

Dear Ms Lawless,

1. Thank you for your letter dated 30 August 2019.
2. With regard to the information provided on Wildlife Enhancement Corridors, I would be grateful if the suggested explanatory text, scoring map, and scoring spreadsheet could be placed on the council's website alongside the Wildlife Enhancement Corridors Report (SD11, 53).
3. I note the modifications the council has put forward to address the points I raised with regard to sequential assessment of office development on allocated sites, and safeguarding of sites for the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals; the manufacture of concrete and concrete products; and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate products. I will address these proposed modifications in due course as part of my post-hearings letter. However, there are a couple of outstanding issues on which I seek further clarity.

Minerals

4. While I appreciate the constraints affecting the extraction of brick and fire clay locally, the Framework requires permitted reserves of at least 25 years for brick clay, to support the level of actual and proposed investment for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment, whilst taking account of the need for provision of brick clay from a number of different sources to enable appropriate blends to be made.
5. Paragraph 13.16 of the CSUCP refers to Throckley Brickworks in Newcastle being supplied with clays from Red Barns Quarry in South Tyneside. No information is provided in the CSUCP regarding the length of any relevant planning permissions at that quarry to ensure continuity of supply to Throckley Brickworks.
6. Further explanation is necessary if the Plan is not bringing forward the required landbank. Could the council clarify where the brick clay currently used at Throckley Brickworks is sourced from, including sources outside Newcastle? Based on estimated planned output for the brickworks, what scope do these sources offer in the longer term for landbank purposes? It is essential that the council provides me with further information on this issue prior to the issue of my post-hearings letter.

Local Geological Sites

7. Thank you for confirming that further work is underway on the assessment of potential local geological sites. I recognise that the council wishes to move forward quickly with the examination process and that the assessment is unlikely to be completed before November. The council is requested to set out how it sees this process fitting in with the next stages of the examination, and whether there may be implications for the timing of consultation on any future potential main modifications.

Next Steps

8. I would appreciate a response from the council with regard to the outstanding issues outlined above within 5 working days. Should further time be required to undertake the work requested, I would be grateful if the council could advise on the likely date that that work will be provided to me.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Gilbert
INSPECTOR