

REPORT AUDIT TRAIL**CONSULTATION**

*This is important as it shows that consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of the report and provides a quick reference point for specific comments, whilst the report will not be publishable if these areas have not been completed by the named persons below. **You must liaise with and receive sign off from the relevant Cabinet Member(s).***

Name/Position	Portfolio/Ward/ Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in para:
Councillor Denise Lelliott	Cabinet Member for Jobs and the Local Economy	14/06/22	Click here to enter a date.	No comments
<i>Paul Woodcock</i>	Assistant Chief Executive/ Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Richard Young,</i> Finance	Finance and Customer Services	24 May 2022	25 May 2022	6.2
<i>Lesley Tattersall,</i> Legal Services	Legal Services	24 May 2022	6 June 2022	7.1
<i>John Crutchley,</i> Human Resources	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	24 May 2022	24 May 2022	8.1
<i>Matt Everatt,</i> Procurement	Finance and Customer Services	24 May 2022	25 May 2022	6.1
<i>Steve Eling,</i> Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	24 May 2022	24 May 2022	Acknowledged receipt of the Equality screening and the Council's role as consultee in the process
<i>Sam Blakeborough,</i> Climate	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	24 May 2022	27 May 2022	11.1

<u>REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING</u>			
Equalities Your report will not be authorised for submission to Cabinet by your Strategic Director if you have not undertaken and included an initial equalities screening. All equalities analysis documents should be included as appendices	Initial Screening completed and included with report	Yes	24 May 2022
	Full Assessment completed and included with report	NO	N/A
Carbon Impact Assessments Carbon Impact Assessments are to be appended to the associated cabinet reports. Carbon Impact Assessments should be sent to climate@rotherham.gov.uk for feedback prior to your report being sent to your Strategic Director for approval.	Carbon Impact Assessment completed and included with report.	YES	27 May 2022
Background information MANDATORY: Insert headings for a few main public documents you have used or referenced to write this report. This is a legal requirement. For Cabinet reports, <u>insert hyperlinks</u> . Do not list private documents.	National Planning Policy Framework https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010) https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/402/regionally-important-geological-site-methodology-selection-and-boundary-update-2010-document		
Appendices If appendices are essential to the understanding of the report, list titles here. Ensure that appendices have proper titles. List any appendices relevant to the decision being taken first with the Equality Analysis documents coming next and the Carbon Impact Assessment being listed as the last Appendix for all reports.	Appendix 1 R57 Deep Carrs Quarry proposed Regionally Important Geological Site Appendix 2 Updated Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites list Appendix 3 Equalities Screening Appendix 4 Climate Impact Assessment		
Cabinet Member Approval You should retain an email confirming the Cabinet Member approval for your records. Strategic Directors should not authorise reports unless Cabinet Members have given sign off	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.	

Report Authorised by Strategic Director	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.
Report Authorised for publication by Chief Executive	YES/NO (delete as appropriate)	Click here to enter a date.

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 01 July 2022

Report Title

Addition of R57 Deep Carrs Quarry to the Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Report Author

Rachel Overfield, Planning Officer
01709 254746 or rachel.overfield@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward Affected

Anston and Woodsetts

Report Summary

This report seeks approval of an update to the series of Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham, to include a new site at Deep Carrs Quarry in the Anston and Woodsetts ward. This information will form part of the environmental evidence for the Local Plan and be used in the determination of relevant planning applications.

Recommendations

1. That R57 Deep Carrs Quarry be added to the Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites list, using the boundary shown in Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 R57 Deep Carrs Quarry proposed Regionally Important Geological Site
Appendix 2 Updated Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites list
Appendix 3 Equalities Screening
Appendix 4 Climate Impact Assessment

Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)
<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/402/regionally-important-geological-site-methodology-selection-and-boundary-update-2010-document>

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
N/A

Council Approval Required
No

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Addition of R57 Deep Carrs Quarry to the Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham.

1. Background

- 1.1 Local Sites in Rotherham include Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS). They are a local planning designation that recognises the geological conservation interest of a site. Rotherham's RIGS, along with Local Wildlife Sites, form part of Rotherham's 'Local Site system' and are included in the Non-Statutorily Protected Sites designation shown on the Local Plan Policies Map (adopted June 2018).
- 1.2 The Local Site system is intended to be comprehensive and allows for the inclusion of new sites and changes to existing sites throughout the plan period. As a result of evidence and analysis, new information has become available on the geological conservation interest present on a site, prompting an update to the existing series.
- 1.3 During 2022 a candidate RIGS was proposed by the Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel following its assessment against documented criteria (Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)). This assessment showed that the site qualifies for designation as a RIGS. The designation does not bring extra legal requirements on how the land needs to be managed. Any existing legislation that applies to the site will remain in force. If planning permission were to be granted on the site in the future, it is possible that planning conditions may be put in place regarding the RIGS interest.
- 1.4 It is proposed to add R57 Deep Carrs Quarry to the Rotherham's RIGS series. The boundary of this site is shown at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The updated RIGS site series, including an indicative map of RIGS locations, is shown at Appendix 2.
- 1.6 The quarry falls within a current planning application RB2020/1887 Land adjacent to Birkett House, Lindrick Common, Lindrick (Reclamation of former mineral working by importation of inert materials).

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel has endorsed this site as being of RIGS value. The approval of this site as a RIGS and integration of its boundary into the Local Plan will ensure that relevant planning policies are considered in the determination of planning applications relating to the site. It will assist the Council to comply with national planning policy provisions regarding the natural environment, including a requirement to ensure the use of up to date evidence, protecting sites of geological value, and establishing coherent ecological networks (to which geodiversity sites contribute).

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1: approve the inclusion of the new RIGS into Rotherham's Local Site System**

The Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel is an expert geo conservation panel who have assessed this site in accordance with agreed, externally verified methodology, using new knowledge obtained. Its approval and integration into planning policy would contribute towards the robustness of the Local Plan.

3.2 **Option 2: do not include the new site**

Not including the new RIGS would mean the Local Site System is not kept up to date. The site has been identified and agreed by the Local Geological Sites Panel as meriting inclusion. The Council would not be abiding by the relevant legislation and the requirement to maintain an up to date system.

3.3 Option 1 is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 The private landowners of the site and their agent have been contacted to notify them of the proposed designation. The applicant's agent requested further information on the implications of the designation in respect of their planning application. At the time of writing this report: an amended plan for the current planning application on the site to reflect the geological interest is awaited by Development Management. No objections to the proposed designation were raised within the consultation deadline by the landowner on this designation proposal. Relevant ward members were consulted on the proposed RIGS. Cllr Baum-Dixon expressed his support.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

5.1 If approval is given, the additional RIGS site will be integrated immediately into the planning system and will be considered when determining planning applications. This will include:

- Updating the Council's website to provide information regarding the additional RIGS.
- Updating the Council's online mapping system to include up to date information regarding RIGS.

Updating internal constraints information used by Planning Policy and Development Management teams when assessing planning applications.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

6.1 Procurement are satisfied with the approach set out. Any chargeable goods or services required by the Council should be sought in accordance with Section 58 – Normal Procedure of the Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

6.2 The costs associated with integrating the new sites into the Regionally Important Geological Sites plan have been covered from allocated budgeted provision.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

7.1 It is important that the Local Plan be maintained in an up-to-date state in order to protect the integrity of the planning system. Accordingly, Legal Services recommends Option 1 above. Otherwise, there are no substantive legal implications arising from this Report apart from those detailed above.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

9.1 RIGS add to the local character and distinctiveness of an area contributing to a sense of place. RIGS can be selected if they have high educational value for use by schools, higher education students (and researchers) and/or if the site is highly valued by the community because of its amenity and/or beauty.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

10.1 An initial screening equality analysis has been completed (Appendix 3). There are no detrimental impacts on equalities or human rights identified, and the designation of the RIGS sites may encourage more positive management of the site.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been carried out (Appendix 4). The proposed addition of R57 Deep Carrs Quarry to the Rotherham's RIGS series is not considered to have any significant implications for CO2 emissions and climate change.

12. Implications for Partners

12.1 None identified.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 The operation of a Local Site System enables the Council to demonstrate compliance with current legislation and planning policy, including the need to have a robust evidence base. Designation is based primarily on scientific reasoning and in accordance with national best practice (see Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)). The system includes all sites that qualify.

13.2 This can create a conflict of interest between Local Site status and potential for development, as Local Site status will be a designation within the Local Plan and will be a material consideration when determining planning applications. However, the additional proposed RIGS site is within the Green Belt where there are substantial planning policies which restrict development. Local and national planning policy clarifies that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt, and that inappropriate development should not be approved except in very special circumstances.

14. Accountable Officers

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

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