



Historic England

**Examination of Publication Draft
Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan
Matter 3
Historic England, Hearing Statement
May 2024**

Historic England is the principal Government adviser on the historic environment, advising it on planning and listed building consent applications, appeals and other matters generally affecting the historic environment. Historic England is consulted on Local Development Plans under the provisions of the duty to co-operate and provides advice to ensure that legislation and national policy in the National Planning Policy Framework are thereby reflected in local planning policy and practice.

The tests of soundness require that Local Development Plans should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Historic England's representations on the Publication Draft Local Plan are made in the context of the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework ("the Framework") in relation to the historic environment as a component of sustainable development.

Historic England Hearing Statement

Introduction

- 1.1 This statement addresses the Inspector's questions with regards Matter 3, question 8.
- 1.2 This hearing statement should be read alongside Historic England's comments submitted at previous consultation stages of the Local Plan, and the [Statement of Common Ground](#) (SOCG) December 2023 between Historic England and Norfolk County Council.

Main Matter 3 – Whether the Plan makes adequate provision for the steady and adequate supply of aggregate and industrial minerals.

Issue: Whether the provision made in the Plan for the future supply of aggregate and industrial minerals would deliver a steady and adequate supply.

Questions:

8. Should the Plan provide any distinction and/or protection for the use of carstone as dimension stone, particularly in relation to its use in conservation work and to maintain local vernacular, as opposed to its use as crushed rock?

- 2.1 Historic England would support the Plan making a distinction between Carstone as dimension stone and crushed rock. We would also welcome the protection of Carstone for use as dimension stone to support conservation work and maintain local vernacular.
- 2.2 The NPPF (Sept 2023), paragraph 211f states that Mineral Planning Authorities should *‘consider how to meet any demand to the extraction of building stone needed for the repair of heritage assets...’*
- 2.3 Carstone is probably the most important building stone within the county and can be seen in historic buildings and structures of western Norfolk. It is largely quarried today for construction rather than conservation purposes, but it is essential that some extraction takes place for building stone uses and that minimal crushing of good quality carstone takes place for construction purposes.
- 2.4 We note that there is one site allocation later in the Plan for Carstone although the Plan states that this is of insufficient quality for use as a building stone. We therefore recommended that an alternative site for building stone be sought. It is important that such stone is available for historic conservation work and also for limited use in new build where using traditional building materials can be a helpful design tool in picking up on local vernacular, character and distinctiveness in sensitive design.
- 2.5 We understand that there are other existing permitted Carstone extraction sites. Norfolk County Council informed us that at the end of 2021 the landbank of permitted reserves for Carstone in Norfolk was 1.524 million tonnes, which would last over 16 years based on the previous 10-years average sales.
- 2.6 The question remains as to whether there is sufficient supply for use as dimension stone.

- 2.6 Historic England would support the Plan making a distinction between Carstone as dimension stone and crushed rock. We would also welcome the protection of Carstone for use as dimension stone to support conservation work and maintain local vernacular.

- 2.7 We would also recommend that the supply situation is monitored throughout the Plan period and that if insufficient dimension stone is coming forward for conservation/new build uses then alternative provision should be sought.