



Norfolk County Council

**Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan
Habitats Regulations Assessment –
Test of Likely Significant Effects**

**Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations
2017**

May 2022



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Regulations 2017**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Appropriate Assessment
BMV	Best and Most Versatile
M&WLP	Minerals and Waste Local Plan
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
NLSE	No Likely Significant Effect
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TOLS	Test of Likely Significance
ZoI	Zone of Influence

Summary

Background

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan covers the period to the end of 2038. The Publication version of the NM&WLP includes a vision and strategic objectives for minerals and waste development over the plan period. It includes a forecast of the quantities of minerals and waste to be planned for over the period to the end of 2038 and a spatial strategy for the location of new minerals extraction and waste management developments. It also includes policies to be used in the determination of planning applications for minerals extraction and associated development and for waste management facilities. The NM&WLP includes criteria-based policies for the location of waste management facilities and for silica sand extraction. All of the policies contained in the Publication document are subject to this HRA Task 1 screening process.

The NM&WLP will also allocate sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period. 37 specific sites for future sand and gravel extraction, one site for carstone extraction and three sites for silica sand extraction were proposed by landowners and mineral extraction companies. The proposed specific sites for mineral extraction have been assessed against environmental, transport, landscape, historic environment and amenity constraints. The result of this assessment is a conclusion, by planning officers at Norfolk County Council, on the suitability of sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period. Only the 19 sites allocated for extraction in the Publication version of the NM&WLP are subject to this HRA Task 1 screening process.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 came into force on 30 November 2017 and consolidated the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments. Under this legislation assessment is required where a land use plan not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the SPA, SAC or Ramsar site is likely to have a significant effect upon a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

Regulation 105 (4) states that “In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

The objective of this report is to act as a Task 1 screening exercise to identify any likely significant effects upon the Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas for Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar designated sites.

The screening exercise is a high-level review of the potential impacts arising from the implementation of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Only mineral sites within 5km of a SPA, SAC and/or Ramsar designated site are included in the screening matrix table and assessed because the potential impacts of mineral extraction on designated sites are not expected to occur over a distance greater than 5km and the Impact Risk Zones defined by Natural England for the SSSIs that form part of the SPAs, SACs or Ramsar sites do not extend further than 5km from the boundary of any SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.

Summary and Recommendations for Task 2

Following the review of the policies within the Publication version of the NM&WLP, there were no policies identified which could result in likely significant effects on a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.

Following the review of the allocated mineral extraction sites within the Publication version of the NM&WLP, all the designated sites are considered sufficiently distant from the proposed mineral extraction sites that likely impacts are not considered significant.

Developers wanting to extract mineral from specific sites contained in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will still need to apply for and be granted planning permission before mineral extraction can take place. Planning permissions are often granted subject to conditions to mitigate potential adverse impacts from site operations.

1. Introduction

1.1 Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan covers the period to the end of 2038. The draft Publication version of the NM&WLP includes a vision and strategic objectives for minerals and waste development over the plan period. It includes a forecast of the quantities of minerals and waste to be planned for over the period to the end of 2038 and a spatial strategy for the location of new minerals extraction and waste management developments. It also includes policies to be used in the determination of planning applications for minerals extraction and associated development and for waste management facilities.

The NM&WLP includes criteria-based policies for the silica sand extraction and for the location of waste management facilities. Waste management facilities include facilities for the transfer and treatment of inert, non-hazardous and hazardous wastes; household waste recycling centres, composting, anaerobic digestion, recycling, residual waste treatment, landfill, and water recycling centres. All of the policies contained in the draft Publication version of the NM&WLP are subject to this HRA Task 1 screening process.

The NM&WLP will also allocate sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period. Minerals sites produce the aggregates and raw materials used mainly by the construction industry. Primary aggregates are comprised of naturally occurring materials such as sand and gravel, which are the main product to be extracted from most of the proposed sites. 37 specific sites for future sand and gravel extraction, one site for carstone extraction and three sites for silica sand extraction were proposed by landowners and mineral extraction companies. The proposed specific sites for mineral extraction have been assessed against environmental, transport, landscape, historic environment and amenity constraints. The result of this assessment is a conclusion, by planning officers at Norfolk County Council, on the suitability of sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period. Only the 19 sites considered suitable for extraction in the conclusions contained in the draft Publication document are subject to this HRA Task 1 screening process.

The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan is planned to be adopted by the end of 2023 and will operate until the end of 2038, with the purpose to plan for mineral extraction and associated development, and waste management facilities in the most sustainable way, that minimise potential adverse impacts.

1.2 Legislative Framework

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 came into force on 30 November 2017 and consolidated the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments. Under this legislation assessment is required where a land use plan not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the SPA or SAC is likely to have a significant effect upon a SPA or SAC (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

Regulation 105 (4) states that “In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

European designated sites, include Special Protection Areas and Special Areas for Conservation. Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are areas classified under Regulation 15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which have been identified as being of international

importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds. Originally, these areas were classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC), more commonly known as the Birds Directive. Regulation 10 of the 2017 Regulations requires local authorities to exercise their functions (including town and country planning functions) to comply with the Birds Directive.

Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) are areas defined by Regulation 3 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which have been given special protection as important conservation sites. Originally these areas were classified in accordance with EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats of Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive). Article 3 of this Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive.

Ramsar sites are sites qualifying under the International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, 1971, known as the Ramsar Convention (amended by the Paris Protocol, 1992). Ramsar sites are not protected by the Birds and Habitats Directives; however parliament has decreed that, unless otherwise specified, procedures relating to SPAs and SACs will also apply to Ramsar sites. This was reiterated in the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (paragraph 181).

In assessing whether a plan may affect a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, it is important to recognise that the assessment should be appropriate to the likely scale, importance and impact of the development. A key outcome of the Appropriate Assessment is to identify whether the integrity of the SPA, SAC or Ramsar site may be affected by the plans, and whether the conservation status of the primary interest features of the site could be impacted. An adverse effect on the integrity of the site is one that prevents the site from maintaining the same contribution to favourable status for the relevant feature or features, as it did when the site was qualifying. Only where a plan or project can be determined by the plan-making authority as not having an adverse effect on site integrity can it be allowed to proceed. The favourable conservation status of the site is defined through the site's conservation objectives, and it is against these objectives that the effects of the plan or project must be assessed.

When plans and projects are being formulated, it is not always clear whether an Appropriate Assessment is required or not. Rather than undertaking a detailed Appropriate Assessment a "Task 1 Appropriate Assessment: Test of Likely Significance" can be undertaken to identify whether or not an Appropriate Assessment is required (see Figure 1.1 for the different stages in the Appropriate Assessment process). A Test of Likely Significance also identifies whether the plan or project has the potential to impact on a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.

1.3 Scope of the Work

The purpose of this report is to provide the plan-making authority with the necessary information to assess the potential for the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan to affect the SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites within or adjacent to the planning area. This assessment considers all the policies that are contained in the draft Publication version of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Only the 19 sites allocated for future mineral extraction in the draft Publication version of the NM&WLP are subject to this HRA Task 1 screening process. Sites proposed for inclusion in the NM&WLP that have not been allocated in the draft Publication document have not been included in this assessment.

The objectives of this report are:

1. To act as a Task 1 screening exercise to identify any likely significant impacts upon the SAC, SPA and Ramsar designated sites. If the proposed policy or site for mineral extraction is considered likely to have the potential to affect the designated sites, then a more detailed Task 2 Appropriate Assessment is required to consider what the impacts may be, and whether they are likely to affect the condition and integrity of each designated site. This screening is a high-level review because details regarding specific site operations at this stage are limited.

Developers wanting to extract mineral from specific sites allocated in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will still need to apply for and be granted planning permission before mineral extraction can take place. Planning permissions are often granted subject to conditions to mitigate potential adverse impacts from site operations.

1.4 Methodology

There are four key stages in the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, as set out in legislation, and the outcome of each task determines whether further stages in the process are required.

There are four key stages in the HRA process:

Task One – Screening

This identifies there will any potential effects on the SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites and considers whether or not the effects are likely to be significant.

Task Two – Appropriate Assessment

This stage considers the impact on the integrity of a SAC, SPA and Ramsar site/s of the project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives.

Task Three – Assessment of Alternative Solutions

If the mitigation measures prescribed at Stage 2 cannot avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site, this process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the SAC, SPA or Ramsar site.

Task Four – Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

If no suitable alternatives are available, this stage requires an assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of the assessment of Imperative Reasons or Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the project or plan cannot go ahead.

The Task 1 Appropriate Assessment has been formulated using the following approach:

- A review of all of the SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites, their qualifying features and the vulnerability of the qualifying features to disturbance within the Zone of Influence of the Local Plan;
- A review of the NM&WLP and the likely effects of the NM&WLP on the designated sites and their qualifying features;
- The identification and mapping of sites near to SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites within which any development could have the potential to affect designated sites;
- The production of a screening matrix in accordance with Appropriate Assessment procedural guidelines to identify potential significant effect, and;
- Where applicable, make recommendations for Task 2 Appropriate Assessment and determine if further information is required to assess potential likely effects.

Section 3 summarises the test of likely significance process.

At the Task 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment stage it was only reasonably practical to present the potential effects at the proposed site – qualifying feature level (see Section 2). However, both attributes and targets were considered when reviewing the potential effects and in formulating the screening matrix.

1.5 Zone of Influence

Plans and/or projects have the potential to impact on designated sites beyond the confines of the individual sites themselves. Potential impacts should be investigated which occur within the zone of influence (Zoi) which arises during the whole lifespan of the proposed development or plan. The potential zone of influence is defined as:

- Areas directly within the land take for the proposed development or plans;
- Areas which will be temporarily affected;
- Areas likely to be impacted by hydrological disruption, and;
- Areas where there is a risk of pollution and noise disturbance.

The Zone of Influence considered in the Task 1 ‘Test of Likely Significant Effects’ for the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan is the area within 5km of Norfolk. To assess in-combination impacts, the Local Plans of all planning authorities within which the potentially affected designated sites are located, have been assessed (see Appendix B for details).

1.6 Conservation status, integrity and significance

Status: Favourable conservation status – species

Description: When the population is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat, the natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is and will probably continue to be a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its population on a long-term basis.

Status: Favourable conservation status – habitats

Description: When its natural range and area it covers within that range are stable or increasing, and the species structure and function which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

Status: Integrity of a site

Description: The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitat and/or the levels of population of the species for which it is classified.

Status: Significant effect

Description: A significant effect is defined when a plan or project is likely to undermine the site's conservation objectives. Note that a significant effect cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information.

A significant effect on a bird population is defined when a plan or project is likely to undermine at least 1% or more of the relevant population (biogeographical, national, SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar site).

1.7 Designated sites within the Zone of Influence

Sites to be included in this assessment are located within 5km of Norfolk and include:

Breckland SPA/SAC
Breydon Water SPA/Ramsar
Broadland SPA/Ramsar
North Norfolk Coast SPA/SAC/Ramsar
Greater Wash SPA
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA
Ouse Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar
The Wash SPA/Ramsar
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
Overstrand Cliffs SAC
Paston Great Barn SAC
River Wensum SAC
The Broads SAC
Ouse Washes SPA/SAC/Ramsar
Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC
Winterton – Horsey Dunes SAC
Southern North Sea SAC
Outer Thames Estuary SPA
Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar
Roydon Common Ramsar
Dersingham Bog Ramsar

The locations of designated sites are shown in Appendix C

1.8 Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders is a key component of the Appropriate Assessment process. Under the AA guidance consultation with Natural England is mandatory where there is the potential for a project or plan to potentially impact on a SAC, SPA or Ramsar site. Natural England was therefore formally consulted on the Task 1 TOLS in 2018 and 2019, in addition to other statutory and non-statutory consultees, such as the Environment Agency.

Consultee comments	Norfolk County Council Planning Officer's response
<p>Our specific comments on various individual allocations included in the initial consultation are intended to reflect this ruling. That is, where measures have been identified specifically to protect a Natura 2000 site, then these allocations should be screened in to Appropriate Assessment. At this stage the effectiveness of any proposed avoidance and mitigation measures and all the evidence should be examined to reach a conclusion of likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and to ascertain whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the site can be ruled out.</p>	<p>Noted. The comments made by Natural England regarding specific sites have been included in the main Feedback Report on the Initial Consultation. However, of particular relevance to the HRA are the following sites where specific comments were made by Natural England:</p> <p>MIN 71 at Holt is concluded to be not suitable to allocate in the Preferred Options document.</p> <p>MIN 204 at Feltwell is concluded to be not suitable to allocate in the Preferred Options document.</p> <p>MIN 65 at Stanninghall is located in a different hydrological catchment to Crostwick Marsh SSSI and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Due to the distance of the site from the SSSI (1.43km), there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition.</p> <p>MIN 40 at East Winch is outside the Impact Risk Zone for the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC and therefore the conclusion of the 2018 HRA was correct and the site assessment has been corrected.</p>
<p>Note that any proposal which may affect a Natura 2000 designated site must go through a project-level HRA in addition to this strategic plan-level HRA. This should be identified for each relevant allocation and reflected in the policy wording, including what avoidance and mitigation measures would be necessary. This can be at a 'high' level, e.g. work would take place outside the bird breeding season to avoid disturbance to nesting birds. However, more detail would be expected in the HRA at planning application stage.</p> <p>The future conclusions and recommendations of the HRA will need to be incorporated into later revisions of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report, and be reflected in the allocations and policies of the M&WLPR.</p>	<p>Noted. We do not consider that there are any sites now concluded suitable to allocate in the Preferred Options document where a project level HRA would be required.</p> <p>Noted. The Sustainability Appraisal and M&WLP have been revised where necessary.</p>

In response to the Preferred Options Consultation in September and October 2019, the following comments were made by Natural England regarding the HRA on the draft policies and proposed sites considered suitable to allocate in the Preferred Options Consultation.

“Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. We are satisfied, and agree, with the findings of both of the above Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment documents, both are thorough and robust. Otherwise, I'd just like to reiterate the remarks I made in response to the Initial Options stage, that you and your team are to be congratulated on the quality of the consultation documents that have been produced. Natural England considers that the M&WLPR undertaken to date has been detailed, comprehensive and written in accordance with current legislation and policy.”

2. Task 1 Screening

2.1 HRA Task 1 Screening of Minerals and Waste Planning Policies

The screening exercise is a high-level review of the potential impacts arising from the implementation of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This assessment considers all the policies that are contained in the draft Publication document on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

The following screening matrix of the minerals and waste planning policies refers to Policies MW1 and MW4, therefore the proposed wording for Policy MW1 and MW4 are detailed below for information:

Policy MW4: The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species

The Council will require suitable information to be provided to enable it to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment of all proposals for development that are likely to have a significant effect on the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA), which is classified for its populations of Stone Curlew, Woodlark and Nightjar, and/or Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which is designated for its heathland habitats. Development will only be permitted where sufficient information is submitted to demonstrate that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA or SAC.

Stone Curlew

A buffer zone has been defined (indicated in red hatching on Map 2) that extends 1,500m from the edge of those parts of the SPA that support or are capable of supporting Stone Curlew, where new built development would be likely to significantly affect the SPA population.

A buffer zone has also been defined (indicated in orange hatching on Map 2) that extends 1,500 metres around areas that have a functional link to the SPA, because they support Stone Curlew outside, but in close proximity to the SPA boundary, within which new built development would be likely to significantly affect the SPA population.

Built development (including plant and processing sites) within the SPA boundary, or located less than 1,500m away from the SPA boundary or identified areas that have a functional link (see Map 2) will not normally be permitted, unless a project level HRA is able to demonstrate that adverse effects can be ruled out.

Where a proposed building is outside the SPA but within 1,500m of the SPA boundary or identified areas that have a functional link, including those precautionary areas where there is currently a lack of data (see Map 2) there may be circumstances where a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment is able to demonstrate that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA.

Circumstances where the proposal is able to conclusively demonstrate that it will not result in an adverse effect on the Breckland SPA may include where the proposal is:

- More than 1,500m away from potential stone curlew nesting sites inside the SPA (these are those parts of the SPA that are also designated as Breckland Farmland SSSI);
- A new building that will be completely masked from the SPA by existing built development;
- A proposed re-development of an existing building that would not alter its footprint or increase its potential impact.

Woodlark and Nightjar

Built development (including plant and processing sites) within 400m of the SPA that support or are capable of supporting Woodlark and/or Nightjar will not normally be permitted.

The Council will consider the need for a Habitats Regulations Assessment to determine the implications of development on Nightjar and Woodlark on a case-by-case basis, depending on the location and nature of the proposal.

Proposed wording for Policy MW1: Development Management Criteria

Mineral development and waste management development will be acceptable where the proposals demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact (including cumulative impact in combination with other existing or permitted development) on:

- a. Local amenity and health (including noise levels, odour, air quality, dust, litter, light pollution and vibration);
- b. The quality and quantity of surface waterbodies and groundwater, for resource purposes and to prevent the deterioration of their existing status, and their associated ecosystems;
- c. The capacity of existing drainage systems;
- d. Flood risk from all sources to those working on site or an increase in flood risk elsewhere, as demonstrated by a Flood Risk Assessment (where required by the National Planning Policy Framework) and making an allowance for climate change;
- e. The best and most versatile agricultural land;
- f. Aircraft safety due to the risk of bird strike and/or building height and position;
- g. The safety and capacity of the road and any other transport network;
- h. The appearance, quality and character of the landscape, countryside and visual environment and any local features that contribute to its local distinctiveness;
- i. Protected landscapes including the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Heritage Coast and the Broads;
- j. Public Open Space, Local Green Space, the definitive Public Rights of Way network and outdoor recreation facilities;
- k. Land stability;
- l. The natural, geological and hydrogeological environment (including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats);
- m. The historic environment (as identified through a Heritage and Archaeology Statement), including heritage and archaeological assets and their settings; and
- n. The character and quality of the area, in which the development is situated, through poor design.

In addition, all mineral and waste management proposals will be subject to the historic environment policy requirements set out in the NPPF, including striking an appropriate balance between harm and public benefit, but, as a first principle, development should avoid harm on the historic environment.

Mineral development and waste management development proposals must also conserve and, where opportunities arise, enhance the natural, built and historic environment and surrounding landscapes, including:

- the setting of heritage assets and protected landscapes,
- providing biodiversity and geodiversity net gains,
- enhancement of the Public Rights of Way Network,
- creation of recreation opportunities where possible,
- reduction of flood risk elsewhere through betterment, and
- incorporating good design.

HRA Task 1 Test of Likely Significant Effects Screening Matrix of Minerals and Waste Planning Policies

Key:

No LSE – No Likely Significant Effect

LSE – Likely Significant Effect on the site’s conservation objectives requiring modification of policy, rejection of policy or undertake Task 2 Appropriate Assessment

Uncertain – cannot determine if NLSE or LSE (see above) so may require modification of policy, rejection or policy or undertake a Task 2 Appropriate Assessment

General Policies

General Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
MW1: Development management criteria	A criteria-based policy that details the issues that will be taken into account when reaching a decision on a particular planning application to ensure that permitted sites represent sustainable development. The policy lists the issues that a development should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. The policy includes a requirement for it to be demonstrated that developments would not have an unacceptable impact (including cumulative impact) on the natural, geological and hydrogeological environment, including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats. Policy MW1 also requires proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable adverse impact (including cumulative impact) on the quality and quantity of surface water bodies and groundwater, for resource purposes and to prevent the deterioration of their existing status, and their associated ecosystems.
MW2: Transport	Criteria for minerals and waste development to meet regarding transport impacts and assessments.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Policy requires development to not generate unacceptable impacts on air quality, to reduce car travel to site and to assess the potential for non-HGV transport of materials and take up these sustainable transport opportunities where available.
MW3: Climate change mitigation and adaption	Criteria for minerals and waste development to meet in their construction and operation, to minimise their potential contribution to climate change, incorporate energy and water efficient design strategies and be adaptable to future climatic conditions.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth. The purpose of the policy is to reduce the contribution to climate change from minerals and waste development whilst also adapting to its potential effects and includes measures that developments should include.

General Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
MW4: The Brecks protected habitats and species	Protection of the Brecks protected habitats and species from inappropriate minerals and waste development.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth. The purpose of the policy is to protect the Brecks from inappropriate minerals and waste development. New built development is not permitted within 1.5km of the edge of the Breckland SPA, or areas that have a functional link to the SPA, unless it can be demonstrated in an appropriate assessment that the development would not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA.
MW6: Agricultural soils	Protection of the Best and Most Versatile agricultural soils.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth. The purpose of the policy is to protect BMV agricultural land.

Waste Management Specific Policies

Waste Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
WP1: Waste management capacity to be provided	<p>This policy contains the quantum of waste that is forecast to need to be managed over the Plan period to 2038. This is a maximum of 3,651,000 tonnes of waste per annum consisting of:</p> <p>A maximum of 502,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of Local Authority Collected Waste.</p> <p>A maximum of 1,959,000 tpa of commercial and industrial waste.</p> <p>A maximum of 1,100,000 tpa of inert waste.</p> <p>A maximum of 90,000 tpa of hazardous waste.</p>	<p>No LSE – The policy does not promote growth in any particular location. The Policy contains the quantum of waste that is forecast to need to be managed over the Plan period. Any land use impacts would arise through the provision of new or enhanced waste management facilities to manage this waste. However, the policy states that sufficient capacity currently exists to meet the growth forecast in waste arisings. Any planning applications that come forward for new or enhanced waste management facilities will need to be determined in accordance with the Plan which includes compliance with Policy MW1. Any facilities proposed in proximity to the Breckland SPA would also need to be determined in accordance with Policy MW4.</p>

Waste Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
WP2: Spatial Strategy for waste management facilities	This policy contains the spatial strategy for the location of new waste management facilities. Facilities should be located within 5 miles of one of Norfolk's urban areas or 3 miles of one of Norfolk's main towns and be accessible via appropriate transport infrastructure. The urban areas and main towns are: Norwich, King's Lynn, Thetford, Attleborough, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston-on-Sea, Aylsham, Cromer, Dereham, Diss, Downham Market, Fakenham, Harleston, Holt, Hunstanton, North Walsham, Swaffham, Watton, Wymondham. A more flexible approach is taken to the location of agricultural waste treatment facilities, windrow composting facilities, community composting facilities, small scale local facilities and water recycling centres.	No LSE – There is the potential that a waste management facility located in accordance with this policy could be within the Impact Risk Zone of a SSSI which is also designated as a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site. Waste management facilities could potentially have adverse impacts on designated sites in terms of noise, dust, air quality, lighting and water pollution. However, these impacts could be mitigated through the design and operation of sites and all planning applications for waste management facilities must also comply with Policy MW1. Any proposals in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to be determined in accordance with Policy MW5.
WP3: Land suitable for waste management facilities	This policy details the types of land that will be acceptable for waste management facilities, including: existing waste management facilities, land in or allocated for B8 or B2 use classes, previously-developed land and land within or adjacent to agriculture and forestry buildings.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP4: Recycling or transfer of inert CD&E waste	Criteria-based policy for the location of facilities for the recycling or transfer of inert CD&E waste.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP5: Waste Transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, ELV facilities and WEEE recovery facilities	Criteria-based policy for the location of waste transfer stations, MRFs, ELV and WEEE facilities.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP6: Transfer, storage, processing and treatment of hazardous waste	Criteria-based policy for the location of facilities for the transfer, storage processing and treatment of hazardous waste	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP7: Household waste recycling centres	Criteria-based policy for the location of household waste recycling centres.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP8: Composting	Criteria-based policy for the location of composting facilities.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.

Waste Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
WP9: Anaerobic digestion	Criteria-based policy for the location of anaerobic digestion facilities.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP10: Residual waste treatment facilities	Criteria-based policy for the location of residual waste treatment facilities.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP11: Disposal of inert waste by landfill	Criteria-based policy for the location of sites for the disposal of inert waste by landfill.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP12: Non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfills	Criteria-based policy for the location of sites for non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfills.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP13: Landfill mining and reclamation	Criteria-based policy for determining proposals for landfill mining or excavation.	No LSE – Policy does not promote landfill mining or excavation in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP14: Water Recycling Centres	Criteria-based policy for the location of sites for water recycling centres.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP15: Whitlingham Water Recycling Centre	Criteria-based policy requiring Anglian Water to develop and agree a longer-term masterplan for Whitlingham WRC and includes requirements regarding minimising amenity impacts, routing HGVs, landscape, heritage assets, the Broads SAC and flood risk.	No LSE – Policy is regarding the approach to future development at an existing water recycling centre. The policy requires development proposals at Whitlingham WRC to not have an adverse effect on the Broads SAC. Policy WP14 above would also apply to any proposed development at Whitlingham WRC. Policy WP14 requires compliance with Policy MW1.
WP16: Design of waste management facilities	Criteria for waste management facilities to meet in their design, including measures to protect, conserve and where opportunities arise, enhance the natural environment.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Encourages facilities to incorporate measures to protect, conserve and where opportunities arise, enhance the natural environment.
WP17: Safeguarding waste management facilities	Policy to safeguard existing waste management facilities and water recycling centres from incompatible development.	No LSE – Policy is safeguarding existing facilities and does not promote growth.

Minerals Specific Policies

Minerals Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
MP1: Provision for minerals extraction	<p>The policy is to allocate sufficient sites to meet the forecast need for sand and gravel and hard rock (carstone) over the Plan period to 2038.</p> <p>Specific sites to deliver at least 12.597 million tonnes of sand and gravel resources will be allocated. A site for Carstone will be allocated, although there is not a forecast shortfall in permitted reserves.</p> <p>Sufficient sites to deliver at least 10.34 million tonnes of silica sand will be required during the Plan period.</p>	<p>No LSE – The policy promotes growth, but not in any particular location. The mineral resource includes areas within the Impact Risk Zone for SSSIs which are also designated as SPAs, SACs or Ramsar sites. Mineral extraction could potentially have adverse impacts on designated sites due to noise, dust, air quality, lighting, habitat loss, habitat damage, impacts to water quality and water resources. However, some of these impacts could be mitigated through the design and operation of sites and all planning applications for mineral extraction sites will be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the plan, which includes Policy MW1. Proposed sites located in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to comply with Policy MW4. The individual sites proposed to be allocated for mineral extraction during the plan period have also been subject to a Test of Likely Significant Effects.</p>

Minerals Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
MP2: Spatial strategy for minerals extraction	<p>The policy contains the spatial strategy for mineral extraction within the resource areas for sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand. Sand and gravel and carstone sites should be located within five miles of one of Norfolk’s urban areas or three miles of one of Norfolk’s main towns and /or be well-related to one of these urban areas or main towns via appropriate transport infrastructure. The urban areas and main towns are: Norwich, King’s Lynn, Thetford, Attleborough, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston-on-Sea, Aylsham, Cromer, Dereham, Diss, Downham Market, Fakenham, Harleston, Holt, Hunstanton, North Walsham, Swaffham, Watton, Wymondham.</p> <p>Specific sites for silica sand should be located where they are able to access the existing processing plant and railhead at Leziate via conveyor, pipeline or off-public highway haul route.</p> <p>The spatial strategy is subject to the proposed development for mineral extraction not being located within a SSSI and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it.</p>	<p>No LSE – There is the potential that a mineral extraction site located in accordance with this policy could be within an Impact Risk Zone for a SSSI that is also designated as a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.</p> <p>Mineral extraction could have impacts on designated sites due to noise, dust, air quality, lighting, habitat loss, habitat damage, impacts to water quality and water resources. However, some of these impacts could be mitigated through the design and operation of sites and all planning applications for mineral extraction sites will be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the plan, which includes Policy MW1. Proposed sites located in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to comply with Policy MW5.</p> <p>The individual sites proposed to be allocated for mineral extraction during the plan period have also been subject to a Test of Likely Significant Effects.</p>
MPSS1: Silica sand extraction sites	<p>Criteria based policy for planning applications for silica sand extraction sites to adhere to. Includes requirements for the submission of a noise assessment, air quality/dust assessment and a programme of mitigation measures to deal with any potential impacts. Also requires submission of a biodiversity survey and report, a phased working and restoration scheme incorporating ecological enhancement and biodiversity net gain on restoration. Also requires submission of a Hydrogeological Impact Assessment and appropriate mitigation measures to protect SSSIs, SPAs and SACs.</p>	<p>No LSE - Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. The silica sand resource does include areas that are within the Impact Risk Zone for a SSSI that is also designated as a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site.</p> <p>Mineral extraction could have impacts on designated sites due to noise, dust, air quality, lighting, habitat loss, habitat damage, impacts to water quality and water resources. However, some of these impacts could be mitigated through the design and operation of sites and all planning applications for mineral extraction sites will be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the Plan, which includes Policy MW1. The policy requirements of MPSS1 include protection of ecosystems and surface water features that are reliant on groundwater, including SSSIs, SPAs and SACs.</p>

Minerals Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
MP3: Borrow pits	Criteria based policy for applications for borrow pits to adhere to.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria based policy only. Policy requires extraction from the site to cause less environmental damage than would result from using material from an established source of supply. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
MP4: Agricultural or potable water reservoirs	Criteria based policy for applications for water reservoirs with incidental mineral extraction involving off-site removal of minerals to adhere to.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria-based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
MP5: Core River Valleys	Protection of defined core river valleys from inappropriate mineral development.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth. Policy requires mineral extraction within a core river valley to enhance the biodiversity of the river valley, either immediately or on restoration. The policy states that an assessment of any impacts from mineral development will include consideration of the potential impacts or enhancement of the natural environment, both during and after working; the duration of any adverse impacts, and mitigation and/or compensatory measures to replace losses and the provision of any long-term asset enhancement through restoration.
MP6: Cumulative impacts and phasing of workings	The policy details how cumulative impacts of mineral workings may be considered acceptable if phased or adequately mitigated.	No LSE – The policy does not promote growth in any particular location, but details how cumulative impacts of mineral workings may be considered acceptable if phased or adequately mitigated. This would be assessed on a case-by-case basis at the planning application stage. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
MP7: Progressive working, restoration and after-use	The policy requires proposals for mineral workings to be accompanied by a scheme for the phased and progressive working and restoration of the site, with a preference for restoration enhancing Norfolk’s biodiversity, contributing to Green Infrastructure corridors and known ecological networks and creating high-quality, locally distinctive landscapes. It also includes a preference for restoration to enable access links to Public Rights of Way and national trails and to reinstate BMV agricultural land where it occurs.	No LSE – Policy does not promote growth. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that proposals for mineral workings are accompanied by a scheme for the phased and progressive working and restoration of the site.

Minerals Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
MP8: Aftercare	Measures requiring an aftercare strategy and annual management report for proposed restoration to agriculture, forestry, amenity or ecology after-uses, or including a geological exposure following mineral extraction.	No LSE – The policy does not promote growth. The policy is to ensure that restoration of mineral workings is carried out to the required standard for the proposed afteruse.
MP9: Asphalt plants, concrete batching plants and manufacture of concrete products	Criteria based policy for the location of asphalt plants, concrete batching plants and the manufacture of concrete products.	No LSE – The policy does not promote growth in any particular location. Criteria based policy only. Requires compliance with Policy MW1.
MP10: Safeguarding of port and rail facilities, and facilities for the manufacture of concrete, asphalt and recycled materials	Policy to safeguard rail heads, rail links to quarries, wharfage and associated facilities for the storage, handling and processing facilities for the bulk transport of minerals and to safeguard sites for concrete batching, manufacture of coated materials, other concrete products, and the handling, processing and distribution of other aggregates from incompatible development.	No LSE – Policy is safeguarding facilities and does not promote growth in any particular location.
MP11: Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas	Policy to safeguard existing, permitted and allocated mineral extraction sites from incompatible development and to safeguard mineral resources from inappropriate development proposals that may sterilise the mineral resource.	No LSE – Policy is safeguarding existing facilities and the mineral resource from inappropriate development. The inclusion of land within a Mineral Safeguarding Area does not necessarily mean that planning permission would be granted for mineral extraction. Any application for mineral extraction within a MSA would be determined in accordance with the relevant policies, including MW1.

2.2 HRA Task 1 Screening of proposed mineral extraction sites

The screening exercise is a high-level review of the potential impacts arising from the implementation of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Only mineral sites within 5km of a SAC, SPA and/or Ramsar designated site are included in the screening matrix table and assessed because the potential impacts of mineral extraction on designated sites are not expected to occur over a distance greater than 5km and the Impact Risk Zones defined by Natural England for the SSSIs that form part of the SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites do not extend further than 5km from the boundary of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site.

Potential impacts that might occur to SACs, SPAs or Ramsar designated sites and features from potential mineral sites are listed below:

- Habitat loss
- Disturbance (including light and noise) from site activities and traffic from heavy vehicles to and from the sites
- Vibration resulting from heavy vehicles
- Dust emissions
- Water runoff from site and from access roads to the site
- Lowering of groundwater and surface water levels due to dewatering

A total of 37 specific sites for future sand and gravel extraction, one site for carstone extraction and three sites for silica sand extraction were proposed by landowners and mineral extraction companies. The proposed specific sites for mineral extraction have been assessed against environmental, transport, landscape, historic environment and amenity constraints. The result of this assessment is a conclusion on the suitability of sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period to 2038. Only the 19 sites allocated for extraction in the draft Publication document are subject to this HRA Task 1 screening process and contained in the following tables.

Distance between proposed mineral extraction sites and the designated sites

Site	Local authority area	Distance to designated site	Designated site affected
MIN 12 Beetley	Breckland	3.47 km	River Wensum SAC
MIN 51 & MIN 13 & MIN 08 Beetley	Breckland	4.54 km	River Wensum SAC
MIN 200 Carbrooke	Breckland	4.47 km	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
MIN 37 Frettenham & Buxton with Lammas	Broadland	4.23 km	The Broads SAC Broadland SPA / Ramsar
MIN 64 Horstead with Stanninghall	Broadland	3.39 km	Broadland SPA / Ramsar The Broads SAC
MIN 96 Spixworth, Horsham St Faith & Newton St Faith	Broadland	2.22 km 4.76 km	The Broads SAC Broadland SPA / Ramsar River Wensum SAC
MIN 65 Stanninghall	Broadland	1.43 km	Broadland SPA / Ramsar The Broads SAC
MIN 202 Attlebridge	Broadland	1.14 km 4.93 km	River Wensum SAC Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
MIN 6 Middleton	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	More than 5km from all designated sites	-

Site	Local authority area	Distance to designated site	Designated site affected
MIN 40 East Winch	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	3.79 km	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
SIL01 Bawsey	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	2.74 km 2.74 km	Roydon Common Ramsar Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC
MIN 206 Tottenhill	King's Lynn & West Norfolk	More than 5km from all designated sites	-
MIN 69 Aylmerton	North Norfolk	0.65 km 1.86 km	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC Greater Wash SPA
MIN 115 North Walsham	North Norfolk	More than 5km from all designated sites	-
MIN 207 Edgefield	North Norfolk	2.57 km	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
MIN 208 East Beckham	North Norfolk	1.45 km 2.85km	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC Greater Wash SPA
MIN 25 Haddiscoe	South Norfolk	3.83 km 3.83 km 4.33 km	The Broads SAC Broadland SPA/Ramsar Breydon Water SPA / Ramsar

Task 1 Test of Likely Significant Effects Screening Matrix for sites concluded to be suitable for future mineral extraction

Designated site: **Breckland SPA**

Qualifying features: Stone-curlew, Nightjar, Woodlark

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 2km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Breydon Water SPA**

Qualifying features: Bewick's swan, Pied avocet, European golden plover, Northern lapwing, Ruff, Common tern, Waterbird assemblage

Assessment of impacts: MIN 25 Haddiscoe - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.33 km from Halvergate Marshes SSSI which forms part of the SPA. This is within the 5km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is located in a different hydrological catchment to the SSSI, and site would be worked dry (above the water table) therefore it would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Due to the distance of the site from the SPA on-site lighting would not disturb the birds on the SPA. Due to the distance of the site from the SPA, noise would not disturb the birds on the SPA. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect due to the distance of the site from the SPA and location outside the hydrological catchment.

Designated site: **Broadland SPA**

Qualifying features: Great bittern, Bewick's Swan, Whooper swan, Eurasian wigeon, Gadwall, Northern shoveler, Eurasian marsh harrier, Hen harrier, Ruff

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 37 Frettenham & Buxton with Lammas - The site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.23 km from the SPA. Due to this distance, outside the 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 96 Spixworth - The site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 2.22 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the SPA. It is within the SPA's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is proposed as an extension to the existing mineral working. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Due to the distance of the site from the SSSI on-site lighting and noise would not disturb the birds on the SPA. Extraction is expected to take place at the same rate as the existing mineral working so that there would not be an increase in traffic movements. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 64 Horstead with Stanninghall - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 3.39 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the SPA. Due to this distance, outside the SPA's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 65 Horstead with Stanninghall - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 1.43 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the SPA. This is within the SPA's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is proposed as an extension to the existing mineral working. The site is located in a different hydrological catchment to the SSSI and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Extraction is expected to take place at the same rate as the existing mineral working so that there would not be an increase in traffic movements. Due to the distance of the site from the SPA, noise would not disturb the birds on the

SPA. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 25 Haddiscoe - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 3.83 km from the SPA. Due to this distance, outside the SPA's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? NLSE due to the distance of the sites from the SPA (MIN 25 and MIN 64) and their location outside the hydrological catchment (MIN 65) and dry working above the water table (MIN 96, MIN 65, MIN 64, MIN 25) .

Designated site: **Greater Wash SPA**

Qualifying features: Red-throated diver, Common scoter, Little gull, Sandwich tern, Common tern, Little tern

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 208 East Beckham – This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 2.85km from the SPA. Due to the distance of the site from the SPA, noise and lighting from the site would not disturb the birds on the SPA. Due to the location of the SPA off the coast, no likely significant effect is expected.

MIN 69 Aylmerton – This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 1.86Km from the SPA. Due to the distance of the site from the SPA, noise and lighting from the site would not disturb the birds on the SPA. Due to the location of the SPA off the coast, no likely significant effect is expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA**

Qualifying features: Little tern

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone (which extends 3km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **North Norfolk Coast SPA**

Qualifying features: Great bittern, Pink-footed goose, Eurasian wigeon, Eurasian marsh harrier, Pied avocet, Red knot, Sandwich tern, Common tern, Little tern, Dark-bellied brent goose, Waterbird assemblage

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Outer Thames Estuary SPA**

Qualifying features: Red-throated Diver, Little tern, Common tern

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within 5km of the designated site. Due to the location of the majority of the SPA off the coast, no likely significant effect is expected from the proposed mineral site allocations.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Ouse Washes SPA**

Qualifying features: Cormorant, Mute Swan, Bewick's swan, Whooper swan, Eurasian wigeon, Gadwall, Eurasian teal, Mallard, Northern pintail, Garganey, Northern shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Hen harrier, Coot, Ruff, Black-tailed godwit, Waterbird assemblage

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **The Wash SPA**

Qualifying features: Bewick's swan, Pink-footed goose, Common shelduck, Eurasian wigeon, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Black (common) scoter, Common goldeneye, Eurasian oystercatcher, Grey plover, Red knot, Sanderling, Bar-tailed godwit, Eurasian curlew, Common redshank, Ruddy turnstone, Common tern, Little tern, Black-tailed godwit, Dunlin, Dark-bellied brent goose, Waterbird assemblage

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Breckland SAC**

Qualifying features:

- Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands; Open grassland with grey-hair grass and common bent grass of inland dunes
- Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed
- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains
- Great crested newt

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 2km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **North Norfolk Coast SAC**

Qualifying features:

- Coastal lagoons
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal Shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves
- Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*); Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub
- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('white dunes'); Shifting dunes with marram
- Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes'); dune grassland
- Humid dune slacks
- Otter

- Petalwort

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Norfolk Valley Fens SAC**

Qualifying features:

- Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich spring-fed fens
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk and limestone
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; calcium rich fens dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains
- Narrow-mouthed whorl snail
- Desmoulin's whorl snail

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 40 East Winch - This site is proposed for the extraction of silica sand and is located 3.79km from East Walton and Adcock's Common SSSI, which forms part of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 200 Carbrooke - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.47km from 'Thompson Water, Carr and Common SSSI' which forms part of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 202 Attlebridge - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.93km from Buxton Heath SSSI which forms part of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 69 Aylmerton - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 0.65 km from Sheringham and Beeston Regis Commons SSSI which forms part of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. This is within the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development.

However, the site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected. The site is also in a different hydrological catchment to the SAC. A dry working would also result in little or no run-off. Due to the distance of the site from the SAC, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 207 Edgefield - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 2.57km from Holt Lowes SSSI which forms part of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. This is within the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. However, the site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected. A dry working would also result in little or no run-off. Due to the distance of the site from the SAC, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 208 East Beckham -This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 1.45km from Sheringham and Beeston Regis Commons SSSI which forms part of Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. This is within the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. However, the site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected. The site is also in a different hydrological catchment to the SSSI. A dry working would also result in little or no run-off. Due to the distance from the SAC dust emissions could be satisfactorily controlled by planning conditions to ensure that the SAC is not adversely affected by dust deposition. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

Likely Significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect due to the distance of the sites from the SAC and also due to the dry working of the sites (MIN 207, MIN 208 and MIN69) that are within the IRZ for the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC.

Designated site: **Ouse Washes SAC**

Qualifying features: Spined loach

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Overstrand Cliffs SAC**

Qualifying features: Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 200 metres from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Paston Great Barn SAC**

Qualifying features: Barbastelle bats

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone for all development (which extends 50 metres from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **River Wensum SAC**

Qualifying features:

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot
- Desmoulin's whorl snail
- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish
- Brook lamprey
- Bullhead

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 12 Beetley - This site is proposed for sand and gravel extraction and is located 3.47 km from the River Wensum SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. In addition, the site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected.

MIN 51/ MIN 13 / MIN 08 Beetley - This site is proposed for sand and gravel extraction and is located 4.54 km from the River Wensum SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. In addition, the site

would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected.

MIN 202 Attlebridge - This site is proposed for sand and gravel extraction and is located 1.14 km from the River Wensum SAC. This is within the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. However, the site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected. A dry working would also result in little or no run-off. Due to the distance of the site from the SAC, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 96 Spixworth - This site is proposed for sand and gravel extraction and is located 4.76 km from the River Wensum SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. In addition, the site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore the hydrology of the SAC would not be affected

Nutrient neutrality: On 16 March 2022 Natural England wrote to a cohort of 42 Councils, including Norfolk County Council, reviewing its position on nutrient neutrality. The following mineral extraction sites, which are allocated in the draft Publication version of the NM&WLP are located within the catchment of the River Wensum SAC as mapped by Natural England: MIN 12 at Beetley, MIN 51 & MIN 13 & MIN 08 at Beetley, and MIN 202 at Attlebridge. All of these sites are expected to be worked dry (above the water table) with no dewatering. The allocation of sites for mineral extraction would not result in new overnight accommodation (to which Natural England's letter primarily relates) or additional discharges of wastewater containing phosphates or nitrate.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? NLSE due to the distance of the sites from the SAC and dry working.

Designated site: **The Broads SAC**

Qualifying features:

- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools
- Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; Purple moor-grass meadows
- Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)
- Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*; Alder woodland on floodplains*
- Desmoulin's whorl snail
- Otter
- Fen orchid
- Ramshorn snail

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 64 Horstead with Stanninghall - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 3.39 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SAC Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 37 Frettenham & Buxton with Lammas - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.23 km from the SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. The site would be

worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SAC. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 25 Haddiscoe - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 3.83 km from the SAC. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SAC. Due to this distance, outside the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 65 Horstead with Stanninghall - The site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 1.43 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the SAC. This is within the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is proposed as an extension to the existing mineral working. The site is located in a different hydrological catchment to the SSSI and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Extraction is expected to take place at the same rate as the existing mineral working so that there would not be an increase in traffic movements. Due to the distance of the site from the SAC, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 96 Spixworth - This site is proposed for sand and gravel extraction and is located 2.22 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of The Broads SAC. This is within the SAC's 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is proposed as an extension to the existing mineral working. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Extraction is expected to take place at the same rate as the existing mineral working so that there would not be an increase in traffic movements. Due to the distance of the site from the SAC, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

Nutrient neutrality: On 16 March 2022 Natural England wrote to a cohort of 42 Councils, including Norfolk County Council, reviewing its position on nutrient neutrality. The following mineral extraction sites, which are allocated in the draft Publication version of the NM&WLP are located within the catchment of the Broads SAC as mapped by Natural England: MIN 12 at Beetley, MIN 51 & MIN 13 & MIN 08 at Beetley, MIN 202 at Attlebridge, MIN 37 at Mayton Wood, MIN 64 at Horstead, MIN 65 at Horstead, MIN 96 at Spixworth, MIN 115 at North Walsham, MIN 69 at Beeston Regis, MIN 208 at East Beckham. All of these sites are expected to be worked dry (above the water table) with no dewatering. The allocation of sites for mineral extraction would not result in new overnight accommodation (to which Natural England's letter primarily relates) or additional discharges of wastewater containing phosphates or nitrates.

Likely Significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect due to the distance of the sites from the SAC and dry working.

Designated site: **Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC (5km IRZ)**

Qualifying features:

- Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
- European dry heaths

Assessment of impacts:

SIL 01 Bawsey - This site is proposed for the extraction of 1.1 million tonnes of silica sand. The site is 2.74 km from Roydon Common SSSI, which forms part of the Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC. The site is within the Impact Risk Zone of Roydon Common SSSI for mineral development (which extends 3km from the designated site). A small part of this site is within the hydrological catchment for Roydon Common SSSI. However, the flow gradient to Roydon Common is from the north and site SIL01 is located to the south. In addition, Bawsey Lakes are located between SIL 01 and Roydon Common. Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect.

Designated site: **The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC**

Qualifying feature:

- Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; subtidal sandbanks
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; intertidal mudflats and sandflats
- Coastal lagoons
- Large shallow inlets and bays
- Reefs
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- Atlantic salt meadows
- Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs; Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub
- Harbour seal
- Otter

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC**

Qualifying features:

- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soil; Purple moor-grass meadows
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)
- Desmoulin's whorl snail

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 3km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Winterton – Horsey Dunes SAC**

Qualifying features:

- Embryonic shifting dunes
- Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes") (Shifting dunes with marram)
- Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)
- Humid dune slacks

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites for mineral extraction within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 3km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Southern North Sea SAC**

Qualifying features: Harbour porpoise

Assessment of impacts: There are no specific sites for mineral extraction within 5km of the designated site. Due to the location of the SAC off the coast, and the vulnerabilities of the SAC, no likely significant effect is expected from the proposed mineral site allocations.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect.

Designated site: **Breydon Water Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 5: The site is internationally important waterfowl assemblage.

Criterion 6: The site supports species/populations at levels of international importance:

Tundra swan, Northern lapwing, Pink-footed goose, Eurasian wigeon, Northern shoveler, European golden plover, Black-tailed godwit

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 25 Haddiscoe - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.33 km from Halvergate Marshes SSSI which forms part of the Ramsar site. This is within the 5km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is located in a different hydrological catchment to the SSSI and the site would be worked dry (above the water table), therefore it would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Due to the distance of the site from the Ramsar, on-site lighting would not disturb the birds on the Ramsar site. Due to the distance of the site from the Ramsar, noise would not disturb the birds on the Ramsar site. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? NLSE due to the distance of the site from the Ramsar and dry working.

Designated site: **Broadland Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 2:

- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)
- Alkaline fens Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnionincanae*, *Salicion albae*) and Alder woodland on floodplains
- Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*)
- Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
- Fen orchid (*Liparis loeselii*)
- The site supports outstanding assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates including nine British Red Data Book plants and 136 British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Criterion 6: Tundra swan, Eurasian wigeon, Gadwall, Northern shoveler, Pink-footed goose, Greylag goose

Assessment of impacts:

MIN 37 Frettenham & Buxton with Lammas -This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 4.23 km from the Ramsar. Due to this distance, outside the 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the Ramsar. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 64 Horstead with Stanninghall - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 3.39 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the Ramsar. Due to this distance, outside the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the Ramsar. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

MIN 25 Haddiscoe - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 3.83 km from the Ramsar. Due to this distance, outside the 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development, no likely significant effects are anticipated. The site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the Ramsar.

MIN 96 Spixworth - This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 2.22 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI, which forms part of the Ramsar. It is within the 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is proposed as an extension to the existing mineral working. The

site would be worked dry (above the water table) and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Extraction is expected to take place at the same rate as the existing mineral working so that there would not be an increase in traffic movements. Due to the distance of the site from the SSSI, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition on the Ramsar site. Due to the distance of the site from the SSSI on-site lighting and noise would not disturb the birds on the Ramsar site. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated.

MIN 65 Horstead with Stanninghall -This site is proposed for the extraction of sand and gravel and is located 1.43 km from Crostwick Marsh SSSI which forms part of the Ramsar. It is within the 3km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. The site is proposed as an extension to the existing mineral working. The site is located in a different hydrological catchment to the SSSI and therefore would not adversely affect the hydrology of the SSSI. Extraction is expected to take place at the same rate as the existing mineral working so that there would not be an increase in traffic movements. Due to the distance of the site from the SSSI, there would be no adverse effects from dust deposition on the Ramsar site. Due to the distance of the site from the SSSI, on-site lighting and noise would not disturb the birds on the Ramsar site. Therefore, no likely significant effects are anticipated. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

Nutrient neutrality: On 16 March 2022 Natural England wrote to a cohort of 42 Councils, including Norfolk County Council, reviewing its position on nutrient neutrality. The following mineral extraction sites, which are allocated in the draft Publication version of the NM&WLP are located within the catchment of the Broads SAC/Ramsar as mapped by Natural England: MIN 12 at Beetley, MIN 51 & MIN 13 & MIN 08 at Beetley, MIN 202 at Attlebridge, MIN 37 at Mayton Wood, MIN 64 at Horstead, MIN 65 at Horstead, MIN 96 at Spixworth, MIN 115 at North Walsham, MIN 69 at Beeston Regis, MIN 208 at East Beckham. All of these sites are expected to be worked dry (above the water table) with no dewatering. The allocation of sites for mineral extraction would not result in new overnight accommodation (to which Natural England's letter primarily relates) or additional discharges of wastewater containing phosphates or nitrates.

Likely significant effect alone or in-combination? No likely significant effect alone or in-combination due to the distance of all the sites from the Ramsar, as well as dry working for all sites and location outside the hydrological catchment (MIN 65).

Designated site: **North Norfolk Coast Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 1: One of the largest expanses of undeveloped coastal habitat of its type in Europe. It is a good example of marshland coast, saltmarshes, shingle banks and sand dunes. Brackish water lagoons and freshwater grazing marsh and reed beds.

Criterion 2: Supports at least three Red Data Book and nine nationally scarce vascular plants, one Red Data Book lichens and 38 Red Data Book invertebrates.

Criterion 5: Waterfowl assemblages of international importance

Criterion 6: Sandwich tern, Common tern, Little tern, Red knot, Pink-footed goose, Dark-bellied brent goose, Eurasian wigeon, Northern pintail, Ringed plover, Sanderling, Bar-tailed godwit.

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Ouse Washes Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 1: One of the most extensive areas of seasonally-flooded washland of its type in Britain.

Criterion 2: The site supports several nationally scarce plants and relict fenland fauna, including the British Red Data Book species large darter dragonfly *Libellula fulva* and the riffle beetle *Oulimnius major*. The site also supports a diverse assemblage of nationally rare breeding waterfowl

Criterion 5: Assemblage of waterfowl of international importance

Criterion 6: The site supports species/populations at levels of international importance: Tundra swan, Whooper swan, Eurasian wigeon, Gadwall, Eurasian teal, Northern pintail, Northern shoveler, Mute Swan, Common Pochard, Black-tailed Godwit

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 1: The site is an extensive example of spring-fed lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation.

Criterion 2: Supports many rare and scarce invertebrates including the fen raft spider.

Criterion 3: Supports many rare and scarce invertebrates including the fen raft spider, important for maintaining the biological diversity of the region.

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 3km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Roydon Common Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 1: Extensive example of valley mire-heathland biotope within East Anglia. It is a mixed valley mire holding vegetation communities which reflect the influence of both base-poor and base-rich water.

Criterion 3: The vegetation communities have a restricted distribution within Britain. It also supports a number of acidophilic invertebrates outside their normal geographic range and six British Red data book invertebrates.

Assessment of impacts:

SIL01 Bawsey - This site is proposed for the extraction of silica sand and is located 2.74 km from Roydon Common Ramsar. This is within the 5km Impact Risk Zone for mineral development. A small part of this site is within the hydrological catchment for Roydon Common SSSI. However, the flow gradient to Roydon Common is from the north and site SIL 01 is located to the south. In addition, Bawsey Lakes are located between SIL 01 and Roydon Common. Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected. Planning permission has been granted for mineral extraction at this site.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **The Wash Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 1: The Wash comprises very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow water and deep channels.

Criterion 3: The site is important for the inter-relationships between its various components including saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mudflats and the estuarine waters. The saltmarshes and the plankton in the estuarine water provide a primary source of organic material which, together with organic matter, forms the basis for the high productivity of the estuary

Criterion 5: Waterfowl assemblages of international importance.

Criterion 6: Eurasian Oystercatcher, Grey plover, Red Knot, Sanderling, Eurasian Curlew, Common Redshank, Ruddy turnstone, Pink-footed goose, Dark-bellied brent goose, Common shelduck, Northern pintail, Dunlin, Bar-tailed godwit, Ringed plover, Black-tailed godwit, European golden plover, Northern lapwing,

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

Designated site: **Dersingham Bog Ramsar**

Criteria for designation:

Criterion 2: Supports an important assemblage of invertebrates - nine British Red Data Book species have been recorded.

Assessment of impacts: There are no allocated specific sites within the Impact Risk Zone for mineral development (which extends 5km from the designated site). Therefore, no likely significant effects are expected.

Likely significant effect alone or in combination? No likely significant effect

3. Summary and Recommendations for Task 2

3.1 Summary of Task 1 Assessment results for minerals and waste planning policies

Following the review of the policies within the draft Publication version of the NM&WLP, there were no policies identified which could result in likely significant effects on a SAC, SPA or Ramsar designated site (see section 2.1).

Summary of Task 1 Assessment results for allocated mineral extraction sites

Site reference	Parish	Estimated mineral resource ('000 tonnes)	Mineral type	Task 1 assessment conclusion of likely significant effect alone or in combination	Designated sites affected
MIN 12	Beetley	1,175	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 51 / MIN 13 / MIN 08	Beetley	1,830	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 200	Carbrooke	300	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 202	Attlebridge	545	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 37	Frettenham, Buxton with Lammas	1,450	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 64	Horstead with Stanninghall	650	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 65	Stanninghall	3,745	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 96	Spixworth, Horsham St Faith & Newton St Faith	1,600	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 6	Middleton	1,416	Carstone	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 40	East Winch	3,000	Silica sand	No likely significant effect	None
SIL 01	Bawsey	1,100	Silica sand	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 206	Tottenhill	750	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 69	Aylmerton	2,000	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 115	North Walsham	1,100	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 207	Edgefield	400	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 208	East Beckham	1,320	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None
MIN 25	Haddiscoe	1,300	Sand & gravel	No likely significant effect	None

3.2 Habitats Directive Matrix with Findings of No Significant Effects

Plan Background

Name of the plan: Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Name of the SAC, SPA or Ramsar designated site

Breckland SAC / Breckland SPA
Paston Great Barn SAC
Overstrand Cliffs SAC
North Norfolk Coast SAC
Winterton – Horsey Dunes SAC
Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC
River Wensum SAC
Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC
Ouse Washes SAC / Ouse Washes SPA
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC
The Broads SAC / The Broads SPA
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC
Breydon Water SPA
The Wash SPA / The Wash Ramsar
Greater Wash SPA
Southern North Sea SAC
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA
North Norfolk Coast SPA
Outer Thames Estuary SPA
Breydon Water Ramsar
Broadland Ramsar
Dersingham Bog Ramsar
Roydon Common Ramsar
Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar
Ouse Washes Ramsar
North Norfolk Coast Ramsar

Description of the plan

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan covers the period to the end of 2038. It includes a vision and strategic objectives for minerals and waste development over the plan period. It includes policies to be used in the determination of planning applications for minerals extraction and associated development and for waste management facilities. It includes criteria-based policies for the location of waste management facilities and for silica sand extraction. It also allocates sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period.

Specific sites for future mineral extraction have been proposed by landowners and mineral extraction companies. The proposed specific sites for mineral extraction have been assessed against environmental, transport, landscape, historic environment and amenity constraints. The result of this assessment is a conclusion on the suitability of sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period. The Plan allocates two sites for silica sand extraction, one site for Carstone extraction and 16 sites for sand and gravel extraction during the Plan period.

Is the plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site? No

3.3 The Assessment of Significance of Effects

3.3.1 Describe how the plan (alone or in combination) is likely to affect the designated site:

Waste management facilities might result in significant impacts to SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites in terms of noise, dust, air quality, lighting and water pollution.

Mineral extraction sites and associated facilities might result in significant impacts to SACs, SPAs or Ramsar sites due to noise, dust, air quality, lighting, habitat loss, habitat damage, impacts to water quality and water resources.

3.3.2 Explain why these effects are not considered significant:

Minerals and Waste Planning Policies

The majority of policies do not promote growth in any particular location and are criteria-based policies. The relevant policies require compliance with Policy MW1. All planning applications will need to be determined in accordance with Policy MW1 which includes a requirement for proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact (including cumulative impact) on the natural environment, including internationally designated sites. Policy MW1 also requires proposal to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable adverse impact (including cumulative impact) on the quality and quantity of surface water bodies and groundwater, for resource purposes and to prevent the deterioration of their existing status, and their associated ecosystems. Any proposals in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to be determined in accordance with Policy MW4.

Potential impacts from waste management facilities could be mitigated through the design and operation of sites and all planning applications for waste management facilities will need to be determined in accordance with the plan which includes compliance with Policy MW1. Any proposals in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to be determined in accordance with Policy MW4.

Potential impacts from mineral extraction could be mitigated through the design and operation of sites and all planning applications for mineral extraction sites will be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the plan, which includes Policy MW1. Proposed sites located in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to comply with Policy MW4.

Specific sites for mineral extraction

The designated sites list in the table on the previous page are considered sufficiently distant from the proposed mineral extraction sites that likely impacts are not considered significant. Where relevant to a particular site, the draft Specific Site Allocation Policy includes requirements for mineral extraction to take place above the water table, and for Hydrogeological Impact Assessments to be submitted at the planning application stage.

In addition, Norfolk County Council's 'Local List for the Validation of Planning Applications' sets out when a Hydrological/Hydrogeological Risk Assessment is required to be submitted at the planning application stage and when a Biodiversity Survey and Report is required to be submitted at the planning application stage. All applications for mineral extraction are required to submit a dust assessment and a noise assessment at the planning application stage.

3.4 Data collected to carry out the assessment

Who carried out the assessment?	Norfolk County Council
Sources of data:	Natural England and Joint Nature Conservancy Council
Level of assessment completed:	Task 1
Where can the assessment be accessed and viewed?	Norfolk County Council

3.5 Habitats Directive Matrix with Findings of Significant Effects

Plan Background

Name of project or plan: Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Name of the designated site: None

Description of the project or plan:

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan covers the period to the end of 2038. It includes a vision and strategic objectives for minerals and waste development over the plan period. It includes policies to be used in the determination of planning applications for minerals extraction and associated development and for waste management facilities. It includes criteria-based policies for the location of waste management facilities and for silica sand extraction. It also allocates sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period.

Specific sites for future mineral extraction have been proposed by landowners and mineral extraction companies. The proposed specific sites for mineral extraction have been assessed against environmental, transport, landscape, historic environment and amenity constraints. The result of this assessment is a conclusion on the suitability of sites for future mineral extraction during the plan period. The Plan allocates two sites for silica sand extraction, one site for Carstone extraction and 16 sites for sand and gravel extraction during the Plan period.

Is the project or plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site? No

3.6 The Assessment of Significance of Effects

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in-combination) is likely to affect the SAC, SPA or Ramsar designated site: Not applicable - No likely significant effect on any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site.

Explain why these effects are considered significant: Not applicable

Appendix A - Designated sites and qualifying features

Conservation Objectives have been established by Natural England, which should define the required ecologically robust state for each SPA and SAC interest feature. All sites should be meeting their conservation objectives. When being fully met, each site will be adequately contributing to the overall favourable conservation status of the species or habitat interest features across its natural range. Where conservation features are not being met at a site level, and the interest feature is therefore not contributing to overall favourable conservation status of the species or habitat, plans should be in place for adequate restoration.

In 2012, Natural England issued a set of generic Conservation Objectives, which should be applied to each interest feature of each SAC and SPA. These generic objectives were the first stage in Natural England's project to renew conservation objectives, and the second stage, which is to provide more detailed and site-specific information for each site to support the generic objectives is now underway. The site-specific information is referred to as 'Supplementary Advice'.

The list of generic Conservation Objectives for each SAC and SPA includes an overarching objective, followed by a list of attributes that are essential for the achievement of the overarching objective. Whilst the generic objectives currently issued are standardised, they are to be applied to each interest feature of each SAC and SPA, and the application and achievement of those objectives will therefore be site specific and dependant on the nature and characteristics of the site. The second stage, providing the Supplementary Advice will underpin these generic objectives with much more site-specific information.

Supplementary advice has currently (2022) been published by Natural England for the following sites: Breckland SPA, Broadland SPA, Ouse Washes SPA, Breckland SAC, Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, Ouse Washes SAC, Overstrand Cliffs SAC, Paston Great Barn SAC, River Wensum SAC, Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC, The Broads SAC, Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC, Winterton – Horsey Dunes SAC.

Ramsar sites do not have the Conservation Objectives in the same way as SPAs and SACs. Information regarding the designation of Ramsar sites is contained in JNCC Ramsar Information Sheets. Ramsar Criteria are the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance.

For SPAs, the conservation objectives are:

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed above), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

For SACs, the conservation objectives are:

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Further detailed description of each interest feature in terms of its characteristics within the individual SAC, SPA and Ramsar site is provided on the JNCC website. The four figure reference numbers are the EU reference numbers given to each habitat and species listed within the Annexes of the European Directives when the sites were designated.

Breckland SPA - Qualifying Features

A133 *Burhinus oedichnemus*; Stone-curlew (Breeding)
A224 *Caprimulgus europaeus*; European nightjar (Breeding)
A246 *Lullula arborea*; Woodlark (Breeding)

Breydon Water SPA - Qualifying Features

A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (wintering)
A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (wintering)
A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (wintering)
A142 *Vanellus vanellus*; Northern lapwing (wintering)
A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (concentration)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
Waterbird assemblage

Broadland SPA - Qualifying Features

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding)
A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (wintering)
A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (wintering)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (wintering)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (wintering)
A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (wintering)
A081 *Circus aeruginosus*; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding)
A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (wintering)
A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (wintering)

Greater Wash SPA - Qualifying Features

A001 *Gavia stellata*; Red-throated diver (wintering)
A065 *Melanitta nigra*; Common scoter (wintering)

A177 *Larus minutus*; Little gull (wintering)
A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sternula albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA - Qualifying Features

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

North Norfolk Coast SPA - Qualifying Features

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding)
A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (wintering)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (wintering)
A081 *Circus aeruginosus*; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding)
A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Breeding)
A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (wintering)
A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (wintering)
A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
A675 *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (wintering)
Waterbird assemblage

Ouse Washes SPA - Qualifying Features

A017 *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Cormorant (wintering)
A036 *Cygnus olor*, Mute Swan (wintering)
A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (wintering)
A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (wintering)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (wintering)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Breeding)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (wintering)
A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (wintering)
A053 *Anas platyrhynchos*; Mallard (Breeding)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (wintering)
A055 *Anas querquedula*; Garganey (Breeding)
A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (wintering)
A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Breeding)
A059 *Aythya ferina*, Pochard (wintering)
A061 *Aythya fuligula*, Tufted Duck (wintering)
A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (wintering)
A125 *Fulica atra*, Coot (wintering)
A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (wintering)
A614 *Limosa limosa limosa*; Black-tailed godwit (Breeding)
Waterbird assemblage

Outer Thames Estuary SPA - Qualifying Features

A001. *Gavia stellata*; Red-throated Diver (wintering)
A195. *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (breeding)
A193. *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (breeding)

The Wash SPA - Qualifying Features

A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (wintering)
A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (wintering)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (wintering)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (wintering)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (wintering)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (wintering)
A065 *Melanitta nigra*; Black (common) scoter (wintering)
A067 *Bucephala clangula*; Common goldeneye (wintering)
A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (wintering)
A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (wintering)
A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (wintering)
A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (wintering)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (wintering)
A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (wintering)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (wintering)
A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (wintering)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
A616 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (wintering)
A672 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (wintering)
A675 *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (wintering)
Waterbird assemblage

Breckland SAC - Qualifying Features

H2330. Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands; Open grassland with grey-hair grass and common bent grass of inland dunes
H3150. Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed
H4030. European dry heaths
H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
H91E0. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains
S1166. *Triturus cristatus*; Great crested newt

North Norfolk Coast SAC - Qualifying Features

H1150. Coastal lagoons
H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves
H1420. Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*); Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub
H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes
H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram
H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland*
H2190. Humid dune slacks
S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter
S1395. *Petalophyllum ralfsii*; Petalwort

Norfolk Valley Fens SAC - Qualifying Features

- H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
H4030. European dry heaths
H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows
H7210. Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)
H7230. Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens
H91E0. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains
S1014. *Vertigo angustior*; Narrow-mouthed whorl snail
S1016. *Vertigo moulinsiana*; Desmoulin's whorl snail

Ouse Washes SAC - Qualifying Features

- S1149. *Cobitis taenia*; Spined loach

Overstrand Cliffs SAC - Qualifying Features

- H1230. Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts

Paston Great Barn SAC - Qualifying Features

- S1308. *Barbastella barbastellus*; Barbastelle bat

River Wensum SAC - Qualifying Features

- H3260. Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot
S1016. *Vertigo moulinsiana*; Desmoulin's whorl snail
S1092. *Austropotamobius pallipes*; White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish
S1096. *Lampetra planeri*; Brook lamprey
S1163. *Cottus gobio*; Bullhead

Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC – Qualifying Features

- H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
H4030. European dry heaths
H7150. Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*

Southern North Sea SAC – Qualifying Features

- 1351: Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

The Broads SAC - Qualifying Features

- H3140. Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.; Calcium-rich nutrient-poor lakes, lochs and pools
H3150. Natural eutrophic lakes with *Magnopotamion* or *Hydrocharition*-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed

H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows

H7140. Transition mires and quaking bogs; Very wet mires often identified by an unstable `quaking` surface

H7210. Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)

H7230. Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens

H91E0. Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*); Alder woodland on floodplains*

S1016. *Vertigo moulinsiana*; Desmoulin`s whorl snail

S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter

S1903. *Liparis loeselii*; Fen orchid

S4056. *Anisus vorticulus*; Ramshorn snail

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC - Qualifying Features

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons*

H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays

H1170. Reefs

H1310. *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H1420. Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*);

Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub

S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter

S1365. *Phoca vitulina*; Harbour seal

Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC - Qualifying Features

H6410. *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*); Purple moor-grass meadows

H7210. Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*

S1016. *Vertigo moulinsiana*; Desmoulin`s whorl snail

Winterton – Horsey Dunes SAC - Qualifying Features

H2150. Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (*Calluno-Ulicetea*)*

H2190. Humid dune slacks

H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes") (shifting dunes with marram).

Breydon Water Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 5: The site is internationally important waterfowl assemblage.

Criterion 6: The site supports species/populations at levels of international importance:

Tundra swan, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (over winter)

Northern lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* (over winter)

Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* (over winter)

Eurasian wigeon, *Anas Penelope* (over winter)

Northern shoveler, *Anas clypeata* (over winter)

European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria* (over winter)

Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* (over winter)

Broadland Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 2: The site supports a number of rare species and habitats within the biogeographical zone context, including the following Habitats Directive Annex I features:

H7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davalliana*;

Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)

H7230 Alkaline fens Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens

H91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnionincanae*, *Salicion albae*) and Alder woodland on floodplains

And the Annex II species:

S1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*)

S1355 Otter (*Lutra lutra*)

S1903 Fen orchid (*Liparis loeselii*)

The site supports outstanding assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates including nine British Red Data Book plants and 136 British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Criterion 6: The site supports species/populations at levels of international importance:

Tundra swan, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (over winter),

Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope* (over winter),

Gadwall, *Anas strepera strepera* (over winter),

Northern shoveler, *Anas clypeata* (over winter),

Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* (over winter),

Greylag goose, *Anser anser anser* (over winter)

Dersingham Bog Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 2: Supports an important assemblage of invertebrates, nine British Red Data Book species have been recorded.

North Norfolk Coast Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 1: The site is one of the largest expanses of undeveloped coastal habitat of its type in Europe. It is a particularly good example of a marshland coast with intertidal sand and mud, saltmarshes, shingle banks and sand dunes. There are a series of brackish-water lagoons and extensive areas of freshwater grazing marsh and reed beds.

Criterion 2: Supports at least three British Red Data Book and nine nationally scarce vascular plants, one British Red Data Book lichen and 38 British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Criterion 5: The site supports waterfowl assemblages of international importance.

Criterion 6: The site supports species/populations at levels of international importance:

Sandwich tern, *Sterna* (*Thalasseus*) *sandvicensis sandvicensis* (breeding)

Common tern, *Sterna hirundo hirundo* (breeding)

Little tern, *Sterna albifrons albifrons* (breeding)

Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica* (wintering) (passage)

Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* (over winter)

Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, (over winter)

Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope* (over winter)

Northern pintail, *Anas acuta* (over winter)

Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*

Sanderling, *Calidris alba*

Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica lapponica*

Ouse Washes Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 1: The site is one of the most extensive areas of seasonally-flooded washland of its type in Britain.

Criterion 2: The site supports several nationally scarce plants, including small water pepper *Polygonum minus*, whorled water-milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, greater water parsnip *Sium latifolium*, river waterdropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*, long-stalked pondweed *Potamogeton praelongus*, hair-like pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, grass-wrack pondweed *Potamogeton compressus*, tasteless water-pepper *Polygonum mite* and marsh dock *Rumex palustris*.

Invertebrate records indicate that the site holds relict fenland fauna, including the British Red Data Book species large darter dragonfly *Libellula fulva* and the riffle beetle *Oulimnius major*.

The site also supports a diverse assemblage of nationally rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally-flooding wet grassland.

Criterion 5: assemblages of waterfowl of international importance.

Criterion 6: The site supports species/populations at levels of international importance:

Tundra swan, *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (over winter)

Whooper swan, *Cygnus cygnus* (over winter)

Eurasian wigeon, *Anas Penelope* (over winter)

Gadwall, *Anas strepera strepera* (over winter)

Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca* (over winter)

Northern pintail, *Anas acuta* (over winter)

Northern shoveler, *Anas clypeata* (over winter)

Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor* (over winter)

Common Pochard, *Aythya ferina* (over winter)

Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* (over winter)

The Wash Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 1: The Wash comprises very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow water and deep channels.

Criterion 3: The site is important for the inter-relationship between its various components including saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mud flats and the estuarine waters. The saltmarshes and the plankton in the estuarine water provide a primary source of organic material which, together with other organic matter, forms the basis for the high productivity of the estuary.

Criterion 5: The site supports waterfowl assemblages of international importance.

Criterion 6: The site is important for the presence of several bird species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. This includes the species:

Eurasian Oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*

Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*

Red Knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*

Sanderling, *Calidris alba*

Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arquata arquata*

Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*

Ruddy turnstone, *Arenaria interpres interpres*

Pink-footed goose, *Anser brachyrhynchus* (over winter)

Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla* (over winter)
Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* (over winter)
Northern pintail, *Anas acuta* (over winter)
Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina* (over winter)
Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica lapponica* (over winter)
Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa linosa islandica*
European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria* (over winter)
Northern lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus* (over winter)

Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 1: The site is an extensive example of spring-fed lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation.

Criterion 2: The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*.

Criterion 3: The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires.

Roydon Common Ramsar - criteria for designation

Criterion 1: The site is the most extensive example of valley mire-heathland biotope within East Anglia. It is a mixed valley mire holding vegetation communities which reflect the influence of both base-poor and base-rich water.

Criterion 3: the vegetation communities in this area have restricted distribution within Britain. The site also supports a number of acidophilic invertebrates outside their normal geographic range and six British Red data Book invertebrates.

Appendix B - Related Policies, Strategies and Action Plans

Neighbourhood Plans have not been included in this appendix unless they allocated sites for a large number of dwellings.

B.1 Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk

Review of Key Policies

Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk Councils worked together with Norfolk County Council as the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) to prepare the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). The JCS sets out the spatial vision for development in the Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk areas until 2026. The key policies in the adopted Joint Core Strategy (March 2011, as amended in January 2014) include:

Policy 1 – All new developments will ensure that there will be no significant adverse impacts on European and Ramsar designated sites and no adverse impacts on European protected species in the area and beyond including by storm water runoff, water abstraction, or sewage discharge. They will provide for sufficient and appropriate local green infrastructure to minimise visitor pressures.

Policy 3 – The release of land for development will be dependent on there being sufficient water infrastructure to meet the additional requirements arising from the new development and to ensure that water quality is protected or improved, with no significant detriment to areas of environmental importance. This will be achieved by greater efficiency and by providing infrastructure, including strategic interceptor sewers to address environmental and capacity constraints at Whitlingham and at local works. The water infrastructure will be upgraded as required and be operational in time to meet the demands of any development.

Policy 4 – Allocations will be made to ensure at least 36,820 new homes can be delivered between 2008 and 2026, of which approximately 33,000 will be in the Norwich policy area.

Policy 5 – The local economy will be developed in a sustainable way to support jobs and economic growth in both urban and rural locations. This will facilitate its jobs growth potential with a target of at least 27,000 additional jobs in the period 2008-2026.

Policy 6 – Provides details of enhancements proposed to the transport system, including supporting the growth of Norwich International Airport, promoting improvements to the A47 and A11 and the construction of the Northern Distributor Road.

Policy 9 – Provides a strategy for growth in the Norwich Policy Area, including the distribution of 21,000 dwellings, the construction of the Northern Distributor Road and employment development at strategic locations.

Policy 10 – Provides detail on locations for major new or expanded communities in the Norwich Policy Area, consisting of the at least 7,000 dwellings in the Old Catton/ Sprowston/ Rackheath/ Thorpe St Andrew growth triangle, at least 2,200 dwellings at Wymondham, at least 1,000 dwellings at Hethersett, at least 1,200 dwellings at Cringleford, at least 1,800 dwellings at Long Stratton, at least 1,000 dwellings at Easton/Costessey

Policy 13 – The main towns for accommodating housing allocations, town centre uses and employment and services are Aylsham, Diss, Harleston and Wymondham.

Policy 14 – Key service centres for residential development are Acle, Blofield, Brundall, Hethersett, Hingham, Loddon/Chedgrave, Long Stratton, Poringland/Framlingham Earl, Reepham and Wroxham.

Policy 18 – Opportunities will be taken to make better use of the benefits of the Broads and to support its protection and enhancements while ensuring no detrimental impact on the Broadland SPA, Broadland Ramsar and Broads SAC.

Policy 19 – Details the hierarchy of centres.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

A task 1 TOLS and a Task 2 Appropriate Assessment for the GNDP Joint Core Strategy were undertaken. The Assessment concludes that with the revision for JCS policies and the inclusion of specific mitigation measures, it is deemed highly unlikely that the JCS policies alone would have a significant direct or indirect impact on European and Ramsar designated sites. There is uncertainty in relation to potential impacts associated with water resources, water efficiency, growth and tourism resulting from in-combination and cumulative impacts associated with policy 3 and 4 (and related policy 10 and 12) within the JCS area and growth in the neighbouring LDF areas.

Those designated sites affected are: The Broads SAC, Broadland Ramsar & SPA, River Wensum SAC, Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA, Winterton – Horsey Dunes SAC, and North Norfolk Coast SAC, SPA & Ramsar.

Any uncertainty regarding any potential impacts on European and Ramsar designated sites resulting from the planned growth within the GNDP area can be avoided and mitigated against. But the effectiveness of these policies in ensuring no significant impacts on European and Ramsar designated sites is dependent upon implementation of the mitigation. Therefore, it is probable that no likely significant effect on European and Ramsar designated sites should be achievable through the following measures:

- The implementation of green infrastructure developments;
- The allocation of greenspace to protect specific natural assets and designated sites and implemented through Area Action Plans, and;
- The implementation of water infrastructure improvements and water efficient measures.

B.2 Broadland Site Allocations DPD

Review of Key Policies

The **Site Allocations DPD** was adopted in 2016 and identifies or allocates areas of land for specific types of development such as housing, employment, community facilities, etc. The scale of development reflects the requirements set out in the JCS. It also includes the definition of development boundaries or "settlement limits" for those places where some growth may take place. It excludes the area proposed for major growth known as the Old Catton, Sprowston, Rackheath and Thorpe St Andrew Growth Triangle, and does not include the Broads Area.

The **Growth Triangle Area Action Plan (GT AAP)**, adopted July 2016, specifically applies to the areas of Rackheath, Old Catton, Sprowston, Thorpe St Andrew and other parishes which are not covered by the Site Allocations DPD. The Joint Core Strategy identified these areas for major urban development concentrating on growth that can support local services such as transport links, secondary education, healthcare, and green infrastructure.

A large amount of the development planned for the Growth Triangle is already approved with planning permissions. This includes:

- 600 homes and associated facilities at Brook Farm (north of Dussindale),
- 21 hectares of employment space at Broadland Business Park
- 64,000 square metres of employment space east of the Broadland Business Park.

- a new urban extension of 3,520 homes, 18,800 square metres of employment space and a wide range of services/facilities and open space in North Sprowston and Old Catton.

The **Broadland Development Management DPD** was adopted in August 2015 includes more detailed local policies for the management of development. Policy EN1 'Biodiversity and habitats' states that "Development proposals will be expected to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the district, avoid fragmentation of habitats and support the delivering of a co-ordinated green infrastructure network throughout the district. Where harmful impacts may occur, it should be adequately demonstrated that; i. The development cannot be located where it would cause less or no harm. ii. That adequate mitigation is incorporated, including specific mitigation required to address impacts upon international wildlife sites (Natura 2000 sites); iii. That the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the impacts." Policy EN3 'Green infrastructure' states that all development will be expected to maximise opportunities for the creation of a well-managed network of wildlife habitats. Residential development consisting of five dwellings or more will be expected to provide at least 4 ha of informal open space per 1,000 population and at least 0.16 ha of allotments per 1,000 population. Development will also be expected to make adequate arrangements for management and maintenance of green infrastructure."

Appropriate Assessment of the DPD

The **Site Allocations DPD** has a potential small impact on bird populations that are designated features of the Broads International Sites from disturbance as a result of increased recreation pressures. As part of the Development Management Document, developers must undertake to deliver GI as part of their development. The £440m Strategic Infrastructure Programme of the GNGB which sets out the overall picture of infrastructure delivery to 2026 shows a headline figure of £1.3m per annum for GI projects across the area. This will be delivered through a combination of funding streams including CIL. It is considered that the policy wording in the draft Development Management Policy document is strong enough, in combination with the funding of strategic green infrastructure/open space through CIL as specified in the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan or future iterations, to deliver the necessary mitigation in the form of provision of open space for local recreational needs. Therefore, there is sufficient confidence for negative impacts on site integrity of International Sites as a result of the Site Allocation DPD to be considered likely.

It is considered that the policy wording in the **Development Management Policy DPD** is strong enough to result in the delivery of necessary mitigation in the form of provision of open space/green infrastructure for local recreational needs through consented development. The suggested amendments to the supporting text of the Development Management Policy DPD may add greater clarity. This is complimented by the funding of strategic green infrastructure/open space through the Community Infrastructure Levy as specified in the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP).

If the policies in the **Growth Triangle Area Action Plan**, or other suitable alternatives, are delivered, the level of open space will provide appropriate mitigation for potential disturbance impacts on the Broadland International Sites. Therefore, it is considered there is sufficient confidence for negative impacts on site integrity on International Sites from the development in the Growth Triangle to be considered unlikely.

B.3 Norwich City Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The **Site Allocation Plan** was adopted in 2014, covering the period 2008-2026. The **Development Management Policies Local Plan** (DM policies plan) sets out detailed planning policies to help guide and manage change and development in Norwich until 2026. The policies apply across the whole city, as well as in designated areas. This includes areas which will generally be protected from being developed (such as open spaces and river valleys) and areas which will be reserved for certain kinds of development such as shopping and business.

The site selection process resulted in allocations for a total of 73 sites, many of which are for mixed use development and for housing, with a small number of sites allocated for employment, and for other uses. New allocations sufficient to accommodate 3,142 new houses and flats are proposed (927 of these in the city centre and 2,215 in the remainder of the city) together with an additional seven hectares of employment land.

Development Management Policy DM8 'Open Space' requires "All development involving the construction of new dwellings (or their provision through conversion or change of use) is required to contribute to the provision, enhancement and maintenance of local open space either by means of on-site provision or indirect contribution through the community infrastructure levy."

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

An appropriate assessment was carried out in November 2010 for the **Site Allocations Development Plan**. The assessment concluded "that the Norwich City Council Site Allocations Plan alone or in combination with further development around Norwich, as described in the Greater Norwich Development Partnership Joint Core Strategy, would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site".

An appropriate assessment screening was carried out in December 2010 for the **Development Management Policies** which concluded "that the Norwich City Council Development Management Policies Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on any European site in combination with any other plan, and no Appropriate Assessment is necessary".

B.4 South Norfolk Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The **Site Specific Allocations and Policies Document** is part of the South Norfolk Local Plan. Guided by the Joint Core Strategy, it designates areas of land to deliver housing, employment, recreation, open spaces and community uses in accordance with the settlement hierarchy set out in the JCS. The document was formally adopted on 26 October 2015 and covers the period up to 2026.

The **Development Management Policies Document** is part of the South Norfolk Local Plan. Together with the other documents that make up the Development Plan it is used to assess planning applications and guide development proposals to ensure the delivery of high quality sustainable developments across South Norfolk. The document was formally adopted on 26 October 2015.

The **Wymondham Area Action Plan (WAAP)** is part of the South Norfolk Local Plan. Wymondham will grow up to 2026 with a minimum of 2,200 new homes and a further 20 hectares of employment land. The role of the WAAP is to balance the growth of the historic market town with protecting and enhancing the 'Ketts Country Landscape'; to strengthen the role of the Tiffey Valley; maintain the open land between Wymondham and Hethersett; conserve the landscape setting of the town and

abbey and create connection and linkages between green infrastructure. The WAAP was formally adopted on 26 October 2015.

The **Long Stratton Area Action Plan** is part of the South Norfolk Local Plan. Long Stratton will grow up to 2026 with a minimum of 1,800 new homes, 12 hectares of employment land, an enhanced town centre and supporting infrastructure. The addition of a bypass is key to the future growth of Long Stratton. The role of the LSAAP is to set out policies to guide and help deliver the required growth, whilst protecting and enhancing the historic core of the settlement and the distinctive countryside beyond. The plan was formally adopted on 26 May 2016.

The **Cringleford Neighbourhood Plan** was adopted in February 2014 and allocates land for approximately 1,200 homes, expansion of existing services and provision of schools, and enhanced green infrastructure and sets the policies for growth in Cringleford.

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

The Stage 1: Test of Likely Significant Effect considers disturbance in relation to: Norfolk Valley Fens SAC, The Broads SAC, The Broads Ramsar Site and the Broadland SPA; Breckland SPA and Breckland SAC; The River Wensum SAC; Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar/ Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC.

It is considered that there is sufficient confidence for significant effects to be considered unlikely and an Appropriate Assessment is not required there is no need to undertake further stages of the HRA process. The HRA work for the Greater Norwich JCS (Mott MacDonald, 2010) highlighted the need for the implementation of green infrastructure developments to offset the possibility of uncertainty regarding potential in combination and cumulative effects associated with water resources and tourism (recreation) on International Sites. Although this process has demonstrated that there is sufficient confidence for significant effects from the Site Allocations Document, Wymondham AAP, Long Stratton AAP and Cringleford Neighbourhood Development Plan on International Sites to be considered unlikely, it is reasonable to take a precautionary approach. As such it is recommended that green/recreation space is required for new developments by local policies.

B.5 Greater Norwich Local Plan (Submission 2021)

Review of Key Policies

Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk Councils worked together with Norfolk County Council as the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) to prepare the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP). It provides the broad strategy for growth in Greater Norwich from 2018 to 2038 and supporting thematic policies.

The main locations include brownfield sites in Norwich, the major urban extension to its north-east, expanded strategic employment sites such as the Norwich Research Park and growth at most of the towns and larger villages. The GNLP will supersede the current JCS and the Site Allocations documents in each of the three districts except for the smaller villages in South Norfolk that will be addressed through a new South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Local Plan; and the Diss, Scole and Burston area, for which a Neighbourhood Plan is being produced which will allocate sites in these locations. The GNLP will not replace existing adopted Area Action Plans for Long Stratton, Wymondham and the Growth Triangle (NEGT) or Neighbourhood Plans, though in some cases additional allocations are made through the GNLP in these areas. The GNLP will also not amend existing adopted Development Management policies for the three districts except in circumstances where limited policy changes, identified in the plan, are required to implement the strategy.

The GNLP identifies a housing need of 40,541 homes between 2018 and 2038. Of that number, 5,240 of these homes were delivered between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2020. The remainder will be

delivered through the allocation of new sites for 10,704 new homes, and the delivery of existing allocations (at April 2020) totalling 31,452 homes by 2038. Policy 7.5 delivers 800 homes on small-scale sites, and there is a limited allowance of 1,296 windfall homes to demonstrate delivery of some of the total housing figure. The number of planned homes in the GNLP therefore totals 49,492 homes.

Of the 10,704 allocations, a minimum of 1,200 of these homes will be allocated in a separate South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Site Allocations document and 250 homes will be provided through allocations in the Diss and Area Neighbourhood Plan.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

A task 1 TOLS and a Task 2 Appropriate Assessment for the GNLP were undertaken. The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment were:

The Greater Norwich Local Plan acting alone: It is ascertained that the Greater Norwich Local Plan regulation 19 Submission Draft v1.6 would have no adverse affect upon the integrity of any European site acting alone, subject to the following outstanding matters

- Adoption of the Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance Mitigation Strategy to achieve mitigation for in-combination recreational effects
- The provision of suitable green space for developments over 50 homes
- Resolution of issues with Water Recycling Centres
- Clarification of Policy 6, section 5 with regard to tourism accommodation and development which would utilise a European site.

In particular, the resolution of issues with Water Recycling Centres to make their discharges sufficiently low in pollutants to avoid harm to European sites may take a long time to achieve and development may not be permissible until those resolutions are in place.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan in combination with other plans or projects: Other Local Planning Authorities throughout Norfolk are progressing towards adopting the GIRAMS scheme to mitigate for impacts on European site. This scheme will act to ensure that in-combination effects of residential development would not have an adverse impact on the integrity of any European site. It is recommended that Policy 4 'Strategic Infrastructure' is amended to explain that road schemes are not promoted, nor rely on the Local Plan, and are assessed separately.

Overall conclusion: It is concluded that subject to satisfactory resolution of the outstanding matters listed above, there would be no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site.

The Local Planning Authorities throughout Norfolk are progressing towards adopting the Green Infrastructure Recreation Avoidance and Mitigation (GIRAMS) scheme to mitigate for impacts on European sites. This scheme will act to ensure that in-combination effects of residential development would not have an adverse impact on the integrity of any European site.

B.6 Breckland Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

Breckland District Council is planning for no less than 15,298 new homes in the period between 2011 and 2036 through Policy HOU 01. The other key policies include:

- ENV 02 Biodiversity Protection and Enhancement, where measures to mitigate for potential adverse effects on European sites are required, the proposed mitigation measures must be justified as fit for purpose with appropriate evidence, to inform the Council's Habitats Regulations Assessment.

- ENV 03 The Brecks Protected Habitats & Species. Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the Breckland SPA or the Breckland SAC.
- GEN 03 identifies the settlement hierarchy. The key settlements are Attleborough and Thetford.
- GEN 04 Development Requirements of Attleborough Strategic Urban Extension (SUE) Development, this will provide 2,680 new dwellings in the plan period.
- HOU 02 Level and Location of Growth. Attleborough will see a growth of 4,383 and Thetford will receive 3,666 over the plan period.

There is a separate **Thetford Area Action Plan** which was adopted in 2012. It contains land allocations for growth in Thetford of 5,000 houses and 5,000 jobs as well as specific policies to guide the growth and regeneration of the town.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

The following mitigation measures are currently applied for the Local Development Framework, in light of the previous HRA findings and recommendations made.

- Direct effect of built development on SPA birds = policy wording and 1500m/400m zones mapped
- Indirect effect of disturbance = policy wording committing to a recreation management, monitoring and mitigation strategy in collaboration with partners
- Urban effects on heaths around Thetford = developer funded approach to urban heaths management and the provision of alternative green spaces
- Recreation pressure on the North Norfolk Coast = Plan wording to commit to new research and collaboration with other neighbouring local authorities
- New and upgraded roads = policy commitment to preventing any new roads or road improvements within 200m of Breckland SAC
- New and upgraded roads = excluded from the 1500m Stone Curlew zone
- Water issues = policy wording to secure flood alleviation measures and commitment to bringing forward new development in step with infrastructure and supply improvements

B.7 Broads Authority Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The Broads Local Plan sets the direction, quantum and nature of sustainable development for the area, through a plan period up to 2036. The policies cover: sustainable development, water and flooding, open space, green infrastructure, climate change, soils, heritage and historic assets, natural environment, renewable energy, landscape, amenity, light pollution, transport, economy, tourism, navigation, housing, design, community facilities and safety by the water

SP15: Residential development - Project Level Habitats Regulation Assessments will be needed to assess implications on sensitive European Sites. Measures to mitigate for the effects of new housing growth may be required.

DM13: Natural Environment – Any proposal which would adversely impact a European site, or cause significant harm to a SSSI, will not normally be granted permission. Development should firstly avoid (through an alternative development site or avoid on the site), then mitigate and, as a last resort compensate for adverse impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

The key threats are housing, tourism and navigation/boating/waterside access. The following mitigation measures are in place:

- specific additional policy wording and supporting text has been added for the site specific policies relating to residential moorings. The text now includes protective wording for designated sites, and reference to the need for GI and a long term management plan.
- The screening table included recommendations at Preferred Options stage for additional policy wording to be added to the tourism policy. The policy has now been reworded to give clarity in relation to adverse effects.
- Water quality is a predominant theme in policy wording within the Local Plan for the Broads. Improving water quality is one of the plan objectives. The water quality policy MODDM2 is the second development management policy in the plan, and provides strong protection for the water environment, requiring all development to demonstrate that it will not have an adverse impact, and includes reference to adherence to the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Regulations. It is concluded that the plan adequately protects European sites against water quality deterioration impacts, and seeks to improve the situation through the implementation of the plan.

B.8 Great Yarmouth Local Plan

B8.1 Core Strategy (adopted 2015)

Review of Key Policies

The Core Strategy Policy CS3 as originally adopted states that the plan will make provision for 7,140 new homes over the plan period. However, this policy has subsequently been amended to reduce the figure to 5,303 new homes, by the adoption of the Local Plan part 2 (see below). The majority of new housing will have been located in the borough's main towns (Great Yarmouth and Gorleston-on-Sea) and key service centres (Bradwell and Caister-on-Sea), enabling the towns to embrace their roles as the borough's economic and social hubs and providing an enhanced variety of new housing, employment opportunities and essential infrastructure that is of benefit to existing and future residents. The key policies are CS2 (Achieving sustainable development which set out the settlement hierarchy) CS3 (housing need), CS7 (strengthening our centres), CS8 (promoting leisure and tourism) and CS11 (Enhancing the natural environment). There are two core site policies CS17 (Great Yarmouth Waterfront Area) for 1,000 additional new homes and CS18 (Beacon Park Extension, south Bradwell) for 1,000 additional new homes.

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

It is concluded that, subject to one final and minor text addition to policy CS11, the plan can proceed in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, and adverse effects on European site integrity have been ruled out. Policy commitments made to the mitigation and monitoring strategy for the European sites will need to be progressed, in conjunction with partners such as Natural England and the RPSB. At the next plan review, the mitigation measures will need to be revisited.

B 8.2 Local Plan Part 2 (adopted December 2021)

Review of Key Policies

The adopted Core Strategy planned for 7,140 dwellings over the plan period (2013 to 2030). However, following the introduce a new standard methodology for assessing local housing need by

the Government, the Local Plan Part 2 adjusts the target by applying the revised methodology. Therefore, the Local Plan policy is now to provide for 5,303 new homes over the plan period.

Key policies include: UCS7: Amendments to SS7 strengthening our centres, GSP1: Development limits, GSP5: National Site Network designated habitat sites and species impact avoidance and mitigation and GSP6: Green Infrastructure.

Great Yarmouth has ten strategic area policies that either promotes, safeguards, or directs development specific to those individual areas. Seven site specific allocations require shadow HRAs: GN1 (approximately 500 dwellings, Gorleston-on-Sea), GN3 (20 dwellings, Gorleston-on-Sea), GN6 (community facility, Gorleston-on-Sea), BN1 (100 dwellings, Belton), HY1 (190 dwellings, Hemsby), OT1 (190 dwellings, Ormesby St Margaret), OT2 (32 dwellings, Ormesby St Margaret).

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

In response to the LPP1 HRA, a Great Yarmouth Borough Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy is in place for residential and tourist accommodation, collecting developer contributions to fund monitoring and visitor management. This strategy has been revisited for this HRA and is deemed to be a comprehensive and effective strategy to mitigate for development coming forward. This HRA therefore relies on the implementation of the strategy to draw conclusions of no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites

The conclusion of no adverse effects on European site integrity is made having regard for the current implementation of the Great Yarmouth Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy. The Final Draft Plan assessed for this HRA includes reference to the Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy within Policy GSP5, giving weight to its function as part of the Great Yarmouth Local Plan, and additional certainty of strategy delivery.

B.9 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan

B.9.1 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Core Strategy (Core Strategy)

The King's Lynn and West Norfolk Core Strategy will guide development and the use of land up to 2026. The Core Strategy was adopted in July 2011.

Review of Key Policies

The key policies in the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Core Strategy include:

CS01 Spatial Strategy: King's Lynn is promoted as the main centre and will provide for a minimum of 7,510 new houses through the regeneration of brownfield land and urban expansion. Downham Market will be supported as a key town and will provide at least 2,710 new homes. Provision will be made for at least 580 new homes in Hunstanton. The provision of at least 550 new homes to the east of Wisbech will be considered.

CS02 The Settlement Hierarchy: King's Lynn including West Lynn and Gaywood form the sub-regional centre with the focus of major planned growth in and adjacent to King's Lynn. Downham Market and Hunstanton are main towns where significant development will take place. Settlements adjacent to King's Lynn and the main towns are Emneth, North Wootton, South Wootton, Walsoken and West Winch.

CS03 King's Lynn Area: provides further detail on development proposed for King's Lynn, including the provision of at least 7,510 new dwellings, 3,000 new jobs and 20,000 m² of retail floor space.

CS04 Downham Market: provides further detail on development proposed for Downham Market.

CS05 Hunstanton: provides further detail on development proposed for Hunstanton.

CS07 Development in Coastal Areas: states that the council will promote visitor access in coastal areas of the borough, whilst considering any necessary measures to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and protect the integrity of the coastal European sites.

CS09 Housing distribution: provides further detail of housing distribution.

CS10 The Economy: 66 hectares of employment land will be allocated between 2010 and 2025 to facilitate the target of 5,000 additional jobs. Approximately 50 hectares of land in King's Lynn, 15 hectares in Downham Market and 1 hectare in Hunstanton.

CS11 Transport: prioritises improvements to the reliability and safety of traffic within the A10, A17, A134 and A47/A148/9 corridors. This will include seeking bypasses for Middleton and East Winch, and West Winch, and junction improvements at key interchanges including A47/A149.

CS12 Environmental Assets: New built development will be restricted within 1,500 metres of the Breckland SPA. Development will be restricted to the reuse of existing buildings or where existing development completely masks the new proposal from the Breckland SPA. Beyond the SPA a 1,500 metre buffer will also be applied to areas where the qualifying features are known to exist or where nesting attempts have been made. In this area, development may be acceptable where suitable alternative habitat (outside the SPA) can be secured.

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

The AA on the proposed submission document states that mitigation was required, in the form of amendments to the policy wording to ensure no likely significant effects from policies CS1 (Housing and jobs), CS2 (settlement hierarchy), CS7 (rural development), CS10 (housing distribution), CS11 (The economy) on the Breckland SPA; CS1, CS2, CS8 (Coastal Development), CS10, CS14 (delivering community well-being) on the North Norfolk Coast SPA/Ramsar; CS9 (Renewable energy) on the Breckland SPA, the North Norfolk Coast SPA/SAC Ramsar, the Ouse Washes SPA, the Wash SPA/SAC/Ramsar; and CS12 (transport infrastructure improvements) on Dersingham Bog SAC/Ramsar. The Appropriate Assessment concludes that the effects can be satisfactorily avoided by modifying the relevant policies.

B9.2 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan (Adopted 2016)

Review of Key Policies

The SADMP sets out land allocations and development management policies. It will guide development and change in the borough until 31st March 2026. The key policy for the purpose of this assessment is:

DM19 Green Infrastructure/Habitats Monitoring and Mitigation - In relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment monitoring and mitigation the Council has endorsed a Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy.

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

The conclusions of Task 1 found that the following policies are found to result in Likely Significant Effect (LSE), and are taken through to the Task 2 Appropriate Assessment.

- In-combination effects of recreational pressure on Dersingham Bog SAC/ Ramsar
- In-combination effects of recreational pressure on Roydon Common SAC/ Ramsar
- In-combination effects of recreational pressure on North Norfolk Coast SPA/ Ramsar

- In-combination effects of recreational pressure on Wash SPA/ Ramsar
- In-combination effects of recreational pressure on North Norfolk Coast and The Wash SAC
- In-combination effects of recreational pressure on Breckland SPA
- Policy DM19.

The conclusions of Task 2 found through producing The Natura 2000 Sites Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy provides the required certainty that future developments will not result in adverse effects on European sites within the Borough implemented through policy 19.

B9.3 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan Review (Submission March 2022)

Review of Key Policies

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan review combines its core strategy (adopted in 2011) and site allocations and development management policies plan (adopted in 2016) to set out a strategic and detail for delivering growth in the borough. It identifies where development should be located and how it should be delivered up to 2036. The key policies for the purpose of this assessment are:

LP01 Spatial Strategy: The Spatial Strategy seeks to strike a balance between protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment of West Norfolk whilst facilitating sustainable growth in the most appropriate locations. Approximately 3,835 homes are planned for King's Lynn and the surrounding area and 1,273 homes in the Main Towns.

LP02 Settlement Hierarchy: King's Lynn including West Lynn are the sub-regional centre, Hunstanton and Downham Market are the main towns. Marham and Watlington are Growth Key Rural Service Centres.

LP19 Environmental Assets Green Infrastructure, Landscape character, Biodiversity and Geodiversity

LP27 Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Policy: sets out the monitoring and mitigation proposals as well as a Habitat Mitigation Payment levy of £50 per house and how potential impacts from recreational pressure from residential development will be addressed. Also sets out the approach to development proposals in the Breckland SPA.

LP38 King's Lynn Area: 4,950 new dwellings to be provided in West Lynn, South Wootton and West Winch.

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

Air Quality: It is not possible to rule out adverse effects on the integrity for air quality impacts as a result of the cumulative effects of increased road traffic from allocations in the Plan at Dersingham Bog (Roydon Common & Dersingham Bog SAC, Dersingham Bog Ramsar). Further evidence gathering is required in order to identify any necessary mitigation and ensure this is in place. As such a strategy is being produced by the Council. This strategy is referred to in Policy LP27 and policy wording ensures any development is dependent on the strategy.

Loss of supporting habitat/functionally-linked land: The risks are so small that further assessment considering in-combination effects with other plans and projects would not change the outcome of the assessment and adverse effects on integrity for all sites from loss of supporting habitat can therefore be ruled out alone or in-combination.

General urban effects and avoidance of buildings by Stone Curlews: There is no need for mitigation. Given the absence of residual effects, there is no need for an in combination assessment.

Recreational Impacts: It is necessary for the Local Plan Review to ensure there is sufficient mitigation and that – in accord with the relevant guidance (Tyldesley & Chapman, 2021) mitigation should be effective, reliable, timely, guaranteed to be delivered and as longterm they need to be to achieve

their objectives. The county-wide mitigation strategy 'Recreation Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy' (RAMS) provides the means to provide and secure the necessary mitigation. The RAMS ensures cumulative impacts are addressed. Without the RAMS in place there is no means to address the effects from the overall quantum of growth within the Plan. It is therefore essential that the RAMS is formally in place and running smoothly by the time the plan is adopted.

Water-related impacts: The protective wording ensures development can only proceed if hydrological issues for Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC are resolved. This allows a conclusion at plan level that adverse effects on integrity from water-related impacts can be ruled out for all European sites, alone or in-combination. There is no need for mitigation. Given the absence of residual effects, there is no need for an in-combination assessment.

B.10 Suffolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The SMWLP has allocated nine sites for the extraction of sand and gravel sufficient to supply 9.3Mt over the Plan period to the end of 2036. Policy also states that the County Council will seek to maintain a landbank of permitted reserves of at least seven years based upon the average of the last ten years' sales. Other relevant policies include:

GP3. Preference will be given to proposals for minerals and waste development in accordance with the Key Diagram where individual sites are well related to the Suffolk Lorry Route Network (or rail network or navigation) major centres of population (namely Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds) and do not have potentially significant adverse impacts upon features of environmental importance (natural or man-made) or endanger human health.

MP6. Preference will be given to restoration proposals that incorporate a net gain for biodiversity with the creation and management of priority habitats and that support protected priority and Red Data Book Species and/or that conserve geological and geomorphological resources.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

It is ascertained that the Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site. This applies to the Local Plan acting alone or in combination with any other plan or project and is subject to the further modifications proposed. This includes modification to policy wording:

- MS2 Addition of Breckland SAC to the receptors for potential dust and air pollution
- MS4k Add provision for restoration etc specifically with regard to the Breckland Special Protection Area
- MS4f Addition of Breckland SAC to the receptors for potential dust and air pollution
- WS1 Addition of Minsmere Heath and Marshes SAC to list of potential receptors

B.11 West Suffolk Local Plan (former Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury)

The West Suffolk Local Plan Review are currently within their Preferred Options (Regulation 18) consultation. Due to close on 26 July 2022. West Suffolk comprises a wide range of settlements across the district. These settlements have been arranged into six categories, known as a settlement hierarchy. The settlements within the district have been categorised as a town (Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall and Newmarket), key service centre (Barrow, Clare, Ixworth, Kedington, Lakenheath, Red Lodge, Stanton), local service centre, type A village, type B village or countryside. Provision will be made for at least 15,200 new dwellings to meet West Suffolk's local housing need to be delivered in the period 2021 to 2040. The Preferred Options document also

includes a policy on Breckland Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation to protect these designated sites.

B.11.1 Forest Heath LDF

Review of Key Policies

The Forest Heath Core Strategy provides the overall strategic vision for the future of Forest Heath up until 2026 and looks ahead to 2031 for residential growth. The Core Strategy was adopted in May 2010 with Policy CS7 replaced in a single issue review in 2019. The key policies in the Core Strategy include:

Policy CS1 – Newmarket, Brandon and Mildenhall are defined as a market towns.

Within Newmarket 5 hectares of new employment land will be allocated and at least 15,000 square metres of new retail floor space (net). Land will be allocated for 240 dwellings on brownfield land.

Within Brandon 2 hectares of new employment land will be allocated and at least 600 square metres of new retail floor space (net). Land will be allocated for 260 dwellings on brownfield land. To protect the SPA, no broad allocations have been identified. Any proposals within the adopted buffer zones will require a project level HRA.

Within Mildenhall Approximately 4.5 hectares of new employment land will be allocated and at least 1,500 square metres of new retail floor space (net). Land will be allocated for 260 dwellings on brownfield land. To protect the SPA, no broad allocations east of Mildenhall have been identified. Any proposals within the adopted buffer zones will require a project level HRA.

Lakenheath and Red Lodge are defined as key service centres. Sites for 70 new dwellings are proposed to be allocated within Lakenheat. A Red Lodge, land will be allocated for a minimum of 800 dwellings on brownfield or mixed brownfield/ greenfield sites, the majority of which will be built after 2021.

Brandon is the nearest settlement to Norfolk as it is adjacent to the Norfolk County boundary.

Policy CS2 – New built development will be restricted within 1,500m of certain components of the Breckland SPA to ensure that there are no significant adverse effects on the qualifying features. Development in these areas will require a project level HRA to prove that the development will not have an adverse effect on the SPA qualifying features. Where new development is proposed within 400 m of certain components of the Breckland SPA a project level HRA will be required to prove that the development will not have an adverse effect on the SPA's qualifying features. New road infrastructure or road improvements will not be allowed within 200m of sites designated as SACs in order to protect the qualifying features of these sites. New development will also be restricted within 1,500m of any 1km grid squares which have supported 5 or more nesting attempts by stone curlew since 1995. Development within these areas will require a project level HRA to prove that that development will not have an adverse effect on this particular Breckland SPA qualifying feature.

Policy CS7 – Provision is made for at least 6800 new dwellings (net) and associated infrastructure to be delivered in the period 2011 – 2031. 136 dwellings in Brandon, 1599 dwellings in Mildenhall, 1090 dwellings in Newmarket, 768 dwellings in Lakenheath, 1768 dwellings at Red Lodge, 1486 dwellings in Primary villages. To deliver the broad distribution outlined, sites will be identified through the Site Allocations Local Plan and/or Neighbourhood Plans.

The **Site Allocations Local Plan document (2019)** identifies which sites should be developed, in order to achieve the visions and objectives of the Core Strategy, (including the amended Policy CS7). This Local Plan document includes proposals for new housing, employment, shopping and other development, together with other uses of land such as parks and open spaces.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Core Strategy was produced in 2009. The initial screening exercise identified the following potential adverse effects as a result of the Core Strategy:

- Reduction in the density of Breckland SPA Annex I bird species (stone curlew, woodlark and nightjar) near to new development;
- Increased levels of recreational activity resulting in increased disturbance to Breckland SPA Annex I bird species (stone curlew, woodlark and nightjar);
- Increased levels of people on and around the heaths, resulting in an increase in urban effects such as increased fire risk, fly-tipping and trampling;
- Increased water discharges to meet the additional waste water treatment needs;
- Increased levels of traffic generated air pollution affecting sensitive features of SAC habitats;
- Potential reduction in the density of Habitats Directive Annex I bird species associated with the SPA (especially stone curlew), due to avoidance of areas close to new roads.

As a result of this assessment a detailed package of mitigation measures were identified which included amendments to the Breckland's Core Strategy and additional action where further clarification is needed. The direct effect of built development and road improvements and the indirect effect of disturbance to Annex I birds can be mitigated for with the application of the avoidance/mitigation measures proposed. If the mitigation measures proposed both here and within the Forest Heath District Council/St Edmundsbury Borough Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study are translated into Core Strategy policy they will prevent any negative effects to European sites arising from the impacts of water demand and water treatment and discharge requirements.

The HRA Screening of the Proposed Submission Site Allocations Local Plan (2019) was able to rule out likely significant effects from the Plan with the exception of possible disturbance and other urban edge effects on Breckland SPA. Appropriate Assessment in relation to this potential effect was unable to rule out an adverse effect on the integrity of Breckland SPA. For the allocation to site 9(c) Land east of Red Lodge (south), the Appropriate Assessment found that insufficient safeguards existed within Policy 9 to ensure that any future amendments to the current proposals for this site or any new planning application can be required to provide appropriate mitigation for the effects on stone curlew nest attempts outside of Breckland SPA. To avoid the potential for an adverse effect on the integrity of Breckland SPA it is recommended that the requirement for project level HRA described at para. 5.8.20 of the supporting text to Policy SA9 be included in the policy itself. If this recommendation is adopted then it will be possible to rule on adverse effects on the integrity of any European site from the SALP allocations that have associated project level HRAs. It should also be noted that potential for all of the development proposed by the SALP and SIR to cumulatively have adverse effects on European sites in relation to air quality is being assessed through the HRA of the SIR. The current position is that the HRA of the Proposed Submission SIR has been unable to rule out air quality effects due to insufficient evidence being available; it has therefore recommended further traffic modelling and air quality assessment work.

B.12 St Edmundsbury LDF

Review of Key Policies

St Edmundsbury's Core Strategy was adopted in December 2010. The key policies of relevance to this assessment include:

CS1 – the towns of Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill will be the main focus for the location of new development, supported by appropriate levels of development in Key Service Centres, local service centres and infill villages. From 2001-2031 a total of 15,631 dwellings will be provided in St

Edmundsbury, of which 8,118 dwellings will be in Bury St Edmunds (52%) and 5,301 dwellings in Haverhill (34%).

CS2 – A high quality, sustainable environment will be achieved by designing and incorporating measures appropriate to the nature and scale of development, including:

c) identifying, protecting and conserving: a network of designated sites, including the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA) and other sites of national and local importance; BAP habitats and species; wildlife or green corridors; and ecological networks and other green spaces will be identified, protected and habitats created as appropriate.

Only development that will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA will be permitted. In applying this policy a buffer zone has been defined that extends 1,500 metres from the edge of those parts of the SPA that support or are capable of supporting stone curlews, within which:

a) permission may be granted for the reuse of existing buildings and for development which will be completely masked from the SPA by existing development; alternatively

b) permission may be granted for other development not mentioned in subparagraph (a) provided it is demonstrated by an appropriate assessment that the development will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA.

A further 1500m buffer zone has been defined which extends around those areas (shown as kilometre grid squares on the proposals map) outside of the SPA which have supported 5 or more nesting attempts by stone curlew since 1995 and as such act as supporting stone curlew habitat within which permission may be granted in accordance with a and b above.

Additionally, within this zone, where it can be shown that proposals to mitigate the effects of development would avoid or overcome an adverse impact on the integrity of the SPA or qualifying features, planning permission may be granted provided the local planning authority is satisfied those proposals will be implemented. In these areas development may also be acceptable providing alternative land outside the SPA can be secured to mitigate any potential effects.

Development at Risby, which lies partly within the 1500m stone curlew buffer will be possible if it is fully screened from the Breckland SPA by existing development. A project level appropriate assessment should be undertaken to ensure to adverse affect upon the integrity of the SPA.

A 400 metre buffer has been defined around those parts of the SPA that support or are capable of supporting nightjar and woodlark. Any development proposal within this zone will need to clearly demonstrate that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA.

CS4 – Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill are towns. The Key Service Centres are Barrow, Clare, Ixworth, Stanton, Kedington.

The nearest Key Service Centre to Norfolk is Stanton and the nearest settlements to Norfolk are Hopton and Barningham (local service centres). The nearest settlements to the Breckland SPA are Ingham and Risby (local service centres).

CS9 - Employment land in Bury St Edmunds (68.28 hectares) and Haverhill (12 hectares) is allocated to enable the delivery of additional jobs.

CS10 – The town centres of Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill will continue to be the focus for new retail, leisure, cultural and office development.

Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031 (adopted in 2014) provides a framework for managing the expected growth in the town over the next two decades. Includes policies for strategic sites for development, allocated land for amenity public open space and Policy BV26 on green infrastructure.

Haverhill Vision 2031 (adopted 2014) provides a framework for managing the continued growth in the town over the next two decades. Includes policies for strategic sites for development, development on brownfield sites and Policy HV18 on green infrastructure.

Rural Vision 2031 (adopted 2014) provides a framework for managing the pressures and opportunities for growth in rural St Edmundsbury over the next two decades. It allocates sites for development and contains Policy RV9 on green infrastructure.

Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Joint Development Management Policies Document (adopted 2015). The relevant policies include:

DM11 Protected species: Development which would have an adverse impact on species protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended), the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), the Protection of Badgers Act (1992), and listed in the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan, or subsequent legislation, will not be permitted unless there is no alternative and the local planning authority is satisfied that suitable measures have been taken to:

- a. reduce disturbance to a minimum; and
- b. i. maintain the population identified on site; or
ii. provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population.

Appropriate Assessment

The AA for the Core Strategy (December 2010) concluded that four of the sixteen policies will lead to development in the long term. These are policies: CS1 – St Edmundsbury spatial strategy, CS9 – employment and the local economy, CS11 Bury St Edmunds strategic growth, CS12 Haverhill strategic growth. There will be no likely significant effects on the international sites due to the proposal for development outlined in these policies as these elements of the Plan are at a strategic level. Lower tier plans will include specific details about the locations of future growth, including the exact location of allocations sites and their proposed land uses.

The plan seeks to protect international sites. Furthermore, the plan commits to an HRA being carried out at the development control stage and on the lower tier DPDs for any development arising out of these policies. As such the HRA of these documents will need to satisfy St Edmundsbury Council (in consultation with Natural England) that there will be no likely significant effects from any of the proposed allocations sites in these DPDs on Breckland SAC/SPA or that any significant effects can be effectively mitigated or compensated. If this cannot be proven, the Council will not include the allocations site which may lead to significant effects on the international site in the lower tier plan.

There is no potential for in combination effects as no other current plans or projects that are likely to lead to significant effects on the Breckland SAC/SPA or the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC have been identified, or where impacts have been identified they have been adequately mitigated.

The results of the HRA screening for the Development Management DPD concluded that there are no likely significant effects on the three international sites (Breckland SAC, Breckland SPA and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC).

If a proposed development could have a likely significant effect on an international site, further consideration and assessment will need to be made for these proposals at the development management stage or as part of lower tier development plan documents (including the Bury St Edmunds Area Action Plan, the Haverhill Area Action Plan and the Rural Site Allocations Development Plan Document).

Any development that cannot demonstrate that it would not have a significant adverse effect upon the integrity of a European site, or that impacts can be adequately mitigated, will be refused (and in

the case of lower tier development plan documents, these site allocations will not be taken forward in the final plans) .

B.13 Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council Joint Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan will provide the strategy for the growth of Babergh and Mid Suffolk. On 31 March 2021, the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan was formally submitted for independent examination. It will set out the strategy for development up to 2037, including land allocations. Once adopted, the Plan will replace the existing local planning policies for both Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Policy SP01 Housing Needs: The Joint Local Plan will seek to deliver a minimum of 7,904 net additional dwellings within Babergh District and 10,165 net additional dwellings within the Mid Suffolk district over the plan period (2018-2037).

Policy SP03 Settlement Hierarchy and Policy SP04 Housing Spatial Distribution: Ipswich Fringe settlements, Market Towns/Urban Areas and Core Villages will act as a focus for development. Market towns/urban areas are Eye, Needham Market, Stowmarket, Hadleigh, Pinewood and Sudbury.

Appropriate Assessment of the Joint Local Plan

In applying the HRA Test 2 –the integrity test at AA stage - based on the development type and proximity to Habitats (European) sites, the potential for in combination effects resulting from other plans or projects has also been assessed and avoidance and/or mitigation measures have been considered. Embedded mitigation measures for projects will need to be considered in project level HRA/AA reports and secured by way of any planning consent. Therefore, there will be no need for further assessment for this Local Plan.

Consequently, the HRA report including Appropriate Assessment indicates that the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Districts Joint Local Plan is not predicted to have any adverse effect on integrity (AEOI) on any Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

B.14 Mid Suffolk District Council

Review of Key Policies

Mid Suffolk District Council's Core Strategy was adopted in September 2008. The Core Strategy Focused Review was undertaken and adopted in December 2012. The Core Strategy defines the spatial vision for Mid Suffolk district to 2025. The key policies include:

CS1. The majority of new development (including retail, employment and housing allocations) will be directed to towns and key service centres, but also with some provision for meeting local housing needs in primary and secondary villages, in particular affordable housing. The towns are Stowmarket, Eye and Needham Market.

The nearest locations to Norfolk are the town of Eye and the key service centres of Rickinghall and Botesdale.

CS2. This policy states that in the countryside development will be restricted to defined categories in accordance with other Core Strategy policies. These will include (amongst a longer list): development by statutory undertakers or public utility providers, mineral extraction, waste management facilities.

CS5. States all development will maintain and enhance the environment. To protect, manage and enhance Mid Suffolk's biodiversity and geodiversity based on a network of:

- Designated sites (international, national, regional and local)
- Biodiversity action plan species and habitats, geodiversity interests within the wider environment
- Wildlife corridors and ecological networks..."

CS8. States that 280 homes are planned for Eye between 2010 and 2025.

CS11. States that there are three areas of vacant land, totalling 5.18 ha, near Eye allocated for employment use (Airfield, Airfield industrial estate and Brome triangle).

The Stowmarket AAP was adopted in February 2013. The AAP allocates specific sites to ensure that there is sufficient land for future growth in employment, housing, retail, and recreation. These allocations are for employment and residential uses which could accommodate up to 2,000 new dwellings.

Appropriate Assessment of the LDF

Policy CS5 of the Core Strategy sets out to protect, manage and enhance the biodiversity and geology of the district including international, national, county and locally designated sites of wildlife importance. Therefore any development proposal that would have an adverse effect on a Natura 2000 site would not be in conformity with Core Strategy policies. The main potential impact on Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites is the cumulative effect of increased demand for water, as a result of household growth in Norfolk and Suffolk as a whole. This could potentially affect all water-based habitats and the species they support.

The policies in Mid Suffolk's Core Strategy which may have an effect on European sites via impacts on local hydrology and water quality are CS9 (housing provision) which is based on CS1 (key service centres) and CS8 (brownfield residential development). These are better dealt with at the Site Specific Allocations stage when the location and scale of the development will be known. Therefore it is not considered that Mid Suffolk's Core Strategy will have a significant effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site.

The HRA for the Stowmarket Area Action Plan was produced in 2009. The area covered by the document is over 20 km from the nearest European Site. The report therefore concluded that Mid Suffolk's Stowmarket Area Action Plan will not have a significant effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site.

B.15 Waveney District Council Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The Local Plan sets out the level of growth which needs to be planned in the Waveney area (excluding the Broads Authority area) and identifies where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered. The Plan sets out the planning policies which the Council will use to determine planning applications in the Waveney area. The Local Plan covers the period 2014-2036. The spatial strategy recognises that 56% (5,206 homes) of new growth will be located in the Lowestoft area. 16% (1,458 homes) will be located in Beccles and Worlingham through policy WLP1.1.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

All the recommended measures have been added to the plan and are now in place, and with a policy commitment to working with neighbouring authorities in relation to the expansion and implementation of the Suffolk HRA Recreation Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy, it is concluded

that the Waveney Local Plan would be considered sound in terms of its conformity with the Habitats Regulations, and adverse effects on European site integrity would be prevented.

B.16 South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036

Review of Key Policies

The Local Plan will guide development and the use of land in South East Lincolnshire (Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council), from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2036, and will help to shape how the area will change over this period. The Key Policies are:

Policy 1: Spatial strategy, identifying areas where development is to be directed. The Sub-regional centres are Boston and Spalding. The Main Service Centres are Crowland, Donington, Holbeach, Kirton, Long Sutton, Pinchbeck, Sutterton, Sutton Bridge and Swineshead.

Policy 28: all major housing proposals within 10km of The Wash and the North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site, including the Sustainable Urban Extensions in Boston (site Sou006 & Wes002), Spalding (site Pin024/Pin045) and Holbeach West (site Hob048), will be the subject of a project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to assess the impact of recreational pressure on The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine Site.

Development proposals that would directly or indirectly adversely affect these assets will not be permitted unless:

- i. there are no alternative sites that would cause less or no harm; and
- ii. the benefits of the development at the proposed site, clearly outweigh the adverse impacts on the features of the site and the wider network of natural habitats; and
- iii. suitable prevention, mitigation and compensation measures are provided.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

The appropriate assessment considered the effect of recreation pressure on coastal sites and made recommendations for how mitigation measures should be incorporated into the plan. Mitigation measures have been built into the plan at what is now Policy 28: The Natural Environment, and its supporting text. None of the Proposed Main Modifications require appropriate assessment, and the findings of the appropriate assessment, that form the basis of mitigation measures in Policy 28, remain valid in light of all modifications. It was concluded that the Local Plan at Proposed Main Modifications stage is in conformity with the Habitats Regulations and relevant case law. The further two Main Modifications similarly gave a conclusion of no additional risk or new impact pathway. At Adoption stage, with all changes incorporated, it can be concluded in this final HRA report that the plan will not lead to adverse effects on European site integrity.

B.17 Lincolnshire County Council Minerals and Waste

Review of Key Policies

The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP) forms part of the statutory development plan for Lincolnshire and is composed of two Development Plan Documents (DPDs). The first part of the plan, the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (CSDMP) document, was adopted on 1 June 2016. This sets out the Council's key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the county up to 2031. It includes core policies, development management policies and restoration policies against which planning applications for minerals and waste development are considered. The second part of the plan, the Site Locations document (SLD), was adopted on 15 December 2017. This allocates specific sites for the winning and working of sand and gravel and for waste management, and more general

areas that are suitable for waste management. In addition, it safeguards the allocated sand and gravel sites from other forms of development.

A review of both DPDs that form the local plan was carried out in 2021. The review sets out the key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County up to 2031. The provision of sand and gravel over the plan period is 2.37Mt per annum, totalling 42.66Mt. The Lincoln/Trent Valley has the highest annual provision of 1.00Mt (18Mt over the plan period) as shown in Policy M2. Policy DM7 highlights that proposals for minerals and waste development that are likely to have significant effects on internationally important wildlife sites should be supported by sufficient, current information for the purposes of an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, for any Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site. Where the conclusions of the appropriate assessment, carried out in accordance with Council Directive 92/42 EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended), show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site, planning permission will be granted.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan Review

It is not considered to be necessary to remove any of the sites being taken forward from a potential allocation, nevertheless a precautionary principle needs to be applied with regard to some sites. Accordingly, the Screening Assessment has identified sites which will need to be subject to close scrutiny during any subsequent development control and/or Licensing process to avoid any possibility of harm being caused by water or air pollution to European sites.

In addition, it is recommended that any proposals to develop the thermal treatment of waste should be subject to close scrutiny during any subsequent development control and/or Licensing process to avoid any possibility of harm being caused by air pollution to European protected sites.

B.18 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The Minerals and Waste Local Plan sets the framework for all minerals and waste developments until 2036. It sets out policies to guide mineral and waste management development. The key policies are:

Policy 2: Sand and Gravel supply of 54.6Mt and 6.3Mt of Limestone over the plan period. Locations of key sand and gravel extraction sites including 3 million tonnes (Mt) at M019: Bare Fen & West Fen, Willingham/Over, 2.8 Mt at Willow Hall Farm, Thorney, 4.68 Mt at Block Fen/Langwood Fen East, Mepal and 2.308Mt at Block Fen/Langwood Fen West, Mepal.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

Following Stage 1 HRA Screening, it was not possible to screen out physical loss/damage to off-site habitat, changes in surface/groundwater hydrology, changes in water quality, disturbance from noise, vibration and/or light pollution, dust contamination or air pollution impacts arising from policies and sites. Subsequently, a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was carried out to assess these effects on the Ouse Washes, Nene Washes and Fenland (Wicken Fen) Natura 2000 sites.

The Appropriate Assessment concluded that the MWLP will not result in significant adverse effects as a result of physical loss of off-site habitat, changes in surface/groundwater hydrology, changes in water quality, disturbance from noise, vibration and/or light pollution, dust contamination or air pollution impacts arising from policies and sites. For development coming forward on either the allocated sites or non-allocated sites, it is considered that there are sufficient mitigation measures

set out in the MWLP itself, or elsewhere, such as via regulatory requirements managed by the Environment Agency.

To conclude, provided the recommendations made are incorporated into the Local Plan, it is possible to conclude that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036, is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and will not result in likely significant effects on any of the Natura 2000 Sites identified, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

B.19 Fenland District Council Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The Fenland Local Plan was adopted in 2014. The document states that Fenland will experience housing growth of 11,000 homes between 2011 and 2031. The key policies include:

Policy LP3: Sets out the settlement hierarchy. The four Market Towns; Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech will experience the majority of the housing, employment and retail growth. Wisbech is the nearest market town to Norfolk.

Policy LP4: Sets out housing targets. The highest level of development is in March with 4,200 homes. Wisbech is planning to receive 3,000 homes in Fenland plus 550 in King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council area.

Policy LP6: Employment growth will require 85 ha of employment land in Fenland between 2011-2031, in order to deliver 7,200 new jobs.

Policy LP8 Wisbech: New urban extensions for housing, retail and employment growth, to the south, east and west of Wisbech. The Wisbech Port Area will be retained for activities directly associated with the port.

Policy LP9 March: New urban extensions for housing, retail and employment growth, to the south-east, south-west, south and east of March.

Policy LP10 Chatteris: New urban extensions for housing, retail and employment growth, to the south-east and south of Chatteris.

Policy LP11 Whittlesey: A new urban extension for housing, retail and employment growth is planned for Whittlesey.

Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

The overall growth strategy for Fenland between 2011-2031 is, broadly, considered to be acceptable in terms of not resulting in harm to protected habitats. This conclusion is primarily driven by the fact that the growth, in general terms, is strongly directed to the four main market towns which are generally a significant distance from protected sites. There is, however, one exception. Whittlesey, which is one of the four market towns, is very close to the Nene Washes (SAC, SPA, Ramsar), perhaps only 250m away, north of the town, at its nearest point. Whilst it has been determined that some growth, in principle, at Whittlesey is acceptable (in terms of no harm to protected sites), it was previously noted in the earlier Screening Report (July 2011) as being uncertain whether growth to the north of Whittlesey would or would not result in significant effects on the Nene Washes especially as a result of the potential for increased recreational use of the Nene Washes which might arise should a significant development (such as residential) take place in this area. However, unlike the earlier draft Core Strategy (July 2011), no growth is now identified to the north of Whittlesey and therefore this previous concern is alleviated and the proposals for Whittlesey can now be screened out from any Appropriate Assessment.

B.20 East Cambridgeshire District Council Local Plan

Review of Key Policies

The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan was adopted in 2015 and has been reviewed in 2019 (now superseded) and 2020. The outcome of this Review (the Second such Review of the 2015 Local Plan) is that East Cambridgeshire District Council has determined that its Local Plan 2015 does require to be revised, but only partially and only in respect of its strategic housing policies. Of those policies, Policy GROWTH1 needs to be revised, because it has an out-of-date housing requirement. Other strategic housing policies may also be updated during the course of updating GROWTH1, should that be necessary. The key policies include:

Policy Growth 2: The majority of development will be focused on the market towns of Ely, Soham and Littleport. Ely is the most significant service and population centre in the district, and will be a key focus for housing, employment and retail growth.

Policy Growth 4: Enables delivery of 6,500 homes on the edge of towns and villages and 139ha of employment land.




Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan

The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and will not result in likely significant effects on any of the Natura 2000 Sites identified, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.


The Local Plan is strengthened at Policy LP21 Open Space, Sport and Recreational Facilities to ensure no likely significant effects on the Breckland and Devil's Dyke Natura 2000 sites as a result of increased recreational pressure arising from new residential development

Appendix C – Maps of designated sites, Hydrological Catchments, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones




Legend

-  Hydrological catchments
-  Special Area of Conservation
-  Special Protection Area
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

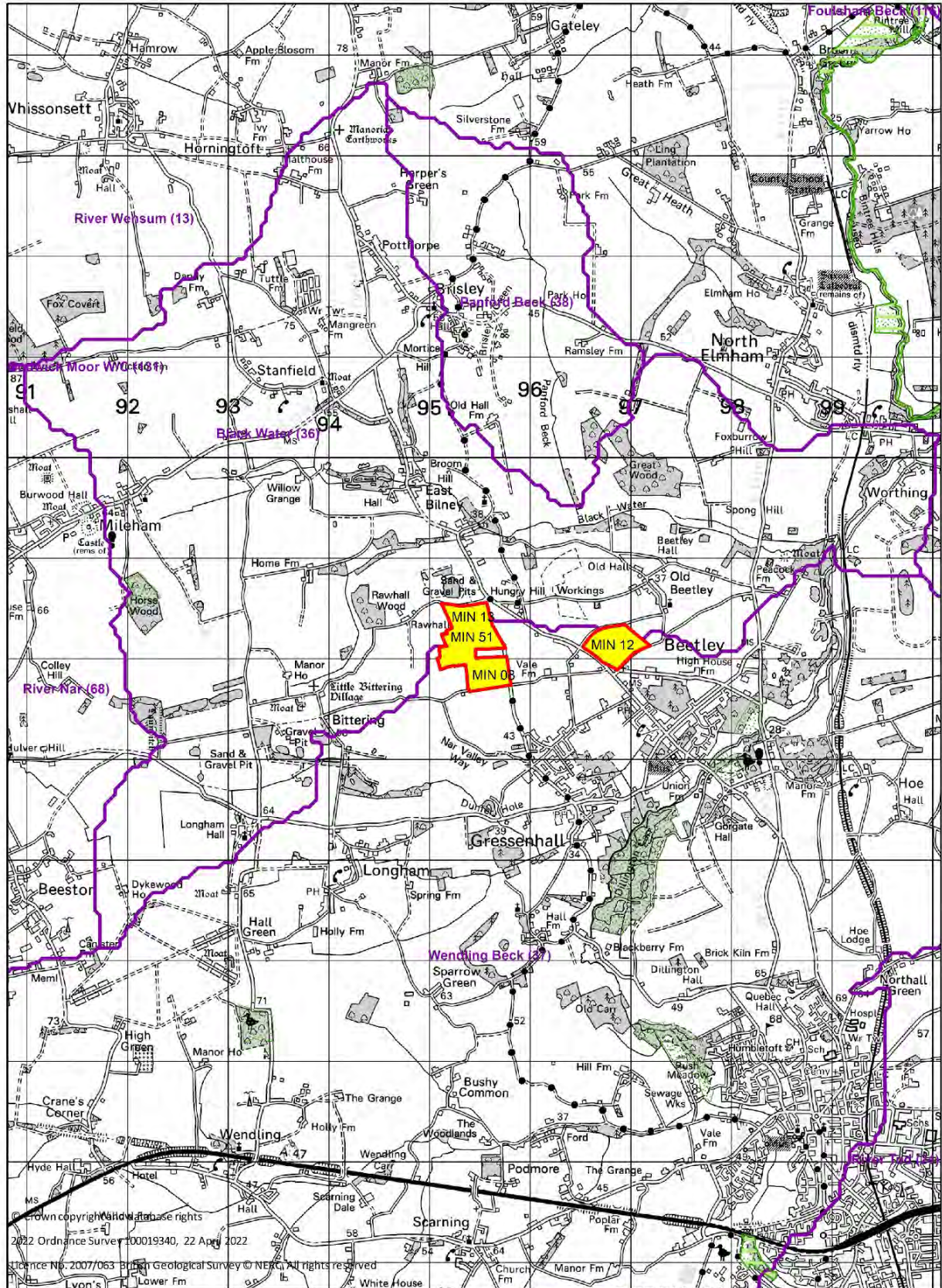
Presubmission proposed mineral site allocations

-  Sites suitable for allocation

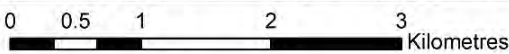
SSSI Impact Risk Zones

-  Planning applications for quarries: new proposals or extensions, outside or extending outside existing settlements/urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland or semi natural habitats. Oil & gas exploration/extraction
-  Planning applications for quarries, including: new proposals, Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMP), extensions, variations to conditions etc. Oil & gas exploration/extraction.
-  Oil & gas exploration/extraction

Part 1 – designated sites and hydrological catchments



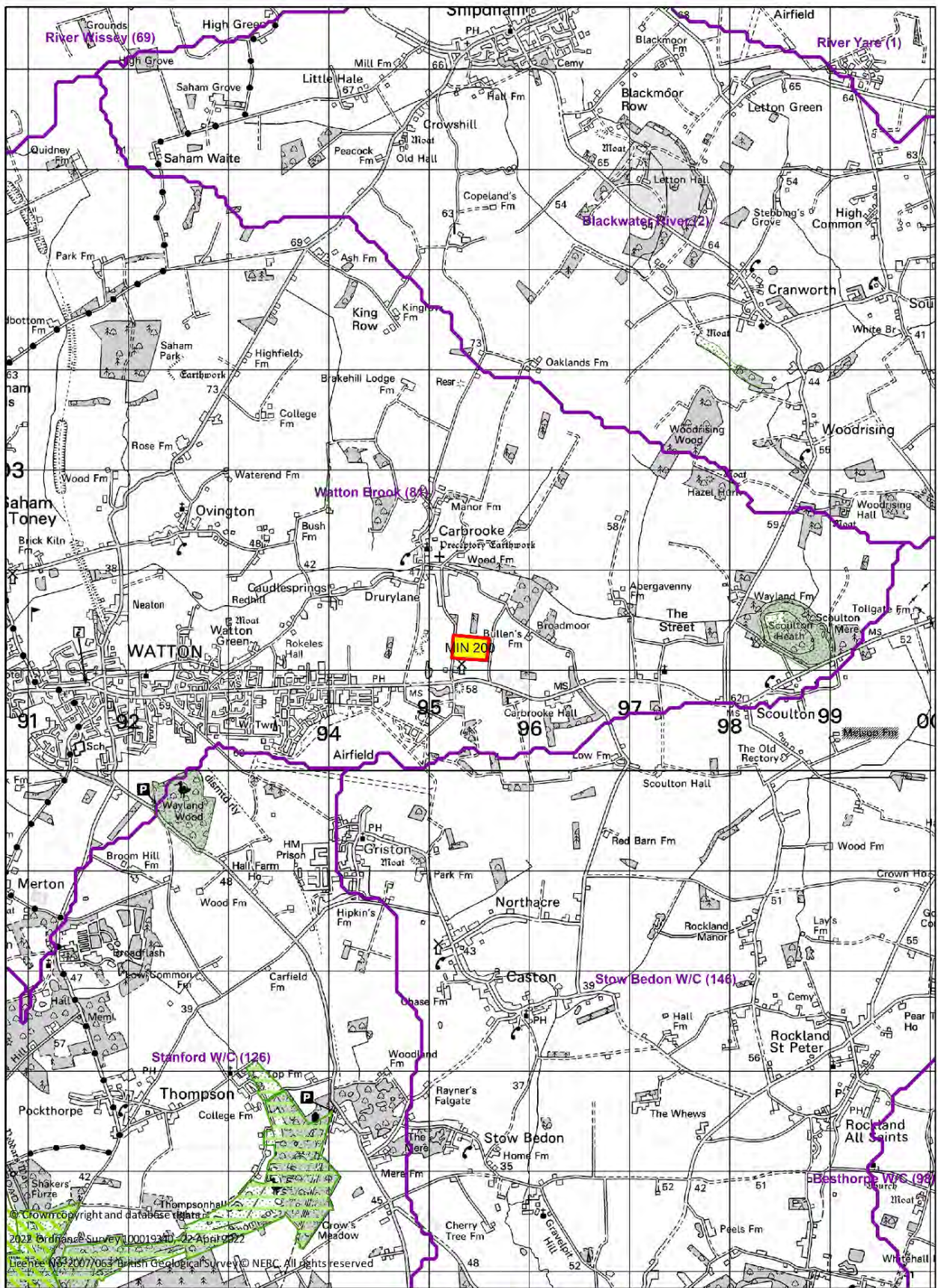
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 Lyons



Norfolk County Council

Published: 2022

Breckland sites – MIN 12 at Beetley, MIN 51 & MIN 08 & MIN 13 at Beetley

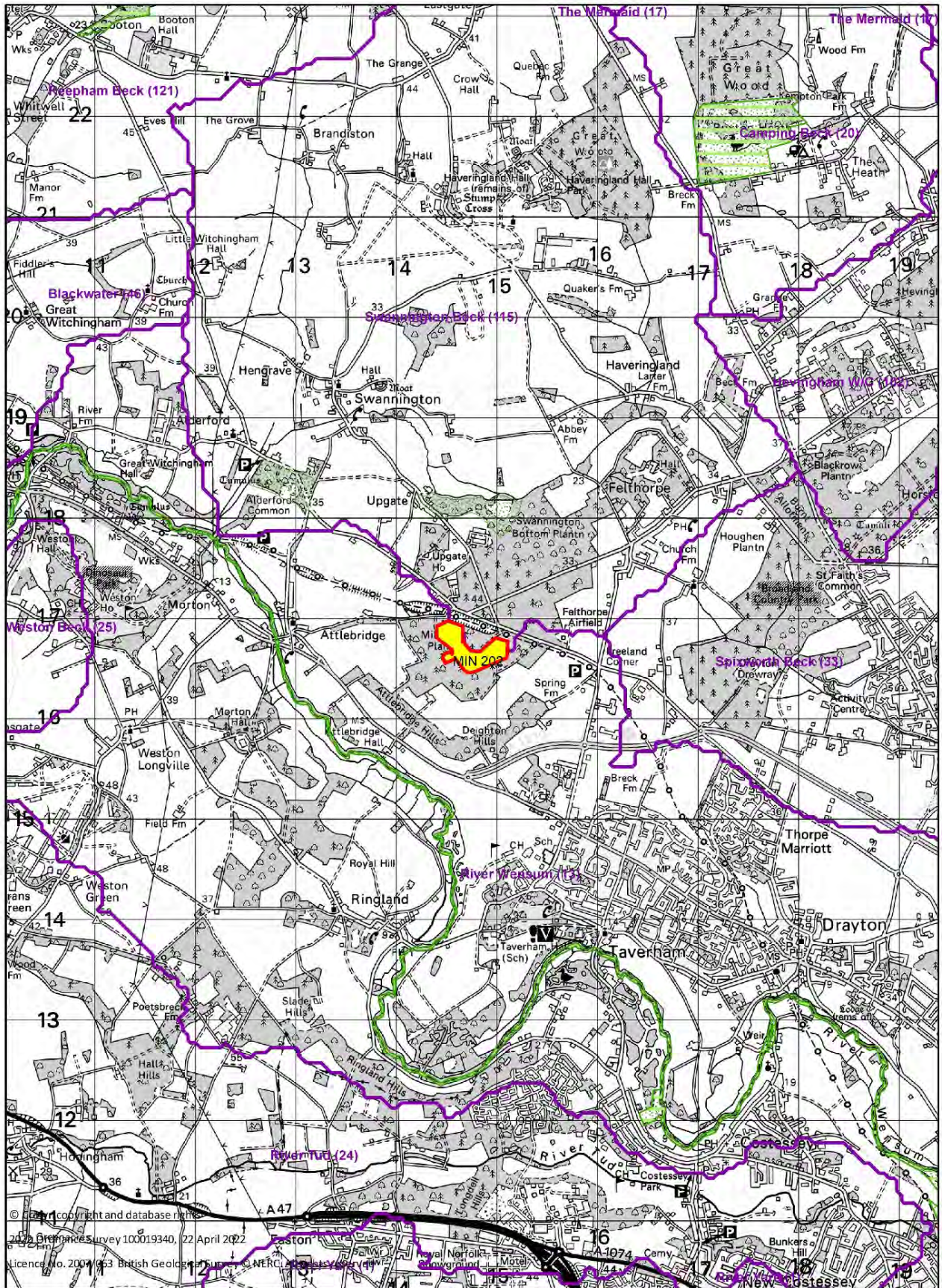


0 0.5 1 2 3 Kilometres

Published: 2022



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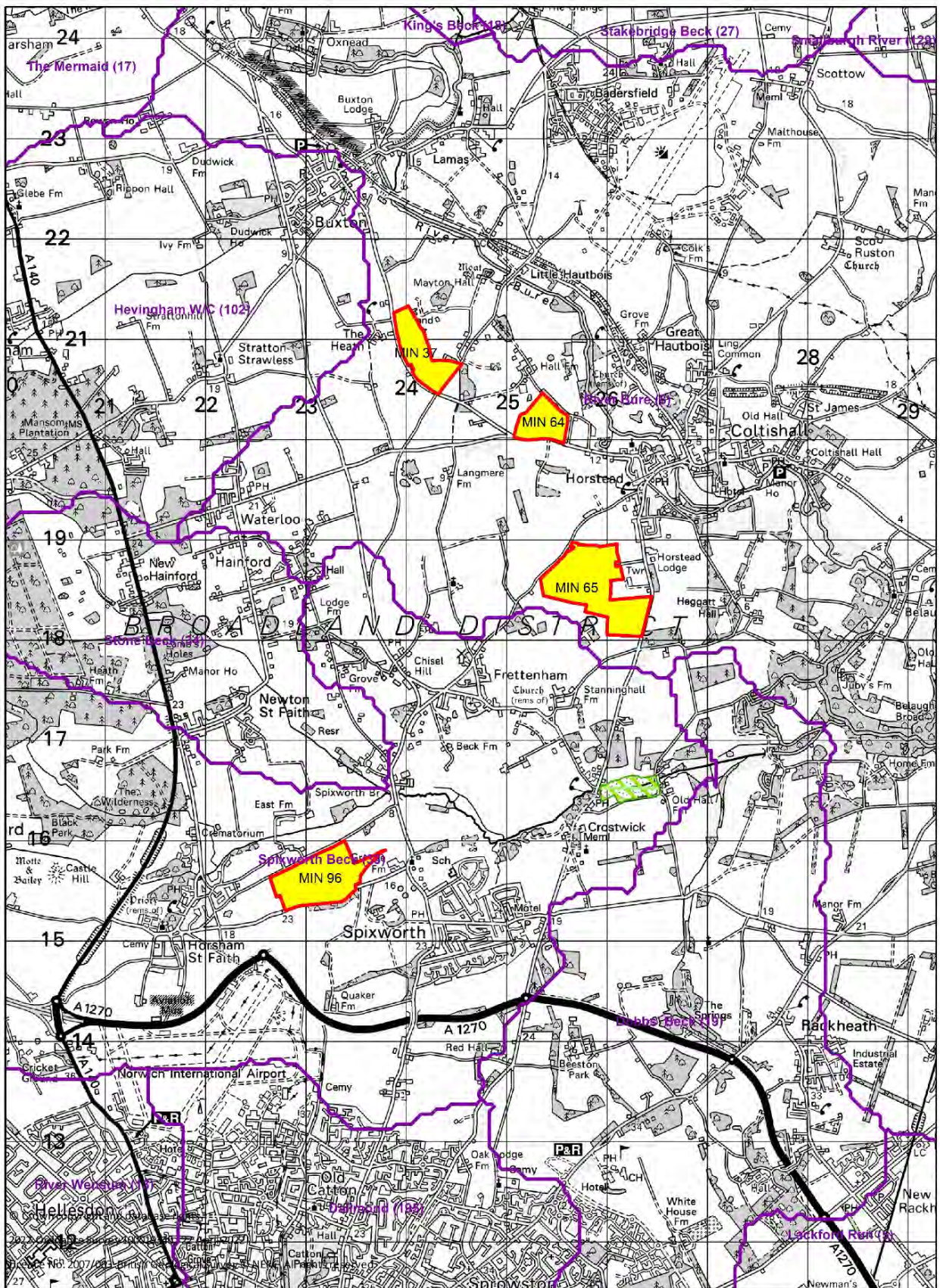
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Norfolk County Council

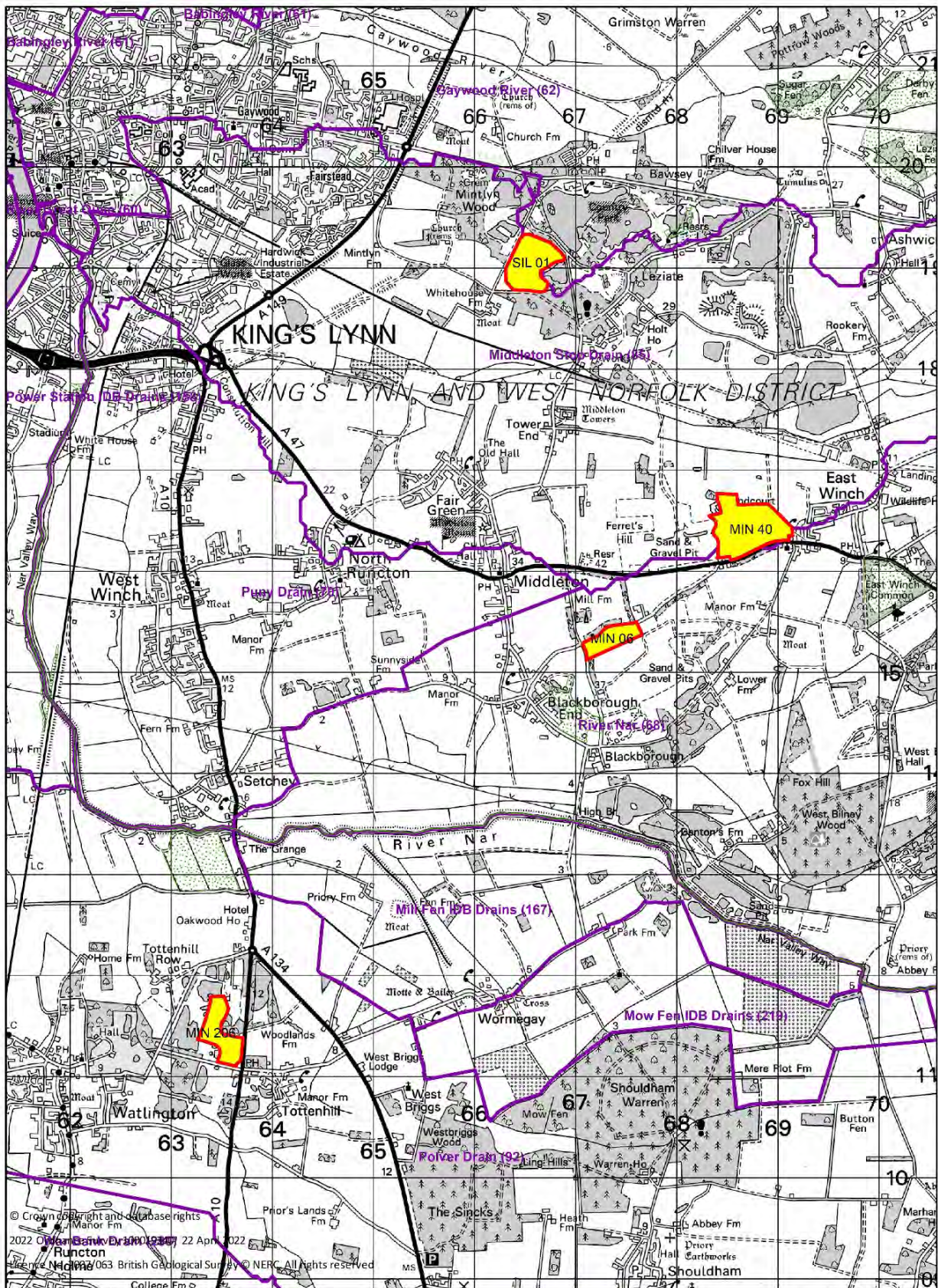
Published: 2022

Broadland sites – MIN 202 at Attlebridge

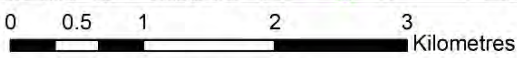


Broadland sites – MIN 37 at Buxton with Lammas, MIN 64 at Horstead with Stanninghall, MIN 65 at Horstead with Stanninghall, MIN 96 at Spixworth

Broadland sites – MIN 37 at Buxton with Lammas, MIN 64 at Horstead with Stanninghall, MIN 65 at Horstead with Stanninghall, MIN 96 at Spixworth



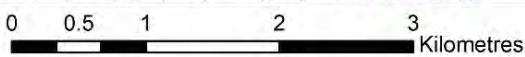
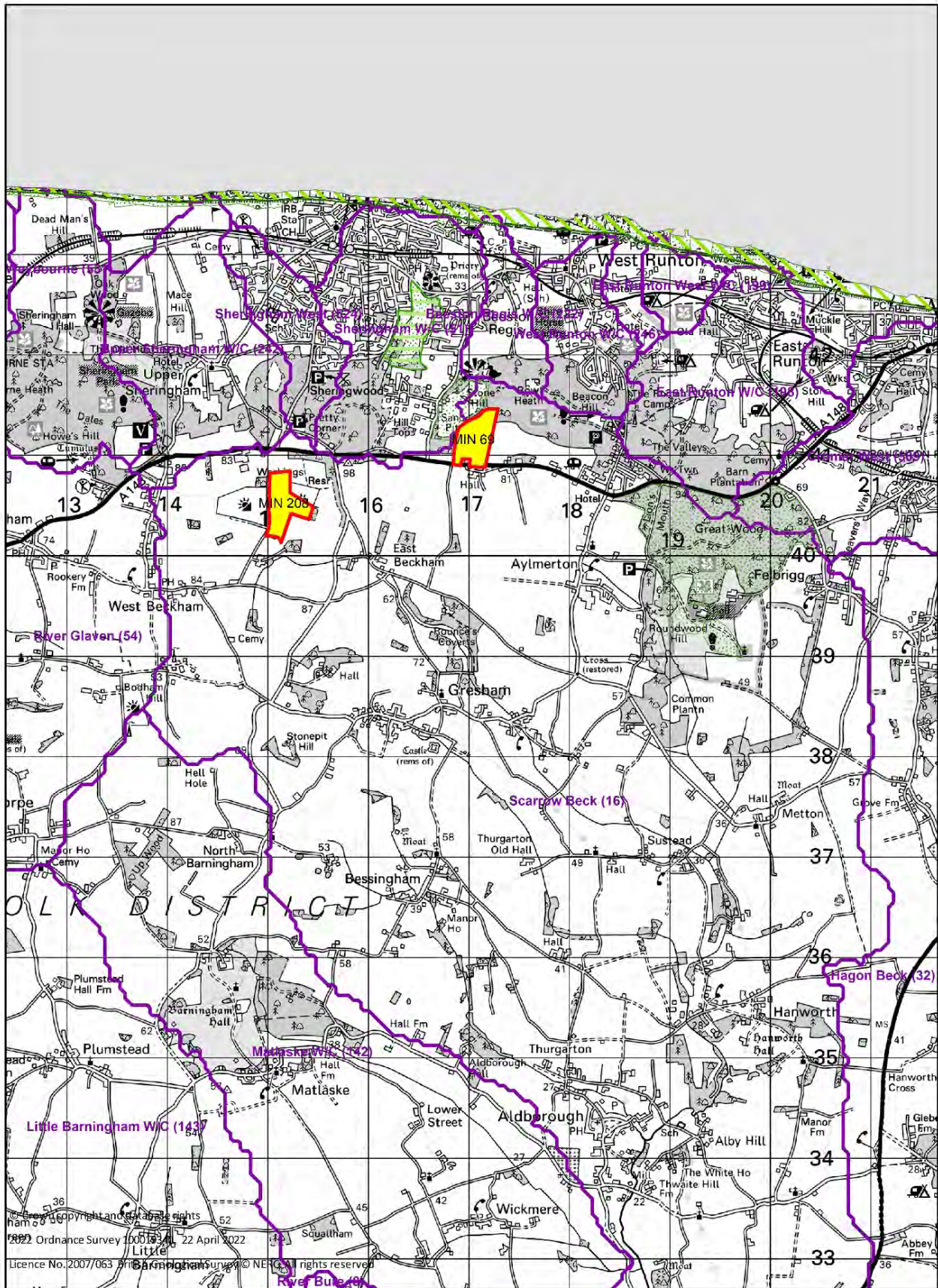
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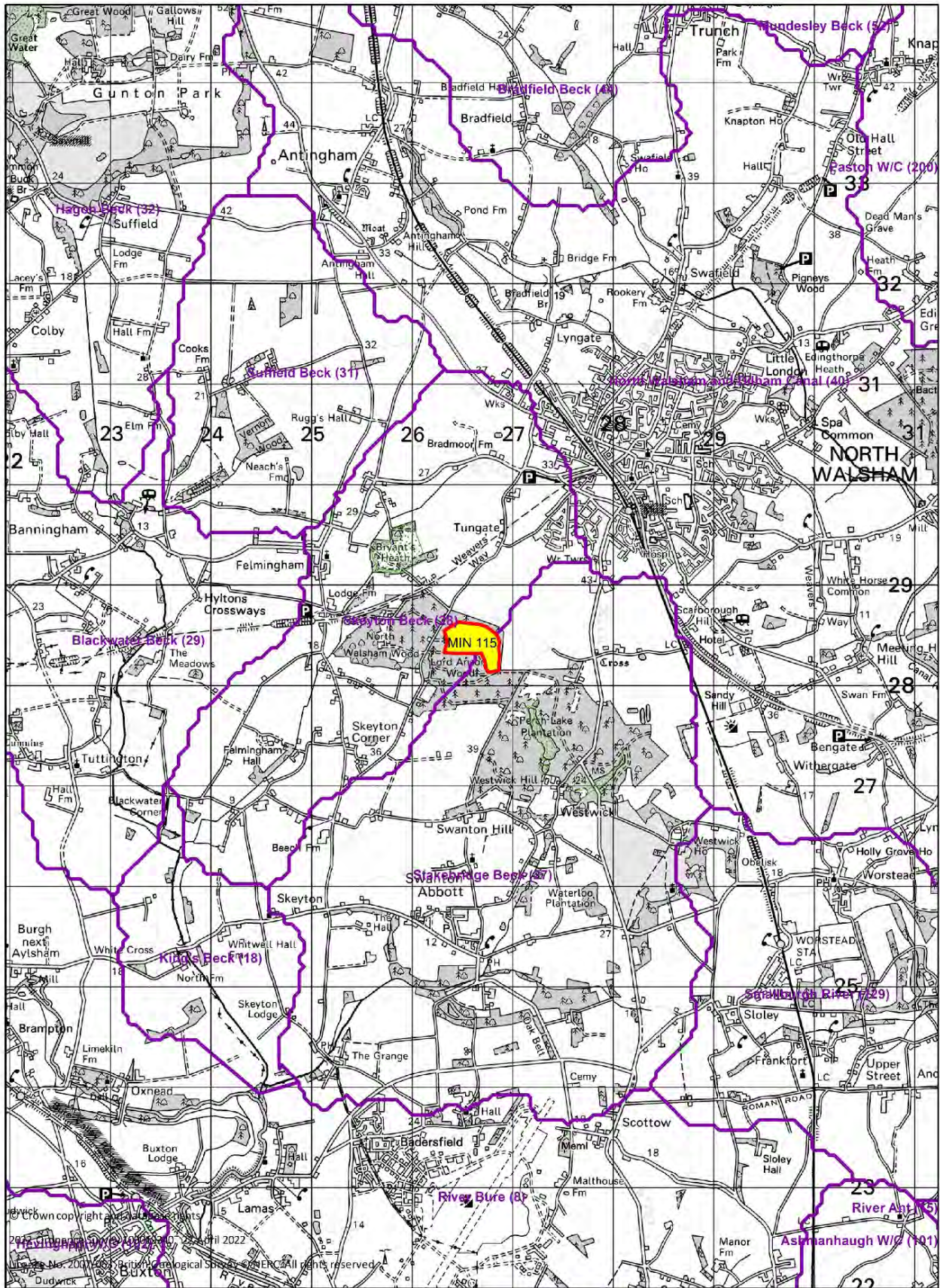
King's Lynn and West Norfolk sites – MIN 06 at Middleton, MIN 40 at East Winch, MIN 206 at Tottenhill, SIL01 at Bawsey



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North Norfolk sites – MIN 69 at Aylmerton, MIN 208 at East Beckham



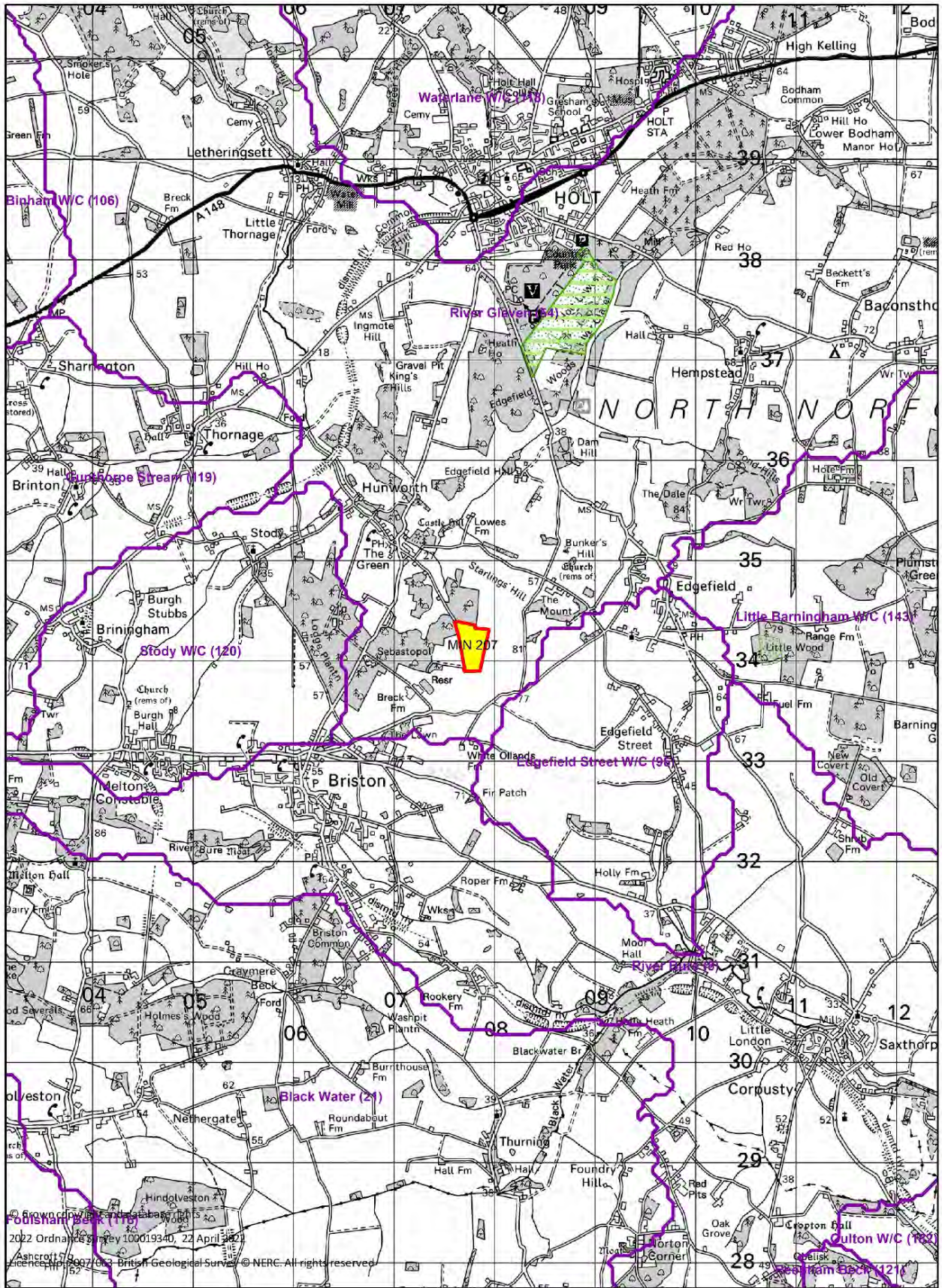
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North Norfolk sites – MIN 115 at North Walsham



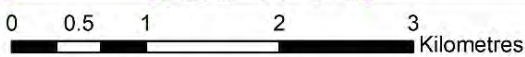
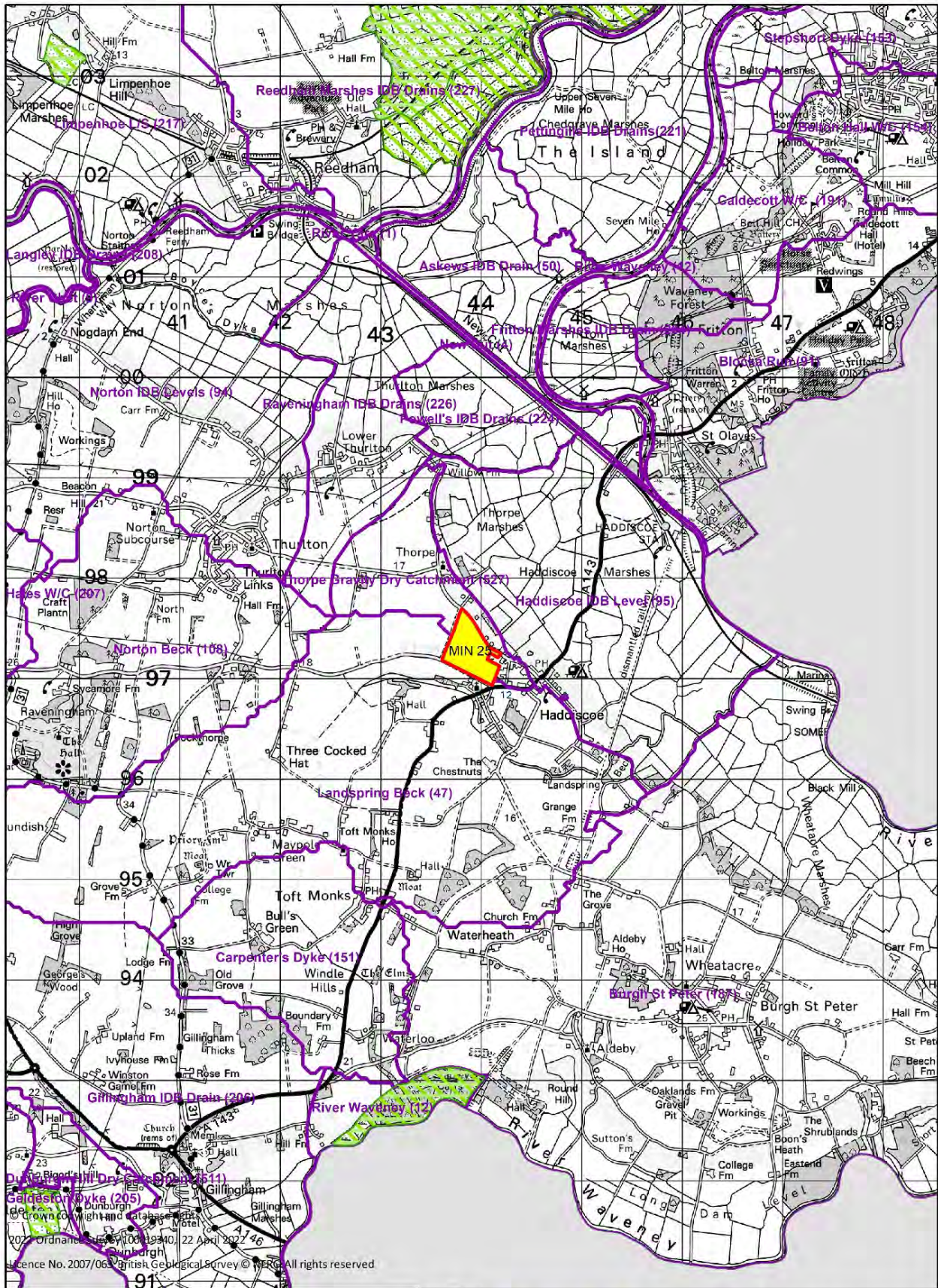
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North Norfolk sites – MIN 207 at Edgefield



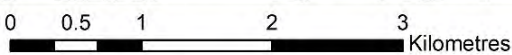
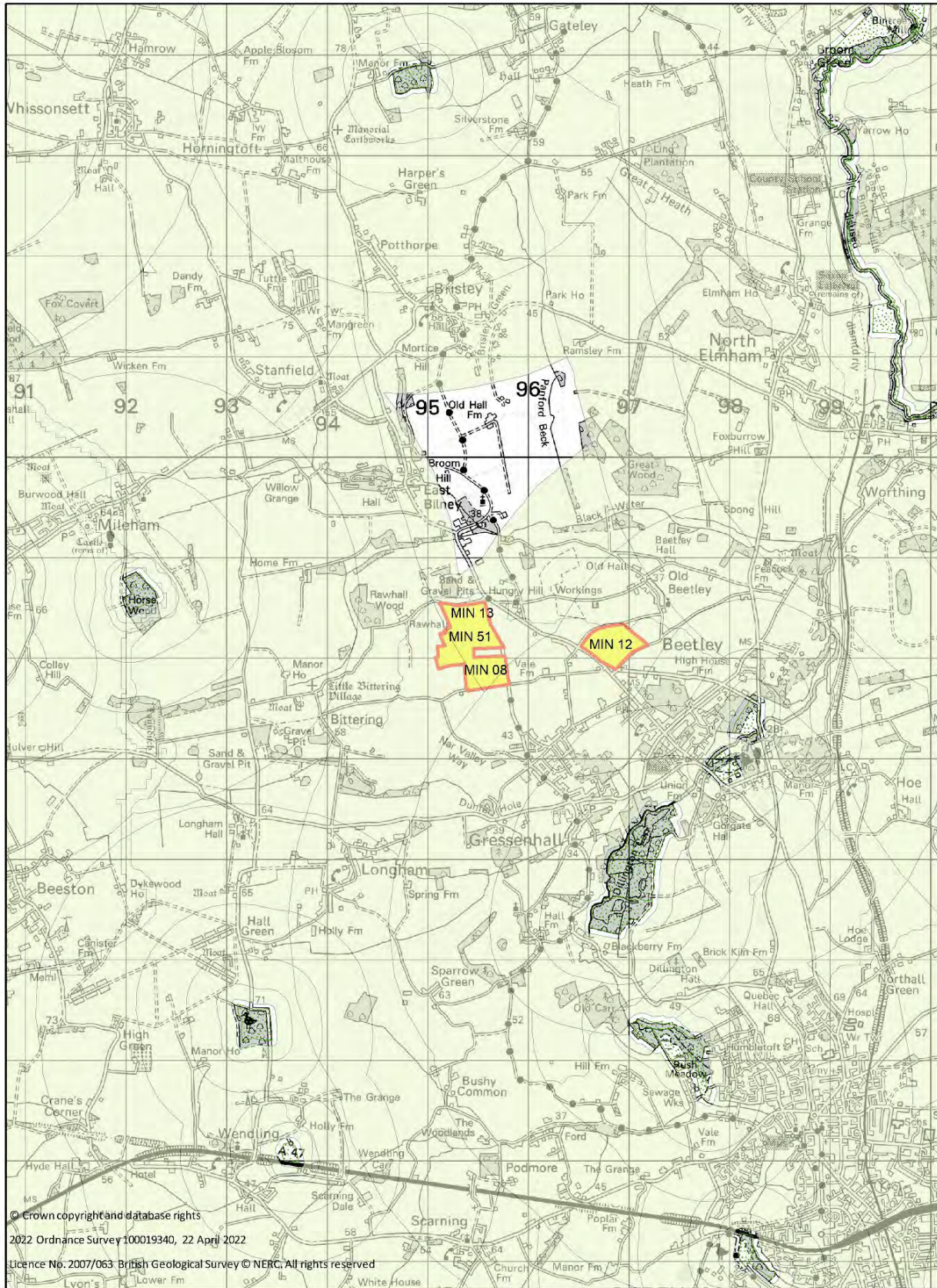
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South Norfolk sites – MIN 25 at Haddiscoe

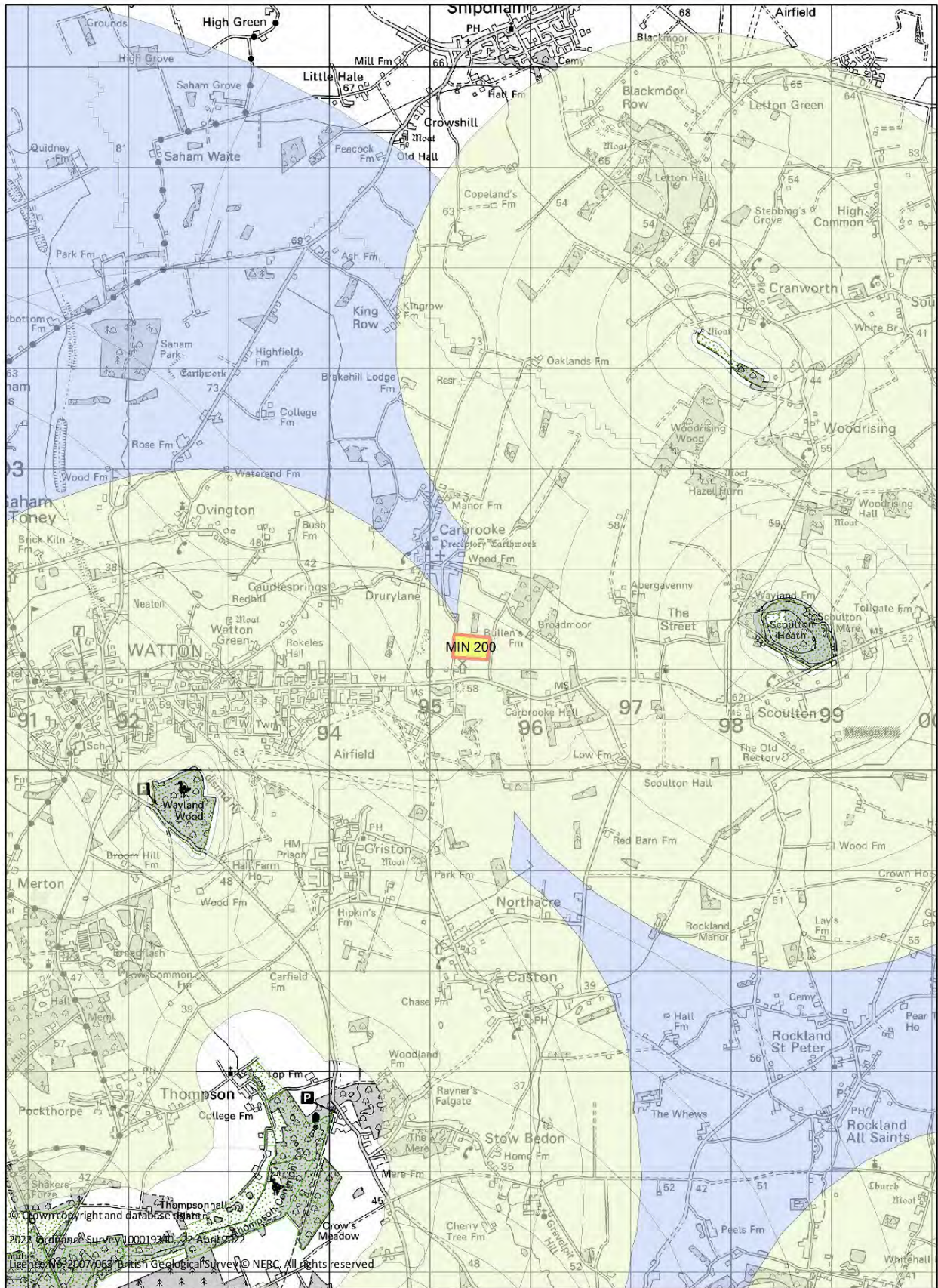
Part 2 – Sites of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones



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Breckland sites – MIN 08, MIN 12, MIN 13 and MIN 51 at Beetley



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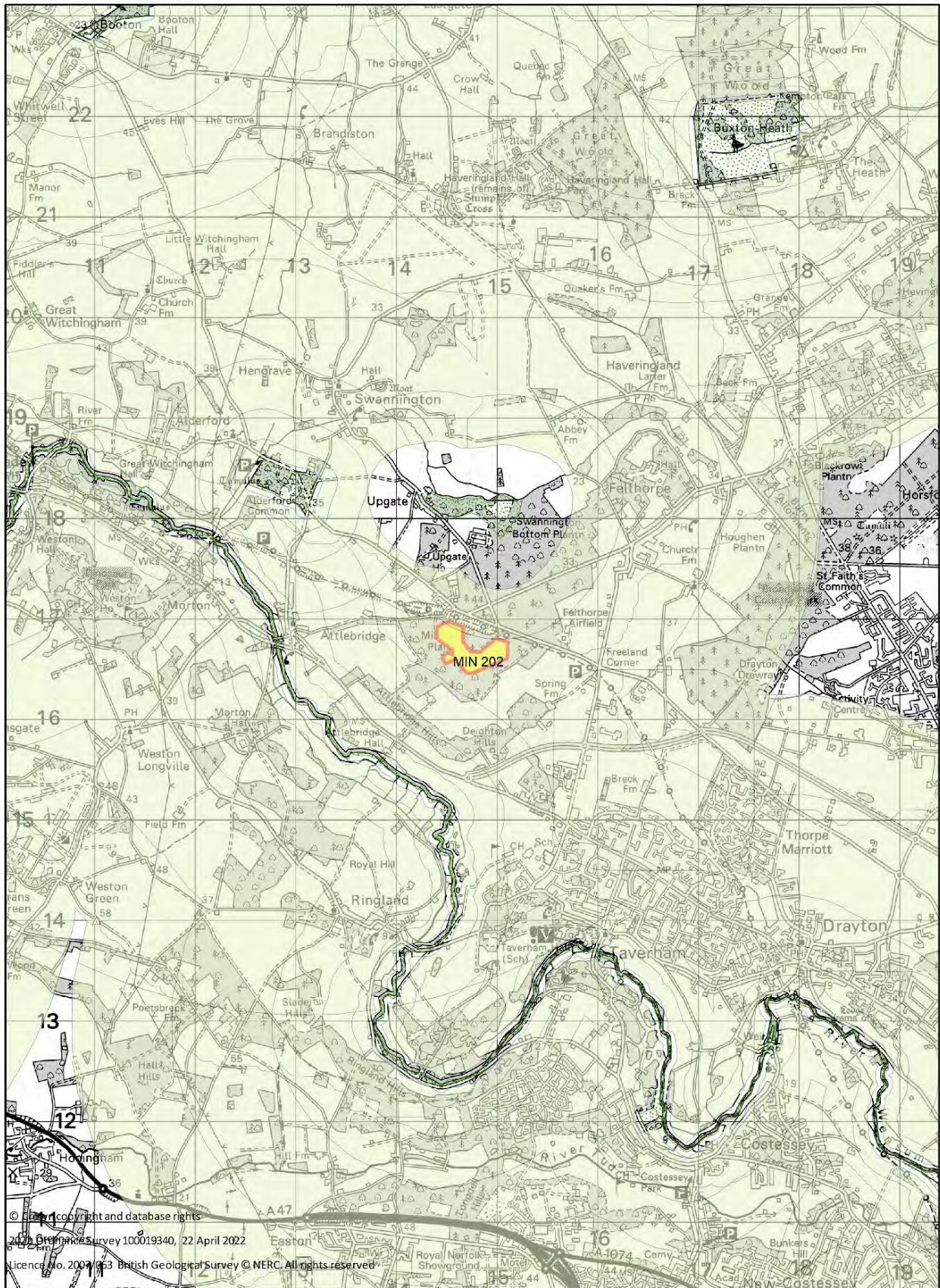
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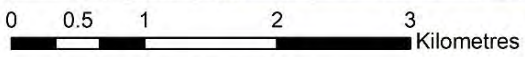
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Breckland sites – MIN 200 at Carbrooke



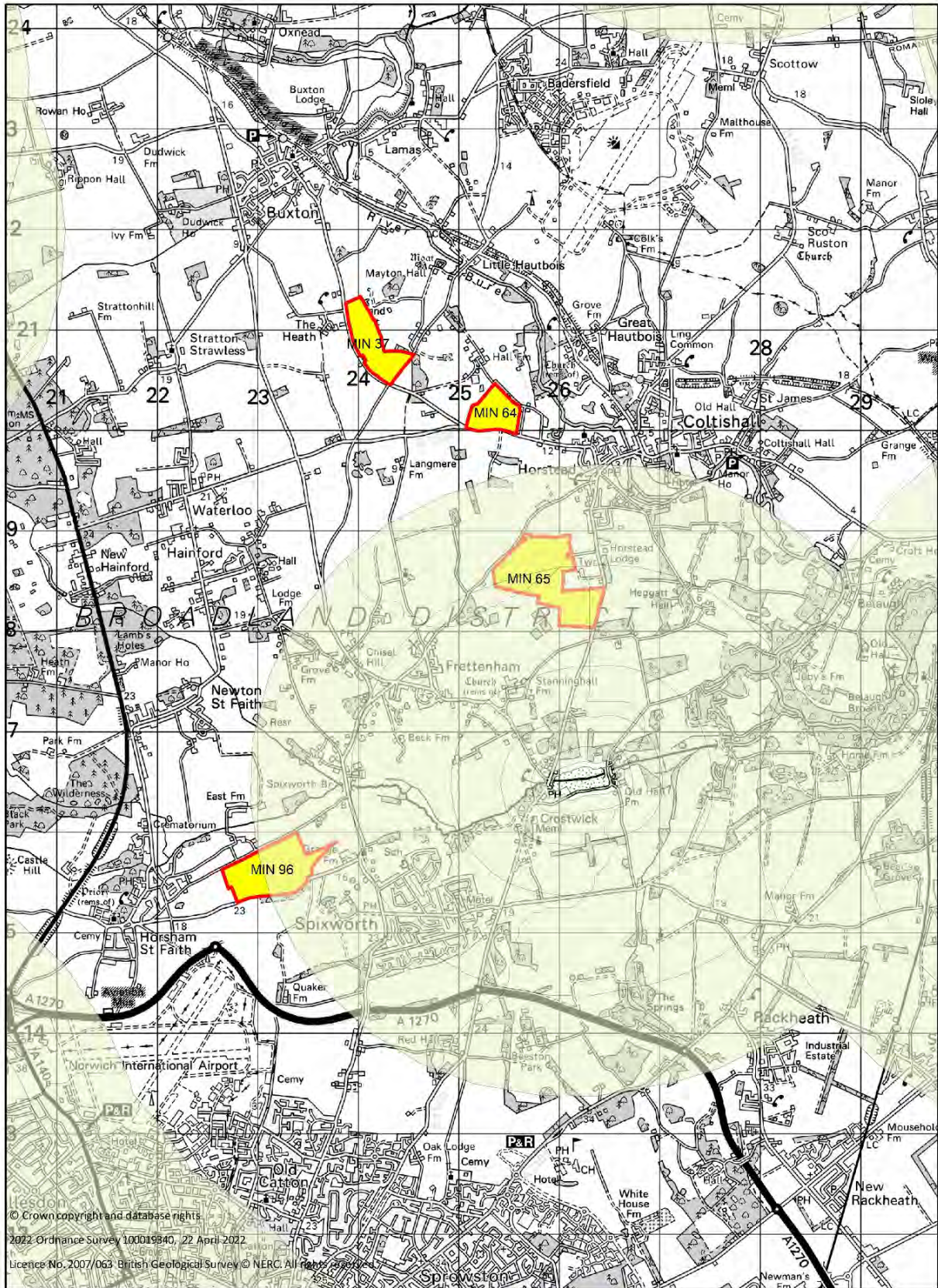
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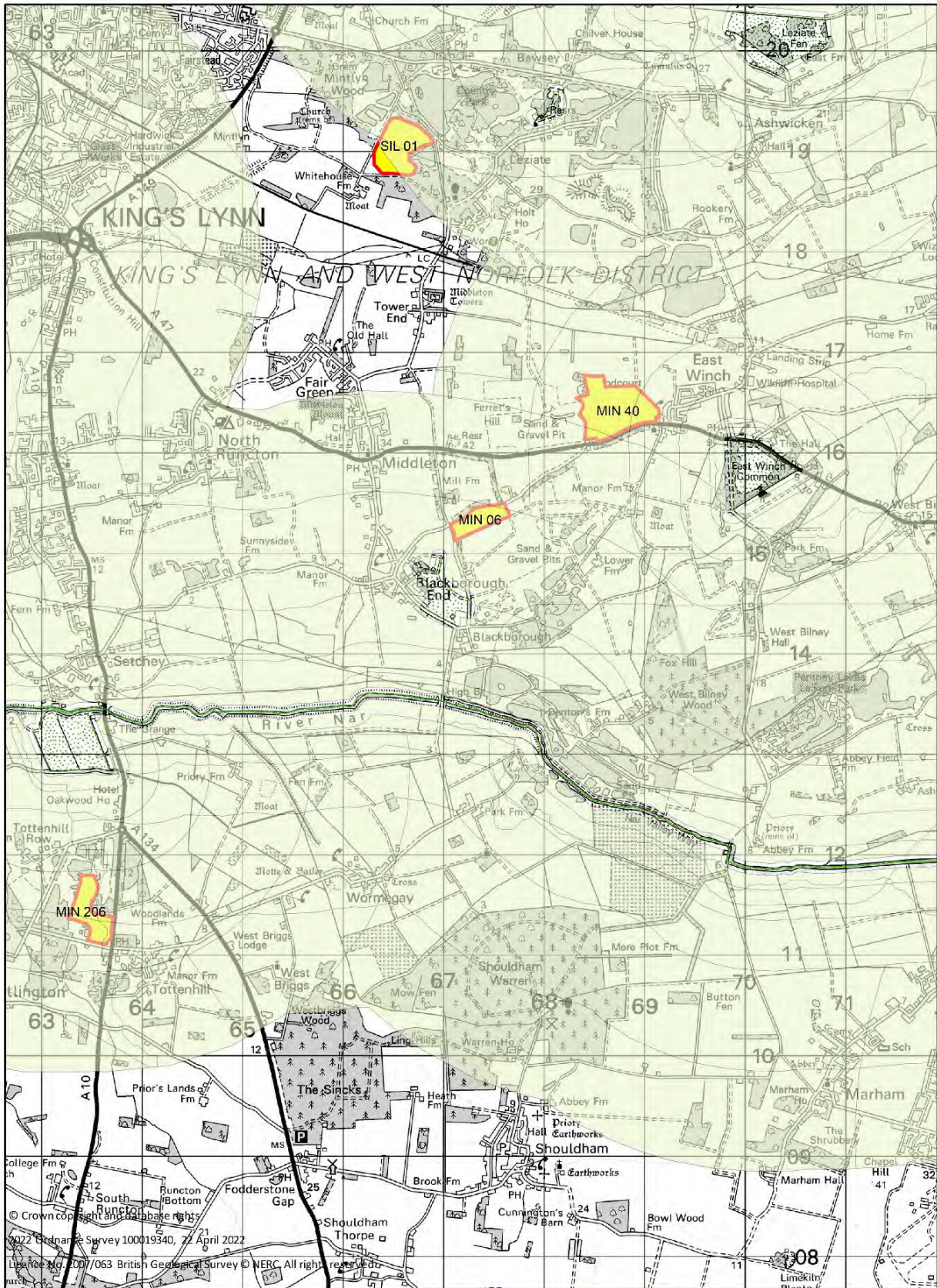
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Broadland sites – MIN 37, MIN 64 at Horstead with Stanninghall, MIN 65 at Horstead with Stanninghall, MIN 96 at Spixworth



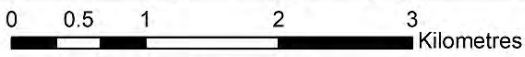
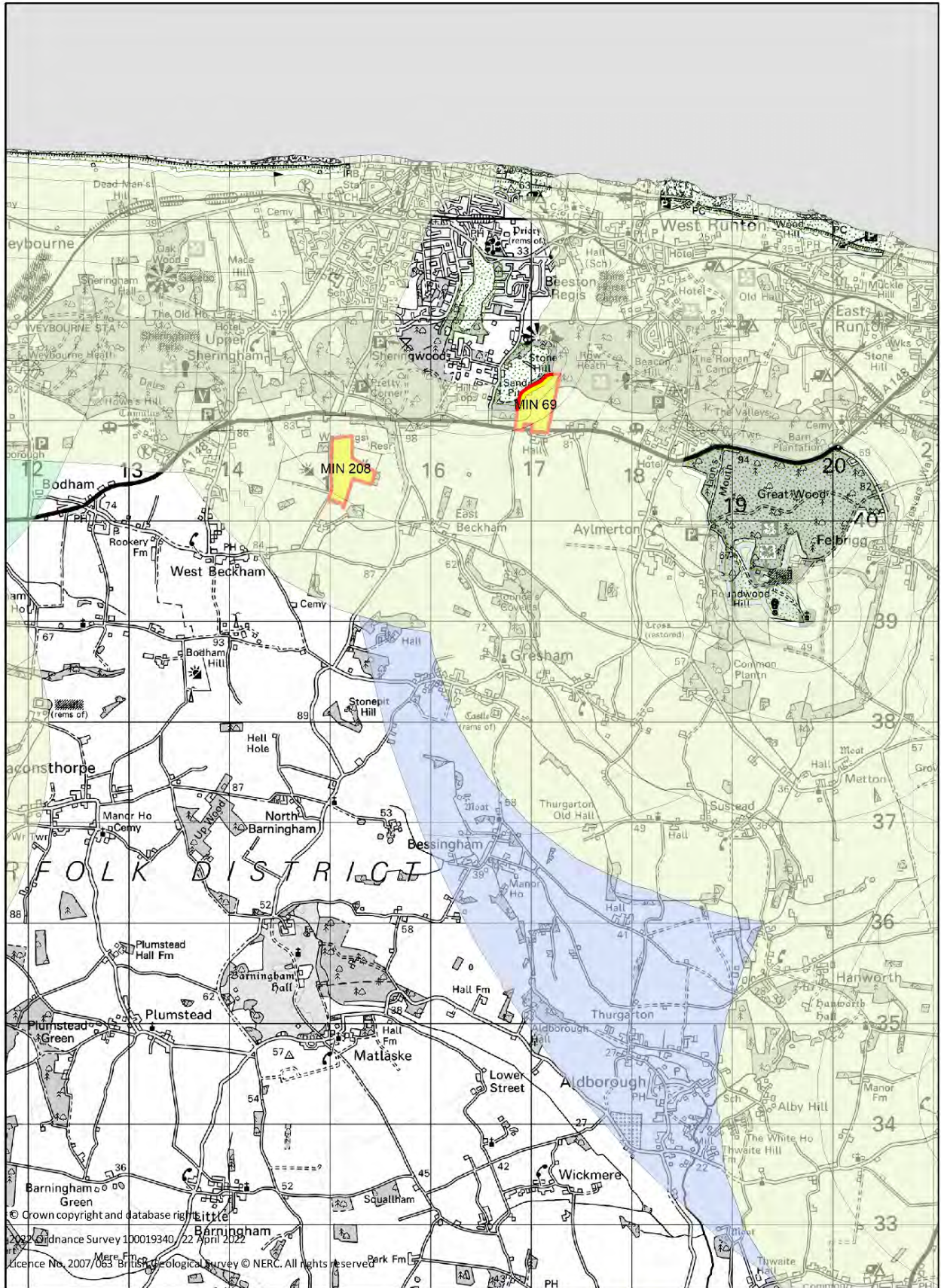
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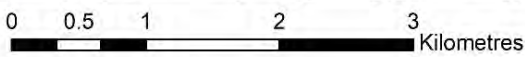
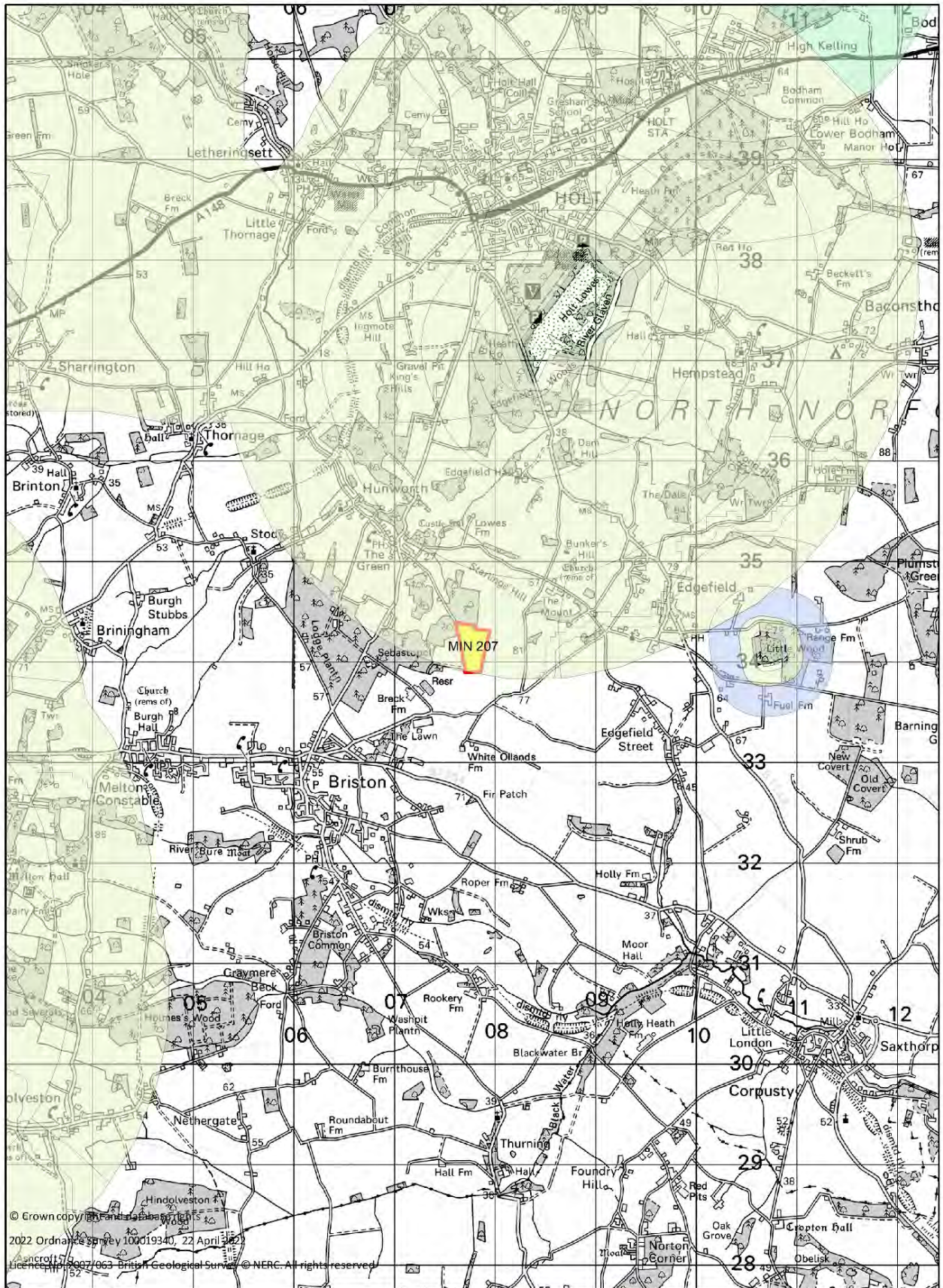
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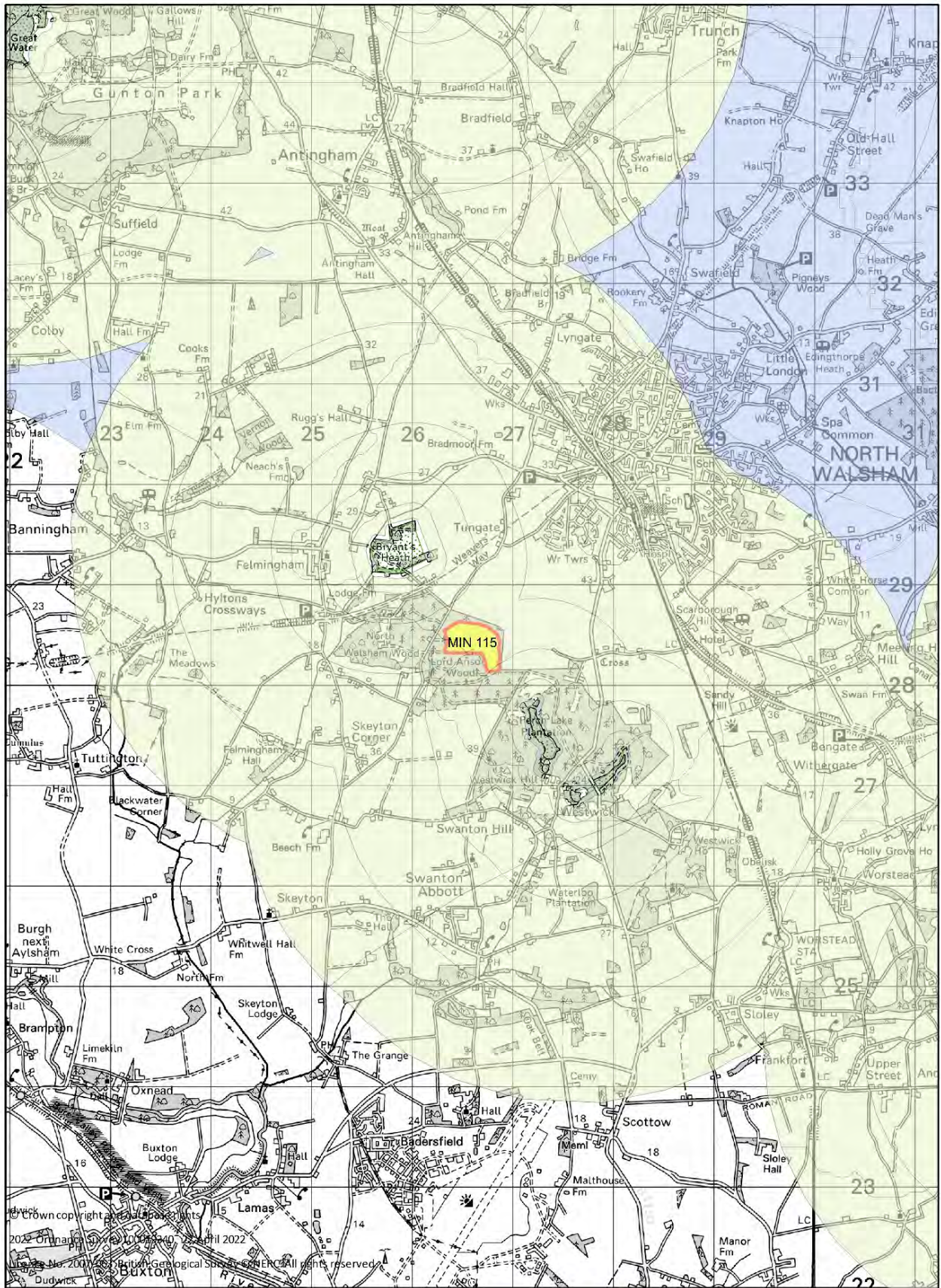


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North Norfolk sites – MIN 207 at Edgefield

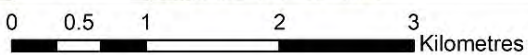
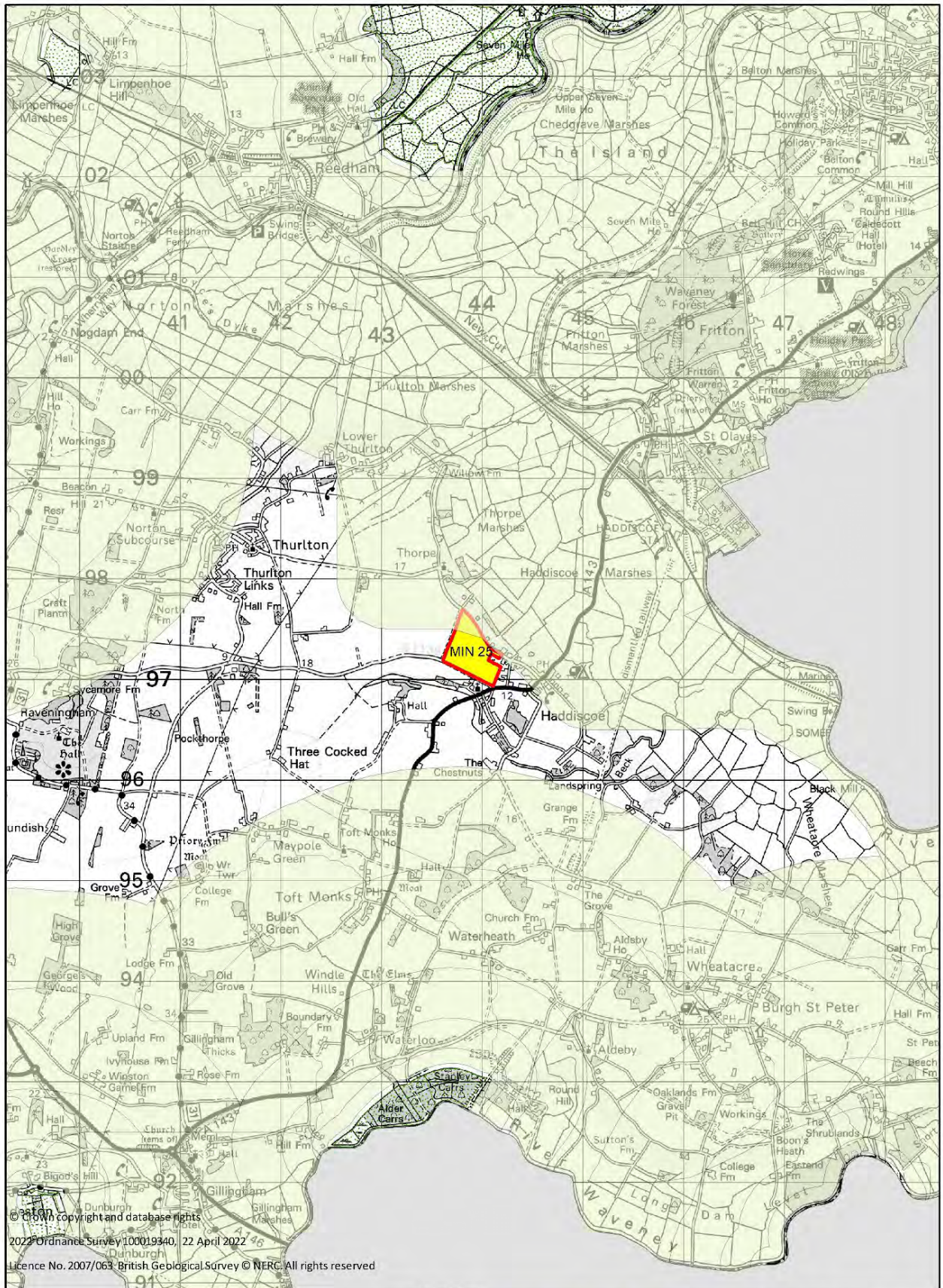


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