

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 Robert Taylor	Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy	17/07/24	30/07/24	
<i>Andrew Bramidge</i>	Assistant Chief Executive/ Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment	Click here to enter a date.	Click here to enter a date.	
<i>Jayne Close, Finance</i>	Finance and Customer Services	13/06/24	13/06/24	6.1
<i>Stuart Evans, Legal Services</i>	Legal Services	13/06/24	23/06/24	7.1
<i>Rebecca Price, Human Resources</i>	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	13/06/24	01/07/24	8.1
<i>Karen Middlebrook, Procurement</i>	Finance and Customer Services	13/06/24	14/06/24	6.2
Equalities	Assistant Chief Executive's Office	13/06/24	17/06/24	
<i>Climate Change</i>	Finance and Customer Services	13/06/24	14/06/24	

REPORT APPROVAL TRACKING			
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	17/06/2024
	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. CIA295	YES	14/06/2024
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, insert hyperlinks . 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 RIGS Boundary Maps (R6 Temple Hill Plantation Quarry, R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard and R132 Brook House West Quarry) Appendix 2 Rotherham Local Geological Sites (including Regionally Important Geological Sites) Series 2024 Appendix 3 Equalities Screening (Part A) Appendix 4 Carbon 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 – 13 August 2024

Report Title

Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites Series Update

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

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Interim Strategic Director for Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

Rachel Lindsay, Planning Officer
01709 254746 or rachel.lindsay@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Rother Vale
Wales
Hoover

Report Summary

This report seeks approval of an update to the Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) series in Rotherham with the inclusion of three new sites:

- R6 Temple Hill Plantation Quarry
- R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard
- R132 Brook House West Quarry

Monitoring work has indicated that these three new sites merit designation as RIGS. 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 R6 Temple Hill Plantation Quarry, R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard, and R132 Brook House West Quarry be added to the Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites list, using the boundaries shown in Appendix 1.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 RIGS Boundary Maps (R6 Temple Hill Plantation Quarry, R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard and R132 Brook House West Quarry).

Appendix 2 Rotherham Local Geological Sites (including Regionally Important Geological Sites) Series 2024

Appendix 3 Equalities Screening

Appendix 4 Carbon 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

Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites Series Update

1. Background

- 1.1 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) 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 as a non-statutory planning designation shown on the Local Plan Policies Map (adopted June 2018).
- 1.2 During 2023 in line with good practice, the Council funded Sheffield Area Geological Trust to undertake geological monitoring work on a number of geological assets in Rotherham. This work provided new information and identified three new sites that met the RIGS selection criteria. These sites are:
 - R6 Temple Hill Plantation Quarry (Near Wentworth Woodhouse, estimated central point postcode S62 7TQ),
 - R132 Brook House West Quarry, (Near the A57 Chesterfield Road and adjacent to Rother Valley Country Park, estimated central point postcode S20 1AH),
 - R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard (Near Wood Lane, estimated central point postcode S60 5RW).
- 1.3 The Rotherham Local Geological Sites Panel has endorsed the new RIGS. The boundaries of these sites and the updated series are shown in Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Local Geological Sites Panel has endorsed the RIGS selection, which is based upon the agreed, published criteria in respect of the substantive geo-conservation interest present on site, given in the background paper Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010).. The assessment confirmed that these three sites demonstrated substantive conservation value by meeting at least one of the selection criteria. The approval of these sites as RIGS and integration of their boundaries into the Local Plan will ensure that relevant planning policies are considered in the determination of planning applications relating to the sites. 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 nature conservation value, and establishing coherent ecological networks.

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 that has assessed these sites in accordance with agreed, externally verified methodology, using new knowledge obtained. The sites' approval and integration into planning policy would contribute towards the robustness of the Local Plan.

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

Not including the new RIGS would mean the Local Site System is not kept up to date. The sites have 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 landowners of the sites have been consulted on this proposal for designation of the three RIGS and given opportunity to comment to inform the writing of this report. R6 Temple Hill Plantation Quarry is within private ownership and R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard is owned by Network Rail while R132 Brook House West Quarry is under the ownership of the Council.

4.2 Formal comments have only been returned from Network Rail. They noted the proposal for R107 Tinsley Marshalling Yard to be a RIGS in Rotherham Local Plan but that it would not affect Network Rail's permitted development privileges, and they would take such a designation into account should any works be undertaken in the vicinity (such as cutting stabilisation or such like).

4.3 The relevant ward members have been consulted.

5. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 If approval is given, the additional RIGS 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 The work undertaken to update the Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) series has been contained within the approved revenue budget for the Service.

6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

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

7.1 The local plan is central to the planning system and the plan is presently subject to review pursuant to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended; the approval of the sites as RIGS and the integration of their boundaries into the local plan will ensure that the relevant planning policies are considered in the determination of planning applications relating to the sites and assist the Council to comply with national legislation and guidance.

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 designations are 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 background paper Information on Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites (2010)). The system includes all sites that have been assessed to qualify.

- 13.2 A conflict of interest may arise between Local Site designation and potential for development, as it would be a material consideration when determining planning applications. Consultation with landowners and relevant stakeholders prior to designation seeks to mitigate this risk.

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)	Judith Badger	Click here to enter a date.
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	Click here to enter a date.

*Report Author: Rachel Lindsay, Planning Officer,
01709 254746 or rachel.lindsay@rotherham.gov.uk*

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

