

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN 2036

**ADOPTED JULY 2021**

# Contents

## CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| List of Policies .....   | 2         |
| List of Figures .....  | 3         |
| List of Tables .....   | 3         |
| <b>1. Introduction .....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Introduction to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan .....</b> | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>OS Map - Copyright Note .....</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2. Policy Framework and Context .....</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Vision .....</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Aims and Objectives .....</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Strategic and Non-Strategic Policies .....</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Implementation and Monitoring .....</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Key Diagram.....</b>  | <b>11</b> |
| <b>3. The Core Policies .....</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Sustainable Development and Climate Change .....</b>  | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Providing for Mineral Extraction.....</b>   | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Waste Management Needs.....</b>   | <b>23</b> |
| <b>Providing for Waste Management.....</b>   | <b>29</b> |
| <b>4. Minerals Development Specific Policy .....</b>   | <b>35</b> |
| <b>Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) .....</b>   | <b>35</b> |
| <b>Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) and Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs).....</b>               | <b>36</b> |
| <b>Borrowpits .....</b>  | <b>37</b> |
| <b>Recycled and Secondary Aggregates, and Concrete Batching .....</b>                          | <b>38</b> |
| <b>Reservoirs and Other Incidental Mineral Extraction .....</b>                                | <b>39</b> |
| <b>5. Waste Management Specific Policies .....</b>   | <b>41</b> |
| <b>Waste Management Areas (WMAs) .....</b>   | <b>41</b> |
| <b>Water Recycling Areas (WRAs) .....</b>  | <b>42</b> |
| <b>Radioactive and Nuclear Waste .....</b>   | <b>43</b> |
| <b>Landfill Mining and Reclamation .....</b>   | <b>43</b> |
| <b>Waste Management Needs arising from Residential and Commercial Development.....</b>         | <b>44</b> |
| <b>6. Policies for Minerals and Waste Management Proposals .....</b>                           | <b>46</b> |
| <b>Transport Infrastructure Areas (TIAs) .....</b>   | <b>46</b> |
| <b>Consultation Areas (CAs).....</b>   | <b>47</b> |
| <b>Design .....</b>  | <b>49</b> |
| <b>Amenity Considerations .....</b>  | <b>50</b> |
| <b>Restoration and Aftercare.....</b>  | <b>51</b> |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Biodiversity and Geodiversity</b> .....                                      | 52 |
| <b>The Historic Environment</b> .....   | 55 |
| <b>Water Resources</b> .....  | 57 |
| <b>Traffic, Highways and Rights of Way</b> .....                                | 59 |
| <b>Sustainable Use of Soils</b> .....   | 61 |
| <b>Aerodrome Safeguarding</b> .....   | 62 |
| <b>Other Developments Requiring Importation of Materials</b> .....              | 63 |
| <b>List of Acronyms</b> .....   | 64 |
| <b>Appendix 1: Site Profiles</b> .....  | 66 |
| <b>Appendix 2: Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan</b> .....                   | 66 |
| <b>Appendix 3: The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities</b> ..... | 66 |

## LIST OF POLICIES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>POLICY 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE</b> .....                                  | 13 |
| <b>POLICY 2: PROVIDING FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION</b> .....  | 19 |
| <b>POLICY 3: WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS</b> .....  | 27 |
| <b>POLICY 4: PROVIDING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT</b> .....  | 31 |
| <b>POLICY 5: MINERAL SAFEGUARDING AREAS (MSAS)</b> .....   | 35 |
| <b>POLICY 6: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS (MDAS) AND MINERAL ALLOCATION AREAS (MAAS)</b> .....        | 37 |
| <b>POLICY 7: BORROWPITS</b> .....  | 37 |
| <b>POLICY 8: RECYCLED AND SECONDARY AGGREGATES, AND CONCRETE BATCHING</b> .....                    | 39 |
| <b>POLICY 9: RESERVOIRS AND OTHER INCIDENTAL MINERAL EXTRACTION</b> .....                          | 40 |
| <b>POLICY 10: WASTE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAS)</b> .....  | 41 |
| <b>POLICY 11: WATER RECYCLING AREAS (WRAS)</b> .....   | 42 |
| <b>POLICY 12: RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR WASTE</b> .....  | 43 |
| <b>POLICY 13: LANDFILL MINING AND RECLAMATION</b> .....  | 44 |
| <b>POLICY 14: WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS ARISING FROM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b> ..... | 45 |
| <b>POLICY 15: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AREAS (TIAS)</b> .....                                      | 46 |
| <b>POLICY 16: CONSULTATION AREAS (CAS)</b> .....   | 47 |
| <b>POLICY 17: DESIGN</b> .....   | 49 |
| <b>POLICY 18: AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS</b> .....   | 50 |
| <b>POLICY 19: RESTORATION AND AFTERCARE</b> .....  | 51 |
| <b>POLICY 20: BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY</b> .....  | 53 |
| <b>POLICY 21: THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT</b> .....   | 56 |
| <b>POLICY 22: FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT</b> .....   | 58 |
| <b>POLICY 23: TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY</b> .....  | 60 |
| <b>POLICY 24: SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOILS</b> .....   | 62 |
| <b>POLICY 25: AERODROME SAFEGUARDING</b> .....   | 63 |
| <b>POLICY 26: OTHER DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRING IMPORTATION OF MATERIALS</b> .....                      | 63 |

## LIST OF FIGURES

|  |    |
|--|----|
| <b>Figure 1: Waste arisings for the plan area (2017)</b> ..... | 24 |
|--|----|

## LIST OF TABLES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Table 1: Plan and Sustainability Appraisal Objectives</b> ..... | 5 |
|--|---|

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

- 1.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) set the requirement for Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities to prepare Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (DPDs) for their administrative areas. These DPDs helped form the 'Development Plan' for the area<sup>1</sup>. The term 'Local Plan' has in recent years been favoured over the term 'DPD'.
- 1.2 It was deemed necessary to replace the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Core Strategy (July 2011) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan Site Specific Proposals DPD (February 2012) with this single, and up to date, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2021). Up to date Local Plans are important, so that all parties (landowners, operators, members of the public etc.) are clear what policies will apply in which locations and for what types of proposals.
- 1.3 Upon adoption of this Plan the relevant allocations will be incorporated into the Policies Maps of the relevant individual Cambridgeshire District Councils and Peterborough City Council.

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<sup>1</sup> The Development Plan for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough consists, at the time of writing, of this adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (July 2021), the Local Plans of the Cambridgeshire Districts and Peterborough City Council (all various dates), and any adopted Neighbourhood Plans or Neighbourhood Development Orders across the plan area.

## 2. POLICY FRAMEWORK AND CONTEXT

### VISION

- 2.1 The following sets out our high level vision for minerals and waste management development.

*Over the plan period to 2036 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will ensure a steady, adequate but sustainable supply of minerals to meet current and projected future need. There will be an increased commitment to the use of secondary and recycled aggregate over land won material, with restoration and aftercare placed at the forefront of planning decisions.*

*As existing communities grow and new communities are formed, a network of waste management facilities will provide for the sustainable management of all wastes to the achievement of net self-sufficiency.*

*A balance will be struck between meeting present and future needs, and maintaining and enhancing the social, environmental and economic vibrancy of the plan area.*

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.2 To ensure that the overall vision of the Plan is achieved, that national policy is met and that local needs are addressed, a set of aims and objectives have been formed. The Plan has a total of 12 objectives under 8 themes. Each objective has examples as to how the objective could be met. The objectives are the same as in the Sustainability Appraisal framework and are shown in the table below:

**TABLE 1: PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OBJECTIVES**

| Headline Objective                     | Criteria to help determine whether objective is/could be met  |
|--|---|
| <b>Sustainable mineral development</b> |   |
| <b>1</b>                               | <p>Ensure a steady and adequate supply of mineral to support growth whilst ensuring the best use of materials, and protection of land</p> <p>determine applications for mineral development without delay</p> <p>prevent needless sterilisation of mineral resources through the use of mineral safeguarding areas</p> <p>safeguard existing mineral development</p> <p>make adequate provision in order to ensure continuity of supply</p> |

|                                     |   |  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                     |   | of mineral for the plan area   |
| <b>Sustainable waste management</b> |   |  |
| <b>2</b>                            | Contribute positively to the sustainable management of waste  | <p>manage the waste arising in the plan area over the plan period, with appropriately located and distributed waste management facilities of a high quality in operation and in design</p> <p>move treatment of waste up the waste hierarchy</p> <p>achieve net waste self-sufficiency</p> <p>safeguard existing waste management facilities and infrastructure, including from incompatible development that may prejudice waste use</p> <p>promote/allow scope for new technology and innovation in waste management</p> <p>ensure that all major new developments undertake sustainable waste management practices (including, where appropriate, the provision of temporary waste management facilities throughout construction)</p> |
| <b>Resilience and restoration</b>   |   |  |
| <b>3</b>                            | Support climate change mitigation and adaptation, and seek to build in resilience to the potential effects of climate change        | <p>minimise greenhouse gas emissions</p> <p>reduce the demand for energy and maximise the use of energy from renewable sources</p> <p>minimise the use of virgin mineral by encouraging the efficient use of materials (including the recycling and re-use of waste and the minimisation of construction waste)</p> <p>encourage operational practices and restoration proposals (including the conservation of peat soils through sustainable soil management) which minimise or help to address climate change</p>   |
| <b>4</b>                            | Protect water resources and quality, mitigate for flood risk from all sources and seek to achieve a reduction in overall flood risk | <p>ensure waste development and associated infrastructure are not at risk of flooding</p> <p>ensure infrastructure associated with mineral development is not at risk of flooding</p> <p>ensure mineral and waste development will not affect water</p>  |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   |  | resource quantity and quality  |
| 5   | Safeguard productive land  | avoid the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land for waste development and prioritise the location of waste development on previously developed sites over greenfield land<br><br>minimise soil contamination and safeguard soil quality and quantity   |
| <b>Employment and economy</b>             |  |  |
| 6   | Support sustainable economic growth and the delivery of employment opportunities   | support the development and growth of sustainable communities and provision of infrastructure within the plan area<br><br>provide training and employment opportunities<br><br>maximise the sustainable economic benefits of mineral operations and waste management in the plan area<br><br>ensure mineral supply for construction<br><br>ensure effective and adequate waste infrastructure for existing and future development  |
| <b>Infrastructure</b>                     |  |  |
| 7   | Reduce road traffic, congestion and pollution; promote sustainable modes of movement and efficient movement patterns; and provide and maintain movement infrastructure | reduce the reliance on road freight movements of minerals and waste and seek to increase the efficient use of other modes of movement<br><br>where road transportation is necessary, minimise the total vehicle kilometres travelled and encourage the use of low emission vehicles<br><br>safeguard current and future infrastructure for minerals, waste, concrete batching, coated materials manufacturing, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of aggregate material |
| <b>Natural environment and landscapes</b> |  |  |
| 8   | Conserve and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape  | minimise adverse impacts to local amenity and overall landscape character<br><br>protect designated assets such as designated nature sites, open spaces, parks, gardens, historic landscapes   |
| 9   | Protect and  | protect and enhance habitats of international, national or local   |

|                                       |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
|                                       | encourage biodiversity and geodiversity   | importance<br>maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of green spaces<br>utilise opportunities to enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and achieve net gains  |
| <b>Built and historic environment</b> |   |   |
| <b>10</b>                             | Protect and where possible enhance the character, quality and distinctiveness of the built and historic environment | retain and enhance the character, distinctiveness and accessibility of townscapes<br>ensure mineral and waste development conserves, protects and enhances designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings, including archaeological assets  |
| <b>Health and wellbeing</b>           |   |   |
| <b>11</b>                             | Protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of communities   | avoid adverse effects on human health and safety or minimise to acceptable levels<br>safeguard the residential amenity of new and existing communities<br>provide opportunities to improve health and amenity through the restoration and management of former minerals and waste sites<br>encourage opportunities for education about minerals and waste |
| <b>12</b>                             | Minimise noise, light and air pollution   | minimise noise and light pollution arising from activities associated with waste development, waste management, mineral extraction and mineral movement<br>minimise air pollution   |

## STRATEGIC AND NON-STRATEGIC POLICIES

2.3 The NPPF states that the Development Plan “*must include strategic policies to address each local planning authority’s priorities for the development and use of land in its area*”<sup>2</sup>. It goes on to say that “*Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development*”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019), Paragraph 17

<sup>3</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019), Paragraph 20

and that *“Plans should make explicit which policies are strategic policies. These should be limited to those necessary to address the strategic priorities of the area (and any relevant cross-boundary issues), to provide a clear starting point for any non-strategic policies that are needed. Strategic policies should not extend to detailed matters that are more appropriately dealt with through neighbourhood plans or other non-strategic policies.”*.

- 2.4 Further, the NPPF states that *“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, in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver the strategic priorities of the area”*<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.5 The NPPF then explains that *“Non-strategic policies should [...] set out more detailed policies for specific areas, neighbourhoods or types of development. This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies”*<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.6 An important reason for being explicit about which policies are strategic or not is that, as the NPPF explains, *“Neighbourhood plans should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies.”*<sup>6</sup>.
- 2.7 Having considered all of the above, it has been determined that all of the Policies in this Plan are regarded as Strategic Policies.

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## IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

- 2.8 The policies in this Plan will be implemented through the Councils’ Development Management activities, and in some cases those of the Cambridgeshire City / District Councils. These activities include pre-application advice and discussions, the making of decisions on planning

<sup>4</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019), Paragraph 23

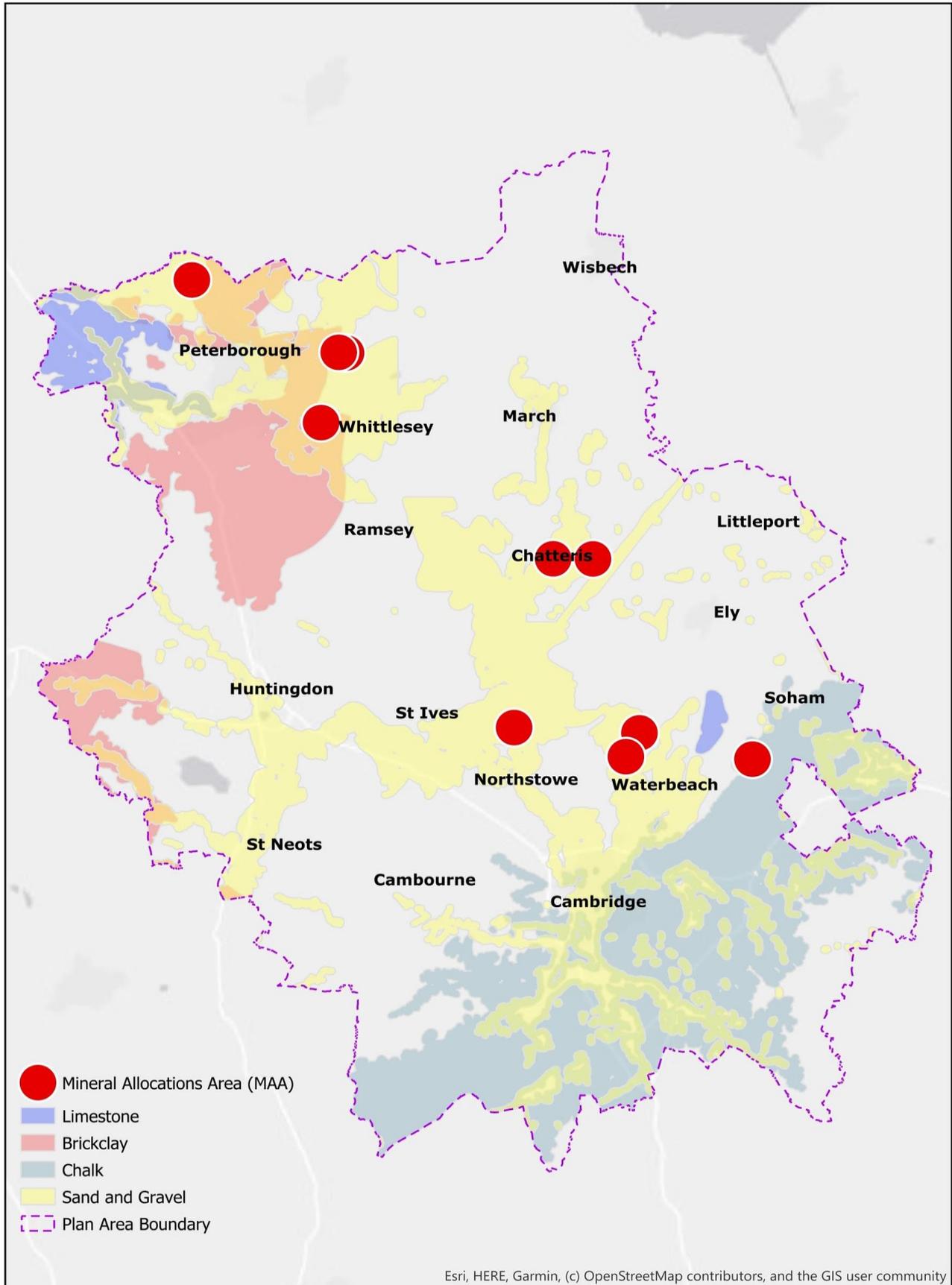
<sup>5</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019), Paragraph 28

<sup>6</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019), Paragraph 29

applications, and the operation of the Councils' compliance functions to ensure planning control is properly enforced.

- 2.9 Preparation of a plan is not a 'one-off' activity, it is part of a process that involves keeping a check on how successful the Plan is, in delivering what it sets out to do, and making adjustments to the Plan if the checking and monitoring process reveals that changes are needed.
- 2.10 The Councils each produce an annual Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR). The AMRs will report on the progress of allocated mineral sites and mineral landbank figures, alongside a review of the amount of waste managed and the existing waste management capacity across the Plan area (including new capacity that has been achieved through the grant of planning permission) in line with the strategic objectives of this Plan. This will allow the Councils to identify any potential changes required if a particular policy in the Plan is not operating as intended. The Councils have developed a set of monitoring indicators with which to help measure this. These monitoring indicators can be found in the accompanying Sustainability Appraisal, which was prepared alongside the preparation of this Plan and is available on the Councils' websites.

KEY DIAGRAM



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### 3. THE CORE POLICIES

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 3.1 The NPPF makes it clear that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Planning policies can play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions. It is also appropriate for Local Plans to include planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 3.2 The NPPF also makes it clear that Local Plans should 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 temperatures. It is also appropriate for Local Plans to support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts and avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change.
- 3.3 The Climate Change Act 2008 sets up a framework for the UK to achieve its long-term goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure steps are taken towards adapting to the impacts of climate change. That Act also introduced section 19 (1A) into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires local planning authorities to address climate change in preparing Local Plans.
- 3.4 In terms of vulnerability to climate change, the plan area includes large areas of low lying land which is potentially highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as from flood risk and sea level rises. The high volume of protected habitats are also potentially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, as most of such protected habitats are low lying, and very sensitive to the water environment.
- 3.5 In addition, lowland peatlands represent one of the most carbon-rich ecosystems in the UK, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has extensive such lands. As a result of widespread modification and drainage (usually to support agriculture), they have been converted from natural carbon sinks into major carbon emitting sources, and are now amongst the largest sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the UK land-use sector.
- 3.6 Mineral development and the subsequently restored mineral site can cause considerable loss of high quality agricultural land and/or peat land, and is an important consideration for proposals. However, restoration of mineral sites can also afford unique opportunities to create habitats which can act as living carbon sinks, and which may assist in reducing the erosion of, and thereby protection of such valuable soils e.g. through the creation of lowland wet grassland. In the plan area

there is potential to achieve this on a strategic and landscape scale, and to contribute at the same time towards achieving national biodiversity objectives.

- 3.7 A robust policy addressing all of the above matters is therefore required in this Local Plan, as set out below.

#### **POLICY 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mineral and waste management proposals will be assessed against the overarching principle of whether the proposal would play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions. In undertaking that assessment, account will be taken of local circumstances such as the character, needs, constraints and opportunities of the plan area. Proposals which are not consistent with this principle will be refused.

Proposals should 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 temperatures. Proposals which ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts will be supported.

Proposals, including operational practices and restoration proposals, must take account of climate change for the lifetime of the development (including the lifetime of its restoration scheme, where applicable). This will be through measures to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, and measures to ensure adaptation to future climate changes.

Proposals should, to a degree which is proportionate to the scale and nature of the scheme, set out how this will be achieved, such as:

- (a) demonstrating how the location, design, site operation and transportation related to the development will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including through the adoption of emission reduction measures based on the principles of the energy hierarchy); and take into account any significant impacts on human health and wellbeing and on air quality;
- (b) where relevant, setting out how the proposal will make use of renewable energy including opportunities for generating energy from waste for use beyond the boundaries of the site itself, and the use of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy;
- (c) for proposals which involve the temporary or permanent removal of peat soils, measures to make long term sustainable use of such soils (see also Policy 24); and
- (d) for waste management proposals, (i) how the principles of the waste hierarchy have been considered and addressed; and (ii) broadly quantifying the reduction in carbon

dioxide and other relevant greenhouse gases e.g. methane, that should be achieved as part of the proposal, and how this will be monitored and addressed in future.

Proposals should also set out how they will be resilient to a changing climate, taking account of the latest available evidence on the impact of climate change, such as:

- (e) avoiding proposals which could increase vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change;
- (f) incorporation of sustainable drainage schemes to minimise flood impacts, and, if viable opportunities exist, reduce current flood risk;
- (g) measures to manage water resources efficiently (and where restoration proposals are reliant on water, ensure sufficient water resource will be available);
- (h) measures to assist habitats and species to adapt to the potential effects of climate change; and
- (i) measures to adapt to the potential impacts of excess heat and drought.

## PROVIDING FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION

- 3.8 Minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and our quality of life. This Plan sets out an overarching spatial strategy for minerals. This is important in order to guide not only allocations made in the Plan, but also proposals on non-allocated sites which may subsequently come forward as planning applications.
- 3.9 Within the plan area sand and gravel is the primary mineral in terms of commercial resource. Historically extraction has been located in the Nene and Ouse River Valleys but more recently the move has been away from these areas as they are now the focus of other national planning policies which seek to protect and enhance their biodiversity. Extraction has therefore shifted to fen edge deposits where there are significant reserves and, in some instances, give rise to the opportunity to enhance biodiversity through restoration on a landscape or a local scale.
- 3.10 Needingworth Quarry is a good example of this, where a nationally significant reedbed is being created. The spatial strategy for this Plan continues this approach, focusing extraction at fen edge deposits where restoration can contribute to international and national biodiversity objectives, as well as flood risk management gains.
- 3.11 For some minerals the spatial options are more constrained. The brickpits near Whittlesey for example involve the extraction of brickclay on an industrial scale. Other areas involve smaller scale extraction, such as the high quality industrial chalk at Steeple Morden. National policy requires Mineral Planning Authorities to make

provision for industrial and local mineral needs, either through allocations, criteria based policies or a mixture of the two.

- 3.12 Within the plan area, limestone is located in a small geographical area mainly to the north west of Peterborough. It is oolitic in nature, thereby limiting its value as a crushed rock aggregate, and it is also a diminishing resource. It was not possible to allocate any limestone sites through the previous Plan, and no sites came forward through its criteria based policy. Only one site was submitted for inclusion in this Plan but is not deemed suitable for allocation. This Plan therefore continues the same broad approach as the previous Plan, relying on a criteria based approach for limestone extraction.
- 3.13 Mineral for infrastructure projects such as major road improvements could come from existing or allocated mineral workings, or it could come from dedicated sites close to and specific to that project. These 'borrowpits', which would be temporary in nature, may reduce the impact of mineral working for those local communities on the routes from existing mineral sites and have a lower carbon impact (due to less mineral miles travelled). There could, however, also be an impact on local communities, the landscape or other matters from borrowpits, and permission of any such site must take account of the full planning balance.
- 3.14 Some minerals have particular characteristics which mean that they lend themselves to specialist uses. For example, chalk in the Steeple Morden area is used for a range of manufacturing processes, and clay in the Burwell area is used on a small scale for the manufacture of traditional handmade bricks and tiles. Such minerals need to be worked where they occur and provision needs to be made for such specialist uses to continue.

### **Mineral spatial strategy and meeting the need for minerals**

- 3.15 This Plan follows national planning policy in planning for a steady and adequate supply of sand and gravel and limestone i.e. the main aggregates which occur in the plan area. This includes taking the advice of the East of England Aggregates Working Party (AWP) which, in November 2017, agreed that, in the absence of updated national guidelines on aggregate provision, the methodology contained in the NPPF and NPPG would form the basis of determining aggregate provision for Minerals Plans.
- 3.16 There are however many factors which inform the calculation of future mineral need. The key elements which this Plan has taken into account that inform the level of future provision for aggregates, and which are also indicators of the security of supply, are as follows:

- (a) the average of the past 10 years of aggregate sales data;
- (b) the average of the past 3 years of aggregate sales data;
- (c) the landbanks and other information contained in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA);
- (d) an assessment of other supply options e.g. the supply of secondary and recycled aggregates and marine dredged material;
- (e) matters relating to mineral supply raised through the duty to cooperate with other Mineral Planning Authorities;
- (f) knowledge of major current and planned infrastructure projects within the plan area and the wider region, including London; and
- (g) the geological extent of mineral and its quality, plus other relevant factors related to its extraction (such as site specific constraints).

### Sand and Gravel

- 3.17 Sand and gravel is the most significant resource in the plan area. The NPPG requires Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) to maintain a stock of sand and gravel reserves (a landbank) equivalent to at least 7 years supply. The LAA (December 2018) records that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, at the end of 2017, had permitted reserves of 41.43 million tonnes.
- 3.18 The 10 year average of sand and gravel sales is 2.36 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa). Annual sales have however increased in recent years, with the 3 year average being 2.89Mtpa. Part of this increase is attributed to construction of the A14 improvement scheme, however the general trend upwards needs to be recognised and reflected in the annual provision rate.
- 3.19 Taking account of these two metrics and other measures highlighted from (a) to (g) above, the Councils have determined that an appropriate annual provision rate for the Plan is **2.6Mtpa**. This represents the mid-point between the 10 year sales average and the 3 year sales average, and is also a 10% increase on the 10 year sales average (10% often being used as a proxy for a buffer above the 10 year sales average in other Minerals and Waste Local Plans). At 2.6Mtpa, this would equate to a landbank of 15.9 years.
- 3.20 An annual provision rate over the plan period (2016 to 2036) of 2.6Mt would give rise to a total requirement for 54.6Mt of sand and gravel. Taking off sales in 2016 and 2017 (2.56Mt and 3.56Mt respectively), this leaves a remaining plan period requirement of 48.48Mt. At the end of 2017, the plan area had permitted reserves of 41.43Mt. Subtracting permitted reserves of 41.43Mt from the remaining requirement (48.48Mt) leaves a potential shortfall of 7.05Mt to be addressed.

3.21 Moving forward, the spatial strategy of this Local Plan is for extraction of sand and gravel to take place in a broad corridor north to south through the centre of the plan area. Such extraction will take place from sites allocated for that purpose on the Policies Map. Such extraction will help to support three important objectives of this Local Plan:

- delivery of growth aspirations as set out in other Development Plans;
- creation, via the restoration of sites, of opportunities for substantial net gain in biodiversity of international and national importance; and
- creation, via the restoration of sites, of opportunities for substantial flood risk management gains of strategic importance.

3.22 Of the allocations, the largest is at Block Fen/Langwood Fen, which has the potential of not only delivering large volumes of sand and gravel but also of providing key habitat creation and sustainable flood management benefits. It is this combination of strategic benefits which justifies this large allocation as identified on the Policies Map.

3.23 The proposed allocations will provide 17.625Mt over the plan period, leaving a potential surplus of 10.575Mt. this provides an additional margin of flexibility and equates to just over 4 years supply at the provision rate of 2.6Mtpa. The reserves, anticipated start date, and indicative extraction rate of each allocation are shown in the table below, and for the avoidance of doubt, the extraction expected to take place at sites beyond 2036 has been discounted in the table below and does not contribute to the provision to be made during the plan period.

| Site   | Estimate of Plan Period Reserve (Mt) | Anticipated Start Date | Indicative Extraction Rate (Mtpa) |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| M019: Bare Fen & West Fen, Willingham / Over | 3.000                                | 2031                   | 0.800                             |
| M021: Mitchell Hill Farm South, Cottenham    | 0.140                                | 2036                   | 0.140                             |
| M022: Chear Fen, Cottenham                   | 0.820                                | 2030                   | 0.140                             |
| M028: Kings Delph, Whittlesey                | 0.350                                | 2030                   | 0.050                             |
| M029: Gores Farm, Thorney                    | 1.600                                | 2026                   | 0.300                             |
| M033: Land off Main Road Maxey               | 1.925                                | 2030                   | 0.275                             |

|  |       |   |       |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| M034: Willow Hall Farm, Thorney            | 2.800 | 2023  | 0.200 |
| M035: Block Fen / Langwood Fen East, Mepal | 4.680 | Langwood Fen East & Hundreds Farm 2022 / Witcham Meadlands 2020 | 0.350 |
| M036: Block Fen / Langwood Fen West, Mepal | 2.310 | Wenny Farm 2031   | 0.400 |

### Limestone

- 3.24 The spatial strategy for limestone for aggregate purposes will be to continue extraction at existing consented sites which, as noted above, is limited to a small geographical area to the north west of Peterborough; and which is a diminishing resource. The NPPG requires a stock of limestone reserves equivalent to at least 10 years supply. The LAA records only two limestone quarries which are currently active. Only one of these provides material for aggregate use, however the other has been included to enable the release of some statistics.
- 3.25 The permitted reserves for both these quarries at the end of 2017 is 2.53 million tonnes. The 10 year rolling average of sales is 0.3Mtpa, resulting in an equivalent theoretical landbank of 8.4 years, i.e. less than required. Through the call for sites process in May/June 2018, only one site was put forward, yet is not deemed suitable for allocation, therefore no new allocations are made in this Plan. Given this, it does not seem possible to maintain a national policy compliant supply of limestone, through the plan period, though this is a reflection of reality (i.e. lack of sites) rather than a strategic policy position. However, limestone is being imported into the area to address any lack of supply from within the area. To assist any future additional limestone extraction to come forward, a criteria based approach is therefore set out in this Plan.

### Brickclay

- 3.26 The spatial strategy for brickclay extraction is to continue extraction at existing consented sites, broadly in an area to the south and east of Peterborough. Future extraction will take place at Kings Delph, Whittlesey, a site allocated on the Policies Map. Localised specialist brickclay is also allocated at Burwell Brickpits.
- 3.27 National planning policy requires that a landbank of brickclay is maintained, in the order of 25 years of supply. The extensive reserves of brickclay in the plan area, close to the Whittlesey brickworks complex, should meet this requirement. To ensure the

continuity of supply, land located in the Cambridgeshire side of the Kings Delph area, which straddles the administrative boundaries of the two authorities, is allocated for future extraction, delivering an estimated 27 million tonnes of brickclay, which is over 60 years supply, in addition to existing permitted reserves on the Peterborough side.

### Other minerals

- 3.28 Other minerals such as chalk, building stone (including clunch), and limestone for non-aggregate purposes, are a very limited resource in the plan area. The spatial strategy for such minerals is to continue extraction on a small scale to meet such specialist needs; which could occur via the working of existing consents, or via the provisions of Policy 2: Providing for Mineral Extraction. No allocations are made for such 'other minerals'.

### Site Profiles

- 3.29 To assist the preparation of planning applications, at Appendix 1 each allocated site below has a 'site profile' setting out specific key information and potential site considerations for each site. Such profiles are not policy, but are intended to offer a snapshot of issues for each site and assist in the interpretation and application of relevant generic policies. Please note the introductory explanation at the start of Appendix 1.

#### POLICY 2: PROVIDING FOR MINERAL EXTRACTION

##### Sand and Gravel, Limestone and Brickclay

The Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) will facilitate a steady and adequate supply of the following minerals over the plan period (2016-2036), including seeking to maintain a landbank of 7 years of Sand and Gravel:

|                        | Plan Period 2016-36<br>(Mt) | Provision Rate<br>(Mtpa) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Sand and Gravel</b> | <b>54.6</b>                 | <b>2.6</b>               |
| <b>Limestone</b>       | <b>6.3</b>                  | <b>0.3*</b>              |

\*This figure is based on the 10 year average from the latest Local Aggregate Assessment, yet is dependent upon additional acceptable reserves coming forward over the plan period.

In principle, permissions will be granted so as to ensure the above provision can be secured. In order to meet the needs identified above for sand and gravel and brickclay, the

following allocations are made and are defined as Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs) on the Policies Map, with their broad locations shown on the Key Diagram.

| <b>Sand and Gravel</b>                     |                 |  |
|--|-----------------|--|
| <b>Site</b>                                | <b>Reserve†</b> | <b>Site Specific Requirements</b>  |
| M019: Bare Fen & West Fen, Willingham/Over | 3.000           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access must be through the existing Needingworth Quarry and mineral should be moved by field conveyor to the existing Quarry for processing; onward transportation should use the agreed HCV routing.</li> <li>● Restoration to a reedbed priority habitat, as an extension to the existing approved restoration scheme for Needingworth Quarry.</li> <li>● Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by their settings.</li> </ul> |
| M021: Mitchell Hill Farm South, Cottenham  | 0.140           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access must be via the existing A10 roundabout</li> <li>● Site must be worked through the Mitchell Hill north processing plant.</li> <li>● Restoration must be to an agricultural after-use at original levels.</li> <li>● Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by their settings.</li> </ul>  |
| M022: Chear Fen, Cottenham                 | 0.820           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access must be via the existing A10 roundabout</li> <li>● Site must be worked through the Mitchell Hill north processing plant.</li> <li>● Restoration must be to agriculture and nature conservation; with lowland wet grassland, complementary to that being created at Mitchell Hill North, along the corridor of the River Great Ouse.</li> </ul>   |
| M028: Kings Delph, Whittlesey              | 0.350           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A comprehensive programme of archaeological mitigation will be required which takes into account the proximity to Must Farm, a Bronze Age settlement; and Horsey Hill Civil Fort, a Scheduled Monument.</li> <li>● Minerals must be transported to the brickworks by conveyor to minimise impact on A605.</li> </ul>  |
| M029: Gores Farm, Thorney                  | 1.600           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment will be required to inform the extent of the development at</li> </ul>   |

|                                 |       |  |
|---------------------------------|-------|--|
|                                 |       | <p>the master-planning stage and submitted with any planning application. Harm to the significance of heritage assets should be avoided in the first instance and appropriate mitigation measures should be identified for any remaining harm. This must include a significant no development buffer around the on-site scheduled monuments, together with a heritage-led restoration scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A comprehensive biodiversity report will be required which considers opportunities for and impacts on biodiversity, including, in particular, any impacts on the Nene Washes Ramsar, SAC, SPA, and SSSI.</li> <li>● Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by their settings.</li> </ul> |
| M033: Land off Main Road, Maxey | 1.925 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to the existing processing plant must be across Etton Road, either vehicular or by conveyor.</li> <li>● Access to the HCV network will be via the existing Maxey quarry entrance, turning right onto Maxey Road joining at the A15 roundabout.</li> <li>● Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by their settings.</li> <li>● A comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment will be required to inform a heritage-led restoration scheme and must be submitted with any planning application.</li> </ul>  |
| M034: Willow Hall Farm, Thorney | 2.800 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A comprehensive Heritage Impact Assessment will be required to inform the extent of the development at the master-planning stage and submitted with any planning application. Harm to the significance of heritage assets should be avoided in the first instance and appropriate mitigation measures should be identified for any remaining harm. This must include a significant no development buffer around the on-site, and potentially off-site, scheduled monuments, together with a heritage-led restoration scheme.</li> <li>● A comprehensive biodiversity report will be required which considers opportunities for and impacts on biodiversity, including, in particular, any impacts on the</li> </ul>   |

|  |       |  |
|--|-------|--|
|  |       | <p>Nene Washes Ramsar, SAC, SPA, and SSSI‡.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by their settings.</li> <li>• A comprehensive programme of archaeological mitigation will be required which takes into account the proximity of the Iron Age and Roman Settlement to the north west of the site.</li> </ul> |
| M035: Block Fen/Langwood Fen East, Mepal | 4.680 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be worked and restored in a phased manner in accordance with the Block Fen/Langwood Fen Master Plan set out in Appendix 2.</li> <li>• Development should conserve and where appropriate enhance the significance of heritage assets including any contribution made to their significance by their settings.</li> </ul>  |
| M036: Block Fen/Langwood Fen West, Mepal | 2.308 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be worked and restored in a phased manner in accordance with the Block Fen/Langwood Fen Master Plan set out in Appendix 2.</li> <li>• Development must protect the Grey's Farm, Horseley Fen Scheduled Monument and its setting.</li> </ul>  |

‡Part of meeting this requirement will be the submission of sufficient information from the applicant to enable the completion of a project-level screening exercise under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This should identify whether any land affected by the proposed development is functionally linked to the Nene Washes SPA and Ramsar site i.e. it is regularly used by qualifying species (especially foraging and roosting swans), and whether the proposal will have a likely significant effect on the SPA through the loss of, or disturbance and displacement of birds from, functional land. If that screening concludes that full Appropriate Assessment (AA) is needed, sufficient information will need submitting to enable Peterborough City Council to complete that AA. This process will need to demonstrate that the development will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Nene Washes.

| <b>Brickclay</b>                 |                 |   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| <b>Site</b>                      | <b>Reserve†</b> | <b>Site Specific Requirements</b>   |
| M023: Burwell Brickpits, Burwell | 0.04            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration must be to a biodiversity use which complements and supports the designated County Wildlife Site</li> </ul>  |
| M028: Kings Delph, Whittlesey    | 27              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive programme of archaeological mitigation will be required which takes into account the proximity to Must Farm, a Bronze Age settlement; and</li> </ul> |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p>Horsey Hill Civil Fort, a Scheduled Monument</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minerals must be transported to the brickworks by conveyor to minimise impact on A605.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

Permission for mineral extraction will only be granted:

(a) on MAAs or Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) § as identified on the Policies Map for that purpose; or

(b) in other areas provided the proposal meets all of the following:

- (i) it does not conflict with the strategy for minerals as set out in this Plan;
- (ii) with the exception of specialist minerals, it is required to maintain a steady and adequate supply of mineral in accordance with the above provision rates and/or the maintenance of a landbank;
- (iii) it is required to meet a proven need with particular specifications that cannot reasonably or would not otherwise be met from permitted or allocated reserves; and
- (iv) it will maximise the recovery of the identified reserve.

†All reserve figures are in million tonnes (Mt), are estimated and cover the plan period only. Actual reserves may extend beyond the plan period (see Appendix 1: Site Profiles).

§Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) are specific sites identified on the Policies Map. They consist of existing operational sites and committed sites (i.e. sites with planning permission but which are not yet operational or are dormant).

## WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS

- 3.30 Most forms of development and activities create waste. In planning for sustainable communities it is important to ensure that these wastes are managed appropriately in order to avoid harm to human health and the environment, and maximise resource recovery.

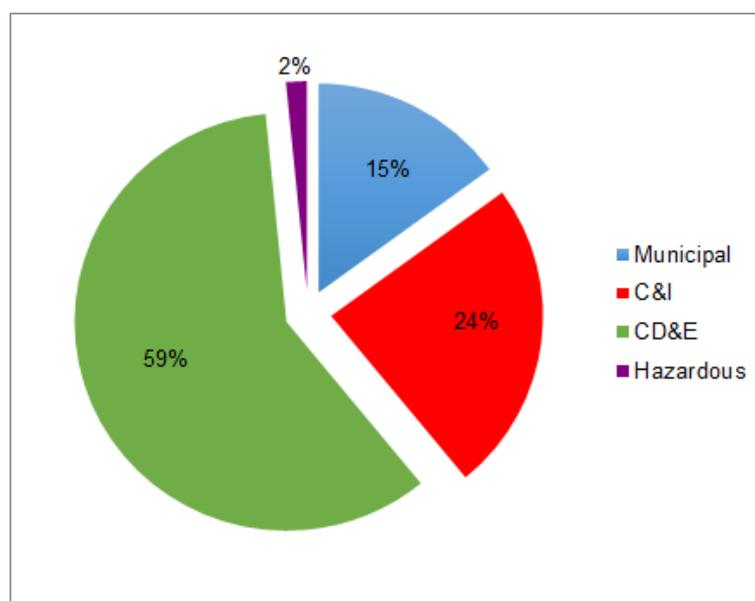
### Waste Arising in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

- 3.31 It is estimated that in 2017, waste arisings within the plan area totalled around 2.782 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of various types of waste including municipal, commercial & industrial (C&I), construction, demolition & excavation (CD&E) and hazardous wastes (see Figure 1 below). The majority of this waste was recycled or otherwise recovered, with disposal to landfill (non-hazardous and inert) accounting for around a third.

- 3.32 Of the total arisings, around half a million tonnes was exported to other authorities for management with less than a tenth disposed of to landfill (non-hazardous<sup>7</sup> and inert). Waste forecasts indicate that waste arisings from within the plan area could increase to 3.163Mtpa by the end of the plan period (2036). Low-level radioactive waste (LLW) from the nuclear industry is not produced within the plan area. However, a very small amount of LLW is produced from the non-nuclear industry.
- 3.33 Waste is also imported into the plan area from other Waste Planning Authority (WPA) areas. In 2017 imports significantly outweighed exports (almost fourfold), with over half of waste imported from other WPAs disposed of in landfill (non-hazardous<sup>8</sup> and inert). This indicates that overall the plan area is a net importer of waste. It also demonstrates that landfill void space within the plan area historically has served a wider area and has therefore been subject to external pressures.

- 3.34 Waste movements occur as a result of commercial, contractual and operational arrangements as well as geographical convenience. There is a national policy direction for WPAs to increase their waste management capacity to the extent of meeting the needs of their own area (i.e. moving towards net self-sufficiency). As such cross-border movements should reduce in the future although some movements will still occur. This is because it is

FIGURE 1: WASTE ARISING FOR THE PLAN AREA (2017)



not possible for all waste to be managed within the boundary of the WPA from which it arises due to economies of scale and operational requirements. Nevertheless, overall, the amount of net waste dealt with within a WPA area should be broadly equal to the amount of waste that area produces.

- 3.35 Accordingly, areas which presently have a net export of waste have, or are, moving to a position whereby they deal with more of their own waste. Likewise, areas that historically and presently have a net import of waste (such as the Cambridgeshire-Peterborough plan area) should see such net imports significantly reduced. In providing for waste management facilities the intention, therefore, is for this Local

<sup>7</sup> Includes stable non-reactive hazardous waste (SNRHW)

<sup>8</sup> Includes SNRHW

Plan to determine the likely waste arising that will occur, and set out the identified needs of the plan area as a whole in relation to waste management capacity, in order to achieve net self-sufficiency, and at the same time drive waste up the waste hierarchy.

- 3.36 There is, however, one exception to the above net self-sufficiency 'rule'. National policy requires the Plan to consider the need for additional waste management capacity of more than local significance. The adopted London Plan identifies household and commercial & industrial waste to be exported, and the East of England is specifically listed as the main destination for this waste, partly owing to its proximity. Whilst some of London's waste is received at waste treatment facilities within the plan area, at present the majority is disposed to non-hazardous (including SNRHW) landfill which is the matter with which the Plan is most concerned given the limited void space and pressures on such capacity.
- 3.37 The adopted London Plan sees household and C&I waste exports to the East of England gradually reducing from current rates (estimated at 3.449Mt in 2015) and ceasing completely in 2026<sup>9</sup>. In 2015 0.079Mt of household and C&I waste was received from London WPAs at non-hazardous (including SNRHW) landfill sites within the plan area. Although London is moving towards net self-sufficiency in this respect, the intent of the adopted London Plan still needs to be taken into account. Therefore some provision for the landfill of some of London's household and C&I waste is made in the early part of the plan period of this Local Plan (albeit in reality this may be waste which is displaced from other WPAs in the East of England region which are closer to London, with such counties being the likely actual destination for London's residual waste). Our Waste Needs Assessment (WNA) has factored in an appropriate amount of London's non-apportioned household and C&I waste continuing to be imported into the plan area, and consequently has been factored into our calculations to determine the 'capacity gap' for each waste stream.

### Waste Management Capacity

- 3.38 The plan area benefits from an existing network of waste management facilities, with this management capacity<sup>10</sup> significantly contributing towards the identified future need. The difference between the existing capacity (including permitted sites yet to become operational) and identified need is referred to as the capacity gap, or future need. Overall, the plan area is relatively well placed in terms of moving towards achieving net self-sufficiency. Our evidence indicates that there is the potential need for materials recycling, hazardous recycling (recovery) and hazardous disposal capacity (see the WNA, June 2019). Depending on individual site operations for sites

<sup>9</sup> Referred to as London's non-apportioned household and C&I waste

<sup>10</sup> Existing management capacity has been determined through the WNA (June 2019) and only captures capacity of sites that have an extant planning permission. This includes capacity of recently permitted sites that are not yet implemented and/or operational (capacity for such sites has been incorporated over the plan period as per the information provided in the relevant application).

undertaking transfer and materials recycling functions the capacity gap may be reduced (as only 25% of the operational throughput has been assumed to contribute towards materials recycling capacity). Regarding hazardous wastes, these wastes tend to be generated in lower quantities and are managed at a wider scale to account for economies of scale and operational requirements. A capacity gap was also identified for treatment and other forms of recovery, however permitted sites that are not yet operational (considered likely to be operational within the first half of the plan period) will act to take up the capacity gap.

- 3.39 The existing non-hazardous (including SNRHW) landfill void space is sufficient to accommodate the plan area's disposal needs over the plan period with a small surplus potentially to accommodate some of London's non-apportioned household and C&I waste. Although disposal is the least desirable option using the waste hierarchy principle, there is likely to be an ongoing need for such facilities (e.g. disposal of residues from treatment processes that cannot otherwise be recovered) and so it is one that must be provided for, either within the plan area or at a wider scale. Close monitoring of this situation will be key in determining timing and quantum of future need and the Councils are supportive, in principle, of proposals to move waste as high up the hierarchy as possible to ensure that opportunities to move as much waste away from landfill can be achieved over the plan period.
- 3.40 There is sufficient inert landfill and recovery void space to accommodate most of the plan area's needs over the plan period. In addition, some committed and allocated mineral extraction sites are almost certain to require inert fill to achieve restoration outcomes and so such mineral sites will create more inert landfill/recovery void space. As such no additional inert landfill or recovery void space is needed over the plan period (except that needed in associated with restoration of permitted mineral extraction sites).
- 3.41 No site specific allocations for new waste management facilities have been identified in this Local Plan given the following factors: the indicative future waste management needs of the plan area (to achieve net self-sufficiency) are comparatively low; the potential for the existing material recycling capacity to be greater than captured; other recovery capacity associated with permitted but not operational sites considered likely to come forward in the near future; and that hazardous wastes are generally produced in lower quantities and managed at a wider scale. However, the Plan's indicative capacity needs do not form a ceiling; where justified and in line with the wider aims and policies of this plan the Councils would be supportive of opportunities for additional capacity to be approved for a range of waste management methods where this will drive waste up the waste management hierarchy.
- 3.42 It is also important for the Plan to drive the development of a network of facilities

with the aim of communities and businesses being more engaged with, and taking more responsibility for, their own waste. Government policy focuses the proximity principle more towards the disposal of waste and recovery of mixed municipal waste. For these, and other waste types, the intention is for the Plan to include the preference for waste development to support sustainable waste management principles, including the proximity principle. This also links through to supporting sustainable transport movements.

- 3.43 The Waste Needs Assessment (WNA) June 2019 details the current estimated waste arisings, waste forecasts, existing capacity<sup>11</sup> and other information from which the indicative capacity needs over the plan period were determined.

### POLICY 3: WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS

The Waste Planning Authorities will seek to achieve net self-sufficiency in relation to the management of wastes arising from within the plan area, plus additional provision until 2026 in order to accommodate needs arising from London (specifically regarding non-apportioned household and commercial & industrial waste).

The following sets out the present capacity gap (indicated by a '-' figure) or surplus (indicated by a '+' figure). Figures in brackets in the 'existing capacity' rows indicate permitted capacity that is not yet operational but is considered likely to come online and contribute towards the waste management capacity within the plan period. Figures in brackets in the 'capacity gap' rows indicate the adjusted capacity gap (or surplus) that would result if permitted but not yet operational capacity becomes operational.

|  |  |                   | Indicative total waste management capacity needs |        |                  |                  |                  |                  |
|--|--|-------------------|--|--------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|  |  |                   | 2016   | 2017   | 2021             | 2026             | 2031             | 2036             |
| Non-hazardous waste management – Recovery (million tonnes per annum) |  |                   |  |        |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Preparing for re-use and recycling                                   | Materials recycling (Mixed - Municipal, C&I) | Forecast arisings | 0.613  | 0.662  | 0.696            | 0.754            | 0.806            | 0.852            |
|  |  | Existing capacity | 0.670  | 0.746  | 0.734            | 0.732            | 0.732            | 0.732            |
|  |  | Capacity gap      | +0.056   | +0.084 | +0.038           | -0.022           | -0.074           | -0.120           |
|  | Composting (Mixed - Municipal, C&I)          | Forecast arisings | 0.169  | 0.199  | 0.207            | 0.225            | 0.240            | 0.249            |
|  |  | Existing capacity | 0.332  | 0.324  | 0.349            | 0.349            | 0.349            | 0.349            |
|  |  | Capacity gap      | +0.163   | +0.124 | +0.142           | +0.124           | +0.109           | +0.100           |
|  | Inert recycling (CD&E)                       | Forecast arisings | 0.056  | 0.087  | 0.066            | 0.067            | 0.068            | 0.068            |
|  |  | Existing capacity | 0.149  | 0.184  | 0.435<br>(0.190) | 0.410<br>(0.190) | 0.410<br>(0.190) | 0.410<br>(0.190) |
|  |  | Capacity gap      | +0.093   | +0.097 | +0.370           | +0.343           | +0.342           | +0.342           |

<sup>11</sup> The existing capacity is taken to be that which is operational, however there are several sites that are permitted but not yet operational that are likely to contribute towards the waste management capacity during the plan period and so should be taken into consideration in determining future needs

|                |   |                   |        |        |                    |                    |                    |                    |
|----------------|---|-------------------|--------|--------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                |   |                   |        |        | (+0.560)           | (+0.533)           | (+0.532)           | (+0.532)           |
| Other recovery | Treatment and energy recovery processes* (Mixed - Municipal, C&I) | Forecast arisings | 0.156  | 0.160  | 0.226              | 0.314              | 0.393              | 0.416              |
|                |   | Existing capacity | 0.295  | 0.327  | 0.349<br>(0.035)   | 0.337<br>(0.575)   | 0.337<br>(0.575)   | 0.337<br>(0.575)   |
|                |   | Capacity gap      | +0.139 | +0.166 | +0.124<br>(+0.159) | +0.023<br>(+0.598) | -0.057<br>(+0.518) | -0.080<br>(+0.495) |
|                | Energy recovery (CD&E wood waste)                                 | Forecast arisings | 0.001  | 0.001  | 0.002              | 0.002              | 0.002              | 0.002              |
|                |   | Existing capacity | 0      | 0      | 0                  | 0<br>(0.048)       | 0<br>(0.048)       | 0<br>(0.048)       |
|                |   | Capacity gap      | -0.001 | -0.001 | -0.002             | -0.002<br>(+0.046) | -0.002<br>(+0.046) | -0.002<br>(+0.046) |
|                | Soil treatment (CD&E)   | Forecast arisings | 0.084  | 0.112  | 0.095              | 0.097              | 0.099              | 0.099              |
|                |   | Existing capacity | 0.147  | 0.278  | 0.315              | 0.315              | 0.315              | 0.315              |
|                |   | Capacity gap      | +0.062 | +0.166 | +0.220             | +0.217             | +0.216             | +0.216             |

\*Treatment and energy recovery processes refers to Anaerobic Digestion (AD), Energy from Waste (EfW) and other physical/chemical treatment processes.

|   |                        |  | Indicative total waste management capacity 2016-2036 |                      |         |
|---|------------------------|--|--|----------------------|---------|
|   |                        |  | Total need   | Estimated void space | Balance |
| <b>Waste management – Deposit to land and Disposal (Mt)</b> |                        |  |  |                      |         |
| Other recovery  | CD&E                   | Inert recovery**                         | 16.063   | 13.954               | -2.109  |
| Disposal  | CD&E                   | Inert landfill**                         | 3.856  | 1.932                | -1.924  |
|   | Mixed - Municipal, C&I | Non-hazardous landfill (including SNRHW) | 11.187   | 12.466               | +1.278  |
|   |                        | Non-hazardous landfill                   | 10.817   | 8.525                | -2.291  |
|   |                        | Non-hazardous (SNRHW) landfill           | 0.371  | 3.940                | +3.569  |

\*\*Inert recovery and landfill have a total indicative need of 19.919Mt over the plan period, with an estimated remaining void space of 15.886Mt (around 90% of which is associated with the

restoration of mineral extraction sites), leaving a deficit of 4.033Mt. This deficit is able to be accommodated however through void space created from mineral extraction operations that are or will be permitted over the plan period.

The net capacity figures in the table above are not ceilings for recycling, treatment or recovery of waste. As such, proposals will, in principle (and provided they are in accordance with Policy 4: Providing for Waste Management), be supported if any of the following scenarios apply:

- (a) it would assist in closing a gap identified in the table, provided such a gap has not already been demonstrably closed; or
- (b) it would assist in closing a new gap identified in the future, with such identification to be set out in the annual monitoring of the Plan; or
- (c) it moves waste capacity already identified in the above table up the waste hierarchy.

## PROVIDING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 3.44 This Policy sets out an overarching spatial strategy for waste recycling, treatment and recovery processes, alongside landfill and landraising, with appropriate policy criteria to take account of all new waste management sites and facilities. It also clarifies how new waste management proposals within the planning permission boundary of existing waste management sites will be considered, particularly where these fall outside of the locational criteria set out in Policy 4, but are already established waste sites; whilst also clarifying that new and/or improved Water Recycling Centres will be considered outside of this policy and instead in Policy 11. It is important to guide future waste management development to the most appropriate locations, particularly in the absence of site specific allocations to meet identified needs, whilst acknowledging the important part played by existing waste management sites in the plan area.
- 3.45 In developing the policy criteria, the Councils consider it appropriate to direct most waste management facilities to the main settlements that exist in the plan area, these being the areas which generate the greater proportion of waste arising, as well as having the better infrastructure (e.g. main highways) to accommodate proposals. The Councils also believe it is appropriate to identify existing and allocated employment land as a suitable location for many types of future waste management development, recognising that waste management development is now often located in buildings and can be indistinguishable from other industrial uses which operate alongside it. However, there is no guarantee waste management facilities will come forward on employment land because of viability or other locationally specific reasons, or due to a lack of available land. Accordingly, other locations could be considered, via the criteria based policy below.

3.46 Whilst new waste management sites and facilities will be directed to the main settlements that exist in the plan area through the locational criteria of Policy 4, the Councils acknowledge that there may be instances where waste management sites or facilities that already exist outside of these main settlements may be appropriate for either:

- temporary recycling opportunities e.g. landfill sites where additional facilities linked to the life of the temporary permission could help push waste up the hierarchy; or
- alternative or additional waste management facilities within the planning permission boundary of existing permanent waste sites.

In such instances, when considering the locational criteria based assessment the Councils will, in principle, support the use of an existing waste site for new waste management facilities. However, the consideration and support in principle to such uses, including temporary uses linked to the life of an existing waste site, should not be taken as support for permanent facilities, or for an intensification of a site where the benefits do not outweigh the harm when assessed against the wider policies of the Development Plan.

3.47 Like the previous Plan, this Local Plan also seeks to embed waste management facilities in new settlements. This could be temporary demolition and construction recycling facilities on a site during the construction phases, to permanent waste management facilities located within new communities.

3.48 In line with Objective 2 of this Plan, the Councils are keen to support opportunities to contribute positively to the sustainable management of waste, thereby seeking to move waste up the hierarchy, especially where proposals are able to demonstrate that they align with the wider objectives and policies contained within this Plan, in addition to the principles contained within Policy 4 below. In particular, support for recycling and re-use proposals that sit at the upper end of the waste hierarchy (just below prevention and minimisation) are encouraged to come forward to assist the councils in not only achieving the aspiration of moving waste up the hierarchy set out in Objective 2 of this Plan (which is set in the context of new self-sufficiency for the Plan area), but also helping to achieve the wider climate change aspirations set out in Policy 1.

3.49 The benefits of co-location of waste management facilities is also acknowledged by the Councils, particularly where facilities can show why co-location would be beneficial or can complement existing waste streams e.g. where outputs of one recycling waste stream can benefit further recycling or recovery from waste that is already taken to the original waste site or where the synergies of the operations can

be understood and justified; which is why a locational criteria based assessment is not required in such instances by the second half of Policy 4. For the avoidance of doubt, such benefits will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, and the policy should not be read as a blanket approval for further waste management extensions or new sites or facilities, just because a waste site already exists in the area.

- 3.50 The policy below does not make specific reference for applicants to potentially enter into binding restrictions on catchment areas, including tonnages and/or waste types. However, such restrictions might be necessary in order to limit excess waste entering the area and to make acceptable an otherwise unacceptable development.
- 3.51 As well as being a strategic policy for waste management, the policy below also sets out specific policy for specialist types of waste management i.e. medical and research waste, agricultural waste and hazardous waste streams. Appendix 3: The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities also provides guidance on the location of waste management facilities, and should be used to inform the location of waste management facilities in the plan area.

#### **POLICY 4: PROVIDING FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Across the plan area, existing and committed waste sites meet the majority of identified needs as set out in Policy 3, with the present forecast capacity gap over the plan period being less than substantial. As such, the strategy of this plan is not to make specific allocations for new waste sites. Instead this policy sets out a broad spatial strategy for the location of new waste management development; and criteria which will direct proposals to suitable sites, consistent with the spatial strategy.

In line with Objective 2 of this Plan, the Councils aim to actively encourage, and will in principle support the sustainable management of waste, which includes encouraging waste to move as far up the waste hierarchy as possible, whilst also ensuring net self-sufficiency over the Plan area. In order to ensure this aim can be met, waste management proposals must demonstrably contribute towards sustainable waste management, by moving waste up the waste hierarchy; and proposals for disposal must demonstrate that the waste has been pre-treated and cannot practicably be recycled. Proposals which do not comply with this spatial strategy for waste management development must also demonstrate the quantitative need for the development.

Unless otherwise supported by policy provision under one of the sub-headings in the second half of this Policy, the locational strategy of this Plan is that new or extended waste management facilities should be located within the settlement boundary\* of the existing or planned main urban areas of: Cambourne, Cambridge, Chatteris, Ely, Huntingdon,

Littleport, March, Northstowe, Peterborough, Ramsey, Soham, St. Ives, St. Neots, Waterbeach New Town, Whittlesey or Wisbech.

Where the proposed use and operations are potentially suitable within an urban setting (with suitability predominantly determined by applying policies in the Development Plan), then proposals should first consider the use of either:

- (a) employment areas (as identified in the Development Plan as being suitable for industrial and storage or distribution type uses) within the settlement boundary of the above identified urban areas; or
- (b) any 'strategic' employment areas over 10ha (as identified in the Development Plan as being suitable for industrial and storage or distribution type uses), which might not necessarily be located at one of the above identified urban areas.

Where such sites are demonstrated not to be available or suitable, using a proportionate amount of evidence, then support will be given, in principle, to locating facilities on other suitable sites within the urban areas identified above; or on the edge of them where it is demonstrated that the development is compatible with surrounding uses (including the physical size and throughput of the proposed development); and where there is a relationship with the settlement by virtue of landscape, design of the facility, and highway access. In applying these provisions, proposals should prioritise, and substantial weight will be given to, the use of suitable brownfield land within the above identified urban areas.

New waste management proposals that are unable to demonstrate benefits of co-location under part 2 of this policy, that are within the planning permission boundary of existing waste management sites (i.e. where extensions to the site area is not required) that already operate outside of the main settlements identified in the locational criteria above will, in principle, be supported. Each case will be considered on its own merits and will be assessed against all the policies within the Development Plan. For the avoidance of doubt, proposals for Water Recycling Centres will be considered under the provisions of Policy 11, rather than this Policy.

#### **Waste Management Facilities - New Strategic Development Areas:**

Waste management facilities in new strategic development areas (i.e. 1,500 homes or more, or 10ha or more for employment sites) will be supported where they are of a scale, use and accessibility to enable communities and businesses within that strategic development area to take some responsibility for their own waste.

#### **Waste Management Facilities - Rural Areas:**

Only waste management facilities which are located on a farm holding, and where the proposal is to facilitate agricultural waste recycling or recovery (the majority of which is generated by that farm holding) will, in principle, be supported. Outdoor composting proposals which require the importation of waste material will be determined in

accordance with wider policies of the Development Plan.

**Waste Management Facilities - Medical or Research Sites:**

Waste management facilities which are located on a medical or research site, and where the proposal is to facilitate the suitable management of waste generated by that site will, in principle, be supported.

**Waste Management Facilities - Co-location:**

Opportunities to co-locate waste management facilities together, or with complementary activities, as explained within the supporting text for this policy will, in principle, be supported, particularly where relating to:

- employment sites;
- industrial estates;
- mineral extraction and processing sites (for temporary proposals for aggregate and/or inert recycling facilities associated with extraction and processing and, where benefits are demonstrated, to the restoration of a mineral site); or
- integrated waste management development that has specific links to the existing waste management operations already taking place on a site.

Proposals for co-location will not be supported if the benefits do not outweigh the harm when assessed against the wider policies of the Development Plan.

**Waste Management Facilities - Non-Hazardous Waste Disposal:**

Where the need for additional capacity for the disposal of non-hazardous waste is demonstrated such capacity must be provided through extension to existing Non-Hazardous Waste and Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Waste (SNRHW) disposal sites, unless the extension for additional capacity would prejudice the wider strategic objectives of this plan and supporting appendices or it is demonstrated that a new standalone site would be more sustainable and better located to support the management of waste close to its source. It may also be supported where it is demonstrated that it is required for reasons of site stability or to address a potential pollution risk.

**Waste Management Facilities - Inert Waste Disposal:**

The deposit of inert waste to land will normally be permitted only within a Mineral Development Area (MDA) or Mineral Allocation Area (MAA). Proposals for the deposit of inert waste to land in other areas may only be permitted where:

- (c) there are no MDAs or MAAs within the plan area which can accommodate the inert waste in a timely and sustainable manner; or
- (d) there is clear and convincing evidence that the non-MDA/MAA site would be more suitable for receiving the inert waste; or
- (e) landfill engineering is required for reasons of land stability.

**Waste Management Facilities - Stable Non-Reactive Hazardous Waste (SNRHW) Disposal:**

Where the need for additional capacity for the disposal of SNRHW is demonstrated such capacity will only be permitted at, or through an extension to, existing SNRHW and Non-Hazardous Waste disposal sites unless the extension for additional capacity would prejudice the wider strategic objectives of this plan and supporting appendices.

**Waste Management Facilities - Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal:**

Proposals for the disposal of hazardous waste will only be supported in exceptional circumstances, and where it is demonstrated that there is a clear need for such a facility to be located in the plan area. Proposals for hazardous waste treatment will be supported where there is a demonstrated need, and will be considered in the context of the Development Plan and opportunities to move waste up the hierarchy in line with Objective 2.

**Waste Management Facilities - Landraising:**

Landraising will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where there is a need for a waste disposal facility to accommodate waste arising that cannot be accommodated by any other means.

\*a 'settlement boundary' is that which is defined on the relevant Policies Map for the area (e.g. a village envelope or urban area boundary). If no such boundary is identified on the Policies Map, it will constitute the edge of the built form of the settlement or, should an edge be defined in words (rather than map form) in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan, then that definition will be used in that local area.

## 4. MINERALS DEVELOPMENT SPECIFIC POLICY

### MINERAL SAFEGUARDING AREAS (MSAS)

- 4.1 Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) are identified in order that known locations of specific mineral resources of local and/or national importance are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development. The purpose of MSAs is to make sure that mineral resources are adequately taken into account in all land use planning decisions. They do not automatically preclude other forms of development taking place, but flag up the presence of important mineral so that it is considered, and not unknowingly or needlessly sterilised.
- 4.2 MSAs are identified on the Policies Map. They constitute the extent of known reserves plus a 250m buffer. During the preparation of this Plan, more detail was set out on their identification in a document entitled 'Methodology for Identifying MSAs (January 2019)'.
- 4.3 In applying the policy below, applicants and decision makers may also find useful the Minerals Safeguarding Practice Guidance (April 2019), produced by the Mineral Products Association and Planning Officers' Society.

#### POLICY 5: MINERAL SAFEGUARDING AREAS (MSAS)

Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) are identified on the Policies Map for mineral resources of local and/or national importance. The Mineral Planning Authority must be consulted on all development proposals in these areas except:

- (a) development that falls within a settlement boundary\*;
- (b) development which is consistent with an allocation in the Development Plan for the area;
- (c) minor householder development within the immediate curtilage of an existing residential building;
- (d) demolition or replacement of residential buildings;
- (e) temporary structures;
- (f) advertisements;
- (g) listed building consent; and
- (h) works to trees or removal of hedgerows.

Development within MSAs which is not covered by the above exceptions will only be permitted where it has been demonstrated that:

- (i) the mineral can be extracted where practicable prior to development taking place; or
- (j) the mineral concerned is demonstrated to not be of current or future value; or
- (k) the development will not prejudice future extraction of the mineral; or
- (l) there is an overriding need for the development (where prior extraction is not feasible)\*\*.

\*a 'settlement boundary' is that which is defined on the relevant Policies Map for the area (e.g. a village envelope or urban area boundary). If no such boundary is identified on the Policies Map, it will constitute the edge of the built form of the settlement or, should an edge be defined in words (rather than map form) in a Local or Neighbourhood Plan, then that definition will be used for that local area.

\*\* within (l), 'overriding need' will need to be judged in the planning balance when any planning application is assessed, including in terms of any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy. That judgement should also consider the cost of, and scope for, developing outside the MSA, or meeting the need for it in some other way. By 'not feasible' in (l), this could include viability reasons.

## MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS (MDAS) AND MINERAL ALLOCATION AREAS (MAAS)

4.4 Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) are specific sites identified on the Policies Map. They consist of existing operational sites and committed sites (i.e. sites with planning permission but which are not yet operational or are dormant). Areas not yet consented but allocated in this Plan for the future extraction of mineral are identified as Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs). These sites also include existing, planned and potential sites for:

- concrete batching, the manufacture of other coated materials, other concrete products; and
- the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material.

4.5 Please note that Policy 16: Consultation Areas (CAs), which should be read in conjunction with the Policy below, also covers proposals which fall within a MDA or MAA as well as within 250m of their boundaries. The following policy focuses only on development within MDAs and MAAs themselves.

**POLICY 6: MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AREAS (MDAS) AND MINERAL ALLOCATION AREAS (MAAS)**

Mineral Development Areas (MDAs) and Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs) are defined on the Policies Map. Within a MAA, only development for which it is allocated for (including, where relevant, its restoration) will be permitted.

**BORROWPITS**

- 4.6 In construction and civil engineering, a borrowpit is an area where material (usually soil, gravel and/or sand, and clay) has been dug for use at another location nearby. Borrowpits can be found close to many major construction projects, and can be a suitable and more sustainable option compared with the alternative of sourcing material from a site considerably further away. However, a policy is necessary to both confirm the in principle support but also to ensure only appropriate borrowpits can come forward.
- 4.7 In demonstrating the need for a borrowpit for engineering clay regard must be had as to whether the material can be drawn more sustainably from existing mineral and landfill sites, for example through 'over-digging' an existing site to source the clay, rather than a new greenfield borrowpit.

**POLICY 7: BORROWPITS**

Mineral extraction from a borrowpit will only be supported, in principle, where all of the following are met:

- (a) there is a demonstrated need for the mineral to be extracted from the borrowpit;
- (b) it will serve a named project only, and it is well related geographically\* to that project;
- (c) the site will be restored in accordance with Policy 19: Restoration and Aftercare and within the same timescale as the project to which it relates;
- (d) material will not be imported to the borrowpit other than from the project itself, unless such material is required to achieve beneficial restoration; and
- (e) the quantity of material and timescale for extraction from the borrowpit will not significantly harm existing operational quarries and local markets.

In demonstrating the need for a borrowpit for engineering clay, it will need to be demonstrated that the material could not be drawn more sustainably from existing mineral and landfill sites.

\*in order to pass the 'well related geographically' test, the borrowpit must be significantly geographically better located, when taken as a whole, compared with all other relevant allocated or existing operational sites from which the mineral could otherwise be drawn. Factors taken into account to determine this will include, but not necessarily be exhausted by, the following: lorry distance travelled and the associated carbon emissions of such travel; amenity impact of lorries on local communities; and impact of lorries on the highway network more generally, such as increasing/decreasing congestion or safety. A borrowpit simply being physically nearer the named project, compared with an existing operational or allocated site, will not in itself necessarily pass the test.

## RECYCLED AND SECONDARY AGGREGATES, AND CONCRETE BATCHING

- 4.8 The processing of secondary and recycled aggregates (including inert recycling) represents a potentially major source of materials for construction, helping to conserve primary materials and minimising waste (recognising the fact that minerals are a finite resource). Materials that can result as a by-product of other waste facilities are also being used as a source of materials for construction, also helping to conserve primary materials and minimising waste (once again recognising the fact that minerals are a finite resource). Sites for the handling, storage and processing of recycled and secondary aggregates (including recycled inert waste and suitable materials arising as a by-product of other waste facilities) are therefore required to ensure provision of 'alternative materials'.
- 4.9 A concrete batching plant is a device that combines various ingredients to form concrete. Some of these inputs include sand, water, aggregate (rocks, gravel, etc.), potash and cement. Such plants are an essential part of the construction industry infrastructure, and can be found on construction sites or, in a more permanent form, off-site (including on mineral sites).
- 4.10 Temporary facilities for the handling, storage and processing of recycled and secondary aggregates (including inert recycling) can be just as important as permanent facilities, to ensure that the Councils continue to maximise the opportunities to recycle and preserve primary aggregate as a finite resource. In addition to temporary facilities being supported on strategic development sites throughout the construction phase, the Councils will also, in principle, support recycling operations linked to the winning and working of minerals, including the restoration of a mineral site where there are clear benefits for the recycling process to remain while restoration takes place. As the winning and working of minerals (including any subsequent restoration) is seen as a temporary land use, any approved recycling facilities will also be restricted to link to the temporary planning permission, and the support of such operations should not therefore be taken as support for

permanent facilities. The retention of these facilities on a permanent basis will be considered under Policy 4 and assessed against the wider policies of this Plan.

#### **POLICY 8: RECYCLED AND SECONDARY AGGREGATES, AND CONCRETE BATCHING**

In principle, the authorities will support proposals which assist in the production and supply of recycled/secondary aggregates, particularly where it would assist in reducing the use of land won aggregates. Similarly, in principle, the authorities will support suitable concrete batching proposals.

Proposals for the production of recycled and secondary aggregates and for concrete batching plants are likely to be suitable in the following locations:

- (a) on operational, committed and allocated mineral sites (for the duration of the working life of the mineral site only, unless the recycling operation is compatible with an agreed restoration scheme to allow the temporary use to be extended in line with the restoration proposals and linked to the temporary planning permission rather than the duration of the winning and working of minerals);
- (b) on strategic development sites, such as major urban extensions and new settlements (throughout the construction phase); or
- (c) on appropriate waste management sites, designated employment land and existing/disused railheads and wharves.

In addition to the above support in principle, all development sites of 100 homes or more, or 5ha or more for employment sites, should include temporary inert and construction waste recycling facilities on site throughout all phases of construction, unless there is clear and convincing justification why this would be inappropriate or impractical.

#### **RESERVOIRS AND OTHER INCIDENTAL MINERAL EXTRACTION**

- 4.11 Reservoirs and other forms of development can also give rise to incidental mineral extraction. In these cases the Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) will be the determining authority for a planning application if the proposal involves taking the extracted mineral off site. Applicants will be required to provide a sound justification for the proposal. When determining any of the above proposals the MPAs will be concerned to ensure that the mineral extracted is used in a sustainable manner. In the case of sand and gravel, for example, this could be achieved by processing the mineral on site or exporting it to a nearby processing plant. Clay, if extracted, could be used for nearby engineering projects.
- 4.12 It should be noted that Government is likely to introduce a National Policy Statement

(NPS) for Water Resources Infrastructure, including amending the definitions of nationally significant water resources infrastructure set out in the Planning Act to which the NPS will apply. Consequently, larger reservoirs may well be dealt with through the planning system in a different way to smaller reservoirs.

#### **POLICY 9: RESERVOIRS AND OTHER INCIDENTAL MINERAL EXTRACTION**

Proposals for new or extensions to existing reservoirs, or other development involving the incidental extraction and off site removal of mineral (such as lakes, marinas, agricultural or potable water reservoirs, or commercial fish farming or fishing ponds), will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- (a) there is a proven need\* and demonstrable sustainability benefits† for the proposal, or the proposal is identified in a water company's water resource management plan;
- (b) any mineral extracted will be used in a sustainable manner;
- (c) where the proposal relates to a reservoir, it has considered wider implications than just the operational needs of the future reservoir, such as whether viable mineral might be sterilised, the loss of productive land, and any dewatering implications during the construction phase. To address some of these implications it may be necessary to minimise the surface area by maximising the depth;
- (d) the minimum amount of mineral to be extracted is consistent with the purpose of the development; and
- (e) the phasing and duration of development adequately reflects the importance of the early delivery of water resources or other approved development.

\*'proven need' would have to demonstrate that the proposal was in the public interest to proceed.  
 †'sustainability benefits' could include, but not necessarily be limited to: water storage in order to reduce currently unsustainable groundwater extraction; significant biodiversity net gains or measures to help preserve or enhance designated biodiversity sites; and flood risk management benefits.

## 5. WASTE MANAGEMENT SPECIFIC POLICIES

### WASTE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAS)

- 5.1 Waste Management Areas (WMAs) are specific sites identified on the Policies Map for waste management facilities and consist of both existing operational sites, and committed sites (i.e. those with planning permission but which are not yet operational) that make a significant contribution to managing any waste stream. Policy 3: Waste Management Needs sets the policy framework for WMAs.
- 5.2 This Plan does not allocate any sites for future waste management development. An up-to-date Waste Needs Assessment prepared alongside this Plan did not identify any capacity gaps which justify the allocation of sites. Proposals for any future waste management development, including new waste proposals within a WMA, can be dealt with through Policy 4: Providing for Waste Management and other policies in this document. As such, Policy 10 has been created to first, enable WMAs to be identified on the Policies Map and second, to deal with alternative development coming forward e.g. household or employment uses, rather than new waste proposals that will be considered under Policy 4. Furthermore for the avoidance of doubt, criterion (a) below includes Neighbourhood Plans.
- 5.3 Please note that Policy 16: Consultation Areas (CAs), which should be read in conjunction with the Policy below, also covers proposals which fall within a WMA as well as within 250m of its boundary. The following policy focuses only on development within WMAs themselves.

#### POLICY 10: WASTE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAS)

Waste Management Areas (WMAs) are defined on the Policies Map and identify existing or committed waste management facilities that make a significant contribution to managing any waste stream. Waste management proposals within WMAs will be considered under Policy 4. Within a WMA, new non-waste management development will not be permitted other than:

- (a) proposals which are compatible for that specific site as identified in the non-Mineral and Waste Plans that make up the Development Plan for the area; or
- (b) proposals which demonstrate clear wider regeneration benefits which outweigh the harm of discontinued operation of the site as a WMA, together with a demonstration to the Waste Planning Authority as to how the existing (or recent) waste stream managed at the site will be (or already is being) accommodated elsewhere.

## WATER RECYCLING AREAS (WRAS)

- 5.4 It is essential that adequate sewage and wastewater infrastructure is in place prior to the start of development taking place in order to avoid unacceptable impacts on the environment, such as sewage flooding residential or commercial properties, or the pollution of land and watercourses. It is also important that the operation of existing facilities can, as appropriate, be maintained, improved, extended and/or relocated. Whilst a wide range of plans, programmes and studies (such as Water Cycle Studies) are necessary to fully understand and achieve these requirements, this Local Plan can play an important part. As such, all existing and planned Water Recycling Centres (WRCs) are identified on the Policies Map as Water Recycling Areas (WRAs).
- 5.5 Please note that Policy 16: Consultation Areas (CAs), which should be read in conjunction with the Policy below, also covers proposals which fall within a WRA as well as within 400m of its boundary. The following policy focuses only on development within WRAs themselves.

### POLICY 11: WATER RECYCLING AREAS (WRAS)

Water Recycling Centres (WRCs) are essential infrastructure, and are identified on the Policies Map as Water Recycling Areas (WRAs).

Proposals for new water recycling capacity or proposals required for operational efficiency, whether on WRAs or elsewhere (with such proposals including the improvement or extension to existing WRCs, relocation of WRCs, provision of supporting infrastructure (including renewable energy) or the co-location of WRCs with other waste management facilities) will be supported in principle, particularly where it is required to meet wider growth proposals identified in the Development Plan.

Proposals for such development must demonstrate that:

- (a) there is a suitable water course to accept discharged treated water and there would be no unacceptable increase in the risk of flooding to others;
- (b) if a new site, or an extension to an existing site, is less than 400 metres from existing buildings normally occupied by people, an odour assessment demonstrating that the proposal is acceptable will be required, together with appropriate mitigation measures;
- (c) if a new site, or an extension to an existing site, it has avoided land within flood zone 3 unless there is a clear and convincing justification not to do so, and the proposal is supported by thorough evidence of sustainability benefits, evaluation of site

options and risk management through the application of the sequential and exception tests; and  
 (d) adequate mitigation measures will address any unacceptable adverse environmental and amenity issues raised by the proposal, which may include the enclosure of odorous processes.

## RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR WASTE

- 5.6 The relatively soft, sedimentary nature of the geology of the plan area is not considered suitable to allow the construction of appropriate structures for the long term storage and disposal of intermediate and higher activity radioactive wastes.
- 5.7 Controlled disposal of low level radioactive waste takes place at authorised landfill sites where limitations are placed on the type of container, the maximum activity per waste container, and the depth of burial below earth or ordinary waste. Limited disposal also takes place at Addenbrookes Hospital via incineration.

### POLICY 12: RADIOACTIVE AND NUCLEAR WASTE

No sites are identified for such use in this Local Plan. Proposals for the treatment, storage or disposal of intermediate or higher activity radioactive and nuclear waste will not be permitted.

Where there is a demonstrated need for low level radioactive waste management facilities, such proposals will be considered on their merits, including demonstration that it represents the most appropriate management option.

## LANDFILL MINING AND RECLAMATION

- 5.8 The interest in landfill mining, as a concept, is growing across Europe, in recognition of the around 500,000 landfill sites in existence (20,000 in the UK), and the potential for valuable resources (especially metals and plastics) which can be found in them. Landfill mining and reclamation may also be for other reasons, such as addressing an existing problem or to facilitate some other form of development upon or near that site.
- 5.9 In respect of commercial based proposals, the practical benefits and potential harm which can arise from landfill mining are at their infancy of research, and there is no national policy which supports such mining as a matter of principle. In particular,

excavating a landfill site close to residential properties is unlikely to be acceptable owing to amenity issues. At the present time at least, therefore, the Councils only offer cautious support for commercial based landfill mining in the plan area.

#### **POLICY 13: LANDFILL MINING AND RECLAMATION**

The mining or excavation of landfill waste will only be supported where it can be demonstrated that:

- (a) without the excavation of waste, the site is posing an unacceptable risk to human health, safety or to the environment; or
- (b) removal is required to facilitate other development, provided such other development is in the public interest and the removal would not significantly adversely harm the amenities, temporarily or permanently, of nearby residents or other neighbours; or
- (c) a viable waste resource exists, and that the mining and processing of such landfilled material would result in significant environmental gains.

Irrespective of the motives for the mining, it must be demonstrated that any waste can be handled without posing additional risk to human health, safety or to the environment.

#### **WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS ARISING FROM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

- 5.10 The Councils will endeavour to ensure that the implications for waste management arising directly from non-minerals and waste management development are adequately and appropriately addressed.
- 5.11 This approach has been taken forward through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP), and has, since 2012, been assisted by a RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This SPD sets out practical information on the provision of waste storage, waste collection and recycling in residential and commercial developments. It also includes a Toolkit which developers of such proposals are required to complete and submit as part of their planning application. The SPD will be periodically updated. For proposals in the Peterborough area, the Peterborough Local Plan (July 2019) provides the relevant policy requirements, and as such the following policy does not apply in the Peterborough area.

**POLICY 14: WASTE MANAGEMENT NEEDS ARISING FROM RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Relevant residential and commercial planning applications in Cambridgeshire must be accompanied by a completed Waste Management Guide Toolkit, which forms part of the latest RECAP Waste Management Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (or similar superseding document).

Where appropriate, and as determined through an assessment of the Toolkit submission, such new development may be required to contribute to the provision of bring sites and/or the Household Recycling Centre service (subject to any legislative requirements in relation to seeking developer contributions).

## 6. POLICIES FOR MINERALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AREAS (TIAS)

- 6.1 Certain types of transport infrastructure are essential in order to help facilitate more sustainable transportation of minerals and waste. Those of significance are identified on the Policies Map as Transport Infrastructure Areas (TIAs) and are defined for both existing and planned areas. These areas may include railheads, wharves and ancillary facilities such as the following.
- Barrington Cement Works Railhead, Barrington
  - Bourges Boulevard Rail Sidings, Peterborough
  - Cambridge North East Aggregates Railheads, Cambridge
  - European Metal Recycling, Snailwell
  - Queen Adelaide Railhead, Ely
  - Whitemoor, March
  - Wisbech Port, Wisbech
- 6.2 Please also see Policy 23: Traffic, Highways and Rights of Way for wider transport and highway related policy requirements relating to matters such as traffic, highways, Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) and Public Rights of Way.
- 6.3 Please note that Policy 16: Consultation Areas (CAs), which should be read in conjunction with the Policy below, also covers proposals which fall within a TIA as well as within 250m of its boundary. The following policy focuses only on development within TIAs themselves.

#### POLICY 15: TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AREAS (TIAS)

Transport Infrastructure Areas (TIAs) are identified on the Policies Map. Development which would result in the loss of or reduced capacity of such infrastructure will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that either:

- (a) the loss or reduced capacity will have no impact on the ability of minerals or waste to be transported by sustainable means, both now and for accommodating future planned growth; or
- (b) alternative, suitable and sufficient capacity is to be developed elsewhere (and in which case the authorities are likely to require it to be implemented before the loss or reduced capacity has occurred).

New relevant transport infrastructure capacity (such as wharves, railheads, conveyor, pipeline and other forms of sustainable transport), whether on TIAs or elsewhere, including

the improvement or extension to existing sites, will be supported in principle, particularly where it is required to meet wider growth proposals identified in a Development Plan.

## CONSULTATION AREAS (CAS)

- 6.4 Consultation Areas (CAs) are buffers around Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs), Mineral Development Areas (MDAs), Waste Management Areas (WMAs), Transport Infrastructure Areas (TIAs) and Water Recycling Areas (WRAs).
- 6.5 They are designated to ensure that such sites are protected from development that would prejudice operations within the area for which the buffer is identified, or to protect development that would be adversely affected by such operations (for example residential development being located close to a waste site and subsequently suffering amenity issues).
- 6.6 Buffers are typically 250m around the edge of a site (400m in the case of WRAs). In defining CAs, each site is considered individually, and if circumstances have suggested the typical buffer from the edge of any site should be varied (e.g. due to mitigation proposals) then this has been taken into account.
- 6.7 CAs are designed to alert prospective developers and decision takers to development (existing or future) within the CA to ensure adjacent new development constitutes an appropriate neighbouring use and that any such permitted development reflects the agent of change principle. New neighbouring development can impact on certain mineral and waste management development and associated infrastructure, making it problematical for them to continue to deliver their important function. In line with the agent of change principle any costs for mitigating impacts on or from the existing minerals and/or waste-related uses will be required to be met by the developer.

### POLICY 16: CONSULTATION AREAS (CAS)

Consultation Areas (CAs) are identified on the Policies Map, as a buffer around Mineral Allocation Areas (MAAs), Mineral Development Areas (MDAs), Waste Management Areas (WMAs), Transport Infrastructure Areas (TIAs) and Water Recycling Areas (WRAs). The Mineral and Waste Planning Authority must be consulted on all planning applications within CAs except:

- (a) householder applications (minor development works relating to existing property); and
- (b) advertisements.

Development within a CA will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that the development will:

- (c) not prejudice the existing or future use of the area (i.e. the MAA, MDA, WMA, TIA or WRA) for which the CA has been designated; and
- (d) not result in unacceptable amenity issues or adverse impacts to human health for the occupiers or users of such new development, due to the ongoing or future use of the area for which the CA has been designated\*.

Within a CA which surrounds a WRA, and unless convincing evidence to the contrary is provided via an odour assessment report, there is a presumption against allowing development which would:

- (e) be buildings regularly occupied by people; or
- (f) be land which is set aside for regular community use (such as open space facilities designed to attract recreational users, but excluding, for example, habitat creation which is not designed to attract recreational users).

In instances where new mineral development, waste management, transport infrastructure or water recycling facilities of significance have been approved (i.e. of such a scale that had they existed at the time of writing this Plan it could reasonably be assumed that they would have been identified as a MDA, WMA, TIA or WRA), the policy principle of a CA around such a facility is deemed to automatically apply, despite such a CA for it not being identified on the Policies Map.

When considering proposals for non-mineral and non-waste management development within a CA, then the agent of change principle will be applied to ensure that the operation of the protected infrastructure (i.e. MAA, MDA, WMA, TIA or WRA) is not in any way prejudiced. Any costs for mitigating impacts on or from the existing minerals and/or waste-related uses will be required to be met by the developer. It is for the developer to demonstrate that any mitigation proposed as part of the new development is practicable, and the continued use of existing sites will not be prejudiced.

\*Where development is proposed within a CA which is associated with a WRA, the application must be accompanied by a satisfactory odour assessment report. The assessment must consider existing odour emissions of the WRC at different times of the year and in a range of different weather conditions.

## DESIGN

- 6.8 The following policy is primarily associated with waste management facilities, because such facilities normally include an element of permanent new build development, but could also apply to mineral proposals. Such development must be of a high quality design.
- 6.9 Appendix 3: The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities provides specific guidance on the design of waste management facilities, and should be used to inform the design of waste management facilities in the plan area.

### POLICY 17: DESIGN

All waste management development, and where relevant mineral development, should secure high quality design. The design of built development and the restoration of sites should be sympathetic to and, where opportunities arise, enhance local distinctiveness and the character and quality of the area in which it is located. Permission will be refused for development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available to achieve this.

New mineral and waste management development must:

- (a) make efficient use of land and buildings, through the design, layout and orientation of buildings on site and through prioritising the use of previously developed land;
- (b) be durable, flexible and adaptable over its planned lifespan, taking into account potential future social, economic, technological and environmental needs through the structure, layout and design of buildings and places;
- (c) provide a high standard of amenity for users of new buildings and maintain or enhance the existing amenity of neighbours;
- (d) be designed to reduce crime, minimise fire risk, create safe environments, and provide satisfactory access for emergency vehicles;
- (e) create visual richness through building type, height, layout, scale, form, density, massing, materials and colour and through landscape design;
- (f) be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);
- (g) retain or enhance important features and assets (including trees and hedgerows) within the landscape, treescape or townscape and conserve or create key views; and
- (h) provide a landscape enhancement scheme which takes account of any relevant landscape character assessments (including any historic landscape characterisation) and which demonstrates that the development can be assimilated into its surroundings and local landscape character;

and, where appropriate for the development:

- (i) provide well designed boundary treatments (including security features) that reflect the function and character of the development and are well integrated into its surroundings; and
- (j) provide attractive, accessible and integrated vehicle and cycle parking which also satisfies the parking standards of the Development Plan for the area, and incorporates facilities for electric plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.

For waste management proposals, detailed design guidance can be found in Appendix 3: The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities. This guidance provides a framework for creating distinctive places, with a consistent and high quality standard of design. Whilst the guidance provides a degree of flexibility, it will be used to assist in determining whether a proposal is consistent with the approach set out in this policy.

## AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.10 Minerals and waste management development can have the capacity to adversely impact on the amenity of local residents, businesses and other users of land. This could be in the immediate vicinity of the development, or for example along transportation routes associated with the development.
- 6.11 Development should aim to ensure that a high standard of amenity is retained and, where possible, enhanced, for all existing and future users of land and buildings which may be affected.

### POLICY 18: AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Proposals must ensure that the development proposed can be integrated effectively with existing or planned (i.e. Development Plan allocations or consented schemes) neighbouring development. New development must not result in unacceptable adverse impacts on the amenity of existing occupiers of any land or property, including:

- (a) risk of harm to human health or safety;
- (b) privacy for the occupiers of any nearby property;
- (c) noise and/or vibration levels resulting in disturbance;
- (d) unacceptably overbearing;
- (e) loss of light to and/or overshadowing of any nearby property;
- (f) air quality from odour, fumes, dust, smoke or other sources;
- (g) light pollution from artificial light or glare;

- (h) increase in litter; and
- (i) increase in flies, vermin and birds.

Where there is the potential for any of the above impacts to occur, an assessment appropriate to the nature of that potential impact should be carried out, and submitted as part of the proposal, in order to establish, where appropriate, the need for, and deliverability of, any mitigation.

## RESTORATION AND AFTERCARE

- 6.12 Most mineral development is of a temporary nature, as is some waste development, notably that related to landfill. Development that is temporary in nature (other than temporary use of a permanent building) should always have an approved scheme for restoration and an end date by which this will have been implemented.
- 6.13 Achieving the satisfactory restoration of mineral sites and former waste management sites is of paramount importance. Restoration of mineral and waste sites must be done progressively, with sections of the site worked and then restored at the earliest opportunity. It is acknowledged however that the particular after-use of a site should be a matter for discussion on a case by case basis, as should the aftercare arrangements (with such aftercare potentially extending to 10 years or more).

### POLICY 19: RESTORATION AND AFTERCARE

All mineral extraction related proposals, and all waste management proposals which are likely to be temporary in nature, must be accompanied by a restoration and aftercare scheme proposal, secured if necessary by a legal agreement.

Such a proposal must, where appropriate:

- (a) set out a phasing schedule so as to restore available parts of the site to a beneficial afteruse as soon as is reasonably practicable to do so, and to restore the whole of the site within an agreed timeframe. Only in exceptional circumstances, such as where the afteruse is a reservoir or on very small sites where phasing is not practical, will a non-phased scheme be approved;
- (b) reflect strategic and local objectives for countryside enhancement and green infrastructure, including those set out in relevant Local Plans and Green Infrastructure Strategies, in the Local Nature Partnerships vision and strategic proposals, as well as any applicable wider Development Plan objectives;

- (c) contribute, if feasible, to identified flood risk management and water storage needs (including helping to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere) or water supply objectives and incorporate these within the restoration scheme;
- (d) demonstrate net biodiversity gain through the promotion, preservation, restoration and recreation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets;
- (e) protect geodiversity and improve educational opportunities by incorporating this element within the restoration scheme, by leaving important geological faces exposed and retaining access to them; and
- (f) incorporate within the restoration scheme amenity uses, such as formal and informal sport, navigation, and recreation uses.

Where it is determined that restoring the land to agricultural use is the most suitable option (in whole or part), then the land must be restored to the same or better agricultural land quality as it was pre-development.

In the case of mineral workings, restoration schemes which will contribute to addressing or adapting to climate change will, in principle, be supported e.g. through flood water storage; through biodiversity proposals which create habitats that enhance ecological networks (and thus assist species to adapt to climate change); and/or through living carbon sinks.

Any site specific restoration and after-care requirements are set out in Policy 2: Providing for Mineral Extraction. Where there is a conflict between this policy and Policy 2, then the provisions of Policy 2 take precedence.

## BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY

6.14 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have a range of sites recognised for their environmental quality, a number of which have international status. It is considered appropriate to include a comprehensive policy within this Local Plan which reflects the Councils' approach to biodiversity and geodiversity. Through development management processes, management agreements and other positive initiatives, the Councils will, therefore:

- aid the management, protection, enhancement and creation of priority habitats (including lowland calcareous grasslands, woodlands and hedgerows, rivers, lowland meadows and floodplain grazing marsh) and populations of protected species, with the overall aim to achieve a demonstrable net gain in biodiversity;
- promote the creation of an effective, resilient, functioning ecological network throughout the plan area, consisting of core sites, buffers, wildlife corridors

and stepping stones that link to each other and to wider green infrastructure across the plan area (and/or potentially in adjoining local authority areas) and to respond to and adapt to climate change;

- safeguard the value of previously developed land where it is of significant importance for biodiversity and/or geodiversity; and
- work with developers and Natural England to identify a strategic approach to great crested newt mitigation, where this is required, on major sites and other areas of key significance for this species.

## **POLICY 20: BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY**

### **International Sites**

The highest level of protection will be afforded to international sites designated for their nature conservation or geological importance. Proposals having an adverse impact on the integrity of such areas, that cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated to remove any adverse effect, will not be permitted other than in exceptional circumstances. These circumstances will only apply where:

- (a) there are no suitable alternatives;
- (b) there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest; and
- (c) necessary compensatory provision can be secured.

Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect, either alone or in combination, on European designated sites must satisfy the requirements of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), including determining site specific impacts and avoiding or mitigating against impacts where identified.

### **National Sites**

Development proposals on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), will not be permitted unless the benefits of the development clearly outweigh both the adverse impacts on the features of the site and any adverse impacts on the wider network of SSSIs.

### **Local Sites**

Development likely to have an adverse effect on locally designated sites, their features or their function as part of the ecological network, including County Wildlife Sites and Local Geological Sites, will only be permitted where the need and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss and the coherence of the local ecological network is maintained.

### **Habitats and Species of Local and Principal Importance**

Where adverse impacts are likely on the protection and recovery of priority species and habitats, development will only be permitted where the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh these impacts. Where adverse impacts are likely on other locally important habitats and species as identified by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership, the benefits of development must outweigh these impacts. In both cases, appropriate mitigation and/or compensatory measures will be required.

### **Biodiversity and Geodiversity in Development**

All development proposals must:

- (d) conserve and enhance the network of geodiversity, habitats, species and sites (both statutory and non-statutory) of international, national and local importance commensurate with their status and give appropriate weight to their importance;
- (e) avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity;
- (f) deliver a measurable net gain in biodiversity, proportionate to the scale of development proposed, by creating, restoring and enhancing habitats and enhancing them for the benefit of species;
- (g) where viable opportunities arise, contribute to the delivery of the Local Nature Partnership vision to 'double land for nature';
- (h) where necessary, protect and enhance the aquatic environment within, adjoining or functionally linked to the site, including water quality and habitat. Where appropriate, proposals should identify Water Framework Directive (WFD) (or equivalent, if superseded) waterbodies in the vicinity of the proposal, and set out how WFD status will be protected and, if opportunities arise, improved, with any mitigation proposed being suitable and appropriate to the water body affected. For riverside development, proposals should consider options for riverbank naturalisation. In all cases regard should be had to the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD or Peterborough Flood and Water SPD (or their successors); and
- (i) for mineral extraction proposals, enable periodic temporary access in order to record, sample and document the geodiversity.

Unless national policy or legislation provides an alternative but similar mechanism, mineral and waste management proposals must (unless a decision taker would clearly not benefit from it) be accompanied by a completed biodiversity checklist (see respective planning authority website for details) and must identify features of value on and adjoining the site and to provide an audit of losses and gains in existing and proposed habitat. Where there is the potential for the presence of protected species and/or habitats, a relevant ecological survey(s) must be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist. The development proposals must be informed by the results of both the checklist and survey.

**Mitigation of Potential Adverse Impacts of Development**

Development should avoid adverse impact on existing biodiversity and geodiversity features as a first principle. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated. If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort where there is no alternative.

**THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

- 6.15 The Mineral and Waste Planning Authorities recognise that the historic environment plays an important role in the quality of life experienced by local communities and the proposed approach is to protect, conserve and seek opportunities to enhance the local area's rich and diverse heritage assets and their settings, for the enjoyment of current and future generations.
- 6.16 Nationally designated heritage assets within the plan area include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. The designation of heritage assets has largely focused on more tangible or visible interest, and as such, there are many areas of archaeological interest which are of national importance that are not scheduled. Designated sites receive statutory protection under heritage protection legislation. However, others that are considered locally significant (such as ridge and furrow) or, that may not yet be identified (such as in the case of archaeological interests), do not. Such assets may present an important resource in terms of place-making and developing an understanding of our history, which if not addressed early may be lost.
- 6.17 It is acknowledged that both minerals and waste development has the potential to affect different types of heritage assets and their setting. However, minerals development, more so than waste, is generally an intensive activity in relation to potential impacts on the historic environment owing to its extractive nature. As such, any necessary Heritage Statement should also consider potential for archaeology at depth. To do so a geoarchaeological deposit model looking at the characteristics, dates and distribution of deposits and natural landforms across the site and their likely potential for archaeology of all periods, may be required.
- 6.18 In addition to helping assess Palaeolithic potential, a deposit model would also pick up features such as palaeochannels, islands and extensive peat deposits, of potential for prehistoric and later periods. It might be based on existing Geotechnical site investigation information and/or involve the drilling of purposive boreholes, test pits and deep-penetration geophysics transects (ERT and EMI). Lidar information could also be useful. Also, the assessment might need to consider dewatering impacts and changes in water flow patterns. Where, for example, the minerals extraction sites lie on floodplains buried archaeological remains are likely to be waterlogged. Therefore

the likely impact of the minerals extraction on the water table and water flow patterns both during extraction and following reinstatement should be investigated in tandem with the assessment and evaluation of archaeological potential. There may be impacts on the archaeology of areas downstream of the extraction site and on any archaeology 'preserved in situ' remaining in unquarried areas within the site itself.

- 6.19 For all the above reasons, it is important that appropriate information and evidence is available to inform the decision making process, ensuring that the potential impact of the proposal on the historic environment and the significance of heritage assets (including non-designated assets) and their setting is understood. In the case of archaeology, such interests are often not identified until the process of assessment or evaluation has begun. Where there is thought to be a risk of such interests being present a phased approach for assessing the significance of heritage assets involving desk-based assessments, non-intrusive surveys and field evaluations may be required.

#### **POLICY 21: THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

The Councils recognise the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets (and their setting); the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and the opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

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

To assist decision makers, all development proposals that would directly affect any heritage asset and/or its setting (whether designated or non-designated), must be accompanied by a Heritage Statement which, as a minimum, should:

- (a) describe and assess the significance of the asset and/or its setting to determine its architectural, historic, artistic or archaeological interest;
- (b) identify the impact of the development on the special character of the asset (including any cumulative impacts); and
- (c) provide clear and convincing justification for any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting).

The level of detail in the Heritage Statement should be proportionate to the asset's significance and sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on its significance and/or setting.

Where appropriate, and particularly for minerals development proposals, the Heritage Statement must also consider:

- (d) the hydrological management of the site and the potential effects that variations in the water table or water flow patterns may have on known or potential archaeological remains. This assessment may be required to address an area beyond the planning application boundary; and
- (e) the potential for palaeolithic or later archaeology at depth, possibly making use of, where appropriate, a deposit model looking at the characteristics and distribution of deposits and natural landforms across the site and the likely potential for archaeology of all periods.

## WATER RESOURCES

- 6.20 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are identified as being within an area of serious water stress. Adopted and emerging District Local Plans are all introducing the optional water efficiency standard for new homes, reflecting such evidence. Increasing demands for water arising from growth, and potential impacts from, in particular, mineral workings could serve to have a detrimental impact upon the quantity or quality of surface or groundwater resources. That said, mineral development (normally in the form of the restoration scheme) can also have a net benefit on the water environment, through, for example, flood alleviation and winter water storage. It should be noted that any dewatering proposals which result in the abstraction of groundwater at a rate greater than 20 cubic metres per day, will need to obtain the relevant permit from the Environment Agency.
- 6.21 Development proposals which include hard surfaces and buildings should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) wherever feasible to address the risk of surface water and sewer flooding and provide wider environmental benefits including biodiversity net gain and water quality enhancement. However, this will not be feasible in all cases and the Councils will consider the nature of the use proposed and whether this places and limitations on the incorporation of SuDS when determining planning applications.
- 6.22 The Environment Agency (EA) advises that in areas of severe water stress or where aquifers or surface water resources are abstracted to environmental limits, a licence or permit may not be issued or could be issued with a significant restrictions, e.g.

seasonal only abstraction. Operators are advised to seek advice from the EA early in the site selection and design process. The issuing of de-watering licences, where all water is returned to the environment, is likely to be less restrictive than for consumptive water use e.g. mineral washing, discharged dewatering and concrete batching. The EA has a presumption against issuing new water abstraction licences for consumptive activities. If a developer or any other interested party has any questions on the contents of this paragraph, including the definition of the terms used, then please seek advice from the EA.

- 6.23 Please note that the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD referred to in the policy below was not formally adopted by the County Council but rather by each individual District Council within Cambridgeshire. The County Council has, however, endorsed its contents.

#### **POLICY 22: FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT**

Mineral and waste management development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated (potentially through a detailed hydrogeological assessment) that there would be no significant adverse impact on:

- (a) the quantity and quality of surface or groundwater resources;
- (b) the quantity and quality of water abstraction currently enjoyed by abstractors unless acceptable alternative provision is made; and
- (c) the flow of groundwater at or in the vicinity of the site;

Development located on sites in areas known to be at risk from any form of flooding will only be permitted following:

- (d) the successful completion of a sequential test (if necessary) and an exception test if required, with both tests applying climate change allowances to define flood risks;
- (e) the submission, where appropriate (as defined by national policy), of a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, setting out appropriate flood risk that:
  - i. defines the flood zones in relation to the proposal;
  - ii. demonstrates the impacts of climate change on the flood zones, over the lifetime of the development;
  - iii. demonstrates that a sequential approach has been taken to the design of the layout of the proposal, placing those aspects of the development most sensitive to the impacts of flooding in the area of lowest flood risk;
  - iv. demonstrates that appropriate mitigation measures have been incorporated into the development so that there will be no negative off-site impacts to people and property and that the users will be safe for the lifetime of the development; and

- v. demonstrates that all reasonable actions have been taken to contribute to the overall reduction of flood risk.
- (f) the consideration of any necessary ongoing maintenance, management of mitigation measures and adoption and that any relevant agreements are in place; and
- (g) where built development is proposed, the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) wherever feasible into the proposals.

All proposed development will be required to incorporate adequate water pollution control and monitoring measures.

Proposals should also have due regard to the latest policies and guidance in the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD and the Peterborough Flood and Water Management SPD (or their successors).

## TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

- 6.24 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's road network is heavily used, with a high proportion of Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) (i.e. heavy goods vehicles, plus a wide range of farm related vehicles which use the road network). Mineral and waste management operations can add significantly to this congested network, and primarily means even further increase in HCV usage.
- 6.25 Much of the road network is historic, and often goes through the middle of settlements, which themselves are ill designed to cope with the volume and type of traffic, especially HCVs. Cambridgeshire County Council has adopted a HCV route map which can be found at [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freight-map](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freight-map).
- 6.26 On occasions when HCV routing arrangements and / or HCV signage are deemed necessary and reasonable to make a development acceptable, binding agreements will be sought either through planning conditions or legal agreements, to ensure suitable routes and signage are identified and controlled in line with guidance from the Highway Authority, in accordance with any identified HCV Route Maps. Any binding agreements will be agreed on a case by case basis, and will be monitored, including investigations into any alleged breaches, in line with the adopted Enforcement Plans<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>12</sup> The authorities enforcement plans can be found at:

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-and-plans/compliance-and-enforcement-policy>

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/planning-applications/planning-enforcement-and-monitoring>.

- 6.27 Section 9 of the NPPF (2019) sets out detailed national policy on transport related matters, but further local policy is necessary.
- 6.28 In addition to the policy below, any site specific policies elsewhere in this Plan which set out specific Traffic, Highways and Rights of Way matters will need to be addressed for that particular site.

### **POLICY 23: TRAFFIC, HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mineral and waste management development will only be permitted if:

- (a) appropriate opportunities to promote sustainable transport modes can be, or have been, taken up, to the degree reasonably available given the type of development and its location. If, at the point of application, commercially available electric Heavy Commercial Vehicles (HCVs) are reasonably available, then development which would increase HCV movements should provide appropriate electric vehicle charging infrastructure for HCVs;
- (b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users of the subsequent development;
- (c) 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;
- (d) any associated increase in traffic or highway improvements would not cause unacceptable harm to the environment, road safety or residential amenity, and would not cause severe residual cumulative impacts on the road network; and
- (e) binding agreements covering lorry routing arrangements and/or HCV signage for mineral and waste traffic are agreed, if any such agreements are necessary and reasonable to make a development acceptable.

#### **Use of HCV Route Network**

Where mineral and/or waste is to be taken on or off a site using the highway network, then all proposals must demonstrate how the latest identified HCV Route Network is, where reasonable and practical to do so, to be utilised. If necessary, arrangements ensuring that the use of the HCV Route Network takes place may need to be secured through an appropriate and enforceable agreement. Any non-allocated mineral and waste management facility in Cambridgeshire which would require significant use of the highway must be well related to the HCV Route Network.

#### **Public Rights of Way**

During all phases of development, including construction, operation and restoration, proposals must make provision for suitable and appropriate diversions to affected public

rights of way, and ideally the enhancement of the public rights of way network where practicable. Opportunities should be taken for the provision of new routes and links between existing routes, especially at the restoration stage. Priority should be given to meeting the objectives of any Rights of Way Improvement Plans. Where development would adversely affect the permanent use of public rights of way (including temporary diversions) planning permission will only be granted where alternative routes are provided that are of equivalent convenience, quality and interest.

## SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOILS

- 6.29 Agricultural land is an important national resource, and together Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have a larger proportion of high quality agricultural land than any other area in England.
- 6.30 Much of that high quality agricultural land is peat based. In addition peat soils are an important asset for a number of other reasons:
- Climate change: the soils are formed by wetland vegetation and store millions of tonnes of carbon. Peat soils release previously stored carbon when they are dry. UK peats therefore represent both a threat and an opportunity with respect to greenhouse gas emissions. Correct management and restoration could lead to enhanced storage of carbon and other greenhouse gases in these soils, while mismanagement or neglect could lead to these carbon sinks becoming net sources of greenhouse gases.
  - Biodiversity: peat soils support internationally important fen, fen meadow, wet woodland and lake habitats. These also support rare and important plant and invertebrate communities.
  - Archaeology: owing to the soil conditions, there is great potential for archaeology to be well preserved, giving an insight into the past.
  - Palaeoenvironments: peat has accumulated over time and thus incorporates a record of past climatic and environmental changes that can be reconstructed through, for example, the study of its stratigraphy and pollen content, leading to increased knowledge of the evolution of the landscape.
  - Water: peat soils help prevent flooding by absorbing and holding water like a sponge as well as filtering and purifying water. Peat can absorb large quantities of nutrients and pollutants, although peat soils can under certain conditions release these chemicals back into the surrounding water.
- 6.31 This combination of benefits makes it important for a policy to be included in the Plan in respect of proposals on peat based soils.
- 6.32 Advice on the sustainable use and protection of peat soils, including the need for the

evaluation, recording and interpretation of the peat soils and a soil management plan, should be sought from Natural England.

#### **POLICY 24: SUSTAINABLE USE OF SOILS**

Mineral or waste development which adversely affects agricultural land categorised as 'best and most versatile' will only be permitted where it can be shown that:

- (a) it incorporates proposals for the sustainable use of soils (whether that be off-site or as part of an agreed restoration scheme); and
- (b) (for non-allocated sites) there is a need for the development and an absence of suitable alternative sites using lower grade land has been demonstrated.

Peat soils in particular should be protected and preserved. Where development is proposed on land containing peat soils, the developer must submit a proportionate evaluation of the impact of the proposal on the peat soils and an appropriate soil management plan.

Development proposals that will result in unavoidable harm to, or loss of, peat soils will only be permitted if it is demonstrated that:

- (c) there is not a less harmful viable option (this criterion does not apply to allocated mineral extraction sites);
- (d) the amount of harm has been reduced to the minimum possible;
- (e) if appropriate, satisfactory provision is made for the evaluation, recording and interpretation of the peat soils before commencement of development; and
- (f) the peat soils will be temporarily stored and then used, in a way that will limit carbon loss to the atmosphere.

Proposals to enhance peat soils and protect its qualities will be supported.

#### **AERODROME SAFEGUARDING**

- 6.33 For mineral and waste management developments located close to airports, aerodromes or their flight paths, one of the main hazards is bird strike. Other hazards could exist, such as chimney height from a waste management operation. The policy below, therefore, should be read broadly to cover any hazard that might arise.
- 6.34 Whilst it would be impossible for all proposals to demonstrate no increase in hazard to air traffic, the word significant in the policy should be interpreted carefully, and it

may mean only a slight potential increase in the hazard would constitute a 'significant' occurrence, owing to the consequence of the hazard should it materialise.

#### **POLICY 25: AERODROME SAFEGUARDING**

Mineral and waste management development within aerodrome safeguarding areas will only be permitted where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development would not constitute a significant hazard to air traffic. Where it cannot be demonstrated, or where the significance of any hazard is uncertain, the proposal will be refused.

Where bird strike is an identified potential hazard, then the preparation and implementation of an approved Bird Management Plan may be required.

### **OTHER DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRING IMPORTATION OF MATERIALS**

- 6.35 Some forms of development might not be primarily mineral and waste management related, but may result in the importation (i.e. from off-site) of minerals or inert waste as part of the proposals. As with all policies, it is important that the following policy is read in conjunction with other policies that will equally apply, such as policies on amenity and transport.

#### **POLICY 26: OTHER DEVELOPMENTS REQUIRING IMPORTATION OF MATERIALS**

Proposals for developments (including: golf courses and any other significant outdoor recreation facilities; and amenity bunds) which require the importation of significant quantities of minerals and/or inert waste, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

- (a) the proposal does not prejudice the restoration of mineral extraction sites;
- (b) there is a proven need for the material to be imported;
- (c) any mineral or waste imported will be used in a sustainable manner; and
- (d) the minimum amount of material is imported, consistent with the purpose of the development.

The determination of planning applications will have regard to the objectives of the mineral and waste spatial strategies in this Plan.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA - Appropriate Assessment  
 AWP - Aggregate Working Party  
 C&I Waste - Commercial & Industrial  
 CA - Consultation Area  
 CD&E - Construction, Demolition & Excavation  
 CWS - County Wildlife Site  
 DPD - Development Plan Document  
 DtC - Duty to Cooperate  
 GHG - Greenhouse Gasses  
 HRA - Habitats Regulations Assessment  
 HRC - Household Recycling Centre  
 IDB - Internal Drainage Board  
 LAA - Local Aggregates Assessment  
 LDS - Local Development Scheme  
 LLW - Low-level Radioactive Waste  
 MAA - Mineral Allocation Area  
 MDA - Mineral Development Areas  
 MPA - Mineral Planning Authority  
 MSA - Minerals Safeguarding Area  
 Mt - Million tonnes  
 Mtpa - Million tonnes per annum  
 MWLP - Minerals and Waste Local Plan  
 NPPF - National Planning Policy Framework  
 NPPG - National Planning Practice Guidance  
 NPPW - National Planning Policy for Waste  
 NPS - National Policy Statement  
 RECAP - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership  
 SA - Sustainability Appraisal  
 SAC - Special Area of Conservation  
 SCG - Statement of Common Ground  
 SCI - Statement of Community Involvement  
 SPA - Special Protection Area  
 SPD - Supplementary Planning Document  
 SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest  
 t - tonnes  
 TIA - Transport Infrastructure Area  
 tpa - tonnes per annum  
 WMA - Waste Management Area  
 WNA - Waste Needs Assessment  
 WPA - Waste Planning Authority  
 WRA - Water Recycling Area

WRC - Water Recycling Centre  
WTAB - Waste Technical Advisory Body

**APPENDIX 1: SITE PROFILES**

**APPENDIX 2: BLOCK FEN / LANGWOOD FEN MASTER PLAN**

**APPENDIX 3: THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES**



# **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036**

## **Appendix 1: Site Profiles**

**Adopted July 2021**

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <b>Contents</b>   | 1  |
| <b>Introduction</b>                                     | 2  |
| <b>Map Key</b>  | 3  |
| <b>M019: Bare Fen &amp; West Fen, Willingham / Over</b> | 4  |
| <b>M021: Mitchell Hill Farm South, Cottenham</b>        | 6  |
| <b>M022: Chear Fen, Cottenham</b>                       | 8  |
| <b>M023: Burwell Brickpits, Burwell</b>                 | 10 |
| <b>M028: King Delph, Whittlesey</b>                     | 12 |
| <b>M029: Gores Farm, Thorney</b>                        | 14 |
| <b>M033: Land off Main Road, Maxey</b>                  | 16 |
| <b>M034: Willow Hall Farm, Thorney</b>                  | 18 |
| <b>M035: Block Fen / Langwood Fen East, Mepal</b>       | 20 |
| <b>M036: Block Fen / Langwood Fen West, Mepal</b>       | 22 |

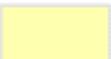
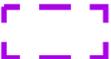
## Introduction

This appendix contains a site profile for each site allocated for mineral extraction in this Local Plan. These site profiles set out the presently known key sensitivities and implementation issues that the development management processes and the bringing forward of the allocations through the preparation of a planning application(s) is likely to need to address.

Information has largely been drawn from the site assessment process which was undertaken as part of the preparation of this Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Applicants should note that whilst these site profiles may be of assistance to demonstrate why a site has been allocated and what key issues might need addressing in planning applications, they should not be treated as an exhaustive list of issues, nor in any way interpreted to mean that issues not listed (including issues as raised in policies in this Plan) are not relevant to the specific site.

In addition, these site profiles are not a substitute for detailed pre-application advice, which should be sought from the applicable Mineral Planning Authority.

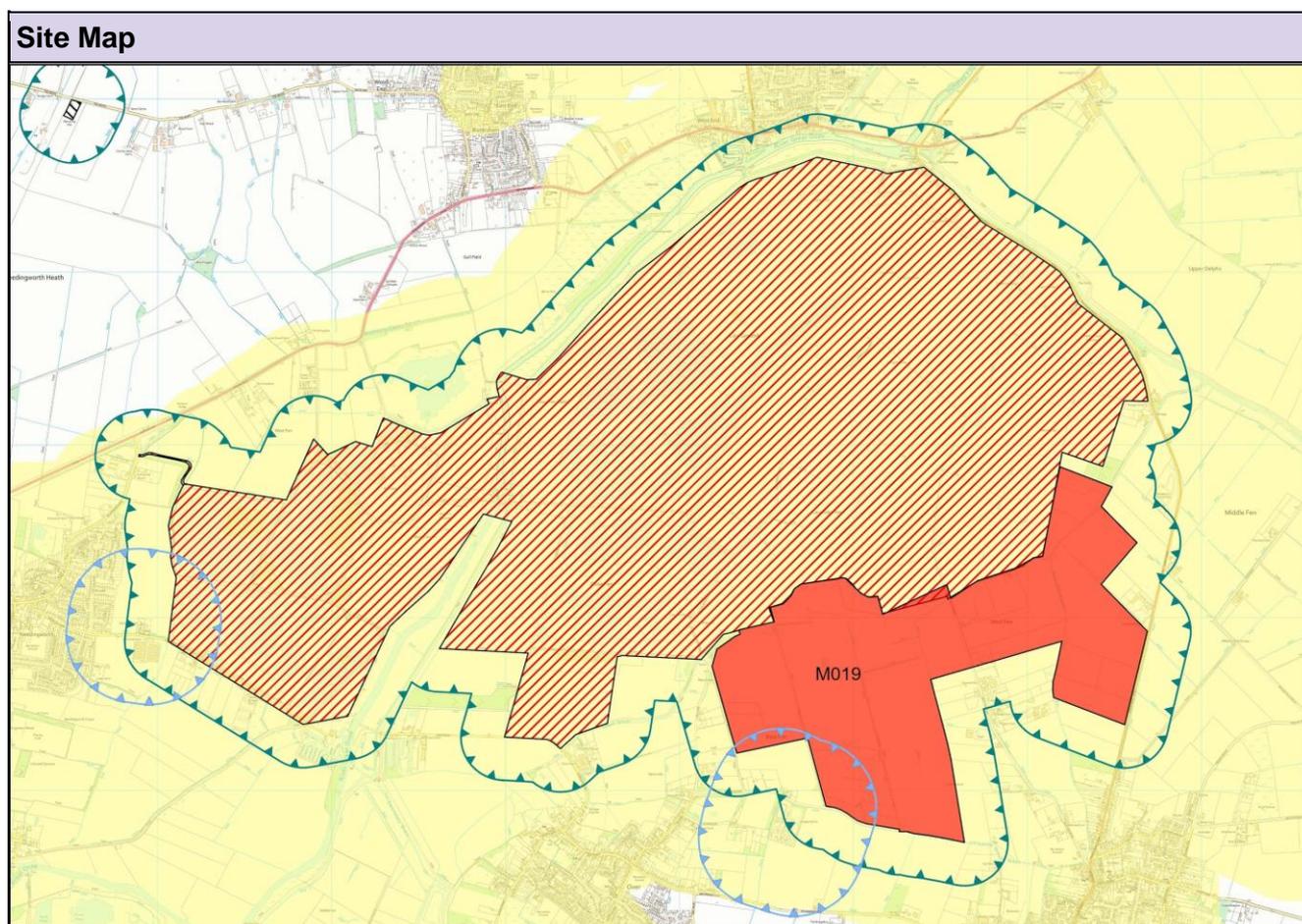
## Map Key

|   |   |
|---|---|
|    | MAA – Mineral Allocation Area                     |
|    | MDA – Mineral Development Area                    |
|    | WMA – Waste Management Area                       |
|    | WRA – Water Recycling Area                        |
|    | CA – Consultation Area (WRA)                      |
|    | CA – Consultation Area (MAA, MDA, WMA, TIA)       |
|    | MSA – Mineral Safeguarding Area (Brickclay)       |
|   | MSA – Mineral Safeguarding Area (Chalk)           |
|  | MSA – Mineral Safeguarding Area (Sand and Gravel) |
|  | Plan Area Boundary                                |

The Proposed Submission Policies Map is available to view online at [cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mwlp](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mwlp) or [peterborough.gov.uk/mwlp](http://peterborough.gov.uk/mwlp)

## M019: Bare Fen & West Fen, Willingham / Over

|                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M019</b>                         |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 240.5                               |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 394 717                          |
| Parish                        | Over and Willingham                 |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 3,000,000                           |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 800,000                             |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2031                                |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                         |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage assets include two scheduled monuments (barrows) to the west of the site, and a cluster of scheduled monuments to the north of the site. There are also three Conservation Areas nearby, and a number of listed buildings.</li> <li>• Archaeologically sensitive and contains extensive crop marked site.</li> <li>• Proximity to residential dwellings.</li> <li>• Proximity to the Ouse Washes<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>• Records of protected species or suitable habitats identified on or near site.</li> <li>• Small area of BMV Grade 3a at Bare Hill (located in the north western section of site) and the</li> </ul> |

<sup>1</sup> Ramsar, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

- presence of peat soils in the area.
- Proximity to RSPB Ouse Fen Nature Reserve.

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive)

#### Preferred Restoration

- Consideration should be given to incorporating enhanced public access.
- Restoration to reedbed priority habitat, as an extension to the existing approved restoration scheme for Needingworth Quarry.

#### Operation

- Amenity issues including noise or dust are likely to need to be addressed and stand-offs between the quarry area and residential dwellings may be required.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Development should conserve and enhance the Ouse Washes and any protected species. An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation is likely to be required, and the development should incorporate recommended mitigation measures as appropriate.

#### Traffic and Highways

- A standoff from the B1050 may be required. It is likely that any proposals will need to consider the protection of a route for a future Willingham Bypass.

#### Archaeology and the Historic Environment

- The site is archaeologically sensitive. An archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to inform proposals and an appropriate mitigation strategy, which may include removing areas from development to physically preserve archaeological remains of particular significance in situ.
- Development must conserve and where appropriate enhance heritage assets and their settings

#### Flood & Water

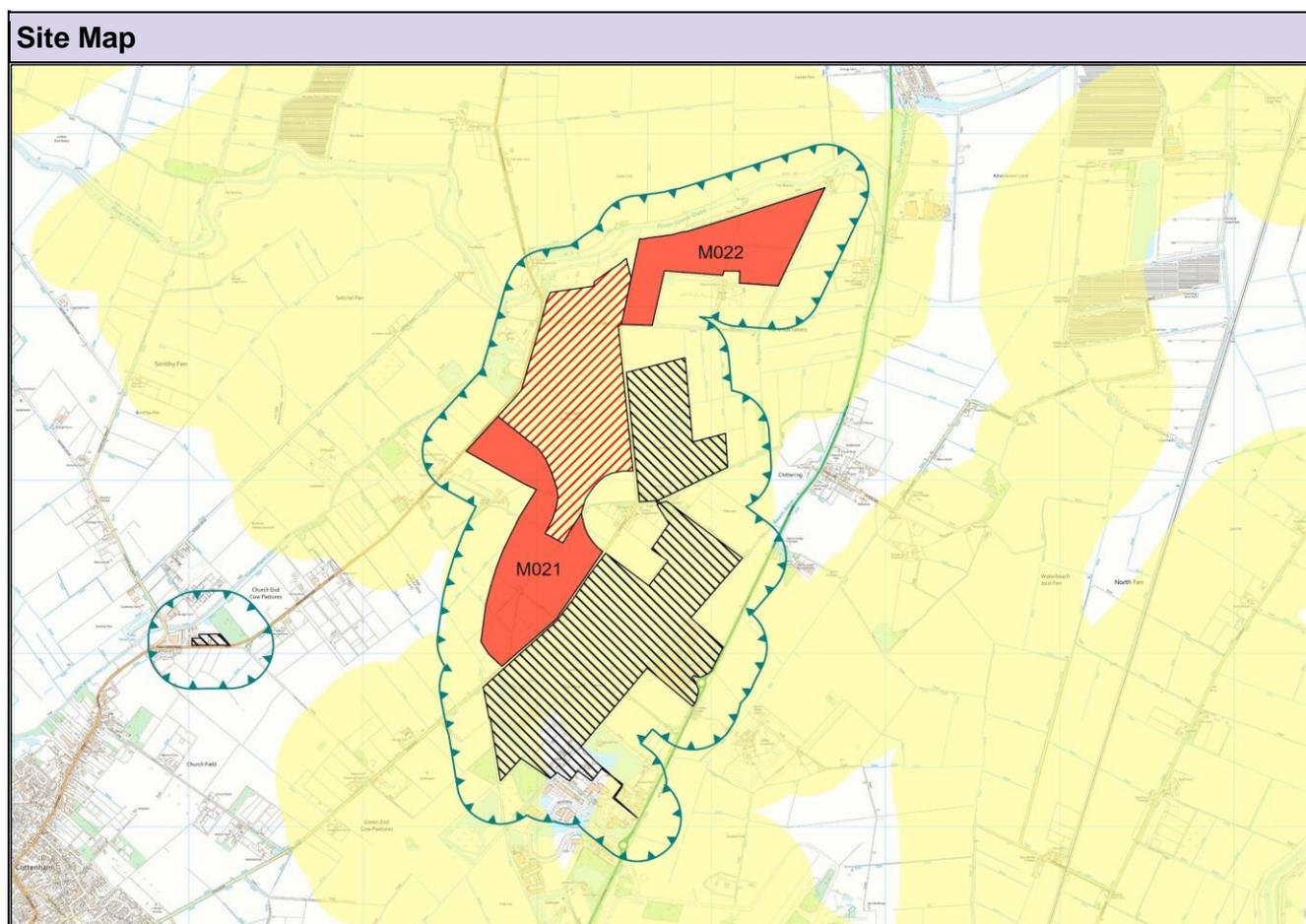
- Proposals should address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites. It is likely that a Flood Risk Assessment and a Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment will be required, which should consider all stages of excavation and restoration, flood risk, and surface water drainage matters.

#### Other Issues

- Rights of Way, including Bridleway 178/28 and Footpath 178/18, cross the site. Development may be required to provide diversions and compensation for existing Rights of Way which may be adversely affected.

## M021: Mitchell Hill Farm South, Cottenham

|                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M021</b>                         |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 114                                 |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 479 695                          |
| Parish                        | Cottenham                           |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 1,150,000 (140,000 in plan period)  |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 140,000                             |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2036                                |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                         |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car Dyke (a Scheduled Monument) is approximately 150m from site, and Bullocks Haste Common, a Romano-British Settlement is proximate to the site.</li> <li>• The area is archaeologically sensitive and contains extensive known archaeological remains.</li> <li>• There is the potential for protected species or habitats of protected species recorded on or near site.</li> <li>• River Great Ouse adjacent to north of site (county wildlife site).</li> <li>• Site within SSSI Impact Risk Zones for any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 20m<sup>3</sup>/day to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream.</li> <li>• 58% of site within Flood Zone 2 (47% within Flood Zone 3).</li> <li>• Sensitive receptors (residential dwellings) are close to the site.</li> </ul> |

- High grade agricultural land (Grade 2).
- Within Cambridge Airport Safeguarding Area

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive list)

#### Operation

- Amenity issues including noise or dust should be adequately addressed, and stand-offs between quarry area and residential dwellings and B1049, may be required. Landscape mitigation may also be required.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Development should conserve and enhance the adjoining County Wildlife Site, and any protected species. An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation should be undertaken and proposals should incorporate any recommended mitigation measures as appropriate.

#### Archaeology and Historic Environment

- A detailed assessment and evaluation will be needed to prove that physical damage would not occur to the Scheduled Monuments at Car Dyke and Bullocks Haste Common. This includes consideration of dewatering of archaeological sites as a result of excavation. There will need to be a sufficient buffer between any development and the Scheduled Monuments; approximately 100 metres would be necessary for the settlement site. Development must conserve and where appropriate enhance heritage assets and their settings.
- The site is archaeologically sensitive. An archaeological evaluation should be undertaken and an appropriate mitigation strategy prepared, which may include removing areas from development to physically preserve archaeological remains of particular significance in situ.

#### Flood and Water

- Proposals should address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites will need to be addressed. A Flood Risk Assessment and Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment should consider all stages of development including excavation and restoration, flood risk and surface water drainage matters. The effects of water drawdown and dewatering of archaeological sites preserved in situ within and / or beyond the application boundary should also be considered.
- Consent may be required from the IDB for works to or near land drainage ditches/drains within the site. The board may have water courses and water controls within the site that may need to be re-routed.

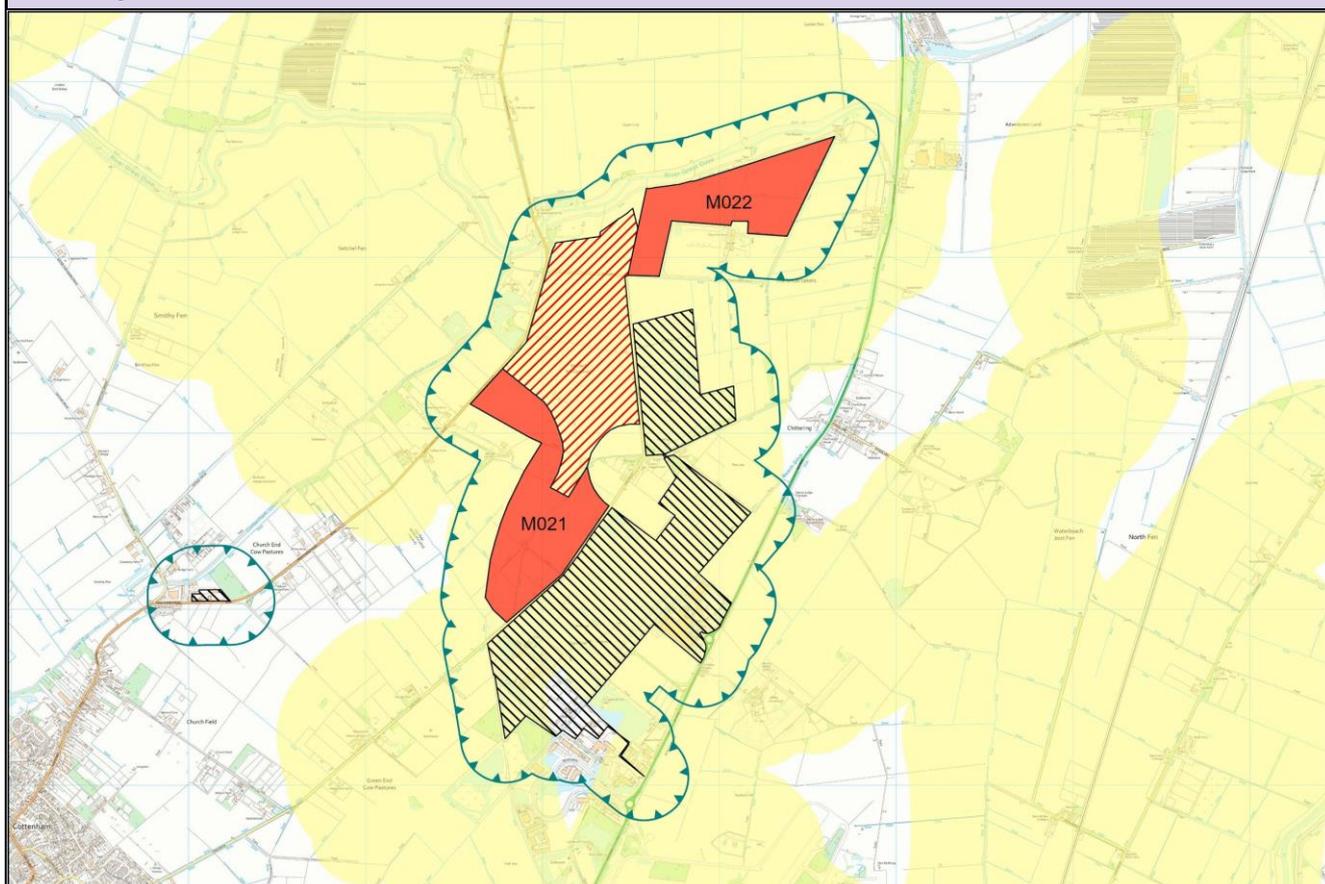
#### Other Issues

- Development should be designed so that it does not increase risk of bird strike.

## M022: Chear Fen, Cottenham

|                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M022</b>                         |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 36                                  |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 490713                           |
| Parish                        | Cottenham                           |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 820,000                             |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 140,000                             |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2030                                |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                         |

### Site Map



### Key Known Site Sensitivities

- In SSSI Impact Risk Zone for any discharges of water or liquid waste of more than 20m<sup>3</sup>/day to ground (i.e. to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream.
- Records of protected species or suitable habitats identified on or near site
- County Wildlife Site adjacent to the southern border of site.
- River Great Ouse is located 50m north of the site, which is a County Wildlife Site.
- Within Flood Zones 2 and 3.
- BMV Grade 2 land.
- Sensitive receptors close to the site i.e. adjacent residents.
- Archaeology / non-designated heritage assets.
- In Cambridge Airport Safeguarding Area.

**Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive list)****Operation**

- Amenity issues including noise or dust should be adequately addressed, and stand-offs between quarry area and residential dwellings may be required.

**Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

- Development should conserve and enhance the adjoining County Wildlife Site, and any protected species. An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation should be undertaken to inform proposals. The development should incorporate recommended mitigation measures as appropriate.

**Archaeology and the Historic Environment**

- An archaeological evaluation should be undertaken to inform proposals, and an appropriate mitigation strategy, which may include removing areas from development to physically preserve archaeological remains of particular significance in situ, should be incorporated into any proposal. This assessment should also consider the effects of water drawdown and dewatering of archaeological sites beyond the application boundary.

**Flood and Water**

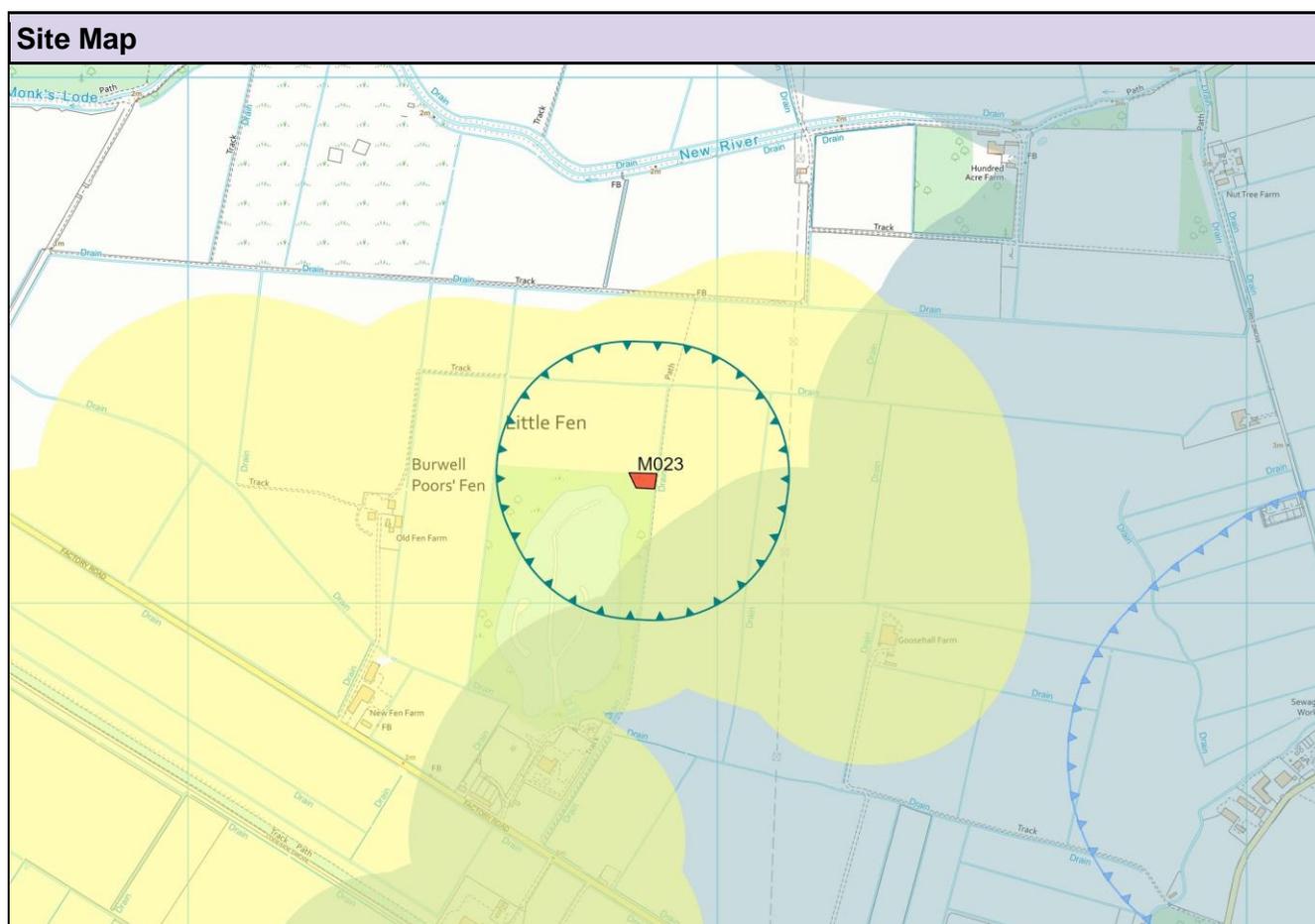
- Proposals should address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites will need to be addressed. Any Flood Risk Assessment and a Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment should consider at all stages of excavation and restoration, flood risk and surface water drainage matters.

**Other**

- Development should be designed so that it does not increased risk of bird strike.

## M023: Burwell Brickpits, Burwell

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M023</b>   |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction. Clay for specialist uses i.e. manufacture of bricks and tiles for building conservation purposes. |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 0.12  |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 578 692  |
| Parish                        | Burwell   |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 40,000  |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | Dependent on market demand  |
| Estimated Start Date          | Dependent on market demand  |
| Current Use                   | Biodiversity (open water, swamp and grassland)  |



### Key Known Site Sensitivities

- Site is within open countryside.
- Within a County Wildlife Site.
- Wicken Fen SSSI 1.25km north-west of the site.
- Site is within Flood Zone 2 and 3.
- Within an airport safeguarding zone.
- Records of protected species or suitable habitats identified on or near site.
- Within Cambridge Airport Safeguarding area.

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive list)

**Indicative Access:**

- Access direct to existing processing site.

**Biodiversity and Geodiversity**

- An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation should be undertaken to inform proposals. The development should incorporate recommended mitigation measures as appropriate.

**Flood and Water**

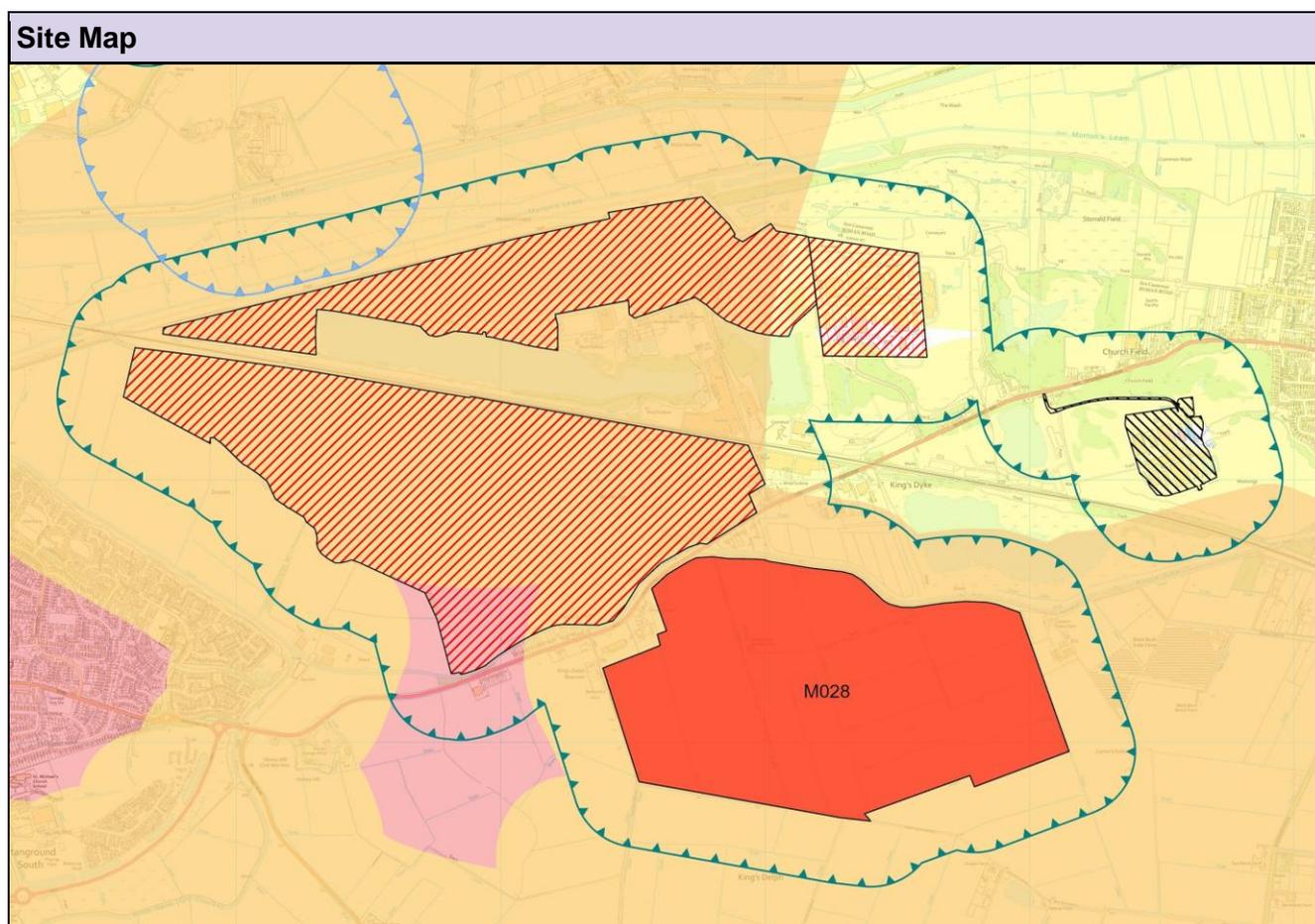
- Proposals should address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites will need to be addressed. Any Flood Risk Assessment and Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment should consider at all stages of excavation and restoration, flood risk and surface water drainage matters.

**Other**

- Development should be designed so that it does not increase risk of bird strike.
- The site is in close proximity to National Grid infrastructure which lies to the east of the site (4ZM Route - 400Kv two circuit route from Burwell Main substation in East Cambridgeshire to Walpole substation in Kings Lynn and West Norfolk).

## M028: King Delph, Whittlesey

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M028</b>   |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel and Brickclay   |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 124   |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 242 961  |
| Parish                        | Whittlesey  |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | Sand and Gravel: 2,750,000 (350,000 in plan period)<br>Brickclay: 27,000,000 (2,800,000 in plan period) |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | Sand and Gravel: 50,000<br>Brick Clay: 400,000  |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2030  |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture   |



|  |
|--|
| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This site is located south of Must Farm, a Bronze Age settlement, and Horsey Hill Civil War Fort which is a Scheduled Monument, is around 1km west of the site.</li> <li>• High grade agricultural land (predominantly Grade 2).</li> <li>• The Nene Washes<sup>2</sup> are situated to the north.</li> <li>• Within the Nene Washes SSSI Impact Risk Zone for quarries.</li> </ul> |

<sup>2</sup> Ramsar, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

- Potential for protected species on site (otters and water voles).
- Sensitive receptors (residential) to the north of the site.
- Rights of Way are adjacent to site.
- The site is located in a landscape of high archaeological potential.
- Site is within Flood Zone 2 (99%) and Flood Zone 3 (98%).

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive list)

#### Preferred Restoration

- Restoration should include biodiversity gains (enhance otter and water vole habitat), and public access as part of the wider restoration / after-use strategy for the brickworks complex. Consideration could be given to the potential to provide sustainable flood alleviation and water resource. Restoration should also be informed by the nearby Must Farm Bronze Age settlement and provide an appropriate context for the historical setting of this heritage asset.

#### Operation

- Amenity issues including noise or dust will need to be adequately addressed, and stand-offs between quarry area and residential dwellings (in particular, those north of the site), may be required.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Development should conserve and enhance adjoining Nene Washes and any protected species. An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation should be undertaken to inform any proposal. The proposed development should incorporate any recommended mitigation measures as appropriate. The assessment of environmental impacts should include consideration of potential effects on the nearby drainage ditches.

#### Traffic and Highways

- Proposals should seek to ensure that no mineral traffic should be directed on to the B1040 or B1095.

#### Archaeology and Historic Environment

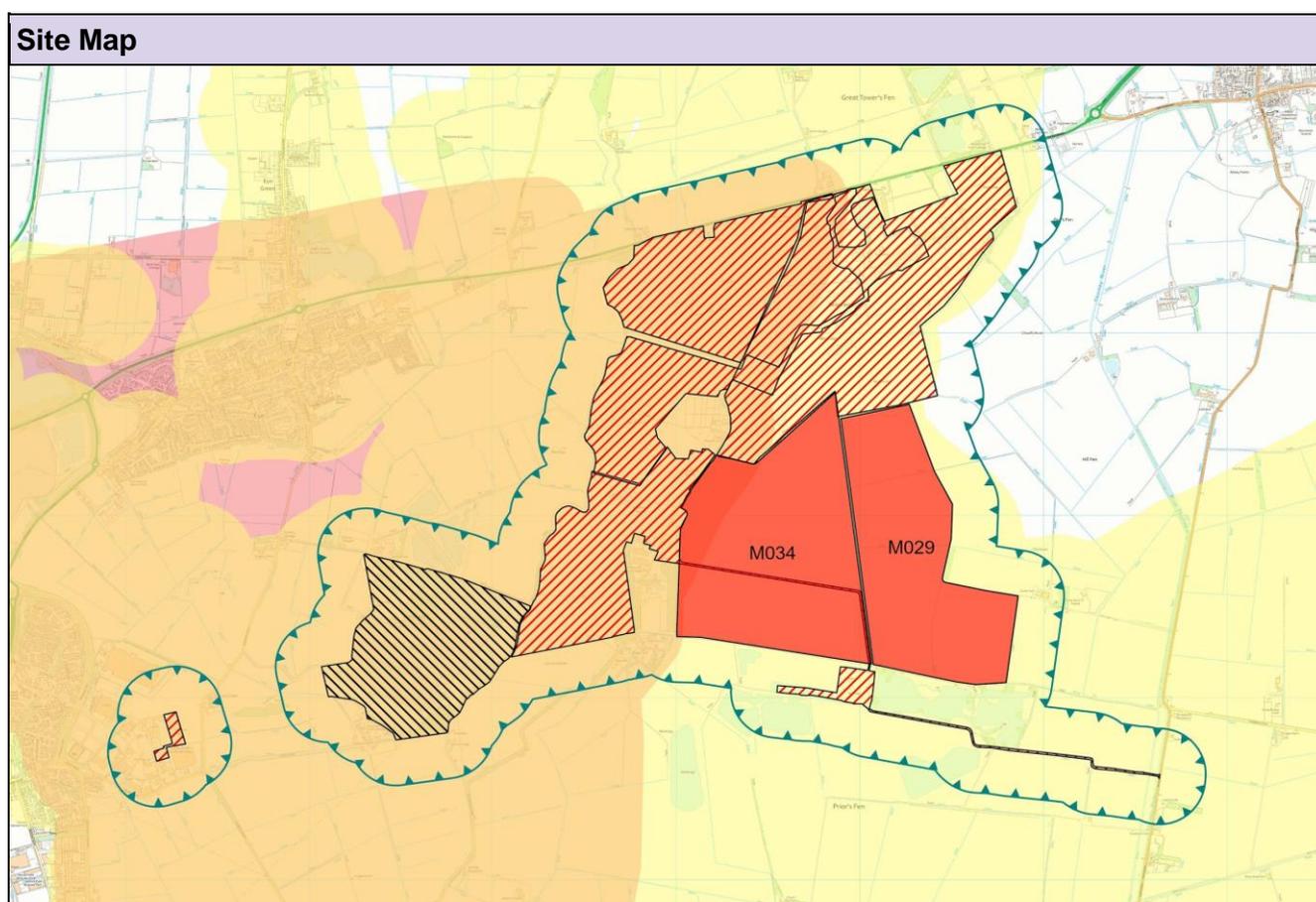
- This site is archaeologically sensitive. It is understood that evaluation has taken place. However, a detailed programme of archaeological mitigation, including a strategy to ensure that dewatering of archaeological sites would not occur as a result of excavation, will be required. Proposals must also have regard to proximity to Must Farm Bronze Age settlement; and the Horsey Hill Civil War Fort Scheduled Monument, and the need to conserve and if appropriate enhance their settings.

#### Flood and Water

- Proposals should address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites will need to be addressed. Any Flood Risk Assessment and Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment should consider all stages of development including excavation and restoration. The assessment should also include consideration of flood risk and surface water drainage and the effects of water drawdown and dewatering of archaeological sites preserved in situ within and / or beyond the application boundary.
- Kings Dyke is a maintained Internal Drainage Board watercourse protected by its byelaws. This channel is also navigable, and the number of crossings of the river should be kept to a minimum.

## M029: Gores Farm, Thorney

|                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M029</b>                         |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 84                                  |
| Grid Ref                      | TF 263 017                          |
| Parish                        | Thorney                             |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 1,600,000                           |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 300,000                             |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2026                                |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                         |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nene Washes<sup>3</sup> is 1.8km from the site</li> <li>• The nearest listed building is 1.2km from the site</li> <li>• There are three Scheduled Monuments (bowl barrows) on the site and two just outside the boundary. There is also an Iron Age and Roman Settlement at Bar Pastures 630m to the west</li> <li>• Thorney Dike County Wildlife Site forms the site's southern boundary</li> <li>• The site is in close proximity to sensitive receptors (Gores Farm lies approximately 90m to the east) which may increase the potential for adverse impacts/environment nuisance impacts (e.g. dust and noise), however it is considered that implementation of standard mitigation measures</li> </ul> |

<sup>3</sup> Ramsar, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

is likely to avoid and/or reduce any potentially adverse impacts to acceptable levels.

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive)

#### Flood & Water

- Any works should use on-site water management systems (dewatering/pumping, bunding & gabions, settlement & retention ponds, drainage, re-routing of watercourses).
- A site-specific FRA would be required to accompany the planning application.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- The site constitutes functional land for the nearby Nene Washes. Opportunities should be sought for biodiversity enhancements.

#### Archaeology and the Historic Environment

- Site specific investigations would be required to accompany any planning application and further pre-determination archaeological investigation may be required to inform a planning decision.
- The impact of the proposals on the setting and significance of both the designated and non-designated heritage assets within and outside the study area would also be required.

#### Opportunities for Restoration

- The site is located within the Fens Focus Area within the Peterborough Green Infrastructure Strategy, and is within the Fens for the Future project area. The Green Infrastructure Strategy includes a range of supporting projects to which site restoration might contribute.
- Restoration proposals will also need to reflect the outcome of the heritage investigations.
  - Potential for restoration scheme to incorporate flood alleviation measures.

#### Traffic and Highways

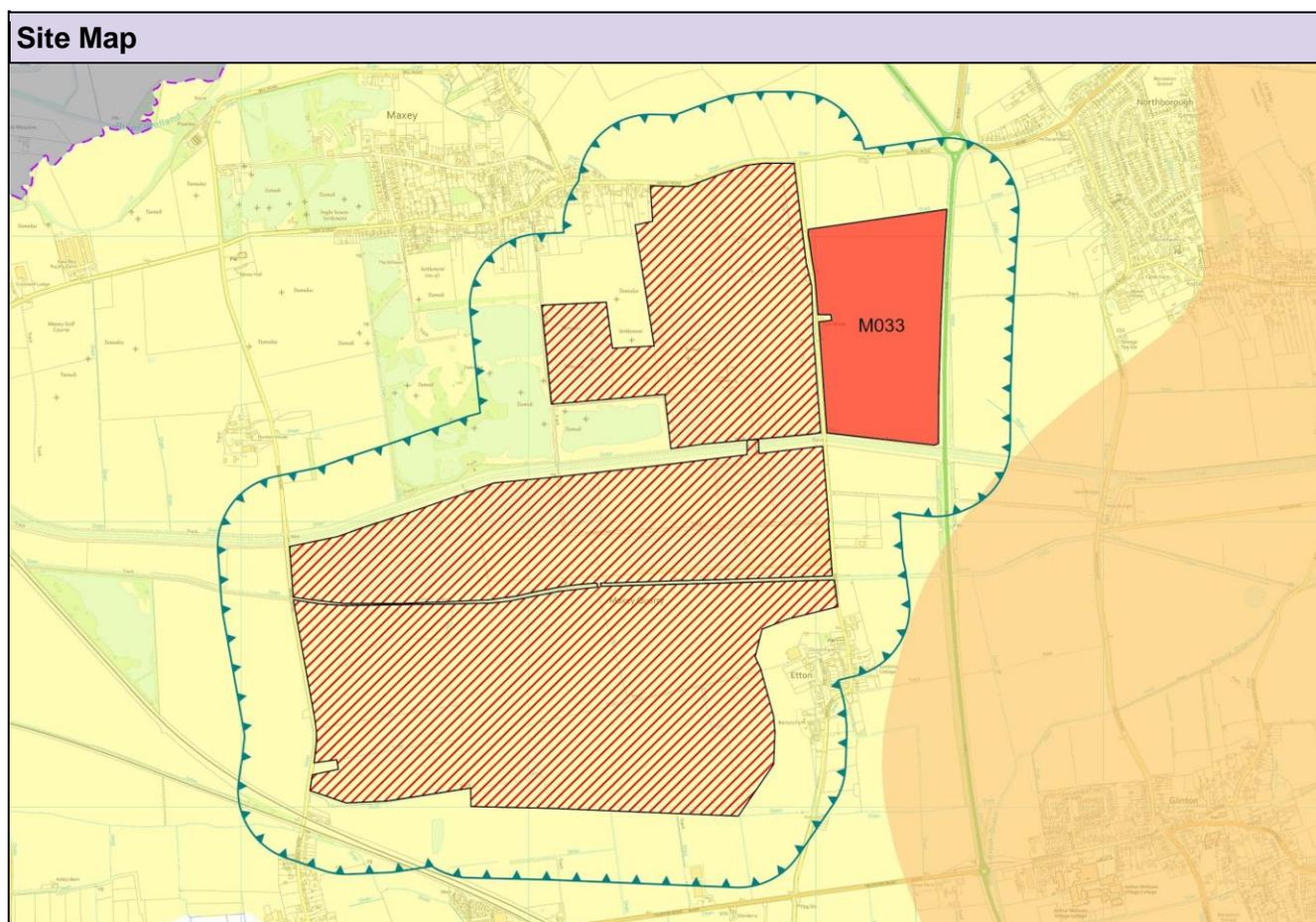
- The site is an extension to an existing site, the intention being to utilise the existing processing plant, with construction of a haul road or a conveyor to bring materials to the plant.
- The extended site is likely to utilise the existing Pode Hole quarry access to join the HCV network on the A47 (The Causeway).

#### Operation

- The site is an extension to the existing Pode Hole quarry and will be phased to come on-stream after this is worked, with operating hours expected to be the same. This should limit or minimise any anticipated impacts.

## M033: Land off Main Road, Maxey

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M033</b>                          |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel  |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 33                                   |
| Grid Ref                      | TF 142 076                           |
| Parish                        | Northborough                         |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 2,300,000 (1,925,000 in plan period) |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 275,000                              |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2030                                 |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                          |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nearest designated site for biodiversity is Deeping Gravel Pits SSSI, 2900m east</li> <li>• The nearest listed building is 500m from the site</li> <li>• The nearest scheduled monument is 1.2km from the site</li> <li>• The nearest local designation is Maxey Quarry CWS to the west of the site</li> <li>• The site is within close proximity to sensitive receptors (the site's western boundary wraps around the isolated residence Four Winds) which may increase the potential for adverse impacts/environmental nuisance impacts (e.g. dust, noise), however it is considered that implementation of standard mitigation measures is likely to avoid and/or reduce potentially adverse impacts to acceptable levels.</li> <li>• The nearest Conservation Areas are Maxey (530m), Northborough (560m) and Etton (620m).</li> </ul> |

## Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive)

### Flood & Water

- The Maxey Cut main river runs along the southern boundary of the site (approximately 20-25m away) and is within the Maxey pumped catchment of the Welland and Deepings IDB. Consent may be required from the IDB for works to or near land drainage ditches/drains within the site.
- Any works should use on-site water management systems (dewatering/pumping, bunding & gabions, settlement & retention ponds, drainage, re-routing of watercourses).
- A site-specific FRA would be required to accompany the planning application.

### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- The site is classed as a Local Geological Site. Potential adverse impacts could be addressed through appropriate survey and mitigation measures but the degree of overall impact is dependent upon the constituents of the restoration, ecological management and aftercare scheme.

### Archaeology and the Historic Environment

- Site specific investigations would be required to accompany the planning application and further pre-determination archaeological investigation may be required to inform a planning decision.
- An assessment of the impact of the proposals on the setting and significance of heritage assets within the wider area would also be required.

### Opportunities for Restoration

- Restoration of the site may be back to agriculture but with additional biodiversity improvements to complement and enhance the surrounding area, potentially providing additional accessible green space.
- Maxey Cut drain forms the site's southern boundary, and is the focus of the Maxey Cut Climate Change Resilience Project which aims to protect and enhance habitats along the drain to provide greater connectivity through the Welland Valley. Site restoration may provide opportunities to contribute to this wider green infrastructure project.

### Traffic and Highways

- The site will come forward following completion of Maxey Quarry to the west, therefore not resulting in increased traffic movements. The existing processing plant is to be utilised. Access to the existing plant will require a crossing of Etton Road either by vehicles or by conveyor under the road.
- Access to the HCV network will be via the existing Maxey quarry entrance, turning right onto Maxey Road joining at the A15 roundabout.

### Operation

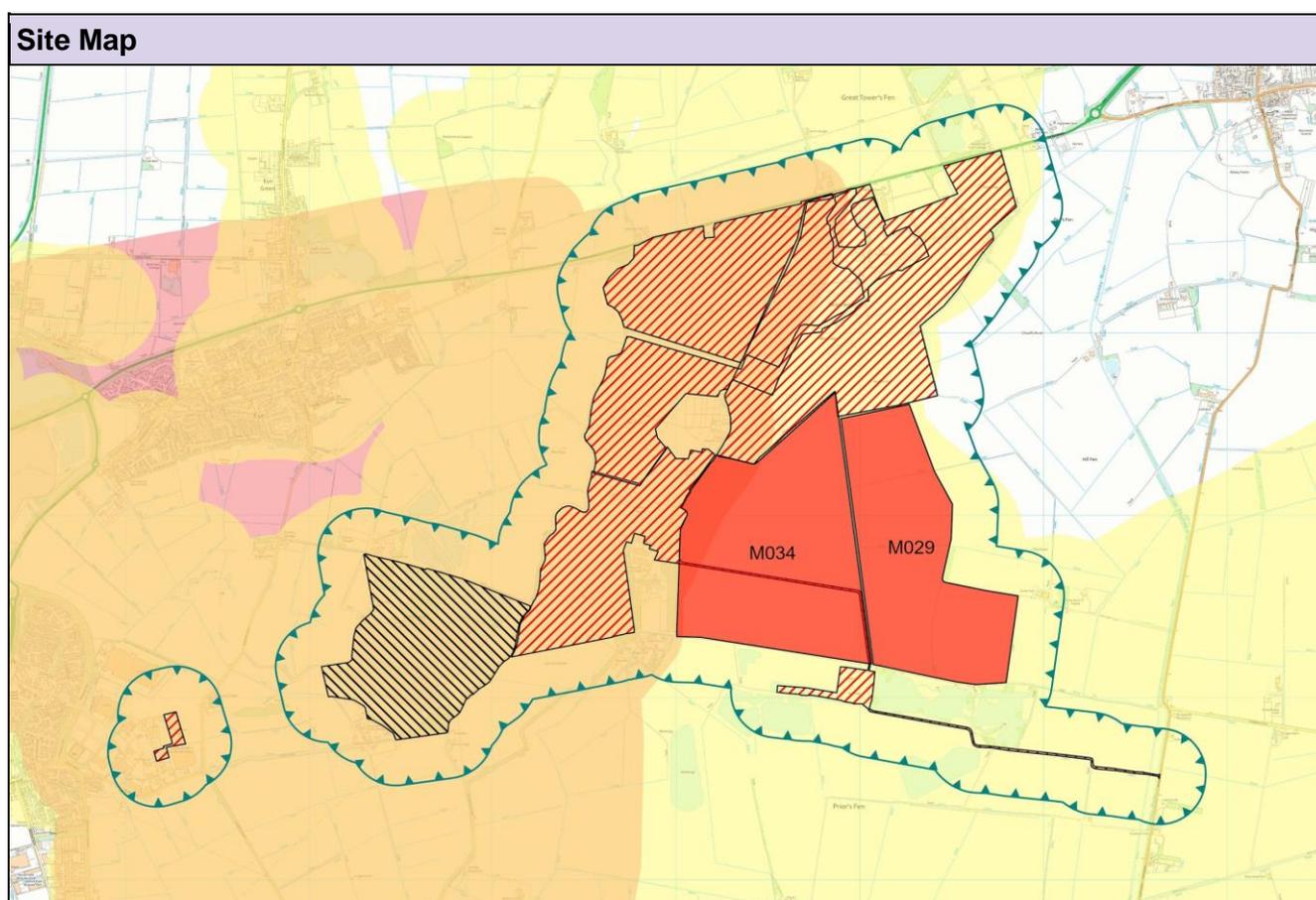
- Aggregates to be transported to the existing processing plant across Main Road, with sold material transported off site via the existing Maxey quarry access and agreed and operational HGV routing agreement.
- The existing permitted operating hours at the adjoining Maxey quarry are expected to continue for this site.

### Other Issues

- No RoWs cross the site, the closest being footpath Maxey 3 approximately 260m north and bridleway Etton 9 approximately 310m south. The Green Wheel cycle route runs approximately 200m south of the site. The site is within the Aircraft Safeguarding Area for RAF Wittering, the MOD should therefore be consulted on any application. Consideration will need to be taken into account of air safety during operations and restoration, with respect to attracting large numbers of wildfowl and flocking birds.

## M034: Willow Hall Farm, Thorney

|                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M034</b>                          |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel  |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 106                                  |
| Grid Ref                      | TF 255 018                           |
| Parish                        | Thorney                              |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 4,800,000 (2,800,000 in plan period) |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 200,000                              |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2023                                 |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                          |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nene Washes<sup>4</sup> is 2.1km from the site</li> <li>• The nearest listed building is 275m from the site</li> <li>• The nearest scheduled monument (two bowl barrows) is within the site boundary</li> <li>• Thorney Dyke CWS is adjacent to the site's south east corner</li> <li>• The site is distant from sensitive receptors which will help to reduce potentially adverse impacts (e.g. dust, noise), in addition the implementation of standard mitigation measures is likely to avoid and/or reduce potentially adverse impacts to acceptable levels.</li> </ul> |

<sup>4</sup> Ramsar, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

## Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive)

### Flood & Water

- Consent may be required from the IDB for works to or near land drainage ditches/drains within the site.
- Any works should use on-site water management systems.
- A site-specific FRA would be required to accompany the planning application.

### Biodiversity & Geodiversity

- The site is located within the Eye/Thorney Area of Search Local Geological Site. Thorney Dyke CWS is adjacent to the site's south east corner. The site also constitutes functional land for the nearby Nene Washes. Potential adverse impacts on these receptors could be addressed through appropriate survey and mitigation measures.

### Archaeology and the Historic Environment

- Site specific investigations would be required to accompany the planning application and further pre-determination archaeological investigation may be required to inform a planning decision.
- The impact of the proposals on the setting and significance of both the designated and non-designated heritage assets within and outside the allocation area would also be required.

### Opportunities for Restoration

- The site is located within the Fens Focus Area within the Peterborough Green Infrastructure Strategy, and is within the Fens for the Future project area. The Green Infrastructure Strategy includes a range of supporting projects to which site restoration might contribute.
- Restoration proposals will also need to reflect the outcome of the heritage investigations.

### Operation

- Limits will likely be imposed on the number of vehicle movements and hours of operation to avoid nuisance to local residents.

### Traffic and Highways

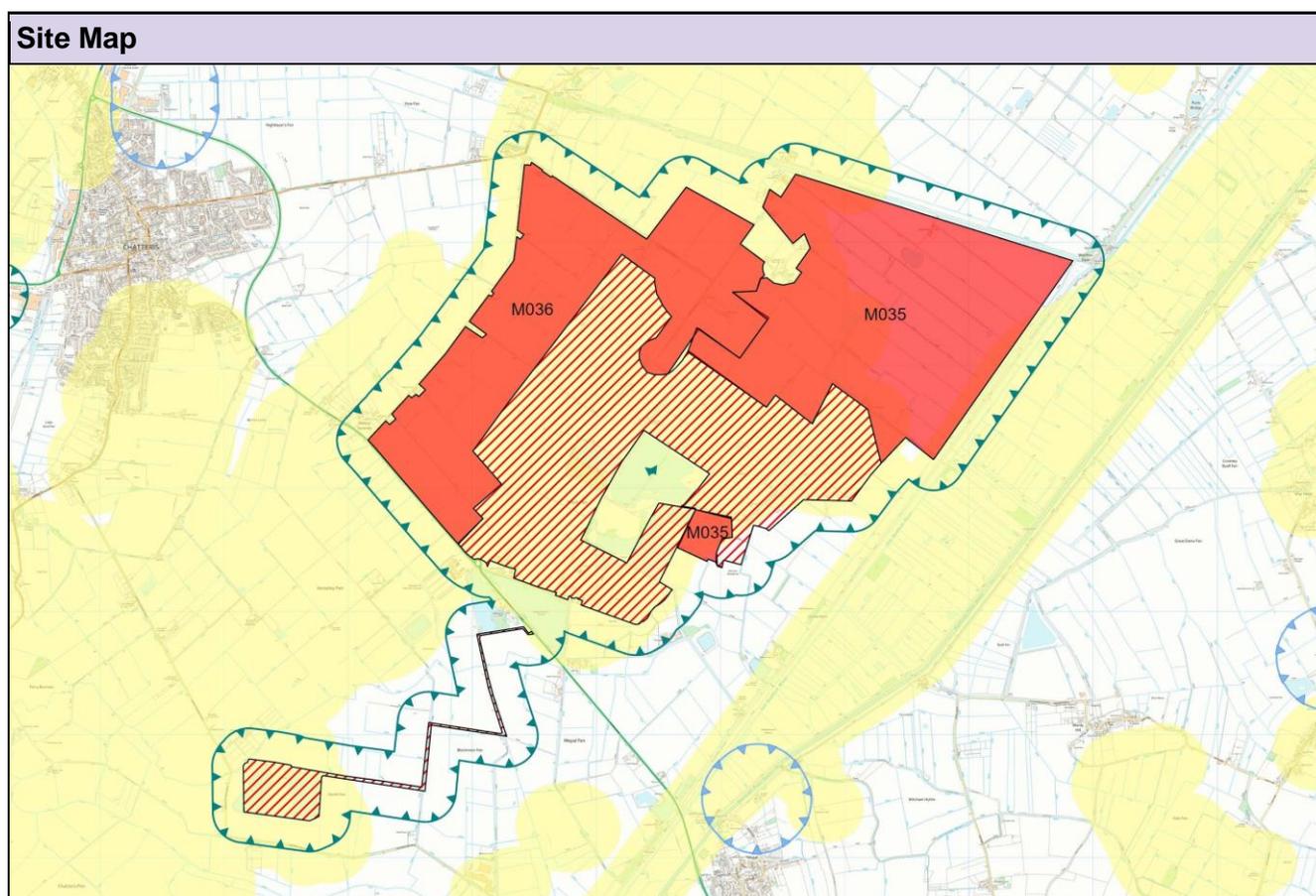
- There is potential for impacts related to increased traffic movement within the area (albeit in accordance with the existing HGV routing arrangement), however phasing of the sites should minimise any possible impacts.
- This site should come forward following completion of existing permitted or allocated operations and therefore the estimated HCV movements will not be additional to existing permitted movements but substituting for them.
- Aggregate should be moved by a conveyor or haul road to an established processing plant at an operational quarry in the vicinity and sold material transported off site via the existing access onto the B1040.

### Other Issues

- There are a number of Rights of Way (RoW) in the vicinity of the site, with RoW Thorney 5 running along the southern boundary of the site. Dependent on operation the RoW may require diversion and it is likely that the site could be viewed from other RoW.

## M035: Block Fen / Langwood Fen East, Mepal

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M035</b>                           |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel   |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 379                                   |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 427 853                            |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 10,000,000 (4,680,000 in plan period) |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 350,000                               |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2020                                  |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                           |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Located adjacent to the Ouse Washes<sup>5</sup>.</li> <li>● Protected species or habitats of protected species recorded on / near site.</li> <li>● Site is archaeologically sensitive with evidence of remains on and surrounding the site.</li> <li>● Small area BMV Grade 1, remainder BMV Grade 2 land within site and the likely presence of deep peat soils in the area.</li> <li>● Sensitive receptors with residential and outlying properties on and adjacent to the site.</li> <li>● Entire site is within Flood Zone 3.</li> <li>● Scheduled Monuments in the vicinity of the site (the closest is bowl barrows 750m west).</li> <li>● Listed Buildings in the vicinity (the closest is Grade II Fortrey's Hall).</li> </ul> |

<sup>5</sup> Ramsar, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive list)

See also the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036, Appendix 2 - Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan.

#### Operation

- To maintain the integrity of the Ouse Washes a stand off 150 m from the Ouse Washes is likely to be required. Amenity issues including noise or dust are likely to need to be addressed, and stand-offs between the quarry area and residential dwellings may be required.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Development should conserve and enhance adjoining Ouse Washes and any protected species. An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation should be undertaken to inform proposals, and the development should incorporate any recommended mitigation measures as appropriate.
- Habitats Regulations Assessment at the project level will be required to ascertain that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site and its associated interests.

#### Archaeology and Historic Environment

- The site is archaeologically sensitive. An archaeological evaluation should be undertaken and an appropriate mitigation strategy prepared, which may need to include removing areas from development to physically preserve archaeological remains of particular significance in situ.
- Development must conserve and where appropriate enhance heritage assets and their settings.

#### Flood & Water

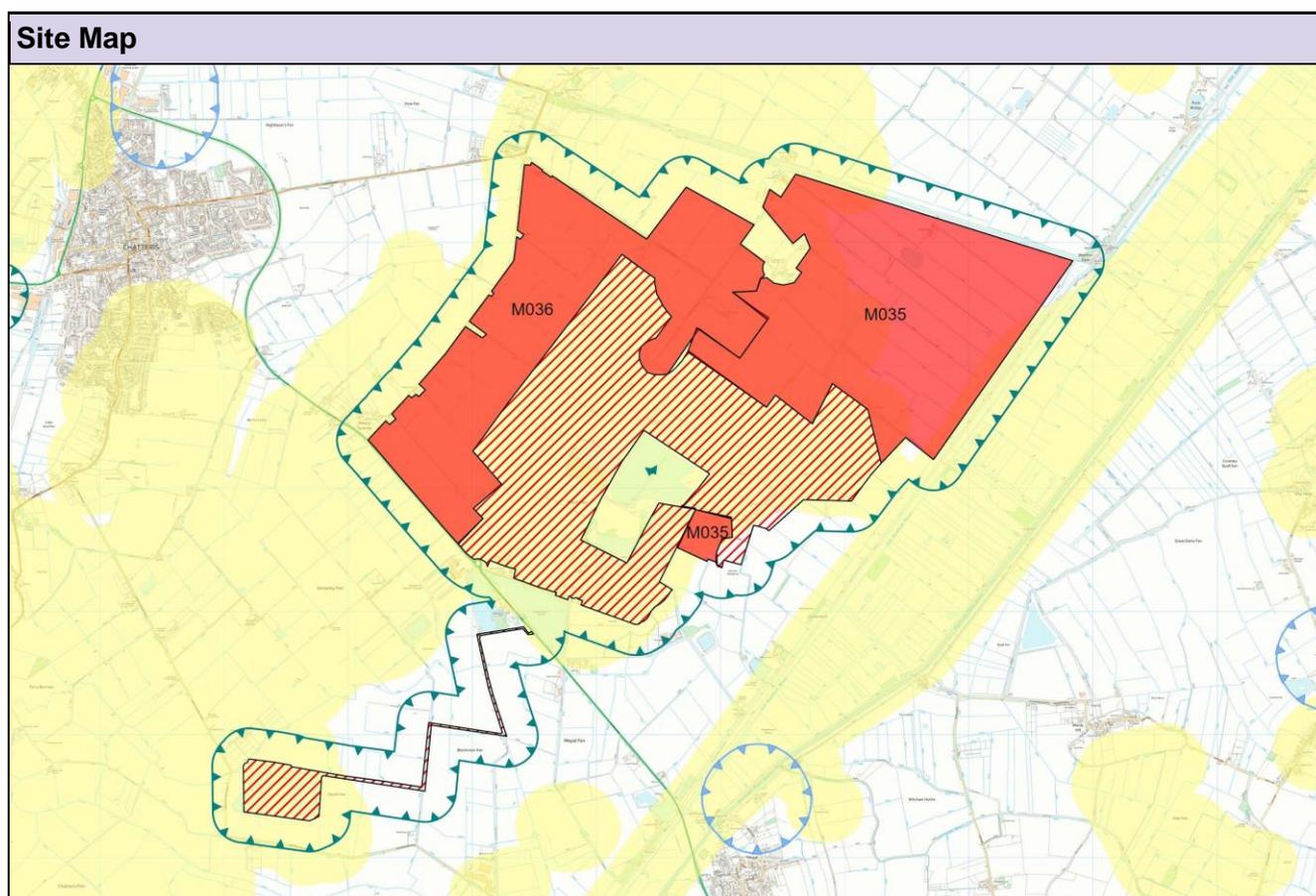
- Proposals will need to address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites will need to be addressed. Any Flood Risk Assessment and a Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment should consider all stages of excavation and restoration and include flood risk and surface water drainage. Proposals should incorporate measures to 'seal' the south side of Forty Foot Drain.

#### Other Issues

- Rights of Way, including 43/13, 45/7 and 45/6, pass near the site. Development may be required to provide diversions and compensation for existing Rights of Way which may be adversely affected.
- Consideration of the deep peat soils in the area and the steps proposed to conserve this resource and limit any CO2 emissions as part of the development.

## M036: Block Fen / Langwood Fen West, Mepal

|                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Site Reference</b>         | <b>M036</b>                           |
| Proposed Use                  | Mineral Extraction: Sand and Gravel   |
| Site Area (Ha)                | 318                                   |
| Grid Ref                      | TL 425 853                            |
| Estimated Reserve (t)         | 11,480,000 (2,310,000 in plan period) |
| Estimated Annual Output (tpa) | 400,000                               |
| Estimated Start Date          | 2031                                  |
| Current Use                   | Agriculture                           |



| <b>Key Known Site Sensitivities</b>   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Located adjacent to the Ouse Washes<sup>6</sup>.</li> <li>• Records of protected species or suitable habitats identified on or near site.</li> <li>• Site is archaeologically sensitive with evidence of remains on and surrounding the site.</li> <li>• Small area may be BMV Grade 1, remainder BMV Grade 2 land.</li> <li>• Sensitive receptors with residential and outlying properties on and adjacent the site</li> <li>• Largely within Flood Zone 3.</li> <li>• Scheduled Monuments are in the vicinity of the site (the closest is Grey's Farm, Horseley Fen, a neolithic site 430m south west).</li> <li>• Listed Buildings in the vicinity (the closest is Grade II Holly House Farmhouse 620m north).</li> </ul> |

<sup>6</sup> Ramsar, SAC (Special Area of Conservation), SPA (Special Protection Area) and SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

### Potential Implementation Issues (non-exhaustive list)

See also the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2036, Appendix 2 - Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan.

#### Operation

- Amenity issues including noise or dust are likely to need to be addressed, and stand-offs between the quarry area and residential dwellings may be required.

#### Biodiversity and Geodiversity

- Development should conserve and enhance adjoining Ouse Washes and any protected species. An ecological evaluation assessing the potential effect of development and appropriate mitigation should be undertaken to inform proposals. The development should incorporate any recommended mitigation measures as appropriate.
- Habitats Regulations Assessment at the project level will be required to ascertain that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site and its associated interests.

#### Archaeology and Historic Environment

- The site is archaeologically sensitive. An archaeological evaluation should be undertaken and an appropriate mitigation strategy prepared, which may need to include removing areas from development to physically preserve archaeological remains of particular significance in situ.
- Development must conserve and where appropriate enhance heritage assets and their settings.

#### Flood & Water

- Proposals should address on and off site flood risk and effects on water levels in nearby designated environmental sites will need to be addressed. Any Flood Risk Assessment and Hydrological and Hydro-Geological Assessment should consider all stages of excavation and restoration and include flood risk and surface water drainage.

#### Other Issues

- Rights of Way, including 45/13, 45/3 and 45/27 pass near the boundary of the site. Development may be required to provide diversions and compensation for existing Rights of Way which may be adversely affected.



Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council  
**Appendix 2 - BLOCK FEN / LANGWOOD FEN  
MASTER PLAN**

Adopted July 2021

## Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Context - Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan.....                 | 2  |
| 1. Introduction.....  | 3  |
| 2. The Vision .....   | 7  |
| 3. Phasing and Working of Reserves .....                            | 12 |
| 4. Waste Recycling and Disposal .....                               | 16 |
| 5. Enhancement Habitat.....   | 19 |
| 6. Water Storage.....   | 24 |
| 7. Recreation and Leisure .....                                     | 29 |
| 8. Traffic.....   | 33 |
| 9. Sustainable Use of Soils .....                                   | 36 |
| 10. Conclusions .....   | 40 |
| Annex 1 - Planning Applications .....                               | 41 |
| Annex 2 - Methodology for the Creation of Enhancement Habitat ..... | 43 |

## List of Tables

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Table 1: Phasing for Working of Reserves (Million of Tonnes).....                  | 14 |
| Table 2: CD&E waste forecast by management method up to 2036 (million tonnes)..... | 16 |
| Table 3. Provision for disposal of construction waste.....                         | 18 |
| Table 4: Creation of Water Storage / Supply Capacity .....                         | 26 |
| Table 5. Estimated Daily Quarry and Waste Management Goods Vehicle Movements.....  | 33 |
| Table 6: Main Soil Functions.....  | 37 |
| Table 7: Moisture Deficit Values .....   | 44 |
| Table 8: Supplementary Water Requirements.....                                     | 45 |

## Context - Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan

A Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in 2011. It set out the vision for the Block Fen area to be created through mineral extraction. The contents of that SPD has been updated and brought into the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The 2011 SPD has been superseded by this guidance based on the adoption of this Local Plan.

### Changes since the 2011 SPD

The content of this Appendix remains largely unchanged from the 2011 SPD. However, the timescales have been altered to be more flexible in the delivery of the Master Plan. This alteration has been made in response to the reduced levels of production that occurred (likely owing to the 2008 economic downturn, and mineral company's commitments to other sites).

A number of other minor alterations to the text have also been made, but these have not affected the direction of the Plan.

### Status of this appendix

This appendix forms part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Its contents are considered to be supporting text, to assist interpretation and implementation of relevant policies in the Local Plan. If any text in this Appendix conflicts in any way with the provisions of the Policies set out in this Local Plan or any other Development Plan Document, then the contents of those policies prevail.

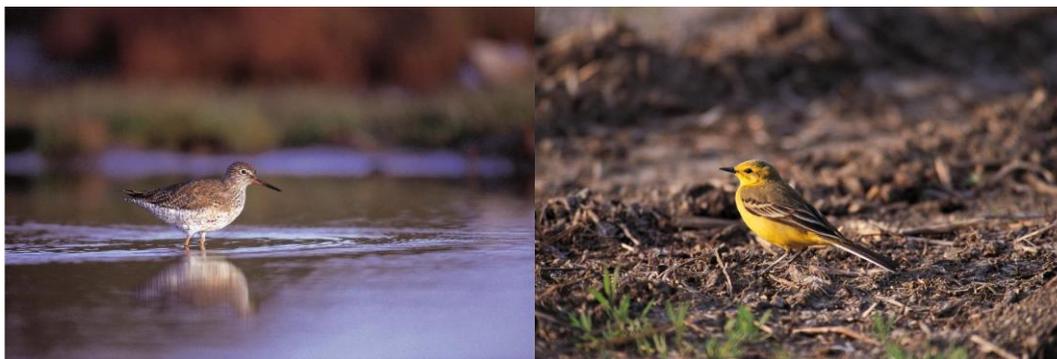
# 1. Introduction

## Purpose of the Master Plan

- 1.1. This Master Plan provides a detailed land use planning framework for mineral and waste activity in the Earith / Mepal area. It conforms to and builds upon the proposals set out in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Plan Local Plan.

## Background

- 1.2. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan identifies the Earith / Mepal area as a strategic area for sand and gravel extraction and construction / demolition waste management until 2036 and beyond. This area has extensive reserves of good quality sand and gravel needed to supply the construction industry, which will help build the new housing, employment, schools and other development planned for Cambridge, and the wider area. The area will also help to recycle and dispose of construction soils and sub-soils arising from development.
- 1.3. The Earith / Mepal area is one of high quality agricultural land, and is primarily in this use. However, Block Fen, Langwood Fen and adjacent areas have established sites for sand and gravel extraction, some clay extraction, and some already contribute to the management of soils and waste construction and demolition materials.
- 1.4. In considering the further development of the area significant new opportunities have been identified which could be delivered through additional mineral extraction and quarry restoration. These have largely been shaped by the location of the area next to the Ouse Washes, which is one of the few remaining fragments of wetland habitats within the Fens. It is of international importance for its wintering waterfowl and for a suite of breeding birds, including snipe and black-tailed godwit.
- 1.5. The Ouse Washes area is in an 'unfavourable' condition. The Ouse Washes is designated as a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site) under the Ramsar convention, and, in 2000, was formally listed on the Montreux Record as a site undergoing ecological change. The main cause of the deterioration of the nature conservation interests is changing patterns of flooding with unseasonal summer flooding and longer deeper winter flooding.
- 1.6. Mineral extraction followed by appropriate restoration offers the opportunity to deliver three equally important strategic objectives. Firstly, it can provide strategic water storage bodies which can help to intercept water before it goes into the Counter Drain, and also take some of the water from the Counter Drain which would otherwise be pumped into the Ouse Washes, thereby managing flood risk in a more sustainable way. In addition, quarry restoration using inert construction and demolition waste soils can create a significant amount of new lowland wet grassland, providing new breeding areas for birds such as the black-tailed godwit, snipe, redshank and lapwing. Thirdly, the water bodies created after restoration from gravel workings, and the new lowland wet grassland, can provide a focus for recreational opportunities for those living in, or visiting the area; as well providing water for agriculture for irrigation purposes.



Left: Redshank (Courtesy of RSPB); Right: Yellow Wagtail (Courtesy of RSPB).

- 1.7. The framework for future sand and gravel extraction and the management of construction and demolition waste in this area is set out in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan which covers the overarching land use policy. This Master Plan sets the more detailed proposals for this area.

### **The Block Fen / Langwood Fen Area**

- 1.8. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area lies to the west of the Ouse Washes, north of the A142 and south of the Forty Foot (Vermuyden's) Drain. The western boundary is a line running north south down Langwood Hill Drove to the A142. The Master Plan area lies in the parishes of Mepal and Chatteris, and in the districts of East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.
- 1.9. The area is characterised by open low lying high quality agricultural land, drained by a series of man made drains and pumps operated by the Sutton and Mepal Internal Drainage Board. Other than the drains there are relatively few other landmarks. The area is relatively sparsely populated, principally by farms or scattered dwellings, linked by small droves and byways.

### **Nature Conservation**

- 1.10. The area lies adjacent to the Ouse Washes which is a wetland of national, European and international importance (a Ramsar site). At the national level it is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its wet grassland, breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl along with aquatic flora and fauna largely associated with the ditches and drains.
- 1.11. At the European level, the Ouse washes is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for the number and variety of breeding and wintering waders and wildfowl, along with the wintering population of hen harrier. The two parallel linear water courses known as the Counter Drain / Old Bedford (outer river) and the Old Bedford / Delph (inner river) are also designated at the European level, a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), for a population of Spined Loach, one of four known main localities for this fish species.
- 1.12. The Ouse Washes is one of the largest areas of seasonally flooded washland in Britain which, when floodwaters permit, is managed using traditional agricultural methods of summer grazing and hay cutting. The washlands regularly host impressively large numbers of wintering waterbirds, which qualifies it as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

### **Land Drainage and Water Storage**

- 1.13. Immediately east of the Master Plan area is the Counter Drain, east of this is the River Delph and the Hundred Foot / New Bedford River Ouse. These watercourses supports the artificial drainage of a large part of mid Cambridgeshire, up through Bedfordshire to the river source in Northamptonshire.

- 1.14. The Ouse Washes lie between the River Delph and the parallel bank of the Hundred Foot / New Bedford River and play a major land drainage role as a flood water storage and conveyancing area. As a result the washland is subject to flooding.
- 1.15. A winter storage agricultural irrigation reservoir lies at North Fen, Sutton Gault (south of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area). This has been extended through additional mineral extraction. Planning permission has also been granted for the reservoir to be used for the storage of potable water.
- 1.16. There are also a number of smaller winter storage reservoirs in the wider Earith / Mepal area serving the irrigation needs of specific areas of agricultural cultivation.

### **Historic Environment**

- 1.17. In terms of the historic environment the area contains isolated listed buildings and scheduled monuments along the roads, waterways and fields of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area. One such listed building is Fortrey's Hall, which is located alongside the Old Bedford River. The area also lies in proximity to towns and villages such as Chatteris, which contain numerous listed buildings and designated conservation areas. The area is of high archaeological importance and includes a number of Scheduled Monuments. It is known to contain prehistoric remains and there are extensive remains of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Settlements in the area, some of which may prove to be of national importance.

### **Access**

- 1.18. The main traffic corridor is the A142 Ely - Chatteris Road, which bridges the Ouse Washes. The area is also crossed by Bury Lane leading from Sutton to Long North Fen Drove towards Chatteris. This route crosses the Washes by way of a causeway and is frequently obstructed by floodwater in the winter months.
- 1.19. The other roads in the area are minor lanes (droves) linking farms and byways. There are a limited number of public footpaths the most important of which from a recreation point of view are the linear paths which follow the banks of the Ouse Washes.

### **Existing Minerals and Waste Operations**

- 1.20. The area is known to contain significant sand and gravel deposits having been the subject of some earlier extraction, and is currently the subject of active and planned mineral workings on a significant scale.
- 1.21. North of the A142 is Block Fen. This is a large area, already permitted for sand and gravel extraction. Access to Block Fen is via a roundabout off the A142. Current restoration proposals are for reinstatement to an agricultural use, at existing ground levels using inert waste fill. It is expected that the restoration proposals for these existing permitted sites will be revised in accordance with this Master Plan.

### **The Earith / Mepal Stakeholder Group**

- 1.22. The first edition of the Master Plan was developed through a number of stakeholder workshops. These sessions were vital in determining the nature of the proposals which have come forward, and in providing technical supporting information and advice.
- 1.23. In addition a number of supporting studies were undertaken which addressed:
- hydrology;
  - sustainable use of soils;

- ecology; and
- traffic.

1.24. Participants included the mineral and waste industry, the Environment Agency, the Middle Level Commissioners, the Sutton and Mepal Internal Drainage Board, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), officers from the district councils, and Natural England.

## 2. The Vision

2.1 The vision for Block Fen / Langwood Fen area is:

- to undertake development in a planned and sustainable way, ensuring there is no adverse impact on the integrity of the Ouse Washes, taking into account the need to address climate change by incorporating into the proposals for this area such measures as recycling of waste to encourage the use of secondary materials, water storage and transfer to address nature conservation, sustainable flood risk management, and water supply issues across the wider area, including the creation of new habitat which will enhance the Ouse Washes and will assist in conserving for the long term high quality peat soils, and active traffic management designed to influence lorry and other traffic movements to use appropriate routes;
- a continuation in the role of the area as a major producer of sand and gravel, to 2036 and beyond. The sand and gravel being used largely to supply the construction industry in the delivery of planned growth i.e. houses, employment, schools, roads, and other supporting infrastructure in the Cambridge, and wider Cambridgeshire area. The focus for this development would be the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area;
- the development of Block Fen and Langwood Fen as a strategic resource for the recycling of construction waste and for the disposal of inert waste that cannot be recycled. The latter largely comprising soils and subsoils arising from the planned development in Cambridgeshire;
- an area with its close links to the neighbouring internationally important Ouse Washes being positively strengthened over the Plan period and beyond. Owing to inappropriate water levels and water quality issues the Ouse Washes is currently in 'unfavourable' condition. The restoration of mineral void to high quality wet grassland adjacent to the Washes will provide enhancement habitat for the nationally and internationally important breeding and wintering bird populations currently using the Washes. Potentially this will be of particular value for breeding waders whose habitat might be flooded in the spring, and for some species of wintering duck who find water levels too deep, and flooding too extensive, for feeding purposes. This will be achieved by the disposal of inert waste in containment engineering with soils replaced to bring land back to original levels, and the sustainable use of peat soils to create lowland wet grassland. The new habitat will require active management in the long term, and this should be secured through planning obligations with the land being placed under the control of a suitably experienced and responsible conservation body. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area will continue to be an important buffer area for the Ouse Washes, with the maintenance of a landscape which has few trees and hedges which could harbour predators;
- an area which will make a growing contribution to the management of water in the Fenland area and which has a key role to play in the delivery of the Environment Agency's Cranbrook / Counter Drain Strategy, which seeks to secure sustainable flood risk management in this area. This will be achieved through the creation of a number of water storage bodies following mineral extraction. These water storage bodies will be used to store flood water, which would normally be pumped into the Ouse Washes. The water will be stored and used to supply the Middle Level and Sutton and Mepal Internal Drainage Board area with irrigation water, providing a significant water resource to farmers in a catchment area where there is a shortfall of water for summer irrigation of crops. The new flood storage areas will require active management in the long term, and this should be secured through planning obligations with the flood

storage areas being under the control of a suitably experienced and responsible body. An assessment will need to be made on whether the storage areas would need to be managed in accordance with the Reservoirs Act. If they do, then appropriate guidance would need to be followed: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reservoirs-owner-and-operator-requirements>;

- an area which will become an important recreational resource for this and a wider area, with the new water bodies contributing to formal recreation provision, with informal recreation opportunities associated with the new lowland wet grassland habitat, supported by a visitor centre. Coupled with the following objective, this will increase access to the countryside, tourism and supplement the local economy; and
- an area with improved local navigation, specifically in relation to the Forty Foot where the provision of a clay wall will result in reduced water seepage out of the drain. Potential for restoration of enhanced navigation in this area will contribute to wider objectives such as those in the Fenland Waterways Link.

## Objectives

2.2 The objectives for Block Fen / Langwood Fen area are to:

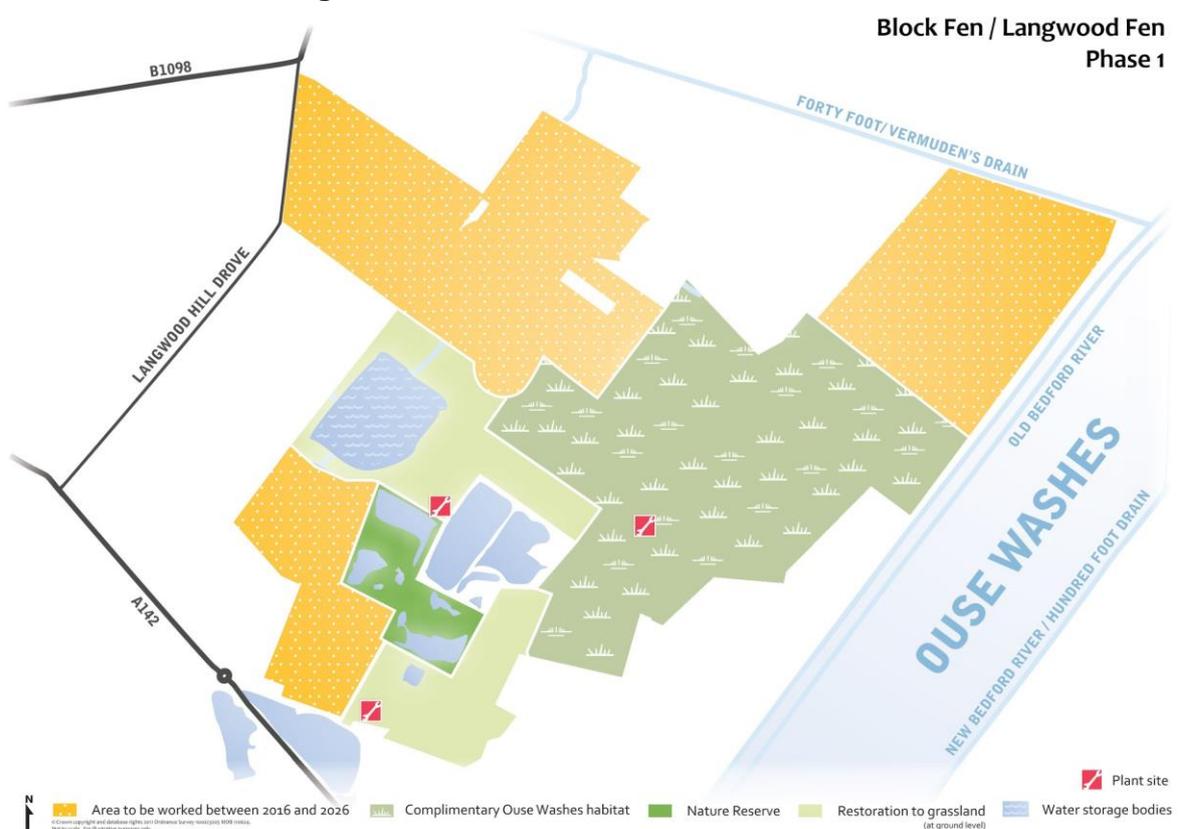
- enable the supply of an average of 1.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel per annum from Block Fen / Langwood Fen from 2016 onwards to 2036, with a reserve of 16.8mt to be worked post 2036;
- establish at least 3 long term construction waste recycling facilities, capable of recycling up to 50%, increasing up to 70%, of construction waste by 2036;
- enable the disposal of a total of around 7 million cubic metres of inert waste over the period to 2036;
- ensure there is no adverse impact to the Ouse Washes through the extraction, landfill and restoration of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area, through well planned, designed and controlled working and restoration;
- create around 480 hectares of lowland wet grassland providing enhancement habitat to complement the Ouse Washes, using inert waste and peat soils to create the wet grassland;
- provide for the long term management of the enhancement habitat adjacent to the Ouse Washes;
- create flood storage in accordance with the Environment Agency's Cranbrook/Counter Drain (Welches Dam) Strategy with the capacity of at least 10 million m<sup>3</sup> and an allowance to achieve 16.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of storage (approximately 14,600 m<sup>3</sup> to 24,100 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare in the water storage areas). The higher storage allowance is to mitigate climate change using the latest guidance on climate change allowance;
- use the water storage bodies for water supply, including agricultural irrigation and water to maintain the wet grassland enhancement habitat; and set out a mechanism for the long term management of the water resource created;
- provide for new and enhanced recreational opportunities, including a local visitor centre;
- secure, through the creation of lowland wet grassland and the disposal of inert waste, the 'sealing' with clay of the southern boundary of the Forty Foot, enabling the restoration of navigation;

- secure the sustainable use of soils as a resource for the future including the conservation of peat soils to limit future CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and
- address traffic management in the area i.e. movements associated with the use of land for mineral extraction and waste management, and long term uses such as recreation.

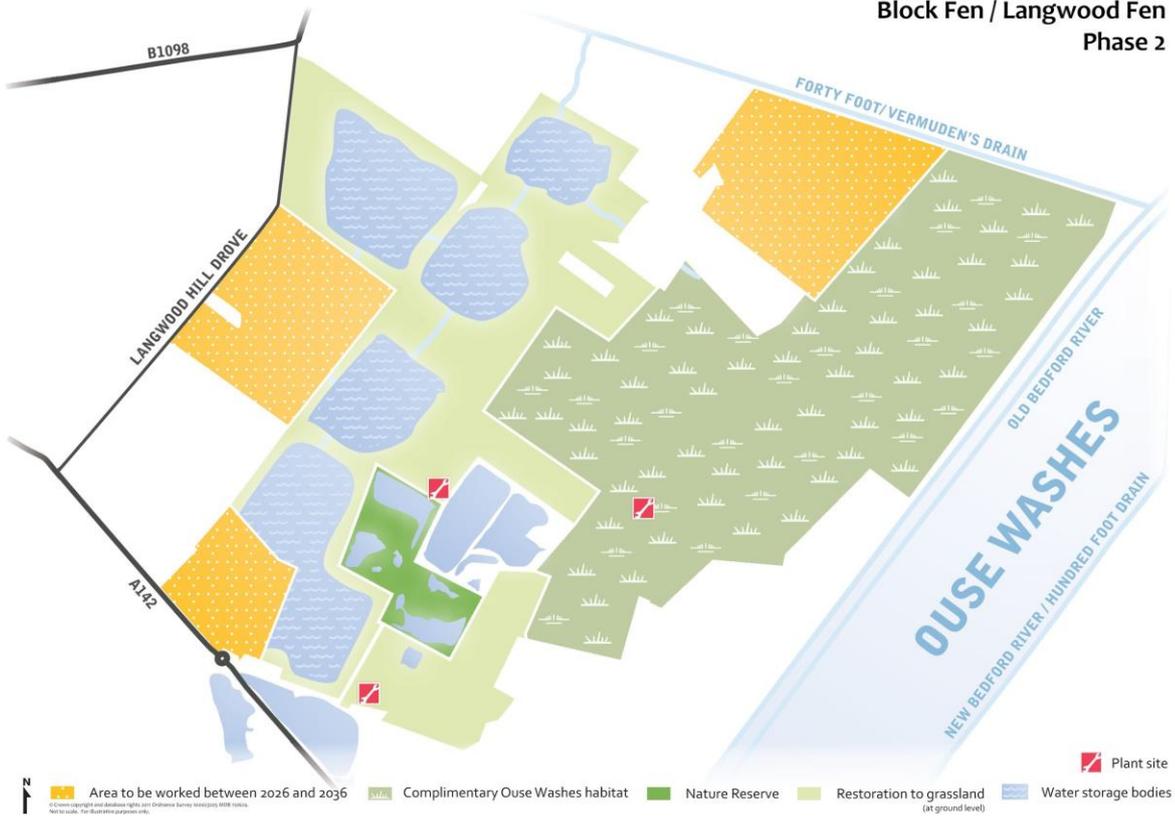
### Delivering the Vision

- 2.3 Delivering the proposals of this Master Plan will require the cooperation of a number of parties, ranging from landowners and minerals and waste operators, to the 'responsible bodies' which will take over the long term management of restoration areas such as the new lowland wet grassland and the water storage bodies.
- 2.4 Stakeholders have already shown a high level of co-operation through their participation in the development of this Master Plan, and on a more practical level on the ground, through the joint delivery of the new Block Fen roundabout to serve new and existing quarries.
- 2.5 This Master Plan sets the parameters for the delivery to be achieved through a variety of more formal means such as the development management system (which determines planning applications), and associated legal agreements which can cover such matters as long term management arrangements and funding, which cannot be addressed through planning conditions.
- 2.6 The vision for the development of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area over the coming years is shown in the following four indicative maps, with 'snap shots' of the development shown for the different phases of the project. It is currently anticipated that mineral extraction will be completed by around 2057.

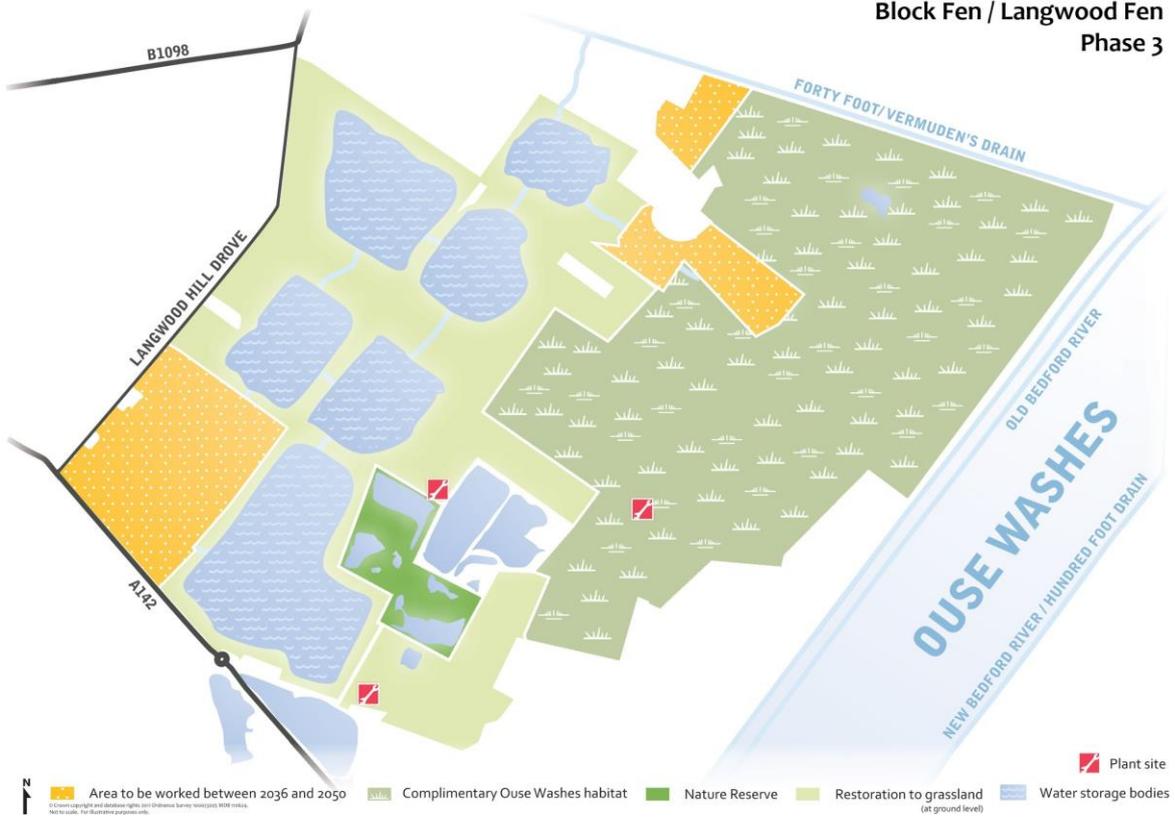
**Figure 1: Indicative Phasing Plans**



Block Fen / Langwood Fen  
Phase 2



Block Fen / Langwood Fen  
Phase 3





## 3. Phasing and Working of Reserves

### The Need for Sand and Gravel

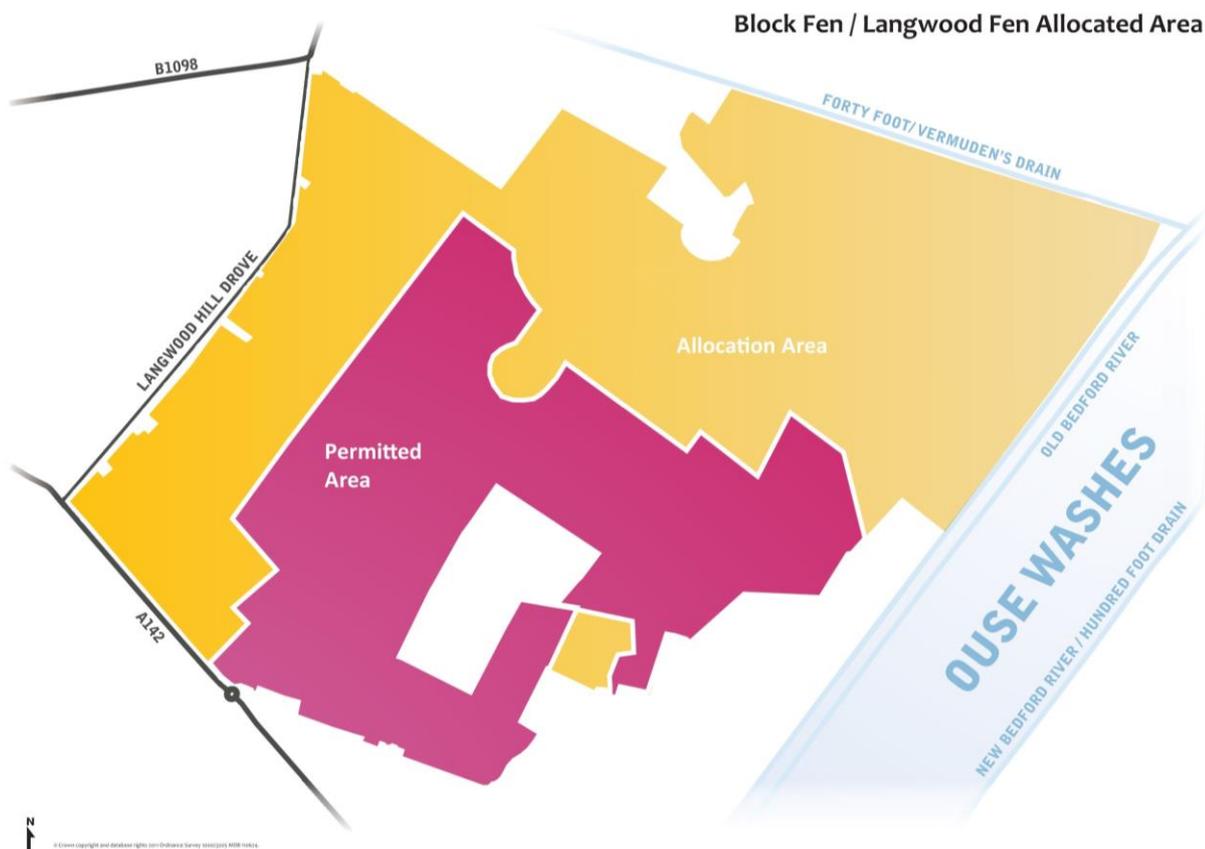
- 3.1. Substantial housing and employment, and supporting development, is planned for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the coming years. In addition major transport development will be taking place.
- 3.2. All this new development requires raw materials. On average a house requires 60 tonnes of sand and gravel, and one kilometre of new dual carriageway requires 200,000 tonnes of sand and gravel.
- 3.3. When this Master Plan was first written the Government had set out the amount of sand and gravel that was to be supplied by the East of England Region. This amount was shared between all the mineral planning authorities in the Region. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, who prepare their land use plans together, had to provide a minimum of 2.8 million tonnes of sand and gravel each year. To provide some flexibility the Authorities planned on the basis of 3.0 million tonnes per year until 2026. Cumulatively this added up to 60 million tonnes.
- 3.4. In addition Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were faced with a number of 'older' quarries in their area coming to the end of the reserves they were allowed to extract, and closing down. This posed a problem in terms of the loss of production units. It had been estimated that by 2013 there would have been shortfall of 'production capacity' which, if the Plan had not been in place, would have risen to around half a million tonnes per annum by 2016 increasing to 1.8 million tonnes per annum by 2026 and beyond.
- 3.5. In order to meet the forecast shortfall in supply, some new sites, but primarily extensions to existing sites, were identified in this area for the future extraction of sand and gravel in the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy. This new Local Plan continues to identify the need for future extraction of sand and gravel.

### The Location of Sand and Gravel Extraction

- 3.6. Previous proposals required the area to be restored to an agricultural after use, at either existing ground level following infilling, or to a lower level with secure arrangements for the pumping of surface water from sumps.
- 3.7. The previous Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy identified that the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area should be extended further to provide a strategic long term resource for the extraction of sand and gravel. The Core Strategy therefore allocated a further area of around 856 ha, with estimated reserves of 24 million tonnes. The Core Strategy also set a revised framework for restoring the area. The previous Core Strategy allocation, and its restoration principles, has been retained in this Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 3.8. The map below (Figure 2) shows indicatively the areas of existing quarries, and the areas which are being allocated. In practice buffers may need to be considered e.g from the A142 to support any engineering structures.
- 3.9. In addition there are known archaeological interests in the allocated area, including ring ditch remains of Bronze Age burial mounds, remains of an Iron Age settlement, and undated crop marks of probable prehistoric origin. Full archaeological evaluations are likely to be required to accompany any planning application, and these should take account of the potential risk of

de-watering and the impact this may pose for archeology. The most important area of archeological interest is on the western edge of the site, adjacent Langwood Fen Drive. The results of the archaeological investigations will determine what mitigation measures may be required and if the detailed extraction area needs to be modified.

**Figure 2: Block Fen / Langwood Fen Allocation Areas**



### Phasing and Working of Reserves

- 3.10. In order to help provide the required supply of sand and gravel, the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area needs to produce an annual average of 1.1 million tonnes of sand and gravel from 2016 to 2036 with a remaining reserve of 16.8 mt to be worked post 2036.
- 3.11. The allocation that was made by the Minerals and Waste Plan Core Strategy and has been retained in this Minerals and Waste Local Plan has been shaped by a number of considerations, including the unique proposed after uses. This comprehensive approach has led to a significant area being allocated, one which will help to provide for our sand and gravel needs to 2036 and beyond.
- 3.12. The extraction of this sand and gravel should be managed carefully so as to husband this important resource. This should be achieved through the planned gradual working of reserves. This should ensure that there is a continuous supply to meet our needs, whilst securing the progressive restoration of the worked out areas. The total reserve for the new allocations in the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area is estimated at around 21.5 million tonnes.
- 3.13. It is acknowledged that allocations of this magnitude are not common, particularly where a substantial amount of the provision is being made for the post plan period. This situation has

come about through recognition of the unique contribution that quarry restoration in this area can make i.e. in the creation of enhancement habitat for the Ouse Washes and more sustainable flood risk management for the Cranbrook / Counter Drain catchment. Together these can play a significant role in enhancing the Ouse Washes SSSI as is required of the County Council under duties in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and delivery of the Environment Agency's adopted Cranbrook / Counter Drain Strategy. In order to deliver these important wider objectives a comprehensive and long term approach has to be taken.

- 3.14. It is also necessary to provide the minerals industry and land owners with a clear long term strategy, with greater certainty regarding the development of the area, especially given the need to change the agreed restoration proposals of existing quarries.
- 3.15. The reserves in the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area are known to be of good quality, and in terms of depth vary from around 4 metres in the eastern side of the site, to around 8 metres in the west. This fits in well with restoration proposals where the deeper void created by extraction in western side of the site can be used for water storage, and the shallower eastern area can be used for the creation of extensive lowland wet grassland habitat to complement the Ouse Washes.
- 3.16. In order to help to control the release of the sand and gravel two 'production areas' have been defined, each with a production unit. These in part reflect the location of the existing quarry operations, but also have had regard to the following:
- production units / production areas are sufficient to contribute to the forecast need for sand and gravel;
  - the need to consider the deliverability of proposals by taking into account known land ownership and land options;
  - that all access should be taken from the existing Block Fen roundabout; and
  - the need to reconsider and change existing restoration proposals in the context of the wider proposals of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 3.17. The map (Figure 3) below shows the two Production Areas, which are based on the final restoration of flood water storage and lowland wet grassland respectively. A breakdown for the working of the current and allocated reserves is set out in the table below:

**Table 1: Phasing for Working of Reserves (Million of Tonnes)**

|                    | Working of reserves from 2016 to 2036 | Working of reserves post 2036 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Permitted reserves | 14.5mt                                | 2.3mt                         |
| Allocated          | 7.0mt                                 | 14.5mt                        |
| Total              | 21.5mt                                | 16.8mt                        |

- 3.18. The working of each production area should reflect the phasing shown in Figure 1 for the working of reserves. Planning applications should provide a detailed phasing diagram showing how the mineral will be worked and how the site will be progressively restored to the planned after uses. Block Fen / Langwood Fen acts as a buffer for the Ouse Washes because it supports very few potential predators which may harm ground nesting birds, any phasing and restoration proposals should recognise this and ensure that the role of the area in this respect is not compromised.

- 3.19. The forecast production capacity of these areas confirms that the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area should be producing an average of around 1.1 million tonnes per annum from 2016 to 2036.

### Hydrogeology

- 3.20. When the site is worked dewatering is likely to be necessary during the extraction phase, and construction of the inert landfill. Where dewatering is licenced, an application for a dewatering licence will be required, and this will need to demonstrate that there are minimal off-site impacts to other water users and the environment, or that these impacts are mitigated. (The potential impact of de-watering on archeological remains is highlighted in paragraph 3.9 above).
- 3.21. As part of the site restoration a large impermeable barrier to flow should be created in the aquifer (associated with the water storage bodies and the creation of new enhancement habitat). Groundwater monitoring should be undertaken by the mineral operator prior to development to characterise the existing flow pattern within the aquifer. Once this is established, full details should be given of the measures which will be put in place to minimise long-term changes in groundwater flow patterns. Ditches in hydraulic continuity with the groundwater in the sand and gravel aquifer are likely to be one of the main mitigation measures, but a full description of how these will function will be needed.

**Figure 3: Block Fen / Langwood Fen Production Areas**



## 4. Waste Recycling and Disposal

### The Need for Waste Recycling and Disposal

- 4.1 Over the coming years the construction of new housing and other development is going to give rise to a significant amount of material such as soils, sub soils, bricks, concrete, and other construction and demolition waste. These materials are often called 'inert' materials, which mean that they do not readily decompose or rot when disposed of. Although they are called 'waste' because they are not needed at the place where the development is taking place, these materials are actually a valuable resource which needs to be managed in a sustainable way.
- 4.2 It is possible to recycle construction and demolition materials by separating, crushing, and grading them, so they can be re-used for new construction purposes. There are also opportunities to blend materials to meet specific requirements. This reduces the amount of virgin sand and gravel and other materials that are required, helping to conserve a valuable resource.
- 4.3 In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough it has been forecast that just over 34 million tonnes of construction, demolition and excavation (CD&E) waste should be managed over the plan period (between 2016 and 2036). Targets for CD&E waste (excluding EWC170504) include recovery of 90% and a maximum of 10% disposal to landfill by 2030. Forecast arisings and management methods for CD&E waste up to 2036 are set out in the table below.

**Table 2: CD&E waste forecast by management method up to 2036 (million tonnes)**

|                                      |                              | 2017         | 2021         | 2026         | 2031         | 2036         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total CD&amp;E waste arisings</b> |                              | <b>1.649</b> | <b>1.649</b> | <b>1.647</b> | <b>1.641</b> | <b>1.637</b> |
| Preparing for reuse and recycling    | Materials recycling          | 0.176        | 0.173        | 0.179        | 0.182        | 0.182        |
|                                      | Compost                      | 0.039        | 0.028        | 0.029        | 0.030        | 0.029        |
|                                      | Inert recycling              | 0.075        | 0.054        | 0.055        | 0.056        | 0.056        |
| Other recovery                       | Energy Recovery - wood waste | 0.001        | 0.002        | 0.002        | 0.002        | 0.002        |
|                                      | Soil treatment               | 0.112        | 0.095        | 0.097        | 0.099        | 0.099        |
|                                      | Inert recovery*              | 0.715        | 0.755        | 0.758        | 0.759        | 0.757        |

|                        |                                    |              |              |              |              |              |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Total recovery</b>  |                                    | <b>1.118</b> | <b>1.106</b> | <b>1.120</b> | <b>1.128</b> | <b>1.126</b> |
| Disposal<br>(landfill) | Inert                              | 0.262        | 0.176        | 0.175        | 0.174        | 0.174        |
|                        | Non-hazardous (including<br>SNRHW) | 0.268        | 0.365        | 0.350        | 0.337        | 0.337        |
|                        | <i>Non-hazardous</i>               | <i>0.247</i> | <i>0.350</i> | <i>0.338</i> | <i>0.327</i> | <i>0.326</i> |
|                        | <i>Non-hazardous (SNRHW)</i>       | <i>0.022</i> | <i>0.015</i> | <i>0.013</i> | <i>0.010</i> | <i>0.010</i> |

\* Inert recovery includes beneficial deposit of inert waste to land associated with the restoration of mineral extraction sites with extant permission. (Source: Waste Needs Assessment, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2016-2036) Proposed Submission Document, June 2019).

- 4.4 The remaining inert CD&E waste that is not recycled for aggregate or other uses, will primarily be used for quarry restoration proposals or disposal to inert landfill sites. It has been calculated that in order to accommodate this material, provision should be made for 19.917million tonnes of inert recovery and landfill voidspace across the Plan area between 2016 and 2036. The Block Fen/Langwood Fen Master Plan area will need CD&E waste to facilitate delivery of the identified restoration outcomes. It is estimated that the sites allocated in the Plan that form part of the Block Fen/Langwood Fen area could accommodate 7 million cubic metres (around 12 million tonnes) of inert fill until the end of 2036. Some of the material sent to recycling facilities will turn out not to be inert material (less than 12%), this will require other forms of treatment or disposal to non-hazardous landfill sites.
- 4.5 In order to achieve our recycling rates we need more recycling facilities. Inert recycling facilities are often located at quarries and landfill sites because they can normally be accommodated without detriment to the environment or local communities. In addition there are opportunities to build upon synergies between the different activities on site e.g. landfill sites offer a place to dispose of the materials that cannot be recycled, virgin and recycled materials can be blended as necessary.
- 4.6 The need for places to dispose of the inert waste that cannot be recycled is also pressing. There is already a shortage of sites and the situation has been made tighter as a result of changes to national policy, which now requires landfill sites to be in areas where there is no risk of prejudicing any underground water resources i.e. aquifers. Aquifers providing drinking water cover extensive areas of land in South Cambridgeshire and thus landfill sites will be harder to find in the future. Areas having underlying clay are likely to be more favourable locations for landfill disposal sites.

### **The Location and Level of Inert Recycling**

- 4.7 Mineral extraction areas will contribute to inert waste recycling by incorporating a facility for this purpose. Capacity to recycle around 240,000 tonnes per year is proposed. The life of the inert recycling facilities should be limited to the life of the mineral operation and the associated restoration proposals.

## The Location and Level of Waste Disposal

- 4.8 The amount of space proposed to be created for the disposal of construction waste (inert waste) is linked to the location and depth of the sand and gravel extraction that will take place in the sub areas, and the restoration proposals to return the land to new lowland wet grassland adjacent to the Ouse Washes, or to agricultural grassland around the water storage areas. The lowland wet grassland and the agricultural grassland surrounding the water storage bodies will require construction waste to be restored to ground level.
- 4.9 The methodology for the creation of new lowland wet grassland uses inert materials to fill the void created by mineral extraction, and to return it back to its previous level (see [Section 5. Enhancement Habitat](#)).
- 4.10 It is planned that approximately a total of 480 hectares of land will be returned to lowland wet grassland and land around the water storage bodies will be returned to ground level, both creating capacity for the disposal of construction waste. It is estimated that around 13 million cubic metres of void will be created. This will make a significant contribution to addressing the need for inert waste disposal.

**Table 3. Provision for disposal of construction waste**

| Phasing                 | 2016 to 2036                          | Post 2036                            | Total                                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Waste Disposal Capacity | 7 million m <sup>3</sup> of voidspace | 6.3 million m <sup>3</sup> voidspace | 13.3 million m <sup>3</sup> of voidspace |

## 5. Enhancement Habitat

### Enhancement Habitat for the Ouse Washes

- 5.1. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area lies immediately adjacent to the Ouse Washes. The nature conservation importance of this extensive area of seasonally flooded washland and wet grassland has been recognised by national (SSSI), European (SPA and SAC), and international (Ramsar site) protective designations.
- 5.2. The Washes plays host to important populations of breeding and wintering birds, including nationally important numbers of the Western European / West African breeding population of black-tailed godwit along with other breeding wader species such as snipe and redshank. Since the 1970's there has been a deterioration in the quality and quantity of wet grassland habitat, mirrored by declines in numbers of breeding waders and some winter duck species such as wigeon. This deterioration has been largely attributed to an increase in the frequency of spring and summer flooding events along with increased depth and duration of floods, although nutrient enrichment from the water entering the site is also a contributory factor. The site is therefore in an 'Unfavourable' condition and has been entered on the Montreux Record as a 'failing' Ramsar.



Left: Black Tailed Godwit (Courtesy of RSPB); Right: Lapwing (Courtesy of RSPB)

- 5.3. Through European legislation, the UK Government has a responsibility to address the deterioration on the Ouse Washes. As a result, it set up the Ouse Washes Steering Group comprising members from Defra, Natural England (then English Nature), the Environment Agency, and the RSPB to consider solutions to address the problems. Such solutions included considerations of water quality, improving drainage of water exiting the Washes and the option of creating replacement habitat off-site.
- 5.4. As a result, the Ouse Washes Habitat Replacement Project was born and is led by the Environment Agency. The aim of the Project was to create 1008 hectares of high quality lowland wet grassland near to the Ouse Washes by 2014.
- 5.5. Whilst the habitat creation at Block Fen / Langwood Fen lies outside the timescales for the Ouse Washes Habitat Creation project, the creation of lowland wet grassland in this vicinity will be directly linked to the special interests of the Ouse Washes and will complement the habitat created by this scheme, and vice versa. In particular the creation of new wet grassland habitat following mineral extraction will provide alternative suitable habitat for breeding ground nesting waders and wintering wigeon to use when water levels are too deep or flooding too extensive on the Ouse Washes.
- 5.6. In order for any new enhancement habitat to be successful in attracting the species of birds which would normally nest on the Ouse Washes, it needs to be as close as possible, and

ideally be immediately adjacent to the Ouse Washes. This requirement limits the geographical area that could potentially host new lowland wet grassland, and helps to make the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area a prime location.

- 5.7. At a national level broad targets are included within the [Government's Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services](#). These filter down to County level and the local Biodiversity Action Plan, which details targets and actions for more specific wetland habitats such as lowland wet grassland.
- 5.8. Mineral and waste planning authorities including Cambridgeshire and Peterborough also have obligations to further the conservation and enhancement of national Sites of Special Scientific Interest, which includes the Ouse Washes.
- 5.9. Over the longer term, the storage water bodies may have the potential to address some of the water level problems on the Washes by storing water that would otherwise be pumped into the Ouse Washes. The creation of lowland wet grassland habitat in this vicinity will undoubtedly be of enhancement value to the Ouse Washes and is directly linked to the special interest features of the site. It will contribute significantly to other regional and local targets, including regional and local Biodiversity Action Plan targets. It will also complement the development of the Great Ouse Wetland which recognises that within a mix of ownerships, a major wetland complex extending over 2000 hectares and 22 miles alongside the Great Ouse already exists. Additional land will provide new access and promotional opportunities.

### **The Location of the Enhancement Habitat**

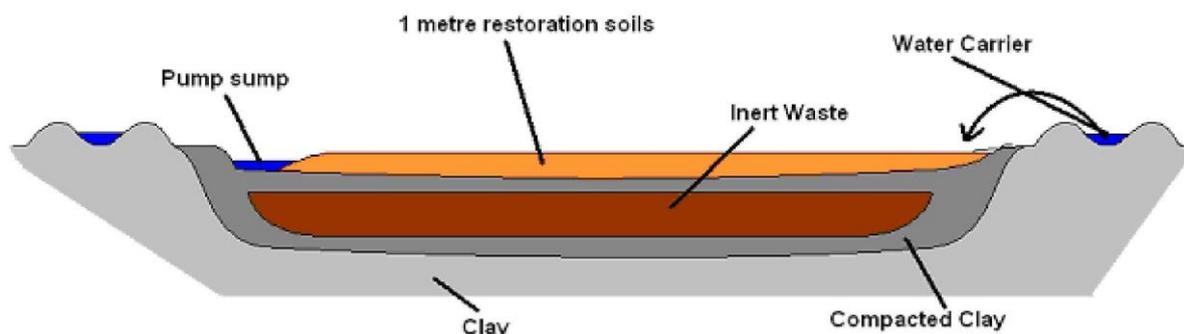
- 5.10. As already noted any enhancement habitat must be located close to, and ideally immediately adjacent, to the Ouse Washes. When the creation of such habitat is being delivered through sand and gravel extraction its possible location is also influenced by the distribution of sand and gravel reserves. Fortunately in the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area economic sand and gravel reserves abut the Ouse Washes, which means the site offers a perfect location for the creation of new lowland wet grassland. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen site is also directly opposite Coveney which is a priority area for the Environment Agency's Habitat Creation Project. If both these areas were to be developed, they would complement each other and provide significant added value through the increased area of contiguous wetland.
- 5.11. The area where wet grassland is proposed to be created following mineral extraction is shown on Figure 1 Indicative Phasing in section [2. The Vision](#). This totals around 480 hectares in the east and north east sector of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area.

### **Methodology for Creating Enhancement Habitat**

- 5.12. A methodology for the creation of lowland wet grassland has been drawn up and is set out in [Annex 2](#). However, in brief, following the extraction of the sand and gravel the base and sides of the void will be lined with compacted clay to an agreed specification, and filled with inert waste which will raise the land towards to its previous level. The inert waste will then be sealed in also using compacted clay. A 'cell' containing the waste will thus be formed. Subsoils will be placed on top of this cell, with peat forming the top layer to return to original contours. These soils will support the lowland wet grassland which will be created, and the water levels will be controlled by water carrying channels at the edge of the cell and a sump. This will enable the environment to be controlled and the grassland to be wetted and drained as required.

Figure 4: A schematic cross section of a wet grassland area is provided below.

### Schematic cross-section of wet grassland quarry restoration following inert landfill



- 5.13. As mineral extraction is taking place over a long period of time the extraction of sand and gravel and the creation of lowland wet grassland will be done on a phased basis. There will therefore be a number of wet grassland cells created. Any planning application should set out details of phasing and the location and extent of cells and arrangements for water supply and removal. Given the amount of inert waste that is arising in the future, and the difficulty of finding suitable places for its disposal, the formation of the lowland wet grassland is unlikely to be limited by the availability of the fill material.
- 5.14. The habitat that will be created will require careful management in terms of the flows and availability of water. The waders for which the wet grassland will be created feed on invertebrates below the soil surface by probing the soil which needs to be kept moist through the spring until early June. High water tables also increase the number of invertebrates near the soil surface.
- 5.15. The wet grassland features, which are made up of surface scrapes, foot drains and furrows will therefore need a supply of water to replenish them during the winter period, so optimum water levels can be reached by the end of March or earlier if required. Water levels will then need to be maintained in these ground features during the early part of the breeding season, and allowed to fall towards the end of the season.
- 5.16. In order to achieve the particular conditions needed by the lowland wet grassland and its birds, a dedicated water supply will be required so the water environment can be managed. This water will be provided by two existing irrigation reservoirs in the Block Fen area, and supplemented if required by water from the larger water storage bodies that will be formed elsewhere on the site (see Figure 1). This should be reflected in the restoration proposals. It is estimated that the supplementary water needs of the wet grassland are between 590,000 m<sup>3</sup> in an average year, and the site should have the capacity to deliver up to 810,000 m<sup>3</sup> in a drier year. These figures will also need to take account of climate change predictions.
- 5.17. The methodology for the grassland cells also includes the creation of sumps for pumping water off the grassland area should this be necessary.

#### Block Fen Pilot Project

- 5.18. A trial restoration has been undertaken following an agreed methodology, creating about 10 hectares of lowland wet grassland. Whilst this area is too small to attract significant

populations of nesting bird populations, it provided a valuable opportunity to inform the methodology in terms of its design, implementation (including hydrological characteristics), and management needs of the habitat.

- 5.19. Following gravel extraction, inert fill and clay capping, the stockpiled subsoil and topsoils were placed to bring the finished site level back to the original field level. A specialist grass seed mix suitable for wet grassland habitat was sown, with good germination being achieved. Specialist machinery created "Dutch polder style surface furrows" along with a shallow pool scrape. Water control infrastructure has been installed along with dipwells, to monitor water levels. Lessons have been learned, all of which can be implemented on the next phase of works, these include using more accurate methods to level soils and minimising compaction of the subsoil. The vegetation structure is developing and grazing has been introduced, and invertebrate populations are being monitored and will develop as the wetland becomes established. The early conclusions are encouraging and show that conditions suitable for breeding wading birds are being created.

### **Long Term Management of the Enhancement Habitat**

- 5.20. The creation of the new substantial area of lowland wet grassland is a vital part of the Block Fen / Langwood Fen vision, and one which acts on the excellent opportunity to provide enhancement opportunities for the special interest features of the Ouse Washes, which will supplement other work being undertaken by the Environment Agency and others. Over the long term, it may play a part in achieving and maintaining favourable condition on the Washes. Securing appropriate long term management of the area by a competent body is critical, and will form an essential part of planning obligations associated with any grant of planning permission.



Above: Ouse Washes (Courtesy of RSPB)

- 5.21. The lowland wet grassland will therefore be passed to an appropriate body with experience of managing such special grassland, and this body will take over the long term management and regular monitoring of the land. Given that the extraction of sand and gravel in this part of the site and its restoration to lowland wet grassland will not be complete until around 2048, this will be done on a phased basis.

- 5.22. The details of this arrangement should be secured through a legal agreement between the relevant parties involved, including the mineral and waste operators, land owners, and relevant competent bodies (drainage and nature conservation). This agreement must be in place before any planning permission will be granted.

## 6. Water Storage

### The Need for Irrigation Water

- 6.1. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area lies in the 'Middle Level' area which extends to around 70,000 hectares, much of which lies below sea level. The area is largely fenland, and being reclaimed land has a long history of being artificially controlled through man made drainage schemes. The most extensive of which is the Old and New Bedford Rivers between Earith and Denver, constructed by the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden.
- 6.2. The Middle Level Commissioners are now responsible for land drainage in the area which lies between the River Nene to the north west and the Great Ouse (Old Bedford River) to the east, and which is bounded by low clay hills to the south and west and by the marine silts of Marshland to the north. The area is divided into 39 Internal Drainage Districts and is served by a large number of pumping stations.
- 6.3. With the area having some of the highest quality soils in the Country, the main use of land is for agricultural purposes. The Fens produce a wide range of flowers, fruit and vegetables, including potatoes, carrots, sugar beet and salad vegetables.
- 6.4. National planning policy promotes adaptation to climate change and the management of flood risk. Part of this involves the sustainable use of water resources including the development of winter water storage schemes. These schemes involve water being caught and stored in the winter, and used in the summer as spray irrigation water. The advantage of such a water supply is two fold. Firstly it enables the continued production of good quality crops, and secondly it helps to prevent the erosion of the peaty soils by keeping them moist and stopping them from becoming dried out and being 'blown away' by the wind.
- 6.5. The use of water for irrigation purposes is regulated by the Environment Agency through abstraction licenses. These allow farmers to use a certain amount of water for irrigation purposes. The peak period of demand for water extends from around mid June and through July, which often coincides with 'drought' conditions. In the Middle Level area licenses are in place, which allow the abstraction of water. If available, licenses permit up to 140,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water per day can enter the Middle Level area from the River Nene at Stanground.
- 6.6. However, there are also times during the summer when, despite abstraction licenses and other measures being in place, abstraction of water is restricted e.g. to night time, or 4 days a week, and there is a shortfall of available water for agricultural irrigation purposes.

### The Need for Flood Water Storage

- 6.7. In addition to the irrigation needs off site, there will also be a need for water to maintain the planned wet grassland enhancement habitat (see Section 5). This should be the priority, and when required water should be drawn from the water storage areas.
- 6.8. Climate change is increasing river flows and giving rise to the potential for more frequent flooding. Water storage areas are vitally important as they offer the capacity to hold floodwater and release it when river levels have dropped. However, where circumstances allow, the water can also be used for other purposes including water supply for summer irrigation.
- 6.9. The Environment Agency in their approved Cranbrook Drain / Counter Drain (Welches Dam) Strategy Study, has considered the long term management of the Cranbrook / Counter Drain catchment, which is an area lying west of the Counter Drain. As part of this review they have

suggested that their preferred option is the creation of flood storage capacity through one or more water bodies. These would store flood water which would otherwise be pumped into the Ouse Washes, thereby helping to secure a more sustainable way to manage flood risk.

- 6.10. The creation of water storage bodies could also provide a significant contribution in finding a solution to addressing the future of the Welches Dam pumping station which is in need of replacement in the future.
- 6.11. To manage the risk of flooding and mitigate climate change the Environment Agency is looking to maintain a flood risk of 1 in 25 years, so in accordance with the Cranbrook/Counter Drain (Welches Dam) Strategy, is looking for water storage to accommodate 16.5 million m<sup>3</sup> (approximately 24,100 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare in water storage areas). The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area could contribute significantly to this scheme. Water from the Counter Drain could be transferred at times of flood into the reservoirs either via the Forty Foot or by a parallel channel. If water transfer was to be achieved via the Forty Foot leakage control measures would be required which could be addressed through quarry engineering.

### **The Location and Creation of Water Storage Bodies**

- 6.12. The location of the water body is important. Having a large expanse of water too close to the Ouse Washes will attract predatory birds such as Herring and Lesser Black-backed gulls, which will eat the eggs and chicks of the ground nesting birds that breed on the Ouse Washes. Yet too far away and the costs and feasibility of removing flood water from the Counter Drain become impractical. Equally the water storage body needs to be well placed to capture winter water for irrigation and to feed it into the wider carrier drainage system for farmers to use in the summer.
- 6.13. The extraction of sand and gravel in the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area will create voidspace which offers the opportunity for the creation of water storage bodies. The deepest sand and gravel on the site lies in the western side, reaching a depth of around 8 metres. The sand and gravel is underlain by stiff blue clay, which provides a suitable material for lining the void and 'sealing' the new water bodies from the hydrology of the surrounding area, as depicted on the Indicative Phasing Plan (Project Completion) , see page 13.
- 6.14. Any scheme of this nature would need to be completely clay lined and any embankments would need to be engineered and comply with the Reservoirs Act. Operators would need to consider the original ground contours depths of deposits and the available void space in order to calculate the capacity of storage and other uses. Restoration would need to be sensitive to the use of the voids for flood storage and have no adverse impacts or prohibit the storage of floodwater. Groundwater would also need to be monitored and modelled to show that there are no adverse impacts on the surrounding area and the surrounding surface water drainage. Also, proposals would need to show to the Environment Agency's satisfaction how water would be managed and transferred in and out of the storage areas. Any proposals involving inert landfill in the creation of the flood water storage would need to ensure that imported waste would not come into contact with the groundwater, and infilled areas would need to be fully lined with clay. Any imported waste would also be subject to strict waste acceptance criteria.
- 6.15. Fortunately the western side of the site also meets the criteria for a good location for the water bodies:
- it is far enough away from the ground nesting birds on the Ouse Washes;
  - it is close enough to enable water transfer from the Counter Drain to the water storage body during times of unseasonal flooding;

- it is well placed to intercept water which would normally enter the Counter Drain via the Mepal Pumping Station, and close to the Horseway Lock on the Forty Foot so water can be transferred into the Middle Level at its highest point, enabling it to supply the whole catchment area with irrigation water; and
  - it is well placed to manage the interface between the water bodies and the new lowland wet grassland habitat.
- 6.16. The amount of water storage space that can be created is influenced by the form and number of the proposed lakes. It is possible to form one very large water body, but whilst this may provide more storage capacity in the long term it also poses problems in terms of delivery, as different landowners and mineral operators are involved, and they will be extracting over different timescales. Equally in terms of design a large water body may be more prone to wave erosion and will require additional maintenance. Having this in mind the water storage should be provided by a number of smaller lakes. Whilst these may appear to be separate, they should be engineered so they are hydrologically linked, enabling water storage to undertaken in a strategic way.
- 6.17. It is proposed a number of water bodies will be formed, with the aim of achieving the water storage capacity in accordance with the Environment Agency's Cranbrook/Counter Drain (Welches Dam) Strategy (approximately 14,600 m<sup>3</sup> to 24,100 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare in the water storage areas). These water bodies will be created in a phased way, corresponding to the timing for mineral extraction, with progressive restoration taking place. Proposed restoration will need to take into consideration the requirements for Flood Storage to ensure no adverse impacts arise from frequent flooding of restored land. This should give rise to the following capacity:

**Table 4: Creation of Water Storage / Supply Capacity**

|  | 2016-2036           | Post 2036          | Project completion   |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Cumulative water storage capacity million m <sup>3</sup> | 5.5m m <sup>3</sup> | 11m m <sup>3</sup> | 16.5m m <sup>3</sup> |

- 6.18. The above table reflects the total minimum capacity of the water storage bodies, but to safeguard the engineering some water will need to be kept in them at all times, and there will be a 'rest level'.
- 6.19. The water that would be transferred to the water storage bodies would largely be from the Counter Drain. However, the water storage bodies could also intercept and capture some of the water that would normally go to the Mepal Pumping Station, and then into the Counter Drain system. The records of the Mepal Pumping Station show that it would normally pump around 7.5 million m<sup>3</sup> in a wet year, and around 5.5 million m<sup>3</sup> in a drier year. Intercepting water before it reaches the pumping station would reduce pumping requirements, and associated costs.
- 6.20. In addition water would be captured by the water storage bodies through direct rainfall and any excess water coming from natural habitats. This could be in the order of between 1 and 2 million m<sup>3</sup> per year.
- 6.21. After taking into account the water requirements of the natural habitats that are planned on site, it is estimated that the water storage bodies could supply around 6.25 million m<sup>3</sup> of water to the external area in a dry year, and 6.75 million m<sup>3</sup> in an average year. This would make a

significant contribution towards meeting the irrigation needs in the immediate and wider area, and can reduce the amount of water that enters the Ouse Washes system when they have capacity to accommodate it.

- 6.22. The alternative approach would be to return finished ground levels following extraction to match the lowest areas of the adjacent IDB district. The purpose of this final restoration level is to link the drainage of the flood storage area to the IDB drainage network to reduce, or if possible eliminate, the requirement for pumping systems to maintain suitable drainage conditions for continued afteruse and for evacuating stored flood waters. Linking groundwater levels within the storage area with the surrounding IDB system may also reduce or eliminate the requirement for clay lining, or other similar impermeable barrier, of the storage area.
- 6.23. The Environment Agency would also seek to include a number of lakes within the restoration of the site. These lakes would again be maintained in continuity with the IDB system to provide a storage volume for flood events. The purpose of this would be to contain more frequent flood events, for example 1 in 5 year to 1 in 10 year flood return periods, within the lakes. For the less frequent events there would be some over topping of the lakes within a defined and contained area. However, owing to the infrequency of these events it is expected that the remaining land can have other uses i.e. complementary grassland.
- 6.24. During the larger, less frequent events there may be a requirement for containment embankments to provide the additional storage above existing ground level.
- 6.25. A detailed study is to be undertaken by the appropriate bodies to help determine the most suitable option for flood management and to set operating rules for the flood storage area. The design and operating rules will consider how to optimise flood storage whilst minimising adverse impacts to others.
- 6.26. As each storage area will potentially be a Large Raised Reservoir as defined under the Reservoirs Act, legal guidance on how to register, appoint a panel engineer, produce a flood plan and report an incident should be followed <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reservoirs-owner-and-operator-requirements>. In particular, a construction panel engineer should be appointed to oversee the project at the earliest opportunity (at least by the start of the design stage) in order to ensure compliance with the Reservoirs Act. Further guidance can be obtained by emailing the Environment Agency reservoir safety team [reservoirs@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:reservoirs@environment-agency.gov.uk), or by post: Reservoir Safety Team, Environment Agency, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7LQ.

### Landscaping

- 6.27. The form of the landscaping for the margins of the water storage areas is important. The margins of the lakes will fall within the buffer area of the lowland wet grassland and therefore should be complementary in its nature. The long term management regime should be appropriate, and should preferably be dry grazed grassland.
- 6.28. The land should also retain its open character, with minimal trees and hedges. Such features can host predators such as corvids and foxes which would eat the ground nesting birds (and their eggs) occupying both the Ouse Washes, and the newly created lowland wet grassland.
- 6.29. Managing the area in the way set out above will preserve the existing open landscape character of the Fens, and will increase the ecological value of the new lowland wet grassland.

### Long Term Management of the Water Storage Bodies

- 6.30. Securing appropriate long term management of the water bodies and their margins by one or more competent bodies is critical, and this will form an essential part of planning obligations associated with any grant of planning permission.
- 6.31. The long term management and monitoring of this area will therefore be passed to appropriate bodies with experience of managing the storage and supply of water, and specialised habitat. Given that it will take over forty years to complete the extraction of sand and gravel in this part of the site and to complete restoration to these uses, this will be done on a phased basis.
- 6.32. A competent body must be identified to maintain and manage the site in accordance with the design and operating rules. As already noted in paragraph 6.26, each storage area will potentially be a Large Raised Reservoir as defined under the Reservoirs Act, each individual reservoir may need to be registered before construction and may need a legal operator in perpetuity. These operators would be legally responsible for operating and maintaining the reservoirs under the Reservoirs Act and would need to appoint a registered panel engineer at all stages in the design, construction and operation of the reservoirs. As noted previously, the following website provides guidance on the Reservoirs Act:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reservoirs-owner-and-operator-requirements>. Alternatively, contact the Environment Agency reservoir safety team by email: [reservoirs@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:reservoirs@environment-agency.gov.uk), or by post: Reservoir Safety Team, Environment Agency, Manley House, Kestrel Way, Exeter, Devon, EX2 7LQ for further guidance.
- 6.33. As already noted above, the details of any arrangements should be secured through legal agreements between the relevant parties involved, including the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, mineral and waste operators, landowners and other relevant competent bodies (i.e. nature conservation). Agreements must be in place before any planning permission is granted.

## 7. Recreation and Leisure

### Navigation

- 7.1. The River Great Ouse and its tributaries, the Rivers Cam, Lark, Little Ouse and Wissey, comprise the major navigation in the Fens and East Anglia, providing about 240 km (150 miles) of navigable waterway. These rivers flow through some of the most unspoilt water environments in the Country.



Above: River Cam

- 7.2. The lower reaches (Old West River and then the Ely Ouse) take boaters through the fenland landscape. The Bedford Rivers, also known as the Hundred Foot Drain (which is tidal) and Old Bedford River, were constructed as drains and run from the Earith area in the south towards the Denver Sluice area in the north. The Counter Drain is also navigable from Welches Dam Lock to the Old Bedford Sluice, although in practice this is problematical owing to the condition of the Lock, leakage of water from the Forty Foot, and the small window available when tidal levels are favourable at the Bedford Sluice.
- 7.3. The Environment Agency and the Middle Level Commissioners are navigation authorities, and have statutory duties in respect to maintaining navigation routes. The Environment Agency is the navigation authority, but the Middle Level Commission also has statutory duties in respect of maintaining navigation routes. Many improvements have been made which have contributed to the rise in the leisure use of the Fens. The Environment Agency and partners are working on developing a Fen Waterways Link which will connect the cathedral cities of Lincoln, Peterborough and Ely. This is a 20 year project which seeks to enhance the existing waterways, opening up 240 km of waterway including 80 km of new waterway for navigation. It will create a new circular waterway for recreation, tourism and the environment, through the Fens, and provide a focus for economic regeneration in the area. Indeed, it is estimated that The Link in total will potentially generate over 100,000 extra boat movements annually, contribute around £8 million per annum to the local economy, and provide over 500 permanent jobs. There will also be additional scope for increased unpowered craft and paddlesport activity.

- 7.4. In order to achieve the above objectives there is likely to be a need for more active water management to ensure navigation is serviced and maintained. The void left following mineral extraction within the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area will provide additional water storage capacity as part of the final restoration.
- 7.5. There is a clear opportunity to address the issue of the Forty Foot Drain, which is currently navigable only part of the year, owing to low water levels. Permitting mineral extraction south of the Forty Foot will enable the land along the length of the Forty Foot adjoining the Block Fen / Langwood Fen site to be 'sealed' on its southern side through quarry engineering, perhaps in advance of mineral extraction. This will help to stop the current migration of water out of the Drain, and will help address the lack of water in this stretch of the Forty Foot Drain, helping to maintain adequate water levels to allow navigation at any time.
- 7.6. This will contribute to the proposed new navigable link between the Forty Foot (Vermuyden's) Drain and the Counter Drain (Old Bedford River).

### **Recreation**

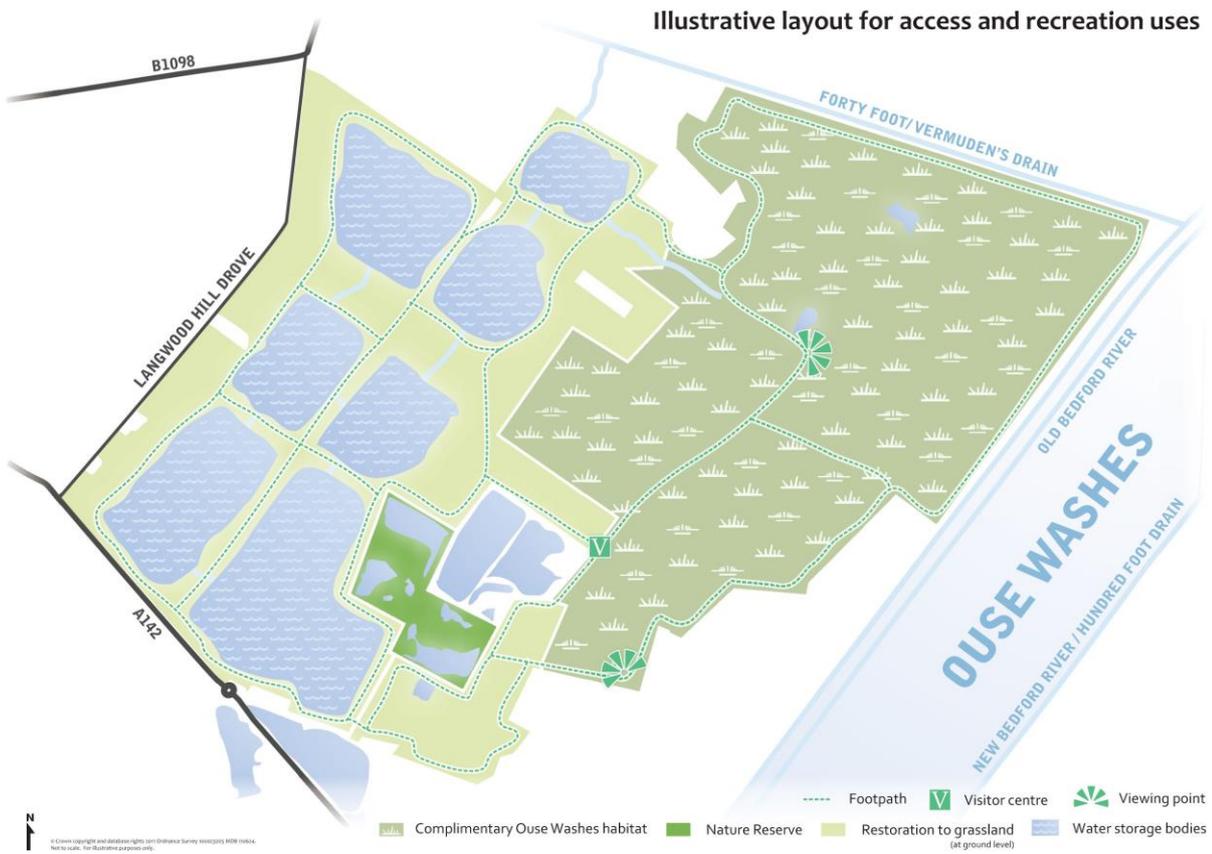
- 7.7. At present informal public access into the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area is limited, focused on a limited number of public footpaths, and the linear paths which follow the banks of the Low Bank (west of the Counter Drain) and the Ouse Washes.
- 7.8. National planning policy encourages local authorities and others to make clear strategies for improving informal recreation, for both local residents and visitors. This is being taken forward by local policies and strategies, which seek to enhance recreation.
- 7.9. Through the creation of water bodies and new lowland wet grassland recreational activities in the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area will be increased. Although it will not be possible to provide for recreation in areas where active mineral extraction and restoration is taking place, as development progresses and restoration is completed, recreational provision will come on stream.
- 7.10. With regard to the lowland wet grassland area, access should be possible to this area throughout the year, although at certain times of the year direct access onto the wet grassland may have to be restricted as this would disturb ground nesting birds, but at other times more general access would be allowed for informal low key activities such as walking and bird watching.
- 7.11. Equally as the water storage bodies are completed other activities such as fishing, water sports, and walking could be extended into these areas. Considerable scope exists for the full range of water related activities, but coarse angling is a key component of informal recreation in the region. Still waters, perhaps more so than rivers, are particularly popular for fishery development, providing a focus for anglers of all abilities, generally accessible all year round and capable of significant economic benefit.



Above: Ouse Footpath

- 7.12. A network of paths will be provided with viewing points, with at appropriate places outdoor interpretation boards. An illustrative layout is provided in Figure 3 below. In the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area footpaths are often linear. If opportunities exist to create links with other footpaths, and / or to create circular walks, these should be investigated.
- 7.13. In due course a visitor centre will be provided, this will provide a focus for people visiting the area. The visitor centre will be located near to the existing lakes at Block Fen. As the development of the area will be phased, the visitor centre should also be approached in this way, starting with a limited car park and low key interpretation facilities. However, as the area expands this should be developed too, to provide a car park of around 150 spaces, a building around 500 m2 providing a tearoom, toilet and a multifunctional space. Flexibility to provide an educational function, and to extend the visitor centre and car parking in the future should also be retained. This is based on an assumed visitor level of 60,000 visitors per year, with a shared use of the centre between those wishing to use the nature reserve and / or the lakes for recreational purposes.
- 7.14. Ultimately this area will provide an important green space for the populations of nearby towns and villages, providing part of a wider strategic recreational strategy between Fenland, East Cambridgeshire and beyond.
- 7.15. In order to reduce the impact of traffic movements and assist in addressing climate change, access to the site for recreation purposes via public transport or cycling will be encouraged. Whilst initially this may be mainly via bus, the navigational improvements should also mean that access via the water would be increased in the longer term.

Figure 5: Illustrative layout for access and recreation use



## 8. Traffic

- 8.1 The location of sand and gravel reserves dictate where extraction will take place, and the traffic movements associated with this have to be managed to minimise adverse effects on the local communities and the highway network.
- 8.2 The existing mineral and waste disposal operations in the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area already give rise to lorry movements in the area, and as working and restoration of the site takes place, this will continue.

### Traffic Movement

- 8.3 In terms of lorry movements the pattern will gradually change. Further areas of mineral extraction will come on stream in the early to mid-plan period, and both Block Fen / Langwood Fen East and West will be working simultaneously.
- 8.4 Lorry movements will also be generated by the movements of construction waste to the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area for recycling and then for disposal (primarily for use in the creation of the lowland wet grassland).
- 8.5 An estimate of traffic movements (mineral and waste) over the plan period has been undertaken. The results are set out below and represent the estimated maximum traffic movements.

**Table 5. Estimated Daily Quarry and Waste Management Goods Vehicle Movements.**

| Plan Period Year                                    | 2019 | 2021 | 2026 | 2031 | 2036 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Week Day Estimated Maximum Traffic Movements (HCVs) | 603  | 603  | 903  | 903  | 903  |

- 8.6 Over the Plan period the number of HCV movements is anticipated to increase by an average of 300 per day. These movements would be spread over the day, and would not be concentrated in peak flow hours.
- 8.7 A recent study looking at the volume of HCV traffic on the A1123 has been undertaken. As part of this study traffic data was collected (June 2019) on the A142 at Sutton and at the Block Fen Roundabout.
- 8.8 Analysis of the data indicates that the peak hour levels of traffic using the Block Fen Roundabout in 2036 will be such that the additional HCV traffic will not cause significant impact, and it is therefore considered that the level of traffic anticipated would not be inappropriate on the wider highway network.

### Traffic Management and Routing

- 8.9 The significant growth anticipated / planned in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will bring an increase in traffic movements. A part of this, as outlined above, will be attributable to mineral and waste management activities supporting new and existing communities.
- 8.10 Other policies in this Local Plan set out requirements in respect of traffic and highways. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area is to be accessed via the existing purpose built roundabout junction on the A142 Ely to Chatteris road, which is the principal highway within the Master

Plan area. This roundabout has more than adequate capacity to accommodate the traffic likely to be generated by the proposed mineral extraction and construction waste recycling and disposal activities.

- 8.11 The main road within the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area is Block Fen Drove. This passes a small number of businesses and residential properties. The first part of this highway has been improved and the second section is to be improved shortly. The grant of further planning consents will be conditional on this being undertaken.
- 8.12 A traffic routing and management agreement exists for mineral and waste HCV movements arising from existing permitted operations at Block Fen East, and planning conditions also govern the number of HCV movements allowed by day i.e. weekday, weekend, and bank and public holidays. When the new allocation comes forward it is anticipated that this arrangement would also cover the working and restoration of the new allocation area. The current cap on HCV movements would be maintained. A traffic routing agreement would also continue to direct HCVs on to 'approved roads' (consistent with the Cambridgeshire HCV Route Network and Local Plan Policy 23 Traffic, Highways and Rights of Way). The only exception to this would be to facilitate local deliveries / collections, and the approved roads would be required to be used up to the nearest point at which it then becomes necessary to use local roads.
- 8.13 With regard to Block Fen West when the allocations made by the Local Plan come forward similar routing and traffic management arrangements will be required; and appropriate HCV limits will be the subject of planning conditions, consistent with Local Plan policy.

### **Sustainable Transport**

- 8.14 Consideration has been given as to the feasibility of encouraging the use of more sustainable models of transport for the bulk movement of minerals and waste associated with operations at Block Fen.

### **Water**

- 8.15 The Forty Foot river lies along the northern boundary of the site. At present the navigability of the section between Horseway Lock is affected by problems associated with retention of water levels for river craft caused by seepage. Whilst extraction of minerals may provide opportunities to address this problem, generally the size of waterways and lock infrastructure are focussed on leisure traffic and not designed to accommodate barges for the transport of aggregates/waste. Also the navigable sections of waterway do not provide easy access to the future major growth areas (demand for aggregates and generation of waste) of Cambridgeshire. It has thus been concluded that transport of minerals/waste to and from the area by water is not feasible and therefore not deliverable.

### **Rail**

- 8.16 The Block Fen mineral deposits are not located close to rail infrastructure. The nearest locations to the area are at Manea (existing rail line) or Chatteris (old railway formation).
- 8.17 In respect of the latter the former railway alignment south of Chatteris to Somersham, St.Ives and Cambridge has been largely compromised by a number of new developments including industrial development, infilling of cutting with waste, mineral extraction, new road construction and the Cambridge-St.Ives Busway. It has therefore been concluded that the use of this old formation to relay a railway to supply the Cambridge area with aggregates from Block fen is not feasible or deliverable.
- 8.18 The existing railway at Manea links to Ely and Cambridge. One siding exists at Manea station but vehicular access for any transshipment traffic from Block Fen would have to be gained through the village. The siding is also close to existing housing. The impacts associated with

using any existing siding capacity at Manea would have local amenity implications which are considered undesirable.

8.19 Block Fen is located 5 km from the March to Ely railway. Notwithstanding the high cost likely to be associated with the construction of a new junction and branch line the following are also relevant considerations, namely:

- The market for sand and gravel is local with generally over 85% being sold within 25 miles of a quarry;
- No mineral users / waste generators in Cambridgeshire have facilities to receive sand and gravel by rail / dispose of waste by rail. Many customers already located close to major roads;
- Mineral and waste rail movements need to be in bulk (circa 1000 tonne loads) to be economic;
- The optimum break-even distance for rail distribution is between 100-150 miles (which would only facilitate out of county movements);
- High cost of establishing rail / road transshipment facilities (circa £3m);
- High capital investment costs in annual train and wagon hire; and
- Costs of rail are 5 times more expensive than road alternative.

8.20 On the basis of the above it has been concluded that rail transport of sand and gravel / construction waste associated with the Block Fen / Langwood fen area to meet the needs within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is not economically viable and is therefore undeliverable.

### **Recreational Traffic**

8.21 Proposals have been set out for the provision of recreational facilities which will be provided in a phased manner, as the nature conservation and recreational uses of the site develop. These proposals have been based on an assumed visitor rate of 60,000 visitors per annum once the site is complete. There is an expectation that visitors may visit using a variety of means e.g. cycle, car, bus; and that visitor numbers will be highest at weekends through the spring and summer periods.

## 9. Sustainable Use of Soils

- 9.1 The Earith / Mepal area is known to contain some of the best and most versatile soils in the Country, and this is reflected by part of the land being graded under the Agricultural Land Classification Scheme as Grades 1 and 2.
- 9.2 National planning policy seeks to protect high quality land and prevent its loss, and where it is going to be developed for an alternative use, it requires a scheme for the sustainable use of soils for the longer term.
- 9.3 A package for the sustainable use of soils can encompass a range of different aspects. This can include for example:
- ensuring land can be put back into agricultural use if required;
  - relating restoration proposals to the soils resource;
  - considering the wider benefits of proposals on the soil resource;
  - securing appropriate long term management of the restored land and associated soils; and
  - using surplus soils to improve areas of poor soils in the area.
- 9.4 A survey has been undertaken in order to obtain soils information to inform the preparation of this Master Plan. It has been established that the range of soils across the site is complex, with significant variation in texture both laterally over short distances, but also vertically down the soil profile.
- 9.5 In terms of topsoils these can be divided into three main groups, namely peaty / organic mineral mainly found in the north of the site area, loamy soils which form the main topsoil type, and a smaller area of clayey soils towards the west of the site.
- 9.6 Subsoils can be grouped into two main categories, being a complex loamy and clayey soils which occur over the majority of the site, and a small area to the west of the site which has clayey soils. A particular feature of these soils is their permeability which has been established through a well developed soil structure which will contribute significantly to the flexibility of the use of the land.
- 9.7 Very few areas of deeper peats were identified, but where found these were towards the south of the site. The pH varies across the site, but very few samples were recorded below 5, and the majority of top and sub soils were in the 6-7 range.
- 9.8 One of the main issues to be addressed with regard to soils within any restoration strategy, is to achieve a balance between the depth and permeability. It will be important to retain the topsoils together with the structure and depth of subsoils. Increased soil depth and consistency would be beneficial to the long term sustainability of the land, and the survey that has been undertaken indicates that with the soils on site this should be an achievable objective.
- 9.9 In considering a sustainable soils restoration package regard also needs to be had to the function of the soil, as existing and proposed under restoration plans. Approaching restoration from the perspective of the soil function enables a wider consideration of how soils can be used in a sustainable way. The table below sets out information on the range of issues relevant to soil function, and the proposed afteruses of the site.

**Table 6: Main Soil Functions**

| Soil Function            | Food and Fibre Production | Platform for construction | Environmental Interaction | Source of Raw Materials | Protection of Cultural Heritage | Support for Habitats and Biodiversity | Comments  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Existing Use-Agriculture | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                       | ✓                               | ✓                                     | Main function is food and fibre production with the others as potential or latent functions.  |
| Proposed Afteruse:       |                           |                           |                           |                         |                                 |                                       |   |
| Agriculture              | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                       | ?                               | ✓                                     | Main function food and fibre but with positive measures to secure habitat and biodiversity gains increased soil depth and consistency will be a positive benefit.                       |
| Nature Conservation      | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                       |                                 | ✓                                     | Assume cultural heritage in soils layers has been assessed and either preserved or recorded prior to working.   |
| Water Storage            |                           |                           | ✓                         |                         |                                 | ✓                                     | Indirect impacts on food and fibre production through irrigation. Permeability of the subsoil is a particular attribute of the site and should be retained in any restoration strategy. |
| Recreation               | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                         | ✓                       | ✓                               | ✓                                     | Potential for all functions to be utilised.   |

9.10 Table 6 above identifies six main soils functions, those that are particularly relevant to Block Fen / Langwood Fen are:

- the effect of development on the range of soils functions;
- the loss of existing soil function or the creation of a beneficial function through proposed land use;
- the potential for the reduction of impact or the increase of benefit; and
- the possibility to compensate and mitigate for impacts.

9.11 The following are therefore matters which should be addressed in any restoration strategy:

- depth and consistency of soils in terms of restoration objectives, especially the use of surplus soil arising from the proposed land uses to achieve a deeper and more consistent soil profile across the site;
  - the avoidance of soil organic matter loss. Although the extent of peat soils across the site is not as extensive as first envisaged, measures should be put in place to ensure that the organic soils remaining are best utilised and maintained. The range of land uses proposed allows this issue to be approached with greater flexibility and with a long term perspective;
  - handling and movement of soils to retain inherent characteristics especially the permeability of the soils and to avoid losses through wind and water erosion; and
  - soil water regime to ensure the effective drainage of the site and / or ground water control for the range of land uses.
- 9.12 To achieve the full potential of the site in terms of sustainable use of soil, a comprehensive approach will have to be taken which may involve the co-operation of landowners and the minerals and waste industry.
- 9.13 With regard to achieving the above some opportunities to meet sustainable soil objectives have already been identified. The methodology for the creation of lowland wet grassland would allow the land to revert back to an arable agricultural use should this be required in the long term.
- 9.14 There are also opportunities to relate the soil resource to the restoration uses of the site. For example, if an area which is to be developed for the water bodies proves to have good peaty soil capable of proving a good basis for lowland wet grassland, this soil can be carefully removed, stored and placed in another area of the site being used for habitat creation. Relocating and using the soil in this way ensures it will not be lost, but will be managed for the longer term.
- 9.15 The wider benefits on the soils of the area are also becoming evident and represent an important resource which should be used sustainably. The creation of the water bodies on the site will displace high quality soils from this area, which will not be put back in place. This can be compensated for by their use in the creation of the enhancement habitat as described above, or they could be removed to address soil management problems in another area i.e. to augment depleted peat derived soils off site. In addition, the creation of the water storage bodies, and the transfer of water into the Middle Level area will compensate for the displacement of soils by supplying water to irrigate the much wider area, enabling the soils in this area to be kept moist (preventing their erosion by the wind), whilst enhancing their productivity for crops.
- 9.16 Also, it is not enough just to use the soils in a sustainable way; in order to keep them in the 'carbon store' it is necessary to secure their long term future management. Arable production on peat soils causes the release of carbon dioxide held in the peat as it oxidises after ploughing. Grassland is a land use that helps protect the peat resource and reduces the release of carbon dioxide. Restoring the Block Fen / Langwood Fen to wet grassland is a practical action to reduce emissions in line with the County Council's commitment to addressing the challenge of climate change.
- 9.17 The management of the land and soil uses that will be created is already being addressed, and the arrangements for the enhancement habitat and water storage areas are addressed more fully in Sections 5 and 6.
- 9.18 More detailed survey work is likely to be required at the planning application stage, and this should inform detailed proposals addressing phasing, restoration and the sustainable use of

soils. Appropriate arrangements would be secured by a planning condition(s) or planning obligations through any planning permissions granted.

## 10. Conclusions

- 10.1. The Block Fen / Langwood Fen area is unique, not only in terms of its location and characteristics, but also in terms of the opportunities it offers. This Appendix to the Local Plan, in the form of a 'Master Plan' for the area, seeks to address the challenges that exist in taking forward this area for sand and gravel extraction and waste recycling and disposal in support of the construction industry, and at the same time determine a sustainable way of restoring the site which will contribute to addressing national and international issues such as climate change, create enhancement habitat for the internationally important Ouse Washes, help deliver more sustainable flood risk management, and address the need for water storage and supply in the Fens.
- 10.2 The vision and objectives set out in this Master Plan are deliverable through the co-operation and commitment of a number of parties, and formal mechanisms such as legal agreements and planning conditions which can be implemented through the land use planning system. Prior experience has shown this can be achieved. The key stakeholders have already worked together to deliver the existing access to the permitted quarries, and to help define the future strategy for the Block Fen / Langwood Fen area through the development of this Master Plan.

## Annex 1 - Planning Applications

- 11.1. Applicants should review the information available on the [County Council's planning applications](#) webpage and are advised to contact Cambridgeshire County Council's Minerals and Waste planning team to obtain pre-application advice; and also to consider taking pre-application advice on other matters including highways, ecology, flood and water and archaeological and historic environment matters.
- 11.2 The Environment Agency also provides pre-application advice. It has advised that any hydro-geological impact assessment should include:
- a survey of existing on-site ground levels and flow patterns, including any previous monitoring on areas with planning permission;
  - a water features survey, including all abstractors and potentially affected surface water features;
  - an assessment of the impact of dewatering operations and any mitigation needed;
  - the short and long term impact of blocking flow in the aquifer with impermeable barriers. There is potential for groundwater levels to rise on the upstream side and fall on the downstream side;
  - proposals for dealing with any areas of higher permeability material discovered within the underlying Ampthill clay, and proposals for sealing off large watercourses such as the Forty Foot Drain; and
  - details of how flow patterns will be re-established following restoration.
- 11.3 In relation to the creation of wet grassland habitat, applications should detail how the water levels are to be achieved and how the hydrology of the site might deliver the habitat. Applicants are advised to refer to the [Environment Agency's Eco-hydrological Guidelines for Lowland Wetland Plant Communities](#) published in 2004. This provides background for the water requirements of the created habitat.
- 11.4 As part of any planning application for this site a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will need to be produced to address the risk of flooding to the site, and to address any potential increase in surface water generated by new hard standing and / or changes in soil types / landforms. Any FRA would need to be prepared and undertaken to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authority and the Middle Level Commissioners.
- 11.5 Applicants will need to conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets (noting that significance can be harmed by development within the setting of a heritage asset). As noted above it is advised that pre-application advice should be taken in respect to archaeology and the historic environment in order to fully inform proposals.
- 11.6 Applicants are likely to need to prepare a scheme of measures for dust suppression to avoid direct and indirect dust deposition having adverse effects on the Ouse Washes.
- 11.7 Applicants are likely to need to prepare a scheme of noise suppression to avoid noise having adverse effects on the Ouse Washes environment.
- 11.8 Any habitat created should consider the requirements of protected species found, or likely to be found, in the area. Protected species including water voles and otters are known to be present near to the proposed development site. Any waste used to fill the site will have to be shown to have no adverse impact on the nearby Ouse Washes SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar site.

11.9 An ecological survey is likely to be required prior to the development of detailed plans, to enable an assessment of the level of risk posed by the development. The detailed design, construction, mitigation and compensation measures should be based on the results of a survey carried out at an appropriate time of year by a suitably experienced surveyor using recognised survey methodology.

11.10 The survey and risk assessment should:

- identify any rare, declining, protected or otherwise important flora, fauna or habitats within the site including water voles and otters;
- assess the importance of the above features at a local, regional and national level;
- identify the impacts of the scheme on those features;
- demonstrate how the development will avoid adverse impacts and propose mitigation for any adverse ecological impacts or compensation for loss; and
- propose wildlife/habitat enhancement measures.

## Annex 2 - Methodology for the Creation of Enhancement Habitat

### Wet Grassland Features

- 12.1. It is proposed that the wet grassland features will comprise surface scrapes and foot drains / wet furrows. Furrow spacing will be chosen to provide, if possible, moist surface conditions between the furrows. The wet features will be replenished with water during the winter period to provide optimum water levels by the end of March or earlier if desired. Water levels will be maintained in the features during the earlier part of the breeding season and then allowed to fall towards the end of the breeding season.

### Soil conditions and suitability for wet grassland development

- 12.2. The soil profile to be developed will comprise a 500 mm depth of clay cap on top of the inert fill, followed by 650 mm depth of subsoil, with a 250 mm depth of peat on the surface. The depth of usable soil profile will, therefore, be a minimum of 1 metre. If possible a depth of 1.2 metres is preferred, formed by having a greater depth of peat, which would increase the effectiveness of the wet grassland.
- 12.3. The peat topsoil will have a high water holding capacity and be ideal for water transmission, grass establishment and bird probing, but its depth is rather limited. In developing the features every effort needs to be taken to maintain as much peat in the surface layer as possible.
- 12.4. Of the 3 samples of subsoil taken, 2 were a gravelly sandy clay loam (southern storage area) and the third a gravelly loamy sand (northern storage area). The gravelly nature of these sandy and loamy soils are likely to have a moderate to high hydraulic conductivity providing they are not significantly compacted during placement.
- 12.5. Owing to the anticipated hydraulic conductivity of the subsoil and the overall profile depth (1 metre), there is a good chance that with appropriate furrow spacings and water levels, it should be possible to maintain moist surface conditions between the foot drains.

### Critical requirements in soil placement

- 12.6. To obtain optimum soil conditions during soil placement, every effort should be taken to achieve the following:
- maximise the depth of peat in the surface layers; and
  - avoid excessive compaction when placing the subsoil.

To achieve these desired conditions attention should be paid to the following:

- ensure the surface of the clay cap is level before subsoil placement; and
  - initiate the main wetland features within the subsoil layer before placing the peat topsoil.
- 12.7. Discussions are needed with the contractor to devise a placement method with the appropriate equipment, which will produce a consolidated soil condition without excess compaction.

- 12.8. Running large heavy dump trucks over the subsoil during placement should be avoided, as this is likely to cause considerable compaction. If such operations are unavoidable and serious compaction occurs, it will be necessary to plough into the subsoil after subsoil placement before the peat layer is spread.
- 12.9. A much more satisfactory way of using large dump trucks is for them to be confined to the clay cap. However, this should only be done when there is a significant thickness of soil in place to avoid damage to the engineered containment of waste. They can then dump their soil at the edge of the advancing subsoil laying zone and the dumped soil spread, leveled and consolidated by a lighter tracked dozer.
- 12.10. The peat layer will have to be spread on a compaction vulnerable subsoil, hence relatively small light tracked dumpers and light tracked dozers should be used for this operation.

## Other site requirements

### Retention of water within the grassland cell

- 12.11. To retain water within the wet grassland cell, it will be necessary to ensure that the current compacted clay layer around the cell boundary extends upwards to an elevation above the final soil surface, with some additional allowance to allow for some surface water ponding.

### Reservoir

- 12.12. A reservoir will be required to store water for water supplementation during the bird breeding season. This could be above ground storage, allowing gravity feed into the wetland or below ground, possibly in an existing borrow pit from which water would have to be pumped into the reserve. The choice will be dependent upon the water source, the type of power supply available for pumping and the costs.
- 12.13. If an above ground reservoir is to be constructed, consideration could be given to the possibility of its capacity also meeting the requirements of additional cells in the future.

### Drainage

- 12.14. The winter rainfall input will exceed the water storage capacity of the wetland features in most years, hence there will be a need for a drainage outlet from the enclosed basin to prevent unwanted flooding. Providing a control on this drain outlet would also provide a means of lowering water levels within the features as required during wet spring / summer periods.

### Supplemental water requirements

- 12.15. The moisture deficit values (mm) at the end of June for this are as follows:

**Table 7: Moisture Deficit Values**

|                            | Dry Grassland | Wet Grassland | Open Water |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Dry Year (Higher Quartile) | 104           | 166           | 200        |

|                           |    |     |     |
|---------------------------|----|-----|-----|
| Median Year               | 86 | 122 | 150 |
| Wet Year (Lower Quartile) | 68 | 86  | 110 |

- 12.16. Assuming some 20% of the area will be open water held within the scrapes and furrows, and that the whole grassland surface can be kept moist, the dry year water losses through evapo-transpiration through to the end of June will be 1700 m<sup>3</sup> / ha.
- 12.17. Allowing for the open water levels to fall during the period to the end of June, the dry year supplementary water requirements are estimated to be as follows:

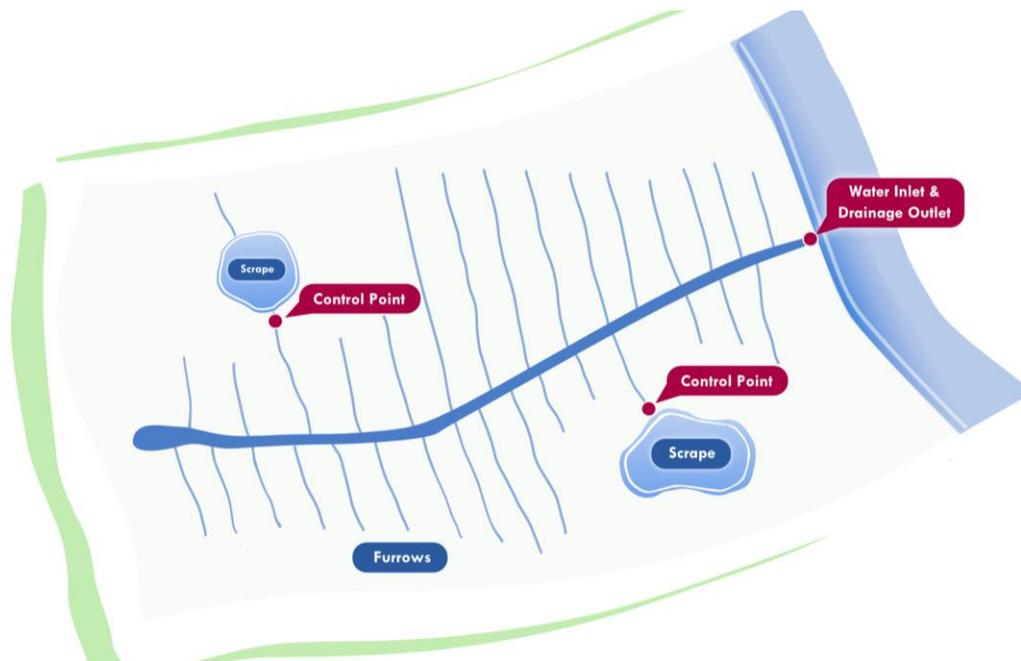
**Table 8: Supplementary Water Requirements**

| Water Level Fall | Supplementary Water Requirement |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 20cm             | 1300 m <sup>3</sup> /ha         |
| 25cm             | 1200 m <sup>3</sup> /ha         |

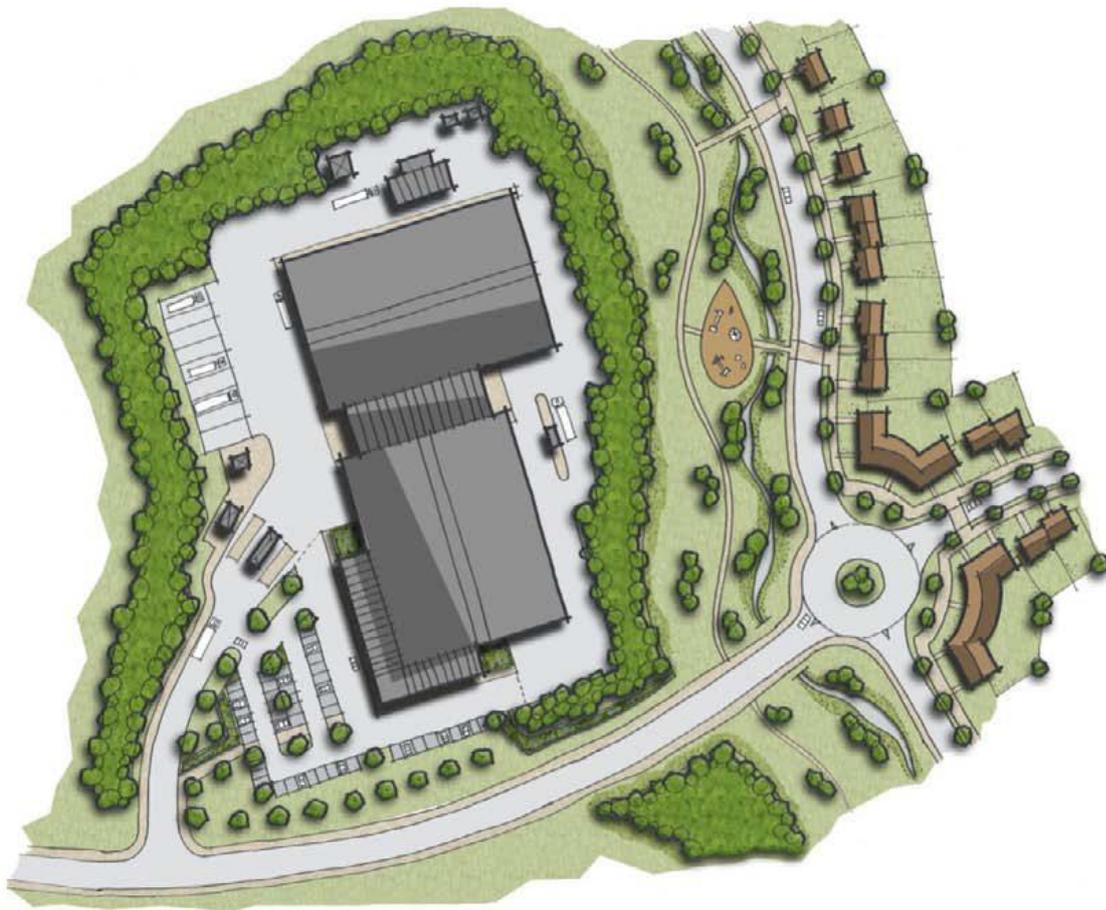
### Water management options

- 12.18. The uniformity of the site will restrict the options available for water management within the different features. Whilst it may be advantageous at times to manage water levels in the scrapes differently to those within the foot drains / furrows, this will be more difficult owing to the hydraulic connection within the subsoil. Cutting off the water supply to the scrape with a control structure in the supply channel will stop direct water inputs, but there will still be some seepage inflow through the subsoil. This seepage inflow can be minimised by extending the distance between the nearest furrows and the scrape, so increasing the seepage distance and hence reducing the amount of water inflow, see rough schematic layout below. The other alternative would be to install a seepage cutoff curtain around the scrape.

Figure 6: Wetland Grassland Features



- 12.19. The maximum depths of the features could be varied, allowing different areas to dry up or be wetted at different times. The side slopes of the scrapes can also be chosen so that the desired amount of muddy margin is exposed for a given fall in water level.
- 12.20. A pilot area of lowland wet grassland, in the order of 10 ha, has been created. Whilst this may be too small to make a wholly satisfactory bird assessment, it will provide valuable information on the hydrological aspects of developing wetland conditions in these circumstances. Dipwell information will allow the hydrological characteristics of the restored soil to be assessed. In addition, the project area may provide information applicable to future situations where peat may be in short supply.
- 12.21. In the current absence of quantitative hydraulic conductivity data, it is suggested that the foot drains / furrows be installed at a spacing of some 20 – 25 m. However, if hydraulic conductivity data comes to hand before soil placement, adjustments should be made if necessary to this spacing. Optimum spacings, if different to those at installation, could be determined from subsequent field monitoring.



Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH  
MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN  
APPENDIX 3: THE LOCATION AND DESIGN OF  
WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES**

Adopted July 2021

## Contents

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| 1. Introduction .....        | 2  |
| 2. Locational Criteria ..... | 2  |
| 3. Design Criteria .....     | 11 |
| 4. Glossary.....             | 21 |

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) contains a suite of policies that require waste management facilities to be built in suitable locations, and to achieve a high quality in their design. This Appendix expands on those policies by providing further guidance.
- 1.2. Waste management facilities segregate, recover, recycle, treat or transfer the types and volumes of waste that may otherwise go to landfill. These facilities will deal with municipal (mainly household) waste, commercial and industrial waste, inert waste including construction waste, agricultural, and some hazardous waste e.g. clinical and bio medical waste. Each of these facilities has its own characteristics and relevant locational and design criteria; some of which are unique to the facility whilst others are shared in common with other facilities.
- 1.3. This guidance is not intended to be rigid or prescriptive but to provide a framework for developing high quality solutions. Applicants and developers should use this guide to inform their choice of site location and the design of their facility. The choice of location and design should be clearly explained in the documentation supporting any planning application.
- 1.4. Submission of an application for an environmental permit at the same time as a planning application is also encouraged, so that the design and site management issues and operational issues can be considered at the same time.

### Scope of this Appendix

- 1.5. This Appendix focuses on waste management facility development. Landfill sites and very local facilities such as bottle banks are not addressed by this Appendix.
- 1.6. Matters which fall under the regulatory regime of other authorities are not directly covered by this Appendix. However, the requirements of these other regulatory bodies will need to be met through the design of the facility.

### Status of this Appendix

- 1.7. This Appendix forms part of the explanatory text of the MWLP. On adoption of the MWLP the Location and Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (Adopted July 2011) is revoked and superseded by this appendix. It is important to note that if any text in this appendix conflicts in any way with the provisions of the Policies set out in this Local Plan or any other Development Plan Document, then the contents of those policies prevail.

## 2. Locational Criteria

- 2.1. The Locational Criteria below cover a range of matters which should be addressed in the site selection for waste management facilities. Some of the issues may only apply to certain types of facilities, whilst others may apply to all. Choices should be clearly explained in the documentation supporting any planning application, whilst being proportionate to the size of the proposal.

## Siting

2.2. The type of facility and processes influences the size of the site and the location of any building. The following principles apply to all types of facility:

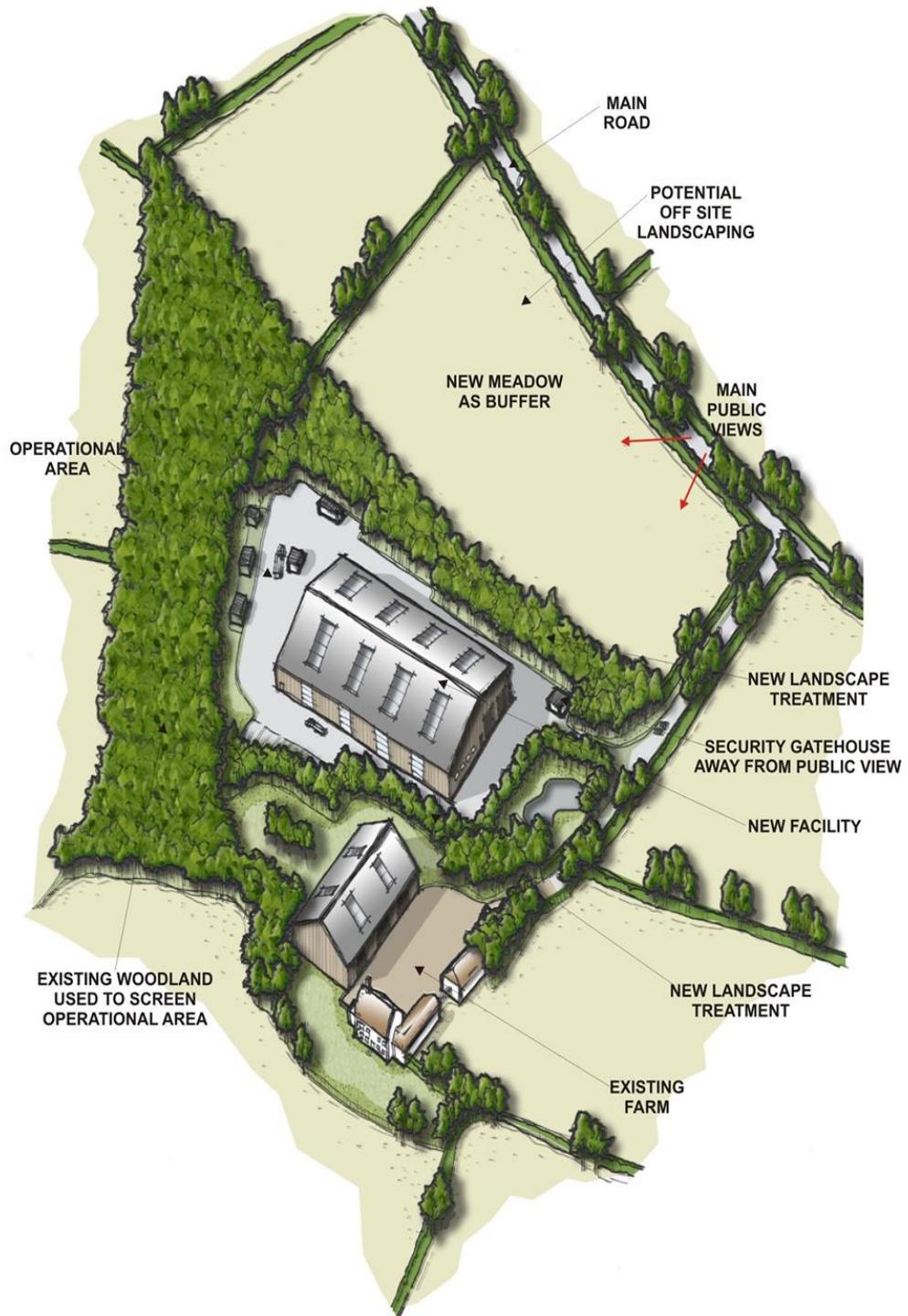
### **Siting General Principles**

- Facilities should aim to be developed on previously developed land, enabling positive re-use and avoiding the need to develop greenfield land. However, it is recognised that within the plan area, there is a limited supply of previously developed land and it is not always in the most appropriate or sustainable location. Some greenfield development may be necessary, especially where it is co-located with other waste uses.
- The site location should have the capacity to accommodate the associated traffic movements.
- Waste management facilities giving rise to large traffic flows should be located close to the primary road network and roads suitable for use by HCVs.
- Consideration should be given to transport by rail or water when these options are practical.
- Opportunities for siting that maximise the use of sustainable forms of transport (public transport, cycling and walking) for staff are encouraged.
- Access arrangements and transport routes should be designed to minimise impact on the environment and nearby surrounding uses, including residential property.
- There are benefits arising from co-location with other waste processing facilities, which arise when haulage distances can be reduced.
- Preference is given to development in less environmentally sensitive locations.
- Amenity impacts such as noise and litter should be controlled and associated design issues carefully considered.
- Sites should be located to prevent pollution, address the risk of flooding and should avoid affecting designated habitats or protected species and should consider the effects on rights of way.
- Siting should conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets (noting that significance may be harmed by development within the setting of a heritage asset).

## Rural Locations

- 2.3. Rural locations on or close to the main road or rail networks are potentially appropriate for a range of waste management facilities. In rural locations the design of the facilities should reflect the scale and design of agricultural buildings, though there may be instances where more innovative design would be appropriate. Local distinctiveness, in terms of landscape character, and architectural design, will be an important consideration. Opportunities may also exist to re-use existing buildings. Local Landscape Character Assessments, The Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines and Town and Village Design Guides are useful sources of information on local distinctiveness. Landscape and boundary treatment is particularly important to screen low level activity around the facility to reduce visibility and to enhance biodiversity value.
- 2.4. Rural settings should provide the opportunity for significant landscaping as part of the proposals. Areas for any external storage of baled materials, gatehouses and weighbridges should also be screened, to avoid an 'industrial' appearance. Windrow composting is likely to require a rural location. All access roads should be hard surfaced to minimise the risk of mud and dust being carried on to the public highway, and to facilitate the use of mechanised cleaning machines.
- 2.5. In open rural areas where additional planting may not be appropriate given local landscape characteristics, greater attention will have to be given to building form and construction materials, particularly the external appearance where quality and colour are important. It may be possible to locate the facility at lower levels through excavation, flood management permitting, or using a mineral excavation site. With innovative design the natural physical features of the site and its setting could offer an opportunity to assimilate the proposed development without reliance on planting. There will be occasion in environmentally sensitive areas where it will not be possible to site a facility without being harmful to the character, appearance and setting of a site, in such cases development should be avoided.

Rural Location Plan



## Rural Location Principles

- Buildings could reflect agricultural built form or re use redundant farm buildings, if appropriate, or designs may be innovative.
- Designs should be in sympathy with local landscape character and distinctiveness. Site locations should allow sufficient space for quality landscape treatment.
- Site design should minimise views to operational areas, particularly external storage and parking, and any other elements that present a more 'industrial' appearance.
- Security gatehouses/weighbridges should be located away from immediate public view. Designs should take account of existing rights of way and any views from them, conserving important environmental features, such as water bodies and habitat areas. All new landscape or buffer areas should enhance biodiversity.
- Easy access to main road networks suitable for HCVs.
- Opportunities for new planting should be created and, where possible, buffer planting should be linked to existing woodland.
- The proximity of rail networks and waterways should be considered when choosing site locations to promote alternative sustainable forms of transport.
- Proposals, including planting, should conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets (noting that significance may be harmed by development within the setting of a heritage asset).
- The location should be selected to ensure that larger vehicles accessing the facility do not have to be routed through residential areas.

## Urban Locations

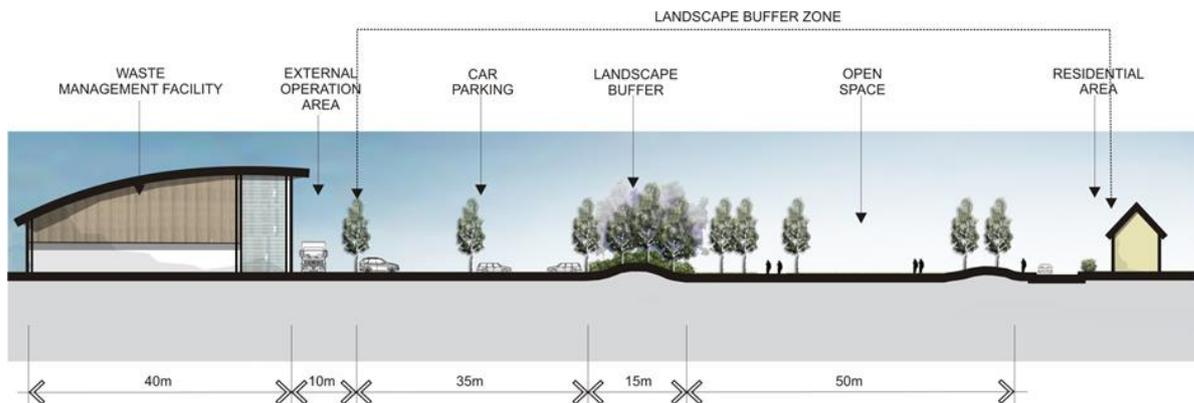
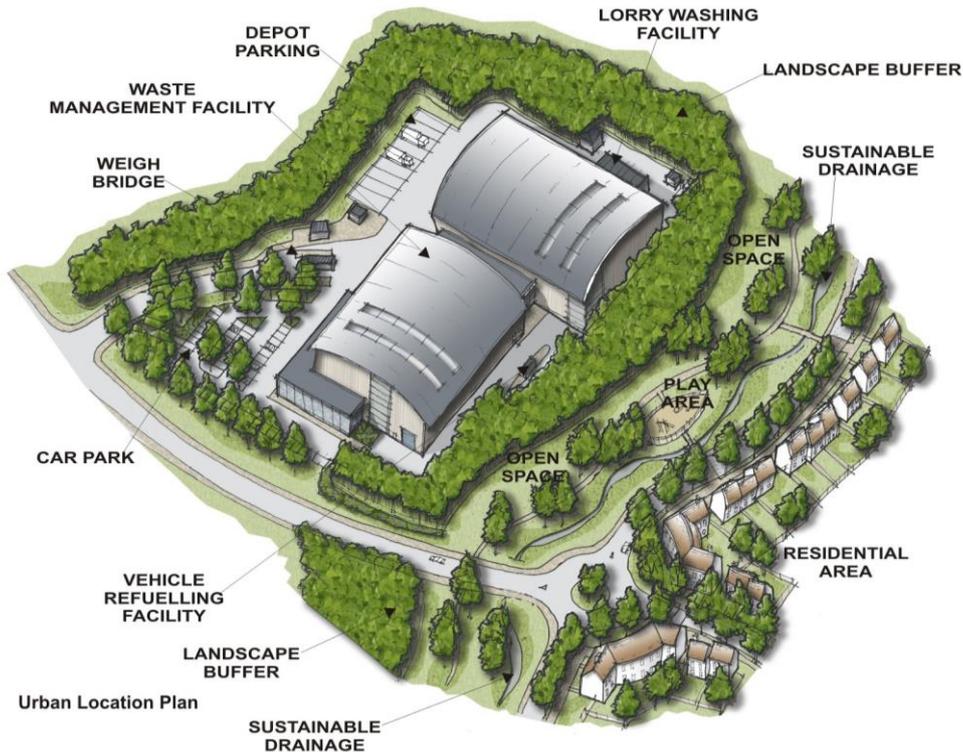
- 2.6. Urban locations are appropriate for a range of waste management facilities, particularly those operations which take place inside a building. These can be located within established commercial / industrial areas, or planned into new developments. Opportunities may also exist for the re-use of buildings, such as warehouses, factories or former airfield buildings. The design should respond to the context, with a high quality urban design. Facilities should be located on or close to the main road network, avoiding the need for HCVs to travel through residential areas.
- 2.7. Sites should be located in areas with good access to public transport. Cycle provision for employees should also be included.
- The location and design of buildings should complement the existing or planned scale and built form of the local area.
  - The location should be selected to minimise vehicular conflict.

- Locations for new waste management facilities should be selected to maximise opportunities for buffers to more sensitive land uses. Buffer areas can include a wide variety of uses from employment use to landscape areas.
- Easy access to the main road network.
- Opportunities for new planting should be created and where possible buffer planting should be integrated with features including linkages to woodland.
- Proposals, including planting, should conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets (noting that significance may be harmed by development within the setting of a heritage asset).
- Proposals should seek to maximise the potential for renewable energy and / or in areas that could allow for the development of district energy networks.

2.8. Appropriate buffer areas should be provided between the facility and any nearby residential areas. These areas could include other employment land uses, or a buffer zone including uses such as car and cycle parking, landscape planting or open space. Waste management facilities can also act as a buffer between sensitive land uses and other forms of development such as between residential areas and main roads, railways, and Water Recycling Centres. The actual size and treatment of the buffer would depend on the location and facility proposed. The indicative Urban Location Plan shown below demonstrates how landscaping and open space may be used to form appropriate buffers in the urban context. However, where such facilities are designed into industrial or employment led areas, such buffers may well be significantly different to take account of the local circumstances.

2.9. Within urban areas there may also be potential for the integration of renewable energy and / or with district heating networks.

## Urban Location Plan



## Urban Location Principles

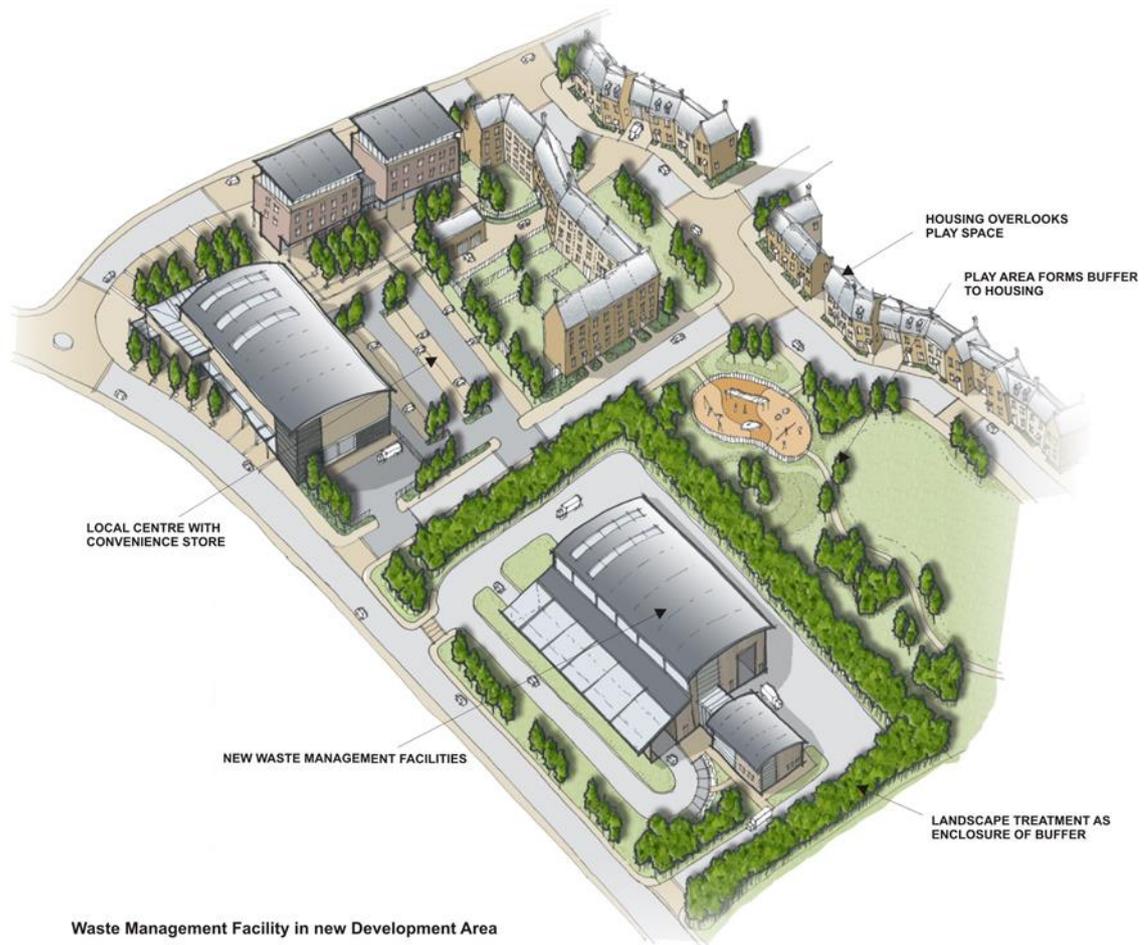
- The location and design of buildings should complement the existing or planned scale and built form of the local area.
- The location should be selected to minimise vehicular conflict avoiding access through residential roads.
- Locations for new waste management facilities should be selected to maximise opportunities for buffers to more sensitive land uses. Buffer areas can include a wide variety of uses from employment use to landscape areas.
- Easy access to the main road network.

- Opportunities for new planting should be created and where possible buffer planting should be integrated with features including linkages to woodland.
- Proposals, including planting, should conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets (noting that significance may be harmed by development within the setting of a heritage asset).
- Proposals should seek to maximise the potential for renewable energy and / or in areas that could allow for the development of district energy networks.

## Urban Edge / New Development Sites

- 2.10. Urban edge and major new development sites provide good opportunities for waste management facilities, where they can be designed as part of the development from the outset, and are also close to where the waste is generated. Sites within new development areas should incorporate temporary waste management facilities to service needs through the development phase. In appropriate cases these could then provide permanent facilities when the development becomes established.
- 2.11. Major new development areas are likely to include a range of land uses, including residential development, some employment land, open space and possibly local community facilities. Land use planning, including the use of Master Plans, can determine appropriate locations for waste management facilities. This may be within traditional areas such as employment land, or through a more imaginative approach, waste management can be successfully integrated with other forms of planned land uses. The needs of the existing communities living and working adjacent to major development areas or in urban fringe areas should be a consideration when considering where to locate a new waste facility.
- 2.12. Buffers between waste facilities and residential areas could comprise employment land uses, car parking and landscape areas. Locations close to local facilities such as shops and community halls could be appropriate and may minimise travel. The actual design of the facilities and buffers that may be appropriate, would depend on the context, with the plan above showing a possible arrangement. The detailed design within a new development area should be carefully considered and include appropriate buffers created by different land uses or landscape treatments, supplemented by high quality design. Access to a good road network is important and facilities should be located to avoid HCVs having to travel through residential areas.
- 2.13. Sustainable technologies should be used to address the challenges of climate change. Possible technologies include combined heat and power, and bioreactors, using waste as fuel to generate heat and power. In the case of locating heat and power facilities consideration would need to be given to the location of the waste management facility, but also to potential users of the energy generated, and the means of transfer for the heat/power.

## Urban Edge / New Development Sites



## Urban Edge / New Development Principles

- Facilities should ideally form part of the initial masterplan.
- The location and design of buildings should complement the planned scale and built form of the local area and new development areas.
- The location should be selected to minimise vehicular conflict avoiding access through residential areas.
- The development should maximise opportunities for buffers to more sensitive land uses. Buffer areas can include a wide variety of landscape, tree belts, open spaces, parking, ponds, and nature conservation areas.
- Facilities could form buffers themselves, between sensitive land uses such as residential areas, and major roads, railways or Water Recycling Centres.
- Easy access to the main road network should be provided.
- Opportunities for new planting should be created and where possible buffer planting should be integrated with existing landscape/woodland features.

- Proposals, including planting, should conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets (noting that significance may be harmed by development within the setting of a heritage asset).
- The needs of existing communities should be considered.

## Co-Location of Facilities

- 2.14. Co-location of waste management facilities can offer significant benefits in reducing the need for transport of waste and the treated product in operational terms and is encouraged. There are synergies in different collection and treatment methods, and bringing more than one facility together can maximise the amount of resource recovery that can take place and provide a more sustainable waste management solution.
- 2.15. Co-location also makes for an efficient use of land which may also offer benefits in reducing the transport of waste. Some facilities may be co-located at landfill sites where the waste management use should be tied to the life of existing time limited operations. However, any proposal for a range of facilities should address the cumulative effects of the proposal, to ensure that overall environmental effects are acceptable.

## Temporary Facilities

- 2.16. Major construction sites or development areas should provide temporary waste management facilities to separate and recycle construction and demolition waste. The on-site facilities would encourage re-use of recycled material, minimise the transport of waste materials from the site and reduce the need for importation of new materials, thereby reducing the overall impact on the surrounding road network and emissions.
- 2.17. Temporary facilities should have the ability to recycle or reuse building materials including brick, concrete, plasterboard, metals, glass, wood and soils. Although temporary, some of these facilities would be in place throughout the construction period (this may become years in the case of new development areas) and should be in place from the commencement of development. The nature of major development may mean that the facility may need to be moved within the site to reflect the approved development phasing plans. Temporary screening can be used to minimise impacts on completed parts of the development.

## 3. Design Criteria

- 3.1. The design criteria below cover a range of design topics to be addressed in the design of facilities. Some of the issues may only apply to certain types of facility, while others will apply to all. Design choices should be clearly explained in the documentation supporting a planning application whilst being proportionate to the size of the proposal.

## Built Form

- 3.2. Different approaches to built form would be appropriate depending on whether it is an urban or rural location. In rural locations it could be appropriate to follow a form reflecting agricultural buildings. Simple portal frame buildings, with metal or timber cladding would be appropriate, although more imaginative schemes should also be considered.
- 3.3. Consideration should be given to the scale of the setting and the massing of the built form. It may be possible to vary the size and height of different parts of the building to provide visual interest. The overall size of the building footprint, and associated built works, should be minimised to avoid potential adverse impacts on landscape.
- 3.4. As part of an overall approach to sustainability the use of green and brown roofs should be considered together with provision for the enhancement of biodiversity. Colour treatment should be simple. Green, brown and grey coloured cladding is likely to be most appropriate.
- 3.5. The built form in an urban setting and urban edge setting provides more opportunity for an imaginative bold design approach. The buildings by their nature are likely to be fairly large in scale, and can comprise metal frame struts with cladding. However, there is still scope for more innovative design and use of alternative materials where this is appropriate. The roofs could be curved, monopitch or a combination of approaches.
- 3.6. Details need to be considered as an important part of the building and not as an add-on. Particular care should be given to corners, roof lines and how the building meets the ground. These have a significant effect on the overall impression of a building.
- 3.7. Any security buildings at the entrance should be considered as part of the overall design, and in a complementary architectural treatment to the main facilities.
- 3.8. The cladding of buildings could be profiled metal or metal panels. Office facilities could be incorporated into the main building facility, maintaining a simple 'low-key' external appearance, or could be stand-alone. If separate, the scale, height and massing of the different built forms should be carefully considered.
- 3.9. Any ventilation or extractor grills and any service pipes should be incorporated into the design of the facades, and not added insensitively as an afterthought. A broader range of colour treatments would be appropriate, depending on the individual settings. Space should also be provided for the internal storage of materials including unprocessed waste and processed waste.
- 3.10. Further information can be found in national [Planning Practice Guidance - Design](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Built Form Principles**

- In both rural and urban locations built form should reflect local distinctiveness and be sympathetic in design, although where appropriate, design may also be imaginative. Roof design should be carefully considered. Utilitarian portal frame buildings are unlikely to be of high enough design quality for urban locations.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design>

- Cladding materials could include profiled metal or proprietary metal panelled systems, used in an imaginative way. Various colour treatments may be appropriate. Colour treatment and the design of the elevations should be of a scale and type with the surrounding townscape.
- Any vents, chimneys or service infrastructure should be designed positively as part of the scheme, and not added as an afterthought.
- Any security kiosks and weighbridges should be considered as part of the overall built form. Efficient use should be made of energy and resources.
- Space for the internal storage of waste should be provided.
- Consideration should be given to the massing of the buildings, in order to reduce the bulk of the proposals overall.
- Sustainable drainage systems should be used to control the flows and discharge rates of water.

## Local Distinctiveness

- 3.11. All proposals should address local distinctiveness and, where appropriate, can be imaginative in their design. Local distinctiveness should be addressed through building form, colour treatment or materials and in appropriate cases urban art forms. Within new major development areas, local distinctiveness should be addressed by embracing the development vision for the area.
- 3.12. Further national information is available at: [Planning Practice Guidance: Design](#)<sup>2</sup>

## Transport, Access, Parking and Circulation

- 3.13. The site should be accessible by sustainable forms of transport where practicable. Safe access, circulation and parking for all should be integral to the design of the site. Site layout should allow the early separation of cars and pedestrians/cyclists from HCVs. Designs should enable the efficient circulation of HCVs, without unnecessary reversing. Access for disabled employees and visitors should be integral to the design.
- 3.14. External operational areas should be located to minimise their noise and visual impact, for example, at the rear of the buildings or behind appropriate landscape areas. Car and cycle parking should be located away from the external working areas. In general the provision of car parking should be minimised, and covered cycle parking should be maximised. Showers and lockers should be provided for employees to encourage cycling. Landscaped parking areas could be used to form a buffer to more sensitive neighbouring uses.
- 3.15. At Household Recycling Centres, and other facilities where the public will visit in addition to the operational staff, circulation and signage is particularly important.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design>

- 3.16. Further national information: Planning Practice Guidance - Design - Assess and Inclusion; Planning Practice Guidance - Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statement<sup>3</sup>

#### **Transport, Access, Parking and Circulation Principles**

- Clear, safe circulation for HCVs, cars, cyclists and pedestrians.
- Operational areas well screened by buildings, landscape or less sensitive neighbouring uses.
- Safe access for the public on sites where public access is possible.
- Covered cycle storage, showers and lockers for staff.
- Potential use of energy-efficient low-emission fuels.
- Separate access for cyclists/pedestrians from cars.

### **Lighting**

- 3.17. Lighting is an integral part of design. Exterior service areas must be lit to standards set by health and safety requirements. The building orientation should be designed so that highly lit areas around the building are located on the less sensitive aspects. The building itself may be able to screen the highly lit areas. Lighting equipment that minimises the upward spread of light above the horizontal should be used. Luminaires should reduce light spill and glare to a minimum. Glare should be kept to a minimum by ensuring the main beam angle of all lights directed towards any potential observer is kept below 70 degrees. Higher mounting heights allow lower main beam angles, which reduces glare. A balance may have to be struck between the daytime impact of tall mountings, against the nighttime impacts of reduced glare.
- 3.18. The Institute of Lighting Engineers has produced Guidance Notes for the reduction of Light Pollution (see below). This includes guidance and good practice in relation to the provision of lighting appropriate to the setting of the development.
- 3.19. Developers should also take into account the sensitivities of biodiversity, in particular protected species which are sensitive to lighting, such as bats.
- 3.20. Further national Guidance: Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution<sup>4</sup>; Institute of Lighting Engineers' Guidance Notes for the Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01:2011<sup>5</sup>

#### **Lighting Principles**

- Provision of a lighting scheme and supporting information to demonstrate the scheme is compliant with relevant guidance.
- Minimisation of light pollution and efficient use of energy.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design#access-and-inclusion>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theilp.org.uk/documents/obtrusive-light/>

- Potential use of solar panels on rooftops and / or other forms of micro generation of power to reduce energy cost and environmental impact.

## Landscape and Boundary Treatments

- 3.21. The starting point for any landscape or boundary treatment should be the local landscape character, and ecological and landscape surveys. The landscape proposals should make use of existing features, protect existing habitats and features of value, and help assimilate the project into its surroundings, reinforcing the essential characteristics of the local landscape or townscape. Information on landscape character is available nationally and locally. All landscape proposals should be in accordance with local landscape character and reflect information on native species appropriate to each character area.
- 3.22. The key principles include:
- Sufficient space should be allowed for a quality landscape treatment, and planting between roads and buildings.
  - Native species should be used, appropriate to the locality.
  - Proposals should enhance biodiversity and mitigate for any unavoidable losses.
- 3.23. Most facilities will require secure boundary treatments. The design of the boundaries should be considered as part of the overall design. Secure boundaries typically 2.4m high may be required. They should be visually sympathetic as well as practical. Galvanised palisade fencing would rarely be acceptable, either in an urban or rural setting.
- 3.24. Acceptable boundary treatment may include colour-coated palisade fencing (typically dark green or black), or coloured mesh panel fencing. Chainlink fencing is unlikely to be acceptable.
- 3.25. All gates should match the adjacent fencing, and be appropriately colour coated.
- 3.26. Mounding is another potential boundary treatment. However, this would only be acceptable where it is in keeping with the surrounding landscape character. Steeply sloping mounds also tend to dry out rapidly, making it difficult to successfully establish landscape planting on them. Nevertheless, in some instances, carefully considered land modelling could help to reduce low level visual and noise impacts of new facilities. When this is the case the slopes should not normally exceed 1 in 5, and should allow for plants to establish. If space is restricted the combined use of retaining structures and earth modelling could be considered. Gabion baskets with aggregate provision could provide a suitable solution and can create useful habitat, by providing potential refuge for reptiles and amphibians.
- 3.27. 'Offsite' landscape planting can be useful in some places, providing visual screening close to potential viewpoints.

- 3.28. High quality landscaped areas should be incorporated into the design at an early stage. Suitable management arrangements should be in place to ensure that the landscaping scheme is well maintained.
- 3.29. Further Information: Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines<sup>6</sup>; national: Planning Practice Guidance - Design - Local Character<sup>7</sup>

### **Landscape and Boundary Treatment Principles**

- Use of high quality materials (not galvanised palisade fencing or chainlink).
- Sensitive combination of planting with secure boundary treatment.
- Appropriate use of earth modelling, using gentle slopes, with sufficient space and with no effects on local land drainage and flood defences.
- Use of thorn hedging for both screening and re-enforcing boundary treatment.

## **Noise**

- 3.30. Facilities have the potential to cause noise nuisance. Mitigation can be achieved through sensitive location and sympathetic design as well as best practical means to control noise (noise abatement measures). Some facilities can be located inside buildings which allows much greater control over noise effects along with careful selection of processing plant. Detailed landscape treatment, including careful consideration of levels and any landscape buffers (bunds), can also help with noise mitigation. Developers should use 'Smart' or 'white noise' reversing beepers or equivalent on all on-site vehicles, and for road going delivery vehicles. These beepers reduce the potential nuisance caused by vehicles reversing whilst still assisting safe site operations, other technology may achieve similar effects. Limiting the hours of working can also provide a form of mitigation.
- 3.31. Where noise may be a potential issue developers may be required to carry out a background noise level survey, and to evaluate the impact of the development against it. The noise report should indicate the types of activity and predicted noise levels, details of traffic movement and hours of operation, along with appropriate mitigation and noise level monitoring and reporting. The purpose of a noise survey is to assess noise impact locally, characterise the existing noise climate at noise sensitive premises, and to help ensure that the best practical means is used to mitigate any adverse noise when taken on a cumulative basis. The latter may include noise monitoring at agreed points / sensitive receptors which could be off site. In such circumstances the Councils may require that noise monitoring and reporting arrangements be secured through a planning condition. Noise generated through construction should also be a consideration.
- 3.32. Further national information: Planning Practice Guidance - Noise<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-&culture/arts-green-spaces-&activities/protecting-and-providing-green-space/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/design#local-character>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2>

## Noise Principles

- Use of good insulation of buildings to reduce noise level.
- Provision of a noise report, demonstrating compliance with agreed noise limits.
- Mitigation measures should be built into the evolving design to achieve the required level of attenuation.
- Use of 'Smart' reversing beepers or white noise reversing beepers or equivalent, or smart alarms.
- Monitoring arrangements to ensure compliance with agreed noise limits.
- Use of sensitive location and sympathetic design.
- Consideration of landscape areas within and bordering the site.
- Use of battery powered vehicles to reduce noise levels.

## Air Quality

- 3.33. Air quality issues may arise from on and off site dust. This may come from different sources for example, traffic, and from the on site operations of the facility. Emissions from most energy from waste facilities will be monitored and regulated by the Environment Agency through their environmental permitting regime. Particulate concentrations are particularly high in parts of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the contribution of any waste management could be relevant to attainment of local air quality objectives.
- 3.34. Mitigation could include enclosing processes in buildings with controls on emissions, and the use of energy efficient low emission fuels. Dust can arise from the movement of waste materials during processing, such as tipping and external stocking. A number of systems are available to minimise problems. These include maintaining negative air pressure in waste reception halls, to draw any dust or emissions into the building, rather than letting them escape through the doors. Filters can be used to control emissions to air.
- 3.35. Fixed and mobile spray systems can also be utilised to minimise dust by damping down. Careful building design can allow natural cleansing by rainwater to maintain and clean building elevations.
- 3.36. The Environment Agency monitors emissions from waste management developments and developers should seek their advice at an early stage.
- 3.37. Proposals should include mitigation measures to maintain and improve air quality by the management of dust and odour.

- 3.38. Further information: Planning Practice Guidance - Air Quality<sup>9</sup>; Cambridgeshire Insight - Air Quality<sup>10</sup>.

### **Air Quality Principles**

- Protect sensitive receptors by including measures to control air quality, dust and odour.
- Potential use of energy efficient low emission fuels.

## **Water**

- 3.39. All schemes should include measures to ensure water quality and the efficient use of water. Pollution control measures should be incorporated to ensure that any water that leaves the site is to an acceptable quality standard. For facilities such as composting sites, any water collected could be captured, recirculated and reused to aid the composting process. Facilities should also include measures to minimise water usage. Any landscape treatment should be designed to minimise any requirements for irrigation.
- 3.40. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should be used to manage surface water run-off and maintain water quality. SuDS may include such methods as swales, lagoons, reedbeds, retention ponds, filter strips, infiltration and permeable paving to minimise the run-off and the amount of water entering watercourses. Any SuDS measures should be fully integrated with the landscaping proposals, with an appropriate overarching management regime. Careful consideration should be given to the adoption and long-term management of such systems.
- 3.41. Further information: Cambridgeshire County Council - Surface water and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) planning<sup>11</sup>

## **Pest / Vermin / Bird Control**

- 3.42. Schemes should include measures to prevent pests and vermin as appropriate. Such matters are regulated by the Environment Agency who should be approached for advice on design. Examples of mitigation include site management practices, vermin proof vents and rapid closing doors.

## **Security**

- 3.43. Safety and security should be considered for each of the design elements, whether building construction, boundary treatments or landscape design. The principles in 'Secured by Design<sup>12</sup> published by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) should be followed. Waste management facilities should be planned in a way that

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/surface-water-and-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds-planning/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/environment/airquality/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/surface-water-and-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds-planning/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.securedbydesign.com/>

makes sure the blocks overlook their surrounding spaces, such as cycle routes and footpaths to increase surveillance. Where possible, windows and doors opening onto public roads and footpaths can provide greater security for users of the waste management facilities, although noise levels should be taken into account. Blank walls should be avoided if possible. If the incorporation of fenestration is not possible for technical reasons, these walls should be enhanced by the introduction of additional building materials and/or patterned brickwork to add architectural interest. Vulnerable areas should be well lit.

- 3.44. Further national Information: Planning Practice Guidance: Design - Security Measures; Secured By Design

## Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction

- 3.45. Sustainable construction techniques take account of ways to reduce waste, flood risk and pollution, minimise energy requirements, and use local and renewable materials and sources, during the construction, occupation and demolition of development.
- 3.46. Developers should seek to use re-used or recycled materials. Local supply options should be used to minimise travel distances. Opportunities to use standard sizes and accurate estimates of materials to minimise off-cuts and waste should be followed. The use of PVC should be minimised. Construction materials should be low maintenance and durable. Consideration should also be given to eventual decommissioning of facilities, re-use, recycling and / or disposal of materials.
- 3.47. The ozone depletion potential and global warming potential of all materials should be considered and the use of unsustainable materials minimised.
- 3.48. Buildings should be designed to minimise carbon emissions and energy use throughout the life of the building. Designs should maximise the use of controlled daylight, and the opportunity to control solar gain. The use of heat recovery systems should be investigated and high levels of insulation should be provided. Other aspects to consider include the feasibility of the generation of renewable energy and/or use of green electricity and heating. Roofs may also be appropriate for solar panels which help reduce energy costs.
- 3.49. The proposals should be designed to reduce energy consumption and to minimise heat loss. Proposals should also include the use of renewable energy sources where possible such as solar, ground source heat, wind.
- 3.50. Construction materials should generally be those achieving an 'A' summary rating in the BRE publication, the 'Green Guide to Specification'<sup>13</sup>. Development proposals should seek to achieve a sustainability rating that results in high levels of performance against BREEAM<sup>14</sup> that standards that are prescribed nationally at the time or alternatively in accordance with local planning authority standards where these are more stringent.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.bre.co.uk/greenguide/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.breeam.com/>

3.51. Further advice on sustainable construction is available from the Building Research Establishment (BRE)<sup>15</sup>, who provide advice and consultancy.

#### **Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction Principles**

- Consider the site's context and function within its wider setting; the opportunity to improve connectivity by foot, cycle, public and private transport to and from neighbouring uses and features.
- Where possible, extend the life of buildings by renovation and refurbishment.
- Use whole-life thinking and design for flexibility, to extend building lifetimes, to encourage future re-use and recycling of products and materials, during construction, occupancy and demolition phases of the development.
- Incorporate resource efficiency measures, which aim to minimise demand for water, energy or other natural resources.
- Design to minimise operational environmental impacts.

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.bre.co.uk/>

## 4. Glossary

**Biodiversity** - The relative abundance and variety of plant and animal species and Ecosystems within particular habitats.

**Combined Heat and Power (CHP)** - A highly fuel efficient technology which produces electricity and heat from a single facility.

**Commercial Waste** - Waste arising from premises which are used wholly or mainly for trade, business, sport, recreation or entertainment, excluding municipal and industrial waste.

**Compost** - A bulk reduced, stabilised residue resulting from the aerobic degradation of organic waste.

**Energy from Waste** - Facilities that burn waste. Heat is received that can generate electricity or heat water.

**Green and Brown Roof** - Green roofs and brown roofs are constructed ecosystems located on top of the building or structures, contributing to local biodiversity. The roof of a building is partially or completely covered in plants, which is generally believed to assist in reducing surface water run off from buildings, provide biodiversity habitat, reduce the visual impact of a building and affect the heat retention of a building.

**HCV** - Heavy Commercial Vehicle i.e. exceeding 7.5 tonnes.

**Household Recycling Centre (HRC)** - A facility where the public can dispose of bulky household and garden waste.

**Industrial Waste** - Waste from any factory or any premises occupied by an industry.

**Inert Waste** - Waste which will not or is slow to biodegrade or decompose e.g. soils, concrete rubble, and construction and demolition waste.

**Landfill** - Landfill is the controlled deposit of waste to land.

**Sensitive Receptor** - Physical or natural resource, special interest or viewer group that will experience an impact.

**Water Recycling Centres** - Facilities to treat sewerage or commercial effluent. Waste water undergoing a variety of treatment, before release back into the water course or licenced discharge points.

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