

Cultural Heritage

1.1 Cultural Heritage

Policy Context

PPG 15 – Planning and the Historic Environment

This PPG provides a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment. It explains the role played by the planning system in their protection. It complements the guidance on archaeology and planning given in PPG 16.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Objectives are for effective protection for all aspects of the historic environment. Consider opportunities to re-use derelict transport infrastructure.

PPG 16 – Archaeology and Planning

This guidance is for planning authorities in England, property owners, developers, archaeologists, amenity societies and the general public. It sets out the Secretary of State's policy on archaeological remains on land, and how they should be preserved or recorded both in an urban setting and in the countryside. It gives advice on the handling of archaeological remains and discoveries under the development plan and control systems, including the weight to be given to them in planning decisions and the use of planning conditions.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Development plans should reconcile the need for development with the interests of conservation including archaeology. Detailed development plans should include policies for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings.

The Historic Environment: A Force for Our Future

This statement sets out the intention of the Government to protect the historic environment recognising its major contribution to the economy in rural and deprived communities as well as in traditional economic centres. It also states the need for the development of new policies to further realise economic and educational potential.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

The historic environment should be protected and sustained for the benefit of our own and future generations.

Luton Local Plan (Second Deposit Draft)

The Local Plan is to guide development and the use of land. It contains policies and proposals for land use and transportation.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

See policies ENV1 & ENV2 – development must not have a detrimental affect on historic environment.
Not to allow developments to adversely affect a site of known or potential archaeological interest.
To preserve or enhance the character of a conservation area/.

Mid Beds Local Plan

The Plan guides development and the use of land over the next 10 years. The policies and proposals for land use and transportation are used to give planning advice and form the basis for determining planning applications.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

to protect and enhance the architectural and historic character of Mid Bedfordshire's towns and villages.
To protect and enhance the archaeological heritage of the District.

South Bedfordshire Local Plan (Review Deposit)

The Local Plan was adopted in 2004 and provides comprehensive planning guidance for development in the area up to the year 2011. It develops the policies and general proposals of the Structure Plan and relates them to precise areas of land in the area. It sets out policies for environmental planning and management, in particular relating to conservation and improvement of the environment, efficient use of land and resources and the management of traffic.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Protect and enhance the built and historic environment.
Preserve the historic and architectural heritage of the District.
Protect all archaeological remains of importance with the District.
Prevent development which may have an adverse affect on a Conservation Area.
Protect from damage and wherever possible, to enhance, historic parks and gardens of local historic interest and amenity value in the District.

Bedford Borough Council Local Plan and Core Strategy

The Bedford Local Plan was adopted in 2002 and sets out policies and proposals to encourage development to occur in suitable forms and locations with the aim of improving the quality, convenience and sustainability of the environment. The Local Development Framework process will gradually replace the Local Plan and deliver the spatial planning strategy for Bedford.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Protect and enhance the existing built and natural environment and the landscape.
Protect natural history sites, habitats or features.
Protect the character and appearance of conservation areas.
Protect scheduled ancient monuments, other important archaeological sites and their settings.
Protect historic parks and gardens.

Bedford Borough Council Core Strategy

The Local Development Framework is a series of documents which will gradually replace the Local Plan and deliver the spatial planning strategy for Bedford. These will set out the Council's policies for meeting the community's economic, environmental and social aims for the future where they affect the development and use of land. Preparation of the Local Development Framework will be a continual process with new documents being prepared at different stages to ensure that they are up-to-date.

The Core Strategy will set out the long term vision and overarching policies for the Borough. Consultation is taking place in connection with preparing the 'Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan'. The 'Options Paper' will be out to consultation until 14 October 2005.

In order to ensure that the Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan contributes to the aims of sustainable development, the Council is required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of its policies and

proposals. This document underwent consultation in parallel with the Policies Options paper.

Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Protect and enhance the Borough’s built and historic assets and promote design excellence in the built environment.

Conserve and enhance the historical and cultural environment.

Baseline Review

Architectural Heritage

- 1.1.1 Bedfordshire County Council Heritage and Environment Group are currently developing a Cultural Heritage Character assessment for the County and draft results are expected in 2006. Unfortunately this data is not available to inform this Scoping Report but relevant data will be added to the SA baseline later in the process. Some basic information on cultural heritage is available in the Landscape Character Assessment and this has been used in this baseline. Because of these data limitations this baseline section is necessarily brief.
- 1.1.2 Data in the table below has been taken from the *Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment Volume one: Countywide Study*. It identifies the industrial heritage and building vernacular found in the different landscape types. This information is particularly important as it is the change in character as a result of minerals development that will need to be assessed through the SA.

County Landscape Type	Types of Industrial Heritage	Building Vernacular
Arable Clay Plateau with tributaries	Airfields used & disused Intensive Arable farming Industrial Parks	Building Developments: Small scale Low density linear Walls: Red & buff brick (sometimes checkerboard pattern) & white render. Roofing: Thatch, slate & clay tiling
Wooded Wolds	Rural landscape	Building Developments: Small scale Low density nucleated & linear Walls: Limestone (honey-grey) Roofing: Thatch, & clay tiling - wide eaves
Limestone River Valley with Open Water	Limestone & Brick road & rail bridges Restored Gravel pits	Building Developments: Small scale & Large Scale Walls: Limestone (honey-grey) small settlements Red brick Large settlements Roofing: Thatch, & clay tiling

County Landscape Type	Types of Industrial Heritage	Building Vernacular
Clay River Valleys	Restored Sand and Gravel Workings	Building Developments: Few unifying characteristics Walls: Brick, render, weatherboard Roofing: clay & slate tiling
Settled and Farmed Clay Vales	Active Brick workings Clay pits Large scale industrial features chimneys, hangers and distribution warehouses	Building Developments: Small – medium scale Walls: Red & buff brick (sometimes checkerboard pattern) render, weatherboarding. Roofing: Clay tiling, thatch,
Wooded Greensand Ridge	Intensive Arable Farming Active and restored sand mineral workings (interspersed with woodland)	Building Developments: Small scale Walls: Red brick, white render. Roofing: clay tiling
Greensand River Valley	Market gardening Golf & Fisheries Pasture Aggregates Industry Military	Building Developments: Small scale linear Walls: Red brick, weatherboarding. Roofing: Thatch, clay tiling
Settled and Farmed Clay Hills	Rural landscape	Building Developments: Varying size nucleated Walls: Mix. Roofing: Mix
Chalk Escarpments	Numerous archaeological sites of national importance Pylons & communications masts	Building Developments: Varying size nucleated Walls: Mix. Roofing: Mix
Rolling Chalk Farmland	Chalk Quarries active and disused Pylons & communications masts	Building Developments: Mostly unsettled Small scale linear Walls: Mix. Roofing: Mix
Wooded Arable Chalk Plateau with Valleys	Intensive Arable Farming Horsiculture	Building Developments: Mostly unsettled Small scale with green or common Walls: Red brick, flint, Roofing: Clay tiles
Arterial Chalk River Valleys	Rural landscape	Building Developments: Mostly unsettled Walls: Red brick, flint,

County Landscape Type	Types of Industrial Heritage	Building Vernacular
		Roofing: Clay tiles

Archaeological Heritage

- 1.1.3 This section addresses baseline cultural and archaeological heritage of Bedfordshire and Luton. More data should become available in 2006 and will be added to the baseline at this point.

Luton

- 1.1.4 There are early monuments in the Borough and these include earthworks at Wauluds' Bank which date back to about 2500-2000 BC in the Neolithic period and Dray's Ditches to the Bronze and Iron Age times. They are related to the ancient route of Icknield Way which runs through the borough, and are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Bedfordshire

- 1.1.5 Bedfordshire contains 150 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The County Council has 20 Scheduled Ancient Monuments on its land & 130 are on private land. The County Council also has 18,000 plus archaeological sites, and historic landscape features, buildings and structures. The Cultural Heritage character assessment project will examine these sites to assist in developing appropriate management.
- 1.1.6 English Heritage has identified 2205 buildings and other features including burials, finds and other Archaeological features in Bedfordshire in its Pastscape database.

Sources of Data

- www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/
- www.english-heritage.org.uk
- www.pastscape.org/homepage/textpage.asp
- www.bedfordshire.gov.uk
- www.midbeds.gov.uk
- www.bedford.gov.uk
- www.luton.gov.uk

Trends

- 1.1.7 With the United Kingdom's high density of historic buildings and archaeology there is always a potential conflict between further development and the potential changes in character of areas and the degradation or destruction of sites or buildings of historic importance. However the requirements for developers to undertake archaeological surveys and if necessary undertake archaeological monitoring and investigations has meant that significant discoveries and finds have been made that historically would not have been discovered due to lack of resources. Mineral working discoveries add greatly to

the professional and public understanding of earlier periods of settlement in the UK of which little was known.

- 1.1.8 A do minimum approach would see a low level of strategic identification and management of existing heritage and new heritage sites by stakeholders and the potential loss of sites due to lack of countywide strategic management.

Data Gaps

- 1.1.9 Data which will be available in the Cultural Heritage Character assessment to be published in 2006.

Implications for minerals planning and SA in Bedfordshire

Key issues arising from the policy context:

How the minerals local plan should address cultural heritage

- 1.1.10 The MDPDs should be committed to PPG 15 and PPG 16 objectives for the effective protection of the historic environment and archaeological remains through site selection.

Relevant objectives for the SA

- MLDF should seek to protect and where relevant enhance sites of archaeological interest.
- MLDF seeks to protect and enhance archaeological remains.
- Minerals development policies should aim to steer development away from archaeologically sensitive sites.

Key issues arising from the baseline review:

- Presence of Scheduled Monuments: plan should seek to preserve ancient monuments.
- Presence of Archaeological sites: Ensure mineral or waste workings protect or record archaeological sites.

Key issues arising from the scoping consultation:

Are these the key sustainability issues under this topic area? or are there others?

- planning gain should be broader and look at a range of issues. Need to 'avoid "and mitigate" impacts
- not all SAM's are real. There is a need for full archaeological information to make informed decisions
- Need full information, i.e. evaluation to be provided with applications. Need this before you can decide whether to permit or not

- Need to recognise mineral, industrial and agricultural archaeology – definition of cultural heritage is too narrow
- Scope for enhancement of cultural heritage should not be at expense of biodiversity – need to ensure cultural and heritage value and after-uses are integrated with biodiversity. Enhancement of archaeological sites and features is difficult though improvements to their management and interpretation can certainly be achieved. This issue needs to be considered as preservation of sites within mineral workings is increasing and proper long term provision needs to be made for sites preserved in situ. There may on occasion be conflict between protecting archaeological remains and biodiversity interests. Neither should be assume primacy in all cases. The relative merits of each case must be considered and appropriate balances struck depending on the nature and value of the resources.
- mining itself is part of national and local heritage and culture
- the Historic Landscape, covered by neither built environment or archaeology, is also a key issue. The identification, protection and management of this must be considered.

What are the main implications of these issues for minerals and waste planning?

- uncertainty is a major concern – needs forward planning
- change in archaeological requirements over time – constantly evolving
- need to obtain information from relevant bodies for full assessment of sites

What sustainability objectives do you think should be set for each of these topic areas?

- use of archaeological information obtained from minerals extraction for wider public dissemination to provide wider awareness in the community of their heritage
- to identify important areas of archaeology and possibly seek to avoid them, or enhance them through mineral extraction
- What is needed is a strategic approach to managing the historic environment in the face of mineral extraction. It has to be based on a strategic understanding of the resource. This will provide the context for the archaeology of individual sites and allow its value and significance to be assessed more effectively.