

Preferred Area 1 - Land East of Latton

Mineral: Sharp sand and gravel

Area: 59 hectares

Location: East of Latton

Yield: 1.4 - 1.5 million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel

Proposal: Phased extraction of sharp sand and gravel with restoration to agriculture, nature conservation and a lake for passive recreation

Site Description

1. The site comprises about 59 hectares of arable land in two parcels east and south east of the village of Latton. The site contains similar amounts of Grades 2, 3a, 3b and 4 agricultural land. The southern part of the site is bordered to the northeast by the Ampney Brook, which forms the County boundary, while its western boundary skirts both a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the village of Latton which is separated from the Preferred Area by a Settlement Protection Zone. North Meadow (SSSI, National Nature Reserve and candidate Special Area of Conservation) lies to the southwest of the Preferred Area beyond the A419(T).
2. The Preferred Area is open to views from the from the A419(T), the Down Ampney Road to the north and the C124, (proposed Eastern Spine Road) to the south, and from some dwellings in the village of Latton. Preferred Area B lies nearby to the south on the opposite side of the C124. A number of public footpaths and bridleways also cross the site.
3. The Preferred Area lies within an Area of Special Archaeological Significance defined in the North Wiltshire District Local Plan and there is an area believed to be of archaeological importance within the site. The southern part of the Preferred Area has been subject to flooding. The site includes a number of mature trees on its boundary with the vegetation alongside the Ampney Brook providing adequate protection to views in from the northeast. A mature tree belt running parallel to the Ampney Brook provides a natural screen to part of the site from Latton village.