

By email to: programme_officer@talktalk.net

Dear Pauline Butcher,
NLWP Programme Manager

Subject: Examination of the North London Waste Plan (NLWP) and the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the implications of the revised NPPF 2021 and the NLWP which are outlined below.

In line with your email of 27th July and recognising the late stage in the inspector's examination of the submission version of the NLWP, our observations are limited to the NLWA area of Pinkham Way. Pinkham Way is a fenced site on the border of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey which is in public ownership. It is referred to in the NLWP as 'Site A22 – HR Friern Barnet sewage works / Pinkham Way'. Part of the site is owned by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) and part by London Borough of Barnet. This site is not open space according to the definition of open space in the NPPF 2021. "Open space: All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity."

Section 2: Achieving sustainable development

The presumption in favour of sustainable development (Para. 11, pg.6)

Despite the greater emphasis on sustainability in the revised NPPF, the designation of Pinkham Way for waste uses is consistent with the new NPPF guidance and also with the waste hierarchy. See the NLWP Appendix 2 area profiles – Haringey which sets out the possible uses for the Pinkham Way site.

The NPPF 2021 doesn't change our view on the suitability of this site for waste use and therefore its inclusion in the NLWP. It is essential that the NLWP allocates sufficient land for the sustainable development of waste facilities that are of the right type, in the right place and provided at the right time to enable the North London Boroughs to meet their waste management needs throughout the plan period.. Area A22-HR is an essential component of this. (Please see the NLWA representation received and set out in the 'Additional Submission Documents' and entitled 'Representations received at Regulation 19-representor order August 2019' pg.100 – available at <https://www.nlwp.net/document-centre/>).

Section 3: Plan making

Strategic policies (Para. 22, pg.9)

If the NLWP is adopted in 2021/22 the strategy will fall short of the minimum 15-year period for strategic policies set out in the NPPF 2021. Given the late stage of the plan making process and the urgent need to have an adopted strategic waste planning framework in North London, we do not think this should be a reason to delay or defer. To ensure compliance with the NPPF 2021, we recommend that the NLWP is extended to 2036.

Section 11: Making effective use of land (Para. 119, pg. 35)

The NPPF 2021 states that planning policies and decisions should make “as much use as possible of previously developed or ‘brownfield’ land”. Whilst Pinkham Way is not brown field it was previously developed as a sewage treatment works and so the allocation of the site for waste use would be entirely consistent with para. 119 and makes as much use as possible of previously developed land. We don’t believe there to be a conflict with footnote 47 which states “Except where this would conflict with other policies in this Framework, including causing harm to designated sites of importance for biodiversity”. There is the possibility of mixed schemes which are specifically supported in para. 120.

Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (Paras 174 -177, pg. 50-51)

The 2021 NPPF strengthens its position on biodiversity which we support. However, we do not believe this means that the Pinkham Way site should be removed from the NLWP. The site is a locally designated SINIC and para. 175 of the 2021 NPPF states that the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites should be taken into account when considering policies and decisions. As a locally designated site, it is less significant in term of preserving the natural environment than a national or international site.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to consider the potential implications of the NPPF 2021 on the NLWP, but as outlined in our comments above, we believe the Plan continues to be in conformity with the NPPF and therefore that it should be considered sound and suitable for adoption. If you have any queries concerning these comments please let me know.

Yours sincerely
Ann Baker

p.p. Ursula Taylor - Head of Legal and Governance