



# Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment – Test of Likely Significant Effects - addendum (2023)

This addendum is in response to the representation from Natural England (99436)

**Table 1.3 Consultation response from Natural England to the 2018 HRA**

**Amended response:**

<b>Consultee comments</b>	<b>Norfolk County Council Planning Officer's response</b>
Note that any proposal which may affect a Natura 2000 designated site must go through a project-level HRA in addition to this strategic plan-level HRA. This should be identified for each relevant allocation and reflected in the policy wording, including what avoidance and mitigation measures would be necessary. This can be at a 'high' level, e.g. work would take place outside the bird breeding season to avoid disturbance to nesting birds. However, more detail would be expected in the HRA at planning application stage.	Noted. We do not consider that there are any sites now concluded suitable to allocate in the Preferred Options document where a project level HRA would be required. However, a project level HRA will be carried out at the planning application stage for any site where it is determined that one is required.

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

### Revised policy assessments for Policies WP2, MP1, MP2 and MPSS1

No LSE = No Likely Significant Effect

#### Waste Management Specific Policies

Waste Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
WP2: Spatial Strategy for waste management facilities	<p>This policy contains the spatial strategy for the location of new waste management facilities. Facilities should be located within 5 miles of one of Norfolk's urban areas or 3 miles of one of Norfolk's main towns and be accessible via appropriate transport infrastructure. The urban areas and main towns are: Norwich, King's Lynn, Thetford, Attleborough, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston-on-Sea, Aylsham, Cromer, Dereham, Diss, Downham Market, Fakenham, Harleston, Holt, Hunstanton, North Walsham, Swaffham, Watton, Wymondham. A more flexible approach is taken to the location of agricultural waste treatment facilities, windrow composting facilities, community composting facilities, small scale local facilities and water recycling centres.</p>	<p>No LSE – There is the potential that a waste management facility located in accordance with this policy could be within the Impact Risk Zone of a SSSI which is also designated as a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site. Waste management facilities could potentially have adverse impacts on designated sites in terms of noise, dust, air quality, lighting and water pollution. However, no likely significant effects are expected because all planning applications for waste management facilities must also comply with the Development Management Criteria Policy MW1, which requires proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the natural geological and hydrogeological environment (including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats). In order to comply with Policy MW1 at the planning application stage, potential impacts would be able to be avoided and mitigated through appropriate site selection and the standard design and operation of sites, which are normally controlled by the Environmental Permit or planning conditions. Any proposals in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to be determined in accordance with Policy MW4.</p>

#### Minerals Specific Policies

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

Minerals Policy	Description	Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?
		<p>demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the natural geological and hydrogeological environment (including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats).</p> <p>In order to comply with Policy MW1 at the planning application stage, potential impacts would be able to be avoided and mitigated through appropriate site selection and the standard design and operation of sites, which are normally controlled by planning conditions.</p> <p>Proposed sites located in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to comply with Policy MW4. The individual sites proposed to be allocated for mineral extraction during the plan period have also been subject to a Test of Likely Significant Effects.</p>
<p>MP2: Spatial strategy for minerals extraction</p>	<p>The policy contains the spatial strategy for mineral extraction within the resource areas for sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand. Sand and gravel and carstone sites should be located within five miles of one of Norfolk's urban areas or three miles of one of Norfolk's main towns and /or be well-related to one of these urban areas or main towns via appropriate transport infrastructure. The urban areas and main towns are: Norwich, King's Lynn, Thetford, Attleborough, Great Yarmouth, Gorleston-on-Sea, Aylsham, Cromer, Dereham, Diss, Downham Market, Fakenham, Harleston, Holt, Hunstanton, North Walsham, Swaffham, Watton, Wymondham.</p> <p>Specific sites for silica sand should be located where they are able to access the existing processing plant and railhead at Leziat via conveyor, pipeline or off-public highway haul route.</p> <p>The spatial strategy is subject to the proposed development for mineral extraction not being located within a SSSI and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it.</p>	<p>No LSE – There is the potential that a mineral extraction site located in accordance with this policy could be within an Impact Risk Zone for a SSSI that is also designated as a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site. Mineral extraction could have impacts on designated sites due to noise, dust, air quality, lighting, habitat loss, habitat damage, impacts to water quality and water resources. However, no likely significant effects are expected because all planning applications for mineral extraction sites will be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the plan, which includes Development Management Criteria Policy MW1. Policy MW1, requires proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the natural geological and hydrogeological environment (including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats). In order to comply with Policy DM1 at the planning application stage, potential impacts would be able to be avoided and mitigated through appropriate site selection and the standard design and operation of sites, which are normally controlled by planning conditions.</p> <p>Proposed sites located in proximity to the Breckland SPA will also need to comply with Policy MW4. The individual sites proposed to be allocated for mineral extraction during the plan period have also been subject to a Test of Likely Significant Effects.</p>

<b>Minerals Policy</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Likely Significant Effect Alone or in-combination?</b>
MPSS1: Silica sand extraction sites	Criteria based policy for planning applications for silica sand extraction sites to adhere to. Includes requirements for the submission of a noise assessment, air quality/dust assessment and a programme of mitigation measures to deal with any potential impacts. Also requires submission of a biodiversity survey and report, a phased working and restoration scheme incorporating ecological enhancement and biodiversity net gain on restoration. Also requires submission of a Hydrogeological Impact Assessment and appropriate mitigation measures to protect SSSIs, SPAs and SACs.	No LSE - Policy does not promote growth in any particular location. The silica sand resource does include areas that are within the Impact Risk Zone for a SSSI that is also designated as a SPA, SAC or Ramsar site. Mineral extraction could have impacts on designated sites due to noise, dust, air quality, lighting, habitat loss, habitat damage, impacts to water quality and water resources. However, no likely significant effects are expected because all planning applications for mineral extraction sites will be determined in accordance with the relevant policies of the Plan, which includes Development Management Criteria Policy MW1. Policy MW1, requires proposals to demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact on the natural geological and hydrogeological environment (including internationally, nationally or locally designated sites and irreplaceable habitats). In order to comply with Policy DM1 at the planning application stage, potential impacts would be able to be avoided and mitigated through appropriate site selection and the standard design and operation of sites, which are normally controlled by planning conditions.  In addition, the policy requirements of MPSS1 include protection of ecosystems and surface water features that are reliant on groundwater, including SSSIs, SPAs and SACs.