

CO 11/24

# Buckinghamshire

## Minerals & Waste

June 2006



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### 3.6 Waste Transfer Facilities

#### Policy 15

The County Council will support the development of suitable sites for new transfer and bulking stations at a range of scales, providing that they are:

- a) intended to meet an identified need that cannot be met by an existing facility; and,
- b) comply with the other policies contained in this Plan, particularly the General Environmental Policies in Chapter 4.

To that end, the County Council will promote the development of waste transfer facilities at High Heavens near High Wycombe (Inset Area A, Map 2) and at the London Road depot in Amersham (Map 2).

The County Council will also seek to safeguard a site in the Richings Park area of South Buckinghamshire (Appendix A, Map 2) from development which would prejudice its possible future use for a multi-modal waste transfer facility, and will test this proposal further in studies of future waste management options to be undertaken for the area. The Council will therefore seek the co-operation of South Bucks District Council to achieve this end.

The use of rail transport will be encouraged wherever possible, particularly to serve large facilities.

**3.6.1** Waste transfer is the essential link between local collection systems and the local, regional and (for some wastes) national facilities for recycling, processing and recovery. Most materials have a low value until bulked up. There is therefore a growing need for bulking and transfer stations to minimise travel by smaller waste collection vehicles and to "feed" larger and more cost effective waste processing facilities. Wherever possible these should enable the use of more sustainable transport modes, including rail.

**3.6.2** The large amount of waste generated in Wycombe district is currently taken direct by refuse vehicles to landfill. This adds to the increasing congestion on the local highway network, and a solution is required. The *Waste Strategy for Buckinghamshire* has identified a future need for a facility in the Wycombe area to transfer and bulk up the district's household waste prior to its transport for treatment or landfill elsewhere. The WSB recommended the co-location of centralised composting and transfer facilities alongside the existing waste management operation at High Heavens on the basis that it is close to Wycombe's waste arisings and has land available to use. However the site is in the Green Belt and is constrained by the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Views on this important issue were sought in the *Consultation on Issues* (May 2002).

**3.6.3** The County Council has subsequently engaged consultants to consider several possible sites around the High Wycombe area. Taking into account criteria such as access, including links to the Strategic Transport Network (STN), the consultants considered, notwithstanding the planning policy constraints, that the High Heavens site was the most suitable.

**3.6.4** Finally, the County Council has commissioned a consultant study of "Multi-modal" transfer possibilities within Buckinghamshire. Suitable inter-modal locations are exceedingly rare and, in principle, remaining opportunities should be safeguarded from other development. The consultants have concluded that a potential waste interchange opportunity from road to rail or waterway exists in

# Safeguarded Site for a Multi-Modal Transport Facility near Richings Park

## Site Description

The site, approximately 10 hectares, lies between the Grand Union Canal (Slough Arm) and the mainline railway. The vacant land is located between a caravan park and an industrial site.

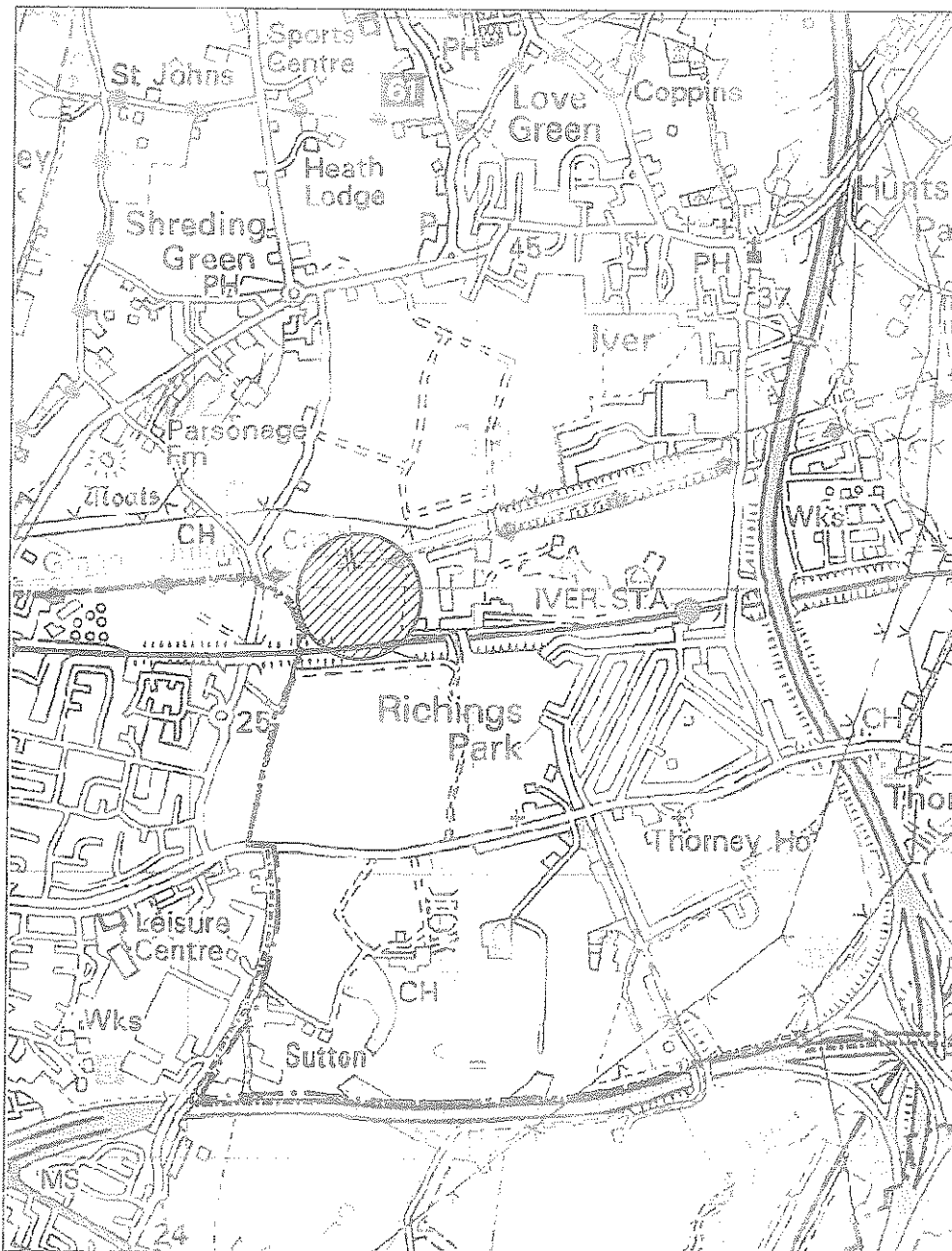
The proposed facility would enable waste to be transported by both rail and canal but would require the provision of a new road access.



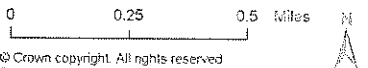
Identified waste management facilities that could be rail accessed from the site are at Newton Longville (Milton Keynes), Sandford (Oxford), Calvert and Colnbrook. Three of these sites have potential to be rail connected, or lie close to siding facilities that could be so used. In addition, waterways allow access to Milton Keynes by the Grand Union Canal and Oxford by the River Thames.

The safeguarding of the site in Policy 15 is contingent, in that a requirement would only arise if the County Council could not secure appropriate waste recovery sites or capacity and had to use transfer instead, whereby:

- Either residual waste from the South Buckinghamshire area could be collected at the site for onward transfer (by rail or water) for management elsewhere;
- Or, residual waste from parts of Mid- & southern Bucks (for example, parts of Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe districts) might be moved to the MMWTF for transfer to, for example, the Colnbrook facility.

The Council recognises these possibilities require further examination but, in the meantime, it will safeguard this site whilst the necessary studies are undertaken.



 <p><b>APPENDIX A</b></p>	<p>Safeguarded Site for a Multi-Modal Transport Facility near Richings Park</p> 
<p>0 0.25 0.5 Miles</p>  <p>© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Buckinghamshire County Council 100021529 2036</p>	