

Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Main Issues Statement

Main Matter 5 – Minerals other than aggregates

Questions 78 to 81

Issue: Whether the Plan makes adequate provision for sandstone and whether the policy is sound.

Policy M5: Winning and working of sandstone

Question 78: Should part 1(a) specify the consented sites?

Response

78.1 Policy M5(1,a) was drafted to be applicable to any consented site for sandstone, recognising that this might change over the Plan period. However, there have been no new applications for sandstone working over the past five years and there may be a site at which an extension of time is not appropriate. Naming the sites will also tie them into the key development criteria developed for each.

78.2 Consequently, it is proposed that policy M5(1,a) is modified as set out below:
*'the extension of time for completion of extraction at **the following** consented sandstone extraction sites, **subject to the key development criteria set out at section 9:***

- ***Black Hill Delve;***
- ***Callow Delve;***
- ***Llandraw Delve;***
- ***Pennsylvania Delves;***
- ***Sunnybank Delve; and***
- ***Westonhill Wood Delves.'***

Question 79: Should this part state "subject to the key development criteria set out at section 9"?

Response

79.1 Yes, that text should be added to the policy. This additional text is included in the modification presented in response to question 78.

Question 80: Should the supporting text provide guidance as to what is meant by 'small scale' and 'micro-scale'?

Response

80.1 The words 'small-scale' and 'micro-scale' have been used to be understood in their everyday sense. However, it would clarify the priorities of the Plan if additional guidance on the meaning of these words was given. This can be achieved through the following modifications.

80.2 To paragraph 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 **small scale***

approach should be continued, ensuring a sustainable supply of local building stone remains available throughout the plan period.'

- 80.3 A minor change to paragraph 6.3.5 should be made to ensure terminology within the Plan is consistent:
*'New sites might be appropriate where the building stone is important to ensure the preservation of local distinctiveness, the workings are ~~small-scale~~ **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).'*
- 80.4 Addition of new paragraph 6.3.7:
'Micro-scale extraction is expected to be very limited in physical size and duration and to be inextricably linked to the building for which the stone is being worked.'

Question 81: Should the Key Development Criteria for Callow Delve be updated to reflect paragraph 4.6 of the HRA Addendum Report (June 2022)?

Response

- 81.1 The key development criteria for Callow Delve currently require demonstration of how habitat severance for the horseshoe bats will be prevented, which may include retaining the periphery woodland.
- 81.2 As a typical sandstone delve, Callow Delve is worked by just one person who uses minimal machinery or other infrastructure. There is no overhead lighting and noise levels are unlikely to change as a result of extending the time for completion of extraction at this location.
- 81.3 Nevertheless, in accordance with the precautionary principle, the HRA recommended that the *'Need to demonstrate how noise and light impacts on horseshoe bats will be avoided'* be included within the KDC for Callow Delve. We recommend that the additional mitigation measure is added to the KDC for Callow Delve in the final Schedule of Main Modifications prepared in agreement with the Inspector following the Examination hearings.

Table MM5.1 Main modifications and minor changes in Hearing Statement Main Matter 5, Minerals other than aggregates
The modification reference follows those set out at the Schedule of Main Modifications and Minor Changes Proposed Pre-Examination (Examination Library ref. [D3.75](#))

| Mod. Ref. | Paragraph/policy/ figure reference | Proposed Modification | Reason for Change |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Section 6 Minerals | | | |
| MM6.p | Policy M5(1,a) | <p>the extension of time for completion of extraction at <u>the following</u> consented sandstone extraction sites, <u>subject to the key development criteria set out at section 9:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Black Hill Delve; ▪ Callow Delve; ▪ Llandraw Delve; ▪ Pennsylvania Delves; ▪ Sunnybank Delve; and ▪ Westonhill Wood Delves. | For clarification. (MIQ: 78) |
| MM6.q | Paragraph 6.3.3 | <p>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 <u>small scale</u> approach should be continued, ensuring a sustainable supply of local building stone remains available throughout the plan period.</p> | For clarification. (MIQ: 80) |
| MM6.r | Paragraph 6.3.5 | <p>New sites might be appropriate where the building stone is important to ensure the preservation of local distinctiveness, the workings are <u>small-scale small scale</u> (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).</p> | For clarification. (MIQ: 80) |

| Mod. Ref. | Paragraph/policy/ figure reference | Proposed Modification | Reason for Change |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| MM6.s | Paragraph 6.3.7 (new) | <u>Micro-scale extraction is expected to be very limited in physical size and duration and to be inextricably linked to the building for which the stone is being worked.</u> | For clarification. (MIQ: 80) |