

Additional Statement on behalf of the **Mineral Products Association (MPA)**.

Independent Examination of the Herefordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan.

Main Matter 6 - Safeguarding mineral resources, infrastructure and facilities

Issue: Whether the Plan is effective in safeguarding mineral resources, infrastructure, and facilities.

Policy M2: Safeguarding of Minerals Resources and Associated Infrastructure from Sterilisation or Significant Adverse Effect

Further to the session last week we have some additional observations on the size of buffers.

The Council originally had proposed to exclude urban areas from the Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSA) plus a 500m buffer (This was referenced in the Matters and Issues question 88).

The council, having accepted the need to include urban areas within the MSA, appeared to be struggling with how wide buffers should be to protect MSAs and existing mineral and infrastructure operations (notwithstanding the BGS *-Mineral safeguarding in England: good practice advice* referenced in the PPG, and examples from other mineral local plans in England).

Surely logic must dictate that if the council were happy to place a 500m buffer around urban areas then surely the same width of buffer should be applied to MSA and existing mineral operations and mineral infrastructure operations, with the agent of change principle applying within that buffer.

M E North
Mineral Products Association
14 November 2022.

