

**Central and Eastern Berkshire**

**Joint Minerals & Waste Plan**

**Consultation Summary Report:  
Addendum**

August 2019



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## Summary

Hampshire Services (part of Hampshire County Council) is working in collaboration with Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough Council, The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council (collectively known as the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities) to produce a Joint Minerals and Waste Plan. This report summarises the Additional Regulation 18 (site specific) consultation ('the additional consultation') on the proposed site allocation of Bray Quarry Extension which ran from 9 July to 19 August 2019. It forms an addendum to the Draft Plan consultation summary report which was produced during the winter of 2018/2019.

This report provides an overview of the general themes and key issues from the responses and comments received to the additional consultation. The report will include who has responded and the issues the respondents have raised.

In total, 42 people and organisations responded to the four sections, (including background information on respondents) and / or made general comments regarding the consultation.

Various responses were received to the additional consultation, although the key themes centred around the perceived detrimental impacts relating to flooding, proximity to residential dwellings, the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings, nearby habitats and impact of traffic on local surrounding roads.

The comments received within section one (Bray Quarry Extension and proposed development considerations) predominantly fell under respondents feeling the additional consultation was not compliant with legal requirements or meeting the Tests of Soundness. Further to this, a number of respondents felt changes were needed to the development considerations and thus went on to describe what changes were needed and how they should be made.

Section two (Sustainability Appraisal and other assessments of the proposed new site) was divided into five sub-sections, with numerous comments being received for each.

Additionally, responses were made under the third section: *further comments*. The issues brought to attention within this part of the additional consultation varied since the section provided a free text box for responders to add anything else, they felt necessary to the consultation. They ranged from reinforcing points that had been made previously in a response, to providing general feedback on the consultation process.

The additional consultation also acted as an opportunity for some respondents to highlight their concerns about another existing operational site known as Monkey Island Lane, which is a processing plant also within the jurisdiction of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Although the additional consultation was specifically held in

relation to the proposed Bray Quarry Extension site, the comments made in relation to Monkey Island Lane have been acknowledged and reported. However, they will remain separate to this additional consultation.

The outcome of the additional consultation has enhanced the findings of the previous consultations held and built upon the evidence base supporting the emerging Plan. The additional consultation has provided local people, businesses and organisations with the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns in relation to the proposal. Most of the responses tended to oppose the proposals of the additional consultation, but there were some representations of support received too.

This summary of responses report will be used to help inform the preparation of the Proposed Submission version of the Plan. A further report will later be prepared that sets out the responses to the issues raised and how these have been addressed. This report will be available during the consultation on the Proposed Submission version of the Plan.

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 3.1 Hampshire Services<sup>1</sup> (part of Hampshire County Council) is working in collaboration with Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council (collectively known as the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities) to produce a Joint Minerals & Waste Plan ('The Plan'). The Plan will guide minerals and waste decision making in the Plan area up until 2036.
- 3.2 This report sets out how Hampshire Services (on behalf of the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities) has involved the public in the preparation of the Plan. The purpose of the consultation was to engage the local communities in discussion on proposed site allocation of Bray Quarry Extension.
- 3.3 All stages of consultation have been carried out in accordance with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)<sup>2</sup>, since the additional consultation was focussed on one proposed site allocation within that Berkshire authority. SCI documents inform each authority on how engagement with local communities should be undertaken when preparing a plan (or working on planning applications).
- 3.4 This summary document provides an overview on the (general) themes and key issues that were most prevalent in the responses received to the additional consultation. These will be used to update the evidence base, continue to support and direct the preparation of the Plan as well as inform and shape the later stages of the Plan making process.
- 3.5 One response was received after the official closure of the additional consultation (i.e. 19 August 2019). However, an extension for this response was officially agreed as the respondent had not been informed of the additional consultation. Therefore, their comments have been used in this summary report and will be used to inform the preparation of the emerging Plan.
- 3.6 Three consultations have taken place under Regulation 18;
- *Stage 1 - Issues and Options* – summer 2017,
  - *Stage 2 (a) - Draft Plan* (previously Preferred Options) – summer / autumn 2018; and
  - *Stage 2 (b) - Additional Regulation 18 (site specific) consultation* on the proposed Bray Quarry Extension site allocation.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/sharedexpertise>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/201039/non-development\\_plan/460/statement\\_of\\_community\\_involvement](https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/201039/non-development_plan/460/statement_of_community_involvement)

3.7 The outcomes of each consultation are being used to inform the preparation of the Proposed-Submission Plan.

## 2.0 Regulation 18

### Stage 2b: Additional Regulation 18 (site specific) consultation on Bray Quarry Extension

- 2.1 The Additional Regulation 18 (site specific) Consultation on Bray Quarry Extension ran for six weeks, taking place between 9 July and 19 August 2019. The purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the recently proposed Bray Quarry Extension site and engage the community in discussions on the proposal.
- 2.2 The decision to undertake an Additional Regulation 18 (site specific) consultation was made following the initial Draft Plan consultation (autumn 2018) highlighted the sites that had come forward would not meet the identified needs of the emerging Joint Minerals and Waste Plan. Therefore, it was decided to proceed with another 'call for sites' exercise, inviting site nominations from industry, agents and landowners.
- 2.3 Following this exercise, only one site was nominated: Bray Quarry Extension. The additional consultation has therefore allowed those who take an interest in minerals and waste issues in Central and Eastern Berkshire to comment on this most recently proposed site. The information supplied as part of the site-specific consultation will help to inform the next stage of the planning process; the Proposed Submission Plan (Regulation 19) as well as the overall Plan.
- 2.4 The Bray Quarry Extension site has been assessed by Hampshire Services technical specialists (Ecology, Transport, Landscape and Historic Environment) and subject to an assessment as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment), Habitats Regulation Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

#### Who was consulted?

- 2.5 Statutory and non-statutory bodies were consulted as part of the additional consultation including:
  - Natural England, Highways England, Historic England and the Environment Agency
  - Parish / Town Councils located within and adjoining the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
  - District Councils adjoining the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
  - County Councils adjoining the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
  - Members, MPs, MEPs within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

- All contacts on the relevant Local Plan databases for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (all those who have requested to remain informed)
- Highways England
- Public utilities such as South East Water and National Grid
- Other bodies outlined in the relevant Statement of Community Involvement

### How were they consulted?

2.6 Notice of the additional consultation was provided in a number of ways:

- Emails were sent to the statutory consultees
- The consultation was advertised on the Central and Eastern Berkshire consultation website
- An advert informing people about the Consultation was placed in the following relevant newspapers in Central and Eastern Berkshire:
  - Bracknell News (25 July 2019)
  - London Gazette (24 July 2019)
  - Maidenhead Advertiser (25 July 2019)
  - Windsor Express (25 July 2019)

2.7 The consultation documents were made available in all libraries in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead<sup>3</sup>, as well as online via the dedicated Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities website (hosted by Hampshire Services).

2.8 A public exhibition was arranged so members of the public could attend to learn more about the Bray Quarry Extension consultation and the Plan in general. It provided an opportunity for people to address any concerns or queries directly with council officers. The event took place on 1 August 2019 from 15:00 to 20:30 at Bray Village Hall. It was well-attended, with approximately 80 people attending during the course of the event.

2.9 Responses to the additional consultation could be submitted by post, email and via the Central & Eastern Berkshire Authorities website, where a response form to the consultation had been created. The questions posed in the response form encouraged comments on the proposed development considerations for Bray Quarry Extension as well as the Sustainability Appraisal and other assessments of the proposed new site.

### Methodology

2.10 Responses were received via online response forms, emails and letters.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/directory/7/find\\_a\\_library](https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/directory/7/find_a_library)



2.11 The additional consultation response form was separated into four sections, as follows:

- Bray Quarry Extension and proposed development considerations
- Sustainability Appraisal and other assessments of the proposed new site
- Further comments
- About you

2.12 Several of the responses received via email and post did not follow the same structure as the dedicated response form. However, the issues raised within these emails and letters were similar to the issues raised via the comments made in the response forms. Therefore, to easily compare the responses, where possible, these comments have been assigned to an appropriate section of the response. Where this has not been possible, additional comments have been grouped together into further comments.

2.13 To organise the results, this summary report has been grouped into three main sections, in addition to a summary on the final section of the response forms. A short summary of questions includes example comments received both in support and in opposition to the proposal.

2.14 If duplicate responses have been identified – for example, an organisation submitting an identical response more than once, this has just been counted as one response. If there were instances whereby a respondent had submitted more than one response i.e. they had completed an online questionnaire but had also emailed separately about a different matter. In these cases, these double responses have been counted as one because they originated from the same person. However, all applicable comments have been taken into consideration

2.15 Anonymous responses and / or responses without a full postal address (including postcode) have not been accepted.

2.16 The full list of responses, once they have been redacted to comply with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), will be made public.

2.17 The analysis and outcomes of this summary will be used to inform the preparation for future stages of the Plan.

### **Limitations encountered**

#### *The consultation process*

2.18 One of the prevalent themes that arose, particularly from the consultation responses was the complexity of the consultation process. A number of

responses included comments on the formality and structure of the additional consultation response form, and the use of jargon throughout the consultation documents and response form. The accessibility of the consultation process to laypersons could therefore be considered as a limitation.

- 2.19 Despite this, a balance must be struck between meeting the requirements for a robust evidence base and a sound Plan whilst ensuring the public understand what is being proposed.
- 2.20 A potential solution could be to produce alternative materials and specialist workshops that explain the consultation process and what is being proposed in layman's terms. However, this must be balanced against the costs of putting on such extra events.
- 2.21 It became apparent during the additional consultation that some people and / or organisations highlighted they had not been consulted but felt they should have been. In these instances, they were given the chance to comment on the additional consultation. Then with their permission, and in line with GDPR, their contact details were added to databases (retained and managed by the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead) for inclusion in any future consultations that may take place.
- 2.22 Ultimately, the insight that has been received from all those who have responded, including the public, about the proposal during the additional consultation has been invaluable and will be used to inform the final version of the Plan.

### *The analysis stage*

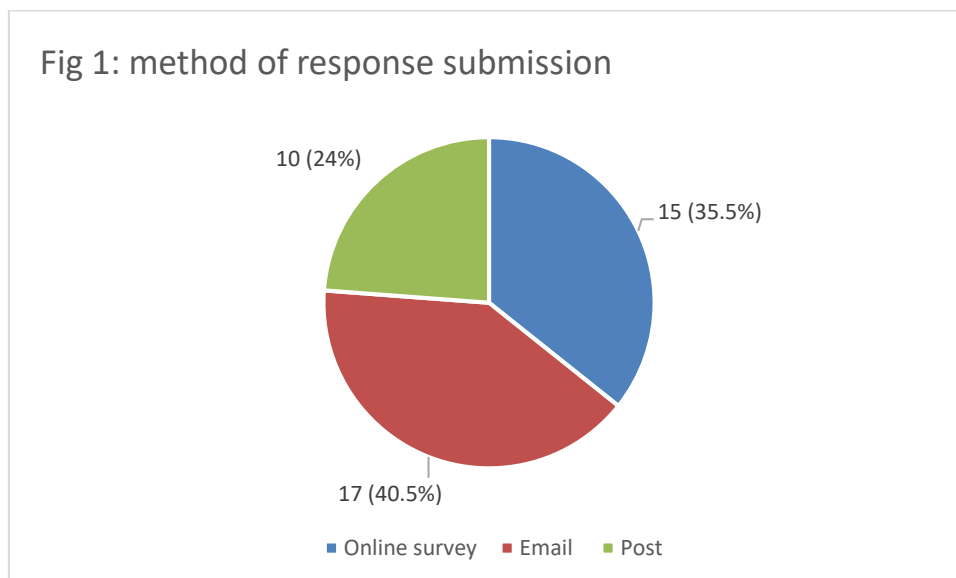
- 2.23 It is recognised that there were some minor typographical errors in the response form. These have not impacted the consultation or the analysis but needed to be taken into account.
- 2.24 The percentages provided in the datasets are only of the respondent groups who made an explicit representation i.e. they ticked 'support', 'object'. But this does not necessarily include all the respondents as some people may have chosen to go straight to a free text box, such as the 'further comments' section.
- 2.25 Please also note the following when reading this summary document:
- Not every comment is mentioned in this analysis (though every issue raised has been taken into consideration)
  - Comments are not written in full
  - Comments have been summarised or combined where possible
  - Comments that apply to a number of related questions are sometimes only listed under the relevant question(s)

- Comments that were noted as confidential have not been included
- Comments may appear contradictory as opposing views have been given equal treatment
- Comments with a high level of detail relating to particular documents, for example technical comments related to data, methodologies or presentation have not been detailed in full but have been taken into account and actioned
- Any inaccuracies within comments are those of respondents, not the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities. A document outlining how the issues were considered and acted upon will be available at the Proposed Submission stage.

### 3.0 Consultation results

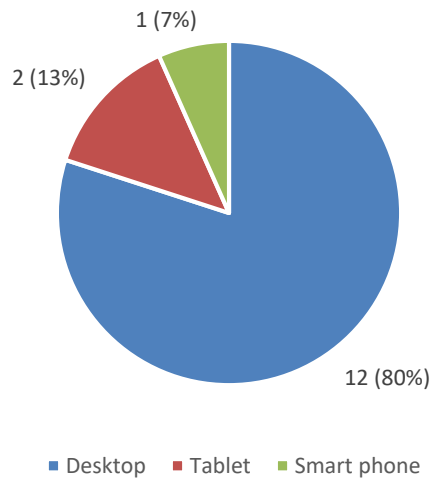
#### Overview of responses and respondents

3.1 A total of 43 responses were received to the additional consultation, but only 42 have been accepted as one was anonymous. Figure 1 outlines how consultation responses were submitted. 76% (32) of responses were received electronically; either via email or via the online response form. Figure 1 shows the method through which people submitted their response:



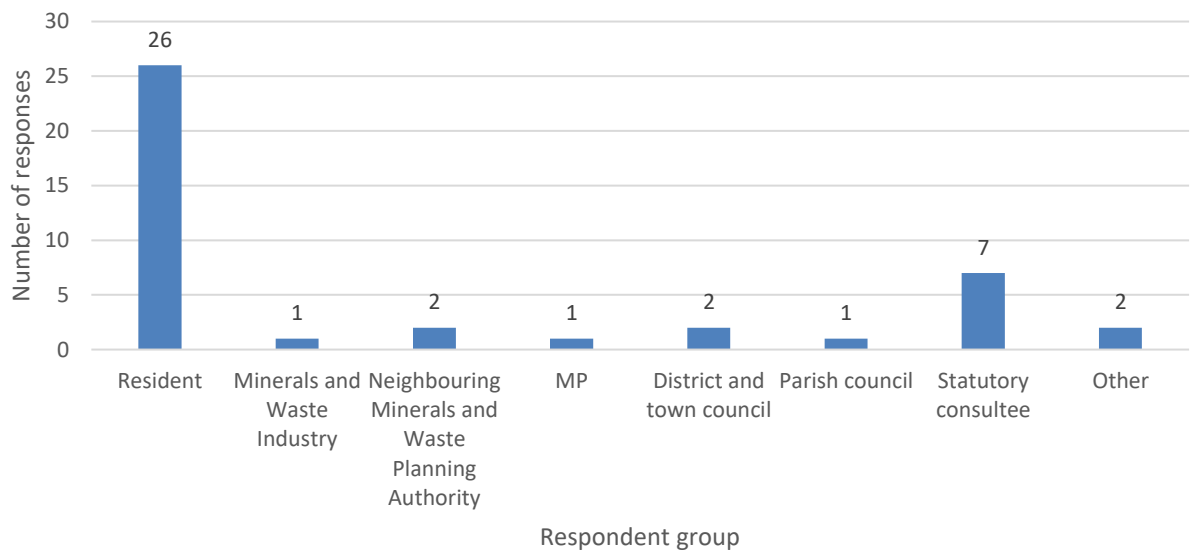
3.2 Furthermore, of those who submitted their response through the online survey, the following figure shows the technology used to do so:

Fig 2: technology used to complete response form



3.3 Respondents were categorised into groups to gain a better understanding of who responded to the consultation (see Figure 3).

Fig 3: number of responses received by respondent group



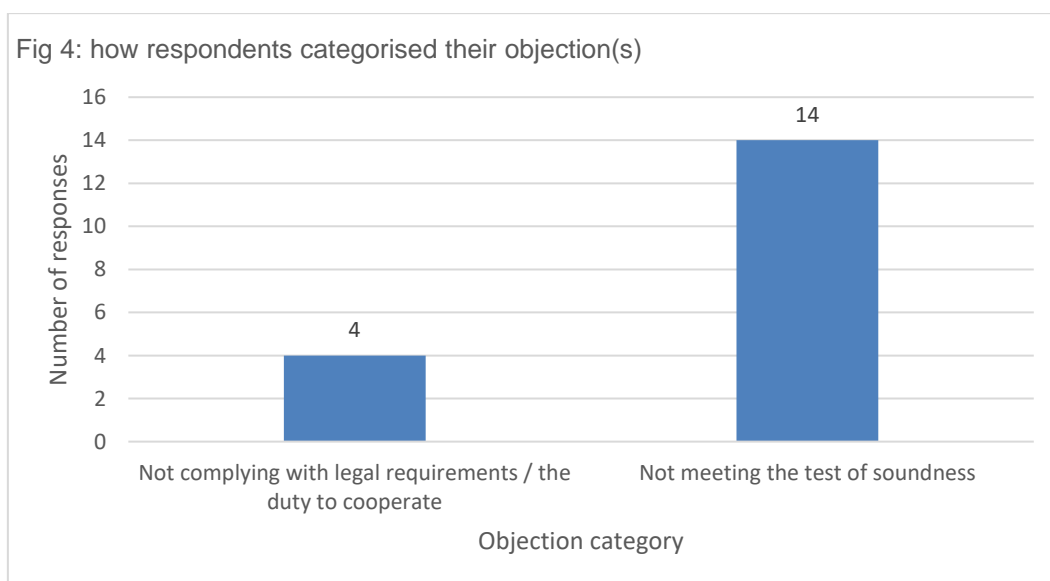
3.4 As can be seen by Figure 3, the majority of responses (26 or 62%) were made by, or on behalf of residents, but as detailed further in this report, some comments made under this consultation did not exclusively relate to the proposed Bray Quarry Extension; they related to the processing plant at Monkey Island Lane. Seven responses (almost 17%) were received from statutory consultees, and whilst Natural England, Wood E&I Solutions UK Ltd (on behalf of National Grid) and Transport for London did not have any comments to make on this occasion, the Environment Agency, Highways England, Historic England and South East Water raised a number of concerns.

3.5 It is worth noting the residents' category also consisted of resident's associations, as these groups made representations on behalf of residents. These were counted as one response.

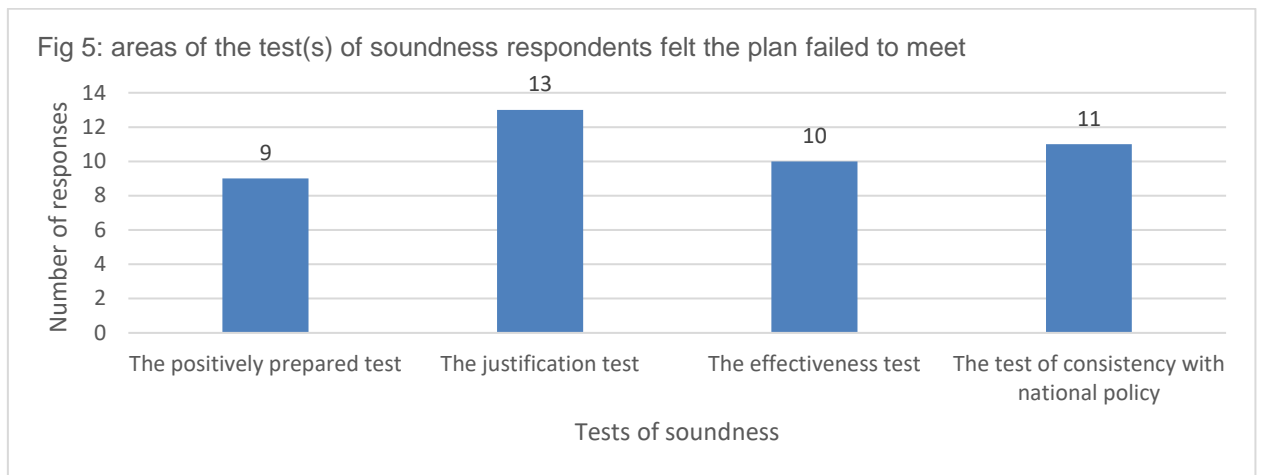
3.6 The 'Other' category included an almshouse trust and a marina.

## Section one – Bray Quarry Extension and proposed development considerations

- 3.7 Section one generated a total of 33 comments consisting of 23 personal responses and 10 responses from organisations / groups.
- 3.8 Respondents were asked to identify whether they supported, objected or had no view either way regarding the proposed site (Bray Quarry Extension) being included in the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and its associated development considerations. Respondents could choose to answer as much or as little of this section as they felt applicable.
- 3.9 Those who supported the proposal were then asked to provide reasons for their decision. A selection of the supporting comments are as follows:
- The proposal will be beneficial to the local area.
  - The proposed site could provide a substantial additional resource of sand and gravel without needing a new processing plant, HGV movements, silt disposal or infilling on the site.
  - No objection to the proposal based on the consultation not being carried out in compliance with legal requirements.
- 3.10 Those who objected were asked to categorise their reason(s) for objecting, with a choice of either the Local Plan not complying with legal requirements / the Duty to Cooperate or it not being sound in relation to at least one of the Tests of Soundness. Figure four below sets out how respondents had answered this question (it should be noted respondents could select as many options as they felt applicable):



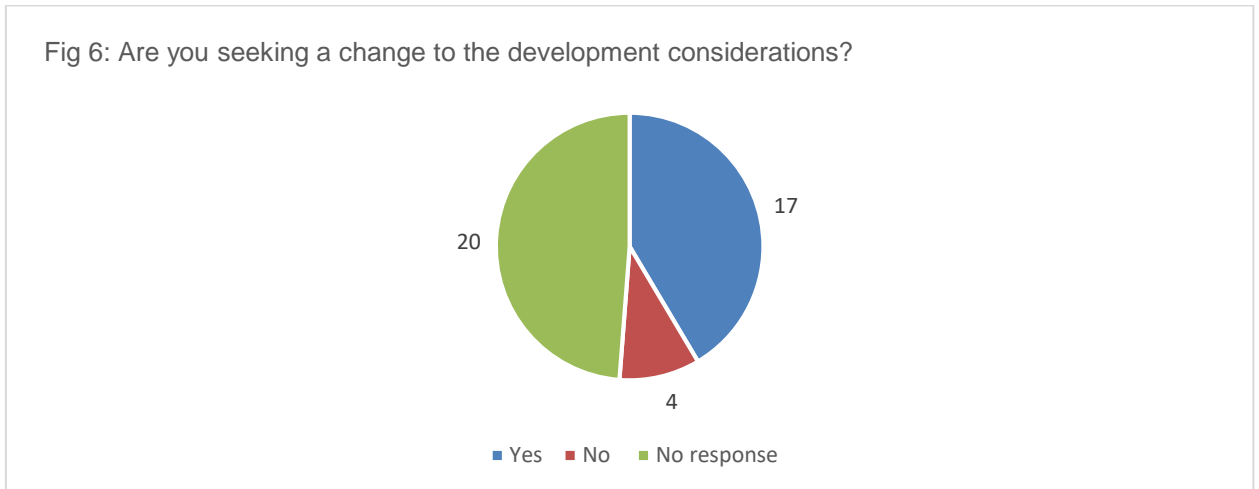
3.11 Figure 4 demonstrates most objecting responses under this section were based on people feeling the Plan was not sound in relation to at least one of the four Tests of Soundness (*The Positively Prepared Test, The Justification Test, The Effectiveness Test, The Test of Consistency with National Policy*). The following graph (Figure 5) sets out the spread of people’s opinions with how the Plan does not meet at least one of the four Tests of Soundness (it should be noted respondents could select as many options as they felt applicable):



3.12 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main objecting comments / themes received under this section were as follows:

- Unacceptable amenity impacts associated with the proposal: proximity to residential properties; noise; dust; vermin; air quality.
- Concerns regarding groundwater quality and supply.
- Concerns about the proposed site being in a flood zone and the associated impacts / risks that could be increased should the proposal go ahead.
- The proposed site is within the Green Belt and if approved, it could cause negative impacts on local wildlife and existing conservation areas.
- The rural setting of the village of Bray as well as the village’s listed buildings would be negatively impacted if the proposed site is permitted.
- Concerns about nearby properties decreasing in value because of the proposed site, if it goes ahead.
- Insufficient engagement with local communities on the proposed site.

3.13 Respondents were asked to indicate whether they were seeking a change to the development considerations. Figure six shows how people responded to this question:



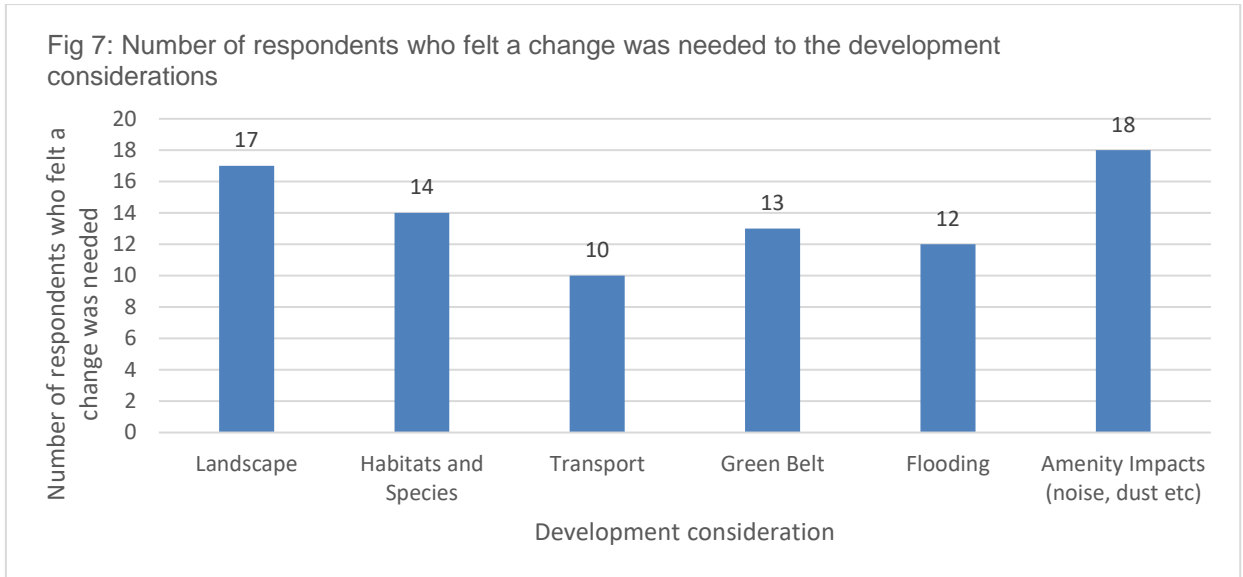
3.14 Figure 6 reveals 17 respondents (41.5%) indicated they wanted to see a change to the development considerations. 11 responses were personal (i.e. from an individual) and three responses were from organisations (which also included comments from statutory consultees). A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main changes suggested were as follows:

- A satisfactory hydrogeological risk assessment needs to be included in the evidence base for this proposed site.
- The sequential test, sequential approach and exception test need to be included in the development considerations section of the Bray Quarry Extension Consultation paper as well as being included in Appendix C: Sustainability Appraisal Extract.
- There is an error in the site description criteria and sites constraints table since it states the proposed site is at 'medium' risk of flooding from rivers. However, the proposed site is at 'high' risk of flooding from rivers.
- More detail needed on the proposed screening (banks, bunds and trees) that would replace visually attractive agricultural land, should the proposal go ahead.
- Current proposals do not properly protect the residents and environment from the development considerations.
- Further clarification on how minerals would be extracted and transported without noise or traffic pollution.

3.15 Respondents were then given six options to indicate under which area they were seeking a change to the development considerations. The options were as follows: Landscape; Habitats & Species; Transport; Green Belt; Flooding; Amenity Impacts (noise, dust etc) and respondents could select as many of the options as



they felt applicable. The following table (Figure 7) sets out which development consideration(s) the respondents felt changes were needed in:



## Section two – Sustainability Appraisal (and other assessments) of the proposed new site

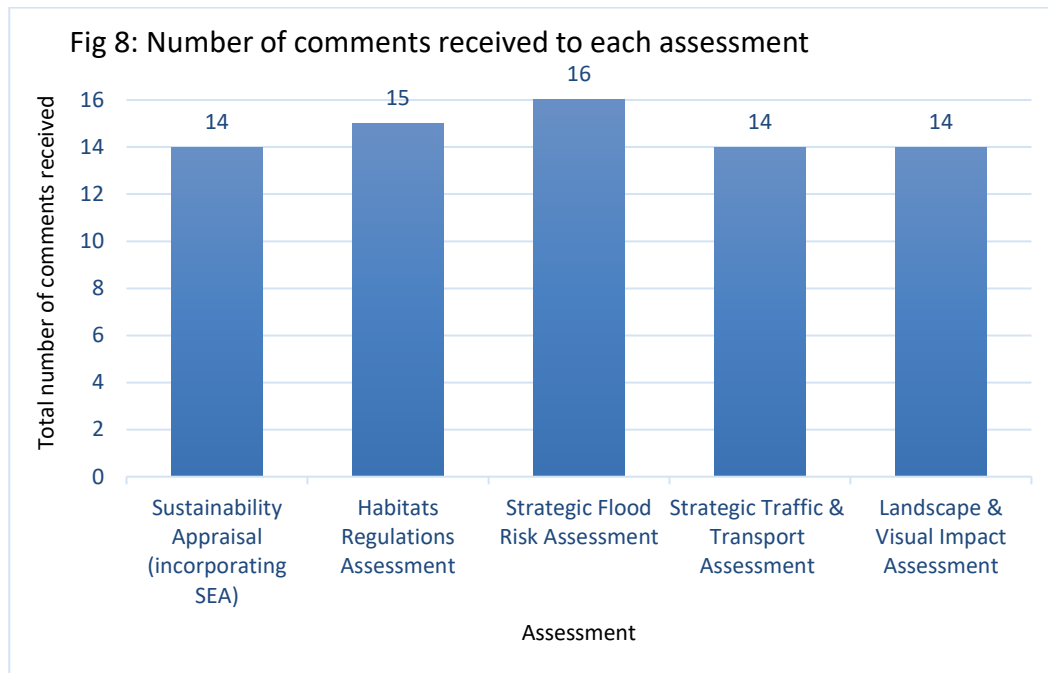
3.16 Section two generated a total of 21 responses overall, with 15 personal responses and six organisational responses.

3.17 Respondents were asked to provide comments on:

- the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) on Bray Quarry Extension;
- the Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening on Bray Quarry Extension;
- the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Statement on Bray Quarry Extension;
- the Strategic Traffic & Transport Assessment on Bray Quarry Extension; and
- the Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment on Bray Quarry Extension.

3.18 Respondents could choose to answer as much or as little of this section as they felt applicable.

3.19 Figure 8 (see below) sets out how many respondents made comments to each of the assessments:



3.20 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main comments / themes (both supporting and in opposition) identified for the **Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment)** on Bray Quarry Extension were as follows:

- The reference to Bray Wick Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and vehicle routing is irrelevant as no HGVs will visit the site. HGVs will visit Monkey Island Land processing plant which has permission to import, process and export sand & gravel.
- The restoration of the site has potential to improve public access and biodiversity.
- Not enough consideration that the proposed site is too close to residential properties, the village of Bray and its conservation area.
- If the proposed site receives permission to extract sand and gravel, the semi-rural aspects of the area will be lost, the environment will be negatively impacted, and the village will not remain protected from the noise generated by the M4 motorway.
- No consideration or mitigation for the potential risks and impact on the shallow water table beneath and next to the proposed site.

3.21 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main comments / themes (both supporting and in opposition) identified for the **Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening** on Bray Quarry Extension were as follows:

- The natural beauty of the existing area will be lost if the proposed site goes ahead. Instead it will be replaced with mounds of earth.
- Screening can only achieve a limited amount of sound and dust attenuation.
- As a biodiversity opportunity area, the wildlife within the vicinity of the proposed site should be addressed, including consideration being given to the potential disruption to natural habitats.
- Concern a number of trees covered by Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) will mainly be felled, resulting in the possible destruction of habitat.
- Reference of the proximity of the proposed site to South East Water's current operations, risks to public water supply and suitable measures to safeguard this source need to be considered since there is no specific reference or consideration to South East Water licenced public water supply abstraction.

3.22 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main comments / themes (both supporting and in opposition) identified for the **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Statement** on Bray Quarry Extension were as follows:

- Concerns around the restoration plans for the proposed site, since the creation of a lake has been suggested. However, due to the area already being at risk of flooding, this proposed site is causing more angst, especially among local residents.
- Concerns raised regarding water quality and supply should the proposed site receive the go ahead.
- The assessment seems to cover all points and is well reasoned.

3.23 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main comments / themes (both supporting and in opposition to) identified for the **Strategic Traffic and Transport Assessment** on Bray Quarry Extension were as follows:

- Concern around the proposed site gaining approval coupled with Windsor & Maidenhead's aim to meet objectively assessed housing numbers, since both will increase the volumes of traffic (including HGVs) on already congested local roads.
- Commend proposed improvements to access and public rights of way following the proposed extraction at the site.
- The proposals associated with Bray Quarry Extension need to consider the proposed work to increase the usage of the Monkey Island Lane processing plant (hours of operation and HGVs using the surrounding roads).
- Concerns raised around the pollution caused by the HGV movements associated with the proposed site, particularly the proximity to residential dwellings.

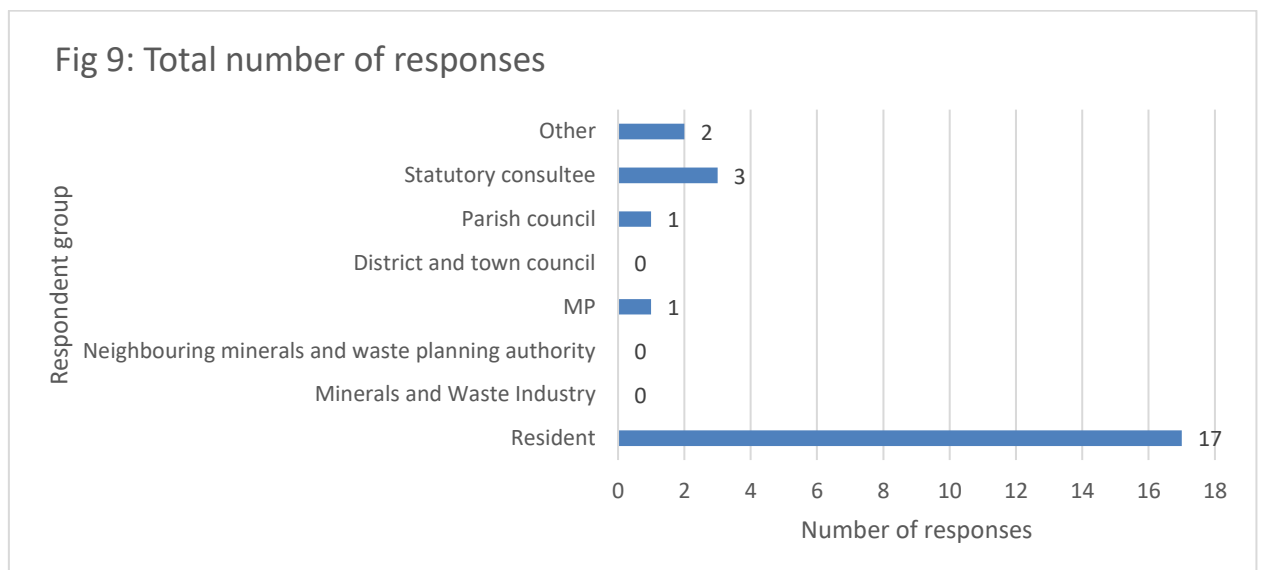
3.24 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main comments / themes (both supporting and in opposition to) identified for the **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** on the Bray Quarry Extension were as follows:

- The landscape development considerations state operational hours of the proposed site would be 08:00 to 16:00, but it was felt these hours would be restrictive and unjustified. Additionally, there was no reference to the days of the week which the proposed hours relate to, and it was felt this information should be available at this stage.
- A feeling the proposed site would be another blight on the landscape of Bray village.
- Alternative sites to Bray Quarry Extension should be considered for mineral extraction.
- There needs to be a positive commitment to include rights of way and for the landscaping of the local area.
- The impact of Monkey Island Lane processing plant on the surrounding neighbourhood needs to be considered.

### Section three<sup>4</sup> – further comments

3.25 A total of 24 comments were received under this penultimate section of the consultation, comprised of 16 personal responses and eight organisational responses.

3.26 It is worth noting the residents’ category also consisted of resident’s associations, as these groups made representations on behalf of residents. Additionally, two of the 24 responses for this section stated the respondent had no comments to make. Figure nine (see below) sets out who responded to this section of the consultation:



<sup>4</sup> Please note – this is the third section of the consultation, but it was incorrectly labelled as section four in the response form

3.27 This section of the consultation allowed respondents to provide additional thoughts or comments on the Bray Quarry Extension proposal. A variety of comments were received, with most respondents either reiterating points that had been made in earlier stages of the consultation or using the opportunity to highlight specific concerns that could not be addressed during earlier stages of the consultation.

3.28 A selection (but not an exhaustive list) of the main comments / themes (both supporting and in opposition to) received for this section of the consultation are as follows:

- The proposals are fully supported.
- Concern that Bray village is at risk of becoming an island.
- Concerns about the impact the proposed site would have on the Bray Conservation area which includes 26 listed buildings, namely Jesus Hospital (Grade I building which is a refuge for elderly people).
- The consultation at Bray Village Hall did not provide an opportunity to convey views and opinions of local residents to all organisations and professionals involved in the proposed Bray Quarry Extension site as some people were absent for the beginning of the exhibition.
- Some respondents felt the response forms were too complicated and included too much technical language / jargon with no explanation.
- Some residents do not believe there will not be any gains from the proposed site (to the village of Bray). Additionally, concerns were raised regarding the absence of a plan which details the management, maintenance and funding of the proposed site, once proposed mineral extraction operations cease.
- Concern raised about the impact the proposed site could have on two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Bray Meadow and Bray Pennyroyal Field, which are both close to the proposed site.
- Concerns raised over possible access issue along Monkey Island Lane to Bray Marina.
- A number of concerns were received in relation to the Monkey Island Lane processing plant, since various respondents commented on the operations having intensified over the last year, as well as a line of screening trees having been removed (\*photos received from a respondent but have not been included in this report\*).

## Section four<sup>5</sup> – about you

- 3.29 A total of 42 responses were received to this consultation, with 18 responses coming from organisations and 24 responses coming from individuals.
- 3.30 Of the responses received, 15 people / organisations chose to submit them online via the dedicated response form. The remaining 27 responses were received via email or post. However, it should be noted two responses (one from an individual and one from an organisation) were submitted in the post as well as online. In this instance, we will only count two responses and not four to avoid duplicate counting.
- 3.31 The consultation response form was structured so that the minerals and waste questions were posed at the start and then the final section (section four) focussed on finding out about the respondent. Although a name and full postal address were needed for a response to be deemed acceptable, there was no obligation for people to provide information on their age and their gender. In the cases when this information was supplied, it was removed from the main response form and analysed separately.
- 3.32 Additionally, it should be noted we only collated this additional information (age and gender) from those who completed the response form. Emails and letters did not include a respondent's age or gender. Therefore, the equalities data accrued is arguably limited as it has only been supplied by a selection of respondents.
- 3.33 A total of 16 respondents (or 39%) answered the additional questions in section four in regard to their age and their gender. Figures 10 and 11 demonstrate responses made to these questions:

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<sup>5</sup> Please note – this is the fourth section of the consultation, but it was incorrectly labelled as section five in the response form

Fig 10: age of respondent on their last birthday

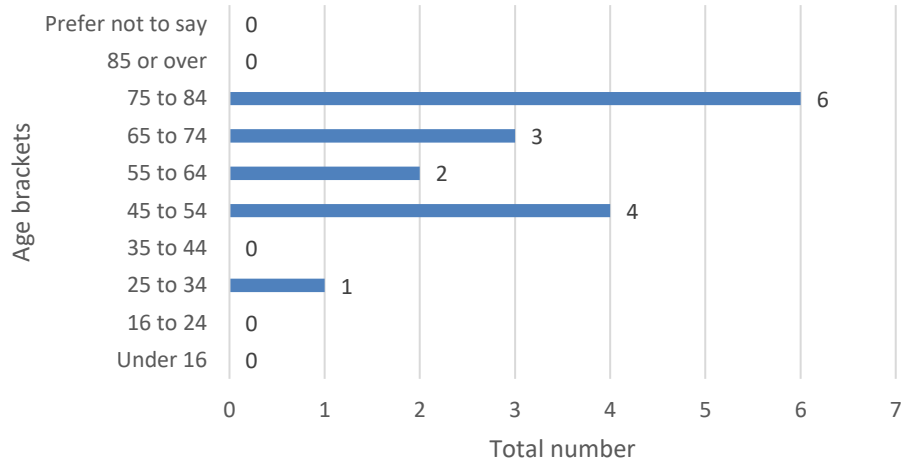
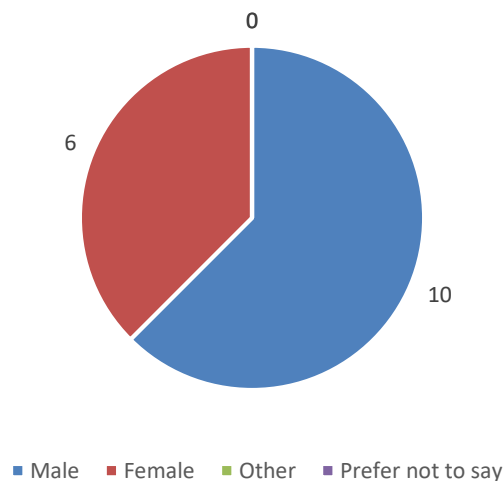


Fig 11: How a respondent described their gender



3.34 According to the data we obtained on respondent's ages, it is apparent further work needs to be undertaken (in future stages of the Plan making process) to make more of an effort to engage with the younger age groups.

3.35 The data gathered on the gender of respondents demonstrates the majority of responses (62.5%) received were from those who identified as male. Responses were also received from those who identified as female (37.5% of responses). However, the data collated highlights responses were not received from people who do not describe their gender as being either male or female. Therefore, this is something to be considered during future stages of the plan making and possible avenues for reaching these groups and obtaining their opinions need to be explored.

## Next steps

- 3.20 Following this additional consultation, Hampshire Services in conjunction with the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities will consider all comments received from statutory and non-statutory consultees and the local community in more detail. The key issues that have arisen will be assessed and an officer response will be provided at the Proposed Submission stage of the consultation, ensuring that the issues raised continue to inform the development of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan.



## **Appendix A – Responding organisations**

Below is a list of the organisations who responded to the Bray Quarry Extension Consultation:

- Bray Parish Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Environment Agency
- Highways England
- Historic England
- Holyport Residents Association
- Maidenhead Constituency Member of Parliament
- Marina Developments Ltd
- Natural England
- South East Water
- Summerleaze Limited
- Surrey County Council
- The Donnington Trust
- The Fisheries Residents Association
- Transport for London
- Wood E&I Solutions UK Ltd on behalf of National Grid
- Woodley Town Council Planning and Community Committee
- Wycombe District Council

## Appendix B – summary of responses

### Section one – Bray Quarry Extension and proposed development considerations

<b>Summary of comments made supporting the site proposal</b>
The site proposal will be beneficial to the local area
The Bray site would provide an additional resource of sand and gravel without the need for a new processing plant, HGV movements, silt disposal or infilling on the site

<b>Additional comments made regarding the site proposal (neither supporting nor objecting)</b>
No objection to the proposed site based on the consultation not having been carried out in compliance with legal requirements

<b>Summary of comments made on how the proposed site does not meet the Test of Soundness</b>
Unacceptable impact upon the amenity value of the village / area of Bray. Issues include blight on property, noise and impact on the environment. Little evidence given on what alternatives there might be.
Bray is a quiet village and the proposed excavation area is within only a few hundred meters of accommodation for the elderly as well as village allotments. The noise (even with buffers) will be intrusive.
The proposed site and surrounding area is within an existing flood zone. After extraction has commenced, the land would be returned to visually pleasing lakes, in the meantime, the water-absorbency capacity in the local zone 3 flood plain would be reduced still further.
There are highlighted risks to water quality in the plan and inadequate support that the proposal will not alter the risk of flooding for properties in Bray village.
The local area is full of wildlife including deer and is an area of natural beauty.
The proposal will significantly decrease the diversity of local habitats.
Another example of the use of a “false extreme need” being used to justify the erosion of the Green Belt.
The people living in Bray near the proposed site will be looking onto an open quarry. People should not be subjected to the misery and annoyance that such work will cause. People living nearby will find their house values sinking.
If the proposed site goes ahead, compensation to local residents must be paid and the following may be relevant; <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-compensation-manual-section-4-disturbance/part-1-disturbance">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-compensation-manual-section-4-disturbance/part-1-disturbance</a> <a href="http://www.environmentlaw.org.uk/rte.asp?id=239">http://www.environmentlaw.org.uk/rte.asp?id=239</a>

<p>The proposed development is too near Bray Village which is a conservation area. Concern about the damage that would be caused to the rural setting of a historically important village, with a large epicurean, and tourist trade.</p>
<p>The development should either be smaller or elsewhere. Extraction plans are still compartmentalising the demand and supply planning into areas where individual operators have land rights, and installed plant &amp; machinery, which prioritises their responses to calls for new site towards extending current operations. For example, Barge Farm, which is situated on the eastern side of the River Thames opposite Bray, has huge known deposits of such materials, and has been identified by its owners, within the past 5 years, as being available. Because it falls into the South Bucks Council area, by virtue of an oddity of area mapping, it is not being considered within this context. The demands of Runway 3 at Heathrow, and its associated road and building development, will surely call for these more extensive opportunities to be examined, so why not now?</p>
<p>The proposal cannot be justified. The site scored 'amber' or 'red' on 8 out of the 11 SA/SEA objectives, which is an indication the this is not a suitable site for gravel extraction.</p>
<p>The trees on the site provide vital protection / shelter from air, noise and light pollution from the M4, which has got much worse over the past year due to the road widening works.</p>
<p>The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has not taken appropriate steps to engage with local residents who will be impacted by this proposal.</p>

## Section two – Sustainability Appraisal of the proposed new site

<p><b>Summary of comments made on the Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) on Bray Quarry Extension</b></p>
<p>Fully support and well reasoned</p>
<p>Reference is made to Bray Wick AQMA and vehicle routing, however this is irrelevant as no HGVs will visit the Bray site. All HGVs will visit the Monkey Island Lane processing plant site which has permanent and unrestricted planning permission to import, process and export sand and gravel. Objective 2 ground/surface water quality - it is not accepted that the SA/SEA judgement should be red. The adjacent Bray Triangle extraction has clearly demonstrated that sand and gravel can be worked without any impact on the water regime. Objective 5 quality of life - it is not accepted that the impact on residential dwellings should be red or the amenities should be amber. A suitable standoff is proposed between extraction and residential properties and screenbanks are also proposed. The adjacent Bray Triangle extraction area was a similar distance from residential properties without causing unacceptable impact. The restoration of the site has considerable potential to improve public access and biodiversity. Objective 6 air quality - it is not accepted that the SA/SEA</p>

<p>judgement should be amber. The mineral will be transported to the processing plant on conveyors. The processing plant has a permanent and unrestricted planning permission. If Bray mineral was not to be processed at Monkey Island Lane then mineral from somewhere else would be. Objective 7 emissions/greenhouse gas - it is not accepted that the SA/SEA judgement should be amber. There are no HGVs or dump trucks to be used to transport mineral to the processing plant. An electric powered conveyor would be used. Emissions would be minimal.</p>
<p>Insufficient weight has been given to the fact that the site is too close to residential property, Bray village, and its conservation area.</p>
<p>Bray is an historic village with Grade I and II listed buildings including a number of houses which are more than 100 years old. The area is semi rural and is protected from much of the M4 noise by this area. If the area is quarried and the minerals extracted are replaced by water, then the environment will suffer badly, the semi rural aspect will go and the noise of the M4 will be worse. Many of the benefits of those fields (the wildlife and calm) will be lost.</p>
<p>Within the Sustainability Appraisal Extract, Appendix C, there is acknowledgement of the proposed location being situated "Adjacent River Thames Protected Drinking Water Area". It is also noted within the Site Specific Assessment, that "Potentially there could be risks to surface water and groundwater quality". However, there is no mention of methods of mitigation, or evidence that the risk to abstraction is fully understood. Appendix C states, "The site scored negatively for SA/SEA Objective 2 (water quality). However, Policies DM9 (Public Health, Safety and Amenity) and DM10 (Water Environment and Flood Risk) would prevent emissions from operation impacting on water quality". This is concerning, wherein air-borne emissions may be considered, however there is no apparent consideration mitigation for the risks and potential impact on the shallow water table, beneath and adjacent to the proposed site.</p>
<p>Needs to be much more clearly stated including analysis of "sustainability"</p>

<p><b>Summary of comments made on the Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening on Bray Quarry Extension</b></p>
<p>Fully supportive. Well reasoned.</p>
<p>Insufficient screening to Bray Allotments resulting in a loss of amenity value.</p>
<p>Screening only achieves a limited amount of sound and dust attenuation.</p>
<p>Rehabilitating the site post extraction is positive however as a Biodiversity Opportunity Area, the wildlife in the area during extraction should be addressed as well as the potential disruption to natural habitats. Consideration should be given to the proposed site being in The Green Belt.</p>
<p>On the site there are mature trees covered by tree protection orders, but many of these will be felled. The trees also provide vital protection from air, noise and light pollution from the M4.</p>

<p>The Habitats Directive Assessment shows consideration for water pollution and potential changes to surface/groundwater hydrology with the following statements respectively, “the site is located 3.63km from the SAC, and is not connected to the European site by any vectors that may carry pollution. Therefore, the European and Ramsar site will not be impacted from water pollution” and “As the site is 3.63km from the European site, the hazards are considered to have negligible potential to cause a likely significant effect”. However, while these statements may apply to designated SAC and European and Ramsar sites; there is no specific reference or apparent consideration to South East Water licenced public water supply abstraction, located immediately adjacent to the proposed site. Reference of the proximity of the proposed mineral extraction to the South East Water’s operation, risks to public water supply and appropriate measures to safeguard this source must be considered.</p> <p>Further, the proposal document states that following mineral extraction activities, the current plan is, “...restoration to lakes and wildlife habitats with no backfilling, recovery or recycling”. This option must consider the water quality risks that may impact upon the groundwater, and may result in a future need for South East Water to enhance our water treatment facilities to consider a greater proportion of surface water, within the current groundwater abstraction area.</p> <p>The limited mitigation measures listed in the document provided in relation to this proposal make no reference of groundwater protection.</p>
<p>Insufficient detail provided.</p>

<p><b>Summary of comments made on the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Statement on Bray Quarry Extension</b></p>
<p>Fully supportive. Well reasoned.</p>
<p>By allowing worked-out sections of land to infill with water, reduces the ability of the land it displaces, to absorb more water in times of flooding. All technically competent bodies now seem to agree that flooding risks will increase in future, and that the Jubilee River relief scheme cannot be relied on to alleviate the worst outcomes.</p>
<p>There are highlighted risks to water quality in the plan and inadequate support that the proposal will not alter the risk of flooding for properties in Bray village.</p>

<p><b>Summary of comments made on the Strategic Traffic and Transport Assessment on Bray Quarry Extension</b></p>
<p>Fully supportive. Well reasoned.</p>
<p>The gravel will be moved by conveyor to the processing plant, which is a positive step, as far as the village itself is concerned, but the eventual transportation by lorry will be over increasing congested roads, which will be servicing up to 80% more domestic housing under the Local Plan’s aim to meet Objectively Assessed housing numbers.</p>
<p>Commend improvements to access and Public Rights of Way post extraction.</p>

These proposals need to consider the other proposed work to increase the usage of the Monkey Island plant, in particular how the hours of operation and amount of heavy haulage traffic using the lane.

Roads already overloaded with health hazards from diesel polluted air.

### **Summary of comments made on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment on Bray Quarry Extension**

The Ecological Assessment Summary and the Ecological Development Considerations both refer to "Impacts on Bray Meadows SSSI and Bray Pennyroyal Field SSSI". This suggests that there will be an impact. This is not correct or justified. The wording should be changed to "Potential impacts on Bray Meadows..." The Landscape Development Considerations state operational hours will be limited to 08.00 to 16.00. These hours are unnecessarily restrictive and are not justified. No mention is made of the days in the week that these hours relate to. The adjacent Bray Triangle site was not so constrained and did not result in any unacceptable impacts. The site is immediately adjacent to the M4 Motorway. The operating hours need to be 0700 to 1800 Monday to Friday and 0700 to 1300 on Saturday. Why is a Transport Statement required when they are no HGVs involved? This is not justified. The Monkey Island Lane processing plant is permanent and unrestricted in terms of hours or HGVs.

Other more suitable sites (which have not been brought forward) be examined for appropriateness and, if necessary be acquired compulsorily for this purpose. Secondly that the process of compartmentalising sub-areas within this deposit rich county be re-examined for appropriateness.

No consideration has been made to the impact of the Monkey Island Lane plant and surrounding neighbourhood. The measures suggested for the main extension in the village of Bray should also be extended to include the lesser and currently inadequate noise and disruption rules. In particular, I would like to see similar enforced times of operation and noise reduction measures enforced at the Monkey Island site.

The wording of the current plan is very 'woolly' using words like 'opportunity to include rights of way' and 'should' or 'could'.  
There needs to be a positive commitment to include 'Rights of Way' and for the landscaping of the area.

Removal of any trees would be detrimental to the landscape and air quality since they are mature trees which cannot be replaced.

### **Section three – Further comments**

#### **Further comments summary**

How much is the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead going to make of this as it seems yet more of our land is being sold off for Council profit.

<p>The proposed site is too close to the historic village of Bray and its conservation area. Tree screening would hide the attractive view from Old Mill Lane and give a feeling of enclosure. Bray is in danger of becoming an island. No alternative appears to have been considered.</p>
<p>Concerns over noise and air quality during the operational period. The proposed site is close to residents and this could have a major impact on quality of life.</p>
<p>Concerns over the proximity of the proposed site to listed buildings, such as Jesus Hospital, and the impacts that could result on both the physical buildings as well as the elderly residents who live in the almshouse.</p>
<p>Strong encouragement that the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead conservation staff are closely involved in the preparation of the plan, as they are best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, sources of data, and consideration of the options relating to the historic environment. In particular, they should be consulted on the potential impacts on the setting of nearby listed buildings, such as the Jesus Hospital Almshouses, and the Bray Village Conservation Area.</p>
<p>The consultation at Bray Village Hall did not provide adequate opportunities for residents to communicate with operators, local authority representatives or local councillors. Additionally, there were not enough printed response forms available at the public exhibition.</p>
<p>The response form included complicated (planning) language (such as “sustainability”, “soundness”) which was not fully explained. As such, this hindered some respondents as they felt unable to respond in a simple and straightforward way.</p>
<p>The consultation has not been carried out with due care and in the fairness of all interest parties.</p>
<p>The proposed site is adjacent to the Bray conservation Area and within the Green Belt. The aim of the conservation area designation is to protect the wider historic environment. The village has a history dating back to mediaeval times and there are a number of listed properties within the area. By permitting Bray Quarry Extension site to be included in the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, there would be a significant change in the area's historic ambience which will impact and degrade the Bray Conservation Area. This will have a negative impact on the residents of the village, particularly those who live on Old Mill Lane and adjacent roads, as householders currently enjoy a view over open space. If the allocation of the Bray Quarry Extension is permitted, this will be lost.</p> <p>The site's location is within the Green Belt and whilst mineral extraction is not listed as an inappropriate development for Green Belt, there was concern the use of the site would hinder the preservation of the openness of the Green Belt.</p> <p>Although the proposal includes the removal of sand and gravel from the Bray Quarry Extension site by linking to conveyor infrastructure at Bray Triangle, thus limiting the volume of road traffic to the site, the extraction process would</p>

still cause significant noise and particulate pollution. This associated noise and particulate pollution will damage the quality of life for residents in the village as well as having an impact on the local environment.

The Bray Quarry Extension site is closely located to two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Bray Meadow (0.7km) and Bray Pennyroyal Field (1km). As a result, there is a SSSI Impact Zone in the surrounding area and this includes the proposed Bray Quarry Extension site. This means that significant changes to the local environment in this area could potentially damage conservation efforts in the SSSIs, which are protected because of their distinctive flora. Furthermore, part of the site is located in a Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) - a designation which indicates there are substantial opportunities to make positive changes for biodiversity including habitat creation and restoration. The identification of BOAs considers existing concentrations of habitat, important areas for rare species of principal importance and land with potential for habitat restoration. Using the site for mineral extraction would be at odds with the aims of the Biodiversity Opportunity Area (BOA) to enhance natural habitats in the area and therefore I cannot support the proposal.

Moreover, there are a number of visually significant tree belts crossing the site which would be impacted if the site is used for mineral extraction. Several of these are mature oak trees which are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Mature trees are a much more valuable environmental resource than young, newly planted trees and removing and replacing trees would impact the local ecosystem. For example, the removal of the trees could potentially impact roosting and foraging bats - a protected species.

Additionally, the Bray Quarry Extension site lies within Drinking Water Safeguard Zones - partly in Zone I, Inner Protection Zone and partly in Zone II, Outer Protection zone. The site is also immediately adjacent to the boundary of the River Thames Drinking Water Protected Area. It is important that this is adequately considered during the decision-making process as there is a potential risk to surface water and groundwater quality.

A number of serious concerns are raised, against which further information and assurance is sought that all risks to surface and groundwater quality have been adequately assessed and mitigated for, as well as confirmation from the applicant that there is no intention to abstract or impinge upon groundwater level, flow or yield.

It is understood the proposed mineral extraction will permanently and irreversibly, remove a large area of the shallow aquifer near to the public water this source, and as such have concerns that all risks to surface and groundwater quality must be adequately assessed and mitigated for, along with confirmation from the applicant that there is no intention to abstract or impinge upon groundwater level, flow or yield.

It is strongly advised the applicant consult with the Environment Agency, and ensure they consider and comply with the Environment Agency's approach to the management and protection of groundwater as outlined within their GP3



document 'Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice' and take all measures and precautions necessary to avoid deterioration in the quality of groundwater below the site.

The consultation documents identify that the development will be within a Groundwater Source Protection Zone, and therefore a Hydrological Risk Assessment will be required for flood risk. There is no mention of the adjacent public water supply abstraction boreholes operated by South East Water. Therefore, adequate consideration must be made for the protection of, and mitigation of risk to the groundwater, both in regards to quality and availability which, to address this risk of impact upon the public water supply.

Within the Sustainability Appraisal Extract, Appendix C, there is acknowledgement of the proposed location being situated "Adjacent River Thames Protected Drinking Water Area". It is also noted within the Site Specific Assessment, that "Potentially there could be risks to surface water and groundwater quality". However, there is no mention of methods of mitigation, or evidence that the risk to abstraction is fully understood.

Appendix C states, "The site scored negatively for SA/SEA Objective 2 (water quality). However, Policies DM9 (Public Health, Safety and Amenity) and DM10 (Water Environment and Flood Risk) would prevent emissions from operation impacting on water quality". This is concerning, wherein air-borne emissions may be considered, however there is no apparent consideration mitigation for the risks and potential impact on the shallow water table, beneath and adjacent to the proposed site...

...Further, the proposal document states that following mineral extraction activities, the current plan is, "...restoration to lakes and wildlife habitats with no backfilling, recovery or recycling". This option must consider the water quality risks that may impact upon the groundwater, and may result in a future need for South East Water to enhance our water treatment facilities to consider a greater proportion of surface water, within the current groundwater abstraction area.

The limited mitigation measures listed in the document provided in relation to this proposal make no reference of groundwater protection.

A robust hydrogeological assessment that fully considers the interests of South East Water, and the risks to the public water supply, is required.

South East Water would like to reiterate that our primary concern is the aquifer from which we abstract groundwater for public supply purposes, and therefore seek assurance that appropriate consideration and measures have been made to ensure that the availability and quality of the groundwater is not adversely affected by the proposed development.

No mention of any changes to the water table in the Bray village environs has been included in the consultation document. The digging of an extraction pit could lower the water table, and or cause an increased flow of water through the ground strata. Both of these events could cause settlement to some very old and historic buildings in Bray village.

<p>The proposed bunds would have to be large enough to ensure, that for nearby properties the maximum quarry noise level would meet World Health Organisation guidelines. The size of such bunds would be inappropriate development in the floodplain and Green Belt. It is not believed that these bunds would act as significant pollution barriers.</p>
<p>Councillors believe this site is not ready to go into the plan. Previous sites owned and worked by this company have a seven metre deep track of trees planted 15 to 20 years prior to the sites being put forward for excavation, but this has not happened at the proposed Bray Quarry Extension site.</p>
<p>Concerns about the potential loss of the protected trees, which form an important aspect of the village, along with the loss of valuable farm land.</p>
<p>Disbelief there will be any potential gains from working this site. Furthermore, there is no proposal for the transfer of the land following extraction to either the Local Authority or the Parish Council, which means that the management of the land, post extraction, cannot be guaranteed.</p>
<p>At the other end of the proposed conveyor system is the existing Monkey Island Lane gravel processing plant. This plant has been in operation for more than forty years and when it started there were very few houses in close proximity to the plant. Over time, this situation has changed and there are now a number of houses directly adjacent.</p> <p>The operation at the gravel works has intensified over the last year with the addition of the ready mixed concrete operation. In addition to this, the gravel company has removed a one hundred metre long, 20 or 30 metre wide screen of trees separating the plant from the neighbouring houses. The removal of this screen has resulted in increased pollution for residents (light / noise / dust etc).</p>
<p>When asked to consider remedies to resolve the many issues of noise, dust, air quality, other pollution, traffic volumes etc, we are consistently told by our local RBWM councillors that as inadequate permissions were granted 'before their time', there is nothing they can now do about the problems currently evident/created by the processing plant because of these prior permissions - their (councillor) hands are tied? We do not believe it nor that no action can be taken! Was it to be so, how then can the processing plant be considered a modern and efficient plant if there are no environmental controls in place to protect us residents? This issue needs to be urgently addressed by your team in conjunction with RBWM councillors to avoid subsequent repercussions.</p> <p><i>(* photos submitted with this full response but they have not been included in this report*)</i></p>
<p>Given the current shortage of housing in the UK, consideration should be given to a sympathetic housing development would be more beneficial to both the RBWM and the UK in general. The Thames Valley is littered with lakes created from exhausted gravel pits, a large proportion of which provides no benefit to society. I really think we do not need yet another one.</p>
<p>The United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook 2018, produced jointly by The CBI, the British Geological Survey and the Mineral Products Association records the</p>

<p>2017 extraction of aggregates to have been 193 millions tonnes. Therefore, how does an approximate increase of 0.1% of overall UK aggregates production have any significant benefit to either the local residents of RBWM or the United Kingdom in general. Estimated total sales value of the 600,000 tonnes of sand and gravel to be of the order £10 millions during the three year period. (Not all the extracted materials are suitable for an end use).</p>
<p>How will the top soil be removed from the site?</p>
<p>This will be terrible for the village of Bray – glaringly obvious why.</p>
<p>Our interest is the middle one of the three sites, with the extension and dredging of the ‘Cut’ to allow extract material from Taplow area to be processed in the Monkey Island Lane site. This directly impinges upon our tenants and business and also has health and safety issues needing to be addressed as a result of fuel tanks and pumps in the same proximity. Concerns about the access along Monkey Island Lane to Bray Marina. Bertholders (circa 400 berths) already have lorry movements to contend with, alongside the disrepair of the road surface and the dust plus noise associated with the gravel distribution. I understand that there is talk of a conveyor belt from the site to the sorting depot on Monkey Island Lane and we would encourage this as keeping lorry movements as low as possible. Obviously health and safety and noise then take precedent, but no doubt would be fully monitored by you. If the conveyor can get all the way between the sites then that must be encouraged. The same comment also applies to the Bray Consultation.</p>
<p>I can see how money is made from extracting gravel and sand from the land near Bray. I can also see how this enables Berkshire to meet its obligations for extraction of building materials. However, I cannot see how the residents of Bray are going to benefit. There are no SPECIFIC proposals for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why a company can extract resources, make a profit, and not share that wealth with the residents who have to live with the noise, and the long term consequences</li> <li>2. Long term compensation for the decrease in value of our homes (or increased insurance premiums) due to increased flood risk</li> <li>3. Perpetuity-based financial plans for the upkeep of the lake. The lake that will be created is forever, and will need maintaining forever. There are no firm commitments for how this is to be funded. Certainly the residents of Bray should not have to fund it.</li> <li>4. Community projects</li> </ol> <p>In other words, I think the division of wealth from the quarry operations is not equitable. The residents – who have to put up with the operation of the quarry, and who have to live with the long-term consequences of the extraction – are not receiving anything like a fair deal.</p> <p>There is one further, separate, comment.</p> <p>The proposed land for the quarry seems to be exceptionally fertile arable land. Carrots are currently grown, and although I am not the farmer, the land</p>

appears to produce three crops a year. Surely we should not be destroying fertile arable land and replacing it with another lake – FOREVER ?

The strategic road network (SRN) is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

We will therefore be concerned with proposals that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in this case the M4.

We have reviewed this consultation and its supporting documentation and whilst we understand that there will be no change in traffic volumes resulting from these proposals we are concerned about the proximity of the southern boundary of the proposed quarry extension to the M4 and the potentially significant impact it could have to the M4 and its assets. We also highlight that Smart motorways is proposed for this section of the M4; please see link below for more information:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m4-junctions-3-12-smart-motorway/>

Due to this we will require a meeting with Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to discuss and identify the viability of this site.

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](mailto:berks.consult@hants.gov.uk) or by calling 01962 845785.