

# Evidence Report

## Appendix 2: Waste Facilities Location and Design Guidance

**Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste  
Local Plan 2040**

**Hertfordshire County Council**



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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Hertfordshire County Council is reviewing its adopted Minerals Local Plan, Waste Local Plan and supporting documents. These comprise the following documents (with adoption date):
  - Minerals Local Plan Review (March 2007)
  - Minerals Consultation Areas SPD (November 2007)
  - Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (November 2012)
  - Waste Site Allocations DPD (July 2014)
  - Employment Land Areas of Search SPD (November 2015)
- 1.2. The documents listed above are to be replaced by a single Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) covering the period to 2040. The new MWLP will set the overall spatial framework and development management policies for sustainable minerals and waste management development in Hertfordshire.
- 1.3. This Evidence Report provides an overview of and response to the main issues raised during the Regulation 18 consultation relating to the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Draft Plan Appendix 2: Waste Facilities and Design Guidance.

## 2. Document Context

- 2.1. The purpose of Appendix 2: Waste Facilities and Design Guidance is to provide planning guidance into the aspects of design of waste management facilities and the expectations of National and Local Planning Policy.
- 2.2. The guidance should be used by applicants wishing to develop such facilities. The appendix outlines the key design principles for waste management facilities and lists a number of general key planning issues and detailed assessments that may be required at the planning application stage relating to the location and design of waste management facilities.
- 2.3. Appendix 2 follows on from the council's Waste Facilities Design Guidance published in February 2022. The guidance is a standalone document and is not part of the Development Plan.

### 3. Minerals & Waste Local Plan Policy

3.1. The Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan was published for a Regulation 18 public consultation from 22 July to 31 October 2022. During the consultation period, members of the public, industry and other bodies were invited to comment on the Plan and its appendices.

### 4. Main Issues Raised

4.1. During the Regulation 18 consultation, 8 representations were made in relation to this document. The main points of these are summarised below:

- a) Reference be made to the Highways Authority's emerging document 'Hertfordshire Place & Movement Design Guide' (HPMDG).
- b) The appendix should consider the fact that some facilities may not be classed as suitable development within the green belt.
- c) To avoid paragraph 3.66 of the appendix becoming a requirement, it should be specified that each facility is considered on a case-by-case basis.
- d) The guidance should seek clearly to avoid the use of the Green Belt.
- e) The Natural Environment section of Appendix 2 needs reference to requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain from future development of waste facilities.
- f) Consideration should be given for the provision of active travel access infrastructure and facilities for site users.
- g) The locational criteria within the appendix should follow an approach based on sieve analysis, taking account of landscape sensitivity.
- h) The following changes are proposed to Appendix 2:
  - *Landscape and Visual Effects*
  - ~~Hertfordshire comprises a rich variety of landscapes and settlements, each with its own distinct character and 'sense of place'.~~
  - *Policy 16: Landscape **Local Character** and Green Infrastructure of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan aims to conserve and enhance **local** landscape character, ~~quality~~, visual amenity, and green infrastructure networks.*
  - ~~Waste development proposals should seek to demonstrate how they conserve and enhance local character. A suite of landscape and townscape character assessments identify, describe and evaluate the strength of character and quality of character areas across the County, and provide a strategy and guidelines for managing positive change.~~
  - ***Appropriate site selection requires an understanding of the development's specific attributes (e.g., height, scale, massing, lighting, noise etc.), and the ability of the landscape/townscape and visual***

**resource to accommodate those attributes without causing unacceptable harm to character and visual amenity.<sup>1</sup>**

*The suggested footnote 1 would state: <sup>1</sup> This approach is set out in industry accepted guidance ‘An approach to landscape sensitivity – to inform spatial planning and land management, June 2019 Natural England’*

- **This should include consideration for the ability of a site to deliver design led solutions for effective embedded mitigation measures and enhancements.**
- **Landscape and visual criteria for assessing sites could include the following:**
  - **Topography of the landform**
  - **Scale of the landscape pattern**
  - **Retention and protection of valued landscapes and features**
  - **Views and visual prominence**
  - **Green Infrastructure opportunities**
  - **Perceptual and experiential qualities – such as tranquillity**
- **Waste development proposals should seek to demonstrate how they conserve and enhance local character of the site and the surrounding built environment and landscape setting.**
- **Where development proposals are likely to give rise to landscape and visual effects,** ~~An assessment of landscape and visual effects should be provided for all applications to demonstrate how any adverse effects will be effectively mitigated, for example screening measures may be required.~~ *‘Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment’ or landscape and/or visual appraisals should be carried out in line with industry good practice ‘Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition,’ (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment).*
- **They should be carried out as part of an iterative design process, identifying key constraints and opportunities, and inform an effective landscape and visual mitigation and enhancement strategy.**
- ~~In terms of landscape considerations, the NPPW states that: ‘Considerations will include (i) the potential for design-led solutions to produce acceptable development which respects landscape character; (ii) the need to protect landscapes or designated areas of national importance (National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts) (iii) localised height restrictions.’ NPPW (2014) – Appendix B~~
- ~~The area around a proposed development can provide great opportunities for providing an appropriate setting as well as enhancing biodiversity. It is likely that the approach taken to soft and hard landscape issues will differ depending on the character of the site and its wider context.~~

- i) The following amendment to the appendix is suggested: *Policy 18: Historic Environment of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan aims to **preserve** ~~conserve~~ and **where appropriate** enhance the significance of heritage assets ...* .

4.2. The council's response to the main issues is as follows:

- a) At the time of writing (January 2024) this document has not been published
- b) The suitability of waste development within the Green Belt is covered within Policy 14: Green Belt.
- c) It is considered that this paragraph does not limit development to be contained within buildings, rather it offers this option as a possibility.
- d) Waste development can be appropriate within the Green Belt. Any proposals for this will be considered with regard to Policy 14: Green Belt and national policy and guidance.
- e) This is now a legal requirement, therefore there is no need to reference this in the Appendix.
- f) Paragraph 3.38 of Appendix 2 discusses opportunities for active and sustainable travel.
- g) Appendix 2 does not specify sites or locations for waste development. All of the criteria within the appendix should be considered where appropriate.
- h) The majority of these suggested changes will be implemented in the Appendix.
- i) The use of the term 'conserve' is consistent with the NPPF and with Policy 18, therefore no change required.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1. This Evidence Report demonstrates the main issues raised to this supporting document to the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan. It also summarises how the council has addressed those issues within the Regulation 19 consultation.
- 5.2. Any representations received on this section at the Regulation 19 consultation stage will be submitted alongside the Local Plan to the Secretary of State as part of the examination process.
- 5.3. This Evidence Report was written to support the Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) consultation. This report forms part of the Regulation 22 statement, as set out by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.