

Date: 24 April 2024



Sharon Thompson
Minerals and Waste Planning Policy
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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sharon,

Planning consultation: Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes the ongoing opportunity to work closely with your authority in order to ensure that the proposed Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 is sound and is reflective of environmental policies.

It is acknowledged that the advice contained within our response to the Regulation 19 consultation (our ref: 464024, 29th February 2024) could give cause to believe that Natural England finds the Plan unsound in its current form. However, we would like to reiterate that Natural England does not find the Plan itself unsound; instead, the advice was provided in order to highlight areas of the current Plan that we believed would benefit from further clarification, and in some instances, amendments to the proposed policy wording.

This advice was provided with the intention of ensuring that policies that are related to our remit accurately reflect national planning policy and the policy protection afforded to landscape, biodiversity, and geodiversity assets. Natural England is satisfied that, subject to the amendments outlined within the "Statement of Common Ground Between Kent County Council and Natural England concerning the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39" that any concerns we raised within our response to the Regulation 19 response have been adequately addressed.

Should you have any further queries please contact me at luke.hasler@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Luke Hasler
Sussex & Kent Area Team

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. Hasler".