



Norfolk County Council

Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Local Plan Route Mapper Toolkit Part 2: Local Plan Form and Content Checklist

Norfolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan

www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf

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Introduction

Why you should use this part of the toolkit

The following table sets out a checklist of the key requirements for the content and form of local plans as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Guidance to supplement the NPPF is set out within [National Planning Practice Guidance](#), which is regularly updated by the Government. You should review relevant sections of the National Planning Practice Guidance and consider any implications for your policies. You should also be mindful of Written Ministerial Statements which form material considerations in plan-making.

This part of the Toolkit will assist by informing all plan making stages, including any visioning and scoping exercises seeking to ascertain what the plan should cover. It should be applied before consultation or publication of a local plan update. This will help to ensure that you have considered all of the key plan-making requirements in preparing your plan in accordance with the NPPF.

This part of the toolkit deals only with the local plan content requirements specified in the NPPF. Toolkit Part 1 provides more detail on carrying out a review of the need to update policies within your plan. Toolkit Part 3 sets out the process requirements for local plan preparation as set out in legislation and the NPPF. Soundness and Plan Quality issues are dealt with in Toolkit Part 4.

How to use this part of the toolkit

Record the results of your assessment against the checklist for the following plan making stages:

Scoping your policies update: The checklist can be used to determine the scope of your local plan policies update and ensure that content requirements are addressed. You can work through each section of the table to determine:

- whether the provision is relevant to your local plan policies update/ planning context of your local authority area(s); and then
- consider whether your local plan policies update will need to address these content requirements or identify whether they are contained in other documents that form the development plan in your area.

Assessing your draft policies update: The checklist can also be used to ensure that your emerging draft policies update is adequately addressing content requirements of national planning policy. You can work through each section of the table to determine:

- whether the provision is relevant to your local plan policies update/planning context of your local authority area(s); and then
- if it is, whether your draft local plan policies update addresses these content requirements (or identify whether they are contained in other documents that form part of the development plan in your area).

How to use the results of this part of the toolkit

This checklist is to help you review your policies and/or develop an update to these where required. There is no requirement to publish or submit this table to the Planning Inspectorate. However, you may find it (or some elements) helpful to assist you in demonstrating how the policies update does/does not accord with the NPPF.

General Requirements

1. Include any relevant material that is set out in a government policy statement(s) for the area for example a national policy statement(s) for major infrastructure and written ministerial statements.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 5, 6

Assessment results: The content, policies and site allocations of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (NM&WLP) have had regard to the local and national planning context, as summarised in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the NM&WLP. Local, national and international Plans, programmes and strategies and their relevance to the NM&WLP are also considered in the Sustainability Appraisal Report Part A - Scoping Report (February 2022) (document A3.1).

It should be noted the NPPF was revised in September 2023, however the changes do not affect the references in the plan to the previous 2021 version, and given the submission of the plan and background documents was imminent as of September 2023, the references throughout the submission to the NPPF have not been changed at this point.

A number of written Ministerial Statements have been made regarding unconventional hydrocarbons, however; there are no hydraulic fracturing consents nor any exploration licenses that have been granted in Norfolk.

On 16 March 2022 a letter was sent out from Natural England about advice for development proposals that have the potential to affect water quality in such a way that adverse nutrient impacts on designated habitats sites cannot be ruled out. In Norfolk, this concerns the protected habitats of the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation and the Broads Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar site. This guidance has been taken into account in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the NM&WLP.

2. Contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 7, 8, 9, 16

Assessment results: The Initial Consultation document (2018) (document C4.1) included policy MW1 'Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development'. However, this policy duplicated the NPPF and is no longer required to be included in Local Plans (Paragraph 036 of the 'Plan-making' Planning Policy Guidance). Therefore, this policy was deleted in the Preferred Options document (C9.1) and replaced by section 5 in the NM&WLP which covers the presumption in favour of sustainable development. (The subsequent policies were renumbered in the Publication version of the NM&WLP).

The Strategy – Vision and Strategic Objectives (section 4) of the proposed NM&WLP encompass the overarching objectives of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). These are interdependent and pursued in mutually supportive ways, whilst meeting the purposes of the plan, to plan for a steady and adequate supply of minerals, and the forecast growth in waste arisings. The NM&WLP policies will meet the forecast need for sand and gravel, carstone, and silica sand, as required by paragraph 213 of the NPPF while ensuring no unacceptable adverse impacts result from mineral extraction, while providing for net gains including to biodiversity through high quality restoration. It will also meet the forecast growth in waste arisings over the Plan period, in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, while ensuring unacceptable adverse impacts do not result from waste management, and that development provides for biodiversity net gains.

Section 5 of the NM&WLP sets out the supporting text with regards to achieving sustainable development.

Paragraph 5.3 affirms that when considering development proposals, Norfolk County Council will take a positive approach to minerals development and waste management development that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF, which is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The NM&WLP has been informed by Sustainability Appraisal (SA) throughout. The SA has supported the selection of options for the spatial strategy and site allocations and policies have been assessed against the SA objectives and have been developed in line with the strategic objectives of the NM&WLP.

3. Apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 11

Assessment results: When considering development proposals, Norfolk County Council will take a positive approach to minerals development and waste management development that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF, which is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The presumption in favour of sustainable development is set out in section 5 of the NM&WLP. All plans and decisions should promote a sustainable pattern of development as defined in paragraph 11 of the NPPF,

- Strategic Policy MP1 (provision of mineral extraction) of the NM&WLP sets out the quantities of mineral to be planned for and the methodology used is in accordance with national guidance and paragraph 213 of the NPPF. This is the objectively assessed need for mineral in Norfolk over the Plan period.
- There are 17 minerals site specific allocations, these sites would provide sufficient mineral to meet the forecast need for sand and gravel, and carstone over the Plan period. For silica sand insufficient sites have been put forward by the mineral operator to meet the forecast need without likely adverse impacts to areas or assets afforded protection through policies in the NPPF that would demonstrably outweigh the benefits and/or provide a strong reason for non-allocation.
- Strategic policy MPSS1 (silica sand extraction sites) sets out the requirements that planning applications for silica sand extraction on unallocated sites would need to meet in order to be developed in locations which would meet the presumption in favour of sustainable development.
- Strategic Policy WP1 (waste management capacity to be provided) sets out forecast arisings of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW), commercial & industrial waste (C&I), and inert waste. Sufficient capacity currently exists to meet the forecast growth in arisings. Policies WP10 (residual waste treatment facilities), WP11 (disposal of inert waste by landfill) and WP12 (non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfill) all contain requirement to ensure that waste is managed in accordance with the waste hierarchy.
- Policy MW1 sets out the Development Management Criteria that will be taken into account when reaching a decision on a particular planning application to ensure that permitted sites represent sustainable development (Paragraph 6.8).
- Strategic Policy MW3 (climate change mitigation and adaption) requires proposals to take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- Strategic Policies MP2 and WP2 sets out the spatial strategy for minerals extraction and waste management developments respectively. These policies state that development 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 via appropriate transport infrastructure. These distances from the locations of the main markets for minerals and the main source waste arisings accord with sustainable development principles.
- Strategic Policy MP10 (mineral safeguarding areas and mineral consultation areas) ensures that mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised and best use is made of finite resources so that sufficient resources remain for future generations.
- Strategic Policy MP11 safeguards port and rail facilities for the bulk transport of minerals because non-road transportation of mineral offers reductions in carbon emissions in comparison with HGV transportation but require specialised facilities.

4. Provide a positive vision for the future; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 15

Assessment results: Section 4 sets out a clear and aspirational vision as to what the County will be like at the end of the plan period as a result of implementing the Plan. The Vision has been developed through consultation with stakeholders and reflects the aims and objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan and

other key strategies and delivery plans. It also sets out the Strategic Objectives which are the basis of the Plan policies.

5. Plans should be:

Aspirational and deliverable

Contain clear and unambiguous policies

Accessible through the use of digital tools

Serve a clear purpose avoiding duplication

NPPF Paragraph reference: 16

Assessment results: The NM&WLP has been prepared positively, it is based on the objectively assessed need for minerals extraction and waste management capacity, as set out in policies MP1 (provision for minerals extraction) and WP1 (waste management capacity to be provided). The Vision and Strategic Objectives of the plan (section 4) are aspirational and deliverable; they identify the contribution made by mineral extraction to sustainable economic growth in Norfolk, while opportunities for restoration and after use to positively contribute to the enhancement of biodiversity, landscape and restoration of historic features are encouraged. The NM&WLP also contains policies mitigating effects from climate change and minimising the contribution to carbon emissions by minerals and waste development.

The proposed allocation of mineral extraction sites to meet the identified need for sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand are for sites which, following assessment, are deliverable in principle. To deliver the shortfall in forecast silica sand need on unallocated sites, future planning applications will be assessed using policy MPSS1 (silica sand extraction sites) which will enable deliverable sites to come forward that meet the sustainable development principles.

Where responses received during the Regulation 18 consultation periods identified areas where further clarification on policy interpretation was required, these issues have been addressed to ensure the policies are clear and unambiguous, while avoiding duplication of the NPPF.

The Local Plan, interactive Policies Maps and supporting submissions are all available on the NCC website and follow a set of criteria called the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), which provide recommendations for how to improve web accessibility. For example, Alt text is used to make the Policies Maps, graphs and images accessible online.

Paragraph 6.2 of the NM&WLP reiterates that National Guidance is clear that Local Plans do not need to repeat or reformulate existing national or local policy or duplicate the existing pollution control scheme.

Plan content

6. Include strategic policies to address priorities for the development and use of land. They should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 17, 20

Assessment results: The Local Plan contains 10 strategic policies. In determining which policies are strategic, the Council has followed the guidance in the NPPF and National Planning Practice Guidance in terms of whether a policy is delivering the development strategy, setting an overarching objective or seeking to shape broad characteristics of development.

7. Outline which policies are 'strategic' policies

NPPF Paragraph reference: 21

Assessment results: Strategic policies are identified in the policy title contained in the contents.

- Policy MW3: Climate change mitigation and adaption - STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets the overarching objective for mineral and waste development to mitigate their contribution to and adapt for the effects of climate change.
- Policy WP1: Waste management capacity to be provided – STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets the overarching objective to provide sufficient waste management capacity to meet the forecast growth in waste arisings over the Plan period.

- Policy WP2: Spatial Strategy for waste management facilities – STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets the overarching locational preferences for new or enhanced waste management facilities.
- Policy WP3: Land suitable for waste management facilities – STRATEGIC POLICY. This policy shapes the broad characteristics of waste development by setting out the acceptable land types for waste development to take place on.
- Policy WP17: Safeguarding waste management facilities – STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets an overarching objective to safeguard existing waste management facilities from non-waste development which might otherwise prejudice its continued operation.
- Policy MP1: Provision for minerals extraction – STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets the development strategy to provide for a steady and adequate supply of mineral to meet the forecast need through the allocation of sufficient sites for sand and gravel and carstone, and for silica sand encouraging planning applications, which would address the shortfall in permitted reserves, that are in accordance with the policies in this Plan, including Policy MPSS1.
- Policy MP2: Spatial Strategy for minerals extraction – STRATEGIC POLICY. This policy shapes the broad characteristics of mineral development by setting the locational preferences for new mineral extraction sites.
- Policy MPSS1: Silica sand extraction sites – STRATEGIC POLICY. This seeks to shape the broad characteristics of development for planning applications for silica sand extraction.
- Policy MP10: safeguarding of port and rail facilities, and facilities for the manufacture of concrete, asphalt and recycled materials – STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets the overarching objective to safeguard mineral infrastructure from non-mineral development that potentially could prejudice continued operations.
- Policy MP11: Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas – STRATEGIC POLICY. This sets the overarching objective to safeguard mineral extraction sites and mineral resources from non-mineral development that potentially could prejudice continued operations or sterilise mineral resources.

8. Strategic policies should look ahead over a minimum 15-year period from adoption. Where larger scale developments are proposed that form part of the strategy for the area, policies should be set within a vision which looks further ahead (at least 30 years).

NPPF Paragraph reference: 22, having regard to the transitional provisions at NPPF para 221

Assessment results: Section 1 of the NM&WLP clearly sets out the plan period, which is to the end of 2038. Strategic policies are clearly labelled in the index and the Policy title. The NM&WLP at the beginning of the Local Plan Review period was planned for up to 2036, in line with the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (document B20). However, given the lapse in time in plan production, due to the pandemic and the volume of responses to be processed and considered, the plan period was extended before the Regulation 19 stage, and evidence, forecasts and supply were re-evaluated to ensure that the plan will be in place for a minimum of 15 years from planned adoption. Further delays between the Regulation 19 stage and submission will mean that with adoption in 2024, the Plan period will be a few months under 15 years at adoption. There are ten strategic policies in the NM&WLP and only two of these policies specifically cover the period to 2038 – policy MP1 (provision of minerals extraction) and Policy WP1 (waste management capacity to be provided). All other policies could apply to a longer period if required. The annual Monitoring Reports and Local Aggregate Assessments will provide the ability to regularly assess the performance of the plan policies, particularly regarding waste management capacity compared to waste arisings, permitted mineral reserves and production and any actions that need to be taken as a result.

The majority of mineral extraction sites that are allocated are projected to complete within the plan period. Only mineral projected to be extracted within the plan period has been included in calculating the supply provided by the allocated sites.

There are no larger scale developments proposed in the NM&WLP that would require a vision to look ahead for at least 30 years.

9. Indicate broad locations for development on a key diagram, and land use designations and allocations on a policies map.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 23

Assessment results: The key diagram (page 22 of the NM&WLP) shows the location of the sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand resources in Norfolk; it also shows the location of currently operational mineral extraction sites and larger waste management facilities. The key diagram also includes the allocated mineral extraction sites, the main settlements and market towns, trunk roads, A-roads and railway lines. The key diagram also shows the location of the heritage coast, AONB, Broads Authority area, SSSIs, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites, Environment Agency flood zones 2 and 3, groundwater source protection zone 1, and the stone curlew protection zones around the Breckland SPA.

Note the Key Diagram in the NM&WLP is intended to be used to provide broad locations only due to its scale. Elements such as heritage designations and Mineral Safeguarding Areas can be viewed on the Interactive Map and on the Policies Map (document A2) in the form of 26no. insets at A4 to cover the county.

The spatial strategy for mineral extraction is contained within Policy MP2, the spatial strategy for waste management facilities is contained within Policy WP2 and they are illustrated on the key diagram.

10. Strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, and at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 23

Assessment results: The NM&WLP sets out a strategy for minerals and waste management development in Norfolk throughout the Plan Period to the end of 2038. The spatial strategy for waste management facilities is contained within Policy WP2 (Strategic Policy), and the forecast capacity required is contained within Policy WP1 (Strategic Policy). Existing waste management facilities contain sufficient capacity to meet the forecasted growth in waste arisings. Therefore, no allocated sites for waste management are required during the Plan period. Policy WP3 (Strategic Policy) sets out the land types potentially suitable for waste management facilities, for the determination of planning applications for new or enhanced waste management facilities.

Policy MP1 (Strategic Policy) sets out the forecast need for mineral extraction over the Plan period to the end of 2038. The spatial strategy for minerals extraction is contained in Policy MP2 (Strategic Policy). Policy MP1 states that the sand and gravel landbank will be maintained at a level of at least 7 years' supply (excluding any contribution from borrow pits for major construction projects). The landbank for carstone will be maintained at a level of at least 10 years' supply. The landbank for silica sand will be maintained at a level of at least 10 years' supply where practicable.

The shortfall in silica sand is addressed by way of Policy MPSS1 (Strategic Policy) as the previous Preferred Areas and Areas of Search were not a sound approach to continue with, due to the issues brought up in the Regulation 18 Consultation periods, that impacted on deliverability (please refer to the Silica Sand Topic Paper document B1 for further information). Policy MPSS1 sets out the requirements for future planning applications for silica sand extraction to meet in order to address potential planning constraints.

The NM&WLP contains a monitoring framework to monitor the operation of the policies, and highlight any areas where deliverability is an issue.

In addition, each year the Monitoring Reports and Local Aggregate Assessment collate and analyse the available data, including permitted mineral reserves and production and the delivery of additional waste management capacity, to ensure sufficient land is brought forward at a sufficient rate, based on the forecast needs over the plan period.

11. Include non-strategic policies to set out more detailed policies for specific areas.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 18, 28

Assessment results: The Local Plan contains non-strategic policies providing development management policies relating to specific uses/themes, pertaining to minerals and waste development:

- Policy MW1: Development Management Criteria
- Policy MW2: Transport
- Policy MW4: The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species
- Policy MW5: Agricultural soils
- Policy WP4: Recycling or transfer of inert construction, demolition and excavation waste
- Policy WP5: Waste transfer stations, materials recycling facilities, end-of-life vehicle facilities and waste electrical and electronic equipment recovery facilities
- Policy WP6: Transfer, storage, processing and treatment of hazardous waste
- Policy WP7: Household Waste Recycling Centres
- Policy WP8: Composting
- Policy WP9: Anaerobic digestion
- Policy WP10: Residual waste treatment facilities
- Policy WP11: Disposal of inert waste by landfill
- Policy WP12: Non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfill
- Policy WP13: Landfill Mining and Reclamation
- Policy WP14: Water Recycling Centres
- Policy WP15: Whitlingham Water Recycling Centre
- Policy WP16: Design of waste management facilities
- Policy MP3: Borrow pits
- Policy MP4: Agricultural or potable water reservoirs
- Policy MP5: Core River Valleys
- Policy MP6: Cumulative impacts and phasing of workings
- Policy MP7: Progressive working, restoration and after-use
- Policy MP8: Aftercare
- Policy MP9: Asphalt plants, concrete batching plants and the manufacture of concrete products

There are also 17 specific site allocation policies for mineral extraction sites, which are non-strategic policies.

12. Set out contributions expected from development and demonstrate that expected contributions will not undermine the deliverability of the Plan.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 34, 58

Assessment results: There is no Community Infrastructure Levy applicable to minerals and waste development within Norfolk. Any planning obligations that cannot be covered by a planning condition are set out in a section 106 agreement if required (for example for a Bird Hazard Management Plan in perpetuity), and that is dependent on a site by site, and case by case basis.

Contributions may be required as part of offsetting for Biodiversity Net Gain. It is anticipated these will be managed with section 106 agreements, but further guidance will be issued from the government on this issue in time.

The specific site allocation policies set out what is expected from each site in terms of considerations such as highways improvements, based on the information provided during the 'Call for Sites' stage.

13. Local Plans and development strategies are examined to assess if they have been positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 35

Assessment results: PAS toolkit Part 4 has been completed to provide a 'mock' examination of the NM&WLP and provide a plan soundness quality assessment, which looks at whether the NM&WLP has been positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The results of the toolkit indicate that the NM&WLP is sound.

Housing

14. Be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance as a starting point. Any housing needs which cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be taken into account when establishing the amount of housing to be planned for within the plan.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 61

Assessment results: Not applicable

15. Identify the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 62

Assessment results: Not applicable

16. Where a need for affordable housing is identified, specify the type of affordable housing required.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 63

Assessment results: Not applicable

17. Expect at least 10% of the total number of homes to be available for affordable home ownership, unless this would exceed the level of affordable housing required in the area, or significantly prejudice the ability to meet the identified affordable housing needs of specific groups. A minimum of 25% of all affordable homes should be First Homes, subject to the transitional requirements set out in the Planning Practice Guidance.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 65

Assessment results: Not applicable

18. Set out a housing requirement for designated neighbourhood areas which reflects the overall strategy for the pattern and scale of development and any relevant allocations.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 66

Assessment results: Not applicable

19. Identify a supply of specific, deliverable sites for years one to five of the plan period, and specific, developable sites or broad locations for growth, for years 6-10 and, where possible, for years 11-15 of the plan.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 68

Assessment results: Not applicable

20. Identify land to accommodate at least 10% of the housing requirement on sites no larger than one hectare; unless it can be demonstrated that there are strong reasons why the 10% target cannot be achieved.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 69

Assessment results: Not applicable

21. Support the development of entry level exception sites, suitable for first time buyers, unless the need for such homes is already being met within the authority's area.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 72

Assessment results: Not applicable

22. Support the supply of homes through utilising masterplans, design guides and codes where appropriate to support larger scale developments.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 73

Assessment results: Not applicable

23. Include a trajectory illustrating the expected rate of housing delivery over the plan period, and requiring a buffer of 10% where the local planning authority wishes to demonstrate a five year supply of

deliverable sites through an annual position statement or recently adopted plan.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 74

Assessment results: Not applicable

24. Be responsive to local circumstances and support rural housing developments that reflect local needs.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 78

Assessment results: Not applicable

25. Identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 79

Assessment results: Not applicable

26. Avoid the development of isolated homes in the countryside unless specific circumstances are consistent with those set out in the NPPF.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 80

Assessment results: Not applicable

Economy

27. Create conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 81

Assessment results: The policies are positively prepared and to create conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt.

Whilst paragraph W1.13 of the NM&WLP sets out that sufficient capacity already exists in Norfolk to accommodate the forecast growth in waste arising over the Plan period to 2038 and therefore it is not considered necessary to allocate any waste management sites in the Plan, the NM&WLP contains criteria-based policies to be used to determine any planning applications that are submitted for new or extended facilities to provide flexibility for waste management businesses.

17no. minerals extraction sites have been proposed to be allocated. These sites were submitted with the support of landowners and a mineral operator, and represent deliverable sites to support the mineral industry, and wider economic growth. There are sufficient allocations of sand and gravel and carstone to meet the forecast need for the Plan period. Policy MP1 (Provision for minerals extraction) states that mineral extraction for sand and gravel outside of allocated sites will be resisted by the Mineral Planning Authority unless the applicant can demonstrate an overriding justification and/or overriding benefit for the proposed extraction and the proposal is consistent with all other relevant policies set out in the Development Plan, which provides certainty, but allows for circumstances where business can invest, expand and adapt should circumstances change.

Policy MPSS1 (silica sand extraction sites) is a criteria-based policy to be used to determine planning applications on sites which have not been allocated for silica sand extraction, to enable suitable sites to be developed to meet the forecast need.

Economic growth is considered in forecasting the need for minerals and waste management capacity. Paragraph 1.6 of the NM&WLP explains an annual growth rate of 1.35% has been used to forecast arisings of commercial and industrial waste which is based on economic growth forecasts for specific business sectors during the Plan period. The business sectors used are consistent with the forecast carried out historically for DEFRA. Construction and demolition waste arisings are forecast to remain constant, in accordance with national planning guidance. Hazardous waste arisings are expected to remain stable throughout the Plan period, based on the most recent time series data for hazardous waste arisings in Norfolk, in accordance with national guidance. The 10-year sales average has been used to forecast the need for mineral extraction during the plan period with 10% added to provide flexibility for future growth.

Through the Sustainability Appraisal process, the potential impact (positive or negative) on employment and economic growth has been assessed for each planning policy option and each proposed site/area for future mineral extraction or waste management.

The monitoring framework will assess the deliverability and effectiveness of the policies in the NM&WLP, highlighting where review may be necessary.

28. Set out a clear economic vision and strategy which positively and proactively encourages sustainable economic growth, having regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 82

Assessment results: The provision of a steady and adequate supply of minerals and the management of waste constitutes essential infrastructure to support the economic development of the county. The purpose and vision of the NM&WLP is to support sustainable economic growth by planning for the forecast need for sand and gravel, Carstone, and silica sand, as required by national planning policy, and set out in the Vision and Strategy (Section 4).

To plan for future waste arisings, national planning policy guidance states that growth projections should be produced. Section W1 in the NM&WLP explains the datasets and methodologies have been used to forecast for future economic growth, and any consequent growth in waste arisings.

Through the Duty to Cooperate (see the Duty to Co-operate Statement for further details), regard has been given to representations, statements of common ground (including the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework), and Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities' various Local Plans and Economic Strategies in terms of their proposed growth strategies. Regular updates to Local Plans and other planning policy and strategy information are shared at regular meetings with Duty to Cooperate Authorities, the East of England Aggregate Working Party (EEAWP), the East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body (EEWTAB) and the Minerals and Waste Learning Project (MWLP). The EEAWP, EEWTAB and MWLP provide information on growth and economic strategies at a greater than county scale.

The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (Part A) (February 2022) lists relevant plans and programmes considered in the Sustainability Appraisal and those that have informed the NM&WLP, including economic plans and strategies produced by the New Anglia LEP.

Finally, it should be noted that the Local Plans produced by Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities are a material consideration in the determination of minerals and waste development planning applications as part of the Development Framework for Norfolk. They contain their own economic policies and designations, which are taken into consideration during the NM&WLP plan-making process.

29. Set criteria, or identify strategic sites, for local and inward investment to match the strategy and to meet anticipated needs over the plan period.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 82

Assessment results: The minerals specific site allocations are part of the strategy to meet the forecast need for minerals over the plan period. Sufficient site allocations are proposed to meet the need for sand and gravel and carstone. A combination of site allocations and Policy MPSS1 to allow appropriate applications on unallocated land, are proposed to meet the forecast need for silica sand.

There are no waste site allocations, however Strategic Policies WP1(waste management capacity to be provided), WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities) and WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) set out a strategy to meet the anticipated need for waste management capacity over the plan period. There is sufficient waste management capacity within existing sites to meet the forecast growth in waste arisings over the Plan period.

30. Seek to address potential barriers to investment, such as inadequate infrastructure, services or housing, or a poor environment.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 82

Assessment results: The NM&WLP is proposing to allocate mineral site allocations which have been

proposed by landowners with the support of mineral operators and then been subject to detailed assessment to ensure appropriate allocations which are deliverable and meet the forecast need. The shortfall in appropriate silica sand allocations will be met through encouraging applications which meet the requirements of policy MPSS1 and so will be appropriate and deliverable.

31. Be flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices (such as live-work accommodation), and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 82

Assessment results: Flexibility has been built into the calculations for forecast sand and gravel and carstone need that underpin Strategic Policy MP1 (provision for minerals extraction). This is accomplished by increasing the forecast need based on the 10-year rolling average of production by an additional 10% per annum. For applications for aggregate extraction on unallocated sites the proposed developer will need to provide an overriding justification or benefit for the proposed extraction. There is flexibility in policies MPSS1 (silica sand extraction sites), WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities), WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities), MP1 (provision for minerals extraction) and MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction) to ensure suitable minerals and waste sites that come forward can be permitted, when markets or economic circumstances require it.

32. Recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors. This includes making provision for clusters or networks of knowledge and data-driven, creative or high technology industries; and for storage and distribution operations at a variety of scales and in suitably accessible locations.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 83

Assessment results: Minerals by nature can only be extracted where they are physically found, and areas with readily accessible mineral resources are mainly in rural locations. Policy MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction) identifies preferred locations for specific sites for sand and gravel and carstone extraction to be within mineral resource areas and in proximity or well-related to urban areas or main towns as these will be the main markets for aggregate mineral. For silica sand the market is outside the county; therefore sustainable transport modes are important. This is coupled with the need for silica sand for industrial purposes such as glassmaking to be subject to significant processing and blending for use as a feedstock. Therefore, Policy MP2 identifies a preference for locations which are well related to the existing silica sand processing plant and railhead at Leziate.

Waste facilities should be located in proximity to urban areas and main towns, close to where the waste is generated and be accessible via appropriate transport infrastructure. Policies WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities), WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) and MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction) provide location requirements for minerals and waste management developments.

There are also policies which address specific types of minerals and waste developments, such as WP6 (Hazardous waste), WP11 (Disposal of inert waste by landfill), WP12 (Non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfill), WP14 (water recycling centres), MP3 (Borrow Pits) and MP4 (Agricultural or potable water reservoirs) and MP9 (asphalt plants, concrete batching plants and the manufacture of concrete products).

33. Enable the sustainable growth and expansion of all types of business in rural areas, both through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new buildings.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 84

Assessment results: By their nature, minerals extraction sites are usually in rural areas and while they create or safeguard rural jobs, as temporary development minerals sites are not the types of permanent new rural businesses or enterprises envisaged by paragraph 84. Nonetheless, minerals development in rural areas can lead to ancillary economic activities, and appropriate schemes will be supported.

Waste management sites are located in both urban and rural areas. Some waste uses – particularly activities such as composting and anaerobic digestion – are better suited to rural environments and can contribute to the diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses and are in many cases permanent

development. This is recognised in Policy WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities) and Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities).

34. Enable the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 84

Assessment results: Mineral operations are by nature temporary and most of the specific site allocations for mineral extraction are on agricultural land. Policies MW5 (agricultural soils), MP4 (Agricultural or potable water reservoirs), MP7 (progressive working, restoration and afteruse) and WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) enable the continuation, development and diversification of agricultural and forestry businesses.

The National Planning Policy for Waste (2014) states planning authorities should identify, in their Local Plans, sites and/or areas for new or enhanced waste management facilities in appropriate locations, including giving priority to the re-use of previously developed land, sites identified for employment uses, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages; this is included in Policy WP3.

Policy MW5 (Agricultural soils) seeks to continue to preserve good quality agricultural land, which will benefit the economy as well as Norfolk's landscape. There is flexibility in the policy to allow for development and diversification if the benefit of restoring the land to another after-use can be shown to outweigh the loss of the agricultural use of the land.

Policy MP4 allows proposals for agricultural reservoirs or potable water reservoirs with incidental mineral extraction involving off-site removal of minerals, subject to conditions. These developments can increase the resilience of agricultural business to drought and reduce water abstraction from rivers in the summer months.

35. Enable sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments which respect the character of the countryside.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 84

Assessment results: Once extracted and restored, former minerals sites in rural areas may provide locations for tourism related activities. Relevant appropriate restoration schemes will be supported in accordance with Policies MW1 (development management criteria) and MP7 (progressive working, restoration and afteruse). However, tourism after uses would generally be determined by the appropriate Local Planning Authority (not Norfolk County Council) in accordance with their Local Plan policies regarding sustainable rural tourism and leisure developments, unless specifically part of a restoration scheme.

36. Enable the retention and development of accessible local services and community facilities, such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 84

Assessment results: Not applicable

37. Recognise that sites to meet local business and community needs in rural areas may have to be found adjacent to or beyond existing settlements, and in locations that are not well served by public transport.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 85

Assessment results: Minerals by nature can only be extracted where they are physically found. The industry and processes by nature are mainly in rural areas. Waste facilities are located in proximity to urban areas and main towns, close to where the waste is generated. Policies WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities), WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) and MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction) provide a spatial location and/or land type requirements for the different minerals and waste management policies. These policies seek to locate minerals and waste management facilities within five miles of one of Norfolk's urban areas or three miles of one of the main towns and be accessible via appropriate transport infrastructure.

Policy WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities) recognises that due to their characteristics, certain types of facilities will be acceptable in locations more distant from the urban areas or main towns, if they are close to the source of the waste, or the destination of the recovered waste material.

There are policies which address the locations for specific types of minerals and waste developments, such as WP6 (Hazardous waste), WP11 (Disposal of inert waste by landfill), WP12 (Non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfill), WP13 (landfill mining and reclamation), WP14 (water recycling centres), MP3 (Borrow Pits) and MP4 (Agricultural or potable water reservoirs) and MP9 (Concrete batching and asphalt plants).

Town Centres

38. Define a network and hierarchy of town centres and promote their long-term vitality and viability.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 86

Assessment results: Not applicable

39. Define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, and make clear the range of uses permitted in such locations.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 86

Assessment results: Not applicable

40. Retain and enhance existing markets and, where appropriate, re-introduce or create new ones.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 86

Assessment results: Not applicable

41. Allocate a range of suitable sites in town centres to meet the scale and type of development likely to be needed, looking at least ten years ahead.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 86

Assessment results: Not applicable

42. Where suitable and viable town centre sites are not available for main town centre uses, allocate appropriate edge of centre sites that are well connected to the town centre.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 86

Assessment results: Not applicable

43. Recognise that residential development often plays an important role in ensuring the vitality of centres and encourage residential development on appropriate sites.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 86

Assessment results: Not applicable

Healthy and safe communities

44. Achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which promote social interaction, are safe and accessible, and enable and support healthy lifestyles.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 92

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) requires proposals for minerals and waste developments to demonstrate they would not have an unacceptable impact on local amenity and health, the quantity and quality of water, Public Open Space, Public Rights of Way, and outdoor recreation facilities. Policy MW1 also states that development proposals must conserve, and where opportunities arise provide enhancement of the PROW network, the creation of recreational opportunities where possible and incorporate good design.

Policy MW2 (Transport) requires proposals which increase traffic to demonstrate consideration of other road users, including cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians; and appropriate measures to reduce car travel to the site by workers and visitors and encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport.

Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and afteruse) states that preference will be given to restoration that enables access links to public rights of way and national trails where appropriate and that restoration proposals must demonstrate that opportunities have been taken to improve public access where appropriate.

It is considered the policies in the NM&WLP should mitigate the potential for unacceptable adverse impacts on health and amenity, including for protected characteristic groups, in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.

45. Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 93

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) requires proposals for minerals and waste developments to demonstrate they would not have an unacceptable impact on Public Open Space, Public Rights of Way, and outdoor recreation facilities. Policy MW1 also states that development proposals must conserve, and where opportunities arise provide enhancement of the PROW network and the creation of recreational opportunities where possible.

46. Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 93

Local recreation assets, including Public Open Space and other outdoor facilities such as country parks, are protected in the District, Borough, City and The Broads Authority's Local Plans. Open Access Land is designated through the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Minerals and waste management proposals will be expected to mitigate any unacceptable impact on such designations through Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria). Policy MW1 also states that development proposals must conserve, and where opportunities arise provide enhancement of the PROW network and the creation of recreational opportunities where possible.

Policy MW1 also requires proposals for minerals development or waste management development to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on local amenity and health. The specific site allocation policies for mineral extraction sites require the submission of noise and dust assessments and a programme of mitigation measures to deal appropriately with any amenity impacts.

Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and afteruse) states that preference will be given to restoration that enables access links to public rights of way and national trails where appropriate and that restoration proposals must demonstrate that opportunities have been taken to improve public access where appropriate.

As part of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework, to foster a closer collaboration between local planning authorities, and other health service organisations to plan for future growth and to promote health, the Planning in Health protocol has been produced between local planning authorities, the Norfolk and Waveney Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health Partners and Public Health Norfolk and Public Health Suffolk.

As part of Norfolk County Council's adopted 'National and Local Validation Requirements for Minerals and Waste Planning Applications (June 2023) (the 'Local List'), a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is required for major/strategic development to consider the health impacts of proposed development. It also assesses the impact of a development on health, existing services and facilities.

47. Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 93

Assessment results: Not applicable

48. Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 93

Assessment results: Not applicable

49. Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 93

Assessment results: Notwithstanding the proposed specific site allocations; Policy WP2 (Spatial Strategy for waste management facilities) and Policy MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals development) identify areas based on a hierarchy of settlements across which an appropriate scale of minerals and waste development should be located, subject to planning constraints including the Broads Authority area, SSSIs, SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites, ancient woodland and designated heritage assets. Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) includes previously developed land and land allocated for or in existing general industrial use, or storage and distribution use as suitable for waste management facilities.

50. Consider the social, economic and environmental benefits of estate regeneration.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 94

Assessment results: Not applicable

51. Plan positively to meet school place requirements and to encourage development which will widen choice in education.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 95

Assessment results: Not applicable

52. Work proactively and positively with promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to plan for public service infrastructure.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 96

Assessment results: Not applicable

53. Promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 97

Assessment results: The Local Plan has consulted the relevant Prescribed bodies, including the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, part of The Ministry of Defence. Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) requires development proposals to demonstrate there would not be an unacceptable impact on (f) aircraft safety due to the risk of birdstrike and/or building height and position and on (g) the safety and capacity of the road and any other transport network.

The Crime Prevention Design Advisor and the Health and Safety Executive are consulted during the planning application process for relevant applications. However, national guidance is clear that Local Plans do not need to repeat or reformulate existing national or local policy or duplicate the existing pollution control regime.

54. Provide open space, sports and recreational facilities which meets the needs of the local area. Consider how they can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 98

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) states that mineral development and waste management development proposals must conserve and where opportunities arise enhance the natural environment, including enhancement of the Public Rights of Way network, providing biodiversity net gains and the creation of recreation opportunities where possible.

Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and afteruse) focuses restoration on providing multiple benefits of landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity enhancement through restoration with public amenity value. Previous mineral extraction sites in Norfolk have been restored and then have afteruses which include Country Parks, wildlife reserves, Blue Spaces with water pursuits and holiday parks. While some of these

after uses have been included within the restoration of the mineral site, many have also been granted permission by the Local Planning Authority after restoration has been completed.

55. Protect and enhance public rights of way and access.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 100

Assessment results: Minerals development and waste management proposals will be expected to mitigate any unacceptable impact on public rights of way and access through Policies MW1 (Development Management Criteria) and MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and afteruse). However, planning legislation specifically allows for the stopping up and diversion of PRoWs to allow the surface working of minerals to take place.

Policy MP7 gives preference to proposals that will enable access links to Public Rights of Way and national trails, where appropriate; and states that the restoration proposal must also demonstrate that opportunities have been taken to improve public access, where appropriate, particularly to implement the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan.

Transport

56. Should actively manage patterns of growth in support of objectives in Para 104. Significant development should be focused on locations which are/can be made sustainable. Opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas – this should be taken into account in plan-making.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 105

Assessment results: The Local Plan policies on sustainable transport include policies MW1 (Development Management Criteria) and MW2 (Transport), which encourage the appropriate siting of proposals and the use of non-car travel where practicable.

With regards to waste management sites, the main transport impacts are in relation to the bulk transportation of the waste, not by the transport used by employees to travel to work. However, Household Waste Recycling Centres, where waste is transported to the site in small quantities by local residents, will have a larger number of vehicle movements.

With regards to minerals, the main transport impacts are in relation to the transportation of the mineral, not the transport used by employees to travel to work. Sand and gravel and carstone are generally only used within approximately a thirty mile distance of the extraction site. Therefore, these minerals will only be transported via road. Silica sand is transported greater distances to the north of England for glass manufacture and the majority of silica sand transportation out of Norfolk takes place by rail.

Policies WP2 (spatial strategy for waste management facilities) and MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction), state that operations should be located within 5 miles of one of Norfolk's urban areas or 3 miles of one of the main towns and be accessible by appropriate transport infrastructure. Future minerals and waste applications should be in accordance with these locational requirements. With regards to site allocations, any particular transport constraints needing to be resolved prior to development have been included in the allocation policy requirements.

With regards to certain types of waste facilities (agricultural waste treatment facilities, window (open-air) composting facilities, community composting and small scale local facilities), they will be acceptable in locations more distant from the urban areas or towns, if they are close to the source of the waste.

57. Support an appropriate mix of uses across an area, and within larger scale sites, to minimise the number and length of journeys needed for employment, shopping, leisure, education and other activities.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 106

Assessment results: Policy WP3 (suitable land for waste management facilities) states that a potentially suitable land type for waste management facilities would include land in existing general industrial use (B2

use class) or in existing storage or distribution use (B8 use class) or land allocated for those uses in a local plan.

Policies WP3 and WP4 (recycling or transfer of inert construction, demolition and excavation waste) allow for waste management facilities to be co-located at existing sand and gravel mineral workings, subject to certain restrictions/criteria in ensuring timely restoration of the site, in accordance with the NPPF.

58. Identify and protect, where there is robust evidence, sites and routes which could be critical in developing infrastructure to widen transport choice and realise opportunities for large scale development.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 106

Assessment results: Policy MP10 safeguards existing mineral sites including mineral infrastructure such as railheads and wharves. Silica sand, a nationally significant mineral, is transported greater distances to the north of England for glass manufacture and the majority of silica sand transportation out of Norfolk takes place by rail, from a dedicated railhead and branch line linked to the processing plant. Norfolk has no indigenous hard rock suitable for the manufacture of coated roadstone, the Trowse railhead is safeguarded as the major import facility for roadstone in Norfolk.

Specific site allocation policies state any particular transport constraints needing to be resolved or included prior to mineral extraction taking place.

59. Provide for attractive and well-designed walking and cycling networks with supporting facilities such as secure cycle parking (drawing on Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans).

NPPF Paragraph reference: 106

Assessment results: NM&WLP Policy MW2 (Transport), provides for consideration of other road users and appropriate measures to reduce car travel to mineral sites and waste management sites. Site allocations state specific transport constraints and/or enhancements needing to be resolved prior to development and these are included in that site's policy requirement.

Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) requires minerals and waste management proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the Public Rights of Way Network. Policy MW1 also states that minerals and waste management development proposals must, where opportunities arise, enhance the Public Rights of Way network.

Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and afteruse) gives preference to proposals that will enable access links to Public Rights of Way and national trails, where appropriate; and restoration proposals must also demonstrate that opportunities have been taken to improve public access, where appropriate, particularly to implement the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan.

60. Provide for any large-scale transport facilities that need to be located in the area and the infrastructure and wider development required to support their operation, expansion and contribution to the wider economy.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 106

Assessment results: Not applicable

61. Recognise the importance of maintaining a national network of general aviation airfields.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 106

Assessment results: Within the remit of the NM&WLP, Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) states developments must not have an unacceptable impact on aircraft safety, due to the risk of bird strike and/or building height and position. Paragraphs 6.45 to 6.49 in the NM&WLP provide further detail on the potential hazard to aircraft from birdstrike and the approach taken to safeguarding these sites by consulting the MOD Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Norwich Airport on relevant planning applications.

62. Provide adequate overnight lorry parking facilities, taking into account any local shortages.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 109

Assessment results: Not applicable

63. In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, it should be ensured that: appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be – or have been – taken up, given the type of development and its location; safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users, the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code; and any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 110

Assessment results: The site assessments included the suitability of the site with regard to highways access. Site allocation policies state any particular transport constraints and/or enhancements needing to be resolved or included before mineral extraction takes place, including the use of conveyors and off-road haul routes where applicable. These assessments have been informed by consultation with the Highway Authority and National Highways. Except for Household Waste Recycling Centres, mineral and waste sites, by virtue of their industrial nature, tend to have limited public access to the sites themselves and HGVs are normally the dominant transport for material import and export.

NM&WLP Policy MW2 (Transport), provides for consideration of other road users and appropriate measures to encourage sustainable modes of transport for staff and reduce car travel to the site.

64. Development should only be prevented on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 111

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) and Policy MW2 (Transport) do not refer to the “severe” test explicitly as set out in this paragraph of the NPPF. However, it is considered both policies clearly require there to be no unacceptable impacts arising from development which impact on the capacity and efficiency of the highways network, and do not cause unacceptable risks to the safety of road users and pedestrians by way of individual or cumulative impacts.

Communication

65. Support the expansion of electronic communications networks, including next generation mobile technology (such as 5G) and full fibre broadband connections, setting out how high-quality digital infrastructure is expected to be delivered and upgraded over time.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 114

Assessment results: Not applicable to a Minerals and Waste Plan.

Making efficient use of land

66. Promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, while safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 119

Assessment results: The NM&WLP provides strategic policies to ensure the effective use of land for mineral extraction sites (MP2 – spatial strategy for minerals extraction) and waste management facilities (WP2 – spatial strategy for waste management facilities) and WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities). The general Development Management Criteria policy MW1 provides an effective policy to safeguard and improve the environment and ensure no unacceptable amenity or health impacts. In addition, Policy MP7 (progressive working, restoration and afteruse) sets out the environmental improvements that must form part of the restoration proposals following mineral extraction.

67. Set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or ‘brownfield’ land.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 119

Assessment results: The NM&WLP is only providing for sufficient minerals and waste management provision. Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) requires waste management facilities to be on certain land types, including 'e) 'previously developed (brownfield) land'. This is also in line with the requirements for the National Planning Policy for Waste (2014). As the waste management capacity assessment has concluded that there is sufficient existing waste management capacity to meet the forecast need during the plan period, the NM&WLP does not allocate any sites for new waste management facilities and criteria-based policies will be used to determine any planning applications that are submitted.

Minerals can only be dug where they are found, and the Minerals PPG sets out the guidance for forecasting need. Section MP1 of the NM&WLP sets out the provision for minerals extraction based on the objectively assessed needs. Strategic Policy MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction) sets out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient sites in appropriate locations to meet this need and the NM&WLP allocates specific sites for mineral extraction.

68. Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 120

Assessment results: The nature of minerals extraction is temporary and as it is usually located in the countryside once a site is restored the land is classified as open countryside. These sites will usually be restored to a nature, amenity or agricultural after use; ensuring opportunities to achieve net environmental gains, as set out in Policy MP7 (Progressive restoration, working and afteruse). Policies MW1 (Development Management Criteria) also requires minerals and waste developments to enhance the natural built and historic environment where opportunities arise, including providing biodiversity net gains.

Policy MP7 states restoration and consequent after-use of mineral extraction sites and associated development will be determined on a case-by-case basis. An underlying principle of the policy is that wherever possible restoration should provide enhancements and net gains to the environment and public access. After-use proposals may include agriculture, forestry, ecology, reservoirs, amenity or flood alleviation.

In terms of waste management facilities, Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) and WP4 (recycling or transfer of inert construction, demolition, and excavation waste) allows for waste management facilities to be co-located at existing sand and gravel mineral workings, in accordance with certain restrictions/criteria in ensuring timely restoration of the site, in accordance with the NPPF. This allows for mixed use schemes, where appropriate. Supporting text paragraph W3.1 states that opportunities for integrated waste management will be encouraged where various waste management operations can be co-located to make efficient use of land.

Policy WP11 (Disposal of inert waste by landfill) provides for the situation where inert waste can be used to enable the restoration of former mineral workings to a satisfactory landform and afteruse, where reuse or recycling is not practicable.

69. Recognise that some undeveloped land can perform many functions, such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 120

Assessment results: In terms of mineral site allocation policies, the site assessment considers the existing uses of the site and the potential for enhancement on restoration. Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and afteruse) states that afteruse proposals may include agriculture, forestry ecology, reservoirs, amenity or flood alleviation. Mineral extraction sites which have been restored are considered to be 'open countryside'. Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) directs waste management facilities (other than landfill and water recycling centres) to specific land types which are already developed, permitted or allocated for development, and therefore away from all other types of undeveloped land.

70. Give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs, and support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 120

Assessment results: Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities), requires waste management facilities to be on certain land types, including 'e) previously-developed (brownfield) land'. This is also in line with the requirements for the National Planning Policy for Waste (2014). Policy WP13 (landfill mining and reclamation) sets out the criteria that would need to be met for these operations to take place, including where the site (without intervention) is demonstrated to pose a significant risk to human health or safety and/or to the environment, or where removal of the waste is required to facilitate a major infrastructure project. The weighting would be applied and considered in the planning balance of the planning application.

71. Promote and support the development of under-utilised land and buildings.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 120

Assessment results: The nature of minerals extraction is temporary, and minerals are dug where they are found, so the spatial strategy for mineral extraction is dependent on the geological distribution of mineral resources within Norfolk. Strategic Policy MP2 sets out the spatial strategy for minerals extraction. The mineral site allocation policies consider within the site assessment the current land uses.

Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) requires waste management facilities to be on certain land types, in order to direct suitable development towards specific locations where any impacts can be more easily accommodated. Policy WP3 includes land within or adjacent to redundant agricultural and forestry buildings which is in line with the National Planning Policy for Waste (2014). Opportunities for integrated waste management are encouraged (paragraph WP3.1), where various waste management operations can be co-located to reduce transport requirements and assist improved levels of waste recovery close to the source of the waste.

72. Support opportunities to use the airspace above existing residential and commercial premises for new homes.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 120

Assessment results: N/A

73. Reflect changes in the demand for land.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 122

Assessment results: All extant Local Plan allocations for minerals extraction and waste management developments have been reassessed as part of the site selection process.

Existing waste and sewage management capacity, new waste planning permissions and permitted void space at mineral extraction sites were calculated up to December 2020 in the Waste Management Capacity Assessment (document B2).

Policy WP1 (waste management capacity to be provided) sets out the forecast growth in quantities of waste arisings over the plan period. Criteria-based policies will be used to determine applications for waste management facilities that are submitted during the plan period, providing a flexible approach.

Policy MP1 (Provision for minerals extraction) sets out the forecast mineral need over the plan period, calculated in accordance with the guidelines set out National Planning Policy Guidance and Norfolk's Local Aggregate Assessment data.

Mineral forecasts and supply, and growth in waste arisings and waste management capacity are monitored and re-calculated in a number of documents including the Norfolk Local Aggregates Assessment and Silica Sand Assessment and the Annual Monitoring Report. The NM&WLP also contains a monitoring framework to assess the effectiveness of the Plan policies. Annual Monitoring Reports are also produced by the East of England Aggregates Working Party.

74. Support development that makes efficient use of land, taking into account the need for different types of housing and other forms of development, local market conditions, the availability and capacity of infrastructure and services, the character and setting of the area, and the importance of securing well-designed, attractive and healthy places.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 124

Assessment results: NPPF paragraph 124 relates to appropriate densities, so is more closely related to built development than mineral extraction. The NM&WLP makes reference to making efficient use of land for waste management sites in supporting paragraph W3.1 and Policy WP16 (Design of waste management facilities) bullet point b).

75. Avoid homes being built at low densities where there is an existing or anticipated shortage of identified housing needs, and where appropriate include the use of minimum density standards. Area-based character assessments, design guides, design codes and masterplans are appropriate tools to use to help to ensure land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 125

Assessment results: Not applicable

Design

76. Set out a clear design vision and provide maximum clarity about design expectations through the preparation of design codes or guides consistent with the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences. Design codes and guides can either form part of a plan or be supplementary planning documents.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 127, 128 & 129

Assessment results: There are currently no local design codes, or supplementary planning documents relevant to minerals and waste.

Waste management development proposals will be expected to meet the general design principles set out in Policy WP16 (Design of waste management facilities), and mineral and waste development proposals will be expected to comply with the requirement in Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) to incorporate good design where opportunities arise. Policy MW1 requires proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the character and quality of the area, in which the development is situated through poor design (requirements n) and on the appearance, quality and character of the landscape, countryside and visual environment and any local features that contribute to its local distinctiveness (requirement h).

77. Ensure that developments will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping, are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, establish or maintain a strong sense of place, optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development, and create places that are safe, accessible and inclusive.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 130

Assessment results: Waste management development proposals will be expected to meet the general design principles set out in Policy WP16 (Design of waste management facilities).

MW1 (Development management Criteria) requires proposals to demonstrate there will be no unacceptable impacts on the appearance, quality and character of the landscape, countryside and visual environment and any local features that contribute to its local distinctiveness, the natural, geological and historical environment. Enhancement of the environment will be sought where appropriate, including the enhancement of the Public Rights of Way Network and creation of recreation opportunities, which is also reflected in Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use).

It should be noted that not all of this NPPF paragraph is relevant for the Minerals & Waste Local Plan, as by nature mineral is dug where it is found, usually in the countryside, does not incorporate permanent buildings, and will temporarily affect the local landscape, and will not, by nature necessarily enhance it during the extraction phase. However, schemes have to mitigate impacts through layout and effective landscaping. There is the potential for landscape enhancement on restoration as detailed in Policy MP7.

Where aspects of design are particularly relevant to a site, this has also been mentioned in the specific site allocations policies.

78. Ensure new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments, that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 131

Assessment results: The need for developments to incorporate trees has been included within the requirements of NM&WLP policies MW3 (Climate change mitigation and adaptation), bullet point (f), and MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use), ninth bullet point. For specific site allocations where either the need to retain existing trees or the opportunity for the planting of trees on restoration has been identified, this is included within the allocation policy requirements.

Green Belt

79. Ensure proposals for new Green Belts demonstrate why development management policies would not be adequate, any major changes in circumstances to warrant the creation of a new Green Belt, the consequences for sustainable development, the need for Green Belt to support adjoining areas, and how new Green Belt would meet other objectives of the Framework.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 139

Assessment results: There are no greenbelt designations in Norfolk.

80. Establish the need for any changes to Green Belt boundaries, having regard to their intended permanence in the long term, so they can endure beyond the plan period. Even when exceptional circumstances are demonstrated strategically to take land out of the Green Belt, it is still necessary to demonstrate that exceptional circumstances exist at the site level.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 140

Assessment results: There are no greenbelt designations in Norfolk.

81. Give first consideration to land which has been previously-developed and/or is well-served by public transport, including increasing density within town and cities centres. Set out the ways in which the impact of removing land from the Green Belt can be offset through compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt land.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 141 & 142

Assessment results: There are no greenbelt designations in Norfolk.

82. Where Green Belt boundaries are being defined, they should be clearly outlined and be consistent with the plan's strategy for meeting identified requirements for sustainable development.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 143

Assessment results: There are no greenbelt designations in Norfolk.

Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

83. Take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperature.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 153

Assessment results: The Local Plan Vision prioritises the need to minimise and mitigate the contribution of mineral and waste development on climate change. Minerals and waste development within Norfolk will be designed and located to reduce the risk from climatic effects, such as flooding.

Objectives WS06, WS07 and MS08 address the impacts and mitigation required for climate change.

Detailed policies covering the issues highlighted are contained in Policies MW3 (Climate change mitigation and adaptation), MW1 (Development Management Criteria), bullet point (d) relating to flood risk, WP16 (Design of waste management facilities), bullet point (f) climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, and MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use), ninth bullet point restoration and after-use to take opportunities to retain existing trees, plant new trees and incorporate additional features consistent with climate change mitigation and adaptation.

84. Support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 153

Assessment results: Policy MW3 (climate change mitigation and adaptation) sets out a range of appropriate measures that will be required for new minerals and waste developments. Sand and gravel extraction is classified as being a water compatible use, so is less likely to be impacted by some of the effects of climate change related to the increased risk of flooding. Additionally, mineral extraction sites on restoration may be able to incorporate flood storage and alleviation measures to protect downstream areas; policies MW3 (Climate change mitigation and adaptation) and MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use) highlight these potential benefits. Minerals, such as sand and gravel, silica sand; also play a part in minimising the effects of climate change from non-mineral development through the use of thermal-efficient construction materials, and enhanced glazing.

85. Increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat by providing a positive strategy for energy from these sources, identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and identifying opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 155

Assessment results: Minerals and waste developments have the potential to generate renewable energy and supporting paragraphs 8.7 and 8.8 in the NM&WLP highlight the importance of proposed developments to follow the energy hierarchy by:

1. reducing the need for energy usage through their design, construction and operation;
2. using energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems, and
3. by using renewable energy.

Provision (c) of Policy MW3 (Climate change mitigation and adaptation) expects proposals to set out how the development will make use of renewable energy, including generating the energy used on site from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon sources. Where on-site renewable or low-carbon energy generation is not practicable, evidence must be provided to the County Planning Authority, and the applicant should source the electricity required from renewables through an energy supplier.

Policy WP10 (residual waste treatment facilities) states that “facilities that include thermal treatment of waste must provide for the recovery of energy and, where practicable, heat; and the use of combined heat and power will be encouraged.”

86. Manage flood risk from all sources and apply a sequential, risk based approach to the location of development.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 160 & 161

Assessment results: The NM&WLP has made use of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments carried out by Norfolk’s Local Planning Authorities. Sand and Gravel, and sand extraction is classed as a ‘water compatible’ use for flood risk vulnerability purposes. Carstone extraction and waste management facilities (other than landfill) are ‘less vulnerable’ uses. For the specific mineral sites, assessment of the flood risk has formed part of the appraisal of the sites submitted during the allocation process. Flood risk has been assessed as part of the Sustainability Appraisal using a sequential, risk-based approach consistent with the national methodology (see document A3.2). For mineral and waste planning applications managing flood risk from all

sources of flooding is dealt with in MW1 (Development Management Criteria) and Policy MW3 (climate change mitigation and adaptation).

Policy MP5 (Core River Valleys) requires; amongst other things; that acceptable developments will have to demonstrate that they will not impede floodplain functionality.

In Policy MP7 (progressive working, restoration and afteruse), preference will be given to restoration that reduces flood risk elsewhere.

87. Steer new development to those areas with the lowest risk of flooding from any source. If this is not possible, the exception test may have to be applied, informed by the potential vulnerability of the site and of the development proposed. Where this is the case, sites need to demonstrate that the development would provide wider sustainability benefits outweighing the flood risk and that the development would be safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere (and where possible will reduce flood risk overall).

NPPF Paragraph reference: 162, 163, 164 and NPPF Annex 3

Assessment results: See above regarding mineral extraction and waste management and the flood risk vulnerability of those uses.

Provision (q) of Policy MPSS1 (Silica sand extraction sites) and Provision (d) of Policy MW1 (DM criteria), require the submission of an acceptable site specific Flood Risk Assessment and sequential test demonstrating that the proposed mineral or waste development is located in an area with the lowest risk of flooding from any source.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment from each Local Planning Authority has been used to inform a Flood Risk Sequential Test as part of the Sustainability Appraisal to allocate mineral extraction sites (see document A3.2). As we are not allocating any waste management sites, it has not been necessary to carry out a similar sequential test exercise on the submitted waste management sites during the plan-making process for the NM&WLP.

88. Avoid inappropriate development in vulnerable areas and not exacerbating the impacts of physical changes to the coast.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 171

Assessment results: Site constraints such as Coastal Change Management Areas, including around the Norfolk Coast, have been taken into account when assessing the suitability of specific site allocations and informing strategic policy MW3 (Climate change mitigation and adaptation), bullet point (e).

Assessment of potential specific site allocations considers flood risk both at the site and potential effects on the floodplain, taking a sequential approach to flood risk whilst allowing for the fact that sand and gravel extraction itself is classed a 'water compatible' use in terms of flood risk vulnerability (see document A3.2). Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) considers flood risk when assessing applications for minerals development and waste management facilities along with Policy MW3 (Climate change mitigation and adaptation). No sites for mineral extraction are allocated within a Coastal Change Management Area.

Natural Environment

89. Contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 174

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) states that mineral development and waste management development proposals must demonstrate that they would not have an unacceptable impact on the natural, geological and hydrogeological environment, or on protected landscapes, or the character of the landscape and countryside, or the best and most versatile agricultural land. Policy MW1 also states that development proposals must also conserve and where opportunities arise, enhance the natural environment.

Policy MW5 (Agricultural soils) states that there is a preference for mineral extraction and associated development, and composting facilities on Grades 3b and 4. Development proposed on Grade 1 will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, and for minerals development on Grades 1, 2 and 3a, specified criteria must be met.

Policy MW4 (The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species) requires suitable information to be provided at the planning application stage to ensure the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA or SAC.

Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use) gives preference to restoration of mineral extraction sites which enhances biodiversity and valued landscapes, provides wider benefits such as public access and reinstates the best and most versatile agricultural land.

90. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites, take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure, and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 175

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria), bullet point (l) highlights the hierarchy of internationally, nationally or local designated sites when determining mineral and waste applications. Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use) has a preference for restoration of mineral extraction sites which enhances biodiversity, and green infrastructure corridors and ecological networks.

The process of assessment of the proposed specific site allocations included a Habitats Regulations Assessment. It also included assessment of the potential impacts on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites and site allocation policies include mitigation measures to conserve and enhance such sites (such as dry working above the water table) where required. The process for assessment of the proposed specific site allocations has also considered restoration opportunities for enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure, in particular where these can provide links into the wider landscape; and restoration requirements have been included in site allocation policies.

A statement of common ground has been prepared with Natural England, who requested references and to the Nature Recovery Network in various policies and supporting text.

91. Great weight should be given to National Parks, the Broads and the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited. Development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 176

Assessment results: The NM&WLP makes references to protected landscapes including The Broads, the Heritage Coast and the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, both within the supporting text of the Plan and within policies themselves. The supporting text also contains references to other relevant Plans that form part of the Development Plan for Norfolk, such as the Broads Local Plan

Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria), bullet point (i) requires mineral and waste development proposals to demonstrate they would not have unacceptable impacts on protected landscapes, including The Broads, the Norfolk Coast AONB, and the Norfolk Heritage Coast.

Strategic Policy WP2 (Spatial Strategy for waste management facilities) states that proposed waste management development should not be located with the Broads or the Norfolk Coast AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and where the development is in the public interest.

Strategic Policy MP2 (Spatial Strategy for minerals extraction) states that proposed mineral extraction development should not be located with the Broads or the Norfolk Coast AONB other than in exceptional circumstances and where the development is in the public interest.

Policy WP15 (Whitlingham Water Recycling Centre) states that future improvements will need to minimise adverse environmental and amenity impacts, particularly on the Broads area. The policy at bullet point (c)

states that applications at the WRC will conserve and where opportunities arise, enhance the landscape setting of the Broads.

Specific site allocation policy MIN 69 recognises the whole of the site lies within the Norfolk Coast AONB and the NPPF states that local planning authorities should “as far as practicable, provide for the maintenance of landbanks of non-energy minerals from outside Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty” however, the current site is well screened from public views and the extension site would be similarly screened, so the local landscape impacts are not considered to be significant. Furthermore, a very high-quality restoration proposal for both the existing site, and MIN 69, could offer the possibility of developing a large new area of heathland with greatly improved public access and it is considered there are exceptional circumstances for allowing this mineral development within the AONB.

92. Conserve the special character and importance of Heritage Coast areas.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 178

Assessment results: There are no minerals or waste specific site allocations in the North Norfolk Heritage Coast (can be viewed on the interactive proposals map). The entirety of the North Norfolk Heritage Coast is within the Norfolk Coast AONB.

Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria), bullet point (i) requires mineral development and waste management development to not have unacceptable impacts on protected landscapes, including The Broads, the Norfolk Coast AONB, and the Norfolk Heritage Coast. Policy MW1 also states that development proposals must also conserve, and where opportunities arise, enhance the natural, built and historic environment and surrounding landscapes.

93. Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species, and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 179

Assessment results: The NM&WLP identifies and maps habitats of international, national and local importance on the Policies map. International habitat designations are also mapped on the Key Diagram.

Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) states that minerals development and waste management development must demonstrate that they would not have an unacceptable impact on the natural, geological and hydrogeological environment. It also states that development proposals must conserve and where opportunities arise, enhance the natural environment including providing biodiversity net gains.

Policy MW4 (The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species) requires suitable information to be provided at the planning application stage to ensure proposals will not adversely affect the integrity of the SPA or SAC.

Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use) gives preference to restoration schemes that conserve and enhance Norfolk’s biodiversity including priority habitats and species, contribute to green infrastructure corridors and ecological networks.

With regards to site allocations for mineral extraction, any opportunities to create priority habitats, enhance networks of habitats and green infrastructure through restoration have been included in the site allocation policy.

94. Ensure that a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions, any risks arising from land instability and contamination, and the likely effects of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 183 & 185

Assessment results: Mineral extraction by its nature generally takes place in the open countryside, in areas which have suitable ground conditions for extraction. Site investigations as part of mineral extraction applications would identify any land instability or contamination issues which would be addressed by extraction and subsequent restoration.

Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) sets out the types of land that would be acceptable for waste management facilities to direct developments to appropriate locations, including land in existing general industrial use and previously developed (brownfield) land, in accordance with the National Planning Policy for Waste. There is the potential for industrial land and brownfield land to be contaminated. Compliance with Policy MW1 would be required for all planning applications.

Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) requires development proposals to ensure they would not have an unacceptable impact on:

- Local amenity and health (including noise levels, odour, air quality, dust, litter, light pollution and vibration);
- 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;
- The capacity of existing drainage systems;
- 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;
- The best and most versatile agricultural land;
- Land stability;
- The natural, geological and hydrogeological environment (including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats)

Where relevant, specific site allocation policies make specific reference to the need to mitigate impacts on local amenity.

95. Sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 186

Assessment results: Norfolk has four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) which are all located within urban areas, and related to exceedances of nitrogen dioxide; which are referenced in NM&WLP paragraph 3.18. Therefore, no proposed specific site allocations for mineral extraction are within or in close proximity to any AQMAs.

Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria), bullet point (a) states that mineral development and waste management development proposals need to demonstrate that they would not have an unacceptable impact on air quality, dust and health. Policy MW1 specifically refers to cumulative impacts in combination with other existing or permitted development.

Policy MW2 (Transport), bullet point (c) states that HGV movements from mineral and waste developments will be satisfactory if they do not generate unacceptable impacts on air quality (with particular reference to potential breaches of National Air Quality Objectives and impacts on any AQMAs).

Policy MPSS1 and the site allocation policies reference the need for compliance with the other NM&WLP policies, and where there may be potential impacts to amenity such as dust emissions, then the requirement for assessments and appropriate mitigation are specifically included in the policy.

96. Ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses and community facilities.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 187

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) ensures development would not have an unacceptable impact, specifically including cumulative impact in combination with other existing or permitted development.

The Agent of Change principle (NPPF paragraph 187) is referred to several times through the NM&WLP, particularly in the safeguarding minerals and waste policies (Policy MP10, MP11 and WP17).

Policy WP3 (land suitable for waste management facilities) sets out the types of land that would be acceptable for waste management facilities to direct developments to appropriate locations.

Policy MPSS1 and the site allocation policies reference the need for compliance with the other NM&WLP policies, and where there may be potential impacts to amenity such as dust emissions, then the requirement for assessments and appropriate mitigation are specifically included in the policy.

Historic Environment

97. Set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 190

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) sets out a positive strategy in accordance with the NPPF, including striking an appropriate balance between harm and public benefit, with as a first principle avoiding harm on the historic environment wherever possible. Any application for mineral or waste management development where archaeological assets are either known or are likely, based on the potential within the landscape, must be accompanied by an appropriate archaeological assessment. The archaeological assessment would identify the preferred mitigation for developments affecting archaeological assets which may either be preservation of the archaeological remains in situ, or where in situ preservation is not justified, preservation by record before or during development.

Where there are heritage constraints and/or opportunities relevant to the specific site allocations, they are included in the site allocation policies and were assessed in the Sustainability Appraisal process. Most of the site allocation policies require the submission of an archaeological assessment and a heritage statement at the planning application stage.

Through consultation with Historic England, Heritage Impact Assessments were carried out for proposed specific site allocations MIN 25 and MIN 96, to identify potential impacts on heritage aspects, and propose appropriate mitigation.

Minerals

98. Provide for the extraction of mineral resources of local and national importance.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: The main elements of Para 210 are all included in the NM&WLP.

The NM&WLP has forecast mineral need over the plan period based on the methodology within the NPPF and NPPG; which is set out in Strategic policy MP1 (Provision for minerals extraction). Sand and gravel and carstone forecasts are based on the rolling ten-year sales average and other relevant information and is in accordance with the Local Aggregate Assessment. For sand and gravel and carstone; the forecast need is derived from the 10-year sales average plus an additional 10% to allow flexibility and to take into account other relevant information. The forecast need for sand and gravel minus the amount of existing permitted reserves at 31/12/2020 is 12.6m tonnes. The proposed specific site allocations contain an estimated 18.2m tonnes of sand and gravel resources, with 15.4m tonnes available during the plan period. The current landbank is over 7 years and the allocations would provide sufficient mineral to maintain this during the Plan period. The landbank would be subject to annual monitoring through the Local Aggregate Assessment.

The forecast need for carstone minus the amount of existing reserves indicates a small surplus. However, to ensure that mineral supply is maintained should some of the permitted reserves not be delivered over the plan period, it is considered prudent to carry forward the existing carstone allocation into the emerging Plan. The proposed site allocation contains an estimated resource of 1.4m tonnes of carstone, of which 1.1m tonnes could be available during the plan period.

The forecast need for silica sand during the plan period, minus the existing permitted reserve at 31/12/2020, is 10.34 million tonnes. This is based on the maximum annual permitted throughput of the processing plant multiplied by the plan period. Two sites have been allocated for silica sand extraction with a combined resource of 4.1 million tonnes and both sites have been granted planning permission. However, these sites

are insufficient to address the shortfall. As part of the NM&WLP plan process; insufficient suitable and deliverable specific sites, Preferred Areas or Areas of Search were proposed, to meet the forecast need for silica sand. Therefore, the NM&WLP includes Policy MPSS1 (Silica sand extraction sands) which is a criteria-based policy to allow planning applications to come forward to meet the shortfall.

Policy MP3 (Borrow Pits) and Policy MP4 (agricultural or potable water reservoirs) set out the criteria for other types of development where mineral extraction would form part of the overall scheme.

There is no policy on peat extraction, and no minerals sites are allocated for peat extraction. This is in accordance with national policy. The NPPF states that Local Plans should not identify new sites or extensions to existing sites for peat extraction and that planning applications for peat extraction should not be granted.

There are no energy minerals extracted in Norfolk, and it is not likely that any will be extracted during the plan period because there are currently no exploration licences in Norfolk, and the likelihood of any application for exploration licenses in the future are considered low. Based on the DECC/BGS report 'The Hydrocarbon prospectivity of Britain's onshore basins' (2013); there is a low potential for viable non-conventional hydrocarbon resources underlying Norfolk in comparison with other parts of the country.

99. Take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to the supply of materials, before considering extraction of primary materials.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Strategic Objective MSO3 is to encourage sustainable use of minerals by utilising secondary and recycled aggregates which will reduce the reliance on primary aggregates.

Paragraph MP1.8 of the NM&WLP details the typical contribution of secondary and recycled aggregates in Norfolk. The data is not comprehensive because many operations, such as on-site recovery, are not recorded. Therefore, it is not proposed to make any adjustments to the mineral requirement figures based on recycled and secondary aggregate provision due to the quality of the data. Further information is available in the Local Aggregate Assessments (document B3).

Paragraph MP1.19 details the effect of glass recycling on the need for silica sand. High purity silica sand is needed in order to produce glass from recycled glass cullet. It is not possible to quantify the impact that potential glass recycling increases in the UK would have on the need for silica sand during the plan period. Therefore, it is not proposed to make any adjustments to the forecast need for silica sand based on recycled glass. Further information is available in the Silica Sand Topic Paper (document B1).

100. Safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Policy MP11 (Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas) covers this requirement. Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) are defined on the Policies Map. Paragraphs MP11.6 to MP11.10 set out how the MSAs and MCAs have been defined.

101. Encourage the prior extraction of minerals, where practical and environmentally feasible, if it is necessary for non-mineral development to take place.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Policy MP11 (Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas) covers this requirement. Supporting text paragraphs MP11.1 to MP11.11 provide further information. Appendix 4 of the NM&WLP sets out the types of development excluded from the policy requirements and Appendix 10 sets out the process for implementing Policy MP11.

102. Safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for: the bulk transport, handling and processing of minerals, the manufacture of concrete and concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Policy MP10 (Safeguarding of port and rail facilities, and facilities for the manufacture of concrete asphalt and recycled materials) cover this requirement.

103. Set out criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) requires proposals for minerals and waste developments to demonstrate they would not have unacceptable impacts on the natural, geological and hydrogeological environment, the historic environment, local amenity and health, the quantity and quality of water, flood risk, protected landscapes, Public Open Space, Public Rights of Way, and outdoor recreation facilities, and through high quality design. Policy MP2 (spatial strategy for minerals extraction), Policy MPSS1 (silica sand extraction sites), MP5 (Core River Valleys) and all the specific site allocation policies also contain criteria or requirements to ensure that permitted and proposed operations do not have unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health.

104. Recognise that some noisy short-term activities, which may otherwise be regarded as unacceptable, are unavoidable to facilitate minerals extraction

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Paragraph 022 (Reference ID: 27-022-20140306) of the PPG sets out the type of operations which may give rise to particularly noisy short-term activities and what noise limits may be appropriate, which is referred to in paragraph 6.11 of the NM&WLP. Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria) provides for assessment of potential impacts from a development in a holistic way, so that potential impacts from such things as short-term enabling works can be considered within the scope of the proposed development in its entirety, and the benefits of mineral extraction as recognised in the NPPF.

105. Ensure that worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high-quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place.

NPPF Paragraph reference: 210

Assessment results: Policy MW1 (Development Management Criteria), Policy MP7 (Progressive working, restoration and after-use) and Policy MP8 (Aftercare) cover these issues.