



# Minerals and Waste Core Strategies Consultation

In line with every other county council in the country, we are preparing documents that will guide future decisions on how all kinds of waste are managed in the county and where minerals will be extracted.

The two documents, called Minerals and Waste Core Strategies (MCS and WCS) will provide the framework for sustainable minerals extraction and waste management in Gloucestershire. Having worked on these strategies for the last two years, we have developed some preferred options that represent possible ways forward. This leaflet contains a summary of some of the key options identified in the main preferred options documents. The full range of options, and the supporting evidence papers can be seen on our website at [www.goucestershire.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste). It can be viewed in County Council and district council offices and libraries throughout Gloucestershire.

We began gathering our evidence in June 2005. A series of 'technical evidence papers' have been prepared that expand on particular issues and are cross-referenced overleaf.

The county council has recently adopted a Municipal Waste Strategy, and is currently preparing a Residual Waste Strategy, both of which relate to how waste is managed in the county (see overleaf).

## How can you help?

Please let us know what you think about the preferred options presented on pages 4 to 8 of this paper by completing the response form enclosed. The form is also available at County Council and district council offices, libraries or by contacting **The Minerals and Waste Policy Team:**

 [m-wplans@goucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:m-wplans@goucestershire.gov.uk)

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**We need your comments by 13th March 2008.**

A report summarising the feedback we receive will be published following the consultation process. Your comments will be used to help us finalise the strategy before we send it to the Secretary of State, for public examination.

The preferred options are not site specific (at this stage). They do, however, identify broad locations for strategic (large scale) waste facilities. These options will help to shape the way the county manages waste issues over the next 10 to 20 years.



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# Background information on managing waste

We, as a society, produce more waste than ever before. And yet, few people are happy if a waste management facility is proposed near to their home or workplace.

The Waste Core Strategy deals with **where** waste should be managed, whereas the Municipal Waste Management Strategy and Residual Waste Strategy deal with **how** it should be managed.

The following diagram shows the best way for us to manage waste with prevention and reduction of waste as the priority. This model has been agreed nationally.



The way we manage our waste in Gloucestershire has, up until recently, been mostly by sending it to landfill. The environmental impact, new European legislation, UK Government targets and the fact that we are rapidly running out of space means we cannot continue to do this. Plus of course the financial cost to council taxpayers. Rising landfill taxes mean it will cost another £1.6m over this next year alone.

The County Council is developing several strategies to help us manage our waste. They are based on three issues:

1. Reducing, reusing, recycling and composting as much waste as possible (Municipal Waste Strategy).
2. Finding an alternative to landfill for dealing with the residual waste that cannot be recycled (Residual Waste Strategy).

3. Deciding where in the county any residual waste treatment centre should be sited (Waste Core Strategy).

## 1. The Municipal Waste Strategy

The County Council has prepared this document in partnership with the six district councils, who together are called the Gloucestershire Waste Partnership (GWP). The document is called the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS). The aim is to work together to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost as much of Gloucestershire's household waste as possible.



## 2. The Residual Waste Strategy

Waste which cannot be recycled or composted is called residual waste. It is currently sent to landfill. This strategy is currently being developed and will set out what alternative treatments we could introduce to Gloucestershire. Five options are being considered at the present time:

- ◆ Mechanical biological treatment with residues to landfill
- ◆ Mechanical biological treatment with residues to a combined heat and power facility
- ◆ Autoclaving technology with residues to a combined heat and power facility
- ◆ Combined heat and power facility



(Modern Thermal Treatment (MTT with CHP)

- ◆ Advanced thermal treatment (gasification, pyrolysis)

Over the next few months the County Council will be consulting on the Residual Waste Strategy.

More details about the technologies being considered and about the residual waste and municipal waste strategies can be found on our website at [www.goucestershire.gov.uk/waste](http://www.goucestershire.gov.uk/waste).

### 3. The Waste Core Strategy (WCS)

Reducing the amount of waste produced is the overarching objective of the Waste Core Strategy (WCS). It can play an important role in encouraging people to reduce the waste they produce, by assisting the work of other organisations and agencies. A supplementary planning document has been prepared by the county council in conjunction with the six district councils to make this a requirement as part of any planning application.

Meeting targets for recycling, composting and reducing landfill are key challenges for Gloucestershire. The additional capacity we need to find to manage our waste is given in Appendix B of the Technical Evidence Paper WCS-A 'Data'.

In summary, Gloucestershire will require the following additional capacity to manage its waste:

For municipal solid waste (which includes household, street and some trade waste).

- ◆ Between 11kt and 26kt In Vessel composting (IVC) capacity
- ◆ 76kt recycling capacity
- ◆ 150kt –270kt residual treatment capacity

To manage commercial and industrial waste the following additional capacity is needed:

- ◆ By 2020/21 additional diversion of 145kt per annum from landfill (assuming no growth in this waste stream).

To manage construction and demolition waste the following additional capacity is required:

- ◆ By 2012 diversion of an additional 111kt per annum from landfill – to halve the amount currently being sent to licensed landfill sites.
- ◆ 'Exempt' capacity to use inert material for land restoration (e.g. worked out mineral sites)

There are currently no specific targets on hazardous waste and no requirement to make specific capacity provision to manage it. However, the key issue for the WCS is to set an appropriate framework for determining the environmental acceptability of existing sites in accordance with Regional Spatial Strategy draft policy W3, see Technical Paper WCS-M Environmental Acceptability.



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# The Waste Core Strategy (WCS)

The proposed vision below draws on these strategies whilst trying to present a succinct basis for future waste action.

## **WPO1 – Spatial Vision for Gloucestershire**

By 2026 Gloucestershire will be a clean, green, healthy and a safe place in which to live, work and visit. It will be a County whose inhabitants proactively minimise waste production to achieve zero growth by 2026 and where opportunities for re-using and recycling waste are maximised.

This will be delivered through a sustainable waste management system that: raises public awareness about waste minimisation; views waste as a resource; provides everyone with localised access to recycling facilities; supports markets for recyclable materials; and delivers a network of sites that enable maximum diversion of waste from landfill.

Sufficient waste management facilities will be provided to enable all households in Gloucestershire to recycle and compost at least 70% of their rubbish by April 2010, with an 80% participation rate by 2020.

Gloucestershire's communities, key landscape/environmental assets and land liable to flooding will be safeguarded from the adverse impacts from waste management activities. Major waste facilities will be located in the central area of Gloucestershire proximate to the main urban areas along the M5 corridor. Smaller supporting facilities will be dispersed around the County.

In applying the principles of spatial planning the vision emphasises the local distinctiveness of the County's nationally acclaimed landscape assets and liability to flooding in its central area, but retains a

focus on delivery by identifying the broad location in which strategic waste management facilities should be located in accordance with the Regional Spatial Strategy.

There are five strategic objectives that have been designed to meet the spatial vision.

## **WPO2 – Strategic objectives**

- A. To influence Gloucestershire's residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce, through raising awareness of waste issues. And then subsequently to encourage them to view any waste they do generate as a resource for which they must take communal responsibility.
- B. To make the best use of Gloucestershire's waste by encouraging competitive markets for goods made from recycled materials and obtaining a benefit (value) from left over (residual) waste materials.
- C. To preserve and enhance the quality of Gloucestershire's environment and to avoid undesirable environmental effects, including risks to human health and unacceptable impacts on designated landscapes / environmental sites.
- D. To reduce the environmental impacts of transporting waste by managing the majority of Gloucestershire's waste within a reasonable distance from its source of arising, and to encourage the use of sustainable means of transporting waste.
- E. To co-locate similar or related facilities



on existing waste sites or previously developed sites in preference to undesignated green-field locations (where appropriate) and to safeguard such land from development that may prevent this use.

### How will we decide where to put any waste facilities?

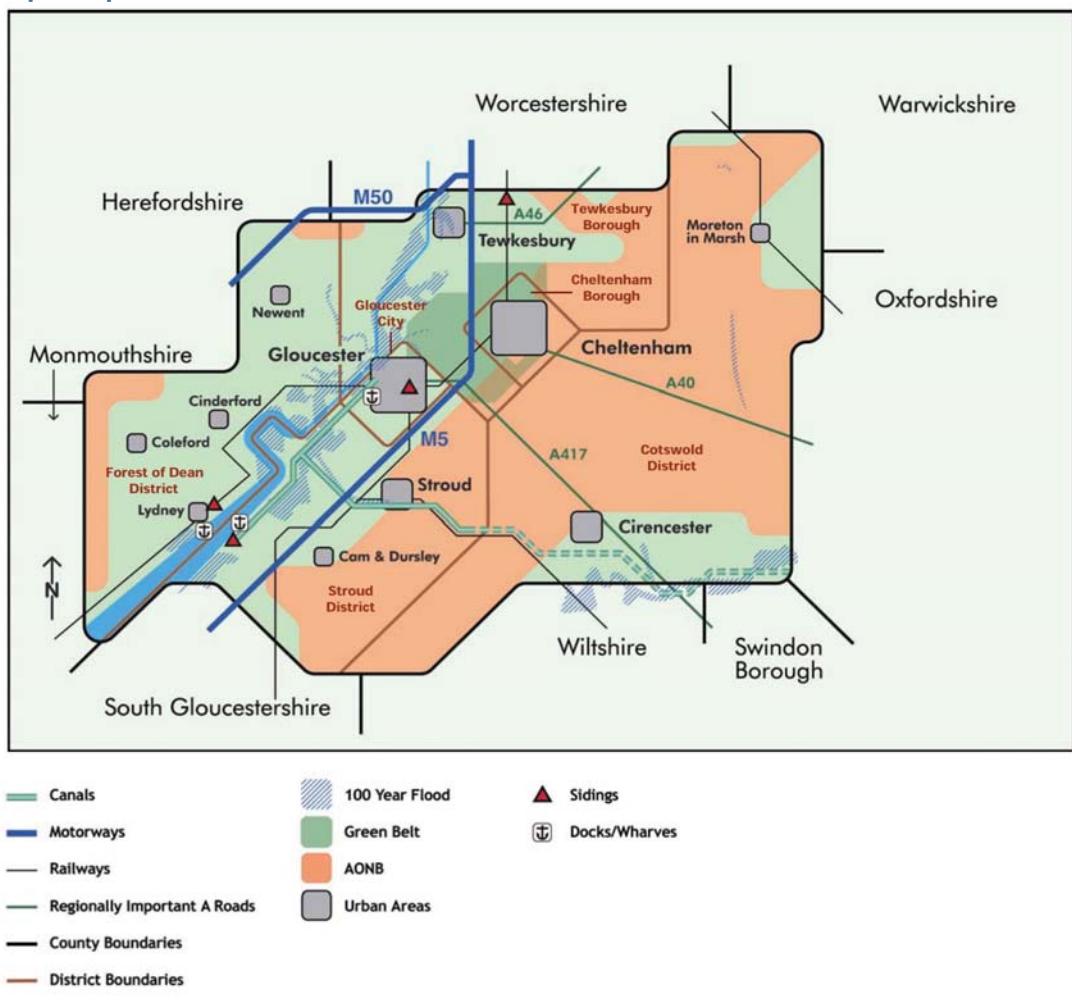
We have been guided by national and regional planning policy (in particular the draft Regional Spatial Strategy). This has led to the creation of a 16km search zone around urban areas.

In order to meet the criteria of draft regional Policy W2, locations within urban areas should be considered first. However, there is limited opportunity for allocating brown field or industrial type land within the four urban areas.

By avoiding floodplain and national landscape designations, particular areas have been eliminated from the search. This has narrowed the area of search down to a central area of the County encompassing the two main urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester. This zone was then further sub-divided into five parts (labelled C1 – C5) representing search options that are 'on the edge of' and 'in close proximity to' the main urban areas.

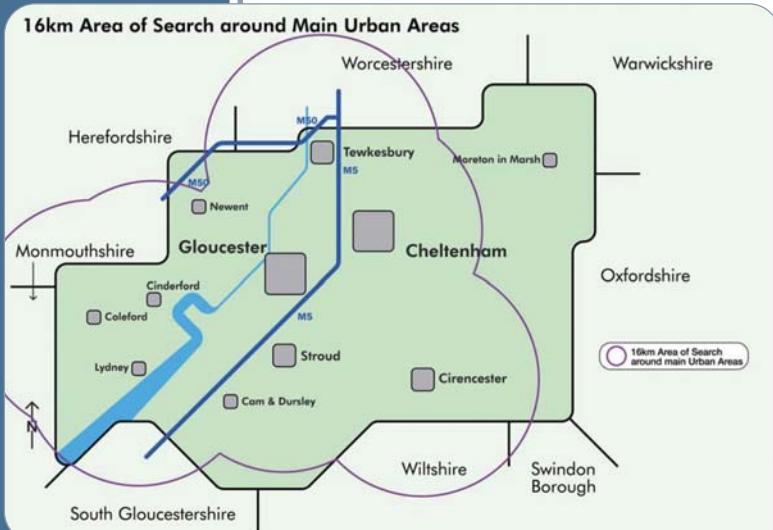
This has led us to preparing four options for broad locational search areas.

### Spatial portrait of local characteristics and infrastructure

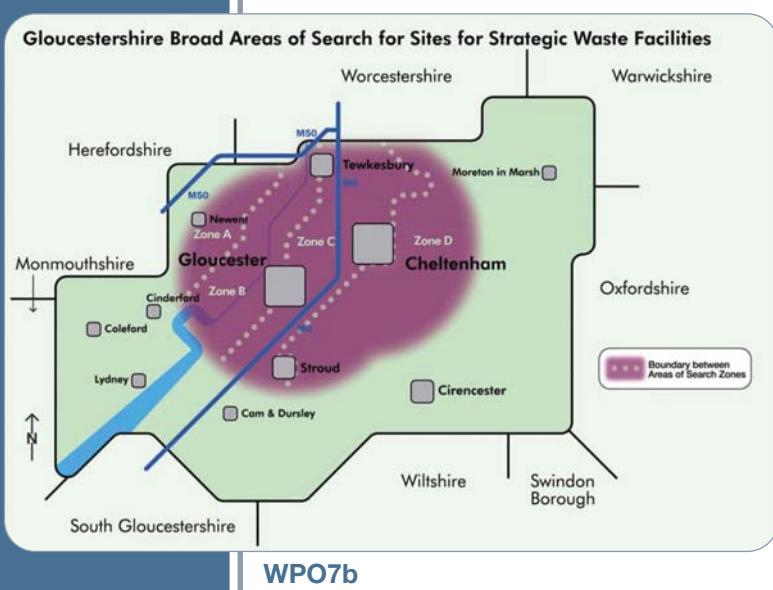


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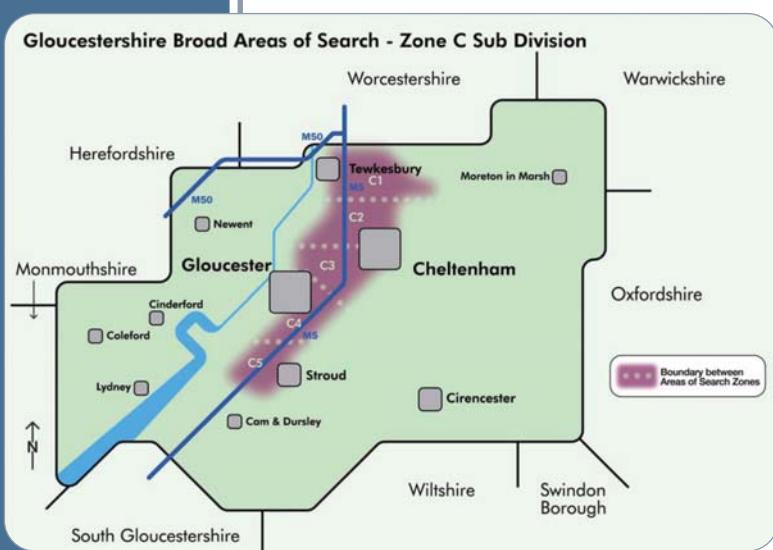
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WPO7a



WPO7b



WPO7c and WPO7d

**What are the four options for deciding where waste facilities should be sited?**

**WPO7a** – A broad search area based on the full 16km Regional Policy W2 (using the search criteria outlined for Options B, C & D). Under this approach, strategic sites that are remote from where most of the waste arises could be appropriate if they are able to demonstrate sustainable transport linkages.

**WPO7b** – Use urban locations and the area labelled Zone C as the broad locational area in which strategic waste management facilities should be sited.

**WPO7c** – Use urban locations and areas labelled C2, C3 and C4 as the broad locational area in which strategic waste management facilities should be sited.

**WPO7d** – Use area C4 as the broad locational area for strategic waste management facilities. If land is not forthcoming then the fall-back position is to search in areas C2 and C3 and then the wider Zone C.

Within these zones national and regional search criteria focus on industrial areas (areas either allocated in developments plans, or with permission for B2 general industrial uses) and previously developed land. Draft Regional Policy additionally encourages waste planning authorities to consider mineral extraction sites and landfill sites as locations for waste facilities. This ties in with the national waste policy objective of co-locating complementary activities. Gloucestershire stakeholders have provided additional locational criteria that could be used.





# Minerals Core Strategy (MCS)

The County's mineral resources are of local, regional and national importance. They include limestone used as crushed rock plus sand and gravel aggregates; limestone and sandstone for building stone; coal for energy generation; and clay used in brick making and civil engineering.

Achieving the best possible balance between meeting society's need for minerals and protecting local community and the environment is the challenge facing mineral planning.

Aggregates are some of the County's most important minerals as they are vital to the construction industry. They are used in the building and repair of homes, roads, railways, hospitals and offices.

There is an imbalance between the supply and demand of aggregates across England. Consequently, the Government has produced national guidelines to resolve this imbalance by apportioning amounts of aggregate that will be needed in the future from different parts of the country, known as regions.

Gloucestershire lies in the South West region, which through its Regional Assembly and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) has been asked to make provision for an apportionment of crushed rock plus sand and gravel aggregate.

However, the South West region's distribution of aggregates is also imbalanced and occurs in varying quantities and qualities. Therefore, a further breakdown of aggregates is needed at the local level (known as a local apportionment) to make sure that the South West region can successfully achieve its contribution.

Technical work supported by the Regional Assembly and included within its Regional Spatial Strategy has resulted in a local apportionment of aggregates for Gloucestershire. This includes an amount of crushed rock and sand & gravel.

The following preferred options have been developed for the MCS. These represent the possible ways forward for the planning for aggregates in Gloucestershire. Full details of each preferred option and how they have come about, can be found in Technical Evidence Papers MCS-A and MCS-B 'Provision and Locations Studies'.

## What are the preferred options for crushed rock?

**MPO3a** Preferred option MPO3a utilises the remaining resources present in the county.

However, based on the resource assessments carried out in Technical Paper MCS-B, new working areas may need to be identified in the future from within the Forest of Dean resource area. This could result in:

- ◆ An extension(s) to one or more of the existing crushed rock quarries in the Forest of Dean; and/or
- ◆ An increase in size of one or more of the undeveloped preferred areas, which are set out in the adopted Minerals Local Plan; and/or
- ◆ A new green field site.

**MPO3b** Preferred option MPO3b proposes an assessment of the remaining resources present in the County against those found in South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and/or Somerset.

**MPO3c** Preferred option MPO3c proposes a local review of the County's resources from the Forest of Dean and the Cotswolds prior to an assessment against the remaining resources found in South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and/or Somerset.



## What are the preferred options for sand and gravel?

**MPO4a** Preferred option MPO4a utilises the remaining resources present in the County. However, based on the assessment carried out in the Technical Paper MCS-A, new working areas will need to be identified for the future.

**MPO4b** Preferred option MPO4b also supports the delivery of Gloucestershire's local apportionment, but also looks to provide a longer-term planning framework, which is in line with the time horizon of the South West Regional Spatial Strategy.

**MPO4c** Preferred Option MPO4c promotes the delivery of the apportionment based on 'resources areas' rather than 'local areas'. For sand and gravel in Gloucestershire, this means looking at the remaining resource right across the Upper Thames Valley area, which stretches into Wiltshire and Swindon.

The aim of this option is to expand upon the existing joined-up working for minerals in the Upper Thames Valley. This in turn may support a holistic spatial strategy for the area that goes beyond mineral developments and include - nature conservation, amenity and infrastructure improvements.

Delivering option MPO4c will likely result in a change to the local apportionment for Gloucestershire. It may also require fundamental changes to working arrangements in the Upper Thames including a formal joint-working policy

and/or a change in how decisions are made in the area.

## What are the preferred location options for sand and gravel?

There are also two clear options for 'where' sand and gravel might be worked in the future. These are set out as follows:

**MPO5a** Preferred Option MPO5a proposes a dispersed locational strategy for future sand and gravel working. Whilst recognising the strategic significance of resources present in the Upper Thames Valley, it acknowledges the potential of the resources found in the Severn Vale Corridor. This option advocates that where new site allocations need to be identified, the relative merits of sites in each of the two areas must be considered.

**MPO5b** Preferred Option MPO5b introduces a clear locational preference towards the Upper Thames Valley area. Where new site allocations need to be identified, these will be focused on the resource area.

It is important to note, that if a more strategic approach is adopted for delivering Gloucestershire's local apportionment of sand and gravel (see option MPO4c) this location option will also need to reflect the patterns of current and proposed working close to and / or across the county boundary in Wiltshire and Swindon.

Please let us know what you think about the preferred options presented here by completing the response form enclosed and also available at County Council and district council offices, libraries or by contacting:

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**We need your comments by 13th March 2008.**

