released by the British Geological Survey for year 2014, indicates that Herefordshire was 20% to 30% self-sufficient in crushed rock provision. This data is not verified, but provides the most comprehensive indication of mineral movements currently available. If Herefordshire were self-sufficient in crushed rock production, reserves of crushed rock would have fallen to zero in 2024.
- 6.2.10 It would be advantageous for Herefordshire to increase its level of self-sufficiency (not least to reduce the environmental burdens from transport) and to make a reasonable contribution to the Managed Aggregate Supply System.
- 6.2.11 To ensure that an adequate supply (i.e. to maintain a landbank of at least 10 years) is available at the end of 2031 additional resources may be needed, depending on the actual scale of demand that arises. The Local Aggregates Assessment will be updated regularly, and it may be reasonably expected that the demand forecast may change over the plan period in response to new information. Therefore, it is not considered appropriate to specify, at this stage, the precise level of further provision that may be needed in order to maintain a minimum 10 year landbank

at 31 December 2031. This is a matter that can be addressed in monitoring of the Draft MWLP and via the five-year reviews, at which time the level of additional provision can be assessed, through the annual review of the Local Aggregates Assessment, with additional site allocations brought forward if necessary.

- 6.2.12 Recognising the advantages of working an area efficiently, sites for future crushed rock extraction are allocated adjacent or near to existing permitted sites. Crushed rock reserves at Leinthall (Site M07) and Perton (Site M10) quarries are both proposed to be allocated in the MWLP. Within the submissions made in response to the Call for Sites 2016, the reserve across Site M07b is around 7 million tonnes. Information has not been provided to date on the reserve at Site M10b. In addition, preferred areas of search have been identified for working limestone reserves within Herefordshire.
- 6.2.13 In addition, **policy M4** identifies preferred areas of search, new operations in these areas of search would add to the robustness of crushed rock supply within Herefordshire. Limestone working will be preferred within the reserves located to the north of the county and to the east of Hereford.

Policy M4: The winning and working of crushed rock (limestone)

1. **Total provision for crushed rock over the plan period to 31 December 2031 will be 7.5 million tonnes. Additional provision shall be made through a mid-term review, if necessary, to maintain a landbank of at least ten years for crushed rock at 31 December 2030, based on an annual rate of provision to be determined through the review.**
2. **In order of preference, crushed rock extraction shall be permitted at the following locations:**
 - A. **Allocated sites – subject to the key development criteria set out at Annex A:**
 - **Leinthall Quarry extension; and/or**
 - **Perton Quarry extension.**
 - B. **Preferred areas of search:**
 - **Area A of the Key Diagram; and/or**
 - **Area D of the Key Diagram.**
 - C. **Other areas of search, where it is demonstrated to be necessary in order to maintain an adequate landbank or there is a shortfall in production capacity available in the preferred locations.**

6.3 Building Stone

- 6.3.1 Building stone includes material used for roofing, walling, flagstones or ornamental purposes. The primary building stone extracted in Herefordshire is sandstone.
- 6.3.2 The supply of building stone is important for the upkeep of traditional buildings and historic assets and for ensuring new development reflects the character of its surroundings. It is therefore important in maintaining and enhancing the overall quality of the environment in the plan area.
- 6.3.3 Within Herefordshire, sandstone is worked in small quarries called delves, generally by hand, with just one or a few workers on site. They are backfilled with the soils, overburden and mineral wastes such that their impact should be minimised. This approach should be continued, ensuring a sustainable supply of local building stone remains available throughout the plan period.
- 6.3.4 The available evidence suggests that 2,000 tonnes per year has been a consistent level of demand over the past few years. Some of the operators visited indicated that the current area of working was coming to a close and the delve would either be restored, or they would seek an extension. All of the delves are subject to conditions limiting their working period, some of which cease within the plan period. There are six building stone delves currently permitted and active, all of which would be suitable in principle to gain an extension of time to enable extraction to be completed. Three of these sites would also be suitable, in principle, for a lateral extension or deepening of workings.
- 6.3.5 New sites might be appropriate where the building stone is important to ensure the preservation of local distinctiveness, the workings are small-scale (reflecting the historic pattern of sandstone extraction) and the proposal is limited to the production of non-aggregate materials (principally building stone, dimension stone and roof tiles). Any overburden (the soil and rock layers overlying the sandstone) and spoil (the offcuts and residues remaining from working the building stone) shall be retained on site and used for its reclamation.

Policy M5: The winning and working of sandstone

1. **In order to maintain an adequate supply of sandstone to preserve local distinctiveness within Herefordshire, proposals will be permitted for:**
 - a. **the extension of time for completion of extraction at permitted sandstone extraction sites;**
 - b. **the lateral extension and/or deepening of workings at the following permitted sandstone extraction sites, subject to the key development criteria set out at Annex A:**
 - **Black Hill Delve; and/or**
 - **Llandraw Delve; and/or**
 - **Westonhill Wood Delves;**
 - c. **the opening of new sites for sandstone extraction at appropriate locations, including micro-scale extraction on or adjacent to existing historic buildings or structures and new build developments, where the extracted materials will only be used in connection with the identified project.**

2. **Such proposals will be permitted where:**
 - a. **the need for the material for the preservation of local distinctiveness, particularly features of local historic or architectural interest, listed and vernacular buildings or archaeological sites, outweighs any material harm extraction might cause to matters of acknowledged importance.**
 - b. **the proposed workings are small scale; and**
 - c. **the proposal is limited to the production of non-aggregate materials, with any overburden and spoils retained on-site and used for its reclamation.**
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6.4 Borrow Pits

- 6.4.1 In the course of large-scale civil engineering construction projects, there is often a need to develop off-site extraction for a variety of reasons. Following extraction, such excavations, known as borrow pits, are infilled with unusable materials from the construction project. It is often only possible to consider the suitability of areas for use as borrow pits once the nature, scale and timing of a project is known. Such uncertainties may extend into the construction phase itself; road building for instance often encounters unexpected problems.
 - 6.4.2 Applications for borrow pits within Herefordshire are not expected to be numerous, but they are expected to result in a high quality of development. It is essential that borrow pits are controlled and subject to the same environmental considerations as other mineral workings. If permission is granted, such sites will be conditioned to ensure that their reclamation is achieved as part of the main construction project, and that their aftercare and after-use are properly controlled.
-

Policy M6: Borrow Pits

Proposals for the development of borrow pits will be permitted if:

- a. **granting planning permission would create significant environmental benefits that outweigh any material planning objections;**
 - b. **the borrow pit lies on or adjacent to the proposed construction project and the extracted materials will only be used in connection with the specific construction project with which they are associated;**
 - c. **the site can be restored to a state capable of beneficial after-use without the use of imported material, other than that generated on the associated construction project; and**
 - d. **the life of the borrow pit is commensurate with the duration of the associated construction project.**
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6.5 Unconventional Hydrocarbons

- 6.5.1 There is just one area of unconventional hydrocarbon resource in Herefordshire, located in the south of the county around Whitchurch, Welsh Newton, Goodrich, Kerne Bridge, Hope Mansell

and Marstow. The area was identified for a Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) reference SO51a by the Oil and Gas Authority.

- 6.5.2 The area is classified as coalbed methane, although the PEDL is for any hydrocarbon and is not limited to this classification. Coalbed methane is produced during the process of coal formation. The gas is either adsorbed onto the coal or dispersed into pore spaces around the coal seam. By drilling a network of wells, the gas can be extracted from coal seams which have not been mined. The gas is typically extracted via the well through natural pressure release, or through the pumping of water from the seam in order to reduce pressure.
- 6.5.3 There are three main phases of onshore hydrocarbon development: exploration, appraisal and production. However, the distinctions between the phases may not always be clear-cut; for example, hydraulic fracturing for unconventional gas can be associated with each of the main phases.
- Exploration - seeks to acquire geological data to establish whether hydrocarbons are present. It may involve 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional seismic surveys, exploratory drilling, well testing and completion and, in the case of shale gas, hydraulic fracturing. Typically, site construction, drilling and site clearance will take between a minimum of 18 months, but may take longer, especially if hydraulic fracturing²⁷ is involved and, in the case of coalbed methane, removal of water from the coal seam.
 - Appraisal - takes place following exploration when the existence of oil or gas has been proved, but the operator needs further information about the extent of the deposit or its production characteristics to establish whether it can be commercially exploited. The appraisal phase can take several forms including additional seismic work, longer-term flow tests, or the drilling of further wells. This may involve additional drilling at another site away from the exploration site, or additional wells at the original exploration site. It may also involve further hydraulic fracturing, followed by flow testing to establish the size of the resource and its potential productive life. The size and complexity of the hydrocarbon reservoir involved will be important in determining the approach taken.
 - Production - normally involves the drilling of a number of wells at one or more well pads. These may be at well pads used at the exploratory and/or appraisal phases, or from one or more new well pads. Associated equipment and infrastructure, such as pipelines and processing facilities needed to clean or compress or store gas may also be required. Production can be up to around 20 years. The production stage is likely to require the periodic maintenance of wells, which may require use of drilling equipment.
- 6.5.4 The NPPF indicates that great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and AONB, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The Infrastructure Act 2015 prevents hydraulic fracturing activity taking place anywhere at a depth less than 1000m below the ground surface. Secondary legislation to the Infrastructure Act 2015 prevents high volume hydraulic fracturing beneath National Parks, AONB, protected groundwater source areas and World Heritage sites, unless it would take place at a depth in excess of 1,200m below the surface.

²⁷ This involves injecting the rock with liquid at high pressure to generate or widen small fractures. Small particles (usually sand) are also pumped into the fractures to keep them open when the pressure is released so that the gas can flow into the well.

6.5.5 Best practice measures will be expected to be incorporated into development proposals to reduce the potential for detrimental impact on the environment and local communities. Priority matters are in relation to:

- minimising the loss of land that is best and most versatile agricultural land or which acts as a carbon sink;
- minimising releases to air through fugitive emissions;
- phasing water demand to avoid periods of low flow or water stress;
- ensuring waste management plans include the transport and treatment of the flowback and produced water generated; and
- ensuring transport plans include measures to address the effects on local communities including vehicle frequency, scheduling, speed restrictions and routeing.

6.5.6 Submission of a Water Management Plan and/or a Waste Management Plan is likely to be the most appropriate method for demonstrating the best practice measures submitted as part of the proposed development. Measures that might be incorporated include: that water demand is met from recycling and reuse of flowback water (the fractured fluid injected into the shale rock during hydraulic fracturing which returns to the surface through the drilled well); that the timing of water consumption is considered in light of local conditions, so as to reduce the risk of abstractions occurring during low flow periods; and that flowback water, once it is intended for disposal, will not be re-injected into the geological formation but taken off-site for disposal at an appropriately licensed installation.

6.5.7 It is likely that previous licensing has not been taken up due to the resource being recognised, but not currently being viable to extract. Whilst substantial uncertainty remains about the scale and distribution of any future proposals for the exploration, appraisal and production of unconventional hydrocarbons, an appropriate balance should be sought between provision of a degree of support and flexibility to enable appropriate development, and the need to provide a high standard of protection to local communities and the environment.

In addition to requiring planning permission, a number of other regulatory processes are also involved. The industry's representative body, the United Kingdom Onshore Oil and Gas Group (UKOOG) has established a Charter for community engagement on new onshore oil and gas proposals. The Charter sets out a number of commitments for operators that includes engagement with local communities at each of the three main stages of operations. Herefordshire Council will expect all applicants, whether a member of UKOOG or not, to comply with these commitments.

Policy M7: Unconventional hydrocarbons

1. Principle of development

- a. **Where it is demonstrated to make a viable contribution to security of energy supply and support the transition to a low-carbon economy, the exploration, appraisal and production of unconventional hydrocarbons, including through the use of hydraulic fracturing, will be permitted.**
- b. **Surface proposals will only be permitted where they would be outside the following designated areas: Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; protected groundwater source areas; World Heritage sites; Special Protection Areas; Special Areas of Conservation; Ramsar sites; and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.**
- c. **Sub-surface proposals underneath the designations referred to above, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that material harm to the designated asset will not occur. Proposals to explore, appraise or extract from beneath an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be considered to comprise major development.**
- d. **Development proposals will be required to demonstrate the use of best practice throughout construction and operation phases and through plant specification.**

2. Waste management

- a. **All proposals will need to demonstrate that appropriate arrangements can be made for the management or disposal of any returned water and naturally occurring radioactive materials arising from the development. Proposals should, where practicable and where a high standard of environmental protection can be demonstrated, provide for on-site management of these wastes through re-use, recycling or treatment. Where off-site management or disposal of waste is required, proposals will be required to demonstrate that appropriate arrangements will be made.**
- b. **Proposals for development involving re-injection of returned water via an existing borehole, or the drilling and use of a new borehole for this purpose, will only be permitted in locations where a high standard of protection can be provided to ground and surface waters and where it can be demonstrated that any risk from induced seismicity can be mitigated to an acceptable level.**

3. Decommissioning and reclamation

- a. **Following completion of the operational phase of development or during periods of suspension pending further development:**
 - i. **any wells will be decommissioned so as to prevent the risk of any contamination of ground and surface waters and emissions to air; and**
 - ii. **all plant, machinery and equipment not required to be retained at the site for operational purposes would be removed and the land restored to its original use or other agreed beneficial use, within an agreed timescale.**
- b. **The Mineral Planning Authority may require provision of a financial guarantee, appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the development proposed, in order to**

ensure that site reclamation is fully implemented and the site is left in a condition suitable for beneficial use.

7. Waste

7.1 Waste Strategy

- 7.1.1 At the time of plan preparation, Herefordshire hosted a robust waste transfer, re-use and recycling network, but had very little residual waste treatment or disposal capacity, particularly for C&I and CD&E wastes. LACW is, primarily, managed through the jointly contracted residual waste management facilities located in Worcestershire, which will operate for the plan period and likely beyond.
- 7.1.2 Other residual wastes were generally exported for recovery at facilities located beyond Herefordshire. This movement is a clear demonstration of the market forces at work within the waste sector, and is not necessarily a disadvantageous outcome. The most significant disadvantage is felt in Herefordshire, which would lose out on the potential for inward investment, jobs, secondary materials and renewable/low carbon sources of energy if new waste management infrastructure is not developed.
- 7.1.3 The plan area is very rural and relatively remote. Excluding CD&E wastes, the amount of residual wastes remaining to be managed are calculated to be approximately 125,000 tonnes. This tonnage is relatively low, is generated from a number of different sources and is consequently not particularly attractive to waste management companies that operate nationally.
- 7.1.4 The local waste management industry was found to be dynamic. The evidence base found new sites being opened and previous waste management service businesses being restructured. Within the Core Strategy, Herefordshire has adopted a number of strategic employment sites, which include the specific growth areas of the Rotherwas Enterprise Zone and Leominster Enterprise Park. These locations have good potential to deliver the Circular Economy, where engineering, creative industry, manufacturing, waste and research sectors can combine resources to enable materials (including wastes) to be kept at their highest value for as long as possible. In its simplest form, this might be the development of an incineration facility that accepts waste from local businesses, which cannot be recycled and which returns electricity and, ideally, heat. This energy supply would be decentralised, secure and low carbon, enabling national and local priorities on climate change to be realised.
- 7.1.5 There did not appear to be any currently viable locations for non-hazardous waste disposal facilities, and again, the tonnages calculated for disposal were low; the industry has made no submissions for new non-hazardous disposal facilities in Herefordshire. Submissions have been made for inert waste disposal to be used in the restoration of mineral workings and this is generally considered to be an acceptable approach.
- 7.1.6 Consequently, the policy priority is provide a positive framework within which to deliver additional waste management capacity, addressing all levels of the waste hierarchy, except non-hazardous disposal, but making development opportunities for residual waste treatment facilities particularly attractive.

- 7.1.7 National Planning Policy for Waste²⁸, paragraph 8 makes clear that non-waste development should not prejudice the implementation of the waste hierarchy or the efficient operation of waste management facilities. It is recognised that there are some waste management facilities already operating within Herefordshire that would not satisfy policy of the draft MWLP; it is intended that these facilities are not protected by **policy W1**.

Policy W1: Waste Strategy

Waste reduction, increase in material reuse, recycling and energy recovery, and decrease in the amount of waste in waste going for disposal will be delivered through:

1. **permitting waste and non-waste management development that enables delivery of the circular economy;**
 2. **permitting waste management development that avoids disposal of waste to landfill;**
 3. **making provision for sufficient annual waste treatment capacity to enable equivalent self-sufficiency across all waste streams with development focussed within Hereford and the market towns of Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster; and Ross on Wye;**
 4. **making provision for sufficient inert waste disposal capacity; and**
 5. **ensuring that the continued operation of existing waste management facilities in locations that are consistent with the spatial strategy is safeguarded, including against the encroachment of incompatible uses.**
-

7.2 Waste Management Requirements

Solid Wastes

- 7.2.1 The three most prevalent solid wastes received at permitted facilities in Herefordshire are: municipal at around 45% (principally waste from households); construction and demolition wastes, at around 29%; and agriculture and processing wastes, at around 20%. This is quite different to the picture seen nationally, where construction and demolition wastes generally make up about 50% of total arisings, with C&I waste at around 25%, municipal waste at around 20% and other wastes making up the remainder.
- 7.2.2 The Waste Need Assessments calculate that the following additional waste management capacity will be required to manage these wastes throughout the plan period. This recognises that additional treatment capacity should be provided to balance out the lack of non-hazardous disposal opportunities within Herefordshire and still achieve equivalent net self-sufficiency.
- 7.2.3 Recognising the lack of certainty that is held around the forecast capacity requirements, a mid-point of future capacity is identified. This number is referenced in **policy W4** (generally rounded up) to provide a minimum capacity expectation to be delivered over the plan period. For all management routes except disposal, this is a one-off requirement. A waste treatment facility providing 25,000tpa of capacity will be able to do this year on year, under standard

²⁸ National Planning Policy for Waste, DCLG, October 2014.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

operating procedures. However, a landfill void will be filled up every time a deposit is made, consequently an annual, or cumulative, tonnage is required.

7.2.4 Developed in the right locations, modern waste management facilities can bring many benefits: sustainable infrastructure; renewable/low carbon energy supply; secondary materials; inward investment; and jobs. Consequently, the tonnages presented in **policy W2** are intended as a guide, to enable monitoring over time. They are not presented as a limit on new waste management development that is well designed and appropriately situated.

Table 2 Forecast waste management requirement over the plan period

| YEAR | | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 | 2035 | Mid-point |
|--------------------------|----------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Waste | Management | Tonnes | | | | |
| LACW | Biological | None | | 8,000 to 13,000 | | 10,500 |
| | Recycling | None | | 22,000 to 27,000 | | 25,000 |
| | Residual | No additional capacity requirement identified | | | | |
| C&I | Biological | No additional capacity requirement identified | | | | |
| | Recycling | | | | | |
| | Residual | 63,000 to 87,000 | 56,000 to 71,200 | 53,500 to 64,400 | 58,400 to 66,500 | 65,000 |
| Non-natural Agricultural | Residual | 6,000 to 8,000 | 6,000 to 8,000 | 6,000 to 8,000 | 6,000 to 8,000 | 7,000 |
| Hazardous | Residual | 8,000 to 10,500 | 8,000 to 10,500 | 8,000 to 10,500 | 8,000 to 10,500 | 9,250 |
| CD&E | Recovery | 147,600 to 156,600 | 162,900 to 172,800 | 175,500 to 186,300 | 186,300 to 198,000 | 173,250 |
| | Inert Disposal | 16,400 to 17,400 | 18,100 to 19,200 | 19,500 to 20,700 | 20,700 to 22,000 | 19,250 each year |

7.2.5 **Objective 4** seeks to move waste up the management hierarchy and deliver the circular economy. Within Herefordshire this means seeking to achieve future, aspirational waste management targets for LACW and C&I wastes as are likely to be set across the European Union.

- A preparation for re-use and recycling (including composting/anaerobic digestion) target of 55% of municipal waste by 2025.
- A preparation for re-use and recycling (including composting/anaerobic digestion) target of 60% of municipal waste by 2030.
- A preparation for re-use and recycling (including composting/anaerobic digestion) target of 65% of municipal waste by 2035.

- A gradual limitation on landfilling of municipal waste, to 10% by 2035.
- A requirement for the separate collection of bio-waste for recycling (although no date is specified in the proposals).

7.2.6 For CD&E wastes it has been assumed that a recovery rate of 90% will be achieved, which exceeds current policy expectations and would deliver management that aligns to the best practice currently found across England. Whilst higher rates of recovery are to be welcomed, it is also important to make provision for a reasonable level of disposal capacity, recognising that some wastes may not be recoverable and former mineral workings can be beneficially reclaimed.

7.2.7 Whilst these recycling rates are important context indicators, they are deliberately not written into policy. Apart from LACW, which already benefits from a well-established network of management facilities ensuring its diversion from landfill, the management route of wastes cannot be readily or reliably monitored.

7.2.8 National policy supports the location of waste activities within areas of new development, which may have a role to play in providing the required local waste management infrastructure. New development should provide for integrated waste management infrastructure where appropriate. In particular, in the early stages of planning major development, any scope for integrating waste management and heat generation should be exploited where practicable.

7.2.9 Hazardous and low level radioactive waste facilities are specialist facilities recognised as being facilities of regional and national importance. There is no identified strategic need for new hazardous or low level radioactive waste management capacity within the plan area; however, **policies W2 and W5** provide the relevant framework to enable Herefordshire to meet equivalent self-sufficiency.

Policy W2: Solid waste management requirements

Development for the following waste management priorities will be permitted:

1. **biological treatment of household waste of at least 10,500 tonnes by 2030;**
 2. **recycling capacity of municipal, commercial and industrial and non-natural agricultural wastes of at least 30,000 tonnes by 2030;**
 3. **recovery of materials and energy from municipal, commercial and industrial, non-natural agricultural and hazardous wastes of at least 50,000 tonnes by 2025 and a further 50,000 tonnes by 2030;**
 4. **recovery of materials from construction and demolition waste of at least 175,000 tonnes by 2025; and**
 5. **disposal of inert wastes providing a cumulative void of 20,000 tonnes per year by 2025.**
-

Agricultural Waste

- 7.2.10 Herefordshire is a large, predominantly rural county; the agriculture and food/drink processing sectors are recognised to have a large influence on waste arisings. Whilst natural agricultural waste is not usually appropriate as a matter for a waste local plan, due to the local distinctiveness of Herefordshire, **policy W3** has been prepared to address both natural and non-natural agricultural wastes.
- 7.2.11 The Core Strategy identifies that the water quality of Herefordshire's main rivers and their tributaries is of strategic importance and that, in particular, current unacceptable levels of nutrients along part of the rivers need to be addressed. In addition, the sustainable management of agricultural wastes, particularly poultry manure, has been identified as a key sensitivity in preparing the Draft MWLP.
- 7.2.12 Whilst the River Wye SAC NMP recognises that agriculture plays a relatively small role, with most impacts identified as the result of controlled wastewater discharges associated with residential and industrial developments, the River Wye SAC NMP identified a number of measures that should be implemented to promote a culture of best environmental practice into the future.
- 7.2.13 The top five recommendations for agriculture include waste management practices, including: storing solid manure heaps on an impermeable base; collecting effluent and dirty waters securely; not spreading farmyard manure to fields at high-risk times; and using dry cleaning techniques to remove solid waste from yards prior to cleaning.
- 7.2.14 It is also important to recognise that the agricultural sector has a significant role to play as custodians of the land and that wider benefits can be achieved from applying best practice in managing agricultural wastes, critically in terms of reducing carbon emissions. The Committee on Climate Change's 2018 Report²⁹ identifies that agricultural greenhouse gas emissions represented 10% of UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2016. The digestive processes of ruminants (cows and sheep) and the management of livestock waste and manures accounting for almost all the methane emitted in agriculture. Greater energy efficiency, nutrient management and waste and manure management are identified as key areas to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.
- 7.2.15 Consequently, **policy W3** promotes the use of anaerobic digestion to manage natural agricultural wastes. Anaerobic digestion systems capture the methane from natural agricultural wastes, which can then be used as a source of energy or fuel, and produce a digestate that is, potentially, more beneficial to soil than raw manure.
- 7.2.16 Agricultural units are dispersed across much of Herefordshire, consequently there is no spatial strategy proposed. It is expected that any waste treatment facilities proposed will primarily operate in association with the agricultural unit on which they are located. However, imports of natural or non-natural wastes from off-farm may be appropriate; each application will be considered against relevant policy of the development plan.

²⁹ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2018-progress-report-to-parliament/>

7.2.17 Farming rules for water – getting full value from fertilisers and soil³⁰ is a policy paper produced by Defra. It is prepared as a first step towards a new approach to regulating the agriculture sector, including new rules³¹ that are outcome focussed and risk based establishing a consistent baseline of good practice across the agricultural industry in England.

7.2.18 The rules fulfil obligations on diffuse pollution under the Water Framework Directive and came into force on 2 April 2018; they mean it is now mandatory for all farmers in England to maintain good practice to protect water quality and prevent water pollution incidents. The rules³¹:

- promote good practice in managing fertilisers and manures;
- encourage land managers to take reasonable precautions to prevent diffuse pollution from runoff or soil erosion;
- require land managers to plan each application of manure or fertilisers, based on soil tests, to meet but not exceed crop and soil needs.

7.2.19 The waste management practices available to the agricultural sector are wide-ranging and varied, and can be expected to change over the plan period; therefore, they are not prescribed in policy W4. There is a good support network available to farmers and landowners to gain advice in preparing their planning applications. This includes **FarmHerefordshire**³², established in 2015, to support the agricultural industry by promoting best practice, facilitating innovative approaches and ensuring that the county's farmers and growers have access to practical and user-friendly advice.

7.2.20 Implementing best practice for water protection and waste management should reduce the amount of nutrients and pollutants released to waterbodies and help to protect the environment. Whilst **policy W4** is not prescriptive about how natural and non-natural wastes will be appropriately managed, Herefordshire Council will expect a level of demonstration proportionate to the development and holding. Manure Management Plans and Transport Assessments should be submitted with all applications, proportionate to the development and holding. A bespoke waste management plan may be prepared, or it may be appropriate simply to submit operational details prepared to satisfy the farming rules for water or environmental permitting requirements.

7.2.21 Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is a statutory tool for assessing the environmental impacts of development projects and identifying measures that can be taken to reduce these impacts. The process of EIA in the context of town and country planning in England is governed by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (which may be amended). These Regulations specify which development requires EIA (referred to as 'EIA development') and should be referenced in applying this policy.

7.2.22 Natural wastes appropriate for anaerobic digestion (or other biological technologies) will be organic and likely to comprise: manures; poultry litter; spoilt crops; and used bedding.

³⁰

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/695598/farming-rules-for-water-policy-paper-v2.pdf

³¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-for-farmers-and-land-managers-to-prevent-water-pollution>

³² <https://www.cla.org.uk/your-area/midlands/regional-news/farm-herefordshire-launched>

Policy W3: Agricultural waste management

- 1. Planning permission for agricultural development will be permitted where it is demonstrated that:**
 - a. for non-EIA development, both natural and non-natural wastes generated by the proposed development will be appropriately managed both on and off-site; or**
 - b. for EIA development, both natural and non-natural wastes generated by the whole agricultural unit will be appropriately managed both on and off-site.**
- 2. Anaerobic digestion will be permitted where its use is primarily intended to manage natural wastes generated on the agricultural unit within which it is located.**

Wastewater

- 7.2.23 Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water provide wastewater treatment services within Herefordshire, with both companies operating wastewater treatment works. These facilities and the associated pipelines need to be upgraded, extended and improved periodically in order to meet improved standards, cope with increased flows from new developments in their catchment area and to replace out of date equipment.
- 7.2.24 The River Wye SAC NMP identifies that sewage treatment works discharges are a main contributor to the baseline source apportionment; more so in the upper River Wye sub-catchment compared with the River Lugg sub-catchment. More stringent discharge levels at the sewage treatment works across Herefordshire are likely to be required to achieve conservation targets. However, these reduced levels are largely reliant upon 'future technology', technology to be utilised that is currently only theoretical.
- 7.2.25 Both companies are currently preparing a business case for investment in sewage treatment and water supply facilities for the period from 2020 to 2025. As utility companies, their asset management plans are only ever prepared on a five-year rolling cycle. Consequently, their future development needs over the plan period are not capable of being fully understood and **policy W4** can only set out guiding principles for new wastewater development, making clear the preference for existing works to be upgraded and expanded as appropriate.
- 7.2.26 As with all development proposals, any proposal for wastewater management would also be subject to the other relevant development management policies. The principles of wastewater treatment requirements for new developments other than as required for wastewater infrastructure are contained at Core Strategy policy SD4.

Policy W4: Wastewater management

Planning permission will be granted to the statutory water and sewerage undertaker to extend, upgrade, or make provision for new infrastructure necessary to ensure the statutory undertaker can continue to undertake their duty to supply potable water and treat foul flows. Wherever practical and economical, biogas should be recovered for use as an energy source.

7.3 Spatial distribution of waste management sites

Solid Wastes

- 7.3.1 Most modern waste management facilities are enclosed within buildings and can be beneficially located on industrial or brownfield land within or near urban areas. In order to provide for the additional capacity identified above, sufficient land must be identified in suitable places. The preferred approach to the spatial distribution of new waste management facilities is in accordance with the Core Strategy, focussing the majority of development in Hereford and the market towns of Bromyard, Kington, Ledbury, Leominster and Ross on Wye.
- 7.3.2 Herefordshire has a number of well-established industrial estates and extensive strategic employment areas distributed within the market towns that lie within the spatial strategy. Developing at these locations will provide opportunities for symbiotic relationships between waste management, engineering, manufacturing and research industries and help to deliver the circular economy at a materials level. Promoting energy from waste facilities in these locations will enable a renewable/low carbon supply of electricity and potentially heat/cooling to be distributed to neighbouring uses, also contributing to the circular economy and achieving objectives of renewable energy supply.
- 7.3.3 Planning applications for waste management activities should provide an appropriate level of detail to inform a reasonable degree of certainty on the planning application and to ensure the principle of the development and use of the land is acceptable with cross reference to permitting constraints. Where development is also subject to approval under pollution control regimes, Herefordshire Council will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency to manage potential operational impacts where detailed assessment may be required.
- 7.3.4 Whilst it would not be appropriate to set an absolute threshold, as the development of land is site specific, the following guidelines are intended to apply:
- Small-scale facility is one of around or less than 50,000 tonnes per annum throughput and would be focussed on delivering a more local service, for example a household waste recycling centre, open windrow composting, or construction and demolition waste recycling facility.
 - Large-scale facility is one providing more than 50,000 tonnes per annum throughput and would be focussed on providing a more strategic service, for example a materials recycling facility or energy recovery facility (either biological or incineration) accepting waste from across Herefordshire and potentially beyond.
- 7.3.5 The principles set out **at policy W5** would be applicable to any waste stream, providing opportunities for new hazardous and low-level radioactive waste treatment facilities to be developed in Herefordshire, should there be a market demand.

Policy W5: Preferred locations for solid waste treatment facilities

Sustainable waste treatment will be delivered through a combination of small and large-scale facilities focussed at the following locations:

1. **small-scale facilities located at any industrial estate or strategic employment area;**
 2. **large-scale facilities located at any strategic employment area; and**
 3. **at the following locations, subject to the key development criteria set out at Annex A:**
 - a. **Leominster Household Waste Site and Household Waste Recovery Centre;**
 - b. **Ledbury Household Waste Recovery Centre;**
 - c. **Kington Household Waste Recovery Centre; and**
 - d. **Former City Spares MRS site, Watery Lane, Hereford.**
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Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste

- 7.3.6 There is an identified need for new waste management capacity for CD&E wastes that includes the disposal of resultant inert wastes. CD&E waste recovery facilities may be located on industrial estates and strategic employment areas, but they are often more appropriately located at minerals workings, where the same processing equipment may be shared.
- 7.3.7 Its relatively remote position geographically, its natural geology and geography of water resources significantly restrict opportunities for non-hazardous landfill in Herefordshire because of the potential for adverse impacts on groundwater. EU law and national guidance from the Environment Agency restrict or prevent landfill and land raising sites where there is a significant risk that water quality could be adversely affected. Consequently, there have been no sites identified for non-hazardous waste disposal facilities.
- 7.3.8 There remains an identified need for inert waste disposal and sites have been proposed for this purpose. The inert wastes remaining after CD&E waste recycling, and the recovered materials, can be put to good use in the reclamation of former mineral workings.

Policy W6: Preferred locations for construction, demolition and excavation waste management facilities.

In addition to the opportunities provided through policy W5:

1. **sustainable treatment of construction, demolition and excavation wastes will be delivered at the following locations:**
 - a. **Active mineral workings, recognising that the lifetime of the waste treatment facility may be limited to the lifetime of the quarry;**
 - b. **Former Lugg Bridge Quarry, subject to the key development criteria set out at Annex A:**
 2. **sustainable disposal of inert wastes will be delivered at the following locations, subject to the key development criteria set out at Annex A:**
 - a. **Upper Lyde Quarry, extension and adjacent sites;**
 - b. **Shobdon Quarry, and extension; and**
 - c. **Wellington Quarry, extension and adjacent sites.**
-

7.4 Waste Management Operations

- 7.4.1 The Draft MWLP is not technology specific, recognising that waste treatment facilities are wide ranging and incorporate:
- composting facilities;
 - recycling facilities;
 - mechanical processes that will recover materials; and
 - biological or incineration processes that will recover materials and/or energy, either as a gas, heat and/or electricity.

- 7.4.2 A waste treatment facility not designed to recover energy would be expected to produce a valued material, for example recovered recyclables such as glass and metal or secondary recovered fuel that would be used to generate heat or electricity elsewhere.
- 7.4.3 Energy recovery is placed beneath materials recovery in the waste hierarchy. However, it has a beneficial role to play and this is recognised in national policy, in terms of both sustainable waste management and provision of a decentralised, renewable and/or low carbon energy source. Furthermore, beneficial materials can also be recovered, including digestate from anaerobic digestion facilities and glass, metal and secondary aggregate after combustion. Proposals incorporating combined heat and power (CHP) or electricity generation will help national policy objectives and should be encouraged as such in the draft MWLP.
- 7.4.4 In order to assist both the developer and the council to determine that a proposed facility is for energy recovery and not for waste disposal, **policy W7** seeks information on the level of energy recovery expected to be achieved and the market(s) for that energy (e.g. identifying an electricity connection or heat/power recipient).
- 7.4.5 The disposal of inert wastes can be put to good use in the reclamation and restoration of land, particularly former minerals workings. This is to be encouraged at appropriate locations, so long as a satisfactory form of reclamation is proposed, with suitable after-use and comprehensive restoration scheme.
- 7.4.6 Planning permission will not be granted for inert waste disposal unless satisfactory proposals have been made for the reclamation and after-use of the site, and means of securing these in the long-term.
- 7.4.7 Planning applications for waste management activities should provide an appropriate level of detail to inform a reasonable degree of certainty on the planning application and to ensure the principle of the development and use of the land is acceptable with cross reference to permitting constraints.

Policy W7: Waste management operations

- 1. Facilities for the reuse, recycling or recovery of materials shall only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposed development will enable delivery of the waste hierarchy and/or make a positive contribution to achieving the circular economy in Herefordshire.**
- 2. Facilities for the recovery of energy shall only be permitted where it is demonstrated:**
 - a. that the proposed development will enable delivery of the waste hierarchy and/or make a positive contribution to achieving the circular economy in Herefordshire; and**
 - b. that both the resultant heat and power will be utilised where viable.**
- 3. Proposals for new landfill or landraising facilities or extensions to existing facilities shall be permitted where it is demonstrated that the proposed development will enable delivery of the waste hierarchy and the proposal incorporates measures for safe working and satisfactory reclamation, particularly in accordance with policy SD5.**

4. **Planning permission may not be withheld if the achievement of these expectations is demonstrated to be unachievable, but a material level of benefit is otherwise gained and no unacceptable adverse impact results from the proposed development.**
-

8. Delivery, Implementation and Monitoring

8.1 Delivery

- 8.1.1 As is made clear in the Core Strategy, infrastructure includes waste management and sewerage facilities. Even as elements of the infrastructure necessary to delivery sustainable development within Herefordshire, such development proposals are also subject to Core Strategy Policy ID1.
- 8.1.2 Mineral workings may also impact upon existing services and facilities in the area local to the site being worked and can also be subject to Core Strategy Policy ID1. Delivering sustainable mineral and waste disposal development requires a comprehensive approach, looking from the start of operations, through the life of the quarry/landfill, and beyond restoration, ensuring a positive legacy remains into the future.
- 8.1.3 Where it is necessary, relevant to planning, directly related to the proposed development, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development, and reasonable in all other aspects, a planning obligation will be required in order to secure any or all of the following:
 - a. infrastructure provision;
 - b. measures to mitigate the effects of development and provide monitoring;
 - c. long term management following the statutory 5 year aftercare period;
 - d. public access;
 - e. community benefits.
- 8.1.4 The planning obligation may either commit the developer to delivering the agreed provision directly or to make a suitable financial contribution to its delivery.
- 8.1.5 The council expects the developer to provide for all infrastructure works necessary to make the development proposal acceptable. Development should be phased appropriately to take account of critical infrastructure delivery and seek positively to contribute towards local infrastructure improvements, including the provision of green infrastructure, public access and community benefits.
- 8.1.6 Where necessary, routeing agreements and/or travel plans may be sought to control and alleviate the effects of traffic movements. For example, in order to avoid environmentally sensitive places or local conditions of congestion on the highway network.
- 8.1.7 Developers will be expected to provide for the recording, preserving and future management of important archaeological, heritage, ecological and water features as appropriate to the development proposal. Monitoring may be required, for example of water quality, water levels, or site stability. The developer will be expected to provide for this monitoring and for any remedial action reasonably required.
- 8.1.8 The developer's accountability does not end with restoration and statutory aftercare. Reclamation schemes may require longer than five years to become fully established and recognised as functional. Planning obligations will be sought in order to secure the after-use, long-term management and maintenance of the site and any associated land.

- 8.1.9 Public access to the outdoors is important for quality of life and well-being; reclaimed minerals and waste sites can make a valuable contribution to this resource. Conversely, it may be necessary to restrict public access across some areas, for example due to safety hazards or to protect a particular habitat. Planning obligations will be sought in order to secure the long-term availability and maintenance of public access to appropriate areas within mineral workings and restored sites, this might include the ability to secure compensatory provision in the event that public rights of way or open spaces are subject to closure.
- 8.1.10 To help redress the burden placed on local communities throughout the life of mineral workings and landfill sites, such development will be expected to plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.
- 8.1.11 Wherever possible, development should add value by considering the opportunities or benefits that can be provided, for example through design to help meet local community aspirations or contribute to addressing local infrastructure constraints identified within the Core Strategy or other development plan documents of the Herefordshire Local Plan.
- 8.1.12 Planning obligations may be sought to secure the provision, and where appropriate maintenance, of community benefits. Such contributions are not limited to the restoration phase and should be made at the earliest opportunity.

8.2 Implementation

- 8.2.1 Delivery of the objectives of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be highly reliant on the minerals and waste sectors.
- 8.2.2 Consequently, policy has been prepared with the intention of making Herefordshire an attractive place for these businesses to develop, whilst also providing clarity about where development is expected to be located and the standards to be achieved, so as to protect the interests of existing communities across the county.

8.3 Monitoring

- 8.3.1 The MWLP will sit beneath the Core Strategy and together these local plan documents present the development plan for minerals and waste development. Table 3 presents the key Core Strategy policies that are relevant to each Draft MWLP policy in terms of implementation and identifies how each Draft MWLP policy would be monitored over the plan period.
- 8.3.2 Throughout the lifetime of the MWLP, it will be necessary to monitor and review the policies to determine the extent to which each is being implemented, and the degree to which implementation is achieving objectives. Where any targets are not on track, the Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) should also include an assessment of the reasons why.
- 8.3.3 The AMR will gather relevant information and identify whether policy targets are being achieved or not. It will highlight any concerns about policy performance. If policies are shown to be failing to perform, Herefordshire Council will consider if it is appropriate to review the appropriate policy. The justification for this will be made clear in the AMR.
- 8.3.4 In the pre-submission plan, the monitoring framework also includes indicators to monitor the likely significant impacts of the MWLP, taken from the sustainability appraisal. One of the aims of monitoring as specified by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive is to identify

unforeseen adverse effects in order to be able to take appropriate remedial action. To enable this to be done, the indicators from the sustainability appraisal also include monitoring potential sustainability impacts which are not expected to occur as foreseen by the appraisal.

- 8.3.5 It should be remembered that not all the information will be available annually. For example, the Environment Agency is responsible for collecting information on C&I, C&D and hazardous waste and this is reported through the Waste Data Interrogator. However, this data only addresses wastes managed through permitted facilities; it does not identify all wastes generated and cannot be used to credibly identify levels of recycling or recovery.
- 8.3.6 The monitoring framework is restricted to the planning permissions granted because it is up to the minerals and waste industries to open or construct and operate the development for which planning permission has been gained. Similarly, the monitoring cannot readily take account of waste management facilities that may cease to operate during the plan period.
- 8.3.7 Clearly, the MWLP must be able to respond to changing needs and circumstances. This will include assessing the potential impacts of new or updated national and local policy and guidance. This will be addressed in the AMR.
- 8.3.8 There are three key policy areas addressed in the Draft MWLP, identifiable at this stage, which could lead to a need for review. These are:
- To ensure that adequate landbanks of sand and gravel and/or crushed rock are maintained in the latter part of the Draft MWLP period. This will be influenced by the actual level of demand for these minerals that arises during the earlier years of the Draft MWLP and whether suitable proposals are brought forward on sites or areas identified in the Draft MWLP. This matter will be kept under review, including through the preparation of an annual Local Aggregates Assessment, with review of the relevant policies and any further requirement for site allocations or areas carried out as necessary.
 - To ensure that equivalent self-sufficiency is achieved in terms of waste management capacity, delivering a circular economy in Herefordshire and ensuring that waste management makes its contribution to achieving sustainable communities. This matter will be kept under review through monitoring of the Draft MWLP, including consideration of the type and tonnage of new waste management development.
 - To respond to new issues arising out of any further exploration activity for shale gas within Herefordshire.
- 8.3.9 It is intended that, in addition to annual monitoring, an intermediate and more comprehensive review of the Draft MWLP is undertaken at least every five years. Not only will this enable compliance with Regulation 10A of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), this approach will also deliver early identification of any need for action prior to the end of the plan period, and enable a good evidence base to be prepared such that any new policies can be adopted in a timely manner.
- 8.3.10 These elements are drawn together for each policy in Table 3.

Table 3 Delivery, Implementation and Monitoring

| Draft MWLP Policy | Key Core Strategy Policy | Draft MWLP policy will be delivered by | Indicators to monitor effectiveness |
|--|---|---|--|
| Strategic | | | |
| MT2: Transport within sites | SS4 MT1 | Development management process and sustainable solutions proposed by developers. | Record of on-site transport methods and associated green infrastructure. |
| SS8: Resource Management | SS1; SS7 | Herefordshire Council continuing engagement with other public bodies, local businesses, community groups and the general public to raise awareness of the financial and environmental benefits of sustainable waste management. Development management process and sustainable resource use by developers. | Record of activities undertaken by Herefordshire Council, including indication of effect (qualitative or quantitative). Record of audits received and innovative solutions presented. |
| OS4: Access to open space and recreation from minerals and waste development | OS1; OS2; OS3 | Development management process and sustainable solutions proposed by developers. | Record of new public access to outdoor spaces and impact on open spaces and rights of way. |
| SD5: Reclamation | SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | Development management process and sustainable solutions proposed by developers. | Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure. |
| Minerals | | | |
| M1: Mineral Strategy | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 RA6; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 | Development management process making appropriate decisions considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Record of alternative materials used to primary minerals. |

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| | SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | | Permitted reserve of new mineral workings and record of their location. |
| M2: Safeguarding of mineral resources from sterilisation | SD1 | Development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Record of development undertaken within the Minerals Safeguarding Areas. |
| M3: The winning and working of sand and gravel | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Permitted reserve of new mineral workings and record of their location. Record of permitted reserve worked annually and destination of mineral. |
| M4: The winning and working of crushed rock (limestone) | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Permitted reserve of new mineral workings and record of their location. Record of permitted reserve worked annually and destination of mineral. |
| M5: The winning and working of building stone (sandstone) | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Permitted reserve of new mineral workings and record of their location. Record of permitted reserve worked annually and destination of mineral. |
| M6: Borrow Pits | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Record of permitted borrow pits, their location and level of interaction with associated construction project. |

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| M7: Unconventional hydrocarbons | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Permitted reserve of new unconventional hydrocarbon development. |
| Waste | | | |
| W1: Waste Strategy | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 RA5; RA6 MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | Development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Data from Economic Development Team to indicate circular economy type activity. Capacity of new waste management facilities by type. |
| W2: Solid waste management requirements | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Capacity of new waste management facilities by type as set out in policy. Record of source of waste. |
| W3: Agricultural waste management | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 MT1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | Development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. Sustainable waste management practices promoted by farmers and land owners. | Record of waste management practice(s) presented and water quality assessments of the River Wye and River Lugg. |
| W4: Wastewater management | SS1; SS4; SS6; SS7 MT1; E1 ; ID1 | Development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the | Record of waste management practice(s) presented and water quality assessments of the River Wye and River Lugg. |

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| | LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | development plan and all other material considerations. Sustainable waste management practices promoted by the relevant utility company. | |
| W5: Preferred locations for solid waste treatment facilities | SS1; SS4; SS5; SS6; SS7 HD1; HD5; HD6; HD7 BY1; KG1; LB1; LO1; LO2; RW1 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Capacity of new waste treatment facilities by type, size and location. |
| W6: Preferred locations for construction, demolition and excavation waste facilities | SS1; SS4; SS5; SS6; SS7 HD1; HD5; HD6; HD7 BY1; KG1; LB1; LO1; LO2; RW1 OS1; MT1; E1; ID1 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Capacity of new waste management facilities by type, size and location. |
| W7: Waste management operational expectations | SS1; SS7 LD1; LD2; LD3; LD4 SD1; SD2; SD3; SD4 ID1 | Submission of planning applications and the development management process making appropriate decisions, considering the development plan and all other material considerations. | Data from Economic Development Team to indicate circular economy type activity. Record of materials and/or energy recovered and indication of final destination. Record of reclamation progress and innovative/integrated solutions presented. |

9. Glossary

| Term | Description |
|---|---|
| A | |
| Aggregates | Sand and gravel, crushed rock and other bulk materials used in the construction industry for purposes such as the making of concrete, mortar, asphalt or for roadstone, drainage or bulk filling. |
| Agricultural waste | Includes a variety of substances such as pesticides containers, oil and silage wrap, as well as slurry which result from activities including horticulture, fruit growing, dairy farming, livestock breeding, seed growing, grazing and nurseries. |
| Airfield (aerodrome) safeguarding | Aerodromes need to take measures necessary to ensure safety of aircraft while flying in the vicinity of an aerodrome. Planning applications should meet certain criteria relating to height and location of proposed development to the aerodrome. Any proposed development with bird attractant properties, within 13km of an aerodrome needs to be consulted upon. |
| Anaerobic digestion | The process by which biodegradable material is broken down in the absence of oxygen in an enclosed vessel, yielding carbon dioxide, methane and solids/liquors, which can be used as fertilizer or compost. |
| Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) | A statutory landscape designation, which recognises that a particular landscape is of national importance. The special qualities of the AONB encompass natural beauty, amenity, heritage and landscape assets. The primary purpose of the designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape. Parts of the Wye Valley and Malvern Hills AONB lie within Herefordshire. |
| Appropriate assessment | Process for assessing impacts on European sites, habitats or species. It is a decision making tool. |
| Aquifers | An aquifer is an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock or unconsolidated materials (gravel, sand, or silt) from which groundwater can be extracted. |
| Area of search | An area identified as having minerals resources potentially suitable for extraction and where working may be acceptable subject to more detailed assessment at project stage. |
| B | |
| Best and most versatile land | Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification. |
| Biodegradable waste | Includes food waste, garden waste and cardboards, which can decompose without any assistance. |
| Biodiversity | The variety of plants and animal life on earth, encompassing the diversity of habitats, species and genetic variation. Biodiversity provides our life support system as well as having social and economic value. |
| Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) | Local BAP identify national and local targets for species and habitats conservation and actions. |

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| Borrow pit | Site where mineral (often aggregate) is excavated specifically for a construction project nearby. |
| Building stone | Hard rock types suitable for use directly for construction in the form of walling, roofing, flagstones or for ornamental purposes. In the plan area the principle rock type used as building stone is sandstone. |
| C | |
| Circular Economy | An approach to resource management, seeking to keep materials at their highest value for the longest period of time. |
| Climate change | The term climate change is generally used when referring to changes in our climate, which have been identified since the early parts of the 1900s. The changes that we have seen over recent years, and those which are predicted over the next 80 years, are thought by many to be mainly as a result of human behavior, rather than due to natural changes in the atmosphere. |
| Coal mining legacy | Disused mines which give rise to land stability issues and other hazards. The Coal Authority map and monitor the mines and highlight public safety hazards and risk associated with them. |
| Coal mining risk assessment | Needs to be carried out by applicant in Development High Risk Areas and submitted alongside a planning application. |
| Commercial and industrial waste | Produced by a range of sectors which can be separated into commercial groups (including Retail & Wholesale, Public Services and other services) and industrial groups (including food, drink & tobacco, chemical/non-metallic minerals, power and utilities, metal manufacturing, machinery and equipment and textiles, wood and paper publishing). |
| Composting | Aerobic processing of biologically degradable organic wastes to produce an end product of compost. |
| Construction, demolition and excavation waste | Waste which arises from activities such as construction, refurbishment, demolition or excavation. It includes items such as plasterboard, bricks, soils, minerals, glass, metals and tiles. |
| Conventional hydrocarbons | Oil and gas where the reservoir is in porous rock such as sandstone or limestone and can be extracted using traditional drilling techniques. |
| Crushed rock | Hard rock (in Herefordshire, limestone) which has been quarried, fragmented and graded for use as aggregate. |
| D | |
| Developer contributions | This includes section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). |
| E | |
| Ecosystem services | Can be simply described as the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include: provisioning services (food and water); regulating services (flood and disease control); cultural services (such as spiritual and cultural benefits); and supporting services (such as nutrient cycling that maintains conditions for life on Earth). |
| Energy from waste | The conversion of waste into a useable form of energy, often electricity and/or heat. |

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| Environmental assets | Features in the physical environment that are valued for a variety of cultural and scientific reasons. |
| Evidence base | The information and data gathered by local authorities to justify the 'soundness' of the policy approach set out in development plan documents, including physical, economic and social aspects of the area. |
| F | |
| Floodplain | This is identified as the area of land at risk of flooding, when water flowing into a watercourse channel overtops its banks. |
| Flood alleviation | Measures put in place to lower or eliminate the risk of flooding in developed areas. |
| Flood zone | An area identified by the Environment Agency as being at risk of flooding, flood zone 3 having the greatest risk. |
| G | |
| Geodiversity | The range of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms. |
| Greenfield land | Land that has not been previously developed, often in agricultural use. |
| Green infrastructure | A planned and delivered network of green spaces and other environmental features designed and managed as a multifunctional resource providing a range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens. |
| Groundwater source protection zones | Protection zones for groundwater supplies such as wells, boreholes and springs including those used for public drinking water supply. Displayed on maps and used to help prevent contamination of the water. |
| H | |
| Habitats Regulation Assessment | A Habitats Regulations Assessment is the assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a Natura 2000 site. Its purpose is to consider the impacts of a land use plan against conservation objectives of the site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of the site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. |
| Hazardous waste | Waste that may cause particular harm to human health or the environment. |
| Heritage asset | A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated assets and assets identified by the local planning authority. |
| Historic environment | All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora. |
| I | |
| Incineration with energy recovery | Burning of waste in an incinerator and using the energy produced as heat or as electrical energy. |

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| Infrastructure | A collective term for services such as roads, electricity, sewerage, water, social services, health facilities and recycling and refuse facilities. For minerals development this also includes the plant necessary to work the mineral before it leaves the site. |
| Infrastructure delivery plan | This sets out details of the infrastructure required to support development in the future. |
| L | |
| Landbank | A landbank is a stock of land with planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals, usually expressed in terms of assumptions about annual production rates. |
| Landfill site | The place where controlled waste is deposited. References to landfill may also refer to land raising and waste disposal. |
| Landscape | An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. |
| Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) | An annual assessment, prepared by mineral planning authorities, of aggregate minerals supply requirements in a planning area or areas. |
| Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) | Household waste plus other similar waste collected and managed by local authorities. |
| Low level (non-nuclear) radioactive waste (LLR waste) | Waste, not derived from the nuclear industry and having a radioactive content not exceeding four gigabecquerels per tonne (GBq/te) of alpha or 12 GBq/te of beta/gamma activity. |
| M | |
| Mechanical biological treatment (MBT) | Involves processing residual waste by a combination of both mechanical and biological treatment methods. |
| Mechanical recovery facility (MRF) | Actively alters the composition of waste in order to produce an end product that can be utilised. |
| Mineral safeguarding areas (MSA) | Areas defined by mineral planning authorities to protect potentially economic resources of minerals from other forms of development which may prevent future extraction of the mineral. |
| Mitigation | Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts; for example, changing the way development is carried out to minimise adverse effects through appropriate methods or timing. |
| Monitoring | Process where outcomes of policies and proposals are checked on a continuous or periodic basis, in order to assess their effectiveness and impact. |
| Municipal waste | Comprises mainly household and some other waste for which the waste collection and disposal authorities have responsibility forms an element of LACW, which includes similar C&I waste collected by local authorities. |
| Municipal Waste Management Strategy | Strategy produced by waste management authorities which outlines targets for dealing with municipal waste within their area. |
| N | |

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| National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) | This sets out the Government's planning policies for England and is the framework within which Herefordshire Council has produced the Local Plan – Core Strategy. |
| O | |
| Oil and Gas Authority | Oil and gas regulator in the UK. |
| Open space | All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs), which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity. |
| P | |
| Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence (PEDL) | PEDLs cover the three main stages of petroleum activity which are: exploration; appraisal; and development. The licence provides exclusivity to the holder to undertake seismic investigations, drill wells and develop discoveries. PEDLs are issued by the Oil and Gas Authority, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Enterprise, Industry and Skills. |
| Preferred area of search | An area identified as having policy support for development, but where it is not practicable to define a specific development boundary. |
| R | |
| Ramsar Site | A site designated for conservation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, also known as the Convention on Wetlands. The Convention is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971. |
| Reclamation | Restoring land that was once used for mineral extraction or as a landfill, in order to return it to a condition suitable for some other beneficial use. |
| Renewable energy | Power derived from a source that is continually replenished, such as wind, wave, solar, hydroelectric and energy from plant material, but not fossil fuels or nuclear energy. The biogenic content of waste is important in terms of considering energy from waste as renewable. Energy from residual waste is therefore a partially renewable energy source, sometimes referred to as a low carbon energy. In a typical household waste bag, somewhere between one half and two thirds will contain biogenic materials. |
| Residual waste | Waste which cannot be recycled or otherwise dealt with further up the waste hierarchy. |
| River Wye SAC Nutrient Management Plan | Prepared by Natural England and the Environment Agency the Plan for the River Wye, this will aim to control and reduce phosphates in the SAC to facilitate the delivery of the proposed development. |
| S | |
| SAC Special Area of Conservation | A Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), also known as the Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora. |
| Safeguarding | Protection of specific resource or site from being adversely impacted by alternative or encroaching development. |

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| Self-sufficiency | The European Community (EC) Framework Directive on Waste and the EC Landfill Directive set out a common framework for action on waste. Waste management should protect human health and the environment by establishing an integrated network of waste facilities. Member States should promote self-sufficiency by dealing with waste as close as possible to its point of origin and promoting waste avoidance by recycling, reclamation and energy recovery. |
| Source protection zone | Environment Agency defined zones that include boreholes, springs and wells used for public drinking supply and certain commercial uses and so need protection from pollution. |
| SPA Special Protection Area | A Special Protection Area (SPA) is a designation under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Under the Directive, Member States of the European Union (EU) have a duty to safeguard the habitats of migratory birds and certain particularly threatened birds. |
| Sustainable development | In broad terms, this means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. |
| Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) | Measures introduced in developments that aim to minimise surface water run-off and the level of waste water generated by the development. These can include use of reed beds to filter water and water storage areas. |
| U | |
| Unconventional hydrocarbons | Oil or gas that cannot be extracted using traditional drilling techniques and include underground coal gasification, coal bed methane and shale gas. |
| W | |
| Waste hierarchy | A guiding theme for waste policy at all levels. Seeks the sustainable management of waste by giving preference to waste management methods towards the top of the hierarchy (such as prevention, re-use and recycling) over methods lower down the hierarchy (such as recovery and disposal). |
| Waste management facilities | These include facilities for waste treatment and disposal. |
| Waste recovery | Processing waste to prevent it going to landfill. Recovery processes include incineration with energy recovery, advanced thermal treatment, anaerobic digestion and composting. |
| Wastewater | Water that is disposed of at domestic properties or through commercial and industrial activities. |
| Z | |
| Zero waste economy | Where material resources are re-used, recycled or recovered wherever possible, and only disposed of as the option of very last resort. |