

Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities

Joint Minerals and Waste Plan

Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Revised Scoping Report

June 2017



www.rbwm.gov.uk



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
Why is a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment required?.....	1
What is the scoping stage?	2
2. Methodology	5
Overview of Central & Eastern Berkshire Waste and Minerals Plans	5
The Plan Area	6
Joint Minerals & Waste Plan (JMWP)	7
JMWP Objective	8
Achieving Sustainable Development through the JMWP	8
Meeting the Requirements of the SEA Directive	9
Limitations.....	11
Consultation questions and how to comment on this report.....	12
3. Main Messages from Review of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programs	13
Review Process	13
Directly Relevant National Legislation, Plans and Policies.....	14
Directly Relevant Local Plans and Policies	17
4. Baseline Information	24
Establishing the Baseline	24
Rationale for Scoping.....	25
Main Messages from the Baseline	31
Population and Human Health	31
Material Assets	31
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	32
Soil Geology and Geomorphology	32
Water	33
Climatic Factors and Air Quality	34
Cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage	34
Landscape Visual Amenity.....	34
5. Developing the SEA Framework	36
Draft Objectives	36
Compatibility of SEA Objectives.....	39
Reasonable Alternatives	40
Assessment Approach	40
6. Remaining SEA Stages.....	43
Remaining Stages and Tasks	43
Proposed Structure of the Environmental Report.....	43
Glossary	44

Appendix A: Summary Consultation Responses

Prepared by Hampshire Services

Hampshire County Council

www.hants.gov.uk/sharedexpertise



1. Introduction

Why is a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment required?

- 1.1 The Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities (including Bracknell Forest, Reading, Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham) are required under the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* (Section 19(5)) to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Joint Waste and Minerals Plan (JMWP) in order to deliver national sustainability objectives.
- 1.2 When preparing a minerals and waste local plan, it is also a statutory requirement to conduct an environmental assessment¹ in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations. Article 3 (2) of the Directive makes Strategic Environmental Assessment mandatory for plans and programs:
- A. which are preferred for agriculture, forestry, energy, industry, transport, **waste management**, water management, telecommunications, tourism, **town and country planning or land use** and which sets the framework for future development consent for projects listed in Annex I and II of the Environmental Impacts Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC); and
 - B. which in view of the likely effects on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- 1.3 The SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes have been combined into a 'Sustainability Appraisal Report incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment' (the SEA).
- 1.4 The objective of this SEA is to *'provide a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations in the preparation of plans and programs with a view to promoting sustainable development'*².
- 1.5 The SEA:
- Identifies, describes and evaluates the significant environmental effects of implementing the Minerals and Waste Plan;
 - Identifies actions to prevent, reduce or as fully as possible offset any adverse effects;

¹ Commonly referred to as Strategic Environmental Assessment

² Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, Strategic Environmental Assessment and ex-ante evaluation for the EMFF operational programs (OP)

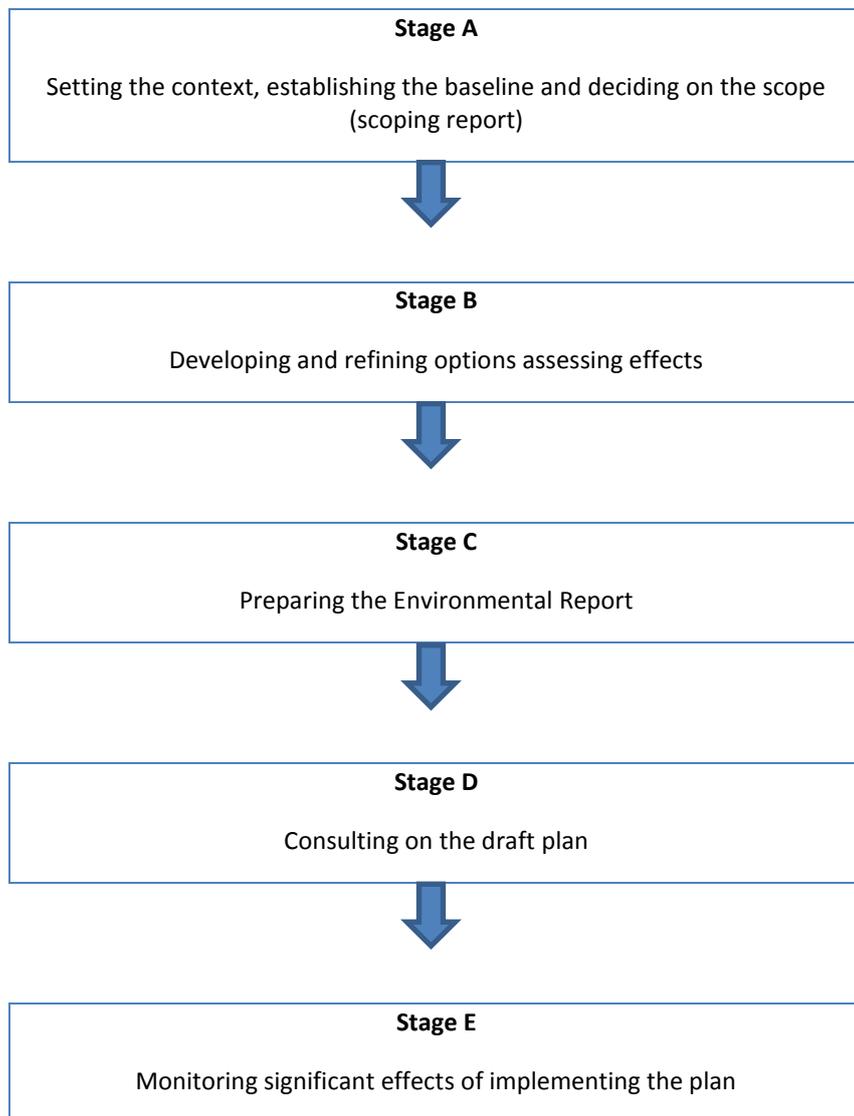
- Allows the environmental effects of alternative minerals and waste management approaches and mitigation measures to be considered;
- Provides an early and effective opportunity to engage in preparation of the Minerals and Waste Plan through consultation; and
- Monitors the implementation of the plan to identify any unforeseen environmental effects and take remedial action where necessary.

1.6 SEA is the systematic appraisal of the potential environmental impacts of policies, plans, strategies and programmes during the development of the Plan before they are approved. Ensuring that implications for the environment are fully and transparently considered and those final decisions are taken.

What is the scoping stage?

1.7 SEA is an on-going and iterative process. This scoping report forms the first part (Stage A) of the SEA process. **Figure 1** provides a summary of the SEA stages.

Figure 1: The SEA Process



1.8 Scoping (Stage A) sets the context and objectives of the SEA, establishes the baseline and decides on the scope of the appraisal. It informs the plan preparation, the development of policy options as well as outlining further work required for the SEA report (Stage C).

1.9 The scoping stage involves the gathering and compilation of the background data, and determines what issues and information can be scoped in and out, it defines the sustainability objectives needed for the SEA in order to focus the effort of the SEA onto the main issues ensuring attention is focused on the most significant impacts. This fulfils Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulation 12(2) that 'significant' environmental effects will be considered in the compilation of the environment report.

- 1.10 The appraisal process (Stage B) helps to refine the issues and options into a set of realistic, preferred options that have been assessed thoroughly.
- 1.11 The Scoping Report is also the mechanism for developing a sound and robust appraisal framework and appraisal methodology. Hence the Scoping Report forms the basis for the appraisal and the production of the Environmental Report (Stage C).
- 1.12 The scoping stage has been presented in the format to facilitate communication of third parties. Parties which are likely to be concerned by the effect of implementing the plan will be consulted on the scope and level to be included in the environmental report. Sending this scoping report to consultees ensures compliance with Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulation 12(5) (further details regarding consultation are provided in Section 2). The final output will be a combined SEA report which meets the regulatory requirements for both SA and Strategic Environmental Assessment and which will be published alongside the JMWP.

2. Methodology

Overview of Central & Eastern Berkshire Waste and Minerals Plans

- 2.1 The currently adopted minerals and waste plans for the Berkshire area³, including the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities are the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire, adopted in 1995 and subsequently adopted alterations in 1997 and 2001⁴ (including Appendices⁵ and saved policies⁶) and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire adopted in 1998⁷ (including saved policies⁸).
- 2.2 The Minerals Local Plan and Waste Local Plan cover the administrative areas covered by the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities as well as Slough Borough Council and West Berkshire Council. While these plans cover the period until 2006, the Secretary of State has directed that a number of policies in them should be saved indefinitely until replaced by national, regional or local minerals and waste policies. For Central & Eastern Berkshire these saved policies will be replaced by the JMWP, when it is adopted.
- 2.3 A review of the Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire and the Waste Local Plan for Berkshire was undertaken on behalf of the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities by the Joint Strategic Planning Unit (JSPU). The JSPU published a 'Preferred Options' version of the Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy in September 2007 and a Submission Draft version was published in September 2008. The Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2009. The Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Examination commenced in June 2009. During the hearing concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of the evidence base used to support the waste strategy. As a result of these concerns the Inspector decided to adjourn the Examination and the Secretary of State subsequently formally requested the withdrawal of the Core Strategy in January 2010.
- 2.4 After a review of minerals and waste planning the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities decided to progress with a Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (JMWP).

³ Minerals and Waste. <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/minerals-and-waste/>

⁴ Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire 2001 - <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/replacement-minerals-local-plan-for-berkshire-2001.pdf>

⁵ Replacement Minerals Local Plan for Berkshire 2001 Appendices. <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/replacement-minerals-local-plan-for-berkshire-2001-appendices.pdf>

⁶ Mineral Local Plan Saved Policies. <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/mineral-local-plan-saved-policies-schedule.pdf>

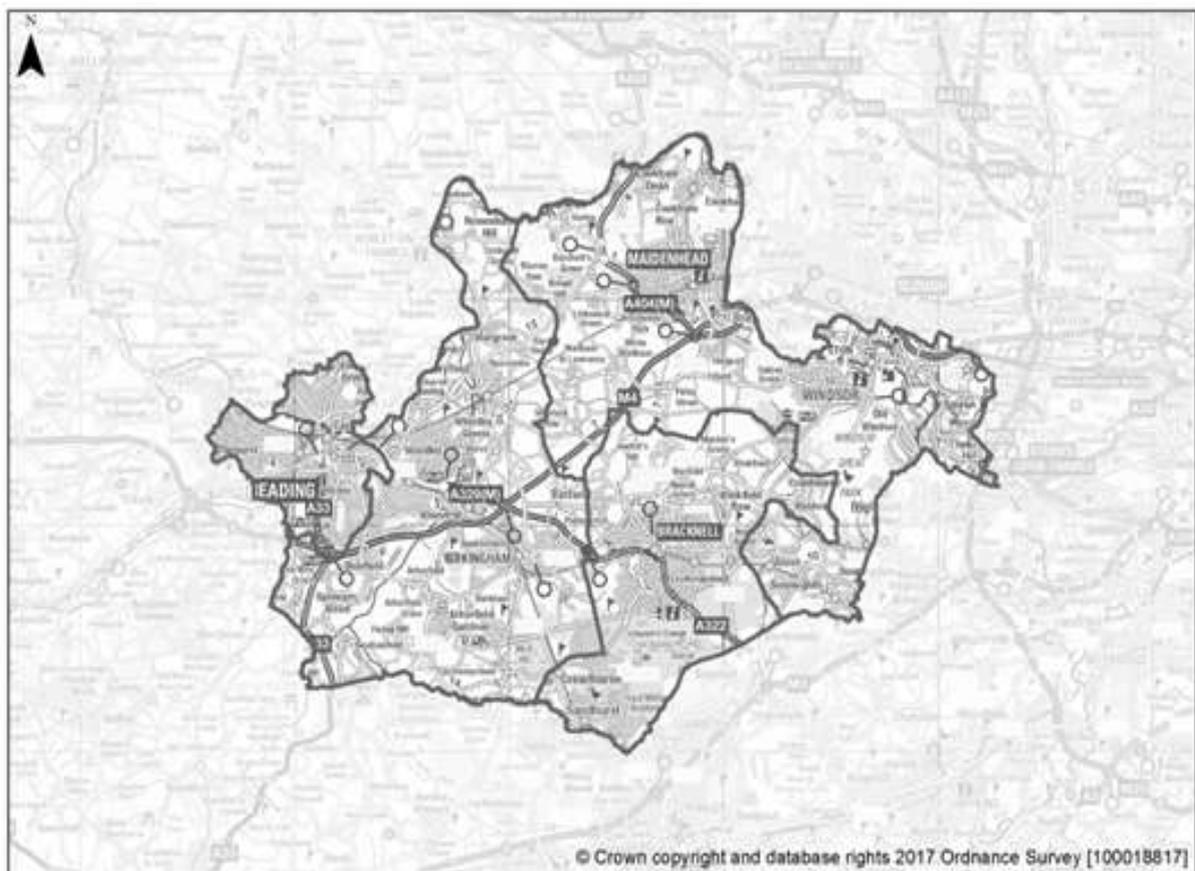
⁷ Waste Local Plan for Berkshire. 1998. <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/waste-local-plan-for-berkshire.pdf>

⁸ Waste Local Plan Saved Policies. 1998. <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/waste-local-plan-saved-policies-schedule.pdf>

The Plan Area

2.5 Minerals and waste planning authorities are allowed to work together to prepare minerals and waste development documents⁹. The JMWP will cover the administrative areas of Bracknell Forest, Reading, Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham (the Plan Area – see Figure 2), all of which are minerals and waste planning authorities. The JMWP will be prepared, submitted and adopted by the four authorities as a joint document. The joint document does not cover Slough Borough Council¹⁰ or West Berkshire Council¹¹, close coordination of the work between the various Berkshire authorities will continue in order to plan for minerals and waste strategically and address any cross-border issues that may arise.

Figure 2: Administrative Area of JMWP (the Plan Area)



⁹ Under section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

¹⁰ Slough Borough Council minerals and waste policy - <http://www.slough.gov.uk/council/strategies-plans-and-policies/minerals-and-waste.aspx>

¹¹ Emerging West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan - <http://info.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=29081>

Joint Minerals & Waste Plan (JMWP)

- 2.6 The JMWP will be a Local Plan, supported by other development documents such as the Statement of Community Involvement for each Authority. The JMWP will cover the period up to 2036 and will replace or ‘supersede’ the currently adopted minerals and waste local plans for the relevant Berkshire authorities.
- 2.7 Each of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities will continue to prepare its own Local Plan, which will focus on the areas of planning that are not related to minerals and waste. They include the following:
- Comprehensive Local Plan for Bracknell¹²;
 - Local Plan Update for Wokingham¹³;
 - New Local Plan for Reading¹⁴; and the
 - Borough Local Plan for Windsor and Maidenhead¹⁵.
- 2.8 The image below (**Figure 3**) shows the documents that make up the JMWP and the linkages to other strategies. Further details regarding how international, national and regional legislation policies and plans are linked within this SEA are provided in **Section 3**.

¹² Comprehensive Local Plan for Bracknell: <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/comprehensivelocalplan>

¹³ Local Plan Update for Wokingham: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-update/>

¹⁴ New Local Plan for Reading: <http://www.reading.gov.uk/newlocalplan>

¹⁵ Borough Local Plan for Windsor and Maidenhead: https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200414/local_development_framework/594/emerging_plans_and_policies/2

Figure 3: JMWP Plans and Strategies



JMWP Objective

- 2.9 The JMWP will build upon the formerly adopted minerals and waste plans and improve, update and strengthen policies on how wastes and aggregates extraction are managed and identify strategic sites for future minerals and waste developments. It will ensure control over the right developments, in the right locations, at the right time.

Achieving Sustainable Development through the JMWP

- 2.10 Delivering sustainable development is a core principle underpinning the UK planning system and it is important that this planning system reflects the Government’s sustainable development policy. A widely used definition of sustainability is:

‘... development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ (Bruntland Commission, 1987).

- 2.11 The JMWP should contribute towards achieving ‘sustainable development’ by influencing spatial planning policy and informing decisions on where

development occurs. The SEA will play an important part in demonstrating that the emerging JMWP is sound and reflects sustainability objectives.

Meeting the Requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

2.12 This scoping report is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** introduces the concepts of sustainable development and provides the legislative context to this scoping report;
- **Section 2** provides the appraisal methodologies and details of the JMWP;
- **Section 3** identifies relevant plans, policies, strategies and programs;
- **Section 4** provides the baseline and identifies environmental issues;
- **Section 5** outlines the framework of the SEA; and
- **Section 6** provides a summary of the contents of the Environmental Report.

2.13 **Table 2.1** provides a summary of the key tasks required for Environmental Reports (in the Directive) and highlights where the tasks are addressed within this scoping report. It is of note that the Directive does not specifically prescribe that a scoping report be prepared, where a task is not required for scoping but is required in the Environmental Report 'N/A' has been inserted, however these tasks will be included in the Environment Report, the proposed contents list for which is provided in **Section 6**.

Table 2.1 SEA Roadmap¹⁶

Task	Where covered in this report
(a) An outline of the contents; and main objectives of the plan or program; and the relationship with other relevant plans and programmes.	Section 6 Section 2.3 Section 3 (Tables 3.1 and 3.2)
b) the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and likely evolution thereafter without implementation of the plan or program.	Appendix A (Baseline)

¹⁶ The requirements of the SEA address the requirements for an SA, specifically with respect to reviewing policies and plans, assessing topic areas and determine likely evolution with the plan.

<p>c) the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.</p>	<p>Section 4, Appendix A (Baseline) partially addresses this, further details will be provided in the Environment report.</p>
<p>d) any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or program including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC (The Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive).</p>	<p>Section 4 and Appendix A (Baseline)</p>
<p>(e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international community or member state level which are relevant to the plan or program and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.</p>	<p>Section 5.1</p>
<p>(f) the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as:</p> <p>Biodiversity;</p> <p>Population;</p> <p>human health;</p> <p>fauna, flora;</p> <p>soil;</p> <p>water;</p> <p>air;</p> <p>climate factors;</p> <p>material assets;</p> <p>cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; landscape; and</p> <p>the interrelationship between the above factors.</p>	<p>Partly covered in Section 4, further details will be provided in the Environmental Report</p>
<p>(g) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or program.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

(h) an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know how) encountered in complying the required information.	N/A
(i) A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with Article10.	N/A
(j) a non technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.	N/A

2.14 In addition to the SEA, a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) (screening assessment) is required to assess the potential for the plans to affect European nature conservation sites, and ensure the JMWP will not affect them significantly.

Limitations

2.15 It should be noted that there is a plethora of environmental information available. However, the information presented in this review has been selected on the basis that it may be of direct influence or affected by the JMWP. Effort has been made to avoid including baseline information or plans and programmes which are not of direct relevance to the JMWP or are replicated elsewhere.

2.16 The information presented in this report is the result of a desk-based review and no formal requests for records, data or information have been made¹⁷. It may be necessary to collect further data against which to assess the potential environmental effects of the JMWP with regard to specific JMWP measures, as they develop, and also post-construction monitoring requirements.

2.17 The SEA will not address any impacts likely to result during the implementation of any built solution, for example construction impacts that might arise during the building or development of specific waste or minerals sites. These issues are more appropriately considered during project level Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for specific schemes. However, if environmental opportunities or constraints of built solutions are broadly identifiable they will be highlighted in the SEA in order to avoid adverse effects and facilitate positive environmental opportunities at an early stage of planning.

¹⁷ Where applicable, requests were made to the Berkshire Authorities for available data.

Consultation questions and how to comment on this report

- 2.18 The Draft Scoping Report was provided to Statutory Consultees¹⁸ and other interested parties to allow them to express their views on the scope of SEA for the emerging JMWP. The consultation period was a five week period, and ran from Thursday 6th April to Friday 12th May 2017.
- 2.19 Following the consultation period, responses received were considered and this Revised SEA Scoping Report was completed.
- 2.20 A summary table outlining the consultation responses and how these responses have been considered within the SEA Scoping and Baseline Report is provided in Appendix A.

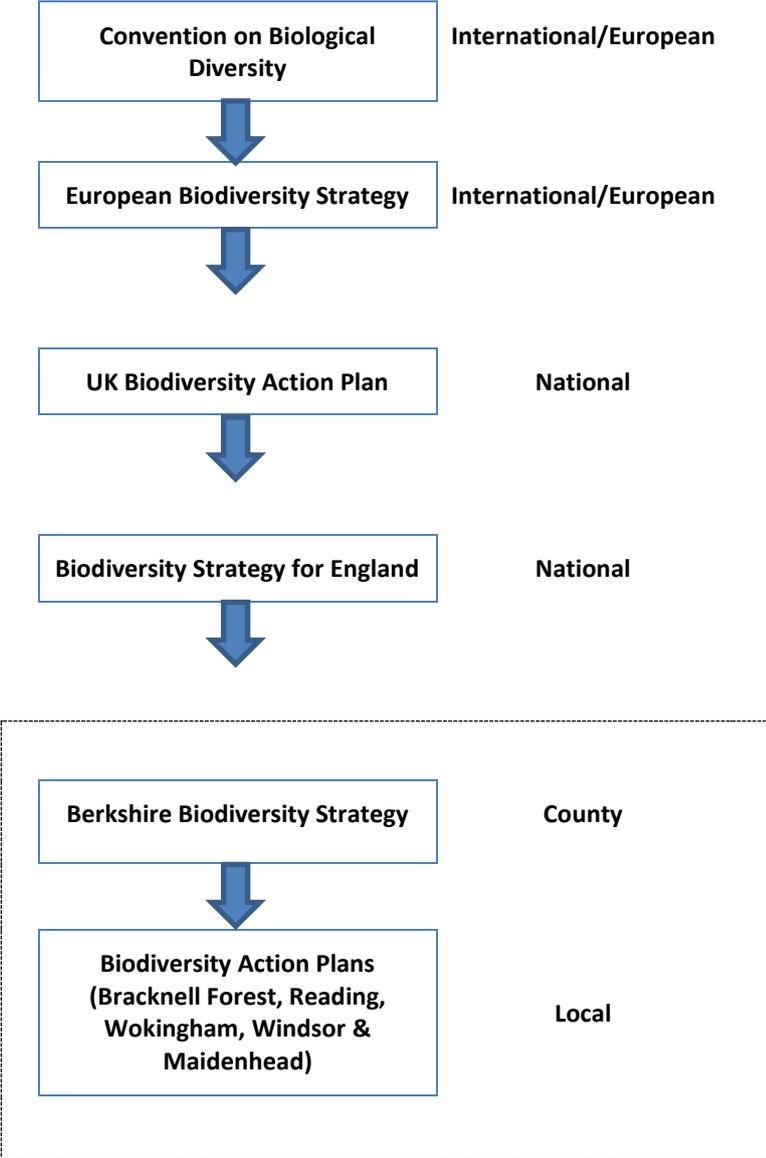
¹⁸ Statutory Consultees: Including amongst others - Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE) and Historic England (HE).

3. Main Messages from Review of Relevant Policies, Plans and Programs

Review Process

- 3.1 The first stage of the appraisal process is to identify policies, plans and programmes relevant to the JMWP. This is an important part of the process as it ensures the work is consistent with up-to-date policy, is informed by sound information and also helps in the process of identifying environmental and sustainability issues. This draws on the requirements set out under the SEA Directive to take into account the environmental protection objectives established at international, national, regional and local level.
- 3.2 For the purpose of this review, those policies, plan and programs which only directly impact the Plan have been included. With respect to those regulations and plans which apply on various international, nation and local levels, the most local plan which has the most direct impact and will encompass the international and national policies have been reviewed (refer **Figure 3**).

Figure 3: Example of Selection of the Most Relevant Plans



Directly Relevant National Legislation, Plans and Policies

3.3 *The Waste Framework Directive 2008/98/EC* (Waste Directive) sets the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling and recovery. It explains when waste ceases to be waste and becomes a secondary raw material (so called end-of-waste criteria), and how to distinguish between waste and by-products. The Waste Directive lays down some basic waste management principles: it requires that waste be managed without endangering human health and harming the environment, and in particular without risk to water, air, soil, plants or animals, without causing a nuisance through noise or odours, and without adversely affecting the countryside or places of special interest. It also applies the waste hierarchy.

- 3.4 In 2011, the Government published a *Review of Waste Policy in England*¹⁹ (hereafter referred to as the Waste Review 2011) which evaluated waste management policies for England and their delivery to ensure that the policies were fit for purpose, meeting society's expectations while reflecting the Government's ambitions for a zero waste economy.
- 3.5 In 2012, the *Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2012*²⁰ were adopted which transpose the Waste Directive. Specifically the regulations state that from 1 January 2015, waste collection authorities must collect waste paper, metal, plastic and glass separately.
- 3.6 In 2013, the government published the *Waste Management Plan for England 2013*²¹, which sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. The Waste Management Plan for England fulfils the requirement in Article 28 of the revised Waste Directive which requires that Member States ensure that their competent authorities establish waste management plans. It sets out specifically what waste management plans should contain.
- 3.7 The *National Planning Policy for Waste 2014*²², which replaces Planning Policy Guidance 10, sets out detailed waste planning policies. It includes the use of a proportionate evidence base to ensure that the planned provision of new capacity and its spatial distribution is based on robust analysis of best available data and information, and an appraisal of options. It states that waste planning authorities should prepare Local Plans which identify sufficient opportunities to meet the identified needs of their area for the management of waste stream. Further, the policy provides details regarding selection of specific sites and assessing suitability of sites and areas including the use of previously developed sites, transport infrastructure, greenbelt and cumulative effects.
- 3.8 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)²³ sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF- Minerals contains the objectives and policies that relate specifically to minerals.

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-review-of-waste-policy-in-england-2011>

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/waste-legislation-and-regulations>

²¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-management-plan-for-england>

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-for-waste>

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework>

- 3.9 The National Infrastructure Plan²⁴ is also relevant as there are a number of nationally significant projects within proximity to the Plan area e.g. Crossrail and the Heathrow Airport expansion which should be considered with respect to cumulative effects.
- 3.10 In October 2000 the 'Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy' (Water Framework Directive or WFD) was adopted and came into force in December 2000. Transposition into national law in the UK occurred through the following regulations: The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 (Statutory Instrument 2003 No. 3242) for England and Wales. The purpose of the Directive is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. It will ensure that all aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands meet 'good status' by 2015. This SEA does not have the scope for a detailed WFD Assessment. The SEA objectives will incorporate the basic requirements of the WFD in their underlying assessment criteria. The JMWP will need to consider whether any sites will lead to adverse impacts on the water bodies within the strategy area.
- 3.11 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 consolidate all the various amendments made to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 in respect of England and Wales. The 1994 Regulations transposed Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive) into national law. The Regulations came into force on 30 October 1994. The Regulations place a duty on the Secretary of State to propose a list of sites which are important for either habitats or species (listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive respectively) to the European Commission. Once the Commission and EU Member States have agreed that the sites submitted are worthy of designation, they are identified as Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). The EU Member States must then designate these sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) within six years. The Regulations also require the compilation and maintenance of a register of European sites, to include SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive). These sites form a network termed Natura 2000. The Regulations provide for the control of potentially damaging operations, whereby consent from the country agency may only be granted once it has been shown through appropriate assessment that the proposed operation will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. When

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-delivery-plan-2016-to-2021>

considering potentially damaging operations, the country agencies apply the precautionary principle' i.e. consent cannot be given unless it is ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site. Basic data collection on internationally designated sites will be included in the SEA to avoid duplication with the Habitats Risk Assessment. The SEA, HRA and JMWP will be integrated processes and the SEA and HRA will be able to influence the development of the JMWP. Specific details regarding the habitats and species covered in the SPAs and SACs will be included in the HRA and not duplicated in the baseline.

Directly Relevant Local Plans and Policies

3.10 Table 3.1 sets out those plans and policies that are directly relevant to the preparation of the JMWP.

Table 3.1: Local Plans and Polices of Direct Relevance

Plan, Policies and Programs	Relevance / Summary	Implications of SEA
<p>West of Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework 2036</p>	<p>The four authorities of Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough, West Berkshire, and Wokingham Borough, are undertaking cross boundary working to identify large scale opportunities to meet identified future development needs in the area. The four authorities have agreed to work collaboratively to consider how to meet the identified objectively assessed housing need for the market area. The Berkshire (including South Bucks) Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2016 identified that, between 2013 and 2036, the area needs to deliver in the region of 65,665 new dwellings to deal with population growth, affordability, market factors, sustaining and improving economic growth and the impact of the continued growth of London. The plan identifies in very broad terms the areas where there appears to be strategic opportunities which are worthy of future exploration.</p>	<p>The JMWP must ensure that resources are safeguarded and waste is sustainably managed in line with planned population growth.</p>
<p>Core Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracknell Forest Core Strategy, 2008 • Wokingham Core Strategy, 2010 • Reading Borough Local Development Framework, Core Strategy, altered 2015. • Windsor and Maidenhead Core Strategy 	<p>The <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</i> requires local authorities to prepare local development frameworks for their areas.</p> <p>Core Strategy Document, will set out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It should comprise a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies related to the implementation of the strategy; and a monitoring and implementation framework with clear objectives for achieving delivery.</p>	<p>The JMWP must compliment and support the visions within the various core strategies.</p> <p>The JMWP must ensure that safeguarded mineral resources and safeguarded mineral and waste infrastructure sites are compatible with Core Strategy development requirements.</p>

<p>Local Plans (emerging)</p>	<p>Local Plans are statutory documents produced by authorities that set out a vision for growth and strategic policies, and identifies sites for development and infrastructure provision. If it is not up to date, the National Planning Policy Framework will determine future development decisions without local people having a say on setting local policies.</p> <p>Of particular relevance are the number and location of significant developments which should be considered with respect to cumulative effects.</p>	<p>The JMWP must compliment and support the objectives in the emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>The JMWP must ensure that safeguarded mineral resources and safeguarded mineral and waste infrastructure sites are compatible with Local Plan development requirements.</p>
<p>Windsor & Maidenhead Emerging Local Borough Plan (consultation closed January 2017) 2033</p>	<p>Sets out the long-term spatial vision for the authority and the central planning policies that will deliver that vision. The Borough Local Plan will provide for 14,298 new dwellings and seek to enable up to 43,320 square metres of employment floor space and up to 9,550 square metres of additional retail floor space in the plan period up to 2033.</p> <p>Development will be focused primarily on the urban area of Maidenhead. New housing and economic development will be directed in the first instance to the following strategic locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maidenhead town centre; • Ascot town centre; • Maidenhead golf course and associated sites; • The Triangle (Land bounded by M4, A308(M), A330); and • Land west of Windsor, north and south of A308. 	

Bracknell Emerging Comprehensive Local Plan 2036	<p>The Plan will set the long-term spatial vision and development strategy for the borough up to 2036. The Plan will include a vision, objectives, and strategy for the level and distribution of development in the borough up to 2036 including housing, economic and retail development and new infrastructure; and policies relevantly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development within the green belt; • development within the countryside; • environmental issues such as flood risk and water quality; • heritage assets; and • the natural environment and biodiversity including landscape, green infrastructure and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. 	
Wokingham Emerging Plan (due 2019)	<p>The purpose of the Local Plan Update is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To refine the housing target for Wokingham Borough to 2036; • To identify and allocate sufficient land for housing as well as other uses to cover the period to 2036; • To set boundaries, such as around settlements; and • To update (where necessary) planning policies against which development proposals will be assessed. <p>Preparation of evidence to inform the document is underway. It is expected to be completed ('adopted') in May 2019.</p>	
Reading Local Plan (emerging)	<p>The plan presents how Reading will develop up to 2036. It will cover all of the important matters, from the question of how much development there will be, right down to matters such as design of house extensions. The published summary leaflet provides suggestions of where possible development sites may be and provides a list of candidate sites.</p>	

<p>Neighbourhood Plans</p>	<p>In addition some authorities have adopted Neighbourhood Plans which establish general planning policies for the development of land in a neighbourhood.</p> <p>Bracknell has the Binfield, Neighbourhood Plan. Wokingham has the Shinfield neighbourhood Plan. Windsor and Maidenhead have numerous applications to designate various areas as neighbourhoods. Reading does not have any neighbourhood plans to date.</p>	<p>The JMWP should support the objectives in the emerging Local Plans</p> <p>The JMWP must ensure that safeguarded mineral resources and safeguarded mineral and waste infrastructure sites are compatible with Neighbourhood Plan development requirements.</p>
<p>Transport Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Local Transport Plan 3: STRATEGY 2011-2026 • Wokingham Local Transport Plan 3: 2011 to 2026 • Windsor and Maidenhead Transport Local Transport Plan: 2012 and 2026 • Bracknell Forest Local Transport Plan 3: 2011-2026 	<p>The <i>Transport Act 2000</i> included the requirement for all local transport authorities in England, to produce a Local Transport Plan. Each of the four Authorities produced Local Transport Plans. The local Plans have been produced in accordance with the Local Transport Plan Guidance issued by the Department for Transport in 2009 and takes into account national and local policies and plans. The individual Local Transport Plans set out a range of policies that will determine how transport is provided within the various authorities.</p> <p>The Transport Plans identify key problems and opportunities in the Plan Area these include, but are not limited to: the availability and affordability of public transport; provision of walking and cycling facilities; major developments will put increasing pressure on existing infrastructure; relieving congestion; improving resilience; managing carbon emissions.</p> <p>Of particular relevance to the waste and mineral plan are the movements of freight and the impact of HGVs on strategic transport route, congestion and carbon emissions.</p>	<p>With respect to the JMWP transport infrastructure is a key consideration when considering the transportation associated with waste and mineral sites.</p> <p>The key issues and opportunities identified in the transport plans must be considered in the JWMP.</p>

<p>Biodiversity Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Biodiversity Action Plan, 2005-2015 • Wokingham District Biodiversity Action Plan 2003-2012 • Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan 2012-2017 • Windsor and Maidenhead (six biodiversity action plans) 2001--2010 	<p>In 1996 the British Government produced the initial national Biodiversity Action Plan (the UK-BAP). The actions in the UK-BAP are devolved down to local authorities, partner organisations and agencies. Each authority is expected to make its own Local BAP. The main objectives of the UK Biodiversity Action Plans are to conserve and enhance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the overall populations and natural ranges of native species and the quality and range of wildlife habitats; • Internationally important habitats and species; • Habitats and species (natural and managed) that are characteristic of local areas; and • Natural and semi-natural areas that have declined in recent years. <p>Each of the local plans set out a methodology to protect, conserve and enhance the diversity of wildlife. They include current status of the habitat; factors causing loss or decline; national and local objectives, targets and actions.</p>	<p>The Plan Area has a number of internationally important sites, notably the Windsor Forest & Great Park, Thames Basin Heaths, South West London Wetlands and the Chiltern Beechwoods.</p> <p>It is important that the JMWP ensures that development does not have a significant adverse effect on a site and where possible, should enhance, restore or create designated or important habitats and species.</p> <p>Relevant information will be included in the baseline assessment.</p>
--	---	---

<p>Flood Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wokingham Local Flood Risk Management 2015 • Reading Borough Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2015 • Bracknell Forest Council, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017-2020 • Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014 	<p>The <i>Flood and Water Management Act 2010</i> requires the Lead Local Flood Authority to develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for its area. Each of the authorities has developed a flood risk management strategy. The individual strategies specify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • risk management authorities within that area; • their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions and objectives for managing flood risk; • measures proposed to achieve those objectives; • how and when the measures are expected to be implemented; • costs, benefits and funding sources; • assessment of local flood risk; • how and when the strategy is to be reviewed; and • how the strategy contributes to the wider environmental objectives. 	<p>Much of the Plan Area is subject to surface water and groundwater flooding. It is important that the flood risk is assessed when considering suitable sites for waste and mineral sites in order to prevent pollution.</p> <p>Relevant information will be included in the baseline assessment.</p>
---	--	--

4. Baseline Information

Establishing the Baseline

- 4.1 The initial stage of the SEA involves researching collating and describing the sustainability baseline for the Plan Area. This provides the evidence base which will be used to inform the Environmental Report.
- 4.2 The baseline data includes existing environmental and sustainability information from a range of sources which is quantitative and qualitative. The information provides the basis for assessing the potential impact of the Plan's policies, objectives and options and will assist in the development of appropriate mitigation measures and sets the baseline for future monitoring. The baseline information profile will include baseline data pertaining to the following:
- the latest available data and comparison nationally (where available);
 - future trends and / or predictions and the likely future trends without implementation of the plan;
 - limitations, uncertainties and gaps in the data set; and
 - Existing environmental and sustainability problems.
- 4.3 Once the proposed location of potential sites have been identified it will be easier to predict direct and indirect impacts on specific areas (the zoom down). This will be included in the Environmental Report.
- 4.4 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations identify environmental receptors that must be initially considered for all environmental assessments. These include:
- Population and human health;
 - Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
 - Soil;
 - Water;
 - Air;
 - Climatic factors;
 - Material assets;
 - Cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage;
 - Landscape; and the

- Inter-relationship between the above factors.

4.5 Under the requirements of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*, Sustainability Appraisals should also include economy, employment and health.

Rationale for Scoping

4.6 This list serves as a starting point from which issues have been scoped out of, or into, the SEA, depending on whether or not they are considered likely to affect or be affected by the JMWP.

4.7 **Table 4.1** provides a summary of the preliminary scoping and provides a justification as to why certain issues have been scoped out.

4.8 A Baseline Report accompanies this Scoping Report and contains the detailed baseline information. The Baseline Report should be read in conjunction with the Scoping Report.

Table 4.1: Rationale for Scoping

Receptor/Issues		Scope and Justification	
		Scoped out	Scoped In
Population and Human Health	Population growth and structure		Population predictions greatly influence the JMWP. Baseline information will include population growth, distribution and structure statistics.
	Quality of life/social deprivation		The minerals and waste industry provides direct employment for a small proportion of the population within Central and Eastern Berkshire and influences indirectly employment in a number of other industries such as the construction and manufacturing sector. Potentially the activities of the minerals industry could give rise to temporary (in that opportunities for direct employment would exist for the lifetime of a mineral site) and reversible (in that the labour force could grow or contract in line with demand for minerals) employment. Baseline information will include basic employment data.
	Health		As the JMWP may have an impact on transport and thus air quality, health data with respect to life expectancy and respiratory disease is provided in the baseline.
	Tourism and recreation of national and regional importance		Actions arising from the JMWP could affect important tourist, recreational and amenity resources (air quality, visual, congestion) and could present opportunities to deliver recreational benefits. Baseline information will include the location of important tourism sites within the Plan Area.
Material Assets	Infrastructure network		Actions arising from the JMWP have the potential to affect key transport routes. Baseline information will include information on critical infrastructure (road and rail). Although Heathrow airport is located outside of the Plan Area it will be considered in the baseline owing to its proximity to the Plan Area and the expansion plans.
	Traffic and Congestion		Actions arising from the JMWP have the potential to impact traffic. A Strategic Traffic and Transport Assessment will be undertaken. Baseline information will include information on critical infrastructure.
	Waste and Mineral Infrastructure		Directly relevant.

Receptor/Issues		Scope and Justification	
		Scoped out	Scoped In
	Emergency Services		Actions arising from the JMWP have the potential to impact traffic and congestion around critical services. Basic information regarding emergency services will be included in the baseline.
	Economy and Employment		The minerals and waste industry provides direct employment for a small proportion of the population within Central and Eastern Berkshire and influences indirectly employment in a number of other industries such as the construction and manufacturing sector. Potentially the activities of the minerals industry could give rise to temporary (in that opportunities for direct employment would exist for the lifetime of a mineral site) and reversible (in that the labour force could grow or contract in line with demand for minerals) employment.
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	International designated sites (e.g. SAC, SPA, Ramsar site) and known supporting sites	An HRA will be undertaken separately, the results of which will be incorporated into the SEA Environmental Report.	Basic data collection on internationally designated sites will be included in the SEA to avoid duplication with the HRA. The SEA, HRA and JMWP will be integrated processes and the SEA and HRA will be able to influence the development of the JMWP. Specific details regarding the habitats and species covered in the SPAs and SACs will be included in the HRA and not duplicated in the baseline.
	National and local designations (e.g. National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs))		Actions arising from the JMWP could have direct or indirect effects on the features of nationally designated sites. Baseline information will include details of the national sites.
	Local nature conservation sites (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and RSPB Reserves)		Locally designated sites of nature conservation importance may be affected (positively or negatively) by potential waste and mineral sites. Baseline information will include details of the local sites.

Receptor/Issues	Scope and Justification		
	Scoped out	Scoped In	
	UK priority habitats and species (informed by local Biodiversity Action Plan).		There is duty to have regard to this list (NERC 2006). Baseline information will include details of the habitats of principle importance in the Plan Area.
Soil, Geology and Geomorphology	Soils (surficial and bedrock geology)		Directly relevant.
	Designated earth heritage sites (e.g. geological SSSIs)		JMWP could have direct impacts on designated geological sites by changes in flooding or erosion or sedimentation. Baseline information will include the earth heritage sites.
	Contaminated land		Waste and mineral sites have the potential to cause contamination and mobilise existing contamination. The baseline will include a discussion of contamination issues and threat it poses to soil.
	Agriculture and land use		It is important the agriculture grade of land is considered in considering the potential siting of waste and minerals sites, as to prevent the loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land.
Water	Water resources (groundwater/ surface)		Water resource issues linked to local geology (e.g. groundwater levels) will be considered where relevant. In addition, alterations to hydrological regimes through dewatering, which may affect waterlogged archaeological deposits, specifically with respect to any dewatering within groundwater source protection zones must be considered. Conversely dewatering within flood prone areas should be considered.
	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	This SEA does not have the scope for a detailed WFD Assessment.	The SEA objectives will incorporate the basic requirements of the WFD in their underlying assessment criteria. The JMWP will need to consider whether any sites will lead to adverse impacts on the water bodies within the strategy area.

Receptor/Issues	Scope and Justification	
	Scoped out	Scoped In
Flood Risk		Flood risk will be considered in planning for minerals and waste. Information regarding the areas of flood risk (groundwater, surface water) and future trends in the Plan Area will be included in the baseline.
	Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)	Portions of the Plan Area are Nitrate Vulnerable Areas. Although not of primary significance for completeness, basic information will be included in the baseline.
Air and Climate	Air quality	The chemical of predominant concern for all Air Quality Management Areas in the Plan Area is nitrogen dioxide, which is associated with traffic emissions. The JMWP Plan may have a significant effect on air quality (waste combustion, waste treatment and transportation).
	Climatic factors	The JMWP has the potential to have a significant effect on air quality and indirectly to climate change. Basic information will be included in the baseline.
The Historic Environment	Historic Landscape Character and Scheduled Monuments	The impact on cultural heritage may be associated with visual intrusion and an increase in congestion. These potential impacts will continue to be monitored in future assessments. Basic information will be included in the baseline.
	Registered Parks and Gardens	The Plan Area has a rich historic environment with a large number of designated sites of particular note is the Windsor Great Park, Windsor Castle, Home Park and the Frogmore Estate. Waste and minerals sites may directly or indirectly affect views and setting of registered Parks and Gardens. Designated heritage assets on or just outside the boundary of the Plan Area will be considered.
	Listed Buildings/ Conservation Areas	Waste and minerals sites may indirectly affect Listed Buildings or indirectly affect views and setting of Conservation Areas.
	Other known and unknown features of archaeological and/or heritage interest	The impact of mineral extraction within the Plan Area would be assessed by reference to the known archaeological data (designated and undesignated) and the implied archaeological potential of areas, within the framework set out by National Planning Policy Framework.

Receptor/Issues		Scope and Justification	
		Scoped out	Scoped In
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Designated landscapes	There are no AONBs or National Parks within the Plan area	Assessment of impacts on landscape will help to guide and influence the choice of development locations. The setting and location of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) located outside of the Plan Area will be considered where any waste and mineral sites have the potential to have an impact. For example, The North Wessex Downs AONB is situated outside of the Plan Area but just outside Reading. A Strategic Landscape and Visual Assessment will be undertaken.
	Green Belt		The SEA will address the impacts of the JMWP on the Green Belt.
	Tranquillity		Although the Plan Area is heavily populated, where applicable, the assessment of impacts on tranquilly will help to guide and influence the choice of development locations.
Inter-relationship between the above factors	e.g. Water quality and biodiversity; Land Use change and landscape; Quality of life and recreation/biodiversity	Inter-relationships will be included where relevant i.e., where waste and mineral sites give rise to the potential for secondary or cumulative impacts.	

Main Messages from the Baseline

- 4.9 The baseline provides a basis for understanding the environment and sustainability issues in Central & Eastern Berkshire. It helps to identify any environmental problems and where applicable, ways to potentially resolve them. It is an important stage of the strategic environment assessment and ensures the process is based on sound evidence and assists in predicting and monitoring the likely effects of the plan.
- 4.10 The main messages from the Baseline Report are summarised as follows:

Population and Human Health

- 4.11 The population of England is projected to grow by 7.5% over the 10-year period to mid-2024 (ONS). At the local authority level the rate of change varies considerably, relevantly Bracknell Forest is predicted to grow by 10%. Reading and Wokingham have above average predictions for population increase which puts increasing pressure on public services, housing and waste facilities.
- 4.12 The Plan Area has a slightly above average life expectancy and fairly typical age demographic. The population has relatively low levels of deprivation with the most deprived areas located within Reading (Abbey).
- 4.13 The population within the Plan Area has an average relative risk with respect to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and access to medical facilities.
- 4.14 There are no National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) within the Plan Area. However, the North Wessex Downs AONB is situated on the border of Reading. Windsor Castle and Great Windsor Park are within the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and there are a large number of recreation facilities with no formal designation across the Plan Area.

Material Assets

- 4.15 Berkshire has one of the highest performing local economies in England (in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA) per head). 23% of GVA in Berkshire is generated by the Information and Communications Technology sector, compared with 6% nationally. The Distribution; transport; accommodation and food sector is also a big contributor to the local economy (contributing 20% of GVA).

- 4.16 Employment in Berkshire is less dependent on the public sector than nationally. The employment base is dominated by higher value activities including: banking, finance, insurance and, IT, software, business management and consultancy. Tourism is particularly important to the Windsor and Eton region providing significant employment (East Berkshire Local Economic Assessment, 2011).
- 4.17 With a predicted increase in population an increased demand on public transport and increasing pressure on the existing transport and waste management infrastructure is inevitable. With respect to the road network there are number of large planned road upgrades (including the M4 smart motorway) which will likely have congestion impacts in the short term in the vicinity of this major route.
- 4.18 There are a number of different constraints and issues which may impact the location of minerals development in Central & Eastern Berkshire including the location of viable mineral deposits and the transportation of minerals. The majority of minerals and waste would have to be transported via the road network as there are no suitable rail depots.

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- 4.19 The Plan Area has a number of internationally important sites, notably the Windsor Forest & Great Park SAC, Thames Basin Heaths SPA, South West London Wetlands SPA and Ramsar, and the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC.
- 4.20 The development of mineral and waste sites has the potential to cause pressure on wetlands and fragmentation or direct loss of habitat and its dependant species. These effects could be through increases in visitor numbers, hydrological changes, changing climate, noise disturbance, air, dust, light, odour or water pollution.
- 4.21 It is of note that a number of the designated sites are located in areas which may be suitable for minerals extraction within the Thames estuary. Minerals and waste development should not have a significant adverse effect on a site and where possible, should enhance, restore or create designated or important habitats and species. There are opportunities with worked sites for aftercare and restoration schemes. However, it is acknowledged that designated sites are a constraint to new mineral and waste sites as the footprint of such activities would be unlikely to acceptable within designated sites.

Soil Geology and Geomorphology

- 4.22 Climate change, contamination, development and agricultural practices result in an overall net loss in soils in the UK. However, it is of note that

there is no specific data available for the Plan Area. Net loss of soils is one of the government's quality of life indicators and DEFRA have developed a '*Strategy for Safeguarding Our Soils*' which sets out the governments approach to reversing the trend. In accordance with DEFRA's strategy the JMWP should aim to avoid locating development on the best and most versatile agricultural land and planning decisions must take sufficient account of soil quality.

- 4.23 Waste and mineral sites have the potential to cause contamination of soils and should be located in areas where leachate and gas can be appropriately managed and sensitive receptors are protected.

Water

- 4.24 The Plan Area and surrounding vicinity lie within the Thames River Basin District which is one of the most populated parts of Britain. The district covers both rural and urban environments stretching from the Thames estuary, to the limestone hills of the Cotswolds. The water environment in the Plan Area is dominated by the River Thames and its tributaries.

- 4.25 Water resources in the Plan Area depend on groundwater stored in the Chalk aquifer within the Thames Basin (in the north of the Plan Area). The Chalk Group forms the most important aquifer unit, supplying water for drinking water public consumption and supporting river flows within chalk bournes characteristic of the Berkshire and Marlborough Downs, the Chilterns and North Downs.

- 4.26 A principal bedrock aquifer²⁵ (major aquifer high) is present in the Reading area and across to Maidenhead. A Secondary Aquifer A²⁶ runs slightly south of the principal aquifer to Windsor. Secondary A aquifers also cover parts of Wokingham and Bracknell. There is also a surficial principal aquifer across parts of Windsor and Maidenhead. As you would expect in major aquifers systems there are a number of groundwater source protection zones across the Plan Area. There are also numerous surface water abstractions for potable water supply.

- 4.27 Large portions of the Plan Area are subject to flooding and are located in Flood Zones 2 and 3.

²⁵ These are layers of rock or drift deposits that have high intergranular and/or fracture permeability - meaning they usually provide a high level of water storage. They may support water supply and/or river base flow on a strategic scale. In most cases, principal aquifers are aquifers previously designated as major aquifer.

²⁶ Secondary Aquifer A: Permeable layers capable of supporting water supplies at a local rather than strategic scale, and in some cases forming an important source of base flow to rivers. These are generally aquifers formerly classified as minor aquifers.

4.28 There are particular pressures in the south east of England as these parts are the driest and also the most heavily populated. The pressures are increased due to the future projected population increase and the effects of climate change.

Climatic Factors and Air Quality

4.29 The Department of Energy and Climate Change have produced UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics for 2005-2014. The data suggest that the plan area has a fairly typical per capita CO₂ emission when compared to the south east region and the UK as a whole.

4.30 Reading has the largest number of areas designated as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA). It is important that the JMWP considers how activities will impact on the air in and around the AQMA. It is also important that the waste and minerals plan supports the Local Authorities' climate change / sustainability commitments and targets particularly with respect to carbon dioxide, nitrox oxide and methane.

Cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage

4.31 The Plan Area has a rich historic environment with a large number of designated sites including, of particular note, the Windsor Great Park, Windsor Castle, Home Park and the Frogmore Estate. In addition to those recorded (designated and undesignated) sites the gravel deposits of the Thames Valley, are associated with a rich archaeological heritage and archaeological remains that have previously been identified. Whilst this gravel may be important for extraction, it is important to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly destroyed.

4.32 The impact of mineral extraction within the Plan Area would be assessed by reference to the known archaeological data (designated and undesignated) and the implied archaeological potential of areas, in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Landscape Visual Amenity

4.33 The landscape of the Plan Area is dominated by a mixture of both urban and rural nature. The Thames Valley and Thames Basin Heaths are the dominant areas within in the Plan Area. There are no AONB or National Parks within the Plan Area.

4.34 The Green Belt is a policy used to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their

openness and their permanence. The majority of administrative boundary of Windsor & Maidenhead, north and east of Bracknell Forest and north of Wokingham lie within Green Belt designations.

5. Developing the SEA Framework

5.1 SEA is fundamentally based on an objective qualitative approach, whereby potential impacts of the JMWP are assessed in relation to a series of objectives for appropriate sustainable development. This must include a methodology to assess the effects of the Plan.

Draft Objectives

5.2 The objectives have been developed by drawing on the environmental problems and sustainability issues identified in **Section 4**.

Table 5.1 Draft SEA Objectives

No.	Objective	Assessment Criteria	Possible Indicators(*)
1	To conserve and enhance the biodiversity, flora and fauna of the Plan Area including natural habitat and protected species	Does the Plan seek to protect and enhance nationally or locally designated sites? Does the Plan seek to enhance biodiversity, ecological networks and habitat connectivity?	Distance to nearest designated sites. Condition of sensitive receptors.
2	To maintain and improve ground and surface water quality in the Plan Area	Does the Plan seek to protect water resources in particular potable reserves and source protection zones (surface and groundwater, quantity and quality)? Does the Plan seek to minimise adverse effects on water hydromorphology, natural processes and aquatic environment?	Distance to SPZ. Distance to public water supply abstraction. Surface water chemical and biological status within vicinity of the site.
3	Protect and enhance landscape character, local distinctiveness and historic	Does the Plan seek to conserve the fabric and setting of the landscape character?	Location in relation to Landscape Character Areas. Assessment of

	environment of the Plan Area	Does the Plan seek to conserve designated aspects of the historic environment (including archaeological deposits)?	<p>topography via ordnance survey mapping.</p> <p>Number and location of Tree Protection Orders.</p> <p>Distance in relation to AONB.</p> <p>The number, type and distance of designated heritage assets.</p> <p>The location of 'at risk' designated heritage assets.</p>
4	To maintain and protect soil quality and protect the best and most versatile agricultural land	<p>Does the Plan take into consideration soil function, type and classification (safeguarding Grades 1, 2 and 3a)?</p> <p>Does the Plan consider contamination issues?</p>	<p>Location and extent of agricultural land grades 1, 2 and 3a.</p> <p>Location and extent of contaminated land.</p>
5	To improve the overall quality of life of the population	<p>Does the Plan seek to ensure sites do not negatively impact sensitive receptors such as residential dwellings, schools and hospitals?</p> <p>Does the Plan seek protect and enhance amenity?</p>	<p>Distance to residential dwellings, schools and hospitals.</p> <p>Location, type and access to existing amenities.</p>
6	To maintain and protect air quality	<p>Does the plan seek to minimise road haulage?</p> <p>Does the plan seek to reduce the adverse effects of transporting of minerals and waste?</p> <p>Does the Plan seek to avoid existing AQMAs?</p>	<p>Method of transportation proposed.</p> <p>Location of AQMA (including primary access routes).</p> <p>Local Air Quality monitoring data.</p>

			<p>Links to rail network.</p> <p>Location of potentially significant junctions in relation to infrastructure requirements and likely routes.</p> <p>Proximity to strategic road network.</p>
7	To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases associated with climate change	<p>Does the Plan seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from waste developments?</p> <p>Does the Plan support renewable energy, gas sequestration etc?</p>	<p>Consideration of typical energy production or heat production from various waste facilities allocated or permitted.</p> <p>Amount of new renewable energy capacity being provided each year.</p>
8	To support sustainable extraction, re-use and recycling of mineral and aggregate resources	<p>Does the Plan support the waste hierarchy?</p>	<p>Tonnage / % of waste recycled.</p> <p>Tonnage / % of waste composted.</p> <p>Tonnage / % of waste recovered.</p> <p>Tonnage / % of waste to be landfilled.</p>
9	To reduce poverty and deprivation	<p>Does the Plan take into consideration the impact of employment when determining waste facilities?</p> <p>Does the Plan facilitate economic development?</p>	<p>Typical amount of job creation (jobs per ha) within different use classes.</p> <p>Type of jobs which are permanent / temporary (i.e. for construction / operational period).</p> <p>Deprivation index in locality.</p>
10	To create and sustain high levels of access to waste and mineral services	<p>Does the Plan enable communities to be self sufficient with respect to the waste it produces?</p>	<p>Existing and predicted population and business data.</p> <p>Distance to nearest waste facility.</p>

11	To alleviate flood risk and the impact of flooding	<p>Does the Plan ensure waste sites are located in areas which minimise the risk of flooding?</p> <p>Does the Plan ensure mineral sites seek to alleviate flood risk or the impact of flooding?</p>	<p>Proximity of site to Flood Zones.</p> <p>Incidences of flood warnings.</p> <p>Distance to 'Areas susceptible to surface water flooding'.</p>
----	--	---	---

(*) the radius will be decided during the assessment process based on relevant and previous experience. The sphere of influence will change depending on primary access routes.

Compatibility of SEA Objectives

- 5.3 It is noted that the objectives will not be given any rating or ranking although it is acknowledged that some will have a more direct influence. For example, the Plan will have a more direct impact on traffic and air quality than on landscape character which would be a more indirect effect of increased traffic or visual intrusion.
- 5.4 Although each objective is directly linked to the issues as outlined in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive each objective may have indirect or subtle influence on the other issues. For example, if the Plan included improvements at a site in a sensitive location which indirectly improved water quality and that site was in a source protection zone this might positively impact human health and population (See **Table 5.2**).
- 5.5 In general, none of the draft objectives have been deemed to be direct conflict with one another.

Table 5.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Issues in Relation to the Objectives

Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Topic	Direct Impact	Indirect / Subtle
Biodiversity/ Flora and Fauna	1	
Population	5 10	9
Human Health	5 10	9
Soil	4	
Water	2	
Air	6 and 7	
Climatic Factors	6	6

Material Assets	8 11	
Cultural Heritage	3	
Landscape	3	
Economy	9	
Interrelationships		

Reasonable Alternatives

- 5.6 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires an assessment of the ‘plan’ and its “reasonable alternatives.” In order to assess reasonable alternatives, different strategy options for delivering the JMWP will be developed and assessed at a strategic level against the established SEA objectives and environmental baseline. The results of this assessment will be used to inform the decision making process in choosing a preferred way of delivering the JMWP.
- 5.7 In deciding what constitutes a “reasonable alternative” the predicted funding envelope and existing legislation and Government policy will be considered. Options which go against existing national policy or are financially unachievable will not be considered “reasonable.” The JMWP objectives and measures (in SEA terms called ‘alternative options’) are not sufficiently developed to include in this Scoping Report. However, they will be assessed at a later stage and included in the draft Environmental Report.
- 5.8 The SEA will also consider a ‘without plan’ scenario. This will represent what may occur if no further plans were put in place beyond existing projects, government policies and statutory obligations. A description of the “Without Plan” scenario and assumptions used in its formulation will be developed prior to assessment.

Assessment Approach

- 5.9 The objective of this SEA is to assess the impacts in order to inform and influence the plan and facilitate discussions regarding alternative approaches which will be evaluated in light of their potential impacts including cumulative, synergistic and indirect environmental effects on the different SEA topics. For this reason each issue will not be given a ranking, rated or numerical score.
- 5.10 The assessment of these environmental effects will be qualitative and informed by professional judgement and experience with other SEAs, as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends. In some

cases, the assessment will draw upon mapping data to identify areas of potential pressure, for example flood risk or presence of environmental designations.

5.11 For all JMWP policies / alternative approaches, **Table 5.3** will be used to evaluate how the environment would be affected, positively or negatively, from the implementation of the JMWP in relation to the objectives and indicators that comprise the environmental baseline. All JMWP policies will be assessed based on their likely impact. Effects of the JMWP will be described in terms of their Nature. Potential waste and mineral sites will also be assessed.

5.12 **Table 5.3** provides a summary of the criteria. In addition to the objectives and policies of the JWMP individual sites will be assessed. The results will be used in the plan process and that where applicable recommendations will be used to improve the initial consultation draft of the JWMP.

Table 5.3: Criteria

Symbol	Explanation of the Effect
+	Positive: will result in positive impact on the objective
0	Neutral: Neutral or negligible effect on the objective
-	Negative: Option will result on a negative impact on the objective
?	Unknown: The relationship is unknown, or there is not enough information to make an assessment

5.13 A proforma will be used which will include commentary as to the reasoning for the effect; this will consist of information on the significance, uncertainty, duration, magnitude and reversibility of the effect. The proforma will also provide possible mitigation or negative effects and where applicable enhancement of positive effects (refer **Table 5.4**).

Table 5.4: Example of Proforma

Policy x			
Objective	Score	Effects (short, long, temporary, permeant)²⁷	Mitigation/ Potential Improvements
1			
2			
x			
Cumulative effects			

5.14 Cumulative impacts will be assessed to ensure the full impact of the JMWP is understood. **Table 5.5** will be used to document cumulative effects.

Table 5.5 Example of Cumulative Effects

Objective	Impact of Policy X of the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan	Impact of other plans, projects, trends	Cumulative Impacts
1			
2			
3			
x			

²⁷ Short term is less than 5 year, medium term between 5-10 years, long term more than 10 years.

6. Remaining SEA Stages

Remaining Stages and Tasks

6.1 This Scoping Report satisfies Stage A and has been subject to a five week consultation period. Therefore, the remaining stages will be undertaken:

Stage B: Developing and refining options assessing effects;

Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report;

Stage D: Consulting on the draft plan; and

Stage E: Monitoring significant effects of implementing the plan.

Proposed Structure of the Environmental Report

6.2 The proposed draft structure of the Environmental Report shall comprise the following.

- 1) Introduction, Purpose;
- 2) Review of Policies, Plans and Programmes;
- 3) Environmental Context;
- 4) Problems and Issues;
- 5) Framework and Objectives;
- 6) Reasonable Alternatives;
- 7) Preferred Approach (explanation / mitigation);
- 8) Assessment of the draft plan against objectives;
- 9) Monitoring Envisaged;
- 10) Cumulative, Indirect, Synergistic, Long Term Effects; and
- 11) Non Technical Summary.

6.3 The Environmental Report will be clearly signposted to the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and will clearly identify how the responses from the consultation have been integrated. Particular attention will be given the clear assessment of reasonable alternatives.

Glossary

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	Areas of countryside considered to have significant landscape value, and protected to preserve that value. Originally identified and designated by the Countryside Commission under sections 87 and 88 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Natural England is now responsible for designating AONBs and advising Government and other organisations on their management and upkeep.
Biodiversity	The variety of plant or animal life in a particular habitat, a large proportion of which is often considered to be of importance.
Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	The department brings together responsibilities for business, industrial strategy, science, innovation, energy, and climate change.
Department of Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	The UK Government Department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Systematic investigation and assessment of the likely effects of a proposed development to be taken into account in the decision making process under the Town and Country Planning (Environment Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999. The process is undertaken for a proposed development that would significantly affect the environment because of its siting, design, size or scale.
Geology	The science that deals with the physical structure and substance of the earth, including the history and the

	processes that impact upon them.
Geomorphology	The study of the physical features of the earth's surface and the relationship with geological structures.
Green Belt	An area designated in planning documents, providing an area of permanent separation between urban areas. The main aim of the Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the most important quality of Green Belts is their openness.
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	Statutory requirement for Planning Authorities to assess the potential effects of land use plans on designated European sites in Great Britain. The HRA is intended to assess the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European sites (collectively named 'Natura 2000' sites). The Natura 2000 sites comprise Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).
Heritage Asset	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).
Leachate	Water which seeps through a landfill site, extracting substances from the deposited waste to form a pollutant.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	In 2012, the Government streamlined a number of planning policies into one main document – the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This contains the policy framework that

	Local Plans need to follow and planning decision-making. Local Plans will need to be compliant with the NPPF.
Ramsar sites	Sites of international importance for waterfowl protected under the Ramsar Convention of the Conservation of Wetlands International Importance, ratified by the UK Government in 1976.
Source Protection Zone (SPZ)	These zones help to monitor the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	A national designation for an area of special interest because of its flora, fauna or geological / physiographical features, selected by Natural England and notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Areas which have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive. They provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats and are a vital part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area of importance for the habitats of certain rare or vulnerable categories of birds or for regularly occurring migratory bird species, required to be designated for protection by member states under the European Community Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EC).
Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)	A local development document which sets out the standards of the planning authority intends to achieve.
Statutory consultee	These are organisations and public bodies who are required to be consulted concerning specific issues relating to planning applications and

	help inform any decision made by the planning authority.
--	--

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of Main Comments and Responses

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
Natural England (NE)	<p>Natural England offered advice relating to a number of additional topics which should be considered by the Joint Minerals & Waste Plan as part of Table 5.1 – Draft SEA Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soils and Agricultural Land “We note that there is no specific reference to the loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. The plan should safeguard the long term capability of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification) as a resource for the future in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 112 to safeguard ‘best and most versatile’ agricultural land’.” 2. Ecological Connectivity “There is a risk that in some situations, development on land of limited biodiversity value in its own right can lead to the creation of islands of biodiversity, permanently severed from other areas. We thus suggest adding ‘Ensure current ecological networks are not compromised, and future improvements in habitat connectivity are not prejudiced’.” 3. Air Quality “We would expect the impacts of air quality on the natural environment to be addressed. In particular, it should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on European sites and SSSIs. One of the main issues to be considered are proposals which are likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment.” 4. Climate Change “The Joint Minerals and Waste Plan should consider climate change adaption and recognise the role of the natural environment to deliver measures to reduce the 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objective 4 - assessment criteria has been amended to include ‘and avoid the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land. 2. Objective 1 - assessment criteria has been amended to include consideration of biodiversity, networks and connectivity. 3. Objectives 6 and 7 were amended to reflect the comments and ensure that ensure that air quality and climate change associated with traffic impacts are adequately addressed. 4. Objective 7 has been amended to ensure clarity and commitment to climate change <p>Indicators have been added to Table 5.1.</p>

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
	<p>effects of climate change. In addition factors which may lead to exacerbate climate change (through more greenhouse gases) should be avoided (e.g. pollution, habitat fragmentation, loss of biodiversity) and the natural environment's resilience to change should be production.</p> <p>NE stated that indicators should be included for monitoring the effects of the plan on biodiversity (NPPF para 117).</p>	
Thames Water	<p>Thames Water suggested two further sustainability objectives to be taken into account.</p> <p>1. Utilities "A key sustainability objective for the preparation of Local Plans should be for new development to be coordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. New development should be co-ordinated with the infrastructure it demands and to take into account the capacity of existing infrastructure. Paragraph 156 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), March 2012, states: <i>"Local planning authorities should set out strategic policies for the area in the Local Plan. This should include strategic policies to deliver:.....the provision of infrastructure for water supply and wastewater...."</i> Paragraph 162 of the NPPF relates to infrastructure and states: <i>"Local planning authorities should work with other authorities to: assess the quality and capacity of infrastructure for water supply and wastewater and its treatment.....take account of the need for strategic infrastructure including nationally significant infrastructure within their areas."</i> The web based National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) published in March 2014, includes a section on 'water supply, wastewater and water quality' and sets out that Local Plans should be the focus for ensuring that investment plans of water and sewerage/wastewater companies align with development needs. The introduction to this section also sets out that <i>"Adequate water and wastewater infrastructure is needed to support sustainable development"</i> (Paragraph: 001, Reference ID: 34-001-20140306).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted, in isolation given the size and scale of waste and mineral sites water supply and sewerage would be unlikely to be a significant constraint. However, water supply and sewage and waste utilities and infrastructure will be considered within cumulative impacts. 2. A new objective 11 has been added to ensure flooding is adequately addressed.

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
	<p>Thames Water therefore consider that the Minerals and Waste Local Plan should specifically refer to both water supply and sewerage/waste water treatment requirements to service new developments.</p> <p>Where new infrastructure is required this must be in place ahead of development. This is essential to avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment such as sewage flooding of residential and commercial property, pollution of land and watercourses plus water shortages with associated low pressure water supply problems. It is also important that the satisfactory provision of water and sewerage infrastructure forms and integral part of the sustainability appraisal.</p> <p>The water companies' investment programmes are based on a 5 year cycle known as the Asset Management Plan (AMP) process. We are currently in the AMP6 period which runs from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2020. AMP7 will cover the period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2025 and the draft Business Plan for AMP7 will be submitted to Ofwat in August 2018.</p> <p>As part of their five year business plan Thames Water advise OFWAT on the funding required to accommodate growth in the networks and at the treatment works. As a result Thames Water base their investment programmes on development plan allocations which form the clearest picture of the shape of the community (as recognised in the NPPF). Where the infrastructure is not available Thames Water may require an 18-month to three-year lead in time for provision of extra capacity to drain new development sites. If any large engineering works are needed to upgrade infrastructure the lead in time could be up to five years.</p> <p>Implementing new technologies and the construction of new treatment works could take up to ten years.</p> <p>2. Flood Risk</p> <p>The NPPG states that a sequential approach should be used by local planning authorities in areas to be at risk from forms of flooding other than from river and sea which includes "<i>Flooding from Sewers</i>".</p> <p>When reviewing development and flood risk it is important to recognise that waste water treatment [and water] infrastructure may be required to be developed in flood risk areas. By their very nature water and sewage treatment works are located close or</p>	

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
	<p>adjacent to rivers (to abstract water for treatment and supply or to discharge treated effluent). It is likely that these existing works will need to be upgraded or extended to provide the increase in treatment capacity required to service new development. Flood risk sustainability objectives should therefore accept that water and sewerage infrastructure development may be necessary in flood risk areas.</p> <p>Flood risk sustainability objectives should also make reference to 'sewer flooding' and an acceptance that flooding can occur away from the flood plain as a result of development where off site sewerage infrastructure is not in place ahead of development.</p>	
Spelthorne Borough Council	<p>Spelthorne Borough Council agree with the approach taken in the JMWP SA/SEA scoping report with respect to keeping the list of policies, plans and programmes (PPP) succinct and related to the Plan documentation under preparation. It is noted that the JMWP aims to only state those plans, policies and programmes that only have a direct impact, therefore Spelthorne BC would wish to be assured that those not mentioned in the scoping report have been wholly considered when identifying environmental and sustainability issues.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "It may be helpful to provide a list of proposed indicators alongside Table 5.1" 2. Objective 3: "An assessment criteria of 'will it help alleviate flood risk or the impact of flooding?' could be included. 3. Objective 9: "The assessment criteria under this objective could also cover 'will it enable wider economic development'". 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Indicators have been added to Table 5.1. 2. A new objective 11 has been added to ensure flooding is adequately addressed.' 3. Additions made to assessment criteria (objective 9).
Historic England	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Table 4.1 – Historic England were pleased to note the references within the Historic Landscape section, however were unclear how the conclusion was drawn that 'JMWP is unlikely to have significant impact on cultural heritage has been reached' considering this conclusion to be too premature in the scoping report 2. Historic England agreed that it was correct to consider the setting of heritage assets as development within their setting can affect the significance of assets. Historic England therefore suggest that designated heritage assets, including 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted and comment removed. Additional comment included to consider impacts to be monitored in future assessments. 2. 2Scope has been increased to include sites on or just outside boundary. 3. Archaeological deposits included within the assessment criteria Objective 3.

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
	<p>Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, or on/just outside the boundary of the JMWP area be scoped in insofar as their setting extends into the area. (Additionally wants this to occur with the North Wessex Downs AONB – Landscape and Visual Amenity)</p> <p>3. Historic England noted that impacts from development affecting archaeological deposits was not present.</p> <p>4. Historic England support Objective 3 (Table 5.1) however question whether landscape character and historic heritage should be separated as both are worth issues for consideration in their own right. It was also suggested to change ‘historic built heritage’ to ‘historic environment’ as a more recognised phrase.</p> <p>5. Historic England stated: “We expect the Scoping Report to set out more detailed sub-objectives (or “decision-making criteria”) than the one set out in Table 5.1, such as specific “Assessment Criteria” for the impacts on significance of historic landscape character, designated heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets, and impacts on access to/enjoyment and understanding of heritage assets. We also expect the Report to set out indicators or measures, examples of which can be found in our advice on SEAs and the historic environment.”</p> <p>6. Historic England suggest the inclusion of ‘Heritage Asset’ in the glossary.</p>	<p>4. The Assessment Criteria has been split into two sections.</p> <p>5. Indicators have been added to Table 5.1.</p> <p>6. Heritage Asset has been included in the glossary with the definition from the NPPF.</p>
Buckinghamshire County Council	<p>Buckinghamshire County Council had either a positive response or no comments when responding to the consultation questions (see page..) except for question 2.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council feels that stronger links to climate changes issues are needed throughout both documents, in order to achieve the objectives for both climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>	The objectives have been amended to ensure climate change is adequate addressed.
Environment Agency (EA)	The EA responded to the specific questions included in section 2.19 of the consultation Scoping Report.	<p>1. Indicators have been added.</p> <p>2. The Assessment criteria of Objective 1 and 2 have been amended. A new objective has</p>

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EA suggested clarifications to Table 5.1 regarding the inclusion of Indicators and the wording of Objective 1 and 2. 2. The EA recommended an additional objective in relation to avoiding and managing flood risk 3. Table 4.1 – The EA noted that within the table it is stated that there is not the scope for a detailed WFD assessment. It is suggested that an acknowledgement of and a clear baseline of the WFD status of surface and groundwater bodies within the study area should be provided to inform the location of sites and assess the implications for the WFD status as a result of the site allocations in the plan. It is likely that more detailed assessments would occur at the site specific level where local sources, pathways and receptors can be taken into consideration. 4. The EA note: Nitrate Vulnerable Zones and Catchment Sensitive Farming are not inter-changeable and the latter may or may not be in place for any particular NVZ area 5. The EA recommend that within section 4.21 it is acknowledged that the designated sites are likely to be a major constraint to new mineral and waste sites as the footprint of such activities are unlikely to be acceptable within a designated site. 6. The sensitivity of Principal Aquifers in the Solid and drift geology and their SPZs should be mentioned as this will have impacts on the selection of sites for excavating sand and gravel. The excavation may not be a problem itself but the infilling of a void with waste in such locations will be an issue. <p>We recommend the inclusion of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) within the relevant plans, policies and programmes.</p> <p>We would like also to suggest the inclusion of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2010 and of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) of each of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Local Authorities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. WFD has been added into the relevant policies section. Owing to the sheer volume of data associated with the surface and groundwaters within the Plan Area it was not considered practical to include specifics in the baseline report however, reference is made to the website where this information is held. 4. Noted. 5. An acknowledgement is included within 4.21. 6. Noted, the impacts of any waste and minerals sites on SPZs is specifically addressed in Objective 2 assessment criteria. <p>The WFD and the Conservation of Species Regulations has been added in the review of applicable plans Section 3).</p> <p>The SFRAs are included in Table 3.1.</p>

Comments received from	Summary of comments received	How comments have been incorporated
Oxfordshire County Council	<p>Oxfordshire CC relayed a number of queries regarding both the Scoping Report and the Baseline Report which included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Table 3.1 – “The current <i>West Berkshire Spatial Planning Framework 2036</i> is identified as having implications for the SEA of the JMWP, as safeguarding mineral and waste resources will need to be addressed in the JMWP, and this will need to be planned for alongside the spatial planning framework. This is supported; however these implications are also relevant to the other identified emerging core strategies and local plans which have development aspirations, but this is not identified in the table. Mineral and Waste Safeguarding should be taken into account in future revisions of these documents. To account for this, safeguarding minerals and waste resources could be added to the ‘Implications of SEA’ column of for the other identified core strategies, local plans and neighbourhood plans.” 2. Table 4.1 “It is not clear that the statement ‘The JMWP is unlikely to have significant impact on cultural heritage and impacts may be limited to visual intrusion and increase in congestion’ can be justified at this stage of the process before any further assessment has been undertaken.” 3. It was also outlined that there was no inclusion of the AONB within the baseline report. 4. Main messages from Baseline - It was suggested that further minerals and waste information from the baseline report should have been included within the ‘material assets’ section, and further information regarding basic mineral resource information to be included within the ‘soil geology and geomorphology’ section. 5. Table 5.1 – Suggested the inclusion of objectives regarding flood risk and climate change. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional text was included in Table 3.1 where applicable. 2. Table 4.1: Comment removed. The following sentence was included: ‘However, potential impacts will continue to be monitored in future assessments.’ Table 4.1 was edited to make reference to the adjacent AONB, and highlighted that there were no AONB within the immediate ‘Plan area’. 3. Where possible available information has been included within the Material Assets, some additional information including a plan showing waste sites. 4. Table 5.1: An additional objective (Objective 11) was included to ensure flood risk is adequately addressed.

A summary of this document can be made available in large print, in Braille or audio cassette. Copies in other languages may also be obtained. Please contact Hampshire Services by email berks.consult@hants.gov.uk or by calling 01962 845785.