



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Section 12

Minerals, Waste and Energy

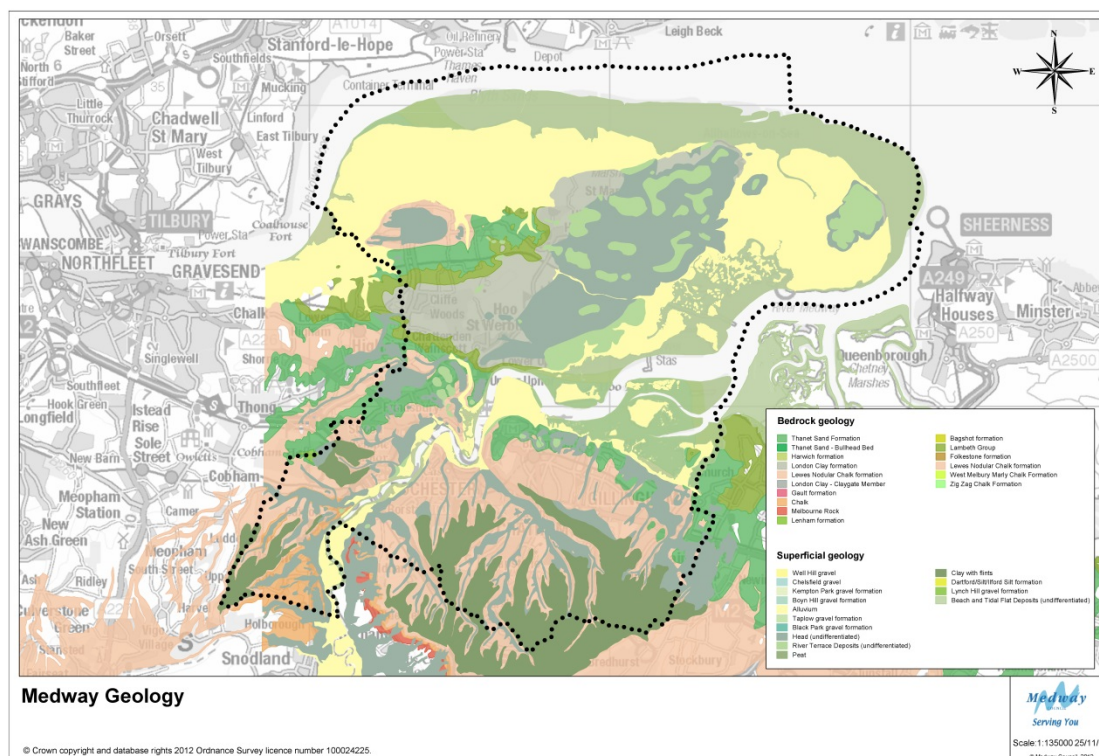


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MINERALS, WASTE AND ENERGY

Minerals

- 12.1 Medway Council is a Minerals Planning Authority. As part of this role Medway must ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet local needs and contribute to regional requirements.



- 12.2 The geology in Medway includes deposits of chalk, clay and sand and gravel, much of which is located on the Hoo Peninsula. Currently there are 2 quarries in Medway, both for the extraction of sand and gravel, and with a total permitted reserve of 1.3 million tonnes. Planning permission has also been granted for a chalk quarry with permitted reserves for at least 25 years supply at Holborough in the neighbouring Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, on the border with Medway. Preliminary site works have been undertaken, however there are likely to be significant changes needed to the approved design and layout to reflect modern requirements that would require a fresh planning application be approved prior to development of the site.
- 12.3 Alongside land-won aggregate extraction, Medway also has 3 active wharves for the importation of aggregates, including marine-dredged. Much of the aggregates imported remain in Kent and Medway (around 80%), with approximately 11% sent to London. Associated with two of the wharves are railheads for the wider distribution of aggregates, one of which falls within the neighbouring Gravesham Borough Council.



- 12.4 Medway also has several sites that supply secondary and recycled aggregates to the market. Whilst the sales of these aggregates are relatively low compared to those imported through wharves in Medway, these facilities have continued importance in maintaining a continued supply of aggregates to the region.
- 12.5 The council monitors the supply of minerals and publishes annual data in a Local Aggregate Assessment, which is considered and agreed by a regional Aggregates Working Group.
- 12.6 Considerations of design and development management requirements in relation to minerals development will be set out in the draft Local Plan.

Policy approach: Minerals

The council will plan for the steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet local needs and contribute to regional requirements. It will seek to:

- Sustainably deliver a steady and adequate supply of land-won sand and gravel.
- Maintain a 7-year landbank of permitted sand and gravel reserves.
- Support regional consideration and planning of aggregates through its membership of the South East England Aggregates Working Group
- Promote the transportation of minerals by water and rail for longer distance distribution.
- Safeguard identified areas of proven and unproven unconstrained reserves of river terrace sand and gravel reserves from development that may prevent their future extraction.
- Safeguard all existing mineral wharves, railheads, storage, handling and processing facilities from development that may prejudice their continued use for the importation of crushed rock, sand and gravel and other associated materials.
- Ensure that any new permitted quarry is returned to a suitable condition for reuse after operations have ceased.
- Promote the use of secondary aggregates, requiring the reclamation and reuse of materials on redevelopment sites.
- Allocate sites for the processing, sorting and distribution of secondary aggregates displaced through planned redevelopment schemes.

Waste and Recycling

- 12.7 Medway Council has the responsibility for the collection, treatment and disposal of municipal waste in Medway. This is currently handled by an external operator under a contract set to expire in 2035. Alongside municipal waste, Medway Council must also sustainably plan for the capacity necessary to process other waste streams in the area, including commercial and industrial waste (C & I), construction, demolition and excavation waste (C, D & E) and hazardous waste. As municipal waste is handled under a contract spanning the plan period, no provision for this type of waste is required; however provision will need to be made for the other waste streams.



- 12.8 The EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 and the Waste Management Plan for England (2013) aim for zero waste. This is reflected in the Waste Hierarchy which states that waste prevention from the outset is the most favoured option, through to waste disposal as the least preferable outcome. EU Waste Framework Directive 2008 also favours a move to self-sufficiency; whereby waste is treated in its area of origin, limiting the environmental impact of transportation and instilling a more responsible approach towards waste management. Any disposal or recovery of waste should be as close as possible to the place of origin.
- 12.9 In 2014, Medway produced approximately 430,000 tonnes of waste and managed approximately 550,000 tonnes. Whilst Medway manages far more waste than it produces across most waste streams, more hazardous waste is currently exported out of Medway than is managed.
- 12.10 Medway plays an important role in waste management across the south-east region. The projected growth in the area will bring added pressures to waste management facilities in Medway, making achieving net self-sufficiency more challenging. Development pressures in London and the potential for the re-location of waste management industries out of the capital may attract businesses to Medway. Further to this, a number of waste operators are located in the Knight Road area of Strood which will be impacted by the redevelopment of Temple Marsh, therefore requiring alternative sites to continue operating.
- 12.11 The council will assess the need for replacement and additional waste management facilities in Medway over the plan period and set out its approach in the draft Local Plan.

Policy Approach: Waste

- Strive to maintain net self-sufficiency across all waste streams.
- Support waste management proposals that help ascend the Waste Hierarchy.
- Allocate additional sites for waste management facilities in-line with growth in Medway.
- Promote sustainable waste management within all new developments, ensuring that there is an appropriate provision for the separation, storage and collection of waste.
- Only permit new landfill sites where it can be demonstrated that the waste stream cannot be managed by another means, results in environmental or other benefits, and the site is restored to a high quality standard.

Energy

- 12.12 Medway is nationally significant in terms of power generation, electricity distribution and liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage.

Conventional Energy



- 12.13 Medway continues to make a significant contribution to energy supply and security, with a combined installed capacity of 3.2GW²⁵ from power stations on the Hoo Peninsula. This represents more than half of the installed capacity for the South East region and around 10% nationally²⁶. These include the replacement of the Grain Power Station, with an efficient Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) station, including a Combined Heat and Power (CHP) circuit that takes waste heat for use in the neighbouring Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal, and two gas powered plants that have been added at Damhead Creek and adjacent to Thamesport. Damhead Creek also has planning permission for a significant expansion in generating capacity for Phase 2.
- 12.14 In addition to these large scale power generation facilities, the LNG importation terminal at Grain is the largest such facility in Europe and has the capacity to supply around 20% of the UK's forecast gas demand. A number of pipelines and cables forming part of the national energy supply network also cross the Medway area.
- 12.15 A two-way electrical inter-connector (BritNed) also links Grain and the Netherlands and aviation fuel is also imported, stored and distributed from Grain.

Policy Approach: Energy

Proposals for additional new power generation and energy storage capacity on the Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain will be supported, where the following criteria is met:

- Their impact on the natural environment, transport networks and local settlements being acceptable
- Assessment of the feasibility and viability of potential re-use of waste heat.
- Specific efforts being applied to the recruitment and use of local labour, including collaboration with local universities and colleges

The council will positively promote the development of local supply chains and a support and maintenance cluster. It will also seek to develop further value added and R&D activities in conjunction with the plant operators.

Renewable & Low Carbon Technology

- 12.16 Climate change is a key priority for all and over the coming years the move to zero carbon will influence the future policy background. Changes, especially with the improvement in green technology, can have a major and long lasting impact. The council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of the area and encourages changes that lead to such improvements.

²⁵ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
Power Stations in the United Kingdom (operational at the end of May 2016)

²⁶ *Figures derived by analysing data for conventional forms of energy for the South East and England (i.e. oil, natural gas and nuclear power generation)*



- 12.17 The NPPF requires local plans to plan positively to deliver renewable and low carbon technology developments. This is to help tackle climate change and address the environmental role of planning as set out in the NPPF. This helps to meet the UK's legally binding target to reduce carbon emissions by 80% on 1990 levels by 2050.²⁷
- 12.18 A Ministerial Statement of the 28 June 2015 states that proposals for wind energy development should only be granted planning permission if the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan; and, following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing. The council will consider if there are appropriate sites for wind energy development and put forward information for consultation.
- 12.19 Within Medway, there are opportunities for renewable and low carbon energy development using a range of technologies including:
- Wind;
 - solar photovoltaic (PV);
 - solar thermal;
 - heat pumps (Ground Source, Air Source, Water Source);
 - hydro;
 - biomass combustion;
 - biomass anaerobic digestion; and
 - District Heat Networks
- 12.20 Some of these technologies can be installed through existing permitted development rights. Where planning permission is required, the council will support schemes that adequately consider, identify and where necessary mitigate any negative impacts. These may include landscape character and design impacts. The local plan's evidence base relating to landscape along with national guidance can help to inform the impact assessment of specific renewable and low carbon technologies.
- 12.21 Renewable and low carbon technologies can be incorporated effectively into building design and this is encouraged in local plan design policy. Building Regulations require new developments to incorporate carbon saving through design and construction methods.

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/Government/publications/2010-to-2015-Government-policy-greenhouse-gas-emissions/2010-to-2015-Government-policy-greenhouse-gas-emissions>



Policy Approach: Renewable and Low Carbon Technologies

Renewable and low carbon energy proposals will be supported and planning permission granted where the following criteria are met:

- The proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on landscape character and visual appearance of the local area, including the urban environment;
- The statutory protection of any area would not be compromised by the development;
- Any noise, odour, traffic or other impact of development is mitigated so as not to cause unacceptable detriment to local amenity;
- Any significant adverse effects of the proposal are mitigated by wider environmental, social and economic benefits.

Large scale renewable energy technologies can be contentious as they are often land hungry and visually imposing. Where the above criteria are met, the council encourages dialogue with early consultation with the local community, and pre-application discussions will be necessary to ensure that large-scale renewable energy installations are appropriately designed and located.

The council will consider the suitability of designating a defined area for wind energy development, informed by work on landscape character assessment.

