

Planning Applications Group
Minerals and Waste Planning Policy
1st Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

By Email: mwlp@kent.gov.uk

**Public Rights of Way and
Access Service**

1st Floor, Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX

Phone: 03000 413331
Ask for: Kate Beswick
Email:
kate.beswick@kent.gov.uk

Date: 21st February 2024

**KENT MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN 2013-30
Regulation 19 Consultation Draft January 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 ('the Plan') at its Regulation 19 consultation stage.

As a general statement, the Kent County Council (KCC) Public Rights of Way and Access Service ('the Service') is keen to ensure its interests are represented with respect to its statutory duty to protect and improve Public Rights of Way (PROW) in the County. The Service is committed to working in partnership with local and neighbouring authorities, councils and others to achieve the aims contained within the KCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and the KCC Strategic Statement. KCC intends for people to enjoy, amongst others, a high quality of life with opportunities for an active and healthy lifestyle, improved environments for people and wildlife, and the availability of sustainable transport choices.

We note the incorporation of our previous comments on the Regulation 18 consultation which is welcomed.

Policy DM14 Public Rights of Way

- “Satisfactory prior provisions for....diversion or stopping up” - text should include *by means of relevant legal event* to ensure any modification to a PROW route is legally correct.
- Reference to “alternative route at restoration” – this is not needed as a path would either have been legally and permanently diverted prior to any operation or would be reinstated on previous alignment following a temporary diversion during operation.

- “Opportunities are taken wherever possible to secure appropriate, improved access into and within the countryside” text should include *in accordance with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-28*.

Comments are made in reference to the following planning policy.

- **National Planning Policy Framework (Dec. 23) para. 104:** Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.
- **National Planning Policy Framework (Dec. 23) para. 124 :** Planning policies and decisions should:
 - a) encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;

This response is made on behalf of Kent County Council Public Rights of Way and Access Service. The views expressed should be considered only as the response of the County Council in respect of public rights of way and countryside access matters relating to the application.

Yours sincerely

Kate Beswick
Countryside Access Improvement Plan Officer
Public Rights of Way & Access Service