
Statement prepared by Gloucestershire County Council | May 2019**Main Matter 6 | Minerals other than aggregates****Issue: Whether the Plan makes adequate provision for other minerals?****Question 35:****Is the Plan positively prepared regarding the provision of natural building stone?**

1. Policy MW02 sets out the plan's approach to proposals that support the provision of natural building stone. Subject to the acceptance of MLP Main Modifications PMM 05 and PMM 06 ([EX5a](#)) the County Council considers that the policy is positively prepared within the context of national policy as set out in NPPF 2012 ([PSD2](#)). It requires applicants to demonstrate the significance of their proposals in respect of the contribution to / and impact upon the economy and the ability to support the repair of heritage assets. It also seeks to ensure the careful and detailed consideration of potential impacts, taking into account the different type and level of protected designations (e.g. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) that exist throughout much of Gloucestershire's natural building stone resources.
2. Main Modifications PMM 05 relates to the supporting text to Policy MW02. It makes clear how decision makers should consider natural building stone proposals, particularly where they could include low rates of extraction and periods of intermittency, which would undoubtedly affect the temporary nature of each proposal. This approach accords with national policy set out in NPPF 2012 ([PSD2](#)).
3. Main Modification PMM 06 also relates to the supporting text to Policy MW02. It clarifies how decision makers will consider the issue of economic impacts. It also advises how applicants should approach responding to any potential negative economic impacts that could arise with their proposals and clearly defines the context in which this should be scrutinised. The attention is very specifically focused on the presence of those businesses, which operate locally and whose activities could be sensitive to environmental change brought about by mineral working (e.g. the rural tourism industry).

Question 36:**Is the word ‘only’ in policy MW05 necessary?**

4. Yes – the County Council considers that the word ‘only’ is necessary within Policy MW05. It has been included to confirm that whilst there is no longer a national policy presumption against the extraction of coal; a positive view is still dependant upon a set of very specific circumstances. This approach accords with national policy contained in NPPF 2012 ([PSD2](#)). The specific circumstances are clearly set out in Policy MW05. They include the ability to demonstrate that a proposal will be: - environmentally acceptable; or will offer national or local benefits that can clearly outweigh the likely impacts of a proposal.

Question 37:**Should Policy MW06 include waste related development such as C&D recycling and recovery?**

5. No – the County Council considers that Policy MW06 does not need to contain specific provision for waste-related development such as construction & demolition (C&D) waste recycling and recovery. The policy already allows for such developments to be assessed on a case by case basis with their acceptability determined against a suite of reasonable and relevant criteria. There are no exclusion criteria that relate to the types of development that could be considered ancillary to mineral working. It will be for applicants to demonstrate the ancillary nature of the proposal and how the ‘best use’ of minerals being worked on site can be facilitated and / or how any associated importation of minerals for processing will represent an environmentally acceptable and sustainable option.
6. In respect of C&D recycling and recovery development more generally, a local policy framework is already in place across the county through the adopted Gloucestershire Waste Core Strategy (WCS) ([PSD1](#)). In particular, the WCS contains adopted Policy WCS4, which is entitled ‘Inert Waste Recycling & Recovery’. This policy advises that inert waste recycling and recovery developments may be acceptable on mineral workings where it can be demonstrated that the minimum amount of materials are being used for restoration / engineering purposes and that the use will not unduly prejudice the agreed restoration principles and timescale. The WCS was adopted in late 2012 and is NPPF 2012 compliant ([PSD2](#)). Furthermore, the County Council has currently timetabled the commencement of the local waste policy review for later in 2019 / early 2020 ([SUB 011](#)).

Question 38:

Is Policy MW06 and its supporting text positively prepared and are the circumstances where a comparative analysis is required clear?

7. Yes – Subject to the acceptance of Main Modifications PMM 07 and PMM 08 ([EX5a](#)) the County Council considers Policy MW06 and its supporting text to have been positively prepared and clear as to where a comparative analysis will be required.
8. Main Modification 07 specifically relates to the policy and clarifies the assessment that will need to be made by decision makers under the final criterion. It makes clear that proposals must demonstrate how they will make a positive contribution to the local economic wellbeing or the cultural heritage of Gloucestershire, not necessarily both.
9. In the case of Main Modification PMM 08, this is concerned with the supporting text to Policy MW06. It confirms the circumstances under which a comparative analysis is required. The analysis is only necessary for those proposals that will involve the importation of minerals where existing, permitted alternative processing arrangements are potentially available. The key purpose of the comparative analysis is to aid decision makers in their assessment of whether mineral importation as an ancillary function would be a sustainable option. The sustainability requirement is specifically contained in Policy MW06 under clause 2.

Questions 35 to 38 response word count: 885