



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Huw Jones,
Director for Environment and Economy,
Oxfordshire County Council,
County Hall,
New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

15 May 2012

Dear Huw,

I am writing to express my serious concerns about the **Minerals Strategy recently adopted by OCC**, particularly in regard to the plans for gravel extraction between Cholsey and Wallingford in my constituency.

I would be grateful if you could explain:

- Why a single, constrained, site has been selected between Cholsey and Wallingford, rather than a broad area? I understand that the strategy refers to the site as though it were an area, but in reality it is a very specific field.
- What factors led to the selection of that site rather than a number of others which were considered? I would particularly appreciate details of how the various sites considered at an early stage compare to the Cholsey site on specific factors, such as the numbers of people living in the immediate vicinity and economic activity.
- Why the Council stated that the AONBs adjacent to the site would have no objections to the selection of the site, when they very clearly do object.

I would also appreciate copies of responses sent to Wallingford Town Council and Cholsey Parish Council replying to the concerns which each raised on behalf of their residents.

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I understand the Strategy is currently being finalised by OCC, prior to publication and formal consultation, and would be grateful if you could confirm the expected timing of each stage of this process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey'.

Ed Vaizey
MP for Wantage and Didcot

cc. Cabinet member for Growth and Infrastructure
Joanna Simons
Cllr Patrick Greene
Cllr Lynda Atkins