

INTRODUCTION

16.1 This chapter describes the potential impacts associated with the proposed continuation of mineral extraction, waste disposal and MRF activities on additional matters not previously assessed in the preceding technical ES chapters.

16.2 As such, this chapter considers the potential for impacts on sport and recreation, sustainability and climate change, agriculture, and operational waste.

SPORT AND RECREATION

16.3 Government guidance and development plan policy seeks to protect built and non-built sport and recreation facilities, to ensure that they meet the needs arising from existing and planned population levels, and to secure qualitative and quantitative enhancements in appropriate circumstances. Existing public rights of way are similarly protected in guidance and policy terms, and improvements to connectivity and the creation of new access opportunities to the countryside, particularly around existing settlements, are positively promoted.

16.4 There are no sport or recreation resources within the application site itself. A number of built and non-built sport and recreation resources lie within an area of approximately 2km from the application site, including informal and formal open spaces, recreational facilities and public rights of way. Most significant in the context of this assessment is the rugby pitch and associated facilities used by the Cheltenham North Rugby Football Club, located adjacent to the north east boundary of the application site on Stoke Orchard Road, and public rights of way in the vicinity of the site.

16.5 The Cotswold AONB, and the Cheltenham Racecourse at Prestbury Park, both lie beyond the 2km study area and provide regional and national recreational resources.

16.6 Potential indirect effects of the operational disturbance in terms of noise, dust, odour, increases in traffic and visual impacts on sport and recreation resources in proximity of the application site are considered in the respective ES chapters. It is not considered to be necessary or appropriate to repeat those assessments within this chapter.

16.7 There are no direct adverse impacts upon any sport and recreation resources as a result of the proposals.

16.8 By June 2030, as described in chapter 3 of this ES, the site will have been landscaped and restored to a combination of agriculture and woodland areas, with areas set aside for nature conservation and public access in keeping with the surrounding landscape. Although public access to the site will be restricted by the requirements of the environmental permit and the need for continued site management, a permissive footpath around the site will be provided, offering vantage points looking across the Severn Vale and towards Bishops Cleave.

16.9 The landscape and nature conservation benefits arising from the site's restoration are assessed in the respective chapters of this ES. In relation to sport and recreation, it is considered that the restored site will result in a beneficial residual impact of moderate significance as a result of the provision of a new recreational resource for the local population, where there is currently none.

SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

16.10 The potential for sustainability and climate change impacts arising from the proposals, including the potential for in combination effects arising as a result of climate change, are considered in the relevant technical ES chapters of this ES, and within the consideration of need and alternatives.

16.11 It is not considered that there are separate, wider sustainability and climate change impacts for assessment and consideration in this ES. The Planning Supporting Statement submitted with the planning application includes a sustainability appraisal of the scheme.

AGRICULTURE

16.12 The continuation of the minerals extraction and waste operations at the site will result in a temporary adverse impact on agriculture through the loss of agricultural land. Following restoration of the site, to be secured as part of the proposals, the site will be returned to agricultural use as grazing land, together with the areas set aside for nature conservation purposes identified in chapter 14 of this ES. It is not considered that there will be any significant residual effects on agriculture arising from the proposals to restore the site.

OPERATIONAL WASTE

16.13 The continuation of the minerals extraction and waste operations at the site have the potential to result in low volume waste streams including landfill gas and

leachate from the site. The assessment of potential impacts arising from this waste is set out in detail in the respective technical ES Chapter.

16.14 The planning application is supported by a Site Waste Management Plan and Waste Minimisation Strategy that considers other waste generated in more detail. It is not considered that operational waste will give rise to adverse residual effects.

