

Proposed Changes to the Joint Waste Core Strategy Planning, Housing & Communities Board 22nd April

6.10 **LANDFILL**

- 6.10.1 A key aim of the JWCS is to divert waste away from disposal to landfill. This is reinforced through European, national and regional policy. However, it is acknowledged that landfill will continue to have a role, albeit a limited one, and that new disposal capacity is expected to be required within the sub-region over the plan period.
- 6.10.2 To ensure resource use is maximised, all new landfill sites should either provide initial pre-treatment of wastes or be restricted to accept only those wastes that have been pre-treated. As a minimum this pre-treatment, in the case of inert landfill, should remove most readily recyclable waste. In the case of non-hazardous landfill, pre-treatment would be expected to remove readily recyclable wastes and also remove or reduce the biodegradable element of the waste.
- 6.10.3 Landfill is commonly used to fill voids left by mineral working and to achieve restoration of the site. Landraise developments are not as common; but where it involves the deposit of waste is a form of development that needs to be included within this policy framework. Whilst landraise activities are often considered inappropriate, such development can be beneficial. Landfill and landraising activities can restore previously derelict and disturbed land, to enable a more positive and beneficial end use.

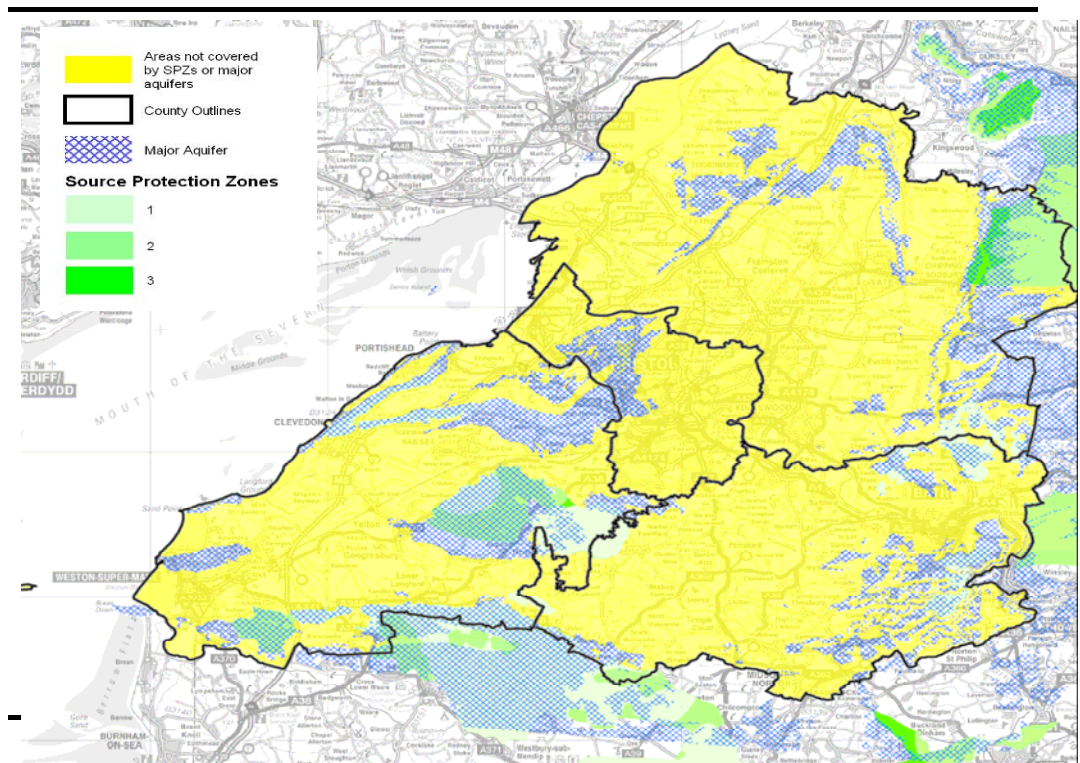
6.11 **NON- HAZARDOUS LANDFILL**

- 6.11.1 There is limited non-hazardous landfill capacity within the plan area. Historically, reliance has been placed on exporting waste to disposal facilities outside the sub-region. Whilst it is recognised that this practice will continue in the early years, it should not be relied upon throughout the plan period, as highlighted through consultation with neighbouring authorities.
- 6.11.2 ~~The WEP Needs Assessment~~ The WEP Landfill Review indicates a need for an additional ~~4.95.9~~ to ~~6.55.5~~ million cubic metres of non-hazardous landfill void within the sub-region throughout the plan period.
- 6.11.3 Environment Agency guidance ⁽¹⁾ on landfill design and construction effectively prohibits non-hazardous landfill at locations on or in a Major Aquifer and sites covered by Ground Water Source Protection Zones 1, 2 & 3. These are highlighted in *Figure 6.2*. New non-hazardous landfill and landraise operations would not be appropriate in these areas. Consultation with the development industry has highlighted that

(1) Landfill Directive Regulation Guidance Note 3 (Dec 2002) Groundwater Protection: Locational Aspects of Landfills
Planning Consultation Responses & Permitted Decisions

opportunities for landfill are recognised outside these areas and welcome the JWCS approach to landfill.

Figure 6.2 Major Aquifers & Source Protection Zones within the Sub-Region



6.12 INERT LANDFILL

6.12.1 The WEP Needs Assessment indicates that inert landfill void is all but exhausted. Within the plan area, there are a number of quarries that are required by condition to be restored, and this is expected to be achieved through the deposit of inert wastes. Exempt sites also accept inert wastes for various engineering and restoration projects.

6.13 HAZARDOUS WASTE LANDFILL

6.13.1 There are no hazardous waste landfill facilities within the plan area. Such specialist facilities are recognised as being facilities of regional and national importance. Further, there is no identified need for new hazardous waste landfill capacity within the plan area.

Policy 8 - Landfill, landraise, engineering or other operations - Principles

In meeting the sub-region's landfill need, priority will be given to Brownfield land over Greenfield land.

Planning permissions will be granted for waste disposal by landfilling, landraising or engineering or other operations, subject to development management policy, provided that:

1. the waste to be disposed of cannot practicably and reasonably be reused, recycled or processed (to recover materials; to produce compost, soil conditioner; or inert residues; or to recover energy); or may ~~otherwise~~ be required for the restoration of mineral workings, and
2. the proposed development ~~is both essential for and~~ involves the minimum quantity of waste necessary for:
 - a. the purposes of restoring current or former mineral workings sites; or
 - b. a demonstrable improvement in the quality of the land ~~facilitating a substantial improvement in the quality of land~~; or
 - c. facilitating the establishment of an appropriate after-use; or
 - d. improving land damaged or disturbed as a result of previous or existing uses ~~and where no other satisfactory means exists to secure the necessary improvement~~; or
 - e. the engineering or other operations.
- ~~3. 3.~~ the proposed development does not prejudice the satisfactory restoration of mineral working sites in the locality, having regard to the supply and availability of appropriate waste materials for their restoration.
4. the proposals are not within major aquifers or source protection zones, unless it can be demonstrated that there are no objections from the Environment Agency or have not been the subject of objections from the Environment Agency.

In granting planning permission for landfilling or landraising developments, or engineering or other operations, conditions may be imposed limiting both the types and quantities of waste to be deposited in order to conserve capacity for waste that cannot be reused, recycled or processed.

6.13.2

The recovery of landfill gas provides significant benefit by minimising reliance on fossil fuels. This benefit is expected to be gained wherever possible. However, in the longer term, with a significant reduction in the

amount of biodegradable waste disposed of to landfill, there is likely to be less resultant gas to recover.

- 6.13.3 To ensure that the potential benefits of landfill, landraise and engineering works are maximised, such proposals should include consideration of final use of the land, including proposals for a high quality of restoration and long term management plans for the restored site. The finished levels of a restored landfill site may be higher than adjoining land, but should be appropriate to the surrounding landscape.

Policy 9 - Landfilling, landraising and engineering or other operations - Details

Proposals for landfilling and landraising development, and engineering or other operations, should:

1. incorporate finished levels that are compatible with the surrounding area and any likely settlement. The finished levels should be the minimum required to ensure satisfactory restoration of the land for an agreed afteruse;
2. include proposals for aftercare and secure long term management of the restored site;
3. make provision, wherever practical and economical, for landfill gas to be recovered for use as an energy source; and
4. make provision, where practical, for appropriate habitat creation for biodiversity benefit.

6.14 WASTE WATER TREATMENT

- 6.14.1 The forecast increase in population and housing set out in the draft RSS will lead to an increased demand for waste water treatment. The West of England Partnership has commissioned an Infrastructure Study to assess the level of future requirements within the sub-region. The West of England Partnership will work closely with the utility companies in order to identify, appraise and provide sufficient facilities when/if they are required.

Policy 10 - Waste water treatment

Planning permission will be granted for new waste water and sewage treatment plant, extensions to existing works, or facilities for the co-disposal of sewage with other wastes where development is either needed to treat the West of England's arisings or in the case of arisings from elsewhere the need cannot practicably and reasonably be met at another site. Wherever practical and economical, biogas should be recovered for use as an energy source.