



Hampshire 2050
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		<i>Your reference</i>	24/00174/OUTS
<i>Date</i>	5 February 2024	<i>Email</i>	planning.policy@hants.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Outline planning application for demolition of existing buildings and erection of up to 270 dwellings, including affordable housing, with land for the potential future expansion of Halterworth Primary School, public open space, structural planting and landscaping, sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and vehicular access points. All matters reserved except for means of access at Land At Halterworth Lane, Halterworth Lane, Romsey, Hampshire.

Thank you for consulting Hampshire County Council (HCC) as the mineral planning authority (MPA) with regards to the above planning application.

The proposed development lies within the mineral and waste consultation area (MWCA) – Minerals section. This area is informed by the mineral safeguarding area (MSA) as defined through **Policy 15: Safeguarding – mineral resources** of the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013) (HMWP) and indicates where viable, safeguarded mineral resources are likely to be present.

The purpose of this policy is to protect potentially economically viable mineral resource deposits from needless and unnecessary sterilisation. The policy seeks to encourage the recovery, where possible, of potential viable mineral resources prior to development, this concept is known as prior-extraction.

Prior-extraction offers potential opportunities to reuse recovered minerals within the development itself or upcycle them to nearby aggregate recycling facilities. This in turn has strong potential to reduce the amount of waste generated through excavation on site as well as reducing the need for imported construction material.

Director of Hampshire 2050
Gary Westbrook

Whilst we, as the MPA, acknowledge the submission of a Mineral Resource Assessment (MRA) (Wardell Armstong, ref. ST20570 001 V1.1, dated January 2024), it is our stance that insufficient information has been provided to evidence the conclusions drawn.

In previous correspondence (CONS/2023/0627, dated 25 October 2023), we outlined that a satisfactory MRA should include empirical data of underlying geological stratigraphy captured by borehole or trial pit sampling, as well as recommendations on how the use of any minerals present could be maximised.

The submitted MRA does not contain any in-situ evidence as to the potential mineral reserve underlying the site, nor does it contain any evidence supporting the use of a 100m standoff buffer for sensitive receptors. Additionally, the drawing presented in the MRA to demonstrate the buffers applied (ST20570-001) is not visible.

We request that the applicant provide in-situ empirical data of the underlying geological stratigraphy of the site, as well as potential mineral yield calculations. It is also strongly advised that the applicant approach a local mineral operator to ascertain if the potential reserves underlying the site are of interest.

Further information on what we expect to see in submitted Mineral Resource Assessments can be found in Section 3 of our adopted Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document.

In the absence of further information on the mineral potential of the area and/or how this mineral potential will be handled by the development, the proposal is considered to be contrary to **Policy 15** of the adopted HMWP.

Hampshire County Council is available to discuss this further with Test Valley Borough Council, as well as the applicant, in forming a suitable agreement following the receipt of the required information.

Further information on safeguarding and Hampshire County Council's approach to it is available in the adopted Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire Supplementary Planning Document, which can be found on our website:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/planning-policy-home/hmwp-spds.htm>

Yours faithfully,

Andy Denton
Principal Policy Officer