



# Norfolk County Council

## Norfolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan

### Statement of Common Ground

December 2023 (Appendix 2 updated January 2024)



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# Contents

Abbreviations	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Strategic Geography	5
3. List of Parties Involved	6
Plan-Making Authorities	6
Additional Signatories	7
4. Engagement with authorities	7
Waste	7
Duty to cooperate engagement (waste data)	7
Minerals	9
Norfolk Strategic Planning Group	9
Local Plan meetings between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities	10
Other engagement during the Minerals and Waste Local Plan process	10
5. Key Strategic Matters	11
Matter 1: The Provision of Minerals	11
Matter 2: The Provision of Waste Management Facilities	12
Matter 3: Safeguarding	12
Matter 4: Impacts on local communities and environment	13
6. Governance Arrangements	14
7. Timetable for Agreement, Review and Update	14
Appendix 1: List of matters and agreements	15
Appendix 2: List of signatories and details of Matters agreed	16

## Abbreviations

EEAWP – East of England Aggregates Working Party  
EEWTAB - East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body  
NM&WLP – Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan  
NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework  
NPPG – National Planning Practice Guidance  
NSPF – Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework  
SoCG – Statement of Common Ground  
WPA – Waste Planning Authority

# 1. Introduction

This document forms the latest Statement of Common Ground for the Norfolk County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan (the Plan). This statement identifies the strategic cross-boundary issues associated with the Plan and shows where effective cooperation is (and if appropriate where it is not) being made on these issues.

The statement will be updated as the Plan progresses, providing a narrative of where and how cooperation is being sought. The statement does not necessarily seek to achieve agreement on all strategic cross-boundary issues, merely it is a way of showing that the council have identified all relevant strategic cross-boundary matters, and that agreement has been sought with others and that such relevant matters have been identified.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, September 2023) and Localism Act 2011 requires all Local Planning Authorities (including Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities) to prepare a Statement of Common Ground alongside the production of their Local Plans.

For a Local Plan to be found 'sound', it must be:

- a) Positively prepared;
- b) Justified;
- c) Effective; and
- d) Consistent with national policy

For a Plan to be effective it must be:

*"...deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground..."* (NPPF Paragraph 35c)

The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) defines a statement of common ground as:

*"...a written record of the progress made by strategic policy-making authorities during the process of planning for strategic cross-boundary matters. It documents where effective co-operation is and is not happening throughout the plan-making process, and is a way of demonstrating at examination that plans are deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working across local authority boundaries..."* (NPPG Paragraph: 010 Reference ID: 61-010-20190315 Revision date: 15 03 2019)

The Norfolk Core Strategy and Minerals and Waste Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) (the 'Core Strategy') was adopted by Norfolk County Council in 2011. It contains a vision, strategic objectives and policies to be used in the determination of planning applications for minerals extraction and associated development and waste management facilities in Norfolk. There are also currently adopted DPDs allocating specific sites for mineral extraction and for waste management facilities.

A new Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (NM&WLP) is being produced to consolidate the three existing plans into one plan, to ensure that the policies within the plan remain up-to-date and to extend the plan period from 2026 to 2038.

In 2015, Norfolk's planning authorities agreed to formally cooperate on a range of strategic cross-boundary planning issues through the preparation of the **Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF)**. The aim of this framework is to agree shared objectives and strategic priorities, demonstrate compliance with duty to cooperate and consistency with the revised NPPF. The latest version (January 2021) was endorsed by all stakeholder authorities in 2021.

## **Agreement 29 in relation to minerals and waste in the NSPF:**

1) It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will therefore enable Norfolk to continue to be self-sufficient in the production of sand and gravel, whilst making an important contribution to the national production of silica sand.

- 2) A steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth will be planned for through allocating sufficient sites and/or areas in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan to meet the forecast need for sand and gravel, carstone, and silica sand.
- 3) Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation. Resources of sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand within defined Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be safeguarded from needless sterilisation by non-mineral development. Infrastructure for the handling, processing and transportation of minerals will also be safeguarded from incompatible development. Defined waste management facilities and water recycling centres will be safeguarded from incompatible development.
- 4) The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan policies will enable the reuse, recycling and recovery of waste in Norfolk to increase, thereby reducing the quantity and proportion of waste arising in Norfolk that requires disposal, in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy.
- 5) The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will enable Norfolk to be net self-sufficient in waste management, where practicable and to enable sufficient waste management infrastructure to be provided in order amount of waste expected to a for Norfolk to meet the existing and forecast rise over the Plan period.
- 6) The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will direct new waste management facilities to be located in proximity to Norfolk's urban areas and main towns. Priority for the location of new waste management facilities will be given to the reuse of previously developed land, sites identified for employment uses, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages.
- 7) The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will contain policies to ensure that minerals development and waste management facilities will be located, designed and operated without unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of local communities, the natural, built and historic environment, the landscape and townscape of Norfolk.

## 2. Strategic Geography

The geographical area covered by this statement comprises the administrative area of Norfolk County Council. This is the plan area covered by the emerging Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The plan area is bordered to the South-West by the minerals and waste planning authorities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to the North-West by Lincolnshire and to the south by Suffolk.

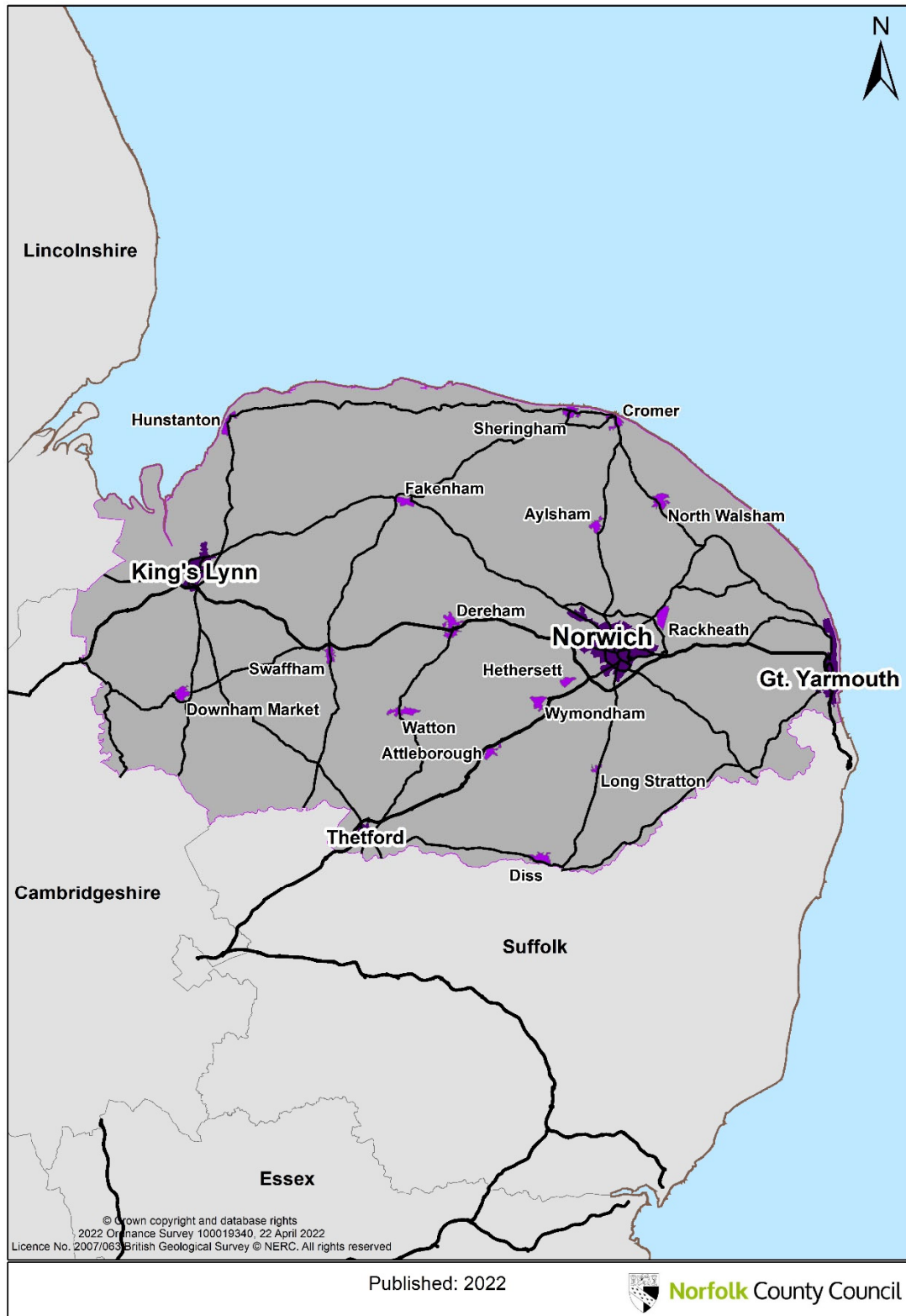


Figure 1: Strategic Geography covered by this statement

### 3. List of Parties Involved

National Planning Practice Guidance requires Statements of Common Ground to identify *the plan-making authorities responsible for joint working detailed in the statement, and list of any additional signatories (including cross-referencing the matters to which each is a signatory)*

#### Plan-Making Authorities

The plan-making authorities responsible for joint working in respect of this statement are as follows:

- Norfolk County Council
- Those Mineral Planning Authorities which make up the East of England Aggregate Working Party
- Those Waste Planning Authorities which make up the East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body
- Other Waste Planning Authorities (see below)

The council directly responsible for preparing the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan is Norfolk County Council.

Other plan-making authorities responsible for joint working in this statement include those which are members of the East of England Aggregate Working Party (AWP). The councils are required by the National Planning Policy Framework to participate in the operation of the AWP. Those authorities are listed in Appendix 1.

The National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) also requires the councils to work collaboratively in groups with other Waste Planning Authorities. The councils therefore participate in the operation of the East of England Waste Technical Advisory Board (WTAB). These authorities comprise the same council areas as those of the AWP and are listed in Appendix 1.

The NPPW also requires Waste Planning Authorities to take account of wastes arising in what are described in this statement as ‘other waste planning authority’ areas. At a meeting of the WTAB held on 17 June 2020, it was agreed by members that ‘strategic’ waste movements, i.e. imports and exports between Waste Planning Authority areas, should be regarded as those which exceed the following thresholds:

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Non-hazardous waste | 5,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) |
| ● Hazardous waste     | 100 tpa                      |
| ● Inert wastes*       | 10,000 tpa                   |

\*Inert wastes include construction, demolition and excavation wastes

The Waste Planning Authorities which observe movements above these thresholds are listed in section 4 and those that may deem a SoCG necessary are listed in Appendix 1.

## Additional Signatories

National Planning Practice Guidance also requires Statements of Common Ground to identify a list of any additional signatories. These are bodies and organisations which may be responsible for joint working and/or have an interest relating to some or all of the Matters identified in this Statement. These signatories are listed below (and also in Appendix 2):

- North Norfolk District Council
- Norwich City Council
- Broads Authority
- Broadland District Council
- South Norfolk Council
- Breckland Council
- King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- Environment Agency
- Marine Management Organisation
- Peterborough City Council
- Fenland District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- South Holland District Council
- East Suffolk District Council
- Mid Suffolk District Council
- West Suffolk District Council
- East of England Aggregate Working Party (AWP)
- East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body

It should be noted that the AWP is listed as an additional signatory. This is because membership includes organisations other than the Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities, which are listed separately above as Plan-Making Authorities.

## 4. Engagement with authorities

### Waste

In addition to formal consultation processes, the County Council, as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, maintains liaison with its peer authorities in the (formerly defined) East of England Region through quarterly meetings of the East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body (EEWTAB).

In addition to the County Councils adjacent to Norfolk in the East of England (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire), the meetings of the EEWTAB include representatives of Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils, Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough, Luton, Thurrock, Southend-on-Sea and Peterborough Councils. The EEWTAB is also attended by the Environment Agency, a representative of the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group, and a secretary/coordinator who also attends meetings of the London WTAB and the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group.

### Duty to cooperate engagement (waste data)

We wrote to 32 waste planning authorities in November 2020 regarding waste movements between Norfolk and respective Waste Planning Authorities using data from the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator 2017 and 2018.

- Barking & Dagenham (London)
- Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton\*
- Birmingham City
- Bristol City
- Cambridgeshire\*
- Cheshire East\*
- Derbyshire\*

- Doncaster\*
- East Sussex\*
- Essex\*
- Hertfordshire\*
- Kent\*
- Kingston Upon Hull City
- Knowsley
- Lancashire
- Leeds
- Leicestershire\*
- Lincolnshire\*
- North East Lincolnshire\*
- Northamptonshire\*
- Nottingham City UA\*
- Nottinghamshire\*
- Peterborough\*
- Redcar and Cleveland
- Sandwell
- Sheffield
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Suffolk\*
- Telford and Wrekin
- Thurrock
- Walsall

We received responses from 17 WPAs (marked with a \* in the above list). However, a further 5 of these authorities responded to the 2021 correspondence below and did not deem a SoCG necessary. Based on the current data available all other WPAs did not consider a SoCG to be necessary at the current time.

- **Doncaster** considered a simple SoCG to primarily address the reduction of traveling distances for certain types of waste that could potentially be processed more locally necessary.
- **Suffolk** considers the waste movements to be strategic and therefore requires a statement of common ground.

We then followed up in August 2021 and wrote to 49 WPAs with updated data using the Environmental Agency's 2020 Waste Data Interrogator to confirm waste movements and to consider whether the authority deemed any waste movement to be of a strategic matter and therefore a SoCG necessary.

- Barking & Dagenham (London)
- Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton\*
- Birmingham City
- Bristol City
- Cambridgeshire\*
- Cheshire East\*
- Cheshire West and Chester\*
- County Durham\*
- Cumbria
- Derbyshire
- Devon
- Doncaster\*
- Dudley\*
- East Sussex\*
- Essex\*
- Hampshire\*
- Havering
- Hertfordshire\*
- Kent
- Kingston Upon Hull City
- Kirklees\*
- Knowsley\*
- Lancashire
- Leeds\*
- Leicester City\*
- Leicestershire\*
- Lincolnshire\*
- North East Lincolnshire\*
- Medway
- Newcastle Upton Tyne\*
- North Lincolnshire\*
- North Tyneside\*
- North Yorkshire
- Northamptonshire\*
- Nottinghamshire
- Oxfordshire
- Peterborough\*
- Redcar and Cleveland\*
- Salford
- Sandwell
- Sheffield
- Staffordshire
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Stoke-on-Trent City
- Suffolk
- Telford and Wrekin\*
- Thurrock
- Walsall\*

We received responses from 26 WPAs (marked with a \* in the above list). The following have



considered they needed further actions to take regarding SoCG. Based on the current data available all other WPAs did not consider a SoCG to be necessary at the current time.

- **North Lincolnshire** welcomed the opportunity to review the Statement of Common Ground once prepared.
- **Hertfordshire** were producing their own SoCG. Did not request one from Norfolk.
- **Doncaster** considered the waste movement to be strategic however are working towards their waste needs assessment and therefore would need to identify the flow of HIC waste taking place and therefore their views may change in the future.
- **Cheshire West and Chester** deemed a SoCG to be necessary due to the strategic hazardous waste movement however does not consider any specific strategic waste issues to be addressed between authorities.
- **Suffolk** considers the waste movements to be strategic and therefore requires a statement of common ground.

WPAs that may consider a SoCG are listed in appendix 1.

#### **Both letters stated that:**

*“If a response is not received from you by the stated date, it will be assumed that there are no known issues with the continued movement of waste between Norfolk and your authority.”*

#### **Minerals**

In addition to formal consultation processes, the County Council, as Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, maintains liaison with its peer authorities in the (formerly defined) East of England Region through 6-monthly (as a minimum or as required) meetings of the East of England Aggregates Working Party (EEAWP).

In addition to the County Councils adjacent to Norfolk in the East of England (Suffolk and Cambridgeshire), the meetings of EEAWP include representatives of Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils, Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough, Luton, Thurrock, Southend-on-Sea and Peterborough Councils. The EEAWP also includes a representative of DCLG, the London Aggregates Working Party, and the South East Aggregates Working Party. The data and information collected by EEAWP from its constituent MPAs is collated and published in Annual Monitoring Reports (AMR).

Silica sand is a nationally important industrial mineral, which is also scarce within England. Resources occur in scattered locations across the country. The silica sand in Norfolk is predominately used in glass manufacturing plants in northern England. Therefore, correspondence regarding silica sand has continued with Mineral Planning Authorities where silica sand resources or manufacturing plants occur. These MPAs include North Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Worcestershire, Central Bedfordshire, Essex, Cheshire East Council, South Downs National Park and West Sussex.

#### **Norfolk Strategic Planning Group**

Meetings of a **Norfolk Strategic Planning Group** take place on a monthly basis, involving officer representatives from the County Council and Norfolk’s Local Planning Authorities, to consider strategic planning policy issues including minerals and waste.

The purpose of the group’s meetings is to share information and good practice, and to liaise over the production of local plans. This group provides the officer support to produce the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF). The NSPF is a non-statutory framework produced to provide a structure for addressing strategic planning issues on behalf of all Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk. In addition to this group, meetings are held twice a year between the County Council and individual LPAs to discuss strategic planning issues including minerals and waste, and to liaise over the planning and provision of services by the County Council.

A quarterly **Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum** has been meeting since October 2013. The purpose of the forum is to ensure that the requirements of the Duty to Cooperate, when preparing development plans, is discharged in a way which enhances the planning of strategic matters and minimises the risk of unsound plans. The forum membership includes the portfolio holders for Planning (or equivalent) in Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities, with an open invitation to attend for the planning portfolio holders and officers of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire authorities. The Forum is chaired by a councillor elected by the forum on an annual basis.

The terms of reference of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum (as agreed in December 2017) state that the specific activities that the Forum will undertake are:

- Identify spatial planning issues of strategic importance that impact on more than one local planning area across Norfolk and a wider geographical area where appropriate to do so and provide the basis for working collaboratively within, and outside, of the 'core group' across a range of organisations and geographies as might be appropriate to address cross boundary strategic issues.
- Recommend the most appropriate land use planning approach to better integration and alignment of strategic spatial planning across Norfolk and a wider geographical area where appropriate.
- Provide the evidence that the Local Planning Authorities are working 'constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis' on strategic planning matters to support delivery of Local Plans which will be able to be assessed as 'sound'.
- With the agreement of member authorities, oversee the joint commissioning and preparation of evidence necessary to determine the most appropriate strategic spatial approach to cross boundary issues.
- Produce an evidenced (documented) approach to cooperation across strategic cross boundary issues at a Member level and throughout the process of Local Plan preparation.
- Undertake any consultations which from time to time may be deemed appropriate to further the work of the Forum.
- Provide, through the individual Members of the Core Group, liaison in respect of Norfolk strategic planning matters with each of the local authorities represented in the Forum.

## Local Plan meetings between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's Local Planning Authorities

The Mineral and Waste Planning Authority has been attending these meetings since 2011, to allow discussions regarding the current Local Plan situation in each Local Planning Authority, to ensure that the parties to the meeting are aware of potential issues and to promote meaningful dialogue. The meetings are held on a six-monthly basis. The meeting consists of officers of Norfolk County Council in its capacity as the Mineral and Waste Planning Authority, Highway Authority, Local Education Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority, Public Health Authority, the Infrastructure and Economic Growth Team, and the Local Planning Authority.

## Other engagement during the Minerals and Waste Local Plan process

The Initial Consultation (Regulation 18 stage) took place from 29 June until 13 August 2018. The Preferred Options Consultation (Regulation 18 stage) took place from 18 September until 30 October 2019. Details on the consultees, the respondents and the issues raised are contained within the 'Regulation 18 Statement of Consultation'. The Pre-Submission Publication representations period (Regulation 19 stage) took place from 28 September until 19 December 2022. Details on the consultees, the respondents and the issues raised are contained within the 'Regulation 19 Statement of Consultation'.

In addition, co-operation with other relevant planning authorities also continued through participation in consultations on minerals and waste plans prepared by neighbouring authorities and local plans prepared by local planning authorities within Norfolk.

## 5. Key Strategic Matters

The key strategic matters covered by this statement primarily concern the provision of mineral and waste management needs in the plan area.

While ultimately the provision of minerals contributes to meeting the needs of wider strategic matters, such as housebuilding, care has been taken so as not to cast the scope of this Statement too wide, in order that it remains concise. Such wider matters are more the remit of other Norfolk Local Planning Authorities, whose Statements of Common Ground will (when they are prepared) cover such matters and will link with this Statement. Those Local Planning Authorities are signatories to this statement.

### Matter 1: The Provision of Minerals

The Council must plan for a steady and adequate supply of mineral to meet the needs identified over the plan period to 2038. The National Planning Policy Framework states this should be done by forecasting future demand based on rolling average of 10 years' sales data.

The Local Aggregates Assessment (2021) (covers data relating to the 2020 calendar year) prepared by the Council shows that over the previous 10 years, an average of 1.37 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of sand and gravel has been produced in Norfolk. Taking other relevant information into account, including an identified uplift in sales over recent years, the Council has derived a provision rate of 1.506 mtpa. This being the 10-year average in 2020, plus an additional 10% per annum to provide a degree of flexibility.

This gives a total need over the plan period (2021-2038) of 27.108mt million tonnes. Estimated reserves at the end of 2020 stood at 14.51mt, providing a landbank of 9.6 years based on the plan provision rate, well over the 7-year NPPF requirement. The Minerals and Waste Local Plan Pre-submission Publication document allocates sufficient sand and gravel sites to meet the Plan provision over the period to the end of 2038.

Sales of carstone over the 10-year period to 2020 amount to an average of 0.075Mtpa. An additional 10% per annum has been added to allow flexibility so the Plan provision for carstone is 0.083Mtpa. The permitted reserves of 1.66mt at the end of 2020 means that additional allocations are not required within the Plan period to meet any shortfall in provision. The carstone landbank is over 20 years, so far in excess of the 10-year requirement set by the NPPF. However, the permitted reserves are concentrated within only a few sites, therefore it is considered expedient to allocate a carstone extraction site for flexibility, this allocation is for 1.42mt. As carstone is unsuitable for use as roadstone, the Plan also seeks to safeguard strategic transport infrastructure in order that current supplies of imported roadstone are maintained.

The NPPF requires Mineral Planning Authorities to maintain reserves of silica sand of at least 10 years production for existing processing plants. Sibelco UK Ltd, the only silica operator in Norfolk only provide average production figures to Norfolk County Council. The average annual production over the last 10 years was 0.8Mtpa, with the last 3-year average figure slightly higher at 0.82Mtpa. However, as the NPPF links provision to production at plants, it is appropriate to plan for the maximum lawful output of the existing plant site at Leziat which is 0.754Mtpa. Current reserves are less than required to maintain this landbank; permitted reserves were 3.2 mt at the end of 2020. Insufficient suitable sites have been proposed for allocation within the Plan. Planning permission was granted in August 2021 for the extraction of 1.1Mt silica sand at adopted allocation site, SIL01 and planning permission was granted in June 2023 for the extraction of 3 Mt of silica sand at adopted allocation site MIN 40 at East Winch. In order to overcome the anticipated shortfall over the plan period, the Plan proposes a criteria based policy (Policy MPSS1) which would allow planning applications for silica sand extraction on potentially suitable unallocated sites to come forward, and subject to planning permission being granted, to secure deliverable permitted reserves for the plan period.

**Agreement 1:** It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will

therefore enable Norfolk to continue to be self-sufficient in the production of sand & gravel, whilst making an important contribution to the national production of silica sand.

**Agreement 2:** Norfolk County Council as the Mineral Planning Authority will plan for a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth through allocating sufficient sites to meet the forecast need for sand and gravel and Carstone as well as allocating sites and providing a criteria-based policy to assess applications to meet the forecast need for silica sand in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

## Matter 2: The Provision of Waste Management Facilities

Norfolk County Council has a duty to ensure that a network of waste management facilities exists to deal with the waste management needs of the plan area over the plan period (including an element of London's waste). A Waste Management Capacity Assessment has been produced which establishes that the current and permitted waste management facilities within the plan area are sufficient to meet needs over the plan period as signified through Policy WP1.

The Pre-submission Publication document does not therefore seek to allocate land for waste development, and any proposals which do come forward will be dealt with via a criteria-based approach, which directs such development to the most sustainable locations consistent with the Strategic policies (Policy WP2 and WP3).

Following the completion of the Waste Management Capacity Assessment, Norfolk County Council contacted other Waste Planning Authorities where quantities of waste exported were potentially strategic cross-boundary movements. A total of 48 Waste planning Authorities were contacted regarding waste quantities contained in the Environment Agency Waste Data Interrogator for 2020 (2017/18 data) and 2021 (2018/19 data). 32 WPAs responded, of these four WPAs indicated that they wished to be signatories to a Statement of Common Ground (Doncaster, Cheshire West and Chester, Hertfordshire, and Suffolk) and North Lincolnshire indicated that they would like to view the final SoCG before confirming whether they wished to be a signatory.

The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan policies will enable the re-use, recycling and recovery of waste in Norfolk to increase, thereby reducing the quantity and proportion of waste arising in Norfolk that requires disposal, in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy.

**Agreement 3:** Through the policies in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Norfolk County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, will enable Norfolk to be net self-sufficient in waste management, where practicable and to enable sufficient waste management infrastructure to be provided in order for Norfolk to meet the existing and forecast amount of waste expected to arise over the Plan period.

**Agreement 4:** Through the policies in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Norfolk County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, will direct new waste management facilities to be located in proximity to Norfolk's urban areas and main towns using criteria-based policies. Priority for the location of new waste management facilities will be given to the re-use of previously-developed land, sites identified for employment uses, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages.

## Matter 3: Safeguarding

The Plan must ensure that strategic key infrastructure and mineral sites and resources are safeguarded, as well as protecting sites for future infrastructure development. For Norfolk this includes the following mineral infrastructure sites as well as permitted and allocated mineral extraction sites:

- Mineral railhead at Middleton – used for silica sand and operated by Sibelco UK Ltd
- Mineral railhead at Trowse – used for crushed Rock and operated by Tarmac
- Mineral wharf at Great Yarmouth – Palgrave Wharf used for crushed rock and operated by Silverton Aggregates Ltd

The Publication version of the NM&WLP identifies each of the above-mentioned sites as Mineral Infrastructure sites and applies a 250 metre consultation buffer around them. Policies MP10 and MP11 in the Pre-Submission Publication NM&WLP require Norfolk County Council as the Mineral Planning Authority to be consulted on all planning proposals which fall within such buffers, subject to certain exceptions for development which will not prejudice the current or future use of such sites. This is in accordance with NPPF paragraph 210.

The NPPF states “planning policies should... safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas and Mineral Consultation Areas; and adopt appropriate policies so that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not sterilised by non-mineral development where this should be avoided (whilst not creating a presumption that the resources defined will be worked);” (NPPF 2023, Paragraph 210 (c)).

The purpose of safeguarding mineral resource is set out in the PPG: “Since minerals are a non-renewable resource, minerals safeguarding is the process of ensuring that non-minerals development does not needlessly prevent the future extraction of mineral resources, of local and national importance” ([Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 27-002-20140306](#), Revision date: 06 03 2014). Mineral safeguarding areas and Mineral consultation areas will be safeguarded through the application of the Policy MP11 which states that the Mineral Planning Authority should be consulted on all development proposals within mineral consultation areas, except those development types set out in appendix 4 of the local plan.

Within the East Marine Plans, produced by the Marine Management Organisation, the safeguarding of minerals infrastructure, such as land-based processing at wharves and providing onward transport via railheads is also relevant and supported by the following policy within the current East Onshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (2014): “Policy GOV 1: Appropriate provision should be made for infrastructure on land which supports activities in the marine area and vice versa.”

Water Recycling Centres treat wastewater and sewage are a vital part of community infrastructure and are necessary to protect human health and water quality. Existing Water Recycling Centres will be safeguarded through the application of Policy WP17.

**Agreement 5:** Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation. Through the policies in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Norfolk County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, will ensure resources of sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand within defined Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be safeguarded from needless sterilisation by non-mineral development. Infrastructure for the handling, processing and transportation of minerals will also be safeguarded from incompatible development. Defined waste management facilities and water recycling centres will be safeguarded from incompatible development.

#### Matter 4: Impacts on local communities and environment

The NPPF states “planning policies should... 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, taking into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in a locality...” (NPPF 2023, Section 17, paragraph 210 (f)).

Where the impact of the proposal is unacceptable, and such impacts can't be controlled, then planning permission could be refused. Specific measures can, however, be sometimes undertaken to mitigate any potential adverse impact to either local amenity or the environment. Such measures could include, for example, additional landscaping, sustainable drainage schemes, protection of heritage assets, noise attenuation, the design of lighting (including avoidance of light pollution of the night sky), dust and vibration control, nature conservation, good building and site design and restrictions on working hours and lorry movements. The appropriate mitigation will depend on the characteristics of the proposal, the site and the surrounding area.

In the Pre-Submission Publication version of the NM&WLP Policy MW1 sets out the development management criteria which states that mineral development and waste management development will be acceptable where the proposals demonstrate that the development would not have an unacceptable impact (including cumulative impact) on factors including local amenity and health, the quantity and quality of surface water bodies and groundwater, the capacity of existing drainage systems, flood risk from all sources, the best and most versatile agricultural land, the landscape, countryside and visual environment, protected landscapes, public open space, Public Rights of Way, the natural geological and hydrogeological environment, and the historic environment and the character and quality of the area.

Policy MW4 (The Brecks Protected Habitats and Species) sets out that development will only be permitted where sufficient information is submitted to demonstrate that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the Breckland SPA or SAC.

Policy WP16 is regarding high quality design of waste management facilities and Policy MW3 is regarding the design, construction and operation of mineral and waste facilities to minimise their potential contribution to climate change, incorporate energy and water efficient design strategies and be adaptable to future climatic conditions.

**Agreement 6:** The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will contain policies to ensure that minerals development and waste management facilities will be located, designed and operated without unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of local communities, the natural, built and historic environment, the landscape and townscape of Norfolk.

## 6. Governance Arrangements

This statement has been prepared by Norfolk County Council and shared with the signatories listed in Appendix 1. The first draft of this statement was published during the Pre-Submission representations period on the Minerals and Waste Local Plan in 2022. All signatories to this Statement were contacted directly at the start of that representations period.

The statement was also discussed at the East of England Aggregate Working Party and East of England Waste Technical Advisory Board meetings. As part of the councils' ongoing duty to cooperate with other Waste Planning Authorities, the statement will also be updated if required, following consultation on the latest waste movements between authorities as identified through the Environment Agency's Waste Data Interrogator.

It should be noted that the signatories to this document have done so on the basis of the principles set out in this Statement, and by signing it does not prejudice the ability of any such signatory making detailed representations (in support or objection) to the content of the emerging Local Plan.

## 7. Timetable for Agreement, Review and Update

The first draft of this Statement of Common Ground was published alongside the Pre-Submission Publication version of the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan in 2022

The statement shows, at Appendix 2, which Matters have been agreed by which signatories and the dates on which those agreements have been achieved.

## Appendix 1: List of matters and agreements

### **Matter 1: The provision of minerals**

**Agreement 1:** It is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will therefore enable Norfolk to continue to be self-sufficient in the production of sand & gravel, whilst making an important contribution to the national production of silica sand.

**Agreement 2:** Norfolk County Council as the Mineral Planning Authority will plan for a steady and adequate supply of minerals to support sustainable economic growth through allocating sufficient sites to meet the forecast need for sand and gravel and Carstone as well as allocating sites and providing a criteria-based policy to assess applications to meet the forecast need for silica sand in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

### **Matter 2: The provision of waste management facilities**

**Agreement 3:** Through the policies in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Norfolk County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, will enable Norfolk to be net self-sufficient in waste management, where practicable and to enable sufficient waste management infrastructure to be provided in order for Norfolk to meet the existing and forecast amount of waste expected to arise over the Plan period.

**Agreement 4:** Through the policies in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Norfolk County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, will direct new waste management facilities to be located in proximity to Norfolk's urban areas and main towns using criteria-based policies. Priority for the location of new waste management facilities will be given to the re-use of previously-developed land, sites identified for employment uses, and redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages.

### **Matter 3: Safeguarding**

**Agreement 5:** Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation. Through the policies in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Norfolk County Council as the Waste Planning Authority, will ensure resources of sand and gravel, carstone and silica sand within defined Mineral Safeguarding Areas will be safeguarded from needless sterilisation by non-mineral development. Infrastructure for the handling, processing and transportation of minerals will also be safeguarded from incompatible development. Defined waste management facilities and water recycling centres will be safeguarded from incompatible development.

### **Matter 4: Impacts on local communities and the environment**

**Agreement 6:** The Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan will contain policies to ensure that minerals development and waste management facilities will be located, designed and operated without unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of local communities, the natural, built and historic environment, the landscape and townscape of Norfolk.

## Appendix 2: List of signatories and details of Matters agreed

Mineral and Waste Plan-Making Authorities in the East of England	Agreement 1	Agreement 2	Agreement 3	Agreement 4	Agreement 5	Agreement 6	Notes
Cambridgeshire County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed at an officer level 12.05.2023. Note that the SOCG sets out that the Plan will make provision for Norfolk to be net self-sufficient in waste management matters.
Peterborough City Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed at an officer level 12.05.2023. Note that the SOCG sets out that the Plan will make provision for Norfolk to be net self-sufficient in waste management matters.
Suffolk County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed 16.12.2022
Essex County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed 21.11.2022
Thurrock UA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed 19.12.2023
Southend-on-Sea UA							Contacted on 18.11.2022, 26.04.2023 and 14.12.2023 regarding the SOCG. No response received regarding the SOCG.
Hertfordshire County Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed 15.12.2023
Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough shared service							Responded on 18.12.2023 and stated they do not believe there are any significant strategic matters between Norfolk and these authorities at this time to require a SOCG and therefore will not be a signatory to the SOCG.

Other Waste Planning Authority	Agreement 1	Agreement 2	Agreement 3	Agreement 4	Agreement 5	Agreement 6	Notes
Cheshire West and Chester	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreed 12.12.2022
Doncaster	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	Doncaster Council acknowledges and supports the statement in agreement 3. The nature of agreements 4, 5 and 6 are not relevant.
North Lincolnshire	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	Agreed on 24.11.2022. Did not consider other agreements to be relevant.



Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk	Agreement 1	Agreement 2	Agreement 3	Agreement 4	Agreement 5	Agreement 6	Notes
North Norfolk District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by NNDC on 20.12.2022.
The Broads Authority	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by Broads Authority on 07.07.2023.
Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by KL&WN on 11.05.2023
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by GYBC on 06.01.2023
Norwich City Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the 2021 NSPF (Agreement 29). "On the basis that we have already agreed these we are happy to be a signatory to these agreements (11.05.2023). However, I wish to highlight an outstanding issue relevant to SOCG matter 3 / agreement 5 (safeguarding) where the council has made representations at several stages over the development of the M&WLP. Representation 99305 to the Publication plan in late 2022 states that whilst Norwich City Council has no objection to policy MP10, and indeed accepts the need to safeguard the Trowse railhead, the policy should however acknowledge the proximity of the railhead to sensitive residential users and to the East Norwich sites with major regeneration potential, and proposes a modification to address this concern. It should be noted that the masterplanning undertaken in 2021-22 has informed emerging policy in the GNLP for the East Norwich strategic regeneration area. The GNLP is currently undergoing public examination and anticipated to be adopted in early 2024. The masterplan and draft SPD for East Norwich provide for over 3,600 new homes and 4,100 new jobs overall; approximately 3,360 homes will be in the GNLP area which represents a significant element of planned growth for Greater Norwich to 2038."
Broadland District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by Broadland District Council on 04.01.2024.

Local Planning Authorities in Norfolk	Agreement 1	Agreement 2	Agreement 3	Agreement 4	Agreement 5	Agreement 6	Notes
South Norfolk Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by South Norfolk Council on 04.01.2024.
Breckland Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Agreements contained within the NSPF (Agreement 29). This SOCG agreed by Breckland Council on 16.01.2024.

Additional signatories	Agreement 1	Agreement 2	Agreement 3	Agreement 4	Agreement 5	Agreement 6	Notes
East of England Aggregate Working Party							This SOCG was briefed to the AWP meeting on 15.11.2022. Members to provide comments to NCC by 19.12.2022. The EEAWP have agreed not to sign up to individual SOCG. <a href="#">15-11-22-Approved-Minutes-of-EoEAWP-Mtg</a>
East of England Waste Technical Advisory Body							This SOCG was briefed to the EEWTAB meeting on 09.05.23. The Waste Planning Authorities in the EEWTAB will respond individually to the SOCG.
Marine Management Organisation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Contacted on 18.11.2022, 26.04.2023 and 14.12.2023 regarding the SOCG. On 18.12.2023 the MMO requested an amendment to Matter 3 (safeguarding key infrastructure) to include reference to East Marine Plans Policy GOV1. The MMO agreed this SOCG on 21.12.2023.
Environment Agency							Contacted on 18.11.2022 and 26.04.2023 regarding the SOCG. No response received regarding the SOCG.
Fenland District Council							Contacted on 18.11.2022, 26.04.2023 and 14.12.2023 regarding the SOCG. No response received regarding the SOCG.
South Cambridgeshire District Council							Contacted on 18.11.2022, 26.04.2023 and 14.12.2023 regarding the SOCG. No response received regarding the SOCG.
South Holland District Council							Contacted on 18.11.2022, 26.04.2023 and 14.12.2023 regarding the SOCG. No response received regarding the SOCG.
West Suffolk Council							Contacted on 18.11.2022, 26.04.2023 and 14.12.2023 regarding the SOCG. No response received regarding the SOCG.

Additional signatories	Agreement 1	Agreement 2	Agreement 3	Agreement 4	Agreement 5	Agreement 6	Notes
East Suffolk Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	See note	On 15.12.2022 wrote to agree to agreements 1 to 5. In respect of agreement six East Suffolk request that that final sentence is amended to read "...and townscape of Norfolk and surrounding areas".
Mid Suffolk District Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	See note	On 19.12.2022 wrote to agree to agreements 1 to 5. In respect of agreement six Mid Suffolk request the final sentence is amended to read "...and townscape of Norfolk and on the wider area." This is to reflect that the location of minerals development and waste management facilities can impact on a wider geographical area.