

Councillors' Briefing Note No. 142

Department: Economy and Regeneration

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Adoption of the Wiltshire & Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan – May 2013

1. Context and overview of minerals planning in Wiltshire

- 1.1 Planning for the release of minerals is a statutory responsibility. In addition, national planning policy¹ sets out the requirement that the Council, as a strategic planning authority, must produce plans setting out where aggregate minerals such as sand and gravel can be sustainably extracted to meet objectively assessed demand.
- 1.2 In meeting statutory responsibilities, Wiltshire Council works jointly with Swindon Borough Council on the preparation of Minerals 'Local Plans'. Since 2009 joint working has led to the review of the former Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Local Plan (2001) and the subsequent preparation and adoption of the following documents:
- Wiltshire and Swindon Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document (July 2009);
 - Wiltshire and Swindon Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (September 2009).
- 1.3 The existing minerals planning policy framework provides a balanced approach to meeting market demand for construction minerals by ensuring that appropriate levels of controls on extraction are implemented to protect and enhance Wiltshire's rich environmental and cultural heritage.

¹ The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, March 2012).

- 1.4 The final plan in the current suite of planning policy documents is the **Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Local Plan** (“the Plan”) which sets out specific locations for, and controls over, future sand and gravel extraction.
- 1.5 It is proposed that Council on 14 May formally adopts this Plan.

2. Background: Plan preparation

- 2.1 The Plan has been through an extensive preparation process. From an initial list of 62 potential site options promoted by landowners, the Council has, through site assessment work and full consultation, identified seven sites which are suitable to deliver a sustainable rate of production of 1.2 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum. A map illustrating the location of these sites is provided in **Appendix A**. A list of electoral divisions containing the seven suitable sites is provided in **Appendix B**.
- 2.2 The Plan has also been independently and robustly examined by a government appointed Planning Inspector. The outcome of the examination process has led to the Inspector concluding that the Plan, incorporating the Inspector’s modifications, is **sound** and should be adopted without delay.

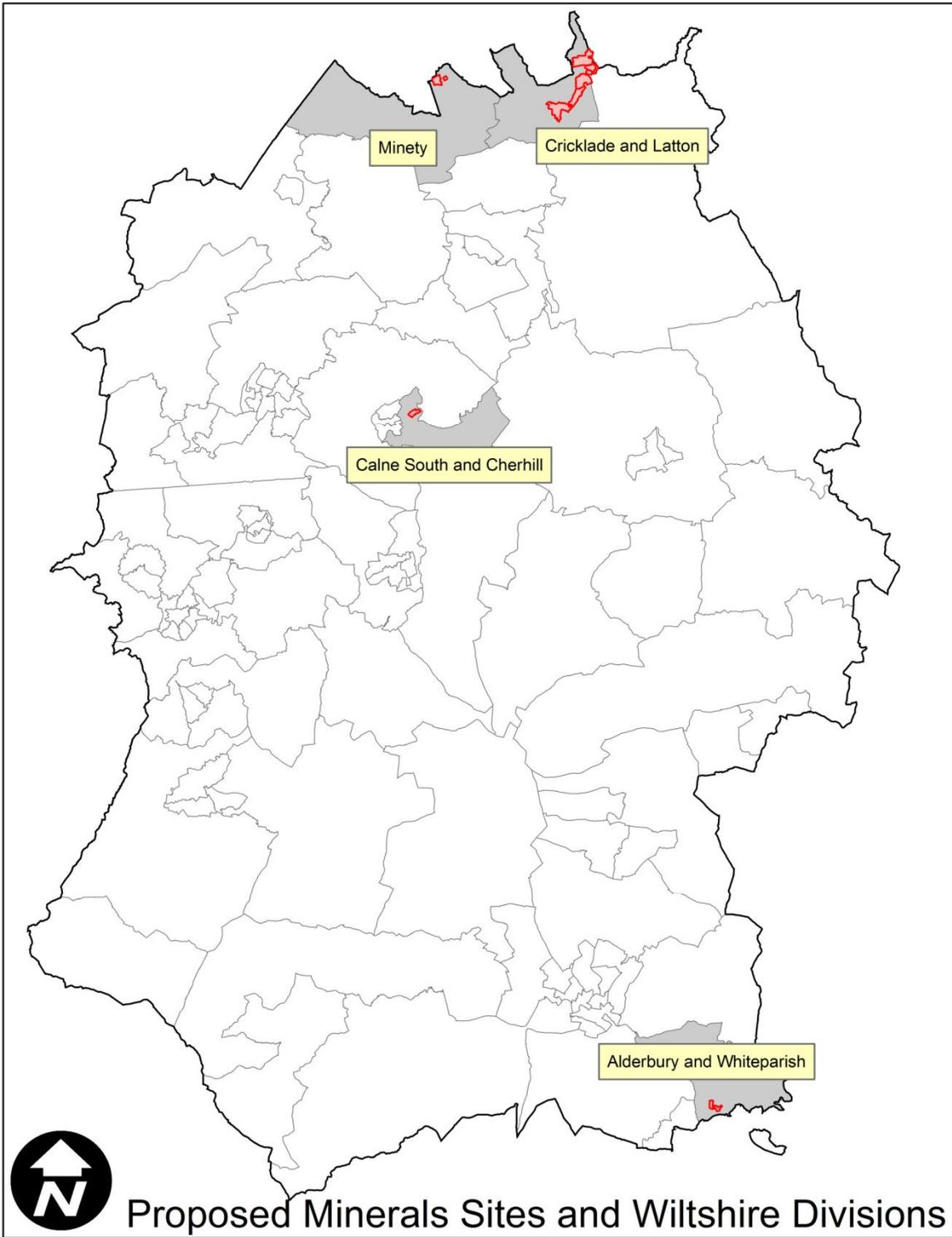
3. Current position

- 3.1 Following the receipt of the Inspector’s Report, the Plan was presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March. Cabinet approved the document and recommended it be adopted by the Council at its meeting on 14 May.
- 3.2 The Plan was presented to Swindon Borough Council on 11 April and formally adopted.
- 3.3 The adoption of the Plan represents a significant milestone in the delivery of the Council’s planning policy framework. Once adopted, the Council will be in a strong position to direct and control minerals development, as well as comply with statute and national planning policy.

4. Further information

- 4.1 Should you require further information in relation to minerals planning matters or the Council’s minerals policy framework, please contact: Geoff Winslow, Spatial Planning Manager – Environment & Resources; geoff.winslow@wiltshire.gov.uk ; 01225 713213.

Appendix A
Map of the allocated sites



Proposed Minerals Sites and Wiltshire Divisions



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Appendix B

Wiltshire and Swindon Aggregate Minerals Site Allocations Development Plan Document Local Plan – Proposed Minerals Sites and Wiltshire Electoral Divisions

Electoral Division	Proposed minerals site name	Size of site - hectares(ha)	Estimated resource yield	Current land use
Cricklade and Latton	Cox's Farm (inset map 1)	106.1ha	2,400,000 tonnes	Agricultural
	Blackburr Farm (inset map 2)	49.7ha	812,000 tonnes	Agricultural
	North Farm (inset map 3)	75.6ha	300,000 tonnes	Agricultural
	Land east of Calcutt (inset map 4)	172.6ha	2,200,000 tonnes	Agricultural
Minety	Land at Cotswold Community (inset map 5)	38.56ha	2,760,000 tonnes	Agricultural/former educational and residential facility
Calne South and Cherhill	Land near Compton Bassett (inset map 6)	23.4ha	450,000 tonnes	Agricultural
Alderbury and Whiteparish	Extensions to Brickworth Quarry (inset map 7)	25.2ha	1,948,000 tonnes	Agricultural/woodland

