

SCHEDULE OF CHANGES

Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Revised Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plan: Environmental Report Further Update

The proposed changes to the above document are shown **in red** below:

Cover page

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Revised Long Wittenham Neighbourhood Plan (RLWNP)

Environmental Report: **Further Update**

March 2019

Quality information

Revision History

Revision date	Details	Authorised	Position
23/10/18	Final report for submission	Mark Fessey	Associate Director
12/03/19	Final report for further consultation and submission	Mark Fessey	Associate Director

1.7 This Environmental Report Further Updates (page 1)

The Environmental Report was published alongside the draft – ‘pre-submission’ – version of the plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012, as amended), in 2018. An ‘Environmental Report Update’ was then submitted alongside the plan, under Regulation 15. The decision was then taken to undertake further consultation on the Environmental Report with a view to exploring further issues raised with regards to mineral resources. This ‘Environmental Report Further Update’ is published alongside the ‘Submission’ version of the Plan with a view to facilitating this consultation.

6. Appraising reasonable alternatives (page 15)

Land, soil and water resources - Option 2 would involve a larger scheme, and hence could result in significantly greater loss of ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land; however, land adjacent to the west of SHELAA site 1052 has been surveyed and been found to comprise land that is not ‘best and most versatile’. **The larger scheme under Option 2 also has the potential for residual minor negative effects as a result of significant land take hindering future access to mineral resources in the Plan area (soft sand).**

9. Assessment of the plan (paragraph 9.29)

9.29 The proposed development site under Policy LW1 is located within a Minerals Strategic Resource Area and Mineral Consultation Area. All the land surrounding the settlement is designated as such for its potential contribution to soft sand supplies. Development at the settlement edge is unlikely to significantly hinder mineral extraction and development, which is highly unlikely to occur in such close proximity to the existing housing at the settlement edge. Further to this the Oxfordshire Minerals Local Plan is currently developing its Site Allocations Plan, and at Regulation 18 stage (consulting on the Issues and Options and including nominated sites for minerals development) no sites within Long Wittenham have been identified for further minerals development. A new quarry is nominated at Clifton Hampden, and an extension to the existing quarry at Sutton Courtenay is also nominated and these are identified as the closest nominated sites to the settlement. The provisions within the adopted Minerals Core Strategy (2017), in particular Policy M8, facilitate housing allocations proposed through Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans, as well as demonstrate a preference for the majority of soft sand workings to be located within the Corallian Ridge (between Oxford and Faringdon), and a preference for extensions to existing sites over new quarry development. Given these findings it is considered unlikely that the development strategy proposed through the RLWNP will lead to any significant effects in terms of minerals sterilisation and it is also considered unlikely to significantly hinder future access to the mineral resource in this area. Further to this, Policy M8 requires the District Council to consult with the County Council on planning applications for non-mineral development within Mineral Consultation Areas, as such any planning application at the proposed development site under Policy LW1 will be subject to consultation with the Oxford County Council.

Appendix II – The SEA Scope

Land, Soil and water resources (page 32)

The River Thames is the main watercourse flowing alongside the neighbourhood plan area. There is land classified as the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land present in the majority of the Neighbourhood Plan area, and the neighbourhood plan area is also covered by a Nitrate Vulnerability Zone for surface water. **The land surrounding the settlement edge is designated as a Minerals Strategic Resource Area and Mineral Consultation Area for its potential contributions to soft sand supplies.**

Appendix III: Site options assessment

Land, Soil and Water Resources (page 37- 38)

The majority of sites (with the exception of sites 3 and 5) lie within a Minerals Strategic Resource Area and Mineral Consultation Area.

All the land surrounding the settlement is designated as such for its potential contribution to soft sand supplies. Development at the settlement edge is unlikely to significantly hinder mineral extraction and development, which is highly unlikely to occur in such close proximity to the existing housing at the settlement edge, particular at the smaller sites. The provisions within the adopted Minerals Core Strategy (2017), in particular Policy M8, demonstrate a preference for the majority of soft sand workings to be located within the Corallian Ridge (between Oxford and Faringdon), and a preference for extensions to existing sites over new quarry development. Given these findings it is considered unlikely that the development at any of the sites will lead to any significant effects in terms of minerals sterilisation however, given the size of Site 1052 there may be residual minor negative effects as a result of significant land take hindering access to the mineral resource in the wider area.

Appendix IV: Alternatives assessment (page 40)

Land, Soil and Water Resources

Both sites lie within a Minerals Strategic Resource Area and Mineral Consultation Area. All the land surrounding the settlement is designated as such for its potential contribution to soft sand supplies. With regards to the Didcot Road site (Option 1); small scale development at the settlement edge is unlikely to significantly hinder mineral extraction and development, which is highly unlikely to occur in such close proximity to the existing housing at the settlement edge. However, given the size of Site 1052 there may be residual minor negative effects as a result of significant land take hindering access to mineral resources in the wider area, and in this respect Option 1 is preferred.

ENDS