

HISTORIC ENGLAND ADVICE NOTE: MINERAL EXTRACTION AND ARCHAEOLOGY

POS response

Consultation on Historic England Advice Note: Mineral Extraction and Archaeology

This publication provides advice for managing archaeology as part of mineral development in the English planning process. The Minerals and Historic Environment Forum (MHEF) produced a Practice Guide in 2008: Minerals Extraction and Archaeology: A Practice Guide. This document, published by Historic England, will update and replace that previous version.

Comments are welcomed by Historic England on all aspects of the document.

Published: March 2019

1. Background

In 2008, the Minerals and Historic Environment Forum (MHEF) produced a Practice Guide: Minerals Extraction and Archaeology: A Practice Guide. MHEF then included: Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers: England; British Aggregates Association; Confederation of British Industry Minerals Group; English Heritage; Institute of Field Archaeologists; Mining Association of the UK; Planning Officers Society; Quarry Products Association; and Standing Committee of Archaeological Unit Managers. The Practice Guide carried the full endorsement of all the organisations represented on the Forum.

The MHEF Practice Guide was prepared as an aid to planning authorities, mineral planners, mineral operators, archaeologists and consultants. It provided guidance specifically for dealing with archaeological remains as part of mineral development through the planning process. It was consistent with then government planning policy relating to archaeology and mineral extraction in Mineral Policy Statement 1 (DCLG 2006) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990). It built on the CBI Archaeological Investigations Code of Practice (1991).

In the light of increases in archaeological knowledge and changes in understanding since 2008, and the revision of government policy and guidance, with the replacement of PPGs and MPGs by the NPPF and the national Planning Practice Guidance, MHEF commenced a review and update of the Minerals Extraction and Archaeology Practice Guide in 2015.

MHEF currently consists of representatives from: Historic England; Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK; Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers; Planning Officers Society; Confederation of British Industry Minerals Group; Mineral Products Association; British Aggregates Association; CoallmP; and the Mining Association of the UK.

Work on a revised and updated Practice Guide continued until early 2019. POS was involved in this throughout, providing input to and comments on a number of draft versions of a revised and updated guidance document, and had accepted that the most recent draft (November 2018, version 8) should be published for consultation. However, not all members of the MHEF were able to agree to this draft, including the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers, and so consultation did not take place. It is understood that the main points of disagreement related to trenching percentages needed to understand the type and significance of archaeology.

In view of this lack of complete agreement by the MHEF, Historic England has decided instead to publish the document as a Historic England Advice Note on Mineral Extraction and Archaeology. The draft of this that is now being consulted on is essentially the same as the November 2018 (version 8) draft of the revised and updated Minerals Extraction and Archaeology Practice Guide.

2. Response

In view of the involvement of POS in the previously proposed revision of the HMEF Minerals Extraction and Archaeology Practice Guide and the position that POS had taken on the November 2018 draft (version 8) of that document, and given that the current consultation document is essentially the same as the November 2018 draft, the Planning Officers Society has no comments to make on the consultation draft Historic England Advice Note: Mineral Extraction and Archaeology. This is the view of POS from a planning perspective and is without prejudice to any views that the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers may make in response to this consultation.