

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 25 July 2023

Report Title

Amendment to the boundaries of Regionally Important Geological Sites R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 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

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Ward Affected

Anston and Woodsetts
Wales

Report Summary

This report seeks approval of an amendment to the boundaries of R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 Regionally Important Geological Sites respectively. 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 the proposed new boundaries of R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 Regionally Important Geological Sites in Rotherham are approved and used in the Local Plan and determination of planning applications.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 Regionally Important Geological Site current boundaries
Appendix 2 R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 Regionally Important Geological Site proposed new boundaries 2023
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

Amendment to the boundaries of Regionally Important Geological Sites R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 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 and were endorsed by the Cabinet Member on the 8 November 1999. 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, prompting a proposal for the revision of boundaries of two designated sites.
- 1.3 During 2022 in line with good practice, the Council funded Sheffield Area Geological Trust to undertake geological monitoring work on a number of RIGS in Rotherham. This work showed that some geological interest had been lost on one of the existing RIGS (R68 Kiveton Lodge 2), and that the existing boundary on another adjacent RIGS (R66 Redhill Quarry) did not accurately reflect the exact location of the RIGS in the wider historic context of that site.
- 1.4 In respect of R68 Kiveton Lodge 2, planning permission was granted in 2012 (RB2011/0298) for a tipping operation and the officer report notes that the RIGS would be partially covered as a result of the operations. The boundary of this RIGS now needs to be altered to reflect this planning permission.
- 1.5 In respect of R66 Redhill Quarry, it appears that the original boundary was widely drawn to reflect the historic presence of a quarry in this location, but that the element of exposed RIGS on this site was limited to a section close to the main road – much of the remainder had been filled before the original designation in 1996. The RIGS boundary needs to be amended to more accurately identify the area of RIGS still exposed.
- 1.6 Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel have endorsed the new boundaries for R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 in order to better reflect the qualifying interest now present (see background paper 'Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)' that gives criteria for designation of sites).
- 1.7 The existing and proposed revised boundaries of these sites are shown at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The RIGS boundaries at R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 were monitored as part of a local geological site monitoring contract, as a result of new information collected it is proposed to amend the existing boundaries of these RIGS to better reflect the interest and that these new boundaries are used in the determination of relevant planning applications.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 **Option 1: approve the revised boundaries of the Regionally Important Geological Sites (R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2) in Rotherham's Local Site System**

The Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel is an expert geo conservation panel and have assessed these sites using new information obtained from recent site monitoring and have endorsed new boundaries for the two sites. The proposed revised boundaries and 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 boundaries of the Regionally Important Geological Sites (R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2) in Rotherham's Local Site System**

Not including the new RIGS boundaries would mean the Local Site System is not kept up to date. The Council would not be abiding by the requirement to maintain an up to date system.

- 3.3 Option 1 is the recommended option.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 boundaries were incorporated into the adopted Local Plan (2018). The private landowners/land managers of the southern areas falling within the revised new RIGS boundaries at R66 Redhill Quarry and R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 did not grant access for geological monitoring in 2022. They have been contacted in 2023 for comments on the proposed new RIGS boundary remaining on their land. No response has been received from the land managers of R66 Redhill Quarry. The private landowner of R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 granted survey access and proposed an alternative smaller new RIGS boundary in 2023. The panel of experts that oversee site selection (Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel RLGSP) confirmed their endorsement of the earlier larger boundary and not the boundary proposed by the landowner for R68 Kiveton Lodge 2. The private landowner for R68 Kiveton Lodge 2 was given opportunity to return further observations to inform the boundary amendment but none had been received at the time of writing this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 If approval is given, the amended RIGS boundaries will be integrated immediately into the planning system and will be considered when determining planning applications and the relevant landowners of the remaining areas of the RIGS will be informed. Actions will also include:

- Updating the Council's website to provide information regarding the amended RIGS boundaries.
- 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 boundaries into the RIGS series 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 Approval of the recommendation in the report will ensure that the Council is in compliance with the NPPF July 2022 Edition and national guidance to ensure that the Council's boundaries are up to date. This information can then be used in the determination of relevant planning applications and the revised boundaries can be integrated into planning policy that will contribute to the robustness of the Local Plan in due course.

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 revised boundaries of the RIGS sites and notification of landowners may encourage more positive management of the remaining interest.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment has been carried out (Appendix 4). The proposal 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 have been assessed to qualify. The revised RIGS boundaries will reflect the geological interest that is now present and so increase the robustness of the Local Plan.

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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