

MINERALS & WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Minerals Core Strategy Adopted Version

September 2008



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Chapter 1 – Introduction

- 1.1 The Minerals Core Strategy forms part of the Suffolk Minerals & Waste Development Framework.
- 1.2 The document was adopted by Suffolk County Council at its meeting on 25th September 2008 and will remain in operation until 2021. During this period regular reviews will be undertaken to ensure conformity with national legislation and Regional Planning Policy.

Chapter 2 - The Development Plan Process

- 2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 introduced a new development plan process to England. Under the old system there were three tiers in the planning 'hierarchy': Regional Planning Guidance (e.g. RPG6 for East Anglia), County Structure Plans and Local Plans.
- 2.2 Suffolk County Council had responsibility for producing three documents: the County Structure Plan (adopted in 2001), the Minerals Local Plan (adopted in 1999) and the Waste Local Plan (adopted in February 2006). The Suffolk Structure Plan and Local Plans (including the Minerals and Waste Local Plans) comprised the "Development Plan" for Suffolk.
- 2.3 Under the new planning system, there are two tiers: the Regional Spatial Strategy (*The East of England Plan*) and Local Development Frameworks (the successor documents to Local Plans). Suffolk County Council has retained strategic planning responsibility for minerals and waste matters and is therefore required to produce a Minerals and Waste Development Framework (M&WDF).
- 2.4 In undertaking the M&WDF, the County Council has to prepare the following constituent documents:

- **Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (the Scheme).**

This is the project plan and timetable for preparing the constituent Minerals and Waste Development Documents. The County Council's Scheme was formally adopted in April 2005 and the second revised version was adopted in April 2007.

- **Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).**

The SCI explains how the County Council intends to engage all "stakeholders" (e.g. local communities, industry groups, other Local Authorities, Environment Agency etc) in the production of the Development Plan Documents and to encourage continuing public participation from the very earliest stages of the process. The SCI was formally adopted in May 2006.

- **Series of detailed minerals and waste development plan documents:**

- a) a core strategy, including generic development control policies (produced separately for minerals and waste);
- b) a site allocations document identifying individual sites (again to be produced separately for minerals and waste); and
- c) a proposals map (covering both minerals & waste).

- **Annual Monitoring Report. (AMR)**

This covers the financial year (e.g. 1st April to 31st December each year). And the 2005-6 AMR was published on 29 December 2006.

2.5 The Development Plan for Suffolk arising from the M&WDF will also include:

- On its adoption, the *East of England Plan* (the Regional Spatial Strategy). Proposed changes to the *Plan* were published for consultation in December 2006-March 2007 and it is expected that the *Plan* will be adopted at end of 2007.
- District/Borough Councils' Local Development Frameworks
- Any appropriate regional guidance, and County or District prepared plans and or policies that have been 'saved' under the transitional arrangements set out in the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act.

2.6 The two Core Strategy Documents and two Site Allocations Documents will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA, incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive).

2.7 The County Council has no current plans to produce any other documents within the M&WDF (such as Supplementary Planning Documents or Area Action Plans).

Chapter 3 - Core Strategy and associated policy documents

3.1 Minerals Core Strategy

- 3.1.1 The Minerals Core Strategy establishes the framework for all other Mineral Development Plan Documents (DPDs), which must conform to its principles. It is intended to cover the period up to the end of 2021 in line with the emerging East of England Plan.
- 3.1.2 The Department for Communities and Local Government published Mineral Planning Statement 1 Planning & Minerals, (MPS1), in November 2006. MPS1 sets out the key overarching policies and principles that MPAs should follow when preparing minerals DPDs and considering planning applications. They are material to decisions on planning applications and their reflection in Local Development Documents (LDDs) forms part of the statutory development plan.
- 3.1.3 The Minerals Core Strategy sets out the key elements of the minerals planning framework for the County based on an agreed vision followed by aims and strategic objectives. National planning policy statements contained within MPS1 and associated documents cannot be repeated within the Core Strategy but are, where appropriate, reflected in accompanying text. Specific policies have been tailored to reflect the Suffolk environment and the monitoring and implementation framework will provide a clear methodology for the delivery of the Core Strategy's objectives.
- 3.1.4 The preparation of the Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD is also underway. The timetable for its preparation can be found in the County Council's Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (available at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/environment/mineralsandwasteplanning/), Preferred Options consultation on sites will take place in October 2007 (contemporaneously with this Core Strategy document).

3.2 Development Control Policies

3.2.1 The Core Strategy includes a suite of generic development control policies. These policies have been developed from the aims and objectives set out in the Core Strategy. As with the core policies, the development control policies do not repeat statements of national planning policy but rather reflect local conditions. All planning applications for mineral development in the county will be determined in accordance with these policies and those of the East of England Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3.2.2 The policies will clearly define the circumstances in which planning permission will, or will not, be granted and will focus on achieving the outcomes required to meet the aims of the Plan.

3.3 National and Regional Guidance

National guidance

3.3.1 It is not necessary or appropriate for the Core Strategy to reiterate national Planning Policy Statements (PPS) or Guidance (PPG); they are material planning considerations. Relevant PPSs/PPGs are listed in Appendix A.

3.3.2 Minerals Policy Statement 1, *Planning & Minerals* (MPS1), published in November 2006, sets out the national objectives for sustainable minerals development. The key objectives contained therein are:

- to ensure, so far as practicable, the prudent, efficient and sustainable use of minerals and recycling of suitable materials, thereby minimising the requirement for new primary extraction;
- to conserve mineral resources through appropriate domestic provision and timing of supply;
- to safeguard mineral resources as far as possible;
- to prevent or minimise production of mineral waste;
- to secure working practices which prevent or reduce as far as possible, impacts on the environment and human health arising

from the extraction, processing, management or transportation of minerals;

- to protect internationally and nationally designated areas of landscape value and nature conservation importance from minerals development, other than in the exceptional circumstances detailed in paragraph 14 of this statement;
- to secure adequate and steady supplies of minerals needed by society and the economy within the limits set by the environment, assessed through sustainability appraisal, without irreversible damage;
- to maximise the benefits and minimise the impacts of minerals operations over their full life cycle;
- to promote the sustainable transport of minerals by rail, sea or inland waterways;
- to protect and seek to enhance the overall quality of the environment once extraction has ceased, through high standards of restoration, and to safeguard the long-term potential of land for a wide range of after-uses;
- to secure closer integration of minerals planning policy with national policy on sustainable construction and waste management and other applicable environmental protection legislation; and
- to encourage the use of high quality materials for the purposes for which they are most suitable.

3.3.3 In June 2003 the Government published revised *National and Regional Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England 2001-2016*. This sets out the amount of land won sand and gravel that should be provided for, by region, between 2001 and 2016. The figure for the East of England Region is 256 million tonnes (mt). It is based on construction forecasts in the region at that time, and the figure takes into account the Region's role to meet, in part, London's aggregate needs. In addition to this, MPS 1 requires a landbank (reserves of sand and gravel with planning permission) sufficient for at least 7 years' supply.

Regional guidance

3.3.4 The Draft East of England Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)) was prepared by the East of England Regional Assembly. The Panel's Report into the Examination in Public was published in June 2006, and the Proposed Changes were published in December 2006. No changes have been recommended by the Panel for the minerals policies and supporting text.

3.3.5 The Plan will set out policies to guide planning and development in the East of England to 2021 and replace the former Structure Plan and Regional Planning Guidance arrangements for each county in the region. It covers, amongst other areas, economic development, housing, the environment, transport, waste management, culture, sport and recreation and mineral extraction. Its emerging regional policies are a material consideration in preparing the Minerals Development Plan. On adoption (expected in late 2007), it will form part of the Development Plan for Suffolk.

3.3.6 The Plan takes account of the national guidelines for minerals. Its draft policies aim to meet and deliver the vision of a more sustainable region regarding the production and use of minerals. The Plan supports Government policy to ensure that there is an adequate supply of minerals to meet the construction industry's needs. The Plan also recognises that regard must be paid to the objectives of sustainable development and that the environmental assets of the region should be properly protected.

3.4 County Policy Documents

3.4.1 As part of the transitional arrangements all existing adopted Local Plans and relevant Structure Plan policies were automatically saved for three years from the commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act in September 2004. In terms of minerals policy the following are relevant:

The Minerals Local Plan 1999

- 3.4.2 The Minerals Local Plan was adopted in 1999, and runs from 1994-2006. The built-in “safety margin” ensures that there remains sufficient permitted reserves to meet the 7 year landbank required by MPS1. The policies in the MLP that will be superseded on adoption of the Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document are listed in Appendix C.

The Suffolk Structure Plan 2001

- 3.4.3 There are nine minerals policies in the Structure Plan, but only two of the policies are proposed to be “saved” beyond the adoption of the East of England Plan: policy MP2 seeks to safeguard rail and port facilities for the handling of minerals, and policy MP4 seeks to prevent the sterilisation of minerals by other development. Both these policies will be superseded on adoption of the Minerals Core Strategy (see Appendix C).

The Suffolk Waste Local Plan 2006

- 3.4.4 Whilst this is obviously a waste-orientated plan, there are some links between it and minerals policy in terms of aggregates recycling, restoration and landfilling. The Waste Local Plan was adopted on February 20th 2006. An Issues and Options paper for the Waste Core Strategy DPD is scheduled for publication in September 2007.

3.5 Other relevant County Council Policy Documents

- 3.5.1 The second Suffolk Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (LTP2) was published in final form in March 2006. LTP2 has 12 main objectives, three of which are relevant for the Minerals Core Strategy document:

- (6) Encourage investment in rail infrastructure to increase the proportion of freight transported by rail;

(7) Better manage and target investment on the A14 and improve safety by reducing conflicts between passenger transport (including cycling) and freight; and

(11) Minimise the impact of traffic and transport infrastructure (including air quality) in market towns, villages and tourism honeypots (*popular tourist sites*) to protect the County's environment and built heritage.

3.5.2 The Suffolk Community Strategy, *Altogether a Better Suffolk*, was prepared by the Suffolk Strategic Partnership, a group which draws its membership from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Many of the ambitions of that Strategy have now been achieved and the Partnership has agreed to revise the Strategy to reflect the changing priorities and ambitions for Suffolk over the next 20 years. The following themes have been proposed for the review and a consultation process is taking place between April and August 2007, following which a Vision and Strategy will be developed:

- Suffolk – the best place for children and young people to grow and learn;
- Suffolk – economic prosperity for all;
- Suffolk – the greenest county;
- Suffolk – the safest/a safer county;
- Suffolk – a cohesive county;
- Suffolk – the healthiest county;
- Suffolk – a unique response to older/vulnerable people.

3.5.3 *Suffolk, the Greenest County*, is an ambitious new project that is part of Suffolk's new Community Strategy. It involves the whole county in responding to the threats and opportunities which could be brought by climate change. Suffolk's environment is one of the finest in Britain, but it is threatened by climate change – rising sea levels, a lack of water, and extremes of weather. This initiative is about taking a lead to respond to these threats by joining up existing projects to protect Suffolk's unique character, and making more opportunities

possible. This uniquely brings together many organisations throughout the County – from local government to non-profit groups and businesses – who have signed the Statement of Intent with the shared aim of changing the way we people in Suffolk live and work. It has four themes;

- Climate Change
- Community and Business Engagement
- Landscape and Biodiversity
- Local Food, Drink and Tourism

3.5.4 *Suffolk, The Greenest County* initiatives and actions will be taken forward, through the Suffolk Community Strategy, by the partnership organisations to deliver from autumn 2007 onwards. Minerals and Waste Planning section has had input into the development of the *Greenest County* initiative, and appropriate actions will be reflected in the evolving Minerals and Waste DPDs.

3.5.5 The Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan was adopted in 2006, and runs to 2016. Two objectives are particularly relevant:

- i) Objective B: Provide and protect a more continuous network that provides for the requirements of all users; and
- ii) Objective D: Increase community involvement in improving and managing the network.

3.5.6 The Minerals Core Strategy DPD is based on national policies outlined in Planning Policy Statements/Minerals Planning Statements but its policies have been refined to deal with Suffolk-specific issues. These have been structured to ensure the provision of an effective and environmentally conscious approach to the extraction of minerals. The restoration of sites throughout the county and the protection of the countryside underpins the DPD. The policies have been subject to sustainability appraisal (SA) to assess their economic, social and environmental implications and the relationship with the emerging themes of the Community Strategy will develop accordingly.

3.5.7 The Community Strategies produced by the Suffolk Strategic Partnership and the five other Local Strategic Partnerships in Suffolk are considered in more detail in Chapter 6.

Chapter 4 - Vision, Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The Vision has been developed through the Issues and Options stage through the three formal Issues and Options consultation exercises and special meetings with key consultee groups.
- 4.2 At the second of those meetings, there was a detailed discussion on the aims and objectives, resulting in a number of changes. The wording of a vision was agreed, although this has now been extended to incorporate a greater 'spatial' element.

VISION: BY 2021, SUFFOLK WILL HAVE CONTINUED TO MEET ITS OBLIGATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF AGGREGATES IN A SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER. IN PARTICULAR, THE GROWTH OF THE HAVEN GATEWAY SUB-REGION WILL BE SUPPORTED BY ENSURING THAT APPROPRIATELY LOCATED SAND AND GRAVEL QUARRIES ARE IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN WITHIN A BROAD BELT THAT FOLLOWS THE A14 FROM THE EAST OF IPSWICH TO THE WESTERN EXTREMITY OF THE COUNTY. BASED ON HISTORIC AGGREGATE SUPPLY FIGURES, IT IS EXPECTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 70% OF THE COUNTY'S PRODUCTION OF SAND AND GRAVEL WILL BE SUPPLIED FROM WITHIN THIS AREA. MINERALS SITES WILL, WHEN RESTORED, CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TOWARDS THE ENHANCEMENT OF SUFFOLK'S BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES AND HABITATS, AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER.

Aim 1: To meet local and regional needs for the provision of aggregates, as set out in the East of England Plan and this Core Strategy, and for other non-aggregate minerals.

Objective 1: Environmentally acceptable sources for minerals will be identified to enable the county to provide a sufficient supply of minerals.

Objective 2: The production of alternative or recycled materials will be encouraged in order to enable the most efficient use of primary aggregates.

Aim 2: **To minimise and mitigate the impact of quarrying on the environment whilst taking opportunities to enhance the landscape character, improve public access and enhance biodiversity.**

Objective 3: Protection shall be given to areas designated internationally and/or nationally for their conservation, historic, ecological and/or geological/geomorphological value.

Objective 4: Protection shall be given to areas designated nationally for their landscape value.

Objective 5: Adverse environmental impacts of quarrying shall be minimised and mitigated.

Objective 6: The restoration of mineral sites will be expected to increase levels of biodiversity and encourage sustainable after-uses.

Objective 7: Suitable methods of working and processing of minerals shall be adopted during extraction.

Objective 8: Water resources shall be protected and unacceptable harm to ground and surface water quality prevented.

Aim 3: **To safeguard mineral resources and facilities at rail heads and ports associated with the importation and handling of aggregates from prejudicial development.**

Objective 9: The sustainable transportation of minerals throughout Suffolk will be encouraged and handling facilities at ports and railheads safeguarded.

Objective 10: Mineral resources will be safeguarded from prejudicial development.

Chapter 5 - Context & Evidence Base

5.1 Background

5.1.1 Suffolk is situated in the East of England, and covers an area of 3802 km². It contains seven District and Borough Councils, two of which (Waveney and Suffolk Coastal) have North Sea coastlines. It borders Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

5.1.2 Suffolk County Council maintains a significant database of information about the principal physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of the county. This data forms a key part of the evidence base and provides a resource for the development of new planning documents. The County Council places a high priority on the continued collection and management of data which allows the accurate description of environmental, social and economic issues in the county. The evidence base for the Core Strategy includes:

- Relevant national planning policy guidance and planning policy statements;
- Relevant plans and strategies prepared by the Council and other agencies, including the East of England Plan and Community Strategies;
- Baseline data taken from the preparation of the Minerals Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (February 2006);
- Data from monitoring Structure Plan, Minerals Local Plan and Waste Local Plan policies and from minerals and waste development control decisions, reported in Annual Monitoring Reports;
- Suffolk's regional monitoring returns;
- Census and other environmental and socio-economic data held by the County Council;
- Annual monitoring returns co-ordinated by the Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP) and the Regional Technical Advisory Body (RTAB);

- The views of stakeholders which have been received during community engagement on the Minerals Core Strategy 'Issues and Options' papers;
- Suffolk Observatory website (www.suffolkobservatory.com);
- Environment Agency and Natural England data.

5.2 Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Group (SSAG)

5.2.1 SSAG – a partnership between Suffolk County Council, the seven district/borough councils and other statutory organisations – monitors a range of social, economic and environmental indicators, enabling it to assess Suffolk's progress towards sustainable development. The partnership has been in existence since 1995, and produces an annual report (*Suffolk's Environment*) summarising the results. Work is ongoing on the 2005/6 report. Past *Suffolk's Environments* can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlanningAndBuilding/PlanningPolicy.

5.2.2 Appendix A includes background information on social, economic and environmental indicators.

5.3 Minerals

5.3.1 The geology of Suffolk compared to other parts of the UK is relatively simple. The county has an extensive spread of till (boulder clay) which is underlain by chalk. The Brecks area is characterised by wind blown sands, whereas Mid Suffolk is dominated by heavier clays. The Coastal Crag is made up of marine sands and gravels.

5.3.2 Suffolk has a total of 33 geological SSSIs, along with three geomorphological SSSIs. In addition, there are seven RIGS (Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites) and 109 candidate RIGS.

5.3.3 The AMR incorporates a report on the sales and reserves of minerals in the county (see Appendix C). This informs the Regional Aggregates Working Party Annual Monitoring Report.

5.3.4 The MPA's Annual Monitoring Reports also includes information on applications for planning permission, numbers of active quarries and recycling operations and the monitoring of the Minerals Local Plan, which was adopted in 1999.

5.4 Sand & gravel

5.4.1 The principal mineral resource within Suffolk is sand and gravel. Sand and gravel deposits are distributed fairly evenly across the county, although there are particular concentrations in the river valleys, especially the Gipping valley (which runs from roughly the north-west of the county down to Ipswich and the coast).

5.4.2 The most recent forecast and county apportionment on sand and gravel demand agreed by the East of England Regional Aggregates Working Party in 2003 was for 1.73mt per annum. Since 2003, the annual landbank calculation has been based on this provision. Suffolk does not have an apportionment for any other mineral.

5.4.3 The total permitted and committed reserves at the beginning of 2007 are 16.85mt. With an apportionment of 1.73mt per annum, these reserves are sufficient for 9.7 years, i.e. until 2015. Sales in 2006 of 1.67mt continue to be lower than the agreed apportionment.

5.4.4 To ensure a continuing supply of aggregate for the period of the Plan up to 2021, a further 9.2mt needs to be identified (i.e. 5.3 years @1.73mt per year.)

5.5 Chalk

5.5.1 Chalk extracted in the county is used for the improvement of arable land and for specific industrial purposes; in 2007 there were two active chalk quarries in the county. The chalk landbank is estimated to contain more than 40 years' supply and, given the very low demand for the mineral, it is no longer considered appropriate to measure the chalk landbank.

5.6 Clay

5.6.1 Clay for use in the manufacture of bricks at the Aldeburgh Brickworks is extracted on a small scale at Chillesford (a site in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

5.7 Peaty soil

5.7.1 Peaty soil is extracted from a site at Rickinghall Inferior/Hinderclay and the last phase of working there has commenced. The resulting water area is used for angling.

5.8 Active and inactive minerals sites (2007)

Mineral	Active	Inactive	Total
Sand & gravel	20	3	23
Chalk	2	0	2
Clay	1	1	2
Peaty soil	1	0	1

5.8.1 There are currently three sand and gravel mineral sites which are classed as 'inactive'. One of the sites, Lawn Farm, Wetherden/Elmswell (site C50) has new ownership and discussions are progressing to satisfy planning conditions to allow recommencement of working in the immediate future. Peyton Hall Farm, Hadleigh (site C34) has submitted an application to continue extraction under the 1995 Environment Act, and so remains 'live'. Both sites are included in the landbank. Permission for working at site C29, Holton Sand Pit, is about to be revoked by agreement following the decision to grant permission for replacement working at Wangford.

5.9 Recycled aggregate

5.9.1 The Suffolk Minerals Local Plan seeks to supply 4.17mt of recycled aggregate between 1994 –2006. This was based on the forecast contained in MPG6 and is interpreted as 0.35 million tonnes per annum.

5.9.2 The return of sales information of recycled aggregate during 2006/7 is not complete but the total is estimated to be 500,000 tonnes. This figure is higher than previous years and takes into account considerable building and construction work on redeveloped sites where existing structures and site materials have been reused on site.

5.10 Marine aggregate

5.10.1 Dredging for marine aggregates is subject to the 'Government View' procedure and the MPA is only a consultee in the process. Nonetheless, the quantity of marine aggregates landed in Suffolk is an important piece of monitoring information, as significant changes could have implications for land-won sales in the longer term.

5.10.2 Port statistics show that 148,859 tonnes of marine dredged sand and gravel were landed at Ipswich East and West Bank Terminals in 2006. This is equivalent to some 10% of total sand and gravel sales within Suffolk, and this figure has been stable for several years. There were no other landings at any other Suffolk port.

5.10.3 Other minerals landed commonly at the ports of Ipswich and Lowestoft include granite, gritstone, limestone and slag material.

Chapter 6 – Local Strategic Partnerships

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Government guidance in PPS12: *Creating Local Development Frameworks* makes clear the importance of linking Community Strategies with Local Development Frameworks, thus ensuring a more integrated approach towards future development in the District/County. LDFs are recognised as a delivery mechanism for community strategies. The recent publication of MPS 1 sets out national policies and guidelines for mineral workings and provides safeguarding for a number of environmental issues. LDDs will acknowledge these within Plans and supplement them with policies relating to local requirements.

6.2 Babergh East Community Plan

6.1.2 The Community Plan was produced in 2005 with two main objectives: to deal with the lack of facilities for young people and the poor access to jobs and training for local people. Neither objective has particular relevance to the M&WDF.

6.3 Western Suffolk Draft Community Strategy 2006-2016

6.3.1 The draft Community Strategy was revised and approved during the period of the Minerals Plan Document preparation. Now adopted it has 8 priorities and the relevance to the Minerals Core Strategy is expressed within the following; to protect our natural and built environment and local biodiversity and ensure sustainable development.

6.3.2 Text within the Strategy to support this priority states ; the environment is important to the development of our community and links to economic and social well being, leisure activities, tourism, energy production and health improvement. Our lifestyle affects the environment through waste, development, pollution and climate change.

6.3.3 These issues are addressed in principle in national policy MPS1, but they are also reflected in the Minerals Core Strategy through its vision, aims and objectives. In particular policies 3,4,5,6 and 8 are reflected through emphasis on sustainability and environmental statements. DC policies DC1, DC2, DC 5, DC7 and DC8 promote environmental considerations in the implementation of policies.

6.3.4 In conclusion, 11 Strategic Priorities have been identified; priority 1 is “*to enable the development of a sustainable environment*”. This is shared by the Vision of the Minerals Core Strategy DPD.

6.4 Suffolk Coastal Community Strategy 2021

6.2.1 Seven key issues are identified which it is felt the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership is best-placed to oversee. Only two issues are relevant to the Minerals Core Strategy: *estuary and coastal management* and *improving road safety through traffic management measures and education*. Core policies 9 and 10 and DC policies 1 – 7 address these issues.

6.2.1 Other key general issues are: *Safeguard, enhance and manage the distinctive high quality of the environment of the district* and *Promote reduction and re-use of waste, energy conservation, water conservation, renewable energy and pollution control*. These are generally covered by all policies.

6.5 Mid-Suffolk Community Strategy: 2020 Vision

6.5.1 Key issues identified in the Strategy are:

- *A Safe Community*. Included in this issue are actions to protect the environment from pollution, flooding and other natural and man-made disasters and protection from cumulative environmental impacts. These are covered by MPS 1.
- *A Better Heritage for Future Generations*. Actions here include: improving water quality, increased recycling, improving access to the countryside, safeguarding built heritage and reducing the risk

of flooding through preventative planning. These are covered by MPS1, policies 9 and 10 and DC policies 1 - 7

6.5.2 The Mid-Suffolk Community Strategy is not due to be revised until 2008.

6.6 Waveney Community Strategy (2006 consultation version)

6.6.1 One part of the Vision is that the port of Lowestoft will have top-quality freight distribution facilities. Although Lowestoft does not currently have rail facilities to handle aggregates and the use of port facilities is not believed to be continuous Policy 6 encourages safeguarding of facilities.

6.7 Community Plan for Ipswich (2004)

6.7.1 The Environment and Transport priorities in the Plan are to:

- increase the amount of waste that is recycled and encourage people to reduce the amount they produce;
- improve the appearance of local areas across the town;
- Improve the facilities in open and green spaces, and encourage people to use them;
- improve access in and around Ipswich which encourages people to use public transport and reduces the overall effect on the environment;
- protect the town's natural and physical heritage; and
- reduce the number of road accidents.

6.7.2 These priorities are reflected in MPS 1 and policies 3, 6, 9, 10 and DC policies 1-7.

6.7.3 The Community Strategy is currently (2007) in the early stages of a full review.

6.8 Suffolk Community Strategy (2006)

6.8.1 All of the proposed themes in the emerging Suffolk Community Strategy support “Improvements to Quality of Life” and “Sustainability”. The suite of policies identified within this Minerals Core Strategy DPD and the national minerals planning policies are consistent with these themes.

6.8.2 The development of targets to be identified as achievement goals will need to be considered alongside the emerging Minerals Core Strategy policies to ensure a consistent approach to policy development.

Chapter 7 – Spatial Strategy

7.1 Sustainability Appraisal

7.1.1 Each of the policies in chapters 7-9 has been assessed against the 20 Sustainability Appraisal objectives. This ensures that the sustainability benefits of the chosen policies have been assessed and recognised.

7.1.2 The Sustainability Appraisal Report assesses the cumulative and synergistic effects of the suite of policies. A compatibility matrix identifies any conflicts between the individual sustainability objectives and also between the sustainability objectives and the plan objectives.

7.1.3 The full Sustainability Appraisal Report is available at <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/MineralsAndWastePlanning/MineralsPlanning/MineralsCoreStrategy.htm>.

7.2 Apportionment of sand and gravel

7.2.1 The revised MPG6 forecast and apportionment agreed by the East of England Regional Aggregates Working Party (RAWP) in 2003 is for 1.73mt per annum for Suffolk. Since 2003, the annual landbank calculation has therefore been based on this provision.

7.2.2 Although MPS1 states in paragraph 3.6 of Annex 1 that the sub-regionally apportioned figure should be the 'default' position, paragraph 3.8 says that the "practicality and environmental acceptability" of this figure should be tested through sustainability appraisal. Accordingly an alternative figure of 1.48mt – the average aggregate sales figure for the calendar years 2002-5 – was tested alongside 1.73mt through Issues and Options consultation.

7.2.3 The sustainability appraisal results showed that although the preferred option – 1.73mt per year – scored less positively on environmental objectives than the alternative, it has more social and economic benefits. The alternative option scored more poorly in terms of its ability to meet the housing needs. Less primary aggregate extraction could have resulted in a lower investment into the county, and increase the risk of the need to import material into the county in order to meet potential future demand from increased house-building rates and the London Olympics.

POLICY 1: The MPA will allocate sites for the extraction of sand and gravel based on the regionally-apportioned figure of 1.73mt per year for the duration of the Plan period (through to 2021).

Key external policy links:

Minerals Policy Statement (MPS)¹ and particularly Annex 1: *Aggregates* set the main policy framework for sand and gravel extraction. Paragraph 4.1, Annex 1, states that a 7-year landbank is the minimum requirement for sand and gravel resources.

East of England Plan, Proposed Changes (Dec 2006). Policy M1 reproduces the sub-regional apportionment figures and requires that Suffolk identifies sufficient resources to meet their apportionment figure (1.73mt per year).

7.3 Identifying new locations for sand and gravel

7.3.1 The Proposed Changes to the *East of England Plan* recognises that the Haven Gateway sub-region is a key growth area for the region. With 20,000 new additional dwellings (one-third of the Suffolk total) identified for the Ipswich Policy Area (Ipswich and its urban fringes in Babergh, Suffolk Coastal and Mid-Suffolk districts) from 2001-2021, and 50,000 new jobs for the whole sub-region, there will clearly be major development taking place in the sub-region, including the expansion of Felixstowe port.

7.3.2 Elsewhere in the county, Lowestoft is identified (along with Great Yarmouth in Norfolk) as a Key Centre for Development and Change, and it is likely that an additional 4000 dwellings (two-thirds of the Waveney District total) will be allocated to Lowestoft. As with the Haven Gateway, significant employment development is expected, with a renewable energy cluster to be developed. Suffolk's third largest town is Bury St Edmunds, and it is likely to take the majority of St Edmundsbury's allocation of 10,000 new dwellings.

7.3.3 The suitability of all potential minerals sites is very much a function of their size, type (whether extension or new) and location. For this reason, the MPA does not have a preference for the size and type of site; the negative and positive impacts will emerge through sustainability appraisal and/or environmental impact assessment results.

7.3.4 It is therefore appropriate for suitable mineral extraction 'zones' to be identified in the county within which preference will be given for new sand and gravel sites. The chosen locations – the Gipping valley/A14 corridor, Sudbury area and north-east of Suffolk – all have excellent links to Strategic Lorry Routes (A14, A131/A134/A12 and A12/A143 respectively).

7.3.5 Faber Maunsell undertook transport modelling of the implications of the growth of housing and employment envisaged in the draft *East of England Plan*. For Suffolk, the report concluded that:

- existing peak-time congestion on the A11 around Elveden is likely to reduce following completion of the dualling of this section;
- existing peak-time congestion on the A12 approaching the Copdock (A14) junction, and on the A14 around Ipswich, is likely to get worse in the years to 2021, with any capacity increases expected to be exceeded by additional traffic flows;
- limited inter-peak congestion is also thought probable on the A14 around Ipswich.

7.3.6 The Suffolk Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2006-11 recognises that peak-time congestion can be a problem in some parts of the county, including a number of A14 junctions. The LTP also states (p59) that designated lorry routes have been identified; however, it is practice to require Travel Plans to stipulate that HGVs travelling to and from minerals sites should gain access to Strategic Lorry Routes via the most appropriate linking highway.

7.3.7 The Core Strategy indicates (Policy 2) that a preference will be given to sites in a broad 'A14' band (reflecting the location of workable deposits of sand and gravel) and Policy 9 requires that the highways impacts of individual proposals must be acceptable in highways terms. Policy 3 also allows the cumulative impacts of closely-located minerals sites to be assessed and, where necessary, phased over the Plan period to avoid unacceptable highways impacts.

7.3.8 The Highways Agency has automated monitoring stations on trunk roads in Suffolk. The results for the morning peak (7am-10am) for the calendar year 2006 are as follows:

Site	Average hourly traffic flow (all vehicles) 7am-10am
A14, J49 (Stowmarket North)	1564 (eastbound) 1833 (westbound)
A14, J51-52 (Baylham)	2182 (EB) 1913 (WB)
A14, J53-54 (Whitehouse-Sproughton)	2075 (EB)
A14, J56-57 (Orwell Bridge)	2443 (EB) 2031 (WB)
A12, J32B-33 (Copdock A14 junction)	1851 (NB) 1795 (SB)
A11, junction with A14 to B1084	1079 (NB) 1536 (SB)

7.3.9 It is assumed that the annual apportionment figure of 1.73mt per year will be extracted evenly over the course of each working year during

the lifetime of the Core Strategy. If all of this material was hauled in 15-tonne loads it would result, on average, in approximately 92 vehicle movements each day (based on 250 working days per year and 10-hour working days). This represents a possible increase of 12 lorry movements per hour spread throughout the county, when compared to the current annual sales figure of approximately 1.5 million tonnes. This figure takes account of lorries returning to sites (i.e. total movements).

7.3.10 The County Council recognises that vehicle movements associated with minerals working can contribute to congestion, particularly in the early morning peak period. However, thereafter, movements are distributed fairly evenly throughout the working day, so the overall impact is likely to be relatively low.

7.3.11 It is assumed that 50% of the vehicle movements to and from minerals sites take place during the morning peak (7am-10am) - many small builders and construction companies have deliveries at the start of the working day. Assuming a worst-case scenario, that the transport of aggregates from, say, three-quarters of minerals sites will involve travel along the A14/A12/A11, this leads to an average of 16 HGV movements per hour during the morning peak.

7.3.12 On the trunk road with the lowest volume of traffic, the A11 north of Newmarket (northbound), the minerals traffic equates to 1.5% of all vehicle movements. On the highest volume stretch of trunk road, the A14 eastbound over the Orwell Bridge, this figure drops to just 0.6%. With increases in housing and employment land planned by Suffolk's districts in the years to 2021, this proportion is likely to drop even further. The County Council, therefore, does not believe that the scale of minerals development proposed in the Core Strategy will pose a material increase in strain on the county's trunk roads.

7.3.13 However, all proposals are evaluated for highway implications and where individual sites could have an unacceptable local highway impact (involving trunk roads and local highways), this will be assessed through the Specific Site Allocation DPD. Where appropriate, planning conditions restricting access/egress to sites during peak hours could be considered for such sites (see policy 8).

7.3.14 As recognised in MPS1 (paragraph 15), extensions to existing sites can have benefits over new sites. These can include reduced environmental disturbance, the continued utilisation of plant equipment (e.g. grading/washing equipment), and (often) greater community acceptance/support through established liaison groups. The MPA therefore has a preference for extensions to existing sites over new sites.

7.3.15 However, in all cases the individual circumstances of the site/application will be considered before a decision is made as to whether to include the site in the Specific Site Allocation DPD or (in the case of a planning application) whether to approve the application. There could be circumstances where potential extensions would be unacceptable (because of proximity to dwellings, HGV impacts, noise or other reasons); on the other hand, some new sites could have very few negative impacts and (with appropriate mitigating conditions) be acceptable.

Location of sites within Suffolk

POLICY 2: Preference will be given to aggregate sites in Suffolk located in the broad belt that follows the A14 stretching from east of Ipswich to the western extremity of the county and other areas identified on the accompanying plan (Map A, the Proposals Map), where geological information suggests the existence of viable deposits of sand and gravel.

In allocating sites in the Specific Sites Allocation DPD, there will be a presumption in favour of extensions to existing sites over new sites, so long as sufficient reserves can be produced from extended sites to meet the

regional apportionment. Based on the assessment work undertaken so far on the Minerals Specific Site Allocation DPD, it is thought that approximately two-thirds of the allocated minerals resources (by tonnage) will come from extensions, with the remaining third coming from new sites. However, in all cases potential sites (whether extensions or new sites) must be in accordance with the other policies in the Core Strategy.

Key external policy links:

PPS1, paragraph 1.8 requires that Local Authorities adopt a spatial approach to plan preparation within the context of sustainable development

MPS1, paragraph 15 asks Local Authorities to consider the environmental and extraction efficiency benefits of extensions rather than new sites

Chapter 8 - Core Policies

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This chapter outlines the core policies of the Plan.

8.1.2 It is not appropriate to repeat national and regional policies, such as those contained within Planning Policy Statements (PPS), Minerals Policy Statements (MPS) and the *East of England Plan*, except where a local refinement of the policy is judged to be justified. Reference to some of these policies is, however, made in supporting evidence to policies to help clarify the issues.

8.2 Cumulative environmental impacts and phasing of mineral workings

8.2.1 Quarries can have significant environmental impacts during their operational phases; for instance, the generation of noise and dust, impacts on the landscape, loss of biodiversity and fragmentation of habitats, and, most significantly, HGV transport impacts.

8.2.2 It is important to consider the suitability of allocating land, or of granting permission for sites, that would be in close proximity to other minerals sites. MPS 1 emphasises the need to test the practicality and environmental acceptability of policy proposals at the local level and ensure sustainability appraisals of options are undertaken.

8.2.3 The MPA therefore wishes to avoid unacceptable cumulative impacts in any one location, particularly where these affect local access roads. The environmental (especially transport) impacts of quarrying can be significant for local residents, and the cumulative impacts of one or more local quarries can be a cause of serious concerns.

8.2.4 Such issues may come to the fore where two or more different minerals operators have potential and/or actual sites in the same area. It is not a purpose of the planning system to stifle local competition in the production of aggregates, but it may nonetheless

be necessary to consider timing and phasing of sites where they could, cumulatively, have unacceptable local impacts.

8.2.5 Map A shows the location of existing and approved mineral sites.

Policy 3: Where a proposed minerals site is considered acceptable (in its own right) but the cumulative impact of a proposal in conjunction with other existing, permitted or allocated minerals sites in the proximity is considered unacceptable, the proposal may be considered acceptable if phased so that one site follows the completion of the other or it can be demonstrated that the adverse cumulative impacts can be adequately mitigated.

Key external policy link:

MPS1, paragraph 14 requires Local Authorities to have regard to the negative effects that minerals operations can have on rural communities, and the extent to which the adverse impacts of such operations can be moderated

8.3 Recycled aggregates

8.3.1 The production and use of recycled aggregate helps to reduce the demand for primary aggregates. Developers are encouraged to make provision for recycling plant on brownfield redevelopment sites to produce hard-core material for *in situ* use. The location of current aggregate recycling sites is shown on Map C.

8.3.2 Maximising the use of recycled aggregates in new development cannot be controlled directly by the MPA as such development applications are determined by LPAs. However, policies seeking the maximum use of recycled aggregate are often not found in Local Plans/emerging LDFs: a clear policy in the Minerals Core Strategy DPD may help.

- 8.3.3 Preliminary figures for 2006 show that approximately 500,000 tonnes of recycled aggregate was sold during the year, above average for the period 1998-2005. With the increased focus on re-developing brownfield sites for housing or mixed-use developments, recycled aggregate production is expected to continue at about 500,000 tonnes per year during the lifetime of the plan.

Policy 4: The MPA will encourage temporary aggregate recycling facilities at minerals and landfill sites and encourage the siting of permanent recycling facilities near to the source of raw material and at locations which maximise the use of recycled aggregate e.g. in urban fringe locations or brownfield sites.

Key external policy links:

MPS1, paragraph 18 states that MPAs should maximise the potential for the recycling of minerals.

East of England Plan Proposed Changes: paragraph 11.8 states that a “step change” in the provision of recycling facilities is needed.

8.4 Safeguarding mineral resources

- 8.4.1 Geological mapping by the British Geological Survey (BGS) identifies broad areas of sand and gravel within Suffolk. However this is not evidence of a viable resource over a particular area, and viability can only be proven through drilling and/or test pits followed by analysis. MPS1 requires that proven mineral resources should not be sterilised needlessly by development and that Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) be accordingly identified. It is intended that in Suffolk Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) will be based entirely on (i.e. be contiguous with) MSAs. Suffolk’s MSAs/MCAs are shown on Map B.

- 8.4.2 Sand and gravel sites submitted for consideration in the Specific Site Allocation DPD have, in the main, been subject to more detailed geological investigation. It is proposed that these areas, in addition to existing workings, be further safeguarded from proposed development within 250m of any part of their boundary.

- 8.4.3 There are few 'stand alone' coated aggregate plants and secondary aggregate processing operations in the county; such facilities are usually to be found in existing quarries. Whilst a good number of concrete batching plants are located within existing quarries and are therefore tied to the life of the quarry, there are also batching plants and coating plants on industrial sites, for which permission is given by the appropriate District Planning Authority. In accordance with MPS1, the MPA will expect to be consulted by the District Planning Authority on proposals that may affect the continued operation of such facilities.
- 8.4.4 It is not considered appropriate to identify stand alone operations for which the district councils grant permission and which can be transient. Furthermore, many ancillary aggregate processing facilities are regarded as 'permitted development' in existing quarries and they are also therefore not identified in this document.

Policy 5: The Mineral Planning Authority will safeguard:

- A) Those areas identified on Map B from proposed development in excess of one hectare which is not in accordance with a Local Development Document.**

The MPA will, when consulted by the LPA, object to such development unless it can be shown that the sand and gravel present is not of economic value, or that the mineral will be worked before the development takes place;

- B) Areas falling within 250m of a site allocated in the Specific Site Allocation DPD.**

The MPA will advise the Local Planning Authority whether any proposed development might prejudice the future extraction of minerals and should be refused, or whether such development itself might be prejudiced by proposed mineral working.

Key external policy links:

MPS1, paragraph 13 requires MPAs to define Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and the MPA and LPAs to show Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) in their Local Development Documents.

8.5 Safeguarding of port and rail facilities

- 8.5.1 Certain non-indigenous minerals are brought into the county by rail and sea. These include hard rocks such as limestone and granite as well as marine dredged sand and gravel. Importation by rail and sea represent more sustainable methods of transport than by road and the protection of such handling facilities is very important. It is considered that, unless it can be shown that there is no longer a need for a rail or port handling facility, protection should be given from other developments which would result in the loss of a facility. By identifying locations where these activities take place and a framework to require consultation on development proposals in their vicinity, safeguarding can protect the possible loss of such facilities and the effects of encroaching sensitive development such as residential uses.
- 8.5.2 Notwithstanding that redevelopment proposals may be contained in adopted Local Plans or emerging Development Plan Documents, consultation with the MPA may identify opportunities for ensuring that detailed proposals respect the presence of an existing facility and minimise environmental impacts. Unless it can be shown that there is no longer a need for a rail or port facility at a specific location and/or satisfactory alternative handling facilities will be located elsewhere, Suffolk's District/Borough Councils will be asked to secure the retention of such mineral handling facilities in their decision-making process.
- 8.5.3 The MPA is aware that the Bury St Edmunds railhead is identified for re-development in the adopted St Edmundsbury Local Plan. However, Policy BSE6 of the Local Plan states, *inter alia*, "...permission for development which limits the use of the rail sidings will not be granted until satisfactory alternative provision is made or it

has been demonstrated that there is no demand for rail sidings in the area". Due to the requirement for safeguarding of the sidings, this is consistent with Policy 6 below.

- 8.5.4 Maps showing the existing locations of port and rail mineral handling locations in Suffolk are shown on Map A and in more detail on Maps P1-P6.

Policy 6: When proposals are made which would result in the loss of an existing port or rail handling facility, applicants will be required to demonstrate to the MPA that those sites no longer meet the needs of the aggregates industry. Where this is not the case, satisfactory alternative handling facilities should be made available by the developer. Development proposals in close proximity to rail or port handling facilities should demonstrate that they would not prejudice or be prejudiced by those facilities.

Key external policy link:

MPS1, paragraph 13 requires that existing, planned and potential rail heads, wharves and associated handling and processing facilities for minerals use should be safeguarded. Any future sites should be shown in Districts' Local Development Documents.

8.6 Borrow pits

- 8.5.5 Borrow pits are mineral working sites which provide aggregate for specific construction projects (such as new roads). Allowing a borrow pit can ensure that materials meet the specific needs of the scheme and enable permitted reserves and mineral resources in other parts of the Plan area to be conserved. Another advantage is that the borrow pit can often be located close to a scheme thus avoiding the adverse effects of large quantities of minerals being transported over long distances along public roads.

- 8.5.6 Since the adoption of the Minerals Local Plan in 1999, only one borrow pit has been granted permission, a site of 40,000 tonnes at

Moreton Hall, Bury St Edmunds to serve residential development in the area. The County Council does not have any major new road schemes immediately planned which might seek borrow pits, but the re-routing of a stretch of the A14 past Haughley (a Highways Agency scheme) may require a local source of bulk fill material.

Policy 7: Borrow pits to provide sand and gravel to serve major civil engineering projects will be acceptable as long as:

- i) They are in proximity to the project site;**
- ii) The borrow pit is worked and reclaimed as part of the project;**
- iii) Suitable environmental conditions consistent with those recommended for allocated sites can be applied.**

Any proposal for a borrow pit will be required to demonstrate that priority has been given to maximising the use of secondary and recycled materials/aggregates prior to consideration of the extraction of land-won sand and gravel.

Key external policy link:

MPS1, chapter 7.1 lists the advantages of borrow pits in providing local material (i.e. shorter transport distances) for major construction projects. It also states that the same standards should apply for operating and restoring borrow pits as for long-term mineral workings.

8.7 Transport

8.7.1 The movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) to and from quarries can have a significant effect on roads, the natural and built environments and local communities.

8.7.2 The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, PPG13 and MPS1 all require/suggest that the transport impacts of minerals proposals are assessed fully. An assessment of the impacts of the transporting of minerals products to and from quarries is therefore a key consideration in determining the acceptability of development proposals.

- 8.7.3 A Transport Assessment will therefore be required to be submitted before planning permission is granted for significant mineral workings, and this would normally form part of the EIA. A Transport Assessment is defined here as “an assessment of the effects upon the surrounding area by traffic as a result of a development, such as increased traffic flows, that may require highway and/or safety improvements”. Compliance with the agreed Transport Assessment, including within it any necessary highway improvements, will be secured through appropriately-worded planning condition(s) and/or a Section 106 planning agreement.
- 8.7.4 Development that has the potential to generate increased traffic over the local road network with more than one direct access route may introduce environmental and highway dangers over one or more of the alternative routes.
- 8.7.5 Such situations may require adherence to a specific arrangement for the routeing of vehicles by way of a Travel Plan. A Travel Plan is defined here as a means of “controlling the timing and routeing of HGV movements”. Any such controls over routing agreements will need to be secured via a Travel Plan, compliance with which will be secured through a planning condition.
- 8.7.6 The transport assessment will need to be undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in the DCLG/DfT document *Guidance on Transport Assessment* (March 2007).

Policy 8: Before granting planning permission for mineral working likely to generate significant HGV movements per day, the MPA will require a Transport Assessment to be prepared. The MPA will consider proposals to be satisfactory where anticipated HGV movements will not give rise to:

- a) Unacceptable risks to the safety of other road users; and**
- b) Unacceptable impact on traffic flow or residential and rural amenity arising from the movement and/or timing of vehicles on the public highway.**

Suitably designed access and egress to the public highway from the site must be secured.

Key external policy links:

MPS1 paragraph 17 says that, *inter alia*,

- “the character of rural and urban areas (should be protected and enhanced by) careful planning and design of any proposals for minerals development “,
- that minerals operators should adopt working practices, including the provision of improved transportation within and from sites, that aim to prevent environmental harm; and
- MPAs should “encourage the establishment of voluntary mineral site transport plans in consultation with local communities” (this last point is also largely repeated in paragraph 47 of PPG13: Transport).

The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (85/337/EEC, as amended) requires that the potentially “significant” environmental effects of a proposed development be properly assessed, through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment. The Guide to Procedures, published in 2000, emphasises in Appendix 5, Section 3.5 that, *inter alia*, the effects of roads and transport should be considered.

Guidance on Transport Assessment (a joint DCLG/DfT publication) provides guidance on whether a Transport Assessment is required and, if so, what the level and scope of that assessment should be.

8.8 Design standards and resource efficiency

- 8.8.1 Quarry activities utilise energy for the extraction and processing of minerals prior to their haulage off site. Support will be given to proposals that aim to minimise the use of energy and ensure the efficient use of natural resources. These will include such initiatives as recirculating processing water and the generation of renewable energy where appropriate. Low emission vehicles and the use of energy efficient lighting will also be encouraged.

Key external policy links:

East of England Plan Proposed Changes: policy ENV7 states that resource efficiency and sustainable construction should be included within new development. Policy ENG1 states that on-site and/or decentralised renewable energy sources should be

encouraged, and that, as a minimum, 10% of the energy consumed in new development should come from renewable sources.

MPS1, paragraph 18 encourages the efficient use of minerals (and alternatives to minerals).

PPS1, paragraph 20 states that development plan policies should encourage the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy.

PPS: Planning and Climate Change (Consultation draft), paragraphs 7 and 22 asks Local Authorities to ensure that new development's likely contribution to emissions of carbon dioxide is minimised, and to look favourably on proposals for renewable energy.

8.9 Flood Risk

8.9.1 Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25: *Development & Flood Risk* requires that land use plans undergo a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to identify areas that are known or have the potential to flood and determine policies which will guide suitable development proposals.

8.9.2 PPS25 categorises the sensitivity of different forms of development to flood risk based on the risk to people and the need for certain uses to keep functioning during flooding. Sand and gravel workings are identified as “water-compatible” development. However the PPS does not make explicit reference to Minerals Development Frameworks, and the assumption is that the requirements that apply to Local Development Frameworks extend to Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks and informed opinion from the Environment Agency supports this view.

8.9.3 The “Practice Guide Companion to PPS25, Living Draft” was published in consultation form in February 2007. Paragraph 1.39 states that MPAs should have due regard to any available SFRAs, and should then apply the sequential approach to allocations of sites. The Environment Agency has indicated that, due to the classification of sand and gravel workings as “water-compatible” development, a full SFRA is not necessary for the Core Strategy.

- 8.9.4 Minerals can only be dug where they occur and traditionally this has been from the terrace deposits in the river valleys. As these deposits have become exhausted, more recent working has taken place away from the valley floors and into the glacial deposits on higher land.
- 8.9.5 Map A shows the proposed preferred broad areas for future sand and gravel extraction in Suffolk based on firm geological evidence, on which the Flood Zones 2 and 3 have been superimposed. The remaining parts of the county comprise Zone 1. The difference between Zones 2 and 3 in most cases can often be relatively small and this means that it is only possible at a very much larger scale to identify the different boundaries of the zones.
- 8.9.6 It is accepted that sand and gravel should ideally only be extracted from areas within Flood Zone 1. However, notwithstanding this national preference, it has to be accepted that choice may be limited and that some working may have to take place within flood zones 2 & 3. Such detailed proposals will be judged against the mitigation measures that are possible to ensure mineral working does not result in the flooding of land elsewhere.

Key external policy links:

PPS25 and the Practice Guide Companion to PPS25, Living Draft set out the procedures for assessing and mitigating flood risks associated with development. MPS1 paragraph 17 ensures mineral extraction proposals in areas at risk of flooding do not have significant adverse impacts on flood flows or storage capacity.

8.10 Other minerals – clay, chalk and peat

8.10.1 Applications made for chalk and clay extraction are very infrequent and only one site for the extraction of peaty soil has ever been submitted/approved. Geological information on viable deposits of these minerals is unknown because of a lack of operator investigation, which itself is a reflection of adequate resources.

8.10.2 It is intended that Core Strategy Aim 2 and related objectives, core policy 8, flood risk (PPS25), resource efficiency (MPS1) and the suite of development control policies will be relevant to any proposal that might come forward in the plan period.

Chapter 9 - Generic Development Control Policies

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 The Suffolk Minerals Local Plan was adopted in 1999 and contains 11 separate policies. Four of these (SMLPs 1-4) are generic in content and contain sub-policies; for instance, policy SMLP1 (*Environmental Protection*) contains ten policies covering areas such as protection of designated habitats, protecting listed buildings and prevention of flooding.

9.1.2 The Minerals Local Plan policies have thus been in operation for more than seven years. In addition, annual monitoring reports covering minerals development have been produced by the Minerals Planning Authority since 1988, so there is a solid evidence base of information available to help in preparing the policies.

9.2 Protection of landform and landscape features

9.2.1 Mineral working can significantly affect landscape features. MPS 1 (paragraph 17) highlights the need to protect and enhance the character of surrounding rural and urban areas through the careful planning and design of minerals development proposals.

9.2.2 Suffolk has two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Suffolk Coast & Heaths and Dedham Vale. Part of the Broads National Park also lies within Suffolk. Paragraph 22 of PPS7: *Sustainable Development in Rural Areas* states that major development should not take place in AONBs and National Parks, save for exceptional circumstances. Any applications for minerals development in AONBs must therefore pass the 'need' tests in paragraph 22.

9.2.3 Suffolk is currently preparing a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) for the county, which is expected to be completed in 2007. The LCA will identify Suffolk's Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and will be accompanied by designation and assessment criteria. It is

considered that in the course of time the LCA will remove the need to identify and protect Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). PPS 7 recognises there is a need to value local areas of landscape outside nationally designated areas in LDDs and accepts the part that criteria-based policies (based on the LCA) play in ensuring protection. In such cases local landscape designations (eg SLAs) should only be maintained where the criteria based planning policies are unable to provide the necessary protection.

9.2.4 A number of SLAs identified in Suffolk's Local Plans/LDFs will continue to be supported throughout the county until such time as criteria-based policies have been developed in the county's and districts' LDDs that utilise the results of the Suffolk LCA. Planning applications will be considered against SLAs and the developing LCA in accordance with MPS1 and PPS7.

9.2.5 Landscaping and planting schemes are a common part of reclamation proposals but where existing landscape features can be retained and enhanced, this is always preferred. It is also considered preferable to ensure adequate screening is undertaken prior to the commencement of mineral workings and that management proposals for maintaining landscape features are agreed at an early stage.

9.2.6 The intended final landform, gradients, and drainage of a site should be specified. Surface features such as ditches, fencing, attenuation ponds etc should be consistent with the landscape character.

Policy DC1: Proposals that would result in an adverse impact on landscape character and/or historic features of a Suffolk Landscape Character Type (LCT) will not be permitted.

Working and restoration proposals, including advanced planting, shall be designed to respect the particular LCT in which the site is situated.

Key external policy links:

PPS7, paragraphs 21-25 and MPS1 paragraphs 9, 14 and 17 describe the national policies on landscape protection and what should be included in local policies (PPS7) and how minerals development should take account of landscape concerns.

East of England Plan Proposed Changes: policy ENV2 requires planning authorities to afford the highest protection to nationally designated landscapes. It emphasises that, within AONBs, priority over other considerations should be given to conserving their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

PPGs 15 and 16 relating to historic features

9.3 Protection of Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites of Ecological and Geological Interest

9.3.1 There are two main international nature conservation designations applicable to sites in the UK. Special Protection Areas (SPAs), are designated under the 1979 EU Conservation of Wild Birds Directive; and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), which are designated under the 1992 EU Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora Directive. In addition, Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance which are designated under the Ramsar Convention.

9.3.2 At the national level, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) represent the very best wildlife and geological/geomorphological sites in the UK.

9.3.3 Paragraph 6, PPS9 states that sites identified through European directives and/or international conventions enjoy statutory protection, and thus no specific policies should be included in DPDs. Paragraph 8, PPS9 and sets out how development within, or potentially affecting, SSSIs should be considered and the MPA does not believe there are specific local circumstances that would justify a modification of this policy.

9.3.4 Under the Habitats Directive, a Habitat Regulations assessment must be undertaken on all land-use plans to ensure protection of the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. Where this assessment identifies a likelihood that the integrity of a Natura 2000 site would be threatened, a full Appropriate Assessment (a more detailed investigation) is necessary. A Habitat Regulations assessment of the of the Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options has been conducted and concludes that there will not be any impacts, so there is therefore no requirement for an Appropriate Assessment to be carried out. The Habitat Regulations Assessment is available to view at:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/MineralsAndWastePlanning/MineralsPlanning/MineralsCoreStrategy.htm>.

Key external policy link:

PPS9 sets out planning policies on the protection of biodiversity and geological conservation through the planning system.

9.4 Protection of Regionally and Locally Recognised Sites of Ecological and Geological Interest and Promotion of Biodiversity and Protection of Priority Habitats

9.4.1 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS), Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) form the main non-statutory designated sites in Suffolk.

9.4.2 Designated sites of ecological interest such as CWSs are considered irreplaceable in the medium term and their retention *in situ* is always preferable. Some RIGS, on the other hand, can sometimes be formed or re-created through mineral working. Whilst protection is always the first choice, re-creation elsewhere, particularly where public access and enjoyment can be secured by agreement, may be an acceptable alternative. However, other RIGS with finite features of significance are by nature irreplaceable, in which case in-situ protection or recording of their features of interest is the preferred option. Further information can be obtained at <http://www.geosuffolk.co.uk/>

9.4.3 The importance of these sites in contributing to local quality of life and providing valuable wildlife habitats is recognised, and the MPA seeks to protect the integrity of such sites.

9.4.4 The Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) seeks to ensure the protection and enhancement of prescribed species and habitats within the county. Policy ENV3 of the Proposed Changes to the *East of England Plan* also asks Local Authorities to promote the conservation and enhancement of key habitats and species in accordance with the East of England regional biodiversity targets. Further information can be obtained at <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningbiodiversity>

9.4.5 Some BAP and non-BAP species are protected through legislation (such as the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981), such as badgers, various birds and a number of reptiles.

Policy DC2: Minerals development proposals that would:

- i) harm regionally and locally designated sites of ecological and/or geological/geomorphological interest, or sites which are proposed to be so designated; and/or
- ii) affect adversely natural habitat types and species listed in the Suffolk BAP and/or East of England Plan's biodiversity targets and which could result in an increase in the fragmentation and/or isolation of natural habitats; will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that sufficient measures to mitigate harm to the site, habitat(s) and/or species can be put in place. If appropriate mitigation measures cannot practicably be implemented, compensatory habitat or geological exposure of an equivalent standard at a suitable alternative location must be provided.

Key external policy links:

PPS9, paragraph 9 emphasises the fundamental role of such sites in meeting biodiversity targets and contributing to quality of life and in supporting research and education. It states that appropriate criteria-based policies should be included in LDDs, which must be distinguished from (i.e. not as strong as) SSSI protection policies.

Paragraph 16 requires Local Authorities to protect the habitats and species of importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England.

East of England Plan Proposed Changes: policy ENV3 asks Local Authorities to avoid harm to County Wildlife Sites and requires that the conservation of habitats and species which contribute to biodiversity targets should be an important consideration for Local Authorities. Proper consideration should also be given to the conservation of habitats and species outside designated sites.

9.5 Archaeology

9.5.1 Suffolk is rich in archaeological sites and deposits and those deemed to be of national importance are designated as Scheduled Monuments. A large number of other sites of regional and local importance are recorded in Suffolk's Historic Environment Record (HER). Many parts of Suffolk also have a high potential for as yet undiscovered archaeological remains.

9.5.2 Minerals developments on agricultural land can sometimes reveal the presence of previously unknown archaeological remains. Existing minerals sites in Suffolk have uncovered many important finds, covering a broad spectrum of history.

9.5.3 Suffolk has, on average, one archaeological site per five hectares. For this reason, a field evaluation will be required for all proposed minerals sites of five hectares or more, irrespective of whether there are any records of existing archaeological remains at the location.

9.5.4 Where a planning application to work minerals is proposed, the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) should be consulted in the first instance to assess the likelihood of archaeological remains or deposits being located within the proposed site. Where the HER data indicates that there is a high potential for archaeological remains and/or the site is five hectares or larger in size, a field evaluation will be required in addition to the desk-top survey. The requirements for any field evaluations will be assessed by the Minerals Planning Authority on a site-to-site basis, but where one is necessary, geophysical surveying and/or trial trenching will typically be required. A survey carried out by the Oxford Archaeological Unit, with the support of English Heritage, indicates that 5% is the optimum sample size for trial-trenching.

Policy DC3: A desk-based archaeological assessment shall be undertaken in advance of the submission of any planning application for mineral working. Where the Suffolk Historic Environment Record indicates that there is the high potential for archaeological remains and/or the site is 5 hectares or larger in size, a field evaluation will also be required and will form the basis for any preservation and/or conservation strategy.

Key external policy links:

PPG16 provides the national policy guidance for the protection of archaeological remains.

9.6 Agricultural and public water supply reservoirs

9.6.1 The Environment Agency's latest water availability maps indicate that there is little or no additional water available for extraction from groundwater or summer surface water sources for agricultural purposes. Water may be available in some areas, however, for extraction from surface watercourses during the winter period. The preferred option recognises the growing importance of such agricultural winter storage reservoirs to farmers in Suffolk.

9.6.2 The main purpose of having a specific policy on agricultural reservoirs is to recognise that, where the Environment Agency and Defra have indicated that they accept the need for a reservoir on water resources grounds, the MPA should not have to consider all such applications as ‘departures’ from the Plan.

9.6.3 In assessing proposals for new reservoirs, all other relevant policies in this Core Strategy will also need to be satisfied, particularly on landscaping and protection of natural habitats and species.

Policy DC4: Proposals for the extraction of minerals (which would involve the removal of mineral off site) to enable the construction of a reservoir for agriculture, flood storage and/or public water supply will be permitted where there is a demonstrated need for the storage of water at the capacity proposed at the given location.

Key external policy links:

PPS7, paragraph 27 stresses the importance of agriculture in maintaining and managing the countryside, including valued landscapes. LPAs are asked to support development proposals that would enable farming to become “more competitive, sustainable and environmentally friendly”.

9.7 Public Rights of Way

9.7.1 The adopted Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan sets out a targeted maintenance and improvement programme to provide substantial benefits across the county for the period of the Plan (2006 to 2016). All mineral proposals should have regard to the objectives and targets within the Plan. Where possible, Public Rights of Way should remain on their current alignment. If this is not possible, temporary diversions maybe necessary but proposals should be supported by details of how the rights-of-way network will be reinstated and, where possible, enhanced following excavation, restoration and aftercare.

Policy DC5: Disruption to public rights of way should be avoided in the first instance. However, if this is not practicable, satisfactory proposals for temporary or permanent diversions of rights of way must be agreed with the MPA.

The MPA will seek to extend public accessibility in accordance with the Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Key external policy links:

MPS1 requires that the public right-of-way network should be maintained or improved as far as is practicable.

The Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act requires Highway Authorities to produce a Rights of Way Improvement Plan in order to identify changes that will “improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with mobility problems”.

9.8 Local Amenity

9.8.1 MPS1 encourages quarry operators to ensure that all practicable steps are taken to adopt sound working practices with the aim of reducing environmental impacts. This should apply to all stages throughout the life of the quarry including preparation, working and restoration stages.

9.8.2 The transportation of minerals from working face to processing plant may be a significant distance and, in accordance with the objectives of MPS1, appropriate measures to minimise effects of, noise, dust, and light pollution should be addressed. This may include opportunities to use conveyor transport as an alternative to dump trucks, “white noise” reversing alarms, dust suppression measures (including Dust Action Plans where appropriate), and speed restrictions.

- 9.8.3 MPG2 (Annex 2 paragraph 10 (C10)) recognises the importance of establishing the operational hours of working at minerals sites, to minimise noise disturbance to people living near to sites or who use the surrounding area for recreation or leisure purposes. Hours of working will therefore normally be restricted to between 07:00 and 18:00 on weekdays and 07:00 and 13:00 on Saturdays. It may be necessary for the operator to carry out plant maintenance outside these hours but generally conditions will preclude working on evenings, Saturday afternoons, and all day on Sundays and public holidays. Exceptionally, there may be justifiable reasons for limiting the hours further and this will be assessed on an individual basis.
- 9.8.4 The rate of mineral production at a site may have an adverse impact upon the amenity of local communities arising from high volumes of quarry traffic causing disturbance to residents living along the route leading to and from a site. The potential for disturbance of this kind will be assessed by the MPA and an appropriate condition may be negotiated and attached to a planning permission to restrict levels or operating hours relevant to transportation.
- 9.8.5 Floodlights are often installed for security and/or operational safety reasons. Whilst these needs are understood, uncontrolled floodlighting can cause disturbance to local residents and local wildlife, as well as reducing the darkness of the sky for astronomers. It can also be wasteful of electricity.
- 9.8.6 In order to be consistent with the policies contained in MPS1 it may be appropriate to control the type and use of floodlighting requested on mineral sites. Conditions will therefore be imposed to control the level of any luminaires, the spread of light, the hours during which lighting is used and promote the use of energy saving features.
- 9.8.7 MPS1 and MPG2 provide the policy framework for the issues outlined above and therefore no specific generic DC policies are proposed.

Key external policy links:

MPS1, paragraph 17 describes the key environmental protection policies related to minerals planning.

MPG2, paragraph C10 identifies the importance of a planning condition establishing the hours of working at minerals sites.

9.9 Mud and debris on public highways

- 9.9.1 Traffic leaving mineral workings may deposit significant amounts of mud and other debris onto the highway, with increased risks to the safety of other road users. This is an offence under the Highways Act 1980 and all practicable steps must be taken to prevent mud and other debris or spillage being carried onto the public highway.

Policy DC6: Applications must be accompanied by a statement which provides details of the measures that will be taken to prevent:

- i) mud and other debris being carried onto the public highway;**
- ii) the spillage of aggregates from loaded vehicles.**

Key external policy link:

It is an offence under Sections 131, 148 and 149 of The Highways Act 1980 to allow materials to be deposited on the highway from uncleaned wheels or badly-loaded vehicles.

9.9 Reclamation, restoration and after-use

- 9.9.1 Minerals development is a temporary use of land. At the commencement of the planning process it is necessary to agree an appropriate programme of reclamation and restoration in order to promote a preferred after-use.

- 9.9.2 Agricultural after-use has traditionally been seen as appropriate where worked sites remain or can be restored above the water table, but with changing demand for agricultural land, other possible uses for part or all of a site are now often agreed.

- 9.9.3 There have been some excellent “nature conservation” restorations in Suffolk in recent years. Lackford Lakes has won national awards and attained SSSI status, and similar schemes which aim to improve conditions for Suffolk BAP species and habitats will be encouraged. Reclamation involving the creation of water areas traditionally provides for nature conservation, biodiversity or amenity/recreation uses.
- 9.9.4 After-use of mineral development sites may provide opportunities to enhance study and public understanding of Suffolk geodiversity, as advocated in the Suffolk Geodiversity Action Plan (GAP). For example, at Needham Lake a large erratic of Spilsby sandstone has been retained as part of the scientific interest of this recreation site, and it is designated as a RIGS. It is desirable for after-use to include, where practicable, provision for features of geodiversity interest to be left accessible. This may include provision of one or more significant reference sections, and for agreement to be reached regarding access arrangements for future study and conservation work.
- 9.9.5 Restored minerals sites can also provide new facilities for informal and formal sport and recreation. Such sites can provide a valuable resource for local people and visitors, and can meet wider objectives for improving health and well-being and reducing obesity. Recreation after-uses do not have to conflict with wider nature conservation concerns if the site is properly managed.
- 9.9.6 Restoration proposals involving water areas that might attract large numbers of wading birds pose a potential hazard to aircraft using military bases. The MPA will consult with the Ministry of Defence land agents to ensure that such potential conflicts are minimised through appropriate restoration design (paragraph 19, MPS1).
- 9.9.7 Where proposals for mineral workings involve reclamation to agriculture, applicants are advised to consult the Rural Development Service of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) before finalising proposals.

9.9.8 Landfilling with inert wastes, may also, depending on the particular circumstances of the site, be acceptable to achieve an agricultural after use. Reclamation dependent upon imported fill must demonstrate that sufficient appropriate material would be available within a reasonable timescale.

9.9.9 In general, reclamation proposals must be feasible in terms of, amongst other things, the hydrogeology of the site, surrounding land uses, levels, gradients and after-use.

9.9.10 A suitable aftercare programme will be imposed in most cases to ensure the agricultural management of a site for a period of five years following reclamation. Longer aftercare periods will be sought by agreement when conservation and biodiversity issues are relevant.

Policy DC7: An outline strategy should be submitted for aftercare of the land to a condition suitable for an appropriate after-use. Preference will be given to after-uses that promote the creation and management of priority habitats listed in the Suffolk BAP and/or that conserve geological and geomorphological resources.

Key external policy links:

MPS 1 paragraph 19 asks MPAs to explore opportunities for enhancing the overall quality of the environment, including nature conservation, which may be achieved through appropriate restoration. It also states that where restoration of minerals sites to landfill or to a wetland habitat is proposed, the owners and/or operators of civil or military aerodromes within 13km of such sites should be consulted in order to assess the risks of bird strike hazard.

9.10 Progressive Working & Restoration

9.10.1 Proposals for new mineral working areas can be extensive, reflecting the industry's need to be able to plan a number of years in advance. It is normal practice to work a site in phases and to progressively reclaim each phase. Progressive working and reclamation can lessen the overall impact of mineral working on the environment and

minimise loss of agricultural production. The direction of working can be particularly relevant to the impact on residential and rural amenity and working arrangements that significantly impact on a reclaimed phase or prevent reclamation of a worked-out phase should be avoided.

Policy DC8: Proposals for new mineral workings should be accompanied by a scheme for the progressive working and restoration of the site throughout its life.

Key external policy links:

MPS1, paragraph 19 states that proposals for restoration and aftercare of sites should include details of progressive restoration. Land should also be reclaimed at the earliest opportunity.

Chapter 10 – Monitoring & implementation

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 A holistic approach is taken to the monitoring of the Core Strategy because it is essentially the AMR that provides the means for assessing plan preparation, policies and performance. Any changes in Government policy relevant to minerals development, aggregate demand and apportionment would similarly be expected to be addressed through the preparation of the AMR.

10.2 The Annual Monitoring Report

10.2.1 Within AMRs there will be areas of recording relevant to:

- i) The likelihood of any preferred sites for mineral working not being brought forward for consideration;
- ii) The numbers of planning applications for mineral extraction coming forward for consideration to replenish aggregate sales and the decisions taken on them;
- iii) The soundness of policies in relation to decisions taken on planning applications;
- iv) The number of consultations with the MPA on applications within Mineral Consultation Areas; and
- v) The annual sales and reserves of sand and gravel.

10.3 The viability of preferred sites

10.3.1 The preferred sites identified in the Minerals Specific Site Allocation DPD will have been put forward by landowners and industry and will have been subject to geological investigation in order to have proceeded to preferred site selection stage. There will be a strong presumption that planning applications for these sites will be submitted during the Plan period.

10.3.2 The adopted Minerals Local Plan was prepared on the basis of sites put forward by the industry and has been successful in securing the submission of planning applications in respect of those sites. The evidence is therefore that preferred site selection carries a high level of certainty that those sites will be brought forward by way of planning applications.

10.3.3 Nevertheless, a role of the AMR is to monitor those sites by the numbers of planning applications coming forward in accordance with the DPD as well as any that might be submitted in respect of unallocated land on the basis that preferred sites are not available. In such cases alternative mineral sites may need to be identified.

10.4 The numbers of planning applications coming forward for consideration

10.3.4 In conjunction with the above, the numbers of applications for mineral workings being submitted together with the decisions taken will reflect on the application of policies within the MDD and whether the site specific allocations are likely to come forward for development.

10.5 Soundness of policies

10.5.1 The AMR will identify the use of policies in the decision making process and where decisions on planning applications have been subject to appeal, the outcome will be made known to inform the soundness of DPD policies.

10.6 Consultations within MCAs

10.6.1 The number of consultations on development proposals within Mineral Consultation Areas gives a quantitative feel for the effectiveness of the consultation process and the scope of the consultation process.

10.7 Annual sales and reserves

10.7.1 The collection of this information is essential to inform the assumptions made in the DPD about the volume of aggregate that is expected to be required over the plan period. In addition information is collected about the volume of secondary aggregate and marine dredged aggregate produced.

10.7.1 The ongoing collection of statistics will enable the identification of trends to inform the Regional Aggregates Working Party and any work necessary to undertake future aggregate apportionment exercises. The view is taken that the AMR provides the front line means of monitoring through evidence collection and as a basis for considering any need for flexibility through a rolling review of site specific allocations.

10.7.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires every local planning authority to make an annual report to the Secretary of State containing monitoring information on relevant and existing operational Local Plan or Structure Plan policies. This includes progress and implementation of the Minerals and Waste Development Scheme. The AMR is based on the period 1 April to 31 March and be submitted to the Secretary of State no later than the end of the following December.

10.8 Contextual indicators

10.8.1 The Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Group (SSAG), a group comprised of the seven district councils and the County Council, monitors a wide range of environmental, social and economic indicators. At present 40 core output and contextual indicators are monitored and reported on annually via the *Suffolk's Environment* report, and with monitoring results dating back to 1996, there is a lengthy dataset of information to draw from. Indicators monitored include housing completions, property prices, employment land availability and uptake, designated landscape and ecological areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites affected by development, town

centre retail health, air quality, renewable energy production, waste recycling, and applications affected by flooding.

10.8.2 Monitoring of the indicators will continue in future years, and the County Council's AMRs will include contextual indicator results that relate to policy monitoring. Copies of *Suffolk's Environment* reports are available at:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/PlanningAndBuilding/PlanningPolicy/SuffolksEnvironmentReport2005.htm>.

10.9 Implementation

10.9.1 The implementation of the Core Strategy will be achieved primarily through the development of the Site Specific Allocations DPD, and the determination of individual planning applications. This will include the use of conditions and Section 106 legal agreements as appropriate. The County Council will seek to work closely with local stakeholders and the minerals industry, to provide appropriate advice, prior to the submission of any application for new mineral extraction. The intent will be to ensure that development will deliver the objectives of the Plan. The landbank of at least 7 years will be monitored in the AMR and, if necessary to maintain it, action will be taken to review the Specific Site Allocations DPD.

10.9.2 The continued growth of the Haven Gateway sub-region and the regeneration of the Lake Lothing areas of Lowestoft should not be hindered by a lack of appropriate aggregates from Suffolk sources. Annual Monitoring Reports of the district councils will be examined each year to assess whether the supply of aggregates might be restricting housing and/or commercial developments; if it is, the MPA's own AMR will consider how the problem could be rectified.

10.9.3 Key new infrastructure (e.g. new roads or railheads) is unlikely to be required to deliver the vision and objectives of the Core Strategy (accepting that the specific sites have not yet been selected). However, loss of port and/or rail facilities for aggregate handling

could hinder the delivery of the Plan, and so this will be monitored particularly carefully.

10.9.4 In a similarly way to infrastructure, it is difficult at this stage of the development of the Minerals DPDs to say with any certainty the types of restoration that will be thought appropriate for the specific sites (with particular reference to Suffolk BAP species and habitats targets). Once the Site Specific Allocation DPD has reached the Preferred Options stage, more certainty can be attached to the types of after-uses that will be sought. However, with the exception of any sites where the MPA might wish to phase the development, the decision as to when to submit specific sites for planning approval is a commercial consideration for the minerals companies involved, and there is thus no certainty as to when specific allocated minerals sites will be restored.

10.9.5 By 2021, however, it is expected that restored minerals sites will contribute to the achievement of Suffolk BAP targets for habitats such as reedbeds, wet woodland, eutrophic open water, mixed deciduous woodland and species-rich hedgerows, and for BAP species such as farmland birds.

10.10 Monitoring in relation to the Sustainability Appraisal

10.10.1 The monitoring framework, taken from the Sustainability Appraisal Report, is reproduced below:

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
1. To maintain/ improve air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take into account proposed development impacts within any AQMAs and their relevant Action Plans To account for locations where air pollution levels are approaching the National Objectives thresholds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality monitoring Monitoring within AQMAs where these are related to existing/ proposed sites 	Policy 8 (Transport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality results from districts (annual) Districts' Monitoring of AQMAs declared in their area (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Districts' AMR
2. To minimise effects of quarry-related traffic on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise traffic volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes in traffic volumes and vehicle composition in key locations No. of applications requiring travel plans 	Policy 8 (Transport)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC traffic monitoring surveys (annual) Highways Agency traffic monitoring (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Transport Plan; Highways Agency website
3. To maintain or improve water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take into account the Water Framework Directive and proposed development impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater quality/ zones No. of applications refused on grounds of water pollution 	MPS1 para 17 PPS23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency (EA) unresolved objections against planning applications (annual) Development Control (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
4. To preserve or enhance historical buildings/ sites, archaeological sites and other culturally important buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect designated areas- nationally, regionally and locally To protect areas of high archaeological potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications refused on grounds of risk to archaeology, historic buildings/sites and historic parks and gardens 	DC Policy 3 (Archaeology); DC Policy 1 (Landscape)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSAG Monitoring/ Development Control/ SCC Archaeology Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR
5. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage on-site energy improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications demonstrating energy efficient practices in processing of aggregates 	MPS1 para 18; PPS1 Climate Change Supplement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Control (DC) (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR
6. To minimise flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure minerals developments not at risk of flooding Ensure no increased risk of flooding elsewhere 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments refused because of flood risk 	PPS25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Agency objections sustained (annual) Planning applications refused (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
7. To conserve/ enhance biodiversity or geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid damage to wildlife sites, protected species and habitats, especially where there is a designation of international, national, regional or local importance Maintain and improve biodiversity/geodiversity, avoiding irreversible losses Restore full range of characteristic habitats and species to viable levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications refused permission on grounds of adverse impact on BAP habitat/species or geological sites No. of applications achieving required biodiversity/ geodiversity objectives at end of aftercare period 	DC Policy 2 (Ecological/Geological Sites); DC Policy 7 (Restoration) PPS9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk Biological Records Centre DC/ Enforcement monitoring reports (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR
8. To conserve/ enhance the quality and local distinctiveness of landscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and enhance the landscape everywhere and particularly in designated areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications refused permission because of adverse impact on landscape character 	DC Policy 1 (Landscape) PPS7 para 21-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AONB boundary review (3 yearly) DC Monitoring (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSAG; AMR
9. To maintain/ improve soil quality/ resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise risk of soil contamination, Safeguard soil and protect quality and quantity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications refused on grounds of loss of Best & Most Versatile land Area of Best & Most Versatile land lost following completion of restoration and aftercare 	PPS7 para 28 MPS1 para 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC Planning Permissions refused on such grounds (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
10. To minimise waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recycling/reuse measures • Reduce waste to landfill • Encourage energy recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of recycled aggregates 	Policy 4 (Aggregate Recycling Facilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC Minerals survey to industry • Planning Permissions conditions monitoring (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMR
11. To minimise the use of water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable use of water through the local and regional Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of extraction proposals using recirculated water in processing of aggregates 	DC Policy 4 (Agricultural Reservoirs); MPS1 para 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency (CAMS) • Development Control (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMR
12. To offer everyone an opportunity for employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote an increase in employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployment rate 	MPS1 para 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS website
13. To minimise production of noise at quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote a decrease in noise levels in sensitive locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of applications requesting the submission of noise monitoring reports from industry 	MPS2 Annex on noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCC noise monitoring of sites; Minerals industry's own monitoring (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMR

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
14. To maintain/improve health of the population overall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To promote healthy lifestyles Improve quality and quantity of publicly accessible open space, cultural heritage and landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications providing for diversion of existing RoW No. of applications providing for permissive RoW and extending existing RoW network No. of applications proposing an extinguishment of RoW 	DC Policy 5 (Public Rights of Way)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC Rights of Way work plans Community Strategies (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RoW BVPI

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
15. To improve the quality of where people live (within 400m of site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that a Statutory nuisance is not caused under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, in terms of dust To ensure that a Statutory nuisance is not caused under the Environmental protection Act 1990 by reference to BS4142 "Method for Rating industrial noise affecting mixed residential and industrial sources". To provide mitigation measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of applications refused because of detrimental impact on residential amenity 	Policy 3 (Cumulative Impacts); DC Policy 1 (Landscape); DC Policy 6 (Mud & Debris); DC Policy 8 (Progressive Working) MPS1 para 14 MPS2 Annexes on noise and dust MPG2 (Hours of working)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Planning permissions (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
16. To meet the housing needs of the population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure sufficient resources available to meet housing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregate sales 	Policy 1 (Apportionment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC Minerals survey and AMR (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR
17. To promote sustainable investment in the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage an increase in long-term investment in the minerals industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number/percentage employed by industry type 	MPS1 para 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONS and Suffolk Observatory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ONS website; Suffolk Observatory website
18. To promote efficient movement patterns in the county (rail or water where possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage a decrease in road dependency To promote alternative modes of transport of material To encourage easy access to the Strategic Lorry Route Network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of new sites located within easy access of the Strategic Lorry Route Network 	Policy 2 (Spatial Strategy); Policy 8 (Transport); Policy 6 (Safeguarding Port/Rail Facilities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC Planning Permission conditions (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR

Sustainability Appraisal Objective	Sustainability Appraisal Sub-Objective	Performance Indicator	Minerals Plan Policy used (Core Strategy, DC & national policy)	Source of data/ frequency of monitoring	Where it will be reported
19. To promote sustainable economic use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage the use of recycled goods/aggregates To encourage onsite recycling of resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of recycled aggregate produced in county Amount of land-won aggregate per year 	Policy 1 (Apportionment) Policy 4 (Aggregate Recycling Facilities); Policy 5 (Safeguarding); Policy 7 (Borrow pits)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCC AMR (annual) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMR
20. To achieve sustainable levels of prosperity and economic growth in the county	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage an increase in Suffolk's GDP per capita 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk GDP per capita 	PPS1 para 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk Observatory/ SCC AMR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk Observatory website

Appendix A – National Policy Guidance

Relevant Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and Minerals Policy Statements/Guidance (MPSs/MPGs)

PPS1: *Delivering Sustainable Development*

Draft PPS1 supplement: *Planning & Climate Change*

PPS7: *Sustainable Development in Rural Areas*

PPS9: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*

PPS12: *Local Development Frameworks*

PPS25: *Development and Flood Risk*

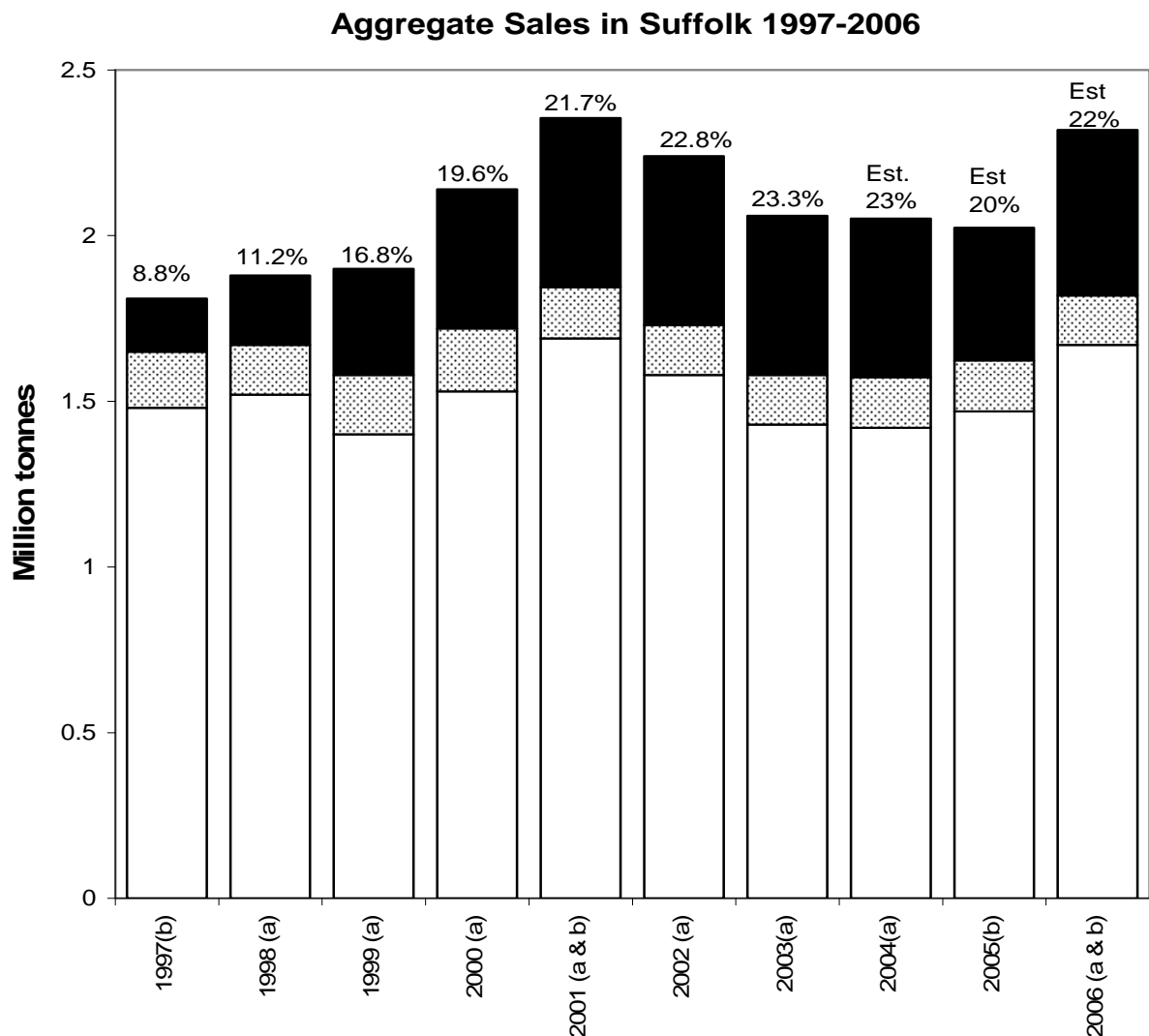
MPS1: *Planning and Minerals*

MPG2: *Controlling and mitigating the environmental effects of mineral extraction in England*

MPG4: *Main document* (Revocation, modification, discontinuance, prohibition and suspension orders). Also National & regional guidelines for aggregate provision in England 2001-2016

MPG7: *Reclamation of mineral workings*

Appendix B – Historic aggregate sales in Suffolk (million tonnes)



KEY:

- Recycled / alternative aggregate sales
- ▤ Marine dredged sand and gravel
- Land won sand and gravel

NOTES:

(a) SCC Survey (b) National AM Survey

Figure above columns is proportion of total aggregate sales comprising recycled/alternative materials.

Marine dredged figures are derived from Crown Estate Annual Summary of Statistics.

Appendix C – ‘Saved’ Suffolk Minerals Local Plan/Suffolk Structure Plan policies to be superseded on adoption of Minerals Core Strategy

The following extant policies of the Suffolk Minerals Local Plan (1999) will be replaced/superseded on the adoption of the Minerals Core Strategy DPD:

- 1) SMLP 1
- 2) SMLP 2
- 3) SMLP 7

The following extant policies of the Suffolk Structure Plan (2001) will be replaced/superseded on the adoption of the Minerals Core Strategy DPD:

- 1) MP2
- 2) MP4
- 3) MP8

Appendix D – Acronyms and Glossary of Terms

AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CWS	County Wildlife Sites
DEFRA	Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DPD	Development Plan Document
EEDA	East of England Development Agency
EERA	East of England Regional Assembly
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Examination In Public
GAP	Geodiversity Action Plan
GO-East	Government Office for the East of England
M&WDF	Minerals and Waste Development Framework
M&WDS	Minerals and Waste Development Scheme
MPA	Mineral Planning Authority (Suffolk County Council)
MPG	Mineral Planning Guidance
MPS	Mineral Planning Statement
MCA/MSA	Mineral Consultation Areas/Mineral Safeguarding Areas
NLUD	National Land Use Database
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
PPS	Planning Policy Statement
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
RWAP	Regional Aggregates Working Party
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SAC	Special Area for Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSAG	Suffolk Sustainability Appraisal Group
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

Annual Monitoring Report – it is a requirement of the Planning Act for local planning authorities to monitor and review progress towards the delivery of the local development documents. Progress is set down in an Annual Monitoring Report which has to be prepared by the December following the end of the previous financial year.

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – Environmentally sensitive land designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 for its special landscape value. The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB was confirmed in 1970 by the Countryside Commission to protect the high landscape quality of the area for future generations. Suffolk Coast and Heaths is one of the 41 AONBs which cover 15% of England and Wales.

(The) Broads – This area is equivalent in status to the Broads National Park. Under the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1998 the Broads Authority is the Local Planning Authority for the area. Its remit is to protect the natural beauty and promote public enjoyment of the area.

Brownfield Land – See previously developed land.

Community Strategy – This is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2000. The Strategy aims to improve the economic, environmental and social well-being of the area. Through the preparation of the Community Strategy the local authority is expected to co-ordinate the activities of other public, private and voluntary and community bodies. Responsibility for the preparation of the Strategy may be passed to the Local Strategic Partnership. This group consists of a partnership of service providers, the private sector and voluntary and community groups. The intention is that local needs will be met in a co-ordinated and “joined up” way.

Core Strategy – This LDD sets out the key elements of the planning framework for the area. It comprises: a spatial vision and strategic objectives for the area; a spatial strategy; core policies; and a monitoring and implementation framework.

County Wildlife Site – Areas of county-wide wildlife interest as defined using the following primary criteria. Meeting just one of the Habitat Primary Criteria can be sufficient to warrant designation as a CWS:

- **Size** – The importance and value of a site usually increases with size. Larger sites are more able to resist change and therefore remain as a viable unit. While a site's size may affect its sustainability this does not preclude selection of small sites of high quality
- **Diversity** – Sites that have a variety of habitats are often of high wildlife value, particularly where they include a range of successional stages and/or ecological gradients. Individually, none of the habitats may meet the selection criteria for CWS status, but their combined value may be high enough for selection
- **Naturalness** – It is generally considered that the more natural a site is, the higher its value. However, in Suffolk, as with most of the UK, very few sites with the exception of dynamic coastal habitats are truly natural and the most important habitats are either semi-natural e.g. hay meadows and ancient woods, or even man-made e.g. urban sites. In many cases, this attribute therefore relates to a site's state under traditional management
- **Rarity** – All habitats that are nationally/internationally rare should be considered. Suffolk is a stronghold for some habitats e.g. vegetated shingle, and these habitats may be locally frequent, but their wider importance should not be overlooked. Other habitats may be rare in Suffolk e.g. chalk grassland and should be considered in the context of their local significance
- **Fragility** – Some sites may be very susceptible to damage by interference e.g. urban sites where development of surrounding land may isolate or encroach on the site. Others sites may be fragile due to rapid succession e.g. waste ground that rapidly scrubs up. The first is really an assessment of threat and would not be used as a sole selection criterion. The second suggests that the value of a site may be short lived. While both factors may affect selection, sites should be generally be designated according to their current wildlife value

- **Typicalness** – some habitats are intrinsically species-poor but are locally distinctive e.g. windblown coastal scrub, nutrient rich flushes associated with red crag and dry grassland associated with sands and gravels. These habitats are characteristic of the county's natural areas and are therefore included in the CWS system

Development – Defined in Section 55 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as 'the carrying out of building, engineering, mining and other operations in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or land'.

Development Plan Documents (DPDs) – Core Strategy and Specific Site Allocations Local Development Documents.

East of England Regional Assembly – The East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) consists of a partnership of elected representatives from 54 local authorities in the East of England and appointed representatives from social, economic and environmental interests (Community Stakeholders). It exists to promote the economic, social and environmental well-being of the region. EERA is preparing the East of England Plan.

Geodiversity – the variety of rocks, fossils, minerals, landforms and soils along with the natural processes that shape the landscape.

Generic Development Control policies – These are likely to be criteria based policies which will be applied to ensure that all development meets the overall vision and strategic policies set out in the Core Strategy. To a greater or lesser extent these policies will need to be taken into account in the determination of the majority of planning applications. The development control policies form part of the Development Plan.

Greenfield – Land which has not been previously developed i.e. fields, woods, meadows, or land that has no recent history of development.

Heritage (built and architectural) – A term used to refer to the historical, architectural and archaeological features, buildings and monuments that are of local, regional or national interest.

Listed Building – A building or structure designated by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport as being of special architectural or historical interest.

Local Development Documents – The collective term used in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 for Development Plan documents, Supplementary Planning Documents and the Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report.

Minerals and Waste (Local) Development Framework – The name for the portfolio of documents making up the Framework, which will provide the spatial planning strategy for a local authority area. It consists of the Development Plan Documents, a Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme, and Annual Monitoring Reports.

Minerals and Waste (Local) Development Scheme – This sets out a programme for the preparation of Local Development Documents. It is a project management document which identifies which documents are to be prepared, the stages that have to be achieved and a detailed timetable.

Mineral Consultation Areas/Mineral Safeguarding Areas MCA/MSA - MPS1 requires that proven mineral resources should not be sterilised needlessly by development and that Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) be accordingly identified. It is intended that in Suffolk Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs) will be based entirely on (i.e. be contiguous with) MSAs. Suffolk's MSAs/MCAs are shown on Map B.

Local Plans – these were documents which set out local planning policy regime for the local authority area. They included the allocation of land for specific purposes as well as policies to control development. They formed part of the development plan alongside the Structure Plan, but have now been superseded.

Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) – National policy guidelines issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on a range of subjects affecting the use and development of land.

Planning Policy Statements (PPS) – The successor documents to PPGs, they are statements of the Government's national policies on a range of topics.

PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development – This sets out the Government's overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system.

Proposals Maps – Ordnance Survey maps which identify the areas to which policies and proposals in the development plan documents relate.

Regional Spatial Strategies – These set out the region's policies in relation to the development and use of land. It forms part of the statutory development plan. "Spatial planning" here means taking a broader remit than land use planning. It includes taking into account the environmental, social and economic implications of land use. It requires for example the need to have regard to the strategies and plans of a wide range of different bodies and agencies. EERA is preparing the *East of England Plan*, the RSS for the East of England region.

Special Area for Conservation - Areas of open water or land of international wildlife importance designated by the UK Government to comply with the requirements of the EC Habitats & Species Directive. To conserve natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, which are considered rare or endangered and are recognised as being under a particular threat. Nationally implemented under the Habitat Regulations, 1994

Special Protection Area - An area designated by the UK Government to comply with the requirements of the EC Directive of 1979 on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Member states are required to take special conservation measures concerning the habitat of species of wild birds listed in Annex 1 of the Directive (certain rare and vulnerable species) and of regularly occurring migratory species where particular attention needs to be paid to wetlands, especially those of international importance. These measures include classifying the most suitable localities as SPAs and taking appropriate steps to avoid pollution or deterioration of the habitat or disturbance affecting the birds. Nationally implemented under the Habitat Regulations, 1994.

Specific Site Allocations – The allocation of sites for specific uses. Policies will identify any specific requirements for the site. The allocations form part of the Development Plan.

Statement of Community Involvement – This sets out the methods Suffolk County Council will use to involve local communities in the preparation of Local Development Documents and development control decisions. The Statement is not part of the Development Plan but it was subject to independent examination.

Structure Plans – These were county wide strategic planning documents. The Suffolk Structure Plan formed part of the development plan alongside Local Plans, but, on adoption of the East of England Plan in 2007, it will be replaced.

Sustainability Appraisal – A tool for appraising policies to ensure that they reflect sustainable development objectives. An Appraisal is required in the legislation for all development plan documents. The Government has defined wide ranging objectives for sustainable development as including: social progress that meets the needs of everyone, effective protection of the environment, prudent use of natural resources and the maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment. Thus we can see that sustainable development includes economic and social influences. The Sustainable Appraisal process takes into account the Strategic Environmental Assessment required by the EU.

Tests of Soundness – Statutory Local Development Documents are subject to an Examination in Public by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. The purpose of the Examination is to assess whether the document is 'sound'. This means that those who wish to make a representation seeking a change to the document will need to show how that document is unsound and what needs to be done to make it sound. In order to assess this, the Inspector will assess the document against certain 'Tests of Soundness'. The purpose is to ensure that the whole plan is 'sound' in relation to all the legal and policy criteria it has to meet.

Town and Country Planning Regulations 2004 – These are the Regulations which govern the preparation of the Local Development Framework Documents.

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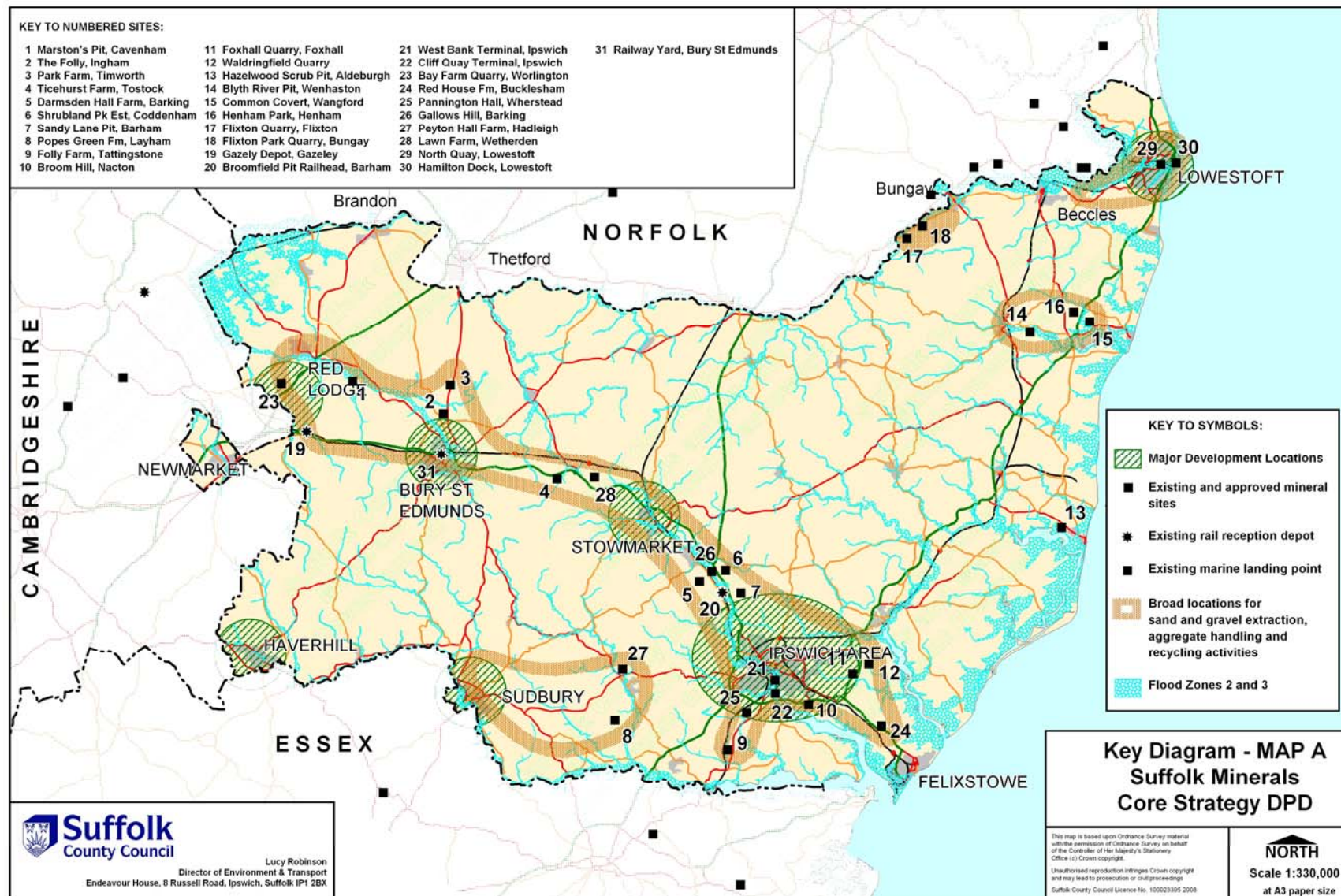
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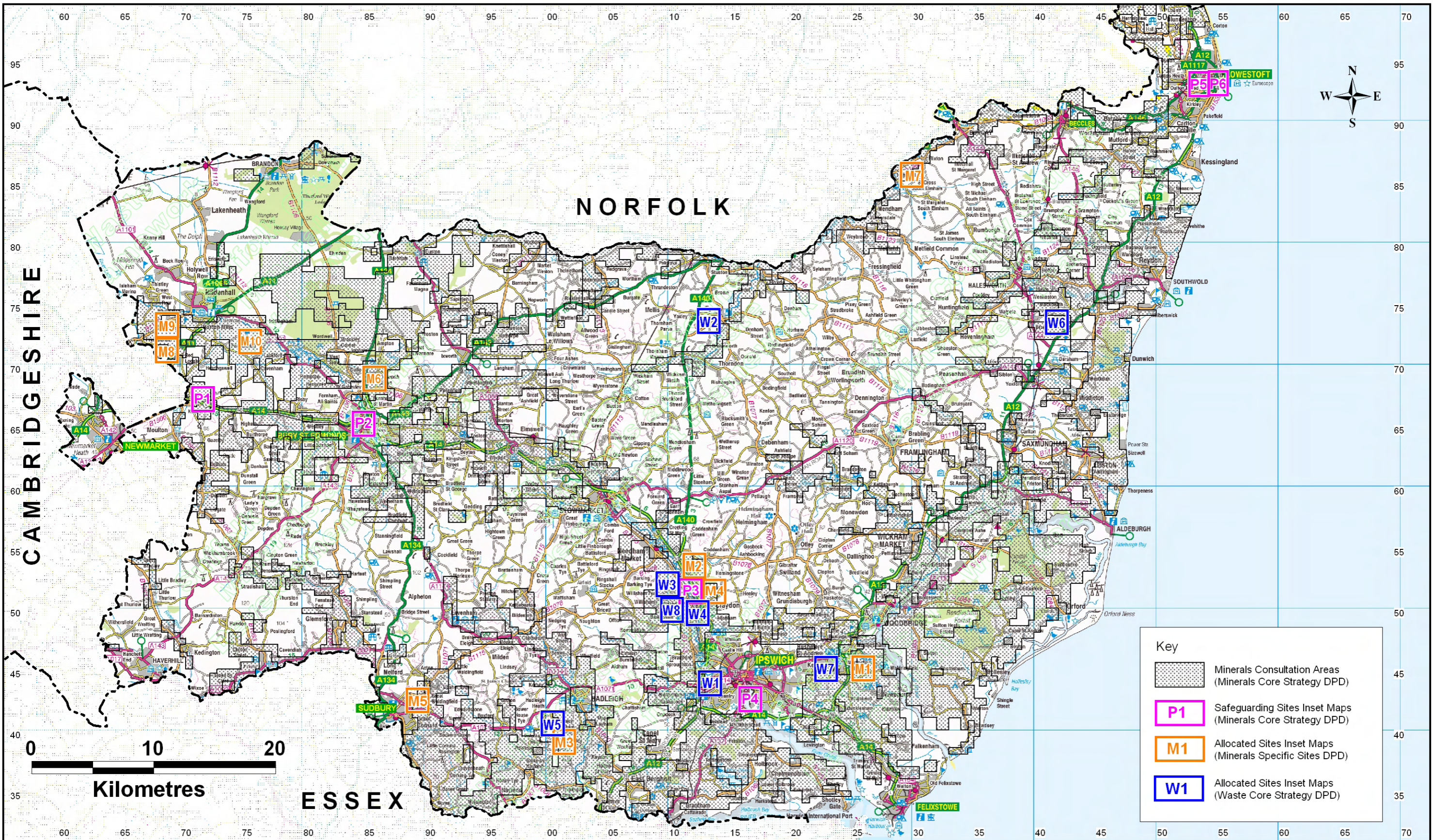
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Map A – Key Diagram





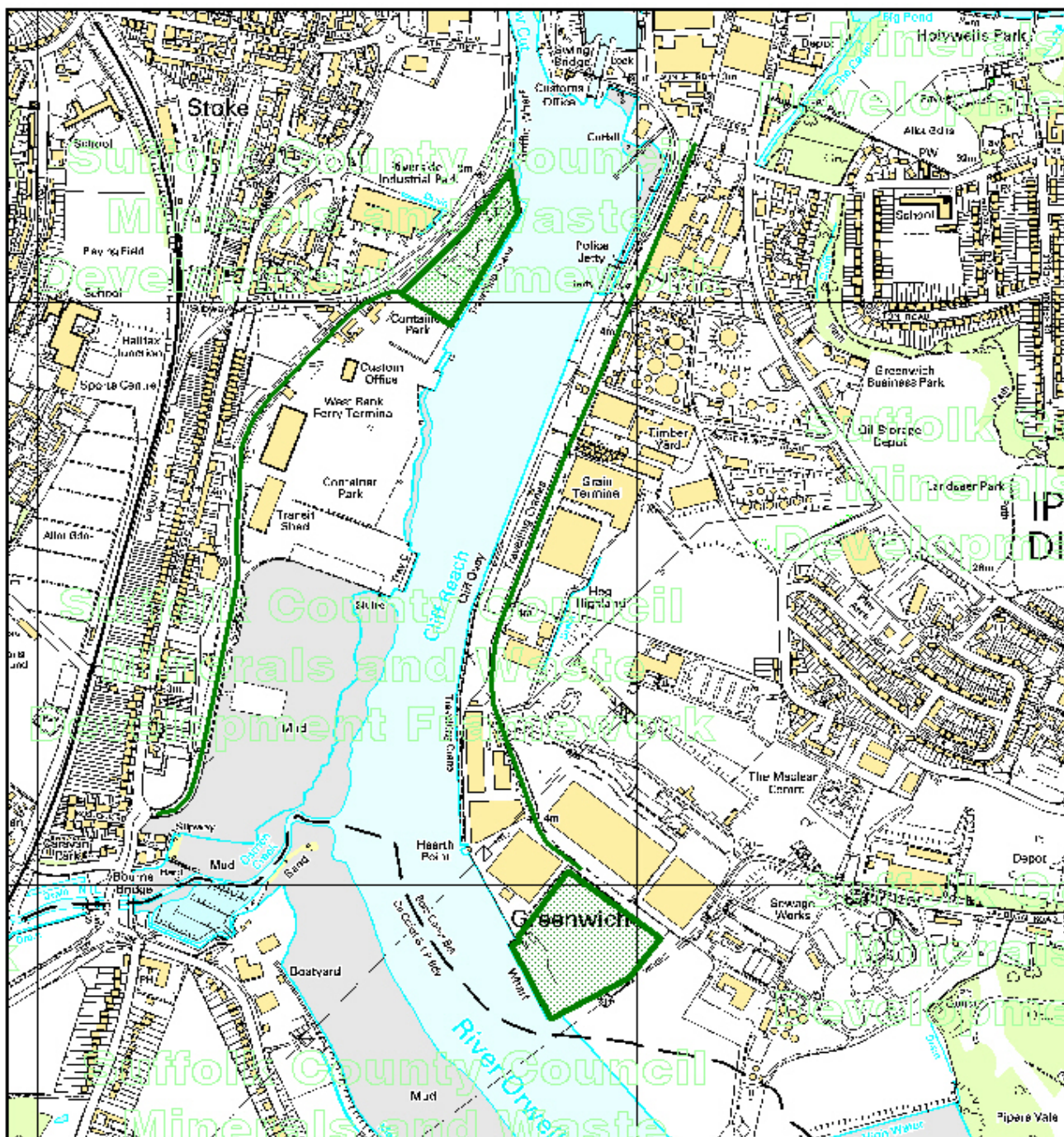
Lucy Robinson, Director of Economy, Skills & Environment
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Proposals Map

Suffolk Minerals & Waste Development Framework

PRODUCED BY	EK
CHECKED BY	GG
DRAWING No.	PM02
March 2011	



KEY:

- Existing wharf site
- Access to public highway

0 Metres 300

NORTH

Suffolk Minerals Core Strategy DPD
May 2007

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INSET MAP P4

Wharf Protection: Ipswich

Map C – Recycled Aggregate Facilities

