

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY, PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL, SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY & SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan Update

Habitats Regulations Assessment Record of Assessment and Determination

May 2026



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Non-technical Summary

1. Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Southampton City Council (collectively referred to as the 'Hampshire Authorities') have worked in partnership to undertake an update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP), which will guide minerals and waste decision-making in the Plan area.
2. This report summarises the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the HMWP update to support its adoption by the Hampshire Authorities. HRA is a statutory requirement for the Hampshire Authorities to undertake in relation to the update of the HMWP.
3. The current HMWP was adopted in October 2013. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they require updating at least once every five years¹.
4. A second review of the 2013 HMWP in 2020 recommended updating the HMWP to reflect national policy changes, the Hampshire 2050 Vision for the Future, and to ensure that the Plan is delivering a steady and adequate supply of minerals and enabling sustainable waste management provision. It was subsequently decided by all partners that the HMWP would be subject to partial update. This is important as out of date plans limit the ability for planning authorities to enable the right development, in the right location, at the right time, and may lead to a greater number of planning applications determined at appeal.
5. During preparation it became apparent that the process had become a full update of the 2013 Plan. The updated HMWP will cover the period up to 2040 and, once adopted, will replace/supersede the currently adopted 2013 Plan.
6. HRA is an iterative process. The HRA has informed the updating of the Plan throughout its preparation, including policy wording and site allocation selection. The HRA has also been informed by changes made to the draft plan update at each stage. The HRA has also informed the preparation of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Plan update, which incorporates Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
7. The HRA has concluded that the updated Plan, with main modifications, is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and would not be likely to result in significant effects on the integrity of any international site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. Natural England agrees with this conclusion.
8. The updated Plan has been through statutory consultation and Examination in Public (EIP), and with the incorporation of main modifications, has been found sound by the Planning Inspectorate.

¹ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), Para. 33 - <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20231228093504/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

1. Introduction

Purpose

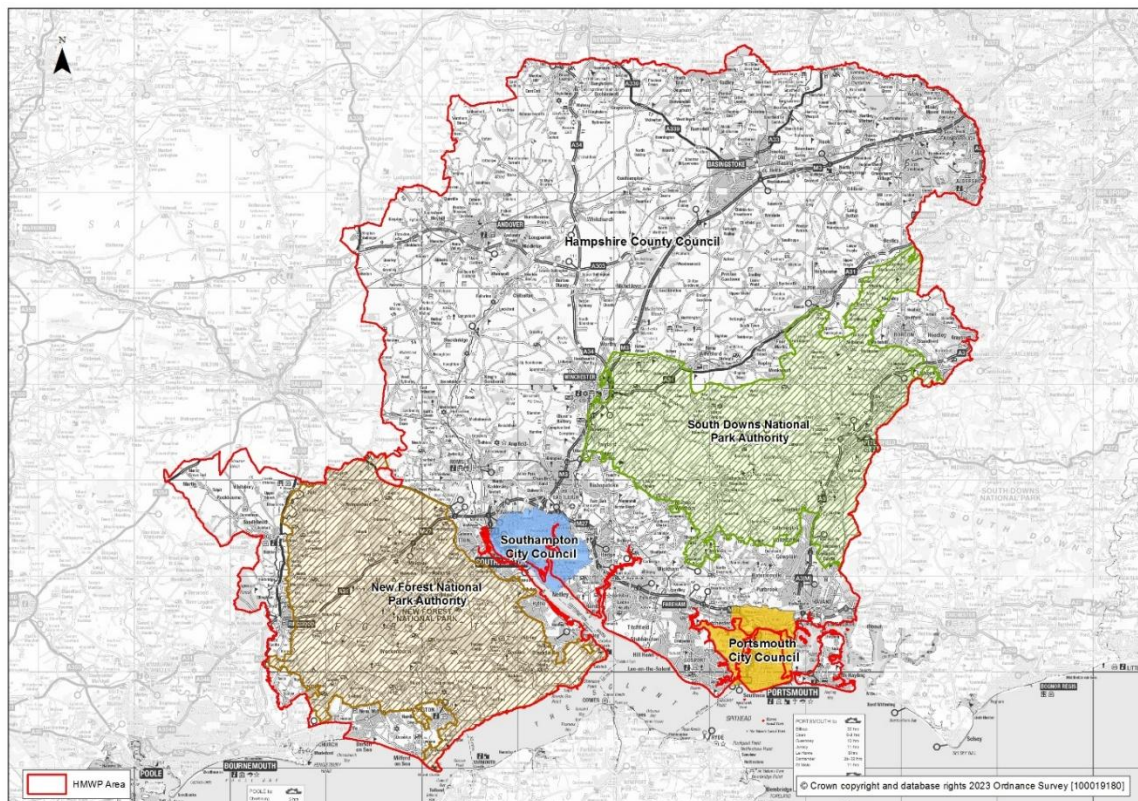
- 1.1 This report is the final HRA document and summarises the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP), to support its adoption by the Hampshire minerals and waste planning authorities (Hampshire Authorities).
- 1.2 The Plan update has been through statutory consultation and Examination in Public (EIP), and with the incorporation of modifications set out in the Schedule of Main Modifications (see para. 1.3), has been found sound by the Planning Inspectorate.
- 1.3 This report should be read in conjunction with the following reports, which are available at: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan/minerals-waste-plan-partial-update-consultation/examination-library>:
 - (SD01) Submission Plan.
 - (MD05) Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications.
 - (HA14) HRA Revised Baseline and Methodology Report (September 2021) - Regulation 18 stage of Plan preparation.
 - (HA15) HRA Screening Report (August 2022) - Regulation 18 stage of Plan preparation.
 - (HA46) HRA Screening Report (Proposed Submission) December 2023 - Regulation 19 stage of Plan preparation.
 - (HA47) HRA Appropriate Assessment (Proposed Submission) October 2023 - Regulation 19 stage of Plan preparation.
 - (SD06) HRA Screening Report (Submission) July 2024 - Submission stage of Plan preparation.
 - (SD07) HRA Appropriate Assessment (Submission) July 2024 - Submission stage of Plan preparation.
 - (SD08) HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - Submission stage of Plan preparation.
 - (MD11) HRA Main Modifications Addendum (October 2025) - Post Hearings Main Modifications Consultation.

The updated Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan

- 1.4 Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Southampton City Council (the Hampshire Authorities) worked in partnership to prepare an update of the HMWP, which will guide minerals and waste decision-making in the Plan area.

- 1.5 The current HMWP was adopted in October 2013². The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires that Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they require updating at least once every five years³.
- 1.6 A second review of the 2013 HMWP in 2020 recommended updating the HMWP to reflect national policy changes, the Hampshire 2050 Vision for the Future, and to ensure that the Plan is delivering a steady and adequate supply of minerals and enabling sustainable waste management provision. It was subsequently decided by all partners that the HMWP would be subject to partial update. This is important as out of date plans limit the ability for planning authorities to enable the right development, in the right location, at the right time, and may lead to a greater number of planning applications determined at appeal.
- 1.7 During preparation it became apparent that the process had become a full update of the 2013 Plan. The updated HMWP will cover the period up to 2040 and, once adopted, will replace/supersede the currently adopted 2013 Plan.
- 1.8 Minerals and waste planning issues are most appropriately addressed jointly so that strategic issues can be satisfactorily resolved. The updated HMWP covers those geographical parts of the Hampshire Authorities that are within the Plan boundary (see Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1: Hampshire Authorities' administrative areas within Hampshire



² Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (2013) - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan>

³ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), Para. 33 - <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20231228093504/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

2. Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

Requirement for HRA

- 2.1 The need for HRA is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017⁴ (as amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019), commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations. The Regulations transpose two pieces of retained European law – Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive) and Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna (the Habitats Directive) – into domestic law.
- 2.2 The Habitats Regulations requires that:
- any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a National Site Network (NSN) site,
 - but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site,
 - either individually or in combination with other plans or projects,
 - shall be subject to an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of its implications for the NSN site,
 - in view of the site’s Network objectives⁵.
- 2.3 As the update of the HMWP is not directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management sites covered by the Habitats Regulations, and as it is a land use plan, it has been subject to HRA.
- 2.4 Regulations 105 to 109 of the Habitats Regulations require competent authorities to assess the effects of ‘land use plans’ on International sites where the plans are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of those sites. This requirement applies to Local Development Documents including Development Plan Documents) and, as such, this requirement applies to the update of the HMWP.
- 2.5 Under Regulation 105, the assessment must determine whether or not a plan will adversely affect the integrity of the International site(s) concerned, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Plans can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question.
- 2.6 Where effects on ecological integrity are identified, plan-makers must first consider alternative ways of achieving the plan’s objectives that avoid significant effects entirely. Where it is not possible to meet objectives through other means, mitigation measures that allow the plan to proceed by removing or reducing significant effects may be considered. If it is impossible to avoid or mitigate the adverse effect, the plan-makers must demonstrate, under the conditions of Regulation 107, that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest to continue with the proposal. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.

⁴ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made>

⁵ Management objectives for the national site network which contribute to the conservation of UK habitats and species that are also of pan-European importance, and to the achievement of their Favourable Conservation Status within the UK.

This is widely perceived as an undesirable position and should be avoided if at all possible.

- 2.7 HRA is undertaken by the Competent Authority, which is the authority that has legally delegated powers of authority under Regulation 7 of the Habitats Regulations. In the case of the HMWP Update, Hampshire County Council, New Forest National Park Authority, Portsmouth City Council, South Downs National Park Authority and Southampton City Council are the minerals and waste planning authorities (MWPA) for their respective parts of the Plan area, and as such are the competent authorities for this HRA.
- 2.8 Sites which must be considered in the HRA process include Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), both part of the national site network (NSN) and designated under the Habitats Regulations. 'Potential' or 'Possible' SACs (pSACs), 'Candidate' SACs (cSACs) and 'Potential' SPAs (pSPAs) (i.e., sites that have yet to be formally 'classified' as SPAs or 'designated' as SACs but are proposed as such) are also considered as NSN sites.
- 2.9 Ramsar sites (internationally important wetland habitats recognised under the Ramsar Convention) mostly overlie SPA classifications and SAC designations in the UK. The criteria for listing a site as a Ramsar site are different to those used for SPAs and SACs, but the Ramsar criteria are of equal importance for the ecological functioning and integrity of the relevant site. National planning policy⁶ requires that Ramsar sites are also assessed within HRA.
- 2.10 For the purposes of the HRA of the HMWP update, NSN sites and Ramsar sites, are collectively referred to as 'international sites'. Additionally, while the terminology relating to the designation, classification or listing of an international site varies depending on whether it is an SPA, SAC or Ramsar site, for the purposes of this HRA, 'designations' and 'designated' will be used to refer collectively to these terms.
- 2.11 HRA is an iterative process. The HRA has informed the preparation of the updated Plan throughout its preparation, including policy wording and site allocation selection. The HRA has also been informed by changes made to the draft Plan update. The HRA has also informed the preparation of the integrated Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), particularly in relation to SA Objective 3: Protect, maintain and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity including natural habitats, flora and fauna, and protected species.

HRA Methodology and Baseline

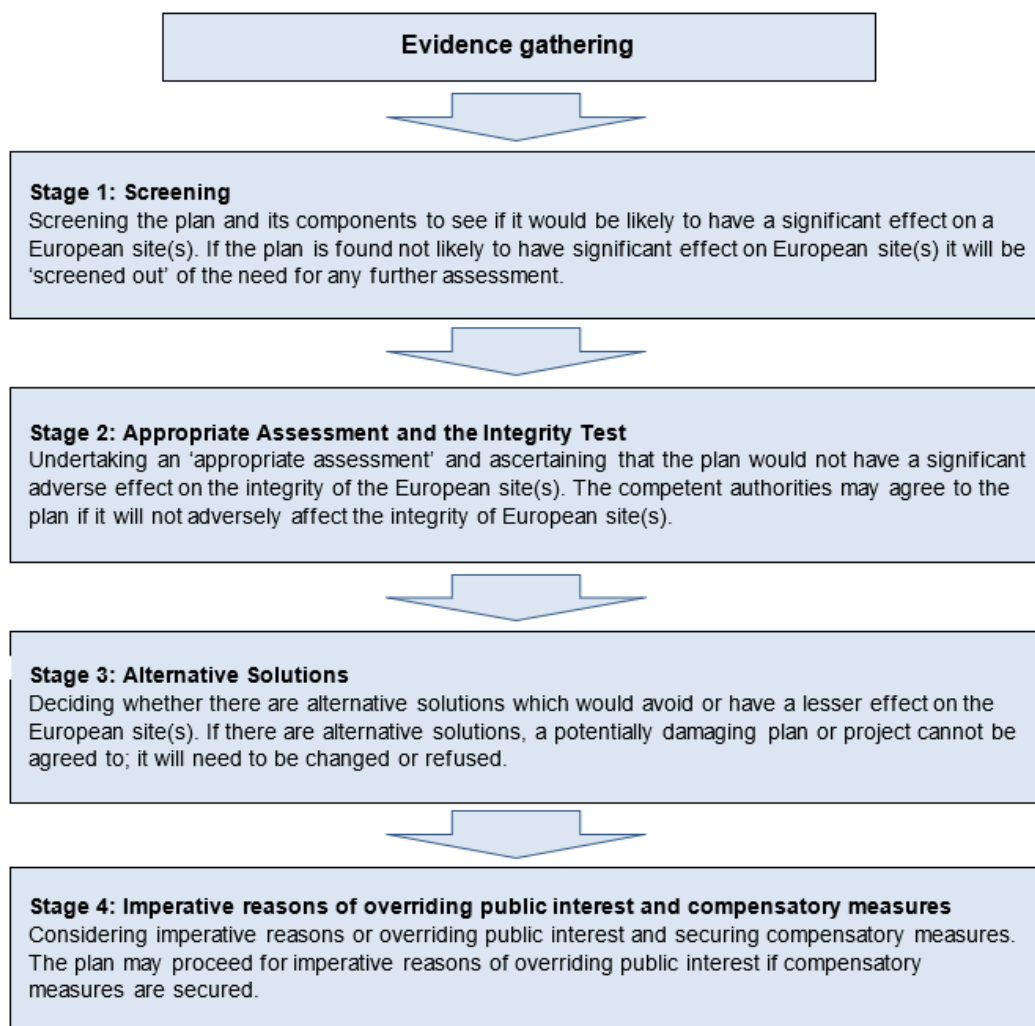
- 2.12 The methodological basis for the HRA of the HMWP update relating to the potential of effects on the integrity of international sites is provided in detail in the HRA Revised Baseline and Methodology Report⁷.

⁶ National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) December 2023 (para. 187) - <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20231228093504/https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁷ (HA14) HRA Revised Baseline and Methodology Report (September 2021) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRA-RevisedBaselineandMethodologyReport-September2021.pdf>

- 2.13 The HRA methodology, agreed with Natural England, utilised the guidance provided in The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook⁸. This guidance is non-statutory, but “based on experience, good practice and authoritative published guidance”. The handbook had been updated regularly and therefore provided the most up-to-date guidance on interpretation of the Habitats Regulations and the process of HRA at the time of undertaking this HRA (the handbook will be discontinued from January 2026).
- 2.14 The four-stage approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment set out in ‘The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook’ is summarised in Figure 2.1, below.

Figure 2.1: Four stage approach to HRA



Adapted from The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, www.dtapublications.co.uk
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- 2.15 In line with similar assessments, a buffer of 10km was applied around the Plan area to help identify International sites that may be affected by the update of the HMWP. This includes International sites lying partially or wholly within 10km of the Plan boundary. Using this buffer, it is evident that 30 International sites lie partially or wholly within Plan

⁸ Tyldesley, D. and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, October 2018 edition (DTA Publications Ltd: Berkshire) - www.dtapublications.co.uk

boundary and 13 International sites lie outside the Plan area but wholly or partially within the 10km buffer. An additional International site outside the 10km buffer area is also considered based on the screening requirements of relevant local plan policy. Table 2.1 lists all relevant sites, and the identified International sites are shown geographically in Figures 2.2 – 2.5, below.

Table 2.1: Relevant International sites

The following International sites were identified as being wholly or partly within the Plan area boundary:
<p><u>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Butser Hill • Dorset Heaths • East Hampshire Hangers • Emer Bog • Mottisfont Bats • River Avon • River Itchen • Salisbury Plain • Shortheath Common • Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons • Solent Maritime • The New Forest • Woolmer Forest <p><u>Special Protection Area (SPA)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Valley • Chichester and Langstone Harbours • Dorset Heathlands • New Forest • Porton Down • Portsmouth Harbour • Salisbury Plain • Solent and Dorset Coast • Solent & Southampton Water • Thames Basin Heaths • Wealden Heaths Phase II <p><u>Ramsar Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avon Valley • Chichester and Langstone Harbours • Dorset Heathlands • New Forest • Portsmouth Harbour • Solent & Southampton Water
The following International sites have been identified as being outside the Plan area but wholly or partly within a 10km buffer zone of the Plan area boundary:
<p><u>Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briddlesford Copses • Great Yews • Isle of Wight Downs • Kennet Valley Alderwoods

- Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain
- Kingley Vale
- Prescombe Down
- River Lambourn
- Rook Cliff
- South Wight Maritime
- Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham

Special Protection Area (SPA)

- Thursley, Hankley & Frensham Common

Ramsar Sites

- Thursley & Ockley Bogs

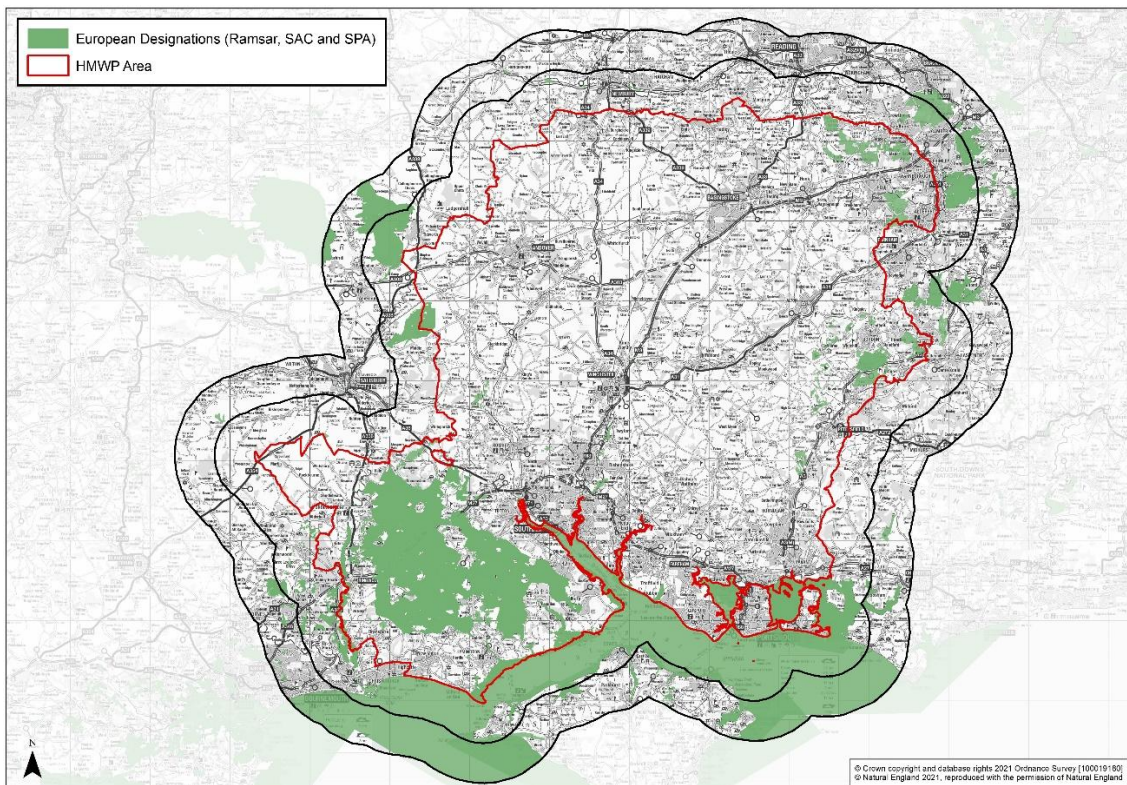
The following International site has been identified as being outside both the Plan area and 10km buffer zone of the Plan area boundary, but which requires consideration:

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

- Singleton and Cocking Tunnels

This SAC, designated for its bat populations, is 11.5km from the Plan area boundary. Policy SD10 of the South Downs National Park Local Plan includes the requirement to consider impacts up to 12km from the SAC, to protect both the SAC and the functionally-linked habitat around it. This is set out in more detail in the Draft Protocol⁹.

Figure 2.2: All International Designated sites (including Ramsar sites) that lie wholly or partly within the Plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)



⁹ Sussex Bat Special Area of Conservation Planning and Landscape Scale Enhancement Protocol. SDNPA and Natural England (unpublished draft): <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TLL-15-Draft-Sussex-Bat-SAC-Protocol.pdf>

Figure 2.3: Designated SAC (Special Area of Conservation) sites that lie wholly or partly within the Plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)

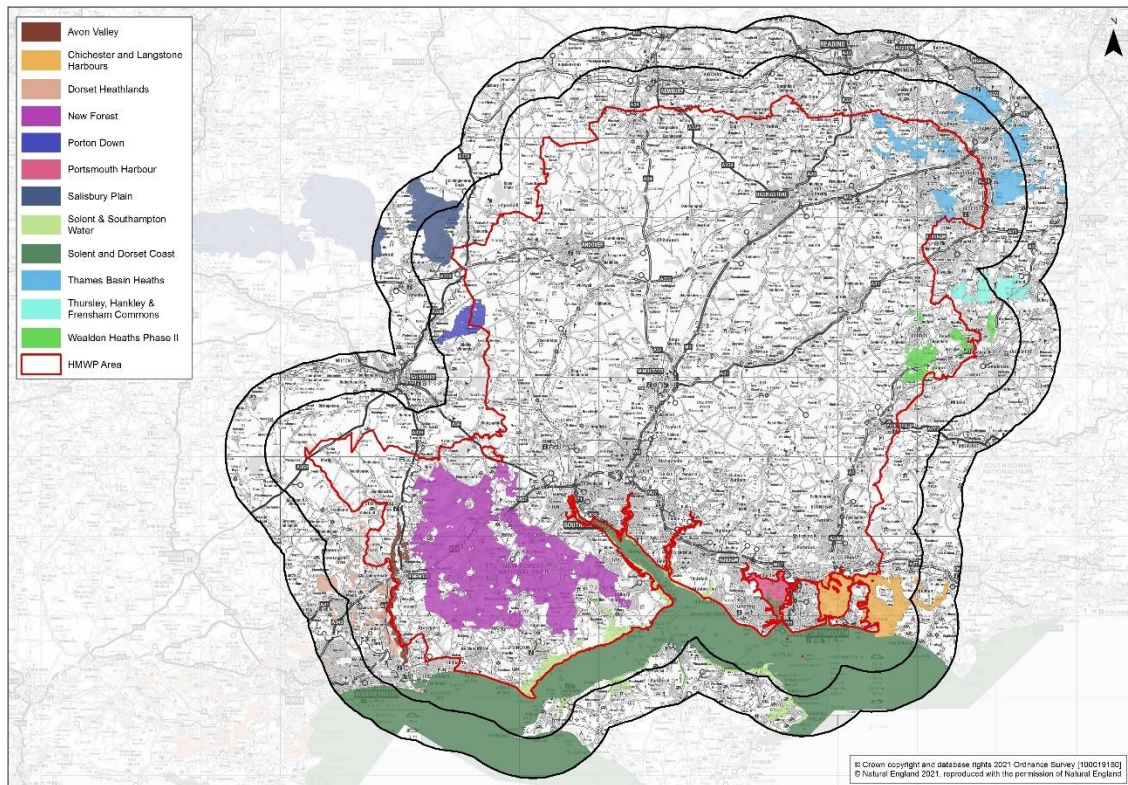


Figure 2.4: Classified SPA (Special Protection Area) sites that lie wholly or partly within the Plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)

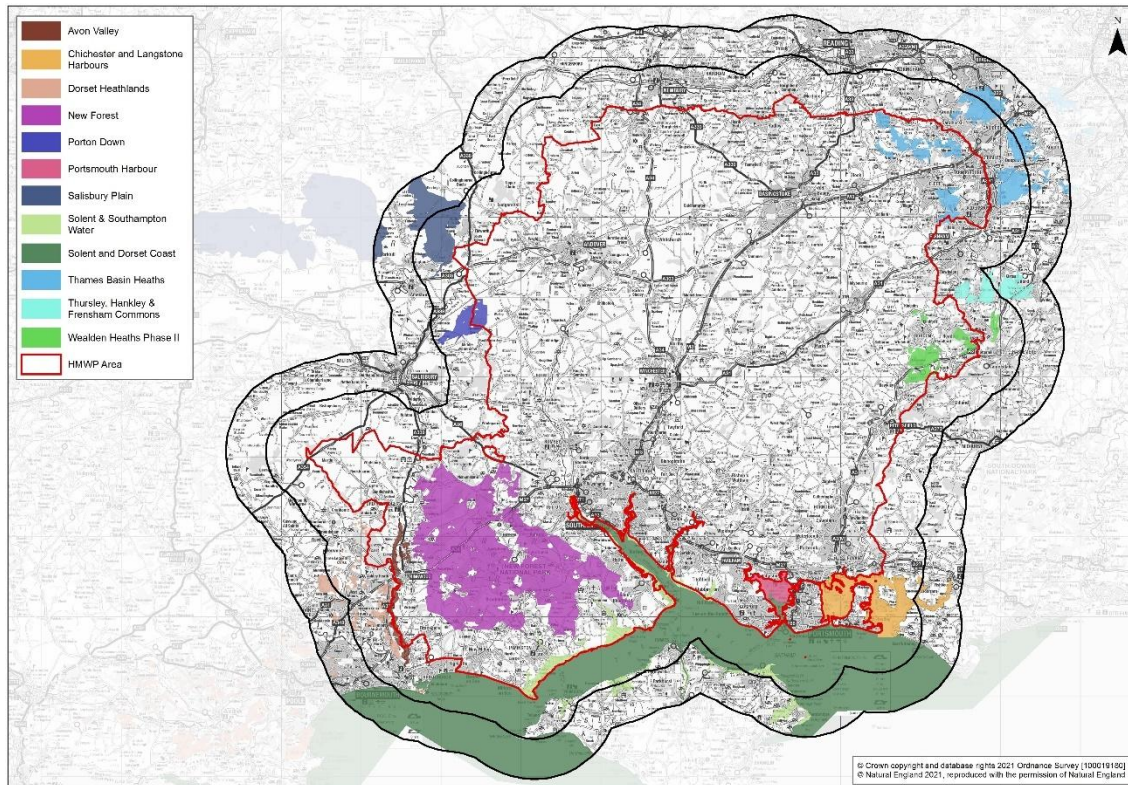
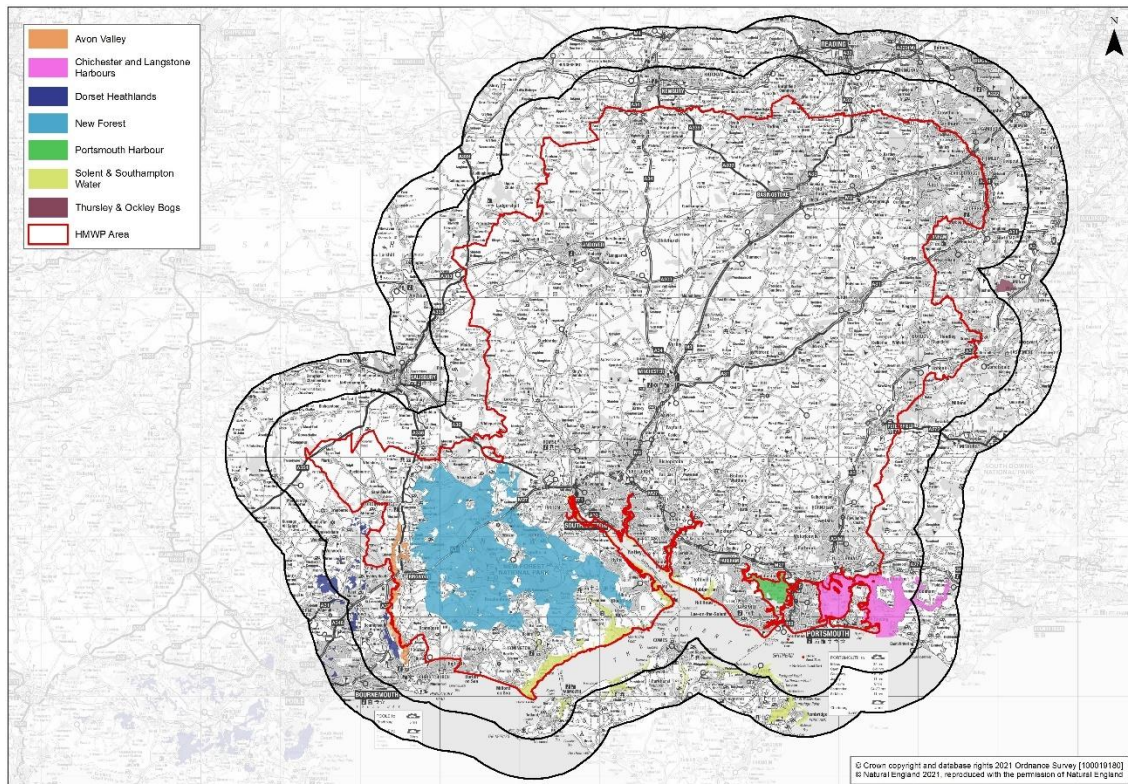


Figure 2.5: Listed Ramsar sites that lie wholly or partly within the Plan area and 10km buffer (a 5km buffer is also included for reference)



2.16 For each of the identified International sites, the Baseline and Methodology Report details the following information:

- Site description and locational information.
- International site Conservation Objectives.
- Component SSSI Units.
- European site condition (through SSSI Units).
- NSN site vulnerabilities and sensitivities.

2.17 Natural England, as the Statutory Nature Conservation Body, was formally consulted on Version 1 of the HRA Baseline and Methodology Report in June 2021 and their response is provided in Appendix 1. Their response states that “Natural England understands that the partial update of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan has the potential to affect Habitats (European) sites, particularly as it may allocate proposed sites for development. **We agree with the proposed methodology for assessing these impacts** and advise where likely significant effects are identified they are evaluated through a full Appropriate Assessment.”

2.18 Subsequently, the HRA Revised Baseline and Methodology Report (August 2022) was submitted, along with the HRA Screening Report (August 2022), Draft Plan and other documents, as part of the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation that ran for twelve weeks from 8 November 2022 to 31 January 2023. Natural England’s response to that consultation is provided in Appendix 2 and includes no further comments on the HRA Baseline and Methodology Report.

HRA Screening

- 2.19 Development management, minerals and waste policies and proposed site allocations were screened for their potential effects on the integrity of international sites both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects. Site integrity is defined as “the coherence of its structure and function across its whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was classified”¹⁰.
- 2.20 The screening process followed the HRA baseline and methodology agreed with Natural England, as set out in the HRA Revised Baseline and Methodology Report (August 2022). The screening process is detailed in the HRA Screening Report (Submission) July 2024¹¹.
- 2.21 The objective of this stage of the HRA was to ‘screen out’ elements of the Plan that were unlikely to have any significant effect on any international site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects; and to identify any aspects of the Plan that could have such an effect, so that mitigation measures can be considered at the next stage of HRA. Significant effect is defined as “...any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects”¹².
- 2.22 The following potential development hazards were identified and considered as part of the screening process for both minerals (M) and waste (W) activities:
- Land take (M&W).
 - Removal of supporting habitat (M&W).
 - Noise; vibration; lighting; dust; (M&W).
 - Water pollution (M&W).
 - Leachate (W).
 - Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology (M).
 - Water use (W).
 - Traffic (M&W).
 - Emissions of aerial pollutants / air quality (M&W).
 - Impact of building (W).
 - Litter; vermin (W).
 - Recreational displacement impacts (M&W).
- 2.23 To determine if site allocation proposals were likely to have any significant effects on international sites, the following issues were considered:

¹⁰ Paragraph 20 of ODPM Circular 06/2005 on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation.

¹¹ (SD06) HRA Screening Report (Submission) July 2024 -

<https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAScreeningReport-July2024.pdf>

¹² English Nature (1999) Habitats regulations HR3GN guidance note: The Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994. English Nature November 1999.

- Could the proposals affect the qualifying interest of the international site (is the site sensitive to the effect).
- The probability of the effect happening.
- The likely consequences for the site's Conservation Objectives (as defined by Natural England) if the effect occurred.
- The magnitude, duration and reversibility of the effect.

2.24 It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in-combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the international site(s) in question. It is neither practical nor necessary to assess the 'in-combination' effects of the Plan within the context of all other plans and projects within the region. Principal plans and projects considered as part of the screening of proposed minerals and waste site allocations, and listed individually in the HRA Screening Assessment (Submission) July 2024, include:

- Hampshire and neighbouring local authority Local Plans.
- Hampshire and neighbouring Local Transport Plans.
- Neighbouring Minerals and Waste Plans.
- Relevant Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

2.25 The decision-making process under the Habitats Regulations is underpinned by the precautionary principle, whereby the Competent Authorities (Hampshire Authorities) act to avoid potential harm in the face of scientific uncertainty. If it is not possible in a 'likely significant effect' test to rule out a risk of significant effect on a European site on the basis of available evidence, then it should be assumed a risk may exist and needs to be dealt with at the next stage of HRA. This precautionary approach was taken at all stages of the HRA assessment, where faced with scientific uncertainty.

2.26 Screening tables were used to systematically screen Policies and draft/proposed site allocations, which are set out in the aforementioned HRA Screening Reports.

2.27 When undertaking a screening assessment for an HRA, the 'People Over Wind' judgement (Sweetman Ruling)¹³ is of particular relevance, which ruled that mitigation cannot be taken into account when considering the screening test for Likely Significant Effects. If significant effects are considered likely a site or policy must, therefore, be screened-in for further consideration. This approach was followed for all stages of screening of the HMWP update.

2.28 The HRA Screening Report (August 2022) was provided for comment to statutory consultees, including Natural England, as part of the public 'Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation' that ran for twelve weeks from 8 November 2022 to 31 January 2023. In their response to the consultation (Appendix 2), Natural England stated, in relation to the Screening Report – "**Natural England concur with the impact pathways listed and discussed within the screening report.**" The HRA Screening Report (Proposed Submission) December 2023 was submitted as part of the Regulation 19 Consultation (Natural England's response to this consultation is provided in Appendix 3).

¹³ Court of Justice of the European Union - 12 April 2018 (Case C323/17).

Subsequently, the HRA Screening Report (Submission) July 2024 formed part of the HMWP update Submission to the Planning Inspectorate and subject to Examination in Public (EiP).

2.29 Of the 36 minerals and waste proposed allocation sites included with the Draft Plan at the Regulation 18 Consultation stage, twenty-four sites were screened in, as having the potential to have a likely significant effect on International sites, requiring further consideration in an Appropriate Assessment. Furthermore Policy 20: Local land-won aggregates and Policy 29: Locations and sites for waste management were also screened in for listing screened in sites¹⁴.

2.30 A number of proposed minerals site allocations and all waste site allocations were removed from the Draft Plan update just prior to and following the Regulation 18 Draft Plan Consultation. The reasons for those sites not being taken forward in the Proposed Submission Plan are set out in Table 7.1 of the HRA Screening Report (Submission)¹⁵, with more detailed reasoning provided in the Proposal Study¹⁶. Site allocations (mineral site allocations) taken forward in the Submission Plan are as follows:

- Hamble Airfield (EAL02)
- Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01)
- Purple Haze (NFD03)
- Midgham Farm (NFD04)
- Andover Sidings (TSV09)

2.31 Following re-screening for the Regulation 19 Consultation, Andover sidings was screened out with the other four sites screened in. In addition, Policy 20 continued to be screened in for referencing screened in sites, but Policy 29 was then screened out as no screened in waste site allocations had been taken forward.

HRA Appropriate Assessment

2.32 Following the Regulation 18 Consultation, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken for screened-in Policy 20 and the four screened in minerals site allocations, as follows:

- Hamble Airfield (EAL02)
- Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01)
- Purple Haze (NFD03)
- Midgham Farm (NFD04)

¹⁴ (HA15) HRA Screening Report (August 2022) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRA-ScreeningReport-August2022.pdf>

¹⁵ (SD06) HRA Screening Report (Submission) July 2024 - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAScreeningReport-July2024.pdf>

¹⁶ (HA53) Mineral and Waste Site Proposal Study (October 2023) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-SiteProposalStudy-ProposedSubmission-October2023.pdf>

- 2.33 The HRA Appropriate Assessment (Submission) report¹⁷ sets out the Appropriate Assessment process in detail. The Appropriate Assessment followed the HRA methodology agreed with Natural England, as set out in the HRA Revised Baseline and Methodology Report.
- 2.34 In assessing the effects of screened-in proposed site allocations, the Appropriate Assessment considered a number of assumptions relating to the following types of impacts, set out in Section 4 of the HRA Appropriate Assessment Submission Report:
- Physical damage / loss of habitat.
 - Indirect disturbance from noise, vibration and/or light pollution.
 - Changes to water levels and water quality, including nutrient neutrality.
 - Air pollution.
 - Dust.
 - Soil contamination.
 - Invasive species / vermin / litter.
 - Physical infrastructure.
 - Recreational displacement.
 - In-combination effects.
- 2.35 Potential effects tables (Tables 4.2 – 4.5 of the submission HRA Appropriate Assessment Report) were used to systematically assess the effects of proposed site allocations using mitigation/measures including relevant Development Considerations, Development Management Policies, HRA requirements, and Environment Agency permitting requirements. Further discussion is also included in relation to the consideration of the potential of in combination effects with other plans and projects. These tables, incorporating updates from the EiP Hearings and subsequent main modifications are presented in Appendix 4 of this document.
- 2.36 The Appropriate Assessment established the nature of the potential effects of screened-in site allocations on the integrity of international sites and concluded that the Submission Plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and would not result in likely significant effects on any International sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. For development coming forward on either the allocated sites or non-allocated sites, it is considered that there are sufficient mitigation and other measures set out in the Plan, or elsewhere, such as via planning proposal HRA requirements, regulatory requirements and development management processes.
- 2.37 Policy 20 was subject to Appropriate Assessment as a result of its reference to one or more screened-in sites. Based on the assessment's conclusion for screened-in site allocations, the policy was deemed not likely to have a significant effect on any international site either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.
- 2.38 It is a requirement of Regulation 105(2) of the Habitats Regulations that the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Body (Natural England) is consulted at the Appropriate

¹⁷ (SD07) HRA Appropriate Assessment (Submission) July 2024 - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAppropriateAssessment-July2024.pdf>

Assessment stage. The Appropriate Assessment report was provided to statutory consultees, including Natural England, for comment as part of the public 'Regulation 19 Proposed Submission Consultation' that ran for eight weeks from 9 January 2024 to 5 March 2024. Natural England's response to the Regulation 19 Consultation is set out Appendix 3.

HRA Air Quality Addendum

- 2.39 Natural England's response to the Regulation 19 Consultation stated that "We would expect the plan to address the impacts of air quality on the natural environment. In particular, it should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on European sites and SSSIs."
- 2.40 Furthermore, Natural England advise "that assessment, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, should be carried out in line with Natural England guidance that provides a simple step by step approach to assessing road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations. All designated sites that may be impacted by the affected road network within a reasonable buffer zone should be screened in for consideration under the Local Plan appropriate assessment."
- 2.41 Natural England considered that the "submitted Appropriate Assessment leaves much of the assessment of impacts to 'development considerations'. As the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority have not assessed these impacts themselves, or evidenced whether there is scope for appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures to be effectively secured, we currently have concerns that the sites may not be deliverable."
- 2.42 Natural England "advises that one of the main issues which should be considered in the plan and the ...HRA are proposals which are likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment." Natural England also stated "that ammonia (NH₃) from traffic emissions should also be assessed as the impact from this source on designated sites is currently unclear."
- 2.43 For Purple Haze specifically, Natural England stated that they "disagree that a complete list of impact pathways has been appropriately assessed for Likely Significant Effects under the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening report." Furthermore, "We advise that this allocation has the potential to adversely affect European designated sites from air quality impacts. Natural England recommend that your Plan must demonstrate its air quality modelling to robustly support any conclusions of no adverse effect on designated site integrity. Without this information, Natural England cannot agree with the Plan's Appropriate Assessment conclusions."
- 2.44 For Midgham Farm specifically, Natural England "recommend that your Plan must demonstrate its air quality modelling to robustly support any conclusions of no adverse effect on designated site integrity. Without this information, Natural England cannot agree with the Plan's Appropriate Assessment conclusions."

- 2.45 In view of these comments an HRA Air Quality Addendum¹⁸ was prepared in liaison with Natural England. The purpose of this assessment and report was to consider and document potential air quality effects from traffic impacts, more fully, on International sites and their component SSSIs that relate to the HMWP update for all four screened in site allocations, and address Natural England's relevant concerns.
- 2.46 The methodology, assumptions and thresholds employed in the air quality assessment and addendum, agreed with Natural England, are set out in the Addendum and will not be duplicated here.
- 2.47 The conclusion of the Addendum was that subject to the implementation of the relevant Development Management Policies, Development Considerations and appropriate mitigation measures, set out in the Addendum and in the Submission HRA Appropriate Assessment, the HMWP update site allocations could be developed for minerals extraction without being likely to have significant air quality effects on any International sites or component SSSI units, alone and in-combination with other plans and projects. Natural England agrees with this conclusion.
- 2.48 Following a meeting with Natural England on 12 June 2024, the revised HRA Air Quality Addendum was submitted to Natural England on 19 June 2024. An email was then received from Natural England on 24 June 2024 stating "We welcome the latest air quality addendum which is very much improved. Although some of the data is less relevant for designated sites impacts, based on the information provided and knowledge of the sites in question we can now agree with your overall conclusions that air quality impacts can be avoided for the Minerals and Waste Plan."
- 2.49 The outcome and conclusion of the HRA Air Quality Addendum reinforces the conclusion of the HRA Submission Appropriate Assessment that the Submission Plan is compliant with the Habitats Regulations and would not result in likely significant effects on any International sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.
- 2.50 Both the HRA Screening and Appropriate Assessment reports were updated with the additional outcomes documented in the final HRA Air Quality Addendum to ensure that all three reports were consistent and up to date prior to their submission with the Submission Plan to the Planning Inspectorate.

Additional Hydrological Information – Purple Haze

- 2.51 A further email was received from Natural England on 1 July 2024 which outlined the following: "We have made significant progress since the Reg 19 consultation and I'm really pleased that many areas of concern have now been addressed for the Plan. The only remaining area of concern for us is the hydrology at Purple Haze, as this factor still has potential to affect the deliverability of the site. As this is our only outstanding area of concern, we wouldn't usually question the soundness of the Plan at this stage, but would

¹⁸ (SD08) HRA Air Quality Addendum July 2024 - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

be satisfied with the Inspector determining whether the Plan gives sufficient certainty in effective delivery overall”

- 2.52 An updated draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) was sent to Natural England in April 2025 and comments were received. Natural England outlined its remaining area of disagreement as follows: “Natural England view that there remains significant uncertainty as to whether the Purple Haze site allocation could come forward without having adverse impacts on designated sites. Although there are many potential impacts on the environment from this allocation, the key current uncertainty lies in whether any mitigation would be capable of avoiding the potential hydrological impacts on designated site features. In Natural England’s view this brings into question whether this allocated site is deliverable.”
- 2.53 In order to progress the then planning application for Purple Haze and to inform the discussion on the site allocation, Hampshire County Council commissioned specialist hydrological advice. The advice concluded the following in relation to the site allocation¹⁹ : “A development that would reduce its extent to the southern part of the site and would keep the same “dry” working conditions (i.e. excavation to not reach the groundwater table), would remove all impacts, because no activities would interact with the hydrological and hydrogeological pathways to Ebblake Bog. The exact boundary delineation between the northern and southern part will depend on outcome of the additional investigations (i.e. understanding generated on “surface water runoff zones” and additional ground investigations), but would approximately correlate with the upper most limit of the southern mire feeding into Ebblake Bog...”
- 2.54 A meeting was held between Hampshire County Council (on behalf of the Hampshire Authorities) and Natural England on 20 August 2025 to discuss the specialist hydrological advice, and the Hampshire Authorities proposed response which included further amendments to the Development Considerations and additional Development Considerations. These amendments are outlined in Para. 3.11 of the SoCG²⁰ and were agreed by Natural England at the meeting as being suitable additions to address its remaining concerns on hydrology. The additional specialist hydrological advice was considered further at the EIP hearing of 9 September 2025.

Main Modifications

- 2.55 Proposed modifications were discussed at the Submission Plan Examination Hearings 4 February to 13 February 2025 and 9 September 2025 (Purple Haze allocation specific hearing). A list of Main Modifications were subsequently provided in the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications²¹.

¹⁹ (EX38) Technical Memo on hydrology at Purple Haze - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/EX38-Specialist-advice-on-PurpleHazehydrology-030725.pdf>

²⁰ (EX40) Statement of Common Ground between Hampshire Authorities and Natural England (28 August 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/EX40-NaturalEnglandStatement-of-CommonGround-280825.pdf>

²¹ (MD05) Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/MD05-HMWP-PartialUpdate-MainModifications.pdf>

- 2.56 The proposed Main Modifications were produced to address issues raised by the Inspector, or matters arising from representations through the Examination process, and are changes which, either alone or in combination with others, would materially alter the Plan or its policies.
- 2.57 The Main Modifications relate to the refinement of policy and supporting text to provide greater clarity or the updating of content where appropriate. These modifications do not influence the location, nature or scale of development, but instead add clarity, justification and additional detail in respect of policies and proposals previously included and subject to assessment.
- 2.58 An HRA of the Main Modifications was undertaken and presented as an HRA Addendum document²² to identify the potential of the Modifications to materially affect the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment and/or result in a significant effect on any of the identified international sites in respect of the following potential impacts:
- Direct land take and removal of supporting habitat.
 - Noise, vibration and lighting.
 - Emission of aerial pollution and particulates (including traffic related).
 - Water pollution and changes in surface / groundwater hydrology.
 - Impact of built development.
 - Traffic.
 - Recreational related impacts.
 - Invasive species, vermin and litter.
- 2.59 The assessment concluded that the proposed Main Modifications would not result in material changes to the Submission Plan from the perspective of the Habitats Regulations²³ and would not be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of any international site or component SSSI unit, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.
- 2.60 The HRA Main Modifications Addendum was provided to statutory consultees, including Natural England, as part of the Regulation 24 Main Modifications public consultation that ran for ten weeks from 4 December 2025 to 12 February 2026. In their response to the consultation, Natural England stated that “We welcome the revisions included in the Main Modifications consultation,... We also support the changes to the Purple Haze and Midgham Farm allocations, which appropriately reflect the agreements set out in the Statement of Common Ground dated 9 October 2025”. Natural England’s response in full, dated 12 February 2026, is provided in Appendix 5.

²² (MD11) HRA Main Modifications Addendum (October 2025) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/MD11-HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRA-MainModificationsAddendum.pdf>

²³ Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents>

2.61 The Inspector considered all comments received from the main modifications consultation and concluded that the updated HMWP is sound and can be adopted by the Hampshire Authorities, subject to making the modifications identified in the Schedule of Main Modifications. The Inspector's Report is available on the HMWP Examination Library²⁴.

²⁴ Examination Library - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/minerals-waste-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan/minerals-waste-plan-partial-update-consultation/examination-library>

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 In compliance with Regulation 105(1) of the Habitats Regulations, the Hampshire Authorities have, before the Plan is given effect, made an appropriate assessment of the implications of those components of the Plan that could potentially have a significant effect on the integrity of relevant international sites.
- 3.2 In compliance with Regulation 105(2), the Hampshire Authorities have, for the purposes of the assessment, consulted the appropriate nature conservation body (Natural England) and have had regard to its representations. These representations are set out in this document. The information included in the HRA and its conclusion are in accordance with the advice and recommendations of Natural England.
- 3.3 As required by Regulation 105(3), the Hampshire Authorities have taken the opinion of the general public, having provided the HRA for formal public consultation at various stages through plan preparation and have had regard to associated representations.
- 3.4 As required by regulation 105(4), the Hampshire Authorities have ascertained that the Plan update will not adversely affect the integrity of international sites, prior to giving it effect.
- 3.4 As required by Regulation 105(5), the Hampshire Authorities have provided comprehensive baseline information to support the HRA and documentation detailing all stages of the HRA process.
- 3.5 The Main Modifications required by the Planning Inspectorate following Examination in Public were subject to HRA followed by public consultation, and found to have no material effect on the conclusion of the Appropriate Assessment.
- 3.5 The HRA of the HMWP update concludes that the **updated Plan would not be likely to result in significant effects on the integrity of any international site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.** Natural England agrees with this conclusion.

Signed: 

(Laura McCulloch, Head of Spatial Planning, Hampshire County Council, on behalf of the Hampshire Authorities)

Date: 5 May 2026

Acronyms / initialisations

AA:	Appropriate Assessment
EiP:	Examination in Public
EU:	European Union
HMWP:	Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan
HRA:	Habitats Regulations Assessment
MWPA:	Minerals and waste planning authority
NPPF:	National Planning Policy Framework
NSN:	National site network
SEA:	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SA:	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC:	Special Area of Conservation
SPA:	Special Protection Area
SSSI:	Site of Special Scientific Interest

Glossary

Appropriate Assessment (AA)

A self-contained step in the wider decision-making process of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). An appropriate assessment is only required where the competent authority determines that the plan or project is likely to, or may, have a significant effect on a National Site Network (NSN) site or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and the plan or project is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site.

Competent Authority

A competent authority is any Minister, Government Department, public or statutory undertaker, public body of any description or person holding public office. Used in the Habitats Regulations to refer to the authority that is responsible for adopting, authorising or undertaking a plan or project.

Conservation Objectives

A statement of the nature conservation aspirations for a site, expressed in terms of the favourable condition that is sought for the species and/or habitats for which the site has been selected to attain.

Conservation Status

Four parameters are considered when assessing conservation status. For habitat these are range, area, structure and function (referred to as habitat condition) and future prospects. For species, the parameters are range, population, habitat (extent and condition) and future prospects. The Habitats Regulations define when the conservation status of the habitats and species it lists is to be considered as favourable.

Cumulative Impacts/Effects

Impacts/effects that result from the incremental changes caused by other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions together with the plan or project in question.

Development Plan Document (DPD)

Spatial planning documents which are subject to independent examination.

Favourable Condition

The condition represented by the achievement of the conservation objectives; the desired condition for a designated habitat or a species on an individual site.

Favourable Conservation Status

The conservation status of habitats and species is 'favourable' where all that is necessary to sustain the habitats and species in the long term is in place.

Habitats Directive

Abbreviated term for European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (1992). It is the aim of this Directive to promote the conservation of certain habitats and species within the European Union and is implemented in the UK through the Habitats Regulations.

Habitats Regulations

Abbreviated term for The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), which transposes the European Habitats Directive into UK legislation.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

As required by the Habitats Regulations, the identification of any aspects of an emerging plan or project that would have the potential to cause a likely significant effect on National Site Network (NSN) sites and Ramsar sites (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects), and to begin to identify appropriate mitigation strategies where such effects are identified (see also Appropriate Assessment).

Habitats Sites

Habitats Sites are protected areas in the UK (like SACs and SPAs) designated under the Habitats Regulations for rare species/habitats, forming the UK National Site Network after Brexit, replacing the EU's Natura 2000 network. This network, also including Ramsar sites, ensures legal protection for biodiversity, requiring rigorous assessments (Habitats Regulations Assessments) for any plans or projects potentially affecting them. Habitats Sites are referred to as international sites in this document, for consistency.

In-Combination Effect

Effects, which may or may not interact with each other, but which could affect the same receptor or interest feature (i.e. a habitat or species for which a European Site is designated).

Integrity (of a site)

The coherence of a site's ecological structure and function across its whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or levels of populations of the species for which it was classified.

Interest Feature

A natural or semi-natural feature for which an International site has been selected. This includes any Habitats Directive Annex I habitat, any Annex II species and any population of a bird species for which an SPA has been classified under the Birds Directive.

Local Development Documents (LDD)

Documents that form part of a statutory development plan (Development Plan Documents) or which amplify the policies of the statutory development plan (Supplementary Planning Documents).

Main Modifications

Following the Examination in Public (EIP) Hearings, the Planning Inspector required a number of changes to the Plan update, known as 'Main Modifications', which were considered necessary to address issues of soundness.

Mitigation

The process by which negative or harmful effects caused by a development are prevented or lessened by incorporating countermeasures into the design or operation.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

First published in March 2012, the NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

National Site Network (NSN)

Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SACs and SPAs in the UK no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The 2019 Regulations have created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. NSN sites along with Ramsar sites are

collectively referred to as Habitats Sites by government and are referred to as international sites in this document for consistency.

Natural England

A non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved. The body designates National Landscapes and National Parks, manages National Nature Reserves and notifies Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and is the Statutory authority with respect to the conservation/network objectives of the National Sites Network. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment.

Precautionary Principle

An approach which takes avoiding action based on the possibility of significant environmental or other damage, even before there is conclusive evidence that the damage will occur.

Ramsar Site (Wetland of International Importance)

An internationally important wetland site designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, Iran - 1971), especially as wildfowl habitat. As a matter of government policy, Ramsar sites are afforded the same protection as sites designated under the Habitats Regulations. The first Ramsar sites in the UK were designated in 1976.

Regulation 18 Consultation

Initial consultation stage of the preparation/review of a Local Plan under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Regulation 19 Consultation

Pre-submission publication representations stage of the preparation/review of a Local Plan under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

Screening (HRA)

Determination of whether a plan or project (or parts therein) are likely to have a likely significant effect on the integrity of International sites alone or in-combination with other plans or projects and therefore whether an Appropriate Assessment is necessary.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

A site designated by Natural England as an area of special interest by reason of any of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features and of national importance. SSSIs are legally protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Protected areas that are designated in England and Wales under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Regulations require the establishment of a network of important high-quality conservation sites (National Site Network), which includes SACs and SPAs. SACs are designated to make a significant contribution to conserving the habitats and species identified in Annexes I and II, respectively, of EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, known as the Habitats Directive.

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Protected areas that are classified in England and Wales under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Regulations require the establishment of a

network of important high-quality conservation sites (National Site Network), which includes SPAs and SACs. SPAs are selected to protect one or more rare, threatened or vulnerable bird species listed in Annex I of EU Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, known as the Birds Directive.

Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA)

A system of incorporating environmental considerations into policies, plans, programmes. It is intended to highlight environmental issues during decision-making about strategic documents such as plans, programmes and strategies. The SEA identifies the significant environmental effects that are likely to result from implementing the plan or alternative approaches to the plan. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Plan incorporates SEA. To be replaced in the future by Environmental Outcome Reports through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

A systematic process, required under Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. Its role is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. The SA for the HMWP update also incorporates SEA.

Appendix 1: Natural England Response to Baseline and Methodology Report Consultation

The following text is Natural England's response to a formal consultation of 'Version 1 – June 2021' of the HRA Baseline and Methodology Report:

Date: 28 June 2021
Our ref: 355329 & 355335



Hampshire Planning Policy
hmwp.consult@hants.gov.uk
Hampshire County Council
BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Hampshire Planning Policy,

Consultation: Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Partial Update. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping & Baseline Report and Habitats Regulation Assessment Baseline & Methodology Report.

Thank you for your consultations on the above documents which were received on the 1st June 2021.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

SA Scoping and Baseline Report

Relevant Plans and Programmes

Natural England has not reviewed the plans within the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. However, we advise that the following types of plans relating to the natural environment should be considered where applicable to your plan area;

- Green infrastructure strategies
- Biodiversity plans
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- Shoreline management plans
- Coastal access plans
- River basin management plans
- AONB and National Park management plans
- Relevant landscape plans and strategies

Designated Sites

At this stage we cannot identify particular sites which may be significantly affected by the Local Plan but suggest that the following designations, amongst others, are taken in to consideration when creating any future site allocations:

- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar Site
- National Park

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Site of 20 ha or more of best and most versatile agricultural land

Objectives and Indicators

We particularly emphasise the importance of considering the enhancement and restoration of biodiversity and landscapes, as well as its protection and that of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. Natural England is supportive of the appraisal criteria under SA3 and SA5 for these purposes. The monitoring indicators for SA3 could go further to reflect these criteria e.g. including the number of permitted applications which generate adverse effects on sites of environmental importance and those which contribute to an enhancement to the ecological network/habitat connectivity.

We note that the proposed monitoring indicators under SA15 may not reflect all potential impacts to the quality and extent of existing recreational assets which could be considered further, e.g. through considering informal footpaths and accessible spaces which may not be a Right of Way or in a current green/blue infrastructure strategy.

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Natural England understands that the partial update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan has potential to affect Habitats (European) sites, particularly as it may allocate proposed sites for development. We agree with the proposed methodology for assessing these impacts and advise that where likely significant effects are identified they are evaluated through a full Appropriate Assessment. The outcomes of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) should also inform future versions of the SA.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the HRA at future stages of the plan-making process, should the responsible authority seek our views on the subsequent stages.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Miranda Petty on Miranda.petty@naturalengland.org.uk or 02082 258045. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Miranda Petty
Thames Solent Team
Sustainable Development

Appendix 2: Natural England Response to Regulation 18 Consultation

Natural England's response to the Regulation 18 consultation relating to the Regulation 18 HRA Screening Report and HRA Baseline and Methodology Report is included below:

Date: 31 January 2023
Our ref: 412302
Your ref: N/A



HCC Minerals and Waste Policy Team
Minerals and Waste Planning Policy
hmwp.consult@hants.gov.uk

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Policy Team,

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Partial Update - Draft Plan Consultation 8 November 2022 to 31 January 2023

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 08 November 2022 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Below we set out our specific comments on the Plan's Vision, policies, site allocations and HRA Screening report.

Please note our objections to the Bramshill Quarry Extension and Purple Haze site allocations, covered further below.

Further detailed advice can be found within Annex 1 of this letter relating to several aspects of the Plan, including designated sites, biodiversity net gain, landscape, agri-environment schemes and soils.

Plan Vision

The Plan seeks to balance the needs of three main priorities including protection of the environment, maintenance of communities and supporting the County's economy. Natural England welcome the emphasis the Vision places on carbon-neutral minerals and waste development, to meet the Government target for net zero by 2050.

However we would encourage the Plan Vision to go beyond just the protection of the natural environment, to restoring and enhancing it. It should be stronger in its acknowledgement of the climate and ecological emergencies currently underway and recognise the important role of the natural environment to deliver measures that reduce the effects of climate change and enable nature recovery. The plan should take a strategic approach to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, including providing a net gain for biodiversity, considering opportunities to enhance and improve connectivity. Where relevant there should be linkages with the Biodiversity Action Plan, Local Nature Partnership, National Park/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plans, Rights of Way Improvement Plans, Green Infrastructure Strategies, and the Nature Recovery Network.

The Plan should have a clear aim to significantly and demonstrably improve the natural environment to ensure the needs of minerals and waste development are met sustainably.

With regard to the mapping in Figure 3 and Figure 7, we recommend that Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are added, or that a separate map is provided showing environmental designations clearly.

Policies

Policy 2: Climate change – mitigation and adaptation

Climate change is already impacting on nature and society in England. The projected scale and rate of climate change, coupled with existing environmental pressures, has serious implications for the natural environment and the services it provides to society. In response, many local authorities across England are formally declaring a climate change emergency and are now looking for practical steps to address it. The faster that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, the more the overall pressure on the natural environment will be reduced.

The Plan should consider climate change adaption and recognise the role of the natural environment to deliver measures to reduce the effects of climate change, for example tree planting to moderate heat island effects. In addition factors which may lead to exacerbate climate change (through more greenhouse gases) should be avoided (e.g. pollution, habitat fragmentation, loss of biodiversity) and the natural environment's resilience to change should be protected. Green Infrastructure and resilient ecological networks play an important role in aiding climate change adaptation.

Natural England welcome this policy that supports minerals and waste proposals that contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. It sets out several opportunities that can be utilised, including reductions in greenhouse gases and sustainable use of resources. However we strongly recommend the Policy also incorporates 'Nature-based solutions' as an essential tool in tackling climate change and its effects. These involve the restoration of ecosystems for the long-term benefit of people and nature. Examples include:

- Expansion of tree and woodland cover - to strengthen woodland habitat networks, protect soils, provide shade whilst capturing additional carbon from the atmosphere.
- Restoration and creation of [priority habitats](#) such as lowland meadows, lowland fens and rush pastures. This improves places where people live and recreate, protecting carbon stores and strengthening the nature recovery network.
- Natural floodplain management, through the use of tree planting, habitat creation and restoration, to alleviate flooding further downstream.
- Retrofitting of green and blue infrastructure such as trees and sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) in urban localities to address flood risk and heat island effects

We recommend the Plan ensures the following:

1. Identify, protect and plan to restore areas of peatland (shallow and deep peats, where present). Wherever possible this should include consideration and management of the catchment areas that support the peatland.
2. Identify opportunities to increase tree and woodland cover consistent with the UK target. Wherever possible, this should provide multi-functional benefits. Planting on peatlands and other open priority habitats must be avoided.
3. Identify areas where nature-based solutions can provide benefits to people whilst reducing climate change vulnerability in the natural environment.

4. Identify habitats and protected sites that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and consider how the Plan can reduce these vulnerabilities.

Natural England has published a range of resources to help with the recommended actions; please see links listed under Annex 2 of this letter. Natural England would be happy to advise further on this aspect of the Plan update as it progresses.

Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species

Natural England welcome this policy.

With regard to paragraph 4.28 of the Draft Plan, it should be made clear that where adverse effects on integrity of Habitats sites (SPAs or SACs) cannot be ruled out, development can only proceed where it can be demonstrated that all 3 legal tests for a [derogation under the Habitats Regulations](#) have been satisfied i.e. no alternative solutions, imperative reasons of overriding public interest and necessary compensatory measures have been secured (with regard to compensatory measures, these would have to be implemented and functioning prior to any habitat loss or damage as a result of a proposal). This process is discussed in more detail further below.

Please see further detailed advice on biodiversity net gain within Annex 1.

Policy 8: Water resources

It is recommended the Policy title refers to water quality as well as resource.

The Policy rightly outlines that nitrogen and phosphorus in Hampshire's water environment are current significant challenges. The Policy should recognise that the River Avon and the River Itchen within Hampshire are both designated SACs that are currently suffering from nutrient enrichment and require nutrient neutrality from new development. Additionally, much of Hampshire also lies within the catchment for the Solent coastal marine sites including Solent and Southampton Water SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPAS and Solent Maritime SAC. The River Test SSSI and other water bodies across the County may also be sensitive to the impacts of nutrient enrichment.

Minerals and waste development may disturb and mobilise nutrients locked within the soil or add to nutrient levels through construction and operational processes. Therefore the Plan should ensure that impacts of nutrients on the designated sites are assessed and avoided/mitigated where appropriate.

Policy 9: Protection of Soils

We welcome that the protection of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)) and for soils as a resource for the future is reflected in this policy. Policy 9 should also include specific reference to mitigation measures for the protection of soils in the Defra [Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites](#) and the Institute of Quarrying [Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils](#). Mitigation should aim to minimise soil disturbance and to retain as many ecosystem services as possible through careful soil management during the construction process and appropriate soil re-use.

Please see further advice relating to soils under the Soil, Agricultural Land Quality and Reclamation section within Annex 1.

Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments

We advise that the Policy itself better reflects biodiversity priorities of the Plan, in particular including a link to environmental net gain and Policy 3. The after-use of sites should be designed and implemented specifically for **public** benefit.

With regard to soils, Policy 10 should reflect the need to restore BMV agricultural land back to its original land quality as an important consideration. The Policy should safeguard the long term capability of BMV agricultural land by providing for development on lower quality agricultural land wherever possible. Appropriate aftercare should also be included under this policy. Please see further advice under the Soils section within Annex 1.

Site allocations

Ashley Manor farm

The proposed development in this location could have potential significant effects on the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) in relation to potential SPA bird use of the site at high tide for foraging/roosting. We recognise that the allocation site lies outside of the current mapped [Solent Wader and Brent Goose network](#), which aims to identify, maintain and protect a network of sites within the Solent area that are regularly used by the designated overwintering birds of the Solent Special Protection Areas (SPAs). However, given the development size, its proximity to the to the Solent coastline and the mobile nature of the designated species, we would recommend that evidence is gathered at this site to determine any usage by overwintering bird species. Mitigation may need to be provided in line with the SW&BGS mitigation [guidance](#).

The allocation site also comprises best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (specifically Grades 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)). Please refer to our advice on Soil, Agricultural Land Quality and Reclamation within Annex I regarding soil handling and management.

Bramshill Quarry extension - OBJECTION

Natural England **objects** to this site allocation. We advise that the proposal is likely to adversely affect a significant area of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, designated for supporting breeding European nightjar, Dartford warbler and Woodlark. Within this SPA the principal habitats supporting these qualifying species are lowland heathland and rotationally managed coniferous plantation woodland. We note that the HRA screening report classes this proposal as within category C2 (indirect effects) when clearly the proposed allocation would steer development directly onto an international site, the definition of category C1, which brings into question the soundness of this screening process and its relationship to the partial update of the Plan.

The proposed allocation also forms the majority of Unit 6 and part of Unit 13 of the Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the proposals are likely to harm features of the SSSI including breeding bird assemblages of the species listed above, lowland heathland and invertebrate assemblages. Unit 6 of the SSSI was last assessed in 2021 as 'Unfavourable recovering' for lowland heath and invertebrate assemblage features. The area was clear-felled around 12 years ago and these capital works were followed by ongoing restoration work for open heathland habitat under Higher Level Stewardship, enabling a 'vast improvement in site condition since...2013'. All three SPA birds have been recorded using the area. In particular, the blocks of gorse are at a height and density valuable to breeding and over wintering Dartford warbler.

Various impact pathways on the designated site are identified and explored below.

- Direct habitat loss

The policy outlines a requirement to exclude and buffer the Hartford Bridge Flats management area. The extent of this area is not defined, but if it is the area outside the Forest England holding – Unit 6 of the SSSI as described above – then it comprises over half of the proposed allocation area, which begs the question why this area is included within the allocation boundary. Notwithstanding this, the impacts of works will still lead to extensive habitat loss within the SPA. The timeframes for such losses is not detailed within the policy or supporting information, although the Plan covers the time period up to 2040. However, past experience shows us that mineral extraction proposals of this type and size can span decades, often being extended beyond their original intended lifetime.

We consider the timeframe and scale of losses would be significant, in particular through destruction of supporting habitat, disturbing and displacement of SPA birds, with potential consequences for the breeding success of the populations, across the site over the lifetime of the project. No information currently appears to support the Policy with regard to how direct and indirect impacts will be appropriately avoided or mitigated.

We note the Policy requirement to 'ensure no net loss of foraging and breeding areas used by the SPA birds'. No detail is provided as to how this approach will be implemented to ensure adverse effects can be avoided. It is Natural England's advice that any proposal to create new habitat (including habitat translocation, habitat conversion and/or habitat banking) within a Habitat Site's boundary specifically to 'mitigate' for a predicted loss of SAC or SPA habitat (with regard to HRA) would be a compensatory measure, rather than mitigation. Thus we would question the soundness of a policy that allowed mineral development within an SPA based on no net loss.

The Forestry England [Forest Design Plan](#) for the area shows that much of the plantation within the southern part of the allocation site appears to be outlined for clear fell across different periods between 2017 to beyond 2046. Some of the land also is shown to fall under a Section 106 with long term plans for open habitat, suggesting this area may have been secured as mitigation land, presumably related to the existing adjacent quarry. If this is the case, then this land clearly should be safeguarded. With regard to plans for restoration of heathland habitat on minerals sites, it is important to note that its success is not guaranteed. Past experience of similar scenarios elsewhere shows us that removal of the habitat and its underlying geology means it is unlikely the habitat can be replaced like for like. Restored habitats are usually more prone to scrub and tree invasion; the structure and function of such habitats usually differ to the original. This introduces uncertainty about the future value of restored habitats to SPA birds and condition of heathland communities particularly over the long term.

In light of this, we consider the works would be contrary to the [conservation objectives](#) for the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, in particular to maintaining or restoring the structure and function of supporting habitats to SPA features, and the supporting processes on which those habitats rely, which are intrinsically linked to the supporting geology.

- Recreational disturbance

The proposed works may cause displacement of existing recreational use at the site into more sensitive areas across the protected sites, with potential harmful consequences to breeding SPA birds. This aspect will require further work to ascertain the current level of use, potential impact from its displacement, and any corresponding scope for mitigation.

- Changes in hydrology

Detailed consideration will be required of the potential significant implications the works may have on qualifying features and supporting habitat either onsite or within the surrounding designated site(s) by affecting the surface and/or groundwater hydrology/geohydrology regime.

- Pollution events and biosecurity threats

Further consideration will be required of noise, visual, vibrational, water and air pollution impacts from construction and operational activities. The proposal also poses potential biosecurity threats through spread of invasive non-native species or disease.

Assessment under the Habitats Regulations

Likely significant effect

The Plan is supported by an HRA Screening report that identifies this site allocation would appear to require the direct partial loss of Thames Basin Heaths SPA and therefore likely significant effects

cannot be excluded. Unless it is removed at this early stage, we advise that the allocation is taken forward for consideration within an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations, where the full significance of the impact on the site's integrity, alone or in combination with other plans/projects, should be further tested in view of the [site's conservation objectives](#).

Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate assessments cannot have lacunae and must contain complete, precise and definitive findings and conclusions capable of removing all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the works proposed on the protected site concerned. Complete information is required to ensure that the plan or proposal will not affect the integrity of the international sites.

Further guidance is available to competent authorities at Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a European site - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) and to planning authorities at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>.

Natural England is a statutory consultee on the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA process, and a competent authority should have regard for Natural England's advice.

Implications for the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan partial update

Natural England consider the Bramshill Quarry Extension site allocation is contrary to the Habitats Regulations objective to protect Habitats Sites, due the extent and magnitude of the direct habitat losses as a result of the development. We find it hard to see how an appropriate assessment could come to any other conclusion than that the proposal would result in a significant adverse effect on the integrity of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

Where adverse effects on integrity of an SPA cannot be ruled out, a plan or project can only proceed where it can be demonstrated that all 3 legal tests for a [derogation under the Habitats Regulations](#) have been passed.

The site allocation would also damage or destroy the interest features for which Castle Bottom to Yateley and Hawley Commons SSSI has been notified.

It is considered the policy would not meet several requirements of the revised National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021), in particular the following paragraphs:

174. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*
- b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;*
- c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;*
- d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;*
- e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil,*

air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; ...

175. Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.

179. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:

b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.

As you are aware, the Plan and its allocation sites must be both legally compliant and sound. The NPPF sets out four tests of soundness including:

a) Positively prepared – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs²¹; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;

b) Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

c) Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and

d) Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in this Framework and other statements of national planning policy, where relevant.

Overall it is Natural England's view that it would be very difficult for the Plan to demonstrate it is **Justified** and **Consistent with national policy** where this allocation policy is taken forward for progression.

Natural England objects to the Bramshill Quarry Extension site allocation. We strongly recommend that alternative options are sought to meet mineral needs within the County that are less environmentally damaging and more sustainable.

Purple Haze - OBJECTION

Since the adoption of the original Plan, a planning application has come forward for works at Purple Haze, with supporting information that enabled further consideration of the environmental implications of the development. Based on this information, Natural England objected to the application. The reasons for this objection still stand and remain pertinent to our advice for the proposed site allocation within the current Plan partial update, discussed below.

- Hydrological impacts

Natural England retain serious concerns that the proposal may have adverse effects on the natural hydrological regime of Ebblake Bog which forms part of the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, also designated as SSSI.

Ebblake Bog is an acid mire in the upper valley of the Moors River. It has developed on a section of the river valley that has a poor hydraulic gradient and permitted the accumulation of relatively deep peat. Valley mires are rare habitats in lowland England, being confined mainly to the New Forest and the Poole Basin, with a few outlying sites elsewhere. The habitat is now internationally scarce, and the few relatively undamaged mires, of which Ebblake Bog is one, thus assume special nature conservation importance.

The HRA Screening Report rightly screens this policy into the forthcoming appropriate assessment, where the full significance of the impact on the site's integrity, alone or in combination with other plans/projects, should be further tested in view of the site's conservation objectives. The appropriate assessment must show whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the site from the proposal can be ruled out or not. Robust hydrogeological evidence will be required to inform the assessment.

- Functionally linked land to Habitats sites

Natural England advise that the proposal is likely to adversely affect a significant area of Ringwood Forest which support breeding and foraging Annex 1 birds that are the basis of the Dorset Heathland SPA designation. The area has been identified by RSPB as an Important Bird Area, supporting a population of nightjar which is significant on a national scale which is contiguous with several sites within the SPA. Significant loss of habitat used by nightjar close to the SPA may have effects on the overall SPA population. The functional linkage for SPA birds will therefore require consideration.

Additionally, further functional linkages are possible between the application site and the Dorset Heaths SAC concerning typical species of the SAC (see NE supplementary advice to the [conservation objectives](#)) such as rare reptiles and invertebrates. These will need to be assessed.

- Recreational disturbance

The proposed works may cause displacement of existing recreational use at the site into surrounding protected sites that support features sensitive to recreational disturbance. This aspect will require further work to ascertain the current level of use, potential impact on sites from its displacement, and any corresponding scope for mitigation.

The development considerations for this policy include the protection of the Dorset Heathland SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, the Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site and the River Avon SAC. We advise that the **New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar is also included** with respect to potential displacement of recreation into those sites.

- Protected species

Natural England understands that the site is considered to be of national importance for rare reptiles (sand lizard and smooth snake). In these circumstances the loss of this site should be given a high degree of weight in its own right as well as contributing to the overall ecological interest of the application site. The implementation of the proposal would be dependent on the receipt of a license from Natural England in order to prevent the contravention of statutory protections of these reptiles and their habitats under the Habitat Regulations. In order to grant the requisite licenses Natural England would need to be satisfied, amongst other criteria, that favourable conservation status for each species was maintained.

- Irreplaceable habitats

We consider the wet heath and wet/heath mire transitions within the application site should be viewed as irreplaceable habitat (NPPF definition; 'Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity'). Drier heathland within the application site could also come into the same category because of the species diversity that it supports. Policy in the

NPPF (180 c.) is that development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.

The Triangle

Page 86 of the [JCEB Minerals Proposal Study June 2018 FINAL \(hants.gov.uk\)](#) states only the Provisional ALC Grade. Post 1988 data is however available for this site at [Agricultural Land Classification detailed Post 1988 ALC survey, Romsey, The Triangle Ridge \(Hants Minerals Site 8\) - ALCR21293 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#).

Please refer to further advice on soils and BMV land under Annex 1.

Yeatton Farm

As with Ashley Manor Farm above, the proposed development in this location could have potential significant effects on the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) in relation to potential SPA bird use of the site at high tide for foraging/roosting. Again, we would recommend that evidence is gathered at this site to determine any usage by the designated overwintering bird species. Mitigation may need to be provided in line with the SW&BGS mitigation guidance.

The allocation site also comprises Grades 2 and 3a BMV agricultural land. Please refer to our advice on Soil, Agricultural Land Quality and Reclamation within Annex I regarding soil handling and management.

Additionally, our systems show the site supports good quality semi-improved grassland priority habitat. The Policy should ensure impacts on priority habitats are appropriately addressed in line with your duties and obligations under relevant legislation and national policy (see advice on priority habitats and biodiversity net gain under Annex I).

Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report

Natural England concur with the impact pathways listed and discussed within the screening report. Please see our advice on aspects such as water quality and resources, air quality under Annex I. We look forward to receiving the draft Appropriate Assessment of the Plan.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me.

Should you wish to discuss the issues described within this letter and scope for mitigation with Natural England, we would be happy to provide advice through our [Discretionary Advice Service](#).

Please consult us again once the information requested above, has been provided.

Yours sincerely

Becky Aziz
Senior Advisor Sustainable Development
Thames Solent Area Team
Natural England

Annex 1

Designated sites

The Local Plan should set criteria based policies to ensure the protection of designated biodiversity and geological sites. Such policies should clearly distinguish between international, national and local sites¹. Natural England advises that all relevant Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), European sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protect Areas) and Ramsar sites² should be included on the proposals map for the area so they can be clearly identified in the context of proposed development allocations and policies for development. Designated sites should be protected and, where possible, enhanced.

The Plan partial update should be screened under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) at an early stage so that outcomes of the assessment can inform key decision making on strategic options and development sites. It may be necessary to outline avoidance and/or mitigation measures at the plan level, which will usually need to be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment, including a clear direction for project level HRA work to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of internationally designated sites. It may also be necessary for plans to provide policies for strategic or cross boundary approaches, particularly in areas where designated sites cover more than one Local Planning Authority boundary.

Natural England would welcome early discussion on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the plan and can offer further advice as policy options are progressed.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The Plan should set out a strategic approach, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity. There should be consideration of geodiversity conservation in terms of any geological sites and features in the wider environment.

A strategic approach for networks of biodiversity should support a similar approach for green infrastructure (outlined below). Planning policies and decisions should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment, as outlined in para 170 of the NPPF. Plans should set out the approach to delivering net gains for biodiversity.

Priority habitats, ecological networks and priority and/or legally protected species populations

The Plan should be underpinned by up to date environmental evidence. This should include an assessment of existing and potential components of local ecological networks. This assessment should inform the Sustainability Appraisal, ensure that land of least environment value is chosen for development, and that the mitigation hierarchy is followed and inform opportunities for enhancement as well as development requirements for particular sites.

Priority habitats and species are those listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Further information is available here: [Habitats and species of principal importance in England](#). Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) identify the local action needed to deliver UK targets for habitats and species. They also identify targets for other habitats and species of local importance and can provide a useful blueprint for biodiversity enhancement in any particular area.

Protected species are those species protected under domestic or European law. Further information can be found here [Standing advice for protected species](#). Sites containing watercourses, old buildings,

¹ International sites include: Special Protection Areas (SPAs); Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites¹. National sites include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) Local sites include wildlife Sites or geological sites (a variety of terms are in use for local sites).

² The following wildlife sites should also be given the same protection as European sites: potential SPAs, possible SACs, listed or proposed Ramsar sites and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites

significant hedgerows and substantial trees are possible habitats for protected species.

Ecological networks are coherent systems of natural habitats organised across whole landscapes so as to maintain ecological functions. A key principle is to maintain connectivity - to enable free movement and dispersal of wildlife e.g. badger routes, river corridors for the migration of fish and staging posts for migratory birds. Local ecological networks will form a key part of the wider Nature Recovery Network proposed in the 25 Year Environment Plan. Where development is proposed, opportunities should be explored to contribute to the enhancement of ecological networks.

Planning positively for ecological networks will also contribute towards a strategic approach for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of green infrastructure, as identified in paragraph 171 of the NPPF.

Where a plan area contains irreplaceable habitats, such as ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees, there should be appropriate policies to ensure their protection. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced [standing advice](#) on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees.

We advise consultation with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC) for information and advice about Local Sites of geodiversity and biodiversity interest, e.g. SINC.s.

Biodiversity net gain

The Environment Act 2021 requires Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as a mandatory condition of planning permission from November 2023. A Biodiversity Gain Plan will need to be submitted by developers to set out the strategy for achievement of BNG for development proposals, including metric calculations as well as information not captured in the metric e.g., species factors; habitat management plans; how biodiversity net gains will be managed and maintained. The key requirements of mandatory BNG are set out below:

- A minimum of 10% BNG
- Developers must use the statutory metric to be produced and published by the Secretary of State (SoS) for Defra to calculate gains and/or losses of habitat
- BNG can be delivered on-site or off-site as units, or as a last resort via the statutory credits system, currently under development.
- Land delivering off-site BNG will be required to be formally registered on the national Biodiversity Gain Site register, currently under development.
- Land delivering habitats for BNG will have to be legally secured and maintained for a minimum of 30 years.

Further guidance on mandatory BNG and how it will be implemented will soon be available via the Government response to the recent BNG Regulations and Implementation consultation, the SoS Metric consultation response and draft Statutory Instruments, due early 2023.

We welcome the requirement within Policy EN2 for development to achieve 10% net gain for biodiversity, in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 and national guidance. BNG will form a key tool in delivering nature's recovery and is also fundamental to health and wellbeing, as well as creating attractive and sustainable places to live and work in.

We recommend a separate standalone policy for BNG is developed that aligns as closely as possible with the requirements of the Environment Act and anticipated framework for mandatory net gain, and that it is updated as necessary with the forthcoming guidance.

The Plan's approach to BNG should be compliant with the mitigation hierarchy, as outlined in paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Policies and decisions should first consider options to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity from occurring. When avoidance is not possible, impacts should be mitigated and finally, if there is no alternative, compensation should be provided for any remaining impacts. BNG should be additional to any habitat creation required to mitigate or compensate for impacts. It is also important to note that net gains can be delivered even

if there are no losses through development.

The policy should ensure that BNG is not applied to irreplaceable habitats and should also make clear that any mitigation and/or compensation requirements for designated sites should be dealt with separately to BNG provision.

Natural England will be happy to support Hampshire County Council on this aspect of the Plan as it progresses.

- Wider environmental gains

Your authority should consider the requirements of the NPPF (paragraph 8, 73, 104, 120, 174, 175 and 180) and seek opportunities for wider environmental net gain wherever possible. This can be achieved by considering how policies and proposed allocations can contribute to wider environment enhancement, help adapt to the impacts of climate change and/or take forward elements of existing green infrastructure, open space or biodiversity strategies. Opportunities for environmental gains, including nature-based solutions to help adapt to climate change, might include:

- Identifying opportunities for new multi-functional green and blue infrastructure
- Managing existing and new public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g., by sowing wildflower strips) and climate resilient. O'Sullivan et. al (2017) provide a useful example of cost-effective, low-maintenance management for species-rich grassland on road verges and the value they can contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Planting trees, including street trees, characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape
- Improving access and links to existing greenspace, identifying improvements to the existing public right of way network, or extending the network to create missing footpath or cycleway links
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g., a hedgerow or stone wall or clearing away an eyesore)

Any habitat creation and/or enhancement as a result of the above may also deliver measurable BNG.

Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure refers to the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. It is often used in an urban context to provide multiple benefits including space for recreation, access to nature, flood storage and urban cooling to support climate change mitigation, food production, wildlife habitats and health & well-being improvements provided by trees, rights of way, parks, gardens, road verges, allotments, cemeteries, woodlands, rivers and wetlands.

Green infrastructure is also relevant in a rural context, where it might additionally refer to the use of farmland, woodland, wetlands or other natural features to provide services such as flood protection, carbon storage or water purification.

A strategic approach for green infrastructure is required to ensure its protection and enhancement, as outlined in para 171 of the NPPF. Green Infrastructure should be incorporated into the plan as a strategic policy area, supported by appropriate detailed policies and proposals to ensure effective provision and delivery. Evidence of a strategic approach can be underpinned by Green Infrastructure Strategy. We encourage the provision of green infrastructure to be included as a specific policy in the Plan or alternatively integrated into relevant other policies, for example biodiversity, green space, flood risk, climate change, reflecting the multifunctional benefits of green infrastructure.

Soil, Agricultural Land Quality and Reclamation

The Minerals and Waste Plan should give appropriate weight to the roles performed by the area's

soils. These should be valued as a finite multi-functional resource which underpins our well-being and prosperity. Decisions about minerals development and restoration should take full account of the impact on soils, their intrinsic character and the sustainability of the many ecosystem services they deliver.

1. The [25 Year Environment Plan](#) (25YEP) sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health, including highlighting the need to:
 - protect the best agricultural land
 - put a value on natural capital, including healthy soil
 - ensure all soils are managed sustainably by 2030
 - restore and protect peatland
2. Soil is a finite resource which plays an essential role within sustainable ecosystems, performing an array of functions supporting a range of ecosystem services, including storage of carbon, the infiltration and transport of water, nutrient cycling, and provision of food. In order to safeguard soil resources as part of the overall sustainability of the development, it is important that the soil resource is able to retain as many of its important functions as possible. This can be achieved through careful soil management and appropriate, beneficial soil re-use, with consideration on how any adverse impacts on soils can be avoided or minimised.
3. The conservation and sustainable management of soils is reflected in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF), particularly in paragraphs 174, 175 and 210. When planning authorities are considering land use change, the permanency of the impact on soils is an important consideration. Particular care over planned changes to the most potentially productive soil is needed, for the ecosystem services it supports including its role in agriculture and food production. Plan policies should therefore take account of the impact on agricultural land and soil resources and the wide range of vital functions (ecosystem services) they provide and conform to NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (Natural Environment and Minerals).
4. Where minerals underlie BMV agricultural land, **it is particularly important that restoration and aftercare preserve the long-term potential of the land as a national, high quality resource**. Where alternative afteruses (such as forestry and some forms of amenity, including nature conservation) are proposed on BMV agricultural land, the methods used in restoration and aftercare should enable the land to retain its longer-term agricultural capability, thus remaining a high quality resource for the future.
5. The soils and ALC baseline, as presented in [HMWP Partial Update SA Revised Baseline Report September 2021 FINAL \(hants.gov.uk\)](#), utilises the 'Provisional ALC data' as opposed to 'pre-1988 ALC data', as is stated in the report. The Provisional ALC maps were only intended as a strategic guide to land quality, primarily to support strategic regional and county level planning. The Provisional Mapping predates the subdivision of Grade 3 land and the subsequent revised 1988 assessment methodology. The maps are not suitable for use in evaluating individual sites where development is proposed. In the [JCEB Minerals Proposal Study](#), the Provisional ALC grades, as presented in Figure 7.2 ([HMWP Partial Update SA Revised Baseline Report September 2021](#)) are referred to as 'pre-1988' ALC data. This is, however, incorrect terminology, as 'pre-1988' ALC refers to Pre 1988 ALC Site survey data, which are available for selected locations at a scale of either 1:25,000 or 1:10,000. These surveys were based on superseded MAFF Technical Guidance.
6. All of the allocated sites contain BMV agricultural land. In line with the the [Planning Practice Guidance](#) (PPG) to support the NPPF; we welcome that the allocated sites are all accompanied by a detailed ALC Survey (Post-1988) (with the exception of The Triangle site allocation, see above), available on the [magic](#) website.

To support plan allocations (and subsequent planning applications), sites over 5ha agricultural land should have a site-specific Soils Management Plan informed by a detailed ALC and soil resource survey, in line with best practice guidance: [Construction Code of Practice for the](#)

[Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites](#) to inform any subsequent soil handling and site restoration plans. Further information can be found in the PPG Minerals Guidance [restoration and aftercare of minerals sites](#) section, the Defra [Guidance for Successful Reclamation of Mineral and Waste sites](#) and the Institute of Quarrying [Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils](#).

The assessment of soil properties to inform appropriate soil management, restoration and drainage, where required, and demonstrate the ability to deliver high quality development that protects and maximises opportunities to enhance the natural environment.

7. Reclamation to non-agricultural uses does not mean that there can be any reduced commitment to high standards in the reclamation. Such reclamations require equal commitment by mineral operators, mineral planning authorities and any other parties involved to achieve high standards of implementation.
8. Sustainable soil management should aim to minimise risks to the ecosystem services which soils provide, through provision of suitable soil handling and management advice. The planning authority should ensure that sufficient site-specific soil survey data is available to inform decision making. To include, for example, assessment of soil properties to inform appropriate soil management, restoration and drainage, where required.

Air Pollution

We would expect the plan to address the impacts of air quality on the natural environment. In particular, it should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on European sites and SSSIs. The environmental assessment of the plan (SA and HRA) should also consider any detrimental impacts on the natural environment, and suggest appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures where applicable.

Natural England advises that one of the main issues which should be considered in the plan and the SA/HRA are proposals which are likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment.

The effects on local roads in the vicinity of any proposed development on nearby designated nature conservation sites (including increased traffic, construction of new roads, and upgrading of existing roads), and the impacts on vulnerable sites from air quality effects on the wider road network in the area (a greater distance away from the development) can be assessed using traffic projections and the 200m distance criterion followed by local Air Quality modelling where required. We consider that the designated sites at risk from local impacts are those within 200m of a road with increased traffic³, which feature habitats that are vulnerable to nitrogen deposition/acidification. [APIS](#) provides a searchable database and information on pollutants and their impacts on habitats and species.

It is advised that assessment, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, should be carried out in line with Natural England [guidance](#) that provides a simple step by step approach to assessing road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations. All designated sites that may be impacted by the affected road network within a reasonable buffer zone should be screened in for consideration under the Local Plan appropriate assessment. Please note that the method for assessing in combination effects has changed in the past few years due to a number of high profile appeal decisions. They include the following: The Wealden Judgement; The People Over Wind Case; and CJEU Ruling In The Netherlands Nitrogen And Agriculture Cases C-293/17 and C-294/17. As such we would be looking for a more detailed in-combination assessment with other plans/projects in the area and with Local Plans.

Please note that ammonia (NH₃) from traffic emissions should also be assessed as the impact from this source on designated sites is currently unclear.

³ The ecological effects of diffuse air pollution (2004) English Nature Research Report 580
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3 Part 1 (2007), Highways Agency

It is advised air quality impacts on interest features of nationally and locally designated sites is also carried out as part of an assessment of impacts on SSSIs and wider biodiversity.

Water Quality and Resources and Flood Risk Management

Natural England expects the Plan to consider the strategic impacts on water quality and resources as outlined in paragraph 170 of the NPPF. We would also expect the plan to address flood risk management in line with the paragraphs 155-165 of the NPPF.

The Local Plan should be based on an up to date evidence base on the water environment and as such the relevant River Basin Management Plans should inform the development proposed in the Local Plan. These Plans (available [here](#)) implement the EU Water Framework Directive and outline the main issues for the water environment and the actions needed to tackle them. Local Planning Authorities must in exercising their functions, have regard to these plans.

The Local Plan should contain policies which protect habitats from water related impacts and where appropriate seek enhancement. Priority for enhancements should be focussed on European sites, SSSIs and local sites which contribute to a wider ecological network.

Plans should positively contribute to reducing flood risk by working with natural processes and where possible use Green Infrastructure policies and the provision of SUDs to achieve this.

Landscape

Natural England expects the Plan to include strategic policies to protect and enhance valued landscapes, as well criteria based policies to guide development.

The plan area includes several Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and two National Parks. We advise the LPA to take into account the relevant Management Plan for the area. For Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the LPA should seek the views of the AONB Partnership. Development proposals brought forward through the plan should avoid significant impacts on protected landscapes, including those outside the plan's area and early consideration should be given to the major development tests set out in paragraph 172 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Policy should also reflect requirements of the NPPF (paragraph 172) in relation to Coastal Change Management Areas, Heritage Coasts and the England Coast Path.

Tranquillity

The Local Plan should identify relevant areas of tranquillity and provide appropriate policy protection to such areas as identified in paragraph 100 and 180 of the NPPF.

Tranquillity is an important landscape attribute in certain areas e.g. within National Parks/AONBs, particularly where this is identified as a special quality. The CPRE have mapped areas of tranquillity which are available [here](#) and are a helpful source of evidence for the Local Plan and SEA/SA.

Agri-environment schemes

Minerals sites may be under existing Higher Level Stewardship agreements before minerals are extracted and may be returned to agricultural use following landfilling. We advise early contact by agreement holders with the Rural Payments Agency to discuss individual cases so that any payments can be amended accordingly.

Access and Rights of Way

Natural England advises that the Plan should include policies to ensure protection and enhancement of public rights of way and National Trails, as outlined in paragraph 98 of the NPPF. Recognition

should be given to the value of rights of way and access to the natural environment in relation to health and wellbeing and links to the wider green infrastructure network. The plan should seek to link existing rights of way where possible, and provides for new access opportunities. The plan should avoid building on open space of public value as outlined in paragraph 97 of the NPPF.

Annex 2

Climate change – further resources

Please see below links to further resources that may be useful in developing local policy to address climate change within the local authority area.

- The [Climate Change Adaptation Manual](#) - provides extensive information on climate change adaptation for the natural environment. It considers the potential impacts of climate change on individual priority habitats and outlines possible adaptation responses. It includes the Landscape Scale Adaptation Assessment Method to assist those wanting to undertake a climate change vulnerability assessment for an area larger than an individual site or specific environmental feature, focussing on identifying vulnerabilities to climate change.
- The [National Biodiversity Climate Change Vulnerability Model](#) is a mapping tool that helps identify areas likely to be more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- [Carbon Storage and Sequestration by Habitat 2021 \(NERR094\)](#) – a recently updated report that reviews and summarises the carbon storage and sequestration rates of different semi-natural habitats that can inform the design of nature-based solutions to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation.
- The [Nature Networks Evidence Handbook](#) – aims to help the designers of nature net .works by identifying the principles of network design and describing the evidence that underpins the desirable features of nature networks. It builds on the Making Space for Nature report of Lawton et al. 2010), outlining some of the practical aspects of implementing a nature network plan, as well as describing the tools that are available to help in decision making.
- [Natural England Climate Change webinars](#) - a range of introductory climate change webinars available on YouTube.

Appendix 3: Natural England Response to Regulation 19 Proposed Submission Plan Consultation

Date: 05 March 2024
Our ref: 463095
Your ref: N/A



HCC Minerals and Waste Policy Team
Minerals and Waste Planning Policy
hmwp.consult@hants.gov.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Policy Team,

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP) Partial Update - Regulation 19 Proposed Submission Plan Consultation 9th January 2024 to 5th March 2024.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 9th January 2024 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England have concerns at this stage that insufficient evidence has been provided in support of the Local Plan partial update, particularly regarding the allocated sites appropriate assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017 (as amended). The sites may not be deliverable over the plan period, calling in to question the effectiveness of this Plan.

The submitted Appropriate Assessment leaves much of the assessment of impacts to 'development considerations'. As the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority have not assessed these impacts themselves, or evidenced whether there is scope for appropriate avoidance & mitigation measures to be effectively secured, we currently have concerns that the sites may not be deliverable. We note that assessments should be based on the latest available scientific evidence, which may differ from that relied upon for the previously adopted Local Plan.

Below we set out our specific comments on the Plan's Vision, policies, site allocations and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening and HRA Appropriate Assessment reports.

Please note our objection to the Purple Haze site allocation, covered further below.

Comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment

Air Quality

Natural England disagree that a complete list of impact pathways has been appropriately assessed for Likely Significant Effects under the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening report. We advise that the potential for air quality impacts under this Plan should be screened in for further assessment on several designated sites.

We advise that air quality impacts should be considered for the allocated sites. Please find below our advice and guidance to assist you in addressing atmospheric pollution and air quality through your HRA.

We would expect the plan to address the impacts of air quality on the natural environment. In particular, it should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on European sites and SSSIs. The environmental assessment of the plan (SA and HRA) should also consider any detrimental impacts on the natural environment and suggest appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures where applicable.

Natural England advises that one of the main issues which should be considered in the plan and the SA/HRA are proposals which are likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment.

The effects on local roads in the vicinity of any proposed development on nearby designated nature conservation sites (including increased traffic, construction of new roads, and upgrading of existing roads), and the impacts on vulnerable sites from air quality effects on the wider road network in the area (a greater distance away from the development) can be assessed using traffic projections and the 200m distance criterion followed by local Air Quality modelling where required. We consider that the designated sites at risk from local impacts are those within 200m of a road with increased traffic¹, which feature habitats that are vulnerable to nitrogen deposition/acidification. [APIS](#) provides a searchable database and information on pollutants and their impacts on habitats and species.

It is advised that assessment, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, should be carried out in line with Natural England [guidance](#) that provides a simple step by step approach to assessing road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations. All designated sites that may be impacted by the affected road network within a reasonable buffer zone should be screened in for consideration under the Local Plan appropriate assessment.

Please note that ammonia (NH₃) from traffic emissions should also be assessed as the impact from this source on designated sites is currently unclear. It is advised air quality impacts on interest features of nationally and locally designated sites is also carried out as part of an assessment of impacts on SSSIs and wider biodiversity.

Appropriate Assessment and Site Allocations

➤ Purple Haze

Natural England disagree with the current conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment that adverse effects from the Purple Haze allocation on the site integrity of the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC), and Dorset Heathlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites are suitably avoided or mitigated. We raise particular concern with reference to the following impact pathways:

- Changes in surface/ groundwater hydrology
- Removal of supporting habitat (functionally linked land)
- Air quality

This advice is subject to the current information, documents, and studies submitted alongside the ongoing application for the Purple Haze site. This extensive supporting information has enabled Natural England to conduct a detailed and specialist assessment and consideration of the environmental implications of the development.

Further comments are provided below, in line with our previous advice on the Regulation 18 consultation stage.

Since the adoption of the original Plan, a planning application has come forward for works at Purple

¹ The ecological effects of diffuse air pollution (2004) English Nature Research Report 580
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Volume 11, Section 3 Part 1 (2007), Highways Agency

Haze, with supporting information that enabled further consideration of the environmental implications of the development. Based on this information, Natural England objected to the application. The reasons for this objection still stand and remain pertinent to our advice for the proposed site allocation within the current Plan partial update, at Regulation 19. Please also refer to our most recent objection letter issued for this planning application, dated 11 December 2023. The outstanding reasons for our objection are discussed below.

- *Hydrological impacts*

Natural England retain serious concerns that the proposal will have adverse effects on the natural hydrological regime of Ebblake Bog which forms part of the Dorset Heaths Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, also designated as SSSI.

Ebblake Bog is an acid mire in the upper valley of the Moors River. It has developed on a section of the river valley that has a poor hydraulic gradient and permitted the accumulation of relatively deep peat. Valley mires are rare habitats in lowland England, being confined mainly to the New Forest and the Poole Basin, with a few outlying sites elsewhere. The habitat is now internationally scarce, and the few relatively undamaged mires, of which Ebblake Bog is one, thus assume special nature conservation importance.

The HRA Screening Report rightly screens this policy into the appropriate assessment, where the full significance of the impact on the site's integrity, alone or in combination with other plans/projects, should be further tested in view of the site's conservation objectives. The appropriate assessment fails to provide suitable further evidence to show whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the site from the proposal can be ruled out or not. Hydrogeological evidence assessed to date, in support of the current planning application, has not been accepted by Natural England as demonstrating no adverse effects. The lack of any further information or hydrological assessment through this Plan's Appropriate Assessment has maintained Natural England's advice with our standing objection.

- *Functionally linked land to Habitats sites*

Natural England advise that the proposal is likely to adversely affect a significant area of Ringwood Forest which support breeding and foraging Annex 1 birds that are the basis of the Dorset Heathland SPA designation. The area has been identified by RSPB as an Important Bird Area, supporting a population of nightjar which is significant on a national scale which is contiguous with several sites within the SPA. Significant loss of habitat used by nightjar close to the SPA may have effects on the overall SPA population. The functional linkage for SPA birds will therefore require consideration.

Additionally, further functional linkages are possible between the application site and the Dorset Heaths SAC concerning typical species of the SAC (see NE supplementary advice to the [conservation objectives](#)) such as rare reptiles and invertebrates. It is acknowledged that this has now been screened in for further assessment, however this has not been achieved through the Appropriate Assessment.

The Appropriate Assessment fails to provide information on any compensation or mitigation measures necessary to secure under this Plan to conclude no adverse effects on SPA and SAC site integrity, for this impact pathway.

- *Air quality*

We advise that this allocation has the potential to adversely affect European designated sites from air quality impacts. Natural England recommend that your Plan must demonstrate its air quality modelling to robustly support any conclusions of no adverse effect on designated site integrity. Without this information, Natural England cannot agree with the Plan's Appropriate Assessment conclusions.

- *Irreplaceable habitats*

We consider the wet heath and wet/heath mire transitions within the application site should be viewed as irreplaceable habitat (NPPF definition; 'Habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity'). Drier heathland within the application site could also come into the same category because of the species diversity that it supports. Policy in the NPPF (paragraph 186 c.) is that development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists. We have not viewed a compensation strategy to date.

Unless evidence can be provided to demonstrate that this site can be delivered without adverse impacts on the integrity of European sites, we advise that this site may compromise the ability of this Plan to be effective, justified and consistent with national policy.

➤ **Midgham Farm**

Based on the Appropriate Assessment provided Natural England have some concerns that this site may adversely affect the integrity of designated sites, particularly including the River Avon SAC and Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar.

Natural England have insufficient information to assess whether avoidance and mitigation measures are suitable or achievable for the site at Midgham Farm to be able to conclude no adverse effects on site integrity, in reference to all of the impact pathways screened in for assessment. Most notably from our point of concern, are as follows:

- Changes in surface/ groundwater hydrology
- Removal of supporting habitat and/or functionally linked land
- Air quality
- Water pollution

The lack of supporting information through this Plan has meant that Natural England cannot fully assess this allocation for its potential impacts to designated sites and therefore any potential adverse effects cannot be concluded to be avoided or mitigated beyond reasonable scientific doubt. Natural England's further advice on potential impact pathways from this allocation are summarised below.

- *Hydrological impacts*

Natural England advise that the proposal may have adverse effects on the natural hydrological regime of the River Avon SAC, including River Avon System SSSI and Bickton to Christchurch SSSI. It is our advice that robust hydrological assessments should be demonstrated before any conclusions can be made on the suitability of this site allocation, or its potential hydrological effects on designated sites.

The HRA Screening Report appropriately screens this policy into the appropriate assessment, where the full significance of the impact on the site's integrity, alone or in combination with other plans/projects, should be further tested in view of the site's conservation objectives. The appropriate assessment fails to provide suitable further evidence or a conclusive test to show whether an adverse effect on the integrity of the sites from the proposal can be ruled out or not.

- *Water pollution*

Natural England advise that the proposed allocation has the potential to adversely impact, in combination with other plans or projects, the nearby River Avon SAC through potential eutrophication. We recognise that this potential impact to the River Avon SAC, through increased water pollution via eutrophication, has the potential to impact further downstream on the Christchurch Harbour SSSI which functionally links to European designated coastal SPA sites.

Natural England advise that further information and assessment of the allocation's potential impacts on water quality and pollution should be undertaken, in order to be able to conclude no adverse effects on integrity.

- *Functionally linked land to Habitats sites*

Natural England advise that the proposal has the potential to adversely affect the Avon Valley SPA and Dorset Heathland SPA indirectly through removing land that could be functionally linked to these habitats' sites and their designated bird species.

Any significant loss of habitat used by designated SPA bird species may have negative effects on the overall SPA bird population. The functional linkage for SPA birds will therefore require consideration through appropriate surveying and assessment, with suitable avoidance and compensation measures detailed to be secured where necessary.

- *Air quality*

We advise that this allocation has the potential to adversely affect European designated sites from air quality impacts. Natural England recommend that your Plan must demonstrate its air quality modelling to robustly support any conclusions of no adverse effect on designated site integrity. Without this information, Natural England cannot agree with the Plan's Appropriate Assessment conclusions.

- *Ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees*

It is understood that the Midgham Farm allocation sits directly adjacent to areas classified as Ancient Replanted Woodland and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland.

The local planning authority should consider any impacts on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees in line with paragraph 186 of the NPPF. Natural England maintains the Ancient Woodland [Inventory](#) which can help identify ancient woodland. Natural England and the Forestry Commission have produced [standing advice](#) for planning authorities in relation to ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees. Please refer to our standard advice and further guidance.

Comments on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan – Partial Update

Natural England would refer you back to our previous advice submitted within our Regulation 18 response, referenced 412302, and dated 31 January 2023. Our current advice on the *Plan Vision*, *Policy 2*, *Policy 8*, *Policy 9* and *Policy 10* is consistent with those previous comments submitted by Natural England at the Regulation 18 stage.

Plan Vision

Natural England advise that greater emphasis through the Plan Vision and objectives should be made to facilitating wider ecological connectivity through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). Consideration should be given to how this can improve the Plan's visibility of its ecological network through enhanced mapping.

The Plan should have a clear aim to significantly and demonstrably improve the natural environment to ensure the needs of minerals and waste development are met sustainably.

Plan Policies

- **Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species**

Natural England welcome this policy.

Natural England welcome that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), whereby development must show how a measurable BNG of at least 10% will be delivered in line with the requirements under the Environment Act 2021, under this overarching policy. We would welcome investigating more ambitious BNG targets that could go beyond existing requirements.

For biodiversity net gain, the [statutory metric](#) can be used to measure gains and losses to biodiversity resulting from development. Please see further detailed advice on biodiversity net gain within Annex 1.

It is our advice that the Plan should make clear that site allocations and their proposals should demonstrate how they have considered the ecological network across the Hampshire Plan area (as shown on Figures 5.1-5 of the HRA Screening report and separate Policies Map) and are required to align with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Detailed within *paragraph 4.18* of the Draft Plan, it is appropriately incorporated that where adverse effects on integrity of Habitats sites (SPAs or SACs) cannot be ruled out, development can only proceed where it can be demonstrated that all 3 legal tests for a [derogation under the Habitats Regulations](#) have been satisfied (with regard to compensatory measures, these would have to be implemented and functioning prior to any habitat loss or damage as a result of a proposal).

- **Policy 4: Nationally protected landscapes**

Natural England welcome the inclusion of this policy.

The plan area includes the New Forest and South Downs National Park, alongside neighbouring National Landscape/ AONBs. We advise on the importance of acknowledging the relevant Management Plan for each of the nationally protected landscape areas, and to align with these where possible. Proposals brought forward through the Plan should avoid significant impacts on protected landscapes, including those outside the plan's area and early consideration should be given to the major development tests set out in paragraph 183 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Please make note of Annex 2 of this letter whereby [Section 245](#) (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 places a duty on relevant authorities in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, the Broads or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ("National Landscape") in England, **to seek to further the statutory purposes of the area.**

- **Policy 8: Water management**

Natural England recognise our recommendations to amend the Policy title to cover both water resource quantity and water quality has been acknowledged, and we welcome this amendment to water management.

Minerals and waste development may disturb and mobilise nutrients locked within the soil or add to nutrient levels through construction and operational processes. Therefore, the Plan should ensure that impacts of nutrients on the designated sites are assessed and avoided/mitigated where appropriate.

- **Policy 9: Protection of soils**

Natural England welcome that the protection of best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC)) and for soils as a resource for the future is reflected in this policy. It is recognised that this is a key consideration for all of the site allocations proposed through this Plan.

Please see further advice relating to soils under the Soil, Agricultural Land Quality and Reclamation section within Annex 1.

- **Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste development**

Natural England welcome that our advice has been incorporated to better reflect biodiversity priorities of the Plan through this Policy, in particular including a link to environmental net gain and Policy 3. The after-use of sites should be designed and implemented specifically for public benefit.

Natural England welcome the reference to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy as an opportunity for restoration schemes to align with when addressing site recovery.

Please see our further advice on aspects such as water quality and resources, soils, agricultural land quality and reclamation, and air pollution, alongside other natural environment issues provided at Annex 1 and 2 of this letter.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter, please contact on john.baribeau@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Jack Baribeau
Lead Advisor Sustainable Development
Thames Solent Team
Natural England

Annex 1 - Natural England's standard advice

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

The Plan should set out a strategic approach, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity. There should be consideration of geodiversity conservation in terms of any geological sites and features in the wider environment.

A strategic approach for networks of biodiversity should support a similar approach for green infrastructure (outlined below). Planning policies and decisions should contribute and enhance the natural and local environment, as outlined in para 180 of the NPPF. Plans should set out the approach to delivering net gains for biodiversity. Net gain for biodiversity should be considered for all aspects of the plan and development types, including transport proposals, housing and community infrastructure.

Priority habitats, ecological networks and priority and/or legally protected species populations

The Local Plan should be underpinned by up-to-date environmental evidence. This should include an assessment of existing and potential components of local ecological networks. This assessment should inform the Sustainability Appraisal, ensure that land of least environment value is chosen for development, and that the mitigation hierarchy is followed and inform opportunities for enhancement as well as development requirements for particular sites.

Priority habitats and species are those listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act, 2006 and UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). Further information is available here: [Habitats and species of principal importance in England](#). Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) identify the local action needed to deliver UK targets for habitats and species. They also identify targets for other habitats and species of local importance and can provide a useful blueprint for biodiversity enhancement in any particular area.

Protected species are those species protected under domestic or European law. Further information can be found here [Standing advice for protected species](#). Sites containing watercourses, old buildings, significant hedgerows and substantial trees are possible habitats for protected species.

Ecological networks are coherent systems of natural habitats organised across whole landscapes so as to maintain ecological functions. A key principle is to maintain connectivity - to enable free movement and dispersal of wildlife e.g., badger routes, river corridors for the migration of fish and staging posts for migratory birds. Local ecological networks will form a key part of the wider Nature Recovery Network proposed in the 25 Year Environment Plan. Where development is proposed, opportunities should be explored to contribute to the enhancement of ecological networks.

Planning positively for ecological networks will also contribute towards a strategic approach for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of green infrastructure, as identified in paragraph 181 of the NPPF.

Soil, Agricultural Land Quality and Reclamation

The Minerals and Waste Plan should give appropriate weight to the roles performed by the area's soils. These should be valued as a finite multi-functional resource which underpins our wellbeing and prosperity. Decisions about development should take full account of the impact on soils, their intrinsic character and the sustainability of the many ecosystem services they deliver for example:

1. Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for instance as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably. The [Natural Environment White Paper \(NEWP\)](#) 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature' (Defra, June 2011), emphasises the importance of natural resource protection, including the conservation and sustainable management of soils, for example:

- A Vision for Nature: 'We must protect the essentials of life: our air, biodiversity, soils and water, so that they can continue to provide us with the services on which we rely' (paragraph 2.5).
 - Safeguarding our Soils: 'Soil is essential for achieving a range of important ecosystem services and functions, including food production, carbon storage and climate regulation, water filtration, flood management and support for biodiversity and wildlife' (paragraph 2.60).
 - 'Protect 'best and most versatile' agricultural land' (paragraph 2.35).
2. The conservation and sustainable management of soils also is reflected in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF), particularly in paragraph 180. When planning authorities are considering land use change, the permanency of the impact on soils is an important consideration. Particular care over planned changes to the most potentially productive soil is needed, for the ecosystem services it supports including its role in agriculture and food production. Plan policies should therefore take account of the impact on land and soil resources and the wide range of vital functions (ecosystem services) they provide in line with paragraph 180 of the NPPF, for example to:
- Safeguard the long-term capability of best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a in the Agricultural Land Classification) as a resource for the future.
 - To avoid development that would disturb or damage other soils of high environmental value (e.g., wetland and other specific soils contributing to ecological connectivity, carbon stores such as peatlands etc) and, where development is proposed.
 - Ensure soil resources are conserved and managed in a sustainable way.
3. To assist in understanding agricultural land quality within the plan area and to safeguard 'best and most versatile' agricultural land in line with paragraph 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework, strategic scale Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Maps are available. Natural England also has an archive of more detailed ALC surveys for selected locations. Both these types of data can be supplied digitally free of charge by contacting Natural England. Some of this data is also available on the www.magic.gov.uk website. The planning authority should ensure that sufficient site specific ALC survey data is available to inform decision making. For example, where no reliable information was available, it would be reasonable to expect that developers should commission a new ALC survey, for any sites they wished to put forward for consideration in the Local Plan.

General mapped information on soil types is available as 'Soilscapes' on the www.magic.gov.uk and also from the LandIS website <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm> which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Further guidance for protecting soils (irrespective of their ALC grading) both during and following development is available in Defra's [Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites](#), to assist the construction sector in the better protection of the soil resources with which they work, and in doing so minimise the risk of environmental harm such as excessive run-off and flooding. The aim is to achieve positive outcomes such as cost savings, successful landscaping and enhanced amenity whilst maintaining a healthy natural environment, and we would advise that the Code be referred to where relevant in the development plan.

All of the allocated sites contain BMV agricultural land. In line with the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) to support the NPPF; we welcome that the allocated sites are all accompanied by a detailed ALC Survey (Post-1988), available on the [magic](#) website. Where minerals underlie BMV agricultural land, it is particularly important that restoration and aftercare preserve the long-term potential of the land as a national, high-quality resource. Where alternative after-uses (such as forestry and some forms of amenity, including nature conservation) are proposed on BMV agricultural land, the methods used in restoration and aftercare should enable the land to retain its longer-term agricultural capability, thus remaining a high-quality resource for the future.

Reclamation to non-agricultural uses does not mean that there can be any reduced commitment to high standards in the reclamation. Such reclamations require equal commitment by mineral operators, mineral planning authorities and any other parties involved to achieve high standards of implementation.

Sustainable soil management should aim to minimise risks to the ecosystem services which soils provide, through provision of suitable soil handling and management advice. The planning authority should ensure that sufficient site-specific soil survey data is available to inform decision making. To include, for example, assessment of soil properties to inform appropriate soil management, restoration and drainage, where required.

The [25 Year Environment Plan](#) (25YEP) sets out government action to help the natural world regain and retain good health, including highlighting the need to:

- protect the best agricultural land.
- put a value on [natural capital](#), including healthy soil.
- ensure all soils are managed sustainably by 2030.
- restore and protect peatland.

Air pollution

We would expect the plan to address the impacts of air quality on the natural environment. In particular, it should address the traffic impacts associated with new development, particularly where this impacts on European sites and SSSIs. The environmental assessment of the plan (SA and HRA) should also consider any detrimental impacts on the natural environment and suggest appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures where applicable.

Natural England advises that one of the main issues which should be considered in the plan and the SA/HRA are proposals which are likely to generate additional nitrogen emissions as a result of increased traffic generation, which can be damaging to the natural environment.

The effects on local roads in the vicinity of any proposed development on nearby designated nature conservation sites (including increased traffic, construction of new roads, and upgrading of existing roads), and the impacts on vulnerable sites from air quality effects on the wider road network in the area (a greater distance away from the development) can be assessed using traffic projections and the 200m distance criterion followed by local Air Quality modelling where required. We consider that the designated sites at risk from local impacts are those within 200m of a road with increased traffic, which feature habitats that are vulnerable to nitrogen deposition/acidification. APIS provides a searchable database and information on pollutants and their impacts on habitats and species: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>

It is advised that [Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations](#) is followed when assessing impacts on protected sites.

Please note that ammonia (NH₃) from traffic emissions should also be assessed as the impact from this source on designated sites is currently unclear.

It is advised air quality impacts on interest features of nationally and locally designated sites is also carried out as part of an assessment of impacts on SSSIs and wider biodiversity.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Embedding biodiversity net gain

It is highly recommended that the Local Plan Update incorporates a policy for biodiversity net gain. Biodiversity net gain is a key tool to help nature's recovery and is also fundamental to health and wellbeing as well as creating attractive and sustainable places to live and work in. The NPPF highlights the role of policies and decision making to minimise impacts and provide net gains for

biodiversity (para 180).

Planning Practice Guidance describes net gain as an 'approach to development that leaves the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand' and applies to both biodiversity net gain and wider environmental net gains. For biodiversity net gain, Natural England's [statutory metric](#), can be used to measure gains and losses to biodiversity resulting from development. We advise you to use this metric to implement development plan policies on biodiversity net gain. Any action, as a result of development, that creates or enhances habitat features can be measured using the metric and as a result count towards biodiversity net gain.

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, along with partners, has developed '[good practice principles](#)' for biodiversity net gain, which can assist plan-making authorities in gathering evidence and developing policy.

The following may also be useful considerations in developing plan policies:

- Use of a map within the plan. Mapping biodiversity assets and opportunity areas ensures compliance with national planning policy and helps to clearly demonstrate the relationship between development sites and opportunities for biodiversity net gain.
- Use of a biodiversity net gain target. Any target should be achievable, and evidence based and may be best placed in lower tier documents or a Supplementary Planning Document, or similar, to allow for regular updates in line with policy and legislation.
- Consideration should be given to thresholds for different development types, locations or scales of development proposals and the justification for this. Setting out the scope and scale of expected biodiversity net gains within Infrastructure Delivery Plans can help net gain to be factored into viability appraisals and land values. Natural England considers that all development, even small-scale proposals, can make a contribution to biodiversity. Your authority may wish to refer to Technical Note 2 of the [CIEEM guide](#) which provide useful advice on how to incorporate biodiversity net gain into small scale developments.
- Policy should set out how biodiversity net gain will be delivered and managed and the priorities for habitat creation or enhancement in different parts of the plan area. The plan policy should set out the approach to onsite and offsite delivery. Natural England advises that on-site provision should be preferred as it helps to provide gains close to where a loss may have taken place. Off-site contributions may, however, be required due to limitations on-site or where this best meets wider biodiversity objectives set in the development plan. Further detail could be set out in a supplementary planning document.
- The policy could also usefully link to any complementary strategies or objectives in the plan, such as green infrastructure and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

Wider environmental gains

Natural England focusses our advice on embedding biodiversity net gain in development plans, since the approach is better developed than for wider environmental gains. However, your authority should consider the requirements of the NPPF (paragraph 180, 185 and 186) and seek opportunities for wider environmental net gain wherever possible. This can be achieved by considering how policies and proposed allocations can contribute to wider environment enhancement, help adapt to the impacts of climate change and/or take forward elements of existing green infrastructure, open space or biodiversity strategies. Opportunities for environmental gains, including nature-based solutions to help adapt to climate change, might include:

- Identifying opportunities for new multi-functional green and blue infrastructure.
- Managing existing and new public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g., by sowing wild flower strips, changing cutting regime of open spaces and road verges*) and climate resilient
- Planting trees, including street trees, characteristic to the local area to make a positive

contribution to the local landscape.

- Improving access and links to existing greenspace, identifying improvements to the existing public right of way network or extending the network to create missing footpath or cycleway links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g., a hedgerow or stone wall or clearing away an eyesore).
- Designing a scheme to encourage wildlife, for example by ensuring lighting does not pollute areas of open space or existing habitats

*Please see this [paper](#) regarding cost-effective and low-maintenance management for species-rich grassland on road verges and the value it can contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem services

Any habitat creation and/or enhancement as a result of the above may also deliver a measurable biodiversity net gain.

Evidence gathering

Existing environmental evidence can be gathered from various sources including online data sources like [MAGIC](#), the [Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre](#) (HBIC), and strategies for green infrastructure, open space provision, landscape character, climate and ecosystem services and biodiversity opportunity mapping. We advise that reference is made to the **Hampshire Ecological Network Mapping** dataset – this comprises the Local Ecological Network mapping for Hampshire, prepared by HBIC. The network comprises statutory designations, non-statutory designated sites, ancient woodlands, and other non-designated priority habitat, and other ecological features such as undesignated water bodies. Usefully, the Hampshire network mapping also identifies areas where there is the greatest potential to enhance the network, referred to as the network opportunities layer, based on habitat suitability indices. This can be useful where deciding where to create or enhance habitat.

Biodiversity data can also be obtained from developments that were subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Monitoring, the discharge of conditions or monitoring information from legal agreements with a biodiversity element. This can help establish a baseline to understand what assets exist and how they may relate to wider objectives in the plan area. Cross boundary environmental opportunities can also be considered by working with neighbouring authorities, local nature partnership and/or the local enterprise partnership. The relationship between environmental assets and key strategic growth areas may help to highlight potential opportunities that development could bring for the natural environment. The following may also be useful when considering biodiversity priorities in your plan area:

- What biodiversity currently exists, what is vulnerable or declining?
- How are existing assets connected, are there opportunities to fill gaps and improve connectivity?
- How does the above relate to neighbouring authority areas, can you work collaboratively to improve links between assets or take strategic approaches to address issues or opportunities?

Applying the mitigation hierarchy

The plan's approach to biodiversity net gain should be compliant with the mitigation hierarchy, as outlined in paragraph 185 of the NPPF. The policy should ensure that biodiversity net gain is not applied to irreplaceable habitats and should also make clear that any mitigation and/or compensation requirements for European sites should be dealt with **separately** from biodiversity net gain provision.

Policies and decisions should first consider options to avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity from occurring. When avoidance is not possible impacts should be mitigated and finally, if there is no alternative, compensation provided for any remaining impacts. Biodiversity net gain should be

additional to any habitat creation required to mitigate or compensate for impacts. It is also important to note that net gains can be delivered even if there are no losses through development.

The policy for net gain, or its supporting text, should highlight how losses and gains will be measured. The [statutory metric](#) can be used for this purpose as a fully tested metric that will ensure consistency across the plan-area, and we would encourage its use. Alternatively, your authority may choose to develop a bespoke metric, provided this is evidenced based.

The following may also be useful considerations in developing plan policies:

- Use of a map within the plan. Mapping biodiversity assets and opportunity areas ensures compliance with national planning policy and also helps to clearly demonstrate the relationship between development sites and opportunities for biodiversity net gain.
- ***NB: The Hampshire Ecological Network Mapping dataset would be ideally placed to provide this evidence base.***
- Use of a biodiversity net gain target. Any target should be achievable, and evidence based and may be best placed in lower tier documents or a Supplementary Planning Document, to allow for regular updates in line with policy and legislation.
- Consideration should be given to thresholds for different development types, locations or scales of development proposals and the justification for this. Setting out the scope and scale of expected biodiversity net gains within Infrastructure Delivery Plans can help net gain to be factored into viability appraisals and land values. Natural England considers that all development, even small-scale proposals, can make a contribution to biodiversity. Your authority may wish to refer to Technical Note 2 of the CIEEM guide which provide useful advice on how to incorporate biodiversity net gain into small scale developments.
- Policy should set out how biodiversity net gain will be delivered and managed and the priorities for habitat creation or enhancement in different parts of the plan area. The plan policy should set out the approach to onsite and offsite delivery. Natural England advises that on-site provision should be preferred as it helps to provide gains close to where a loss may have taken place. Off-site contributions may, however, be required due to limitations on-site or where this best meets wider biodiversity objectives set in the development plan. Further detail could be set out in a supplementary planning document.
- The policy could also usefully link to any complementary strategies or objectives in the plan, such as green infrastructure.

Monitoring

Your plan should include requirements to monitor biodiversity net gain. This should include indicators to demonstrate the amount and type of gain provided through development. The indicators should be as specific as possible to help build an evidence base to take forward for future reviews of the plan, for example the total number and type of biodiversity units created, the number of developments achieving biodiversity net gains and a record of on-site and off-site contributions.

LPAs should work with local partners, including the Local Environmental Record Centre and wildlife trusts, to share data and consider requirements for long term habitat monitoring. Monitoring requirements should be clear on what is expected from landowners who may be delivering biodiversity net gains on behalf of developers. This will be particularly important for strategic housing allocations and providing as much up-front information on monitoring will help to streamline the project stage.

Water Quality and Resources and Flood Risk Management

Natural England expects the Plan to consider the strategic impacts on water quality and resources as outlined in paragraph 180 of the NPPF. We would also expect the plan to address flood risk management in line with the paragraphs 166 and 167 of the NPPF.

The Plan should be based on an up-to-date evidence base on the water environment and as such the relevant River Basin Management Plans should inform the development proposed in the Plan.

These Plans implement the EU Water Framework Directive and outline the main issues for the water environment and the actions needed to tackle them. Competent Authorities must in exercising their functions, have regard to these plans.

The Local Plan should contain policies which protect habitats from water related impacts and where appropriate seek enhancement. Priority for enhancements should be focussed on European sites, SSSIs and local sites which contribute to a wider ecological network.

Plans should positively contribute to reducing flood risk by working with natural processes and where possible use Green Infrastructure policies and the provision of SUDs to achieve this.

Tranquillity

The Local Plan should identify relevant areas of tranquillity and provide appropriate policy protection to such areas as identified in paragraph 106 and 191 of the NPPF.

Tranquillity is an important landscape attribute in certain areas e.g. within National Parks/ AONBs/National Landscapes, particularly where this is identified as a special quality. The CPRE have mapped areas of tranquillity which are available [here](#) and are a helpful source of evidence for the Local Plan and SEA/SA.

Agri-environment schemes

Minerals sites may be under existing Higher Level Stewardship agreements before minerals are extracted and may be returned to agricultural use following landfilling. We advise early contact by agreement holders with the Rural Payments Agency to discuss individual cases so that any payments can be amended accordingly.

Annex 2 - Section 245 (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

Section 245 (Protected Landscapes) of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 places a duty on relevant authorities in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, the Broads or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ("National Landscape") in England, to seek to further the statutory purposes of the area. The duty applies to local planning authorities and other decision makers in making planning decisions on development and infrastructure proposals, as well as to other public bodies and statutory undertakers.

It is anticipated that the government will provide guidance on how the duty should be applied in due course.

In the meantime, and without prejudicing that guidance, Natural England advises that:

- the duty to 'seek to further' is an active duty, not a passive one. Any relevant authority must take all reasonable steps to explore how the statutory purposes of the protected landscape (A National Park, the Broads, or an AONB) can be furthered.
- The new duty underlines the importance of avoiding harm to the statutory purposes of protected landscapes but also to seek to further the conservation and enhancement of a protected landscape. That goes beyond mitigation and like for like measures and replacement. A relevant authority must be able to demonstrate with reasoned evidence what measures can be taken to further the statutory purpose.
- The proposed measures to further the statutory purposes of a protected landscape, should explore what is possible in addition to avoiding and mitigating the effects of the development, and should be appropriate, proportionate to the type and scale of the development and its implications for the area and effectively secured. Natural England's view is that the proposed measures should align with and help to deliver the aims and objectives of the designated landscape's statutory management plan. The relevant protected landscape team/body should be consulted.

Appendix 4: Updated Appropriate Assessment of screened-in sites and policies

The potential effects of the screened-in allocated sites: Hamble Airfield, Ashley Manor Farm, Purple Haze, and Midgham Farm, on the integrity of international sites and their component SSSI units, alone, were assessed in the HRA Submission Appropriate Assessment²⁵, in Tables 4.2 – 4.5, respectively.

The potential effect of screened-in Policy 20 on the integrity of international sites, alone, is set out in paragraph 4.60, page 121 of the Submission Appropriate Assessment.

The potential effects of screened-in allocated sites and Policy 20 on the integrity of international sites and their component SSSI units, in combination with other plans and projects, is set out in paragraph 4.61, page 121 onwards, in the Submission Appropriate Assessment.

The conclusion of the Submission Appropriate Assessment was that subject to the implementation of mitigation and other measures outlined in assessment Tables 4.2 – 4.5, and through the development management processes, the Submission Plan would not be likely to have a significant effect on any international site or component SSSI unit, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Based on the inclusion of the Main Modifications (MMs) in Policy 20 and the assessment of the four screened-in site allocations, the conclusion remains the same but with a significantly increased level of confidence.

Based on the provision of updated Development Considerations and estimated yields for all four site allocations and additional hydrological information and modified proposed restoration for Purple Haze, updated Appropriate Assessment tables are provided below for information, set out as follows:

- Table A4.1: Purple Haze.
- Table A4.2: Midgham Farm.
- Table A4.3: Hamble Airfield.
- Table A4.4: Ashley Manor Farm.

²⁵ HMWP: Partial Update – HRA Appropriate Assessment (Submission) July 2024 - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAppropriateAssessment-July2024.pdf>

Table A4.1: Purple Haze (NFD03)

Elements of the following text and the Development Considerations in the table incorporate the Main Modifications (MMs). Text that has been added since the Submission Appropriate Assessment is **bold and underlined** and text that is deleted is ~~struck through~~.

Total mineral resource: ~~7.25~~**up to 4.4** million tonnes of soft sand and 0.~~275~~ million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel (~~3.4~~**2.6** million tonnes will be available in the Plan period), from 202~~8~~**4**+

Restoration: ~~If the site is not used for non-hazardous landfill, inert fill will be used to agreed~~ **Pre-development habitats and drainage characteristics of the site to be replicated at lower levels using site-won material only, minimising silts and clay to an acceptable level to ensure heathland creation.** The site will eventually be used for a combination of ~~deciduous woodland planting,~~ heathland **habitats**, nature conservation areas, enhanced recreational areas and public open space, linked to the Moors Valley Country Park.

The site is subject to a current planning application for mineral extraction (planning application number: 21/10459).

The site has sufficient size and capacity to allow for the implementation of listed mitigation and other measures and remain economically viable.

International sites potentially affected and qualifying features	Potential impacts identified at Screening stage	Could the development have an adverse effect on any International site integrity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects?	Mitigation / measures	If mitigation / measures are implemented, can adverse effects on the International site from the Plan Partial Update be ruled out?
<p>Dorset Heaths SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • 4030 European dry heaths • 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion 	<p>Removal of supporting habitat (functionally linked land)</p>	<p>Functional linkages are possible between the proposed allocation site and the Dorset Heaths SAC relating to typical species of the SAC, such as rare reptiles and invertebrates.</p> <p>The Purple Haze area supports habitat suitable for the European Protected Species, sand lizard and smooth snake. Surveys²⁶ have shown that both species are present.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the</p>	<p>YES</p>

²⁶ Reptile Report – Purple Haze (Ecology by Design) – February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) • 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>* • 7230 Alkaline fens • 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> • 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> <p>Purple Haze (NFD03) is 0.21 km from the Dorset Heaths SAC</p>		<p>A recent Great Crested Newt (GCN) survey²⁷ concluded that a very small population of GCN is likely present in ponds in the Ebblake Bog SSSI.</p>	<p>planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. <i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i> Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> • Protection of <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of</u> the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar, and the River Avon SAC (and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar in relation to recreational displacement)*. • The <u>Ensure no significant adverse</u> impact on the offsite roosting, foraging, and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A-Hydrological/hydrogeological assessment, <u>hydrochemical and ecohydrological assessments</u> is <u>are</u> required to consider <u>determine the risk and appropriate protection of</u> whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars and SSSIs, including <u>This includes</u> the issue of nutrient enrichment, and including the protection of the water quality and recharge of the underlying aquifer, groundwater and surface water and safeguarding the <u>hydrological/</u>ecohydrological regimes of Ebblake Bog and Moors River <u>System</u> Sites of Special Scientific Interest <u>potentially through the limiting or exclusion of extraction in the north of the site*</u> • Protection of populations and conservation status of rare and notable species including Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard and Coral Necklace*. • The <u>Mitigate the</u> impact on Ringwood Forest and Home Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, <u>ensuring that temporary and long-term impacts to habitats and habitat connectivity are compensated, if required.</u> • Restoration must include habitats <u>creation</u> to <u>compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint</u>, expand <u>expansion of</u> those within the designated sites and relate to the wider landscape and enhance ecological networks <u>including those set out in the Forest Plan*</u>. • <u>A d</u>Dust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is required*. • Protection and enhancement of the amenity and users of the Moors Valley Country Park and other local residents. • Maintenance and management of levels of permissive access and recreational use of the Moors Valley Country Park via the B3081*. • Protection of the nearby cycle paths, bridleways, and footpaths. • Recreational displacement must be carefully managed <u>recognising existing informal access</u>. Management arrangements to <u>legally</u> secure short and long term objectives for amenity and biodiversity including heathland, woodland, acid grassland and protected species <u>that are legally protected or otherwise notable*</u>. 	
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²⁷ Great Crested Newt Report – Purple Haze (Ecology by Design Ltd) February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated legal agreements must ensure no further irreversible habitat loss or risk to the conservation status of species. • Phasing programme and working to protect the amenity of local residents and permissive access to the site. • Protection of the amenity and well-being of Verwood residents, other residents in the vicinity and local businesses. Exclusion from extraction and buffer of the northern end of the site to protect the amenity of local residents*. • <u>Specialist</u> Soil handling, management, and monitoring is required <u>to ensure restoration to heathland habitats</u>. Importation of material as part of the restoration would need appropriate supporting investigations and risk assessment. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • A Routeing Agreement is required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) will be along the B3081, which is a suitable route for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 1.4 miles south from the site. A new priority junction will be required to the B3804<u>B3081</u> to ensure provision for people walking, cycling and horse-riding and the impact on peak flows is managed. • Traffic issues including cumulative impact with other mineral and waste operations and the protection of Verwood from minerals traffic. • Flood Risk Assessment <u>is</u> required. The s<u>Site</u> must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required <u>to ensure that any impacts on water quantity and quality are considered and mitigated where needed</u>. • <u>Detailed Construction and Operational Surface Water Management Plans are required*</u>. • <u>On-site water use should be sourced from boreholes in the south of the site or from a mains water supply*</u>. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p> <p>Additional Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Provision of a range of ages in woodland and heathland habitat establishment within the restoration areas to deliver structural diversity. • Heathland habitat creation Year 1 onwards. • Maintenance of open heathland on the site throughout phasing. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Targeted pre-extraction conifer clearance within the extraction and restoration area to provide early habitat enhancement, increasing foraging and breeding areas for important bird species. • Site clearance to be timed to specifically avoid operations and areas that have the potential to impact reptiles or great crested newts during the hibernation season. • Habitat creation and enhancement targeted at Conservation/Network Objectives to improve the conservation status of the International site. • Preparation and implementation of a reptile mitigation strategy. <p>Potential Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate restoration of the site would result in a net increase of high suitability reptile habitat with improved connectivity within the site and local area. • Appropriate restoration would increase the quantity and quality of edge habitat, creation of heathland habitat of high value to a diverse assemblage of invertebrate prey and provision of roost features will ensure there is a net positive effect for bat populations. 	
	<p>Dust/Noise</p> <p>Dust deposition on ground and water from operational activities can lead to contamination at nearby International sites.</p>	<p>The qualifying features could be vulnerable to the effects of dust and noise at this proximity.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (See text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause significant adverse dust'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Dust: Dust suppression will be controlled by a specific planning condition imposed on any planning permission.</p>	<p>YES</p>

			<p>Where dust emissions are likely to arise, mineral operators are expected to prepare a Dust Assessment Study, which should be undertaken by a competent person/organisation with acknowledged experience of undertaking this type of work.²⁸</p> <p>A dust and air quality assessment at Purple Haze²⁹ concluded that for all receptors including off-site designated sites, the magnitude of dust effect from Purple Haze will be negligible. It can therefore be summarised³⁰ that there would not be significant impacts at offsite receptors from disamenity dust³¹ associated with the proposed development. This assessment assumes that standard dust suppression mitigation measures are in place including: seeding³² and maintaining soil storage bunds, minimising working of material in very dry or windy conditions, reducing drop heights at material transfer points, mobile plant using upward or sideways exhausts to avoid dust generation, using designated haul roads, adopting vehicle speed limits (maximum 10mph), using sheeting and wind boards on conveyors, shrouding during mineral processing (if required), and using water sprays or wetting down with a bowser if wind-blow is occurring.</p> <p>Noise: Where noise has the potential to affect the integrity of an International site, a noise assessment can be required as part of a planning proposal and planning conditions would be imposed to assess and monitor levels, and provide necessary mitigation.</p> <p>No recent, specific or directly relatable research is available to deduce an appropriate minimum level of noise which would disturb UK reptile species (Radford et al., 2012; Shannon et al., 2015; Kunc & Schmidt, 2019); therefore, a reasonable proxy should be used. UK Lizards can likely hear between 1-8kHz (Radford et al., 2012) and potentially deleterious reactionary behavioural responses have been observed in an Australian lizard from mining noises above ~65dB. Consequently, any noise pollution within 1-8 kHz and above 65dB is considered likely to disturb lizards within/adjacent to the site. Given this, it is considered that in providing site mitigation measures, a sufficiently cautious distance to use in this HRA is to assume that extraction and quarrying activities might result in disturbance to lizards where they occur within 100m of suitable habitat.</p> <p>The noise assessment concluded that <i>“The calculated site noise levels, with embedded mitigation measures, comply with the suggested site noise limits at all</i></p>	
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²⁸ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals#Dust-emissions>

²⁹ Dust and Air Quality Assessment – Purple Haze (DustScanAQ) December 2020 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

³⁰ ‘Shadow’ Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment February 2023 (Ecology by design) - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

³¹ ‘Disamenity dust’ or nuisance dust is associated with annoyance, but visible dust could also have detrimental impacts to habitats and wildlife for example by causing siltation of waterbodies or smothering vegetation.

³² Bunds could be seeded with a meadow seed mix typical of the species composition of the site.

			<p>of the noise sensitive receptors considered. The calculated site noise levels due to temporary operations also comply with the suggested site noise limit for temporary operations at the noise sensitive receptors.”</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of noise ameliorating bunding, utilising site overburden. • Provision of a generous stand-off buffer zone around the site perimeter between the outer edge of bunding and the site boundary • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources. Recent specialist advice on hydrology at Purple Haze, commissioned by Hampshire County Council³³, has concluded that “<i>Hydrological and hydrogeological linkages between the proposed scheme and Ebblake Bog are only present in the northern part of the site. A development that would reduce its extent to the southern part of the site and would keep the same “dry” working conditions (i.e. excavation to not reach the groundwater table), would remove all impacts, because no activities would interact with the hydrological and hydrogeological pathways to Ebblake Bog. The exact boundary delineation between the northern and southern part will depend on outcome of the additional</i></p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals ‘do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant’. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that ‘where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation’.</p> <p>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse, throughout]</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere,</p>	<p>YES</p>

³³ EX38 - Technical Memorandum – Purple Haze Independent Review – Jacobs (3 July 2025) – <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/EX38-Specialist-advice-on-PurpleHazehydrology-030725.pdf>

		<p><i>investigations (i.e. understanding generated on “surface water runoff zones” and additional ground investigations), but would approximately correlate with the upper most limit of the southern mire feeding into Ebblake Bog”</i></p>	<p>land or water (above appropriate standards), including ‘cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters’. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse’]</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p><u>Proposed Mitigation Measures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Fuel and chemicals to be stored in a secure bunded area. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
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	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology.</p> <p>Indications are that Purple Haze shares a secondary aquifer in common with the SAC. There is, therefore, potential for hydrological impacts to occur. An element of uncertainty remains as the hydrological connectivity between the sites and the SAC is unknown. The maintenance of an appropriate hydrological regime is required to maintain the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC. A minor stream runs towards the SAC from the northern end of Purple Haze and therefore it is likely that extraction has potential to impact on the hydrological regime.</p> <p>Recent specialist advice on hydrology at Purple Haze, commissioned by Hampshire County Council³⁴, has concluded that <i>"Hydrological and hydrogeological linkages between the proposed scheme and Ebblake Bog are only present in the northern part of the site. A development that would reduce its extent to the southern part of the site and would keep the same "dry" working conditions (i.e. excavation to not reach the groundwater table), would remove all impacts, because no activities would interact with the hydrological and hydrogeological pathways to Ebblake Bog. The exact boundary delineation between the northern and southern part will depend on</i></p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Mineral extraction not be undertaken within northern quadrant of the site, where run-off is conveyed naturally towards the Ebblake Bog SSSI, retaining greenfield conditions for ecological benefit and to safeguard the external water environment. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	<p>YES</p>
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³⁴ EX38 - Technical Memorandum – Purple Haze Independent Review – Jacobs (3 July 2025) – <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/EX38-Specialist-advice-on-PurpleHazehydrology-030725.pdf>

		<i>outcome of the additional investigations (i.e. understanding generated on “surface water runoff zones” and additional ground investigations), but would approximately correlate with the upper most limit of the southern mire feeding into Ebblake Bog”</i>		
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the potential for the proposed site to provide supporting habitat for SAC qualifying species, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard, principally from development related traffic emissions from the adjacent B3081. In addition, operational traffic could come within 200m of the Dorset Heaths SAC on the A31.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum³⁵.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Provision of a range of ages in woodland and heathland habitat establishment within the restoration areas to deliver structural diversity. • Heathland habitat creation Year 1 onwards. • Maintenance of open heathland on the site throughout phasing. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Targeted pre-extraction conifer clearance within the extraction and restoration area to provide early habitat enhancement, increasing foraging and breeding areas for important bird species. • Habitat creation and enhancement targeted at Conservation/Network Objectives to improve the conservation status of the International site. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Incorporation of noise ameliorating bunding, utilising site overburden. 	

³⁵ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Recreation related impacts</p> <p>Recreation can be displaced on to areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>Various studies have found that public access to lowland heathland has led to an increase in wildfires, damaging recreational uses, the introduction of incompatible plants and animals, loss of vegetation and soil erosion and disturbance by humans and their pets amongst other factors have an adverse effects on the heathland ecology.</p> <p>Based on the proximity of the SAC and the presence of a bridleway to the north west boundary of the site, there is the potential of impact on the SAC from recreational displacement.</p> <p>The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2025 Supplementary Planning Document (Dorset Council, 2020) provides a useful guide to types of impacts upon heathland sites.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard Public Rights of Way throughout operations, where possible. • Install bunds around the Plant Site and active Phases to reduce the negative impacts on recreational users by minimising visual and acoustic impacts. • Improve access infrastructure for routes that take displaced recreational users away from International sites. • Include recreational access in the Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Ditches and planting used to persuade recreational users to keep to designated paths. • Installation of interpretation boards to encourage site users to keep dogs on leads. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA. This would include Recreation Use studies undertaken prior to planning application submission to inform detailed mitigation.</p>	YES
Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar	Removal of supporting habitat	There is the potential for the site to provide supporting habitat for SPA/Ramsar qualifying bird species. Further surveys will be required to determine the level of	Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory	YES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar • A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark • A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler • A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier • A098(NB) <i>Falco columbarius</i>: Merlin <p><i>Purple Haze (NFD03) is 0.21 km from the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar</i></p>	<p>New/extended minerals and waste sites can lead to loss of, or impact on, habitat that provides functional support to International sites, such as grassland that provides roosting and foraging sites for qualifying bird species.</p>	<p>importance of this habitat for the qualifying feature species of birds, especially in combination with other sites in the vicinity.</p> <p>There is potential for Nightjar make use of heathland habitats within the SPA and Ringwood Forest (which includes the proposed Development site)³⁶. In addition, it is possible that birds with territories within the SPA may use the proposed allocation or immediate vicinity for site for foraging/nesting including Dartford Warbler, Hobby and Woodlark. Wintering Hen Harrier and Merlin were not recorded and are considered unlikely to use this particular area³⁷.</p>	<p>measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary. • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar, and the River Avon SAC (and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar in relation to recreational displacement)*. • The Ensure no significant adverse impact on the offsite roosting, foraging, and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A Hydrological/hydrogeological assessment, hydrochemical and ecohydrological assessments is are required to consider determine the risk and appropriate protection of whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars and SSSIs, including This includes the issue of nutrient enrichment, and including the protection of the water quality and recharge of the underlying aquifer, groundwater and surface water and safeguarding the hydrological/ecohydrological regimes of Ebblake Bog and Moors River System Sites of Special Scientific Interest potentially through the limiting or exclusion of extraction in the north of the site* • Protection of populations and conservation status of rare and notable species including Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard and Coral Necklace*. • The Mitigate the impact on Ringwood Forest and Home Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, ensuring that temporary and long-term impacts to habitats and habitat connectivity are compensated, if required. • Restoration must include habitats creation to compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint, expand expansion of those within the designated sites and relate to the wider landscape and enhance ecological networks including those set out in the Forest Plan*. • A dDust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is required*.
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³⁶ Ecology Chapter – Purple Haze Environmental Impact Assessment (Ecology by Design Ltd) February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

³⁷ ‘Shadow’ Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment February 2023 (Ecology by design) - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of the amenity and users of the Moors Valley Country Park and other local residents. • Maintenance and management of levels of permissive access and recreational use of the Moors Valley Country Park via the B3081*. • Protection of the nearby cycle paths, bridleways, and footpaths. • Recreational displacement must be carefully managed <u>recognising existing informal access</u>. Management arrangements to <u>legally</u> secure short and long term objectives for amenity and biodiversity including heathland, woodland, acid grassland and protected species <u>that are legally protected or otherwise notable*</u>. • Associated legal agreements must ensure no further irreversible habitat loss or risk to the conservation status of species. • Phasing programme and working to protect the amenity of local residents and permissive access to the site. • Protection of the amenity and well-being of Verwood residents, other residents in the vicinity and local businesses. Exclusion from extraction and buffer of the northern end of the site to protect the amenity of local residents*. • <u>Specialist</u> Soil handling, management, and monitoring is required <u>to ensure restoration to heathland habitats</u>. Importation of material as part of the restoration would need appropriate supporting investigations and risk assessment. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • A Routeing Agreement is required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) will be along the B3081, which is a suitable route for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 1.4 miles south from the site. A new priority junction will be required to the B3081 B3081 to ensure provision for people walking, cycling and horse-riding and the impact on peak flows is managed. • Traffic issues including cumulative impact with other mineral and waste operations and the protection of Verwood from minerals traffic. • Flood Risk Assessment <u>is</u> required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required <u>to ensure that any impacts on water quantity and quality are considered and mitigated where needed</u>. • <u>Detailed Construction and Operational Surface Water Management Plans are required*</u>. • <u>On-site water use should be sourced from boreholes in the south of the site or from a mains water supply*</u>. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
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			<p>Additional Potential Mitigation Measures and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Provision of a range of ages in woodland and heathland habitat establishment within the restoration areas to deliver structural diversity. • Heathland habitat creation Year 1 onwards. • Maintenance of open heathland on the site throughout phasing. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Targeted pre-extraction conifer clearance within the extraction and restoration area to provide early habitat enhancement, increasing foraging and breeding areas for important bird species. • Habitat creation and enhancement targeted at Conservation/Network Objectives to improve the conservation status of the International site. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Potential Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to increase opportunities for the breeding and wintering bird assemblages of the Ringwood Forest & Home Wood SINC, which may have a positive impact on the Dorset Heathlands SPA, post-restoration, due to the creation and maintenance of well-connected heathland habitats. • Appropriate restoration would increase the quantity and quality of edge habitat, creation of heathland habitat of high value to a diverse assemblage of invertebrate prey. 	
	<p>Noise; dust; lighting; vibration</p> <p>Noise and vibration effects can be caused by activities associated with the operation of machinery and / or extra traffic movements to and from the facility.</p>	<p>The qualifying features could be vulnerable to the effects of noise, dust, light pollution and vibration at this proximity.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause significant adverse noise, dust, lighting, vibration...'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>Dust deposition on ground and water from operational activities can lead to contamination at nearby International sites.</p> <p>Light pollution can be caused by artificial lighting on site as well as vehicle traffic movements to and from and within the site.</p>		<p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Dust: Dust suppression will be controlled by a specific planning condition imposed on any planning permission.</p> <p>Where dust emissions are likely to arise, mineral operators are expected to prepare a Dust Assessment Study, which should be undertaken by a competent person/organisation with acknowledged experience of undertaking this type of work³⁸.</p> <p>The results of a dust and air quality assessment at Purple Haze³⁹ conclude that for all receptors including off-site designated sites, the magnitude of dust effect from Purple Haze will be negligible. It can therefore be summarised⁴⁰ that there would not be significant impacts at offsite receptors from disamenity dust⁴¹ associated with the proposed development. This assessment assumes that standard dust suppression mitigation measures are in place including: seeding⁴² and maintaining soil storage bunds, minimising working of material in very dry or windy conditions, reducing drop heights at material transfer points, mobile plant using upward or sideways exhausts to avoid dust generation, using designated haul roads, adopting vehicle speed limits (maximum 10mph), using sheeting and wind boards on conveyors, shrouding during mineral processing (if required), and using water sprays or wetting down with a bowser if wind-blow is occurring.</p> <p>Noise: Where noise has the potential to affect the integrity of an International site, a noise assessment can be required as part of a planning proposal and planning conditions would be imposed to assess and monitor levels, and provide necessary mitigation.</p> <p>For the current Purple Haze planning application, the maximum sound power level of plant at the site would be 110dB at source (processing plant) which</p>	
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³⁸ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals#Dust-emissions>

³⁹ Dust and Air Quality Assessment – Purple Haze (DustScanAQ) December 2020 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

⁴⁰ ‘Shadow’ Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment February 2023 (Ecology by design) - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

⁴¹ ‘Disamenity dust’ or nuisance dust is associated with annoyance, but visible dust could also have detrimental impacts to habitats and wildlife for example by causing siltation of waterbodies or smothering vegetation.

⁴² Bunds could be seeded with a meadow seed mix typical of the species composition of the site.

			<p>attenuates to 68dB $L_{Aeq,T}$⁴³ at 50m from the source⁴⁴. Research (primarily conducted on waterfowl) indicates that birds typically exhibit a flight response at noise levels exceeding 84dB, while at levels below 55dB (c. 200m from the noisiest plant) there is no effect (Cutts & Allan, 1999). Activity will not have disturbance effects on birds if the maximum noise level (at the bird) is below 70dB (Cutts et al, 2009) which is achieved for the noisiest plant at 40m.</p> <p>The noise assessment concluded that “<i>The calculated site noise levels, with embedded mitigation measures, comply with the suggested site noise limits at all of the noise sensitive receptors considered. The calculated site noise levels due to temporary operations also comply with the suggested site noise limit for temporary operations at the noise sensitive receptors.</i>”</p> <p>Lighting: The potential for lighting impacts on International sites can be avoided/mitigated through the imposition of planning conditions to limit hours of operation, specify types and extent of lighting used and use of screening, to reduce light pollution.</p> <p>Vibration: The typical plant that would be employed for the intended operations at Purple Haze is unlikely to generate significant levels of vibration⁴⁵.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Incorporation of noise ameliorating bunding, utilising site overburden. • Provision of a generous stand-off buffer zone around the site perimeter between the outer edge of bunding and the site boundary • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • External lighting could be limited to the Plant Site and access from the B3081 to ensure a safe working environment during poor lighting conditions, principally envisaged at the start and end of the working day during the winter months. Apart from individual lighting on plant machinery (loading shovel, 	
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⁴³ The $L_{Aeq,T}$ is the ‘A’-weighted equivalent continuous sound pressure level which is a notional steady level which has the same acoustic energy as the actual fluctuating noise over the same time period T. The $L_{Aeq,T}$ unit is dominated by higher noise levels, for example, the $L_{Aeq,T}$ average of two equal time periods at, for example, 70 dB(A) and 50 dB(A) is not 60 dB(A) but 67 dB(A). The L_{Aeq} , is the chosen unit of BS 7445-1:2003 “Description and Measurement of Environmental noise”. The calculated levels take attenuation due to distance into account only; there are no allowances for attenuation due to screening or soft ground therefore these values are a worst-case scenario which will not be realised.

⁴⁴ Purple Haze, Ringwood – Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry – Noise Assessment (WBM Acoustic Consultants) October 2020 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

⁴⁵ Purple Haze, Ringwood – Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry (WBM Acoustic Consultants) October 2020 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

			<p>excavator, etc), the excavation and restoration operations should not be lit and operations would stop when there is insufficient light. This would protect sensitive features such as nesting birds and foraging bats. Any lighting used onsite should comply with appropriate British Standards to minimise sky glow and light spill, using LED light sources where possible to avoid ultraviolet and infrared output affecting wildlife.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources.</p> <p>Indications are that Purple Haze shares a secondary aquifer in common with the SPA/Ramsar. There is, therefore, potential for hydrological impacts to occur. An element of uncertainty remains as the hydrological connectivity between the sites and the SPA/Ramsar is unknown. A minor stream runs towards the SPA/Ramsar from the northern end of Purple Haze and therefore it is likely that extraction has potential to impact on the hydrological regime.</p> <p>Recent specialist advice on hydrology at Purple Haze, commissioned by Hampshire County Council⁴⁶, has concluded that <i>“Hydrological and hydrogeological linkages between the proposed scheme and Ebblake Bog are only present in the northern part of the site. A development that would reduce its extent to the southern part of the site and would keep the same “dry” working conditions (i.e.</i></p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals ‘do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant’. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that ‘where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including ‘cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse’]</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁴⁶ EX38 - Technical Memorandum – Purple Haze Independent Review – Jacobs (3 July 2025) – <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/EX38-Specialist-advice-on-PurpleHazehydrology-030725.pdf>

		<p><i>excavation to not reach the groundwater table), would remove all impacts, because no activities would interact with the hydrological and hydrogeological pathways to Ebblake Bog. The exact boundary delineation between the northern and southern part will depend on outcome of the additional investigations (i.e. understanding generated on “surface water runoff zones” and additional ground investigations), but would approximately correlate with the upper most limit of the southern mire feeding into Ebblake Bog”</i></p>	<p>development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Proposed Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Fuel and chemicals to be stored in a secure bunded area. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology. .</p> <p>Recent specialist advice on hydrology at Purple Haze, commissioned by Hampshire</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere,</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>County Council⁴⁷, has concluded that <i>"Hydrological and hydrogeological linkages between the proposed scheme and Ebblake Bog are only present in the northern part of the site. A development that would reduce its extent to the southern part of the site and would keep the same "dry" working conditions (i.e. excavation to not reach the groundwater table), would remove all impacts, because no activities would interact with the hydrological and hydrogeological pathways to Ebblake Bog. The exact boundary delineation between the northern and southern part will depend on outcome of the additional investigations (i.e. understanding generated on "surface water runoff zones" and additional ground investigations), but would approximately correlate with the upper most limit of the southern mire feeding into Ebblake Bog"</i></p>	<p>land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Mineral extraction not be undertaken within northern quadrant of the site, where run-off is conveyed naturally towards the Ebblake Bog SSSI, retaining greenfield conditions for ecological benefit and to safeguard the external water environment. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and</p>	<p>Based on the potential for the proposed site to provide supporting habitat for SPA qualifying bird species, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard, principally from development related traffic emissions from the adjacent B3081. In addition, operational traffic could come within 200m of</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p>	<p>YES</p>

⁴⁷ EX38 - Technical Memorandum – Purple Haze Independent Review – Jacobs (3 July 2025) – <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/EX38-Specialist-advice-on-PurpleHazehydrology-030725.pdf>

	associated vehicle movements.	the Dorset Heathlands SPA on the A31. This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁴⁸.	<p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Provision of a range of ages in woodland and heathland habitat establishment within the restoration areas to deliver structural diversity. • Heathland habitat creation Year 1 onwards. • Maintenance of open heathland on the site throughout phasing. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Targeted pre-extraction conifer clearance within the extraction and restoration area to provide early habitat enhancement, increasing foraging and breeding areas for important bird species. • Habitat creation and enhancement targeted at Conservation/Network Objectives to improve the conservation status of the International site. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Incorporation of bunding around operational phases, utilising site overburden. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Recreation related impacts</p> <p>Recreation can be displaced on to</p>	Various studies have found that public access to lowland heathland has led to an increase in wildfires, damaging recreational uses, the introduction of incompatible plants	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the</p>	YES

⁴⁸ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

	<p>areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>and animals, loss of vegetation and soil erosion and disturbance by humans and their pets amongst other factors have an adverse effects on the heathland ecology.</p> <p>Based on the proximity of the SPA/Ramsar and the presence of a bridleway to the north west boundary of the site, there is the potential of impact on the SPA/Ramsar from recreational displacement.</p> <p>The Dorset Heathlands Planning Framework 2020-2025 Supplementary Planning Document (Dorset Council, 2020) provides a useful guide to types of impacts upon heathland sites.</p>	<p>character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard Public Rights of Way throughout operations, where possible. • Install bunds around the Plant Site and active Phases to reduce the negative impacts on recreational users by minimising visual and acoustic impacts. • Improve access infrastructure for routes that take displaced recreational users away from International sites. • Include recreational access in the Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Ditches and planting used to persuade recreational users to keep to designated paths. • Installation of interpretation boards to encourage site users to keep dogs on leads. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA. This would include Recreation Use studies undertaken prior to planning application submission to inform detailed mitigation.</p>	
<p>River Avon SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation • 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> 	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources. However, a recent Hydrological Impact Assessment⁴⁹ has concluded that "<i>All identified potential impacts have been assessed as being of 'Negligible' magnitude with a significance of 'Minor', therefore no mitigation measures are proposed. However, continued groundwater monitoring and adherence to industry best practice pollution prevention measures is advised to further</i></p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁴⁹ Hydrological Impact Assessment – Purple Haze Quarry (hafrenwater environmental water management) February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> • 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> • 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> <p>Purple Haze (NFD03) is 1.26 km from the River Avon SAC</p>	<p>also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p><i>reduce the magnitude and significance of risks.</i> In addition – “No significant change is anticipated in groundwater levels or flow direction, however it is advised to continue the existing monthly groundwater level monitoring to further increase the understanding of the local groundwater regime.”</p>	<p>adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant’. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that ‘where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including ‘cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse’]</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> • Protection of <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of</u> the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar, and the River Avon SAC (and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar in relation to recreational displacement)*. • The <u>Ensure no significant adverse</u> impact on the offsite roosting, foraging, and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A Hydrological/hydrogeological assessment, <u>hydrochemical and ecohydrological assessments</u> is <u>are</u> required to consider <u>determine the risk and appropriate protection of</u> whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars and SSSIs, including <u>This includes</u> the issue of nutrient enrichment, and including the protection of the water quality and recharge of the underlying aquifer, groundwater and surface water and safeguarding the <u>hydrological/</u>ecohydrological regimes of Ebblake Bog and Moors River <u>System</u> Sites of Special Scientific Interest <u>potentially through the limiting or exclusion of extraction in the north of the site*</u> • Protection of populations and conservation status of rare and notable species including Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard and Coral Necklace*. • The <u>Mitigate the</u> impact on Ringwood Forest and Home Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, <u>ensuring that temporary and long-term impacts to habitats and habitat connectivity are compensated, if required.</u> • Restoration must include habitats <u>creation to compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint,</u> expand <u>expansion of</u> those within the designated sites and relate to the wider landscape and enhance ecological networks <u>including those set out in the Forest Plan*</u>. • <u>A d</u>Dust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is required*. • Protection and enhancement of the amenity and users of the Moors Valley Country Park and other local residents. • Maintenance and management of levels of permissive access and recreational use of the Moors Valley Country Park via the B3081*. • Protection of the nearby cycle paths, bridleways, and footpaths. • Recreational displacement must be carefully managed <u>recognising existing informal access.</u> Management arrangements to <u>legally</u> secure short and long term objectives for amenity and biodiversity including heathland, woodland, acid grassland and protected species <u>that are legally protected or otherwise notable*</u>. • Associated legal agreements must ensure no further irreversible habitat loss or risk to the conservation status of species. • Phasing programme and working to protect the amenity of local residents and permissive access to the site. • Protection of the amenity and well-being of Verwood residents, other residents in the vicinity and local businesses. Exclusion from extraction and buffer of the northern end of the site to protect the amenity of local residents*. • <u>Specialist</u> Soil handling, management, and monitoring is required <u>to ensure restoration to heathland habitats.</u> Importation of material as part of the 	
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			<p>restoration would need appropriate supporting investigations and risk assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • A Routeing Agreement is required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) will be along the B3081, which is a suitable route for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 1.4 miles south from the site. A new priority junction will be required to the B3081 to ensure provision for people walking, cycling and horse-riding and the impact on peak flows is managed. • Traffic issues including cumulative impact with other mineral and waste operations and the protection of Verwood from minerals traffic. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on water quantity and quality are considered and mitigated where needed. • Detailed Construction and Operational Surface Water Management Plans are required*. • On-site water use should be sourced from boreholes in the south of the site or from a mains water supply*. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p> <p>Proposed Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Fuel and chemicals will be stored in a secure bunded area. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
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	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology.</p> <p>However, a recent Hydrological Impact Assessment⁵⁰ has concluded that <i>"All identified potential impacts have been assessed as being of 'Negligible' magnitude with a significance of 'Minor', therefore no mitigation measures are proposed. However, continued groundwater monitoring and adherence to industry best practice pollution prevention measures is advised to further reduce the magnitude and significance of risks."</i> In addition – <i>"No significant change is anticipated in groundwater levels or flow direction, however it is advised to continue the existing monthly groundwater level monitoring to further increase the understanding of the local groundwater regime."</i></p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Proposed Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	<p>YES</p>
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p>	<p>Based on the proximity of the main site transport route to the SAC, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁵⁰ Hydrological Impact Assessment – Purple Haze Quarry (hafrenwater environmental water management) February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

	Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.	This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁵¹.	<p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Targeted pre-extraction conifer clearance within the extraction and restoration area to provide early habitat enhancement, increasing foraging and breeding areas for important bird species. • Habitat creation and enhancement targeted at Conservation/Network Objectives to improve the conservation status of the International site. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Incorporation of bunding around operational phases, utilising site overburden. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar	Water pollution	The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality	Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)	YES

⁵¹ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>: Bewick swan • A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall <p>Purple Haze (NFD03) is 1.33 km from the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar</p>	<p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>from a range of pollution sources. However, a recent Hydrological Impact Assessment⁵² has concluded that “All identified potential impacts have been assessed as being of ‘Negligible’ magnitude with a significance of ‘Minor’, therefore no mitigation measures are proposed. However, continued groundwater monitoring and adherence to industry best practice pollution prevention measures is advised to further reduce the magnitude and significance of risks.” In addition – “No significant change is anticipated in groundwater levels or flow direction, however it is advised to continue the existing monthly groundwater level monitoring to further increase the understanding of the local groundwater regime.”</p>	<p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals ‘do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant’. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that ‘where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including ‘cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse’]</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p>	
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⁵² Hydrological Impact Assessment – Purple Haze Quarry (hafrenwater environmental water management) February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

			<p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. <i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i> Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> • Protection of <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of</u> the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar, and the River Avon SAC (and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar in relation to recreational displacement)*. • The <u>Ensure no significant adverse</u> impact on the offsite roosting, foraging, and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A Hydrological/hydrogeological assessment, <u>hydrochemical and ecohydrological assessments</u> is <u>are</u> required to <u>consider determine the risk and appropriate protection of</u> whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars and SSSIs, including <u>This includes</u> the issue of nutrient enrichment, and including the protection of the water quality and recharge of the underlying aquifer, groundwater and surface water and safeguarding the <u>hydrological/</u>ecohydrological regimes of Ebblake Bog and Moors River <u>System</u> Sites of Special Scientific Interest <u>potentially through the limiting or exclusion of extraction in the north of the site*</u> • Protection of populations and conservation status of rare and notable species including Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard and Coral Necklace*. • The <u>Mitigate the</u> impact on Ringwood Forest and Home Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, <u>ensuring that temporary and long-term impacts to habitats and habitat connectivity are compensated, if required.</u> • Restoration must include habitats <u>creation</u> to <u>compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint</u>, expand <u>expansion of</u> those within the designated sites and relate to the wider landscape and enhance ecological networks <u>including those set out in the Forest Plan*</u>. • <u>A d</u>Dust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is required*. • Protection and enhancement of the amenity and users of the Moors Valley Country Park and other local residents. • Maintenance and management of levels of permissive access and recreational use of the Moors Valley Country Park via the B3081*. • Protection of the nearby cycle paths, bridleways, and footpaths. • Recreational displacement must be carefully managed <u>recognising existing informal access</u>. Management arrangements to <u>legally</u> secure short and long term objectives for amenity and biodiversity including heathland, woodland, acid grassland and protected species <u>that are legally protected or otherwise notable*</u>. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associated legal agreements must ensure no further irreversible habitat loss or risk to the conservation status of species. • Phasing programme and working to protect the amenity of local residents and permissive access to the site. • Protection of the amenity and well-being of Verwood residents, other residents in the vicinity and local businesses. Exclusion from extraction and buffer of the northern end of the site to protect the amenity of local residents*. • <u>Specialist</u> Soil handling, management, and monitoring is required <u>to ensure restoration to heathland habitats</u>. Importation of material as part of the restoration would need appropriate supporting investigations and risk assessment. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • A Routeing Agreement is required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) will be along the B3081, which is a suitable route for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 1.4 miles south from the site. A new priority junction will be required to the B3804<u>B3081</u> to ensure provision for people walking, cycling and horse-riding and the impact on peak flows is managed. • Traffic issues including cumulative impact with other mineral and waste operations and the protection of Verwood from minerals traffic. • Flood Risk Assessment <u>is</u> required. The s<u>Site</u> must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required <u>to ensure that any impacts on water quantity and quality are considered and mitigated where needed</u>. • <u>Detailed Construction and Operational Surface Water Management Plans are required*</u>. • <u>On-site water use should be sourced from boreholes in the south of the site or from a mains water supply*</u>. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p> <p><u>Proposed Mitigation Measures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Fuel and chemicals will be stored in a secure bunded area. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology.</p> <p>However, a recent Hydrological Impact Assessment⁵³ has concluded that "<i>All identified potential impacts have been assessed as being of 'Negligible' magnitude with a significance of 'Minor', therefore no mitigation measures are proposed. However, continued groundwater monitoring and adherence to industry best practice pollution prevention measures is advised to further reduce the magnitude and significance of risks.</i>" In addition – "<i>No significant change is anticipated in groundwater levels or flow direction, however it is advised to continue the existing monthly groundwater level monitoring to further increase the understanding of the local groundwater regime.</i>"</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water management (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Proposed Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key hydrological areas, including the potential for limiting or avoiding extraction in the northern part of the site, to avoid hydrological and water quality effects on Ebblake Bog SSSI. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. 	YES

⁵³ Hydrological Impact Assessment – Purple Haze Quarry (hafrenwater environmental water management) February 2023 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/21/10459>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the proximity of the main site transport route to the SPA/Ramsar, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁵⁴.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key heathland and hydrological areas. Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. Targeted pre-extraction conifer clearance within the extraction and restoration area to provide early habitat enhancement, increasing foraging and breeding areas for important bird species. Habitat creation and enhancement targeted at Conservation/Network Objectives to improve the conservation status of the International site. Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. Incorporation of bunding around operational phases, utilising site overburden. A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. Site operation air quality monitoring. 	YES

⁵⁴ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>New Forest SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> 4030 European dry heaths 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer 	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Operational traffic could cross the New Forest SAC on the A31.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁵⁵.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above) Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above) <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. [Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage]. Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary. Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar, and the River Avon SAC (and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar in relation to recreational displacement)*. The Ensure no significant adverse impact on the offsite roosting, foraging, and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. A-Hydrological/hydrogeological assessment, hydrochemical and ecohydrological assessments is are required to consider determine the risk and appropriate protection of whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars and SSSIs, including This includes the issue of nutrient enrichment, and including the protection of the water quality and recharge of the underlying aquifer, groundwater and surface water and safeguarding the hydrological/ecohydrological regimes of Ebblake Bog and Moors River System Sites of Special Scientific Interest potentially through the limiting or exclusion of extraction in the north of the site* Protection of populations and conservation status of rare and notable species including Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard and Coral Necklace*. The Mitigate the impact on Ringwood Forest and Home Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, ensuring that temporary and long-term impacts to habitats and habitat connectivity are compensated, if required. Restoration must include habitats creation to compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint, expand expansion of those within 	YES

⁵⁵ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

<p>(<i>Quercion robur-petraeae</i> or <i>ilici-Fagenion</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests • 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • 91D0 Bog woodland* • 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)* • 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs • 7230 Alkaline fens • 1044 Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale • 1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> • 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> <p><i>Purple Haze (NFD03)</i> is 4.2 km from the New Forest SAC</p>			<p>the designated sites and relate to the wider landscape and enhance ecological networks including those set out in the Forest Plan*.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dDust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is required*. • Protection and enhancement of the amenity and users of the Moors Valley Country Park and other local residents. • Maintenance and management of levels of permissive access and recreational use of the Moors Valley Country Park via the B3081*. • Protection of the nearby cycle paths, bridleways, and footpaths. • Recreational displacement must be carefully managed recognising existing informal access. Management arrangements to legally secure short and long term objectives for amenity and biodiversity including heathland, woodland, acid grassland and protected species that are legally protected or otherwise notable*. • Associated legal agreements must ensure no further irreversible habitat loss or risk to the conservation status of species. • Phasing programme and working to protect the amenity of local residents and permissive access to the site. • Protection of the amenity and well-being of Verwood residents, other residents in the vicinity and local businesses. Exclusion from extraction and buffer of the northern end of the site to protect the amenity of local residents*. • Specialist Ssoil handling, management, and monitoring is required to ensure restoration to heathland habitats. Importation of material as part of the restoration would need appropriate supporting investigations and risk assessment. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • A Routeing Agreement is required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) will be along the B3081, which is a suitable route for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 1.4 miles south from the site. A new priority junction will be required to the B3804B3081 to ensure provision for people walking, cycling and horse-riding and the impact on peak flows is managed. • Traffic issues including cumulative impact with other mineral and waste operations and the protection of Verwood from minerals traffic. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on water quantity and quality are considered and mitigated where needed. • Detailed Construction and Operational Surface Water Management Plans are required*. • On-site water use should be sourced from boreholes in the south of the site or from a mains water supply*. <p>(‘The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.’)</p>	
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			<p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>New Forest SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A072(B) <i>Pernis apivorus</i>: European honey-buzzard • A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier • A099(B) <i>Falco subbuteo</i>: Eurasian hobby • A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar • A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark • A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler • A314(B) <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>: Wood warbler <p><i>Purple Haze (NFD03) is 4.23 km from the New Forest SAC</i></p>	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Operational traffic could cross The New Forest SPA/Ramsar on the A31.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁵⁶.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary. • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Dorset Heaths SAC, Dorset Heathlands SPA and Ramsar, Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar, and the River Avon SAC (and the New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar in relation to recreational displacement)*. • The Ensure no significant adverse impact on the offsite roosting, foraging, and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A-Hydrological/hydrogeological assessment, hydrochemical and ecohydrological assessments is are required to consider/determine the risk and appropriate protection of whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars and SSSIs, including This includes the issue of nutrient enrichment, and including the protection of the water quality and recharge of the underlying aquifer, groundwater and surface water and safeguarding the hydrological/ecohydrological regimes of Ebblake Bog and Moors River System Sites of Special Scientific Interest potentially through the limiting or exclusion of extraction in the north of the site* • Protection of populations and conservation status of rare and notable species including Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard and Coral Necklace*. • The Mitigate the impact on Ringwood Forest and Home Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, ensuring that temporary and long-term impacts to habitats and habitat connectivity are compensated, if required. • Restoration must include habitats creation to compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint, expand expansion of those within 	<p>YES</p>

⁵⁶ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

			<p>the designated sites and relate to the wider landscape and enhance ecological networks including those set out in the Forest Plan*.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dDust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is required*. • Protection and enhancement of the amenity and users of the Moors Valley Country Park and other local residents. • Maintenance and management of levels of permissive access and recreational use of the Moors Valley Country Park via the B3081*. • Protection of the nearby cycle paths, bridleways, and footpaths. • Recreational displacement must be carefully managed recognising existing informal access. Management arrangements to legally secure short and long term objectives for amenity and biodiversity including heathland, woodland, acid grassland and protected species that are legally protected or otherwise notable*. • Associated legal agreements must ensure no further irreversible habitat loss or risk to the conservation status of species. • Phasing programme and working to protect the amenity of local residents and permissive access to the site. • Protection of the amenity and well-being of Verwood residents, other residents in the vicinity and local businesses. Exclusion from extraction and buffer of the northern end of the site to protect the amenity of local residents*. • Specialist Ssoil handling, management, and monitoring is required to ensure restoration to heathland habitats. Importation of material as part of the restoration would need appropriate supporting investigations and risk assessment. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • A Routeing Agreement is required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) will be along the B3081, which is a suitable route for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 1.4 miles south from the site. A new priority junction will be required to the B3804B3081 to ensure provision for people walking, cycling and horse-riding and the impact on peak flows is managed. • Traffic issues including cumulative impact with other mineral and waste operations and the protection of Verwood from minerals traffic. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on water quantity and quality are considered and mitigated where needed. • Detailed Construction and Operational Surface Water Management Plans are required*. • On-site water use should be sourced from boreholes in the south of the site or from a mains water supply*. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p>	
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			<p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
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Table A4.2: Midgham Farm (NFD04)

Elements of the following text and the Development Considerations in the table incorporate the Main Modifications (MMs). Text that has been added since the Submission Appropriate Assessment is **bold and underlined** and text that is deleted is ~~struck through~~.

Total mineral resource: up to ~~4.23.6~~ million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel (3.0 million tonnes during Plan period), from **2026+**.

Restoration to agriculture at the existing levels using imported inert materials, including nature conservation and increased permissive access.

The Midgham Farm site has sufficient size and capacity to allow for the implementation of listed mitigation and other measures and remain economically viable.

Midgham Farm is currently subject to a planning application (planning application number – 25/10023) for sand and gravel extraction.

International sites potentially affected and qualifying features	Potential impacts identified at Screening stage	Could the development have an adverse effect on any International site integrity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects?	Mitigation / measures	If mitigation / measures are implemented, can adverse effects on the International site from the Plan Partial Update be ruled out?
<p>Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>: Bewick swan A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall <p>Midgham Farm (NFD04) is 0.53 km from the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar</p>	<p>Removal of supporting habitat</p> <p>New/extended minerals and waste sites can lead to loss of, or impact on, habitat that provides functional support to International sites, such as grassland that provides roosting and foraging sites for qualifying bird species.</p>	<p>Based on the distance of the SPA/Ramsar from the proposed site and its land management, the site may provide supporting habitat for SPA/Ramsar qualifying bird species. Further surveys will be required to determine the level of importance of this habitat for the qualifying feature species of birds, especially in combination with other sites in the vicinity.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> 	<p>YES</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar, River Avon SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar*. • The Ensure no significant adverse impact on the offsite roosting, foraging and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A-Hydrological/hydrogeological assessments is are required to determine the risk and appropriate protection of consider whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars, and SSSIs, including the issue of nutrient enrichment*. • Buffering of the offsite woodland, with particular focus on those areas of Ancient Replanted Woodland and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland, are required. • Pre-commencement planting and restoration proposals require phasing and development design to ensure connectivity is retained or replaced as a priority, most notably in the southern boundary. • Restoration proposals will need to compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint, relate to the wider landscape, and enhance ecological networks, including provision of deciduous woodland along the boundaries of the site*. • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on water quality and quantity of the River Avon and Christchurch Harbour SSSI*. • A buffer is required in the north-west corner and western edge of the site to protect the amenity and well-being of Alderholt Village and any urban expansion. Buffers are also required to protect the adjacent residential properties along the site boundary. • Replacement of hedgerows, where removed, and additional native tree planting along Hillbury Road. • A Dust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is are required*. • Restoration should include no large open water bodies, for to landscape and airport safeguarding reasons. However, small ponds may be acceptable to contribute towards biodiversity. • The site is Best and Most Versatile (Grade 3a and 3b). Soil handling and management is required and restoration to original (or improved) agricultural land classification. • A new priority junction will be required onto Hillbury Road, in liaison with Dorset Council, and a conveyor belt to cross Lomer Lane for the second phase of extraction. • A Transport Assessment is required. This should consider assess the suitability of the route, cumulative traffic impacts taking into account committed developments which would impact the route and that the site is a continuation of existing extraction operations at Bleak Hill which would cease prior to commencement at Midgham Farm. The safety of other road users (walkers, cyclists and horse riders) will also need to be considered on Hillbury Road and Harbridge Drove (due to the lack of footpath). • A Routeing Agreement is may be required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) south along Hillbury Road/Harbridge Drove before joining briefly the B3081 at Bakers Hanging to its junction with the A31. Both Harbridge Drove and the 	
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			<p>B3081 are suitable routes for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 5.5 miles south from the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of rights of way (Fordingbridge footpath 090/8a, Fordingbridge footpath 090/2, Fordingbridge footpath 090/3) and connectivity to the wider network. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on groundwater flows and water quality are considered and mitigated where needed. <p><i>(‘The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.’)</i></p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key habitat and hydrological areas. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Provision of a range of ages in vegetation establishment within the restoration areas to deliver structural diversity. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • A focus on Conservation/Network Objectives in relation to site restoration, should the site be shown to provide functionally linked land for the SPA. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Noise; dust; lighting; vibration</p> <p>Noise and vibration effects can be caused by activities associated with the operation of machinery and / or extra traffic</p>	<p>The qualifying features could be vulnerable to the effects of noise, dust, light pollution and vibration at this proximity.</p> <p>However, the typical plant that would be employed for the intended operations at Midgham Farm is unlikely to generate significant detrimental levels of vibration.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including ‘cause significant adverse noise, dust, lighting, vibration...’.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to ‘unacceptable’ to ‘significant adverse’]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>movements to and from the facility.</p> <p>Dust deposition on ground and water from operational activities can lead to contamination at nearby International sites.</p> <p>Light pollution can be caused by artificial lighting on site as well as vehicle traffic movements to and from and within the site.</p>		<p>(see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions. • Dust suppression will be controlled by a specific planning condition imposed on any planning permission. • Where dust emissions are likely to arise, mineral operators are expected to prepare a Dust Assessment Study, which should be undertaken by a competent person/organisation with acknowledged experience of undertaking this type of work.⁵⁷ <p>Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where noise has the potential to affect the integrity of an International site, a noise assessment can be required as part of a planning proposal and planning conditions would be imposed to assess and monitor levels, and provide necessary mitigation. <p>Lighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for lighting impacts on International sites can be avoided/mitigated through the imposition of planning conditions to limit hours of operation, specify types and extent of lighting used and use of screening, to reduce light pollution. <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Incorporation of noise ameliorating bunding, utilising site overburden. • Provision of a generous stand-off buffer zone around the site perimeter between the outer edge of bunding and the site boundary • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • External lighting could be limited to the Plant Site and site access to ensure a safe working environment during poor lighting conditions, principally envisaged at the start and end of the working day during the winter months. Apart from individual lighting on plant machinery (loading shovel, excavator, etc), the excavation and restoration operations should not be lit and operations would stop when there is insufficient light. This would protect sensitive features such as nesting birds and foraging bats. Any lighting used onsite should comply with appropriate British Standards to minimise sky glow and light spill, using LED light sources where possible to avoid ultraviolet and infrared output affecting wildlife. 	
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⁵⁷ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals#Dust-emissions>

			Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA , which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.	
	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources. Topographical and drainage mapping indicates that there is likely to be hydrological connectivity between the site allocation and the SPA/Ramsar.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water management requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'. <i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p>	<p>YES</p>

			<p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Fuel and chemicals to be stored in a secure bunded area. <p>Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology. Topographical and drainage mapping indicates that there is likely to be hydrological connectivity between the allocated site and the SPA/Ramsar.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water management (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive hydrological features within the red line boundary (the site is large and only a proportion of the site would be developed). • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. 	<p>YES</p>

	changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.		Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA , which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the potential for the proposed site to provide supporting habitat for SPA/Ramsar qualifying bird species, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁵⁸.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Avoidance of sensitive features within the red line boundary, including key habitat and hydrological areas. • Maintenance of an undeveloped buffers with enhanced screening vegetation within the red line boundary. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Incorporation of bunding around operational phases, utilising site overburden. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Provision of a range of ages in vegetation establishment within the restoration areas to deliver structural diversity. • Creation and maintenance of corridors for wildlife. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. 	YES

⁵⁸ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. A focus on Conservation/Network Objectives in relation to site restoration, should the site be shown to provide functionally linked land. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Recreation related impacts</p> <p>Recreation can be displaced on to areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>Based on the distance of the site from the SPA/Ramsar and the fact that a PRoW crosses the site, there is the potential of a significant effect from recreational displacement.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguard Public Rights of Way throughout operations, where possible. Install bunds around the Plant Site and active Phases to reduce the negative impacts on recreational users by minimising visual and acoustic impacts. Improve access infrastructure for routes that take displaced recreational users away from International sites. Include recreational access in the Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. Ditches and planting used to persuade recreational users to keep to designated paths. Installation of interpretation boards to encourage site users to keep dogs on leads. Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	YES
<p>River Avon SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and 	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects,</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources. Topographical and drainage mapping indicates that there is likely to be hydrological connectivity between the site allocation and the SAC.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally</i></p>	YES

<p>Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> • 1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> • 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> • 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> <p>Midgham Farm (NFD04) is 0.53 km from the River Avon SAC</p>	<p>eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>		<p><i>designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 8: Water management requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p>	
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			<p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> • <u>Protection Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity</u> of the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar, River Avon SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar*. • The <u>Ensure no significant adverse</u> impact on the offsite roosting, foraging and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A-Hydrological/<u>hydrogeological</u> assessments <u>is are</u> required to <u>determine the risk and appropriate protection of</u> consider whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars, and SSSIs, including the issue of nutrient enrichment*. • Buffering of the offsite woodland, <u>with particular focus on those areas of Ancient Replanted Woodland and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland,</u> <u>are is</u> required. • Pre-commencement planting and restoration proposals require phasing and development design to ensure connectivity is retained or replaced as a priority, most notably in the southern boundary. • Restoration proposals will need to <u>compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint,</u> relate to the wider landscape, and enhance ecological networks, including provision of deciduous woodland along the boundaries of the site*. • Protection of <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on</u> water quality and quantity of the River Avon <u>and Christchurch Harbour SSSI</u>*. • A buffer is required in the north-west corner and western edge of the site to protect the amenity and well-being of Alderholt Village and any urban expansion. Buffers are also required to protect the adjacent residential properties along the site boundary. • Replacement of hedgerows, where removed, and additional native tree planting along Hillbury Road. • <u>A</u> <u>D</u>ust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring <u>is are</u> required*. • Restoration should include no large open water bodies, for to landscape and airport safeguarding reasons. However, small ponds may be acceptable to contribute towards biodiversity. • The site is Best and Most Versatile (Grade 3a and 3b). Soil handling and management is required and restoration to original (or improved) agricultural land classification. • A new priority junction will be required onto Hillbury Road, <u>in liaison with Dorset Council,</u> and a conveyor belt to cross Lomer Lane for the second phase of extraction. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Transport Assessment is required. This should consider assess the suitability of the route, cumulative traffic impacts taking into account committed developments which would impact the route and that the site is a continuation of existing extraction operations at Bleak Hill which would cease prior to commencement at Midgham Farm. The safety of other road users (walkers, cyclists and horse riders) will also need to be considered on Hillbury Road and Harbridge Drove (due to the lack of footpath). • A Routeing Agreement is may be required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) south along Hillbury Road/Harbridge Drove before joining briefly the B3081 at Bakers Hanging to its junction with the A31. Both Harbridge Drove and the B3081 are suitable routes for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 5.5 miles south from the site. • Protection and enhancement of rights of way (Fordingbridge footpath 090/8a, Fordingbridge footpath 090/2, Fordingbridge footpath 090/3) and connectivity to the wider network. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on groundwater flows and water quality are considered and mitigated where needed. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Surface water run-off from the Plant Area to be directed to a sump to soakaway. • Process minerals at the site using self-contained plant which re-circulates water, avoiding the need for settlement lagoons and no requirement to discharge water off-site. • Fuel and chemicals to be stored in a secure bunded area. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology. Topographical and drainage mapping indicate that there is likely to be hydrological</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water management (see text above)</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>connectivity between the allocated site and the SAC.</p>	<p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive hydrological features within the red line boundary (the site is large and only a proportion of the site would be developed). • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the proximity of the main transport route, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁵⁹.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	<p>YES</p>
	<p>Recreation related impacts</p>	<p>Based on the distance of the site from the SAC and the fact that a</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁵⁹ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

	<p>Recreation can be displaced on to areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>PRoW crosses the site, there is the potential of a significant effect from recreational displacement.</p>	<p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguard Public Rights of Way throughout operations, where possible. • Install bunds around the Plant Site and active Phases to reduce the negative impacts on recreational users by minimising visual and acoustic impacts. • Improve access infrastructure for routes that take displaced recreational users away from International sites. • Include recreational access in the Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Ditches and planting used to persuade recreational users to keep to designated paths. • Installation of interpretation boards to encourage site users to keep dogs on leads. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>Dorset Heaths SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • 4030 European dry heaths • 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion • 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) 	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology. However, topographical and drainage mapping indicate that there is unlikely to be hydrological connectivity between the allocated site and the SAC.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 8: Water management requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources,</p>	<p>YES</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7210 Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>* • 7230 Alkaline fens • 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> • 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> <p><i>Midgham Farm (NFD04) is 1.79 km from the Dorset Heaths SAC</i></p>	<p>fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>		<p>he potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'.</p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> • Protection <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity</u> of the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar, River Avon SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar*. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>Ensure no significant adverse</u> impact on the offsite roosting, foraging and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A-Hydrological/<u>hydrogeological</u> assessments is are required to <u>determine the risk and appropriate protection of</u> consider whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars, and SSSIs, including the issue of nutrient enrichment*. • Buffering of the offsite woodland, <u>with particular focus on those areas of Ancient Replanted Woodland and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland,</u> are is required. • Pre-commencement planting and restoration proposals require phasing and development design to ensure connectivity is retained or replaced as a priority, most notably in the southern boundary. • Restoration proposals will need to <u>compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint,</u> relate to the wider landscape, and enhance ecological networks, including provision of deciduous woodland along the boundaries of the site*. • Protection of <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on</u> water quality and quantity of the River Avon <u>and Christchurch Harbour SSSI*</u>. • A buffer is required in the north-west corner and western edge of the site to protect the amenity and well-being of Alderholt Village and any urban expansion. Buffers are also required to protect the adjacent residential properties along the site boundary. • Replacement of hedgerows, where removed, and additional native tree planting along Hillbury Road. • <u>A</u> <u>D</u> dust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring is are required*. • Restoration should include no large open water bodies, for to landscape and airport safeguarding reasons. However, small ponds may be acceptable to contribute towards biodiversity. • The site is Best and Most Versatile (Grade 3a and 3b). Soil handling and management is required and restoration to original (or improved) agricultural land classification. • A new priority junction will be required onto Hillbury Road, <u>in liaison with Dorset Council,</u> and a conveyor belt to cross Lomer Lane for the second phase of extraction. • A Transport Assessment is required. This should consider <u>assess</u> the <u>suitability of the route,</u> cumulative traffic impacts taking into account <u>committed developments which would impact the route and</u> that the site is a continuation of existing extraction operations at Bleak Hill which would cease prior to commencement at Midgham Farm. The safety of other road users (walkers, cyclists and horse riders) will also need to be considered on Hillbury Road and Harbridge Drove (due to the lack of footpath). • A Routeing Agreement is may be required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) south along Hillbury Road/Harbridge Drove before joining briefly the B3081 <u>at Bakers Hanging</u> to its junction with the A31. Both Harbridge Drove and the B3081 are suitable routes for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 5.5 miles south from the site. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection and enhancement of rights of way (Fordingbridge footpath 090/8a, Fordingbridge footpath 090/2, Fordingbridge footpath 090/3) and connectivity to the wider network. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on groundwater flows and water quality are considered and mitigated where needed. <p><i>(‘The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.’)</i></p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive hydrological features within the red line boundary (the site is large and only a proportion of the site would be developed). • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the proximity of the main transport route, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁶⁰.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁶⁰ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

<p>Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar • A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark • A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler • A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier • A098(NB) <i>Falco columbarius</i>: Merlin <p><i>Midgham Farm (NFD04)</i> is 1.79 km from the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar</p>	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna.</p> <p>Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology. However, topographical and drainage mapping indicate that there is unlikely to be hydrological connectivity between the allocated site and the SPA/Ramsar.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 8: Water management requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p>	<p>YES</p>
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			<p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'.</p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. <i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i> Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The location of the site on the Hampshire/Dorset border and the need to consider the potential for impacts beyond the Plan boundary.</u> • Protection <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity</u> of the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar, River Avon SAC, Dorset Heaths SAC and the Dorset Heathlands SPA/Ramsar*. • The <u>Ensure no significant adverse</u> impact on the offsite roosting, foraging and breeding areas of the qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs/Ramsars, and on their functional linkage*. • A-Hydrological/hydrogeological <u>assessments is are</u> required to <u>determine the risk and appropriate protection of</u> consider whether proposed works will affect nearby National Site Network sites, Ramsars, and SSSIs, including the issue of nutrient enrichment* • Buffering of the offsite woodland, <u>with particular focus on those areas of Ancient Replanted Woodland and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland,</u> are <u>is</u> required. • Pre-commencement planting and restoration proposals require phasing and development design to ensure connectivity is retained or replaced as a priority, most notably in the southern boundary. • Restoration proposals will need to <u>compensate for habitats lost from within the development footprint,</u> relate to the wider landscape, and enhance ecological networks, including provision of deciduous woodland along the boundaries of the site* • Protection of <u>Ensure no significant adverse impact on</u> water quality and quantity of the River Avon <u>and Christchurch Harbour SSSI*</u>. • A buffer is required in the north-west corner and western edge of the site to protect the amenity and well-being of Alderholt Village and any urban expansion. Buffers are also required to protect the adjacent residential properties along the site boundary. • Replacement of hedgerows, where removed, and additional native tree planting along Hillbury Road. • A <u>D</u>ust, noise, and lighting management plan and monitoring <u>is are</u> required*. 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration should include no large open water bodies, for to landscape and airport safeguarding reasons. However, small ponds may be acceptable to contribute towards biodiversity. • The site is Best and Most Versatile (Grade 3a and 3b). Soil handling and management is required and restoration to original (or improved) agricultural land classification. • A new priority junction will be required onto Hillbury Road, in liaison with Dorset Council, and a conveyor belt to cross Lomer Lane for the second phase of extraction. • A Transport Assessment is required. This should consider assess the suitability of the route, cumulative traffic impacts taking into account committed developments which would impact the route and that the site is a continuation of existing extraction operations at Bleak Hill which would cease prior to commencement at Midgham Farm. The safety of other road users (walkers, cyclists and horse riders) will also need to be considered on Hillbury Road and Harbridge Drove (due to the lack of footpath). • A Routeing Agreement is may be required. Routeing to the SRN (A31) south along Hillbury Road/Harbridge Drove before joining briefly the B3081 at Bakers Hanging to its junction with the A31. Both Harbridge Drove and the B3081 are suitable routes for HGV traffic. The SRN is located some 5.5 miles south from the site. • Protection and enhancement of rights of way (Fordingbridge footpath 090/8a, Fordingbridge footpath 090/2, Fordingbridge footpath 090/3) and connectivity to the wider network. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Hydrogeological/Hydrological Assessment is required to ensure that any impacts on groundwater flows and water quality are considered and mitigated where needed. <p><i>(The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.)</i></p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of sensitive hydrological features within the red line boundary (the site is large and only a proportion of the site would be developed). • Work mineral above the water table with no requirement for dewatering across the site. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. 	
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			Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA , which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the proximity of main transport route, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁶¹.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	YES
<p>New Forest SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3110 Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>) • 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> • 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • 4030 European dry heaths • 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty 	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Operational traffic could cross the New Forest SAC on the A31.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁶².</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	YES

⁶¹ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

⁶² Ibid.

<p>or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> • 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robur-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>) • 9130 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests • 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains • 91D0 Bog woodland* • 91E0 Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)* • 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs • 7230 Alkaline fens • 1044 Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale • 1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> • 1166 Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i> 				
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<p><i>Midgham Farm (NFD04) is 1.95 km from the New Forest SAC</i></p>				
<p>New Forest SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A072(B) <i>Pernis apivorus</i>: European honey-buzzard • A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier • A099(B) <i>Falco subbuteo</i>: Eurasian hobby • A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar • A246(B) <i>Lullula arborea</i>: Woodlark • A302(B) <i>Sylvia undata</i>: Dartford warbler • A314(B) <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>: Wood warbler <p><i>Purple Haze (NFD04) is 1.95 km from the New Forest SAC</i></p>	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Operational traffic could cross The New Forest SPA/Ramsar on the A31.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁶³.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁶³ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

Table A4.3: Hamble Airfield (EAL02)

Elements of the following text and the Development Considerations in the table incorporate the Main Modifications (MMs). Text that has been added since the Submission Appropriate Assessment is **bold and underlined** and text that is deleted is ~~struck through~~.

Total mineral resource: ~~1.75~~ million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel from 202~~5~~4+

Restoration to a combination of grazing, nature conservation, open space, public access and woodland.

Planning permission has been granted at appeal (application Ref. CS/22/92277) for the proposed extraction of sand and gravel at Hamble Airfield, subject to conditions.

International sites potentially affected and qualifying features	Potential impacts identified at Reg 19 Screening stage	Could the development have an adverse effect on any International site integrity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects?	Mitigation / measures	If mitigation / measures are implemented, can adverse effects on the International site from the Plan Partial Update be ruled out?
<p>Solent Maritime SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1130 Estuaries • 1320 Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>) • 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time • 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • 1150 Coastal lagoons 	<p>Noise; dust; vibration</p> <p>Noise and vibration effects can be caused by activities associated with the operation of machinery and / or extra traffic movements to and from the facility.</p> <p>Dust deposition on ground and water from operational activities can lead to contamination at nearby International sites.</p>	<p>The qualifying features could be vulnerable to the effects of noise, dust and vibration at this distance.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause significant adverse noise, dust, vibration'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p>	<p>YES</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines • 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks • 1310 <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • 2120 "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")" • 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> <p>Former Hamble Airfield (EAL02) is 0.29 km from the Solent Maritime SAC.</p>			<p>[significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and Solent Maritime SAC*. • A Hydrological assessment is required to determine the risk and appropriate protection of consider whether proposed works will affect adjacent National Site Network, Ramsar site and SSSIs, especially with regards to any changes to freshwater flows into the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI and Solent & Southampton Water SPA/SAC/Ramsar and the issue of nutrient enrichment*. • The impact Ensure no significant adverse impact on all roosting, foraging, and breeding areas used by qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs and Ramsar, and on their functional linkage*. Mitigation and possible compensation are likely to be required. • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the Lee-on-Solent to Itchen Valley Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest*. • Early habitats creation through progressive restoration and/or edge buffer zones creation is required and a range of suitable habitats as the site provides a network opportunity. This should include provision of woodland (and wet woodland) habitat linkages. • Protection of mature trees around the site boundary including Priority and Ancient Woodland*. • A Dust, noise, and lighting management plan, air quality assessment, and monitoring is/are required*. • The impact on Badnam Copse and West Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. • Large Sufficient areas for mitigation, either as buffer around site, a single large area, or several smaller areas should be provided. This will need to tie in with the long term aims for the site (housing development) and will need liaison with Local Planning Authority. • Soil testing, handling and management is required including for the potential for associated impact on groundwater and to determine soil quality. If PFAS contaminants are found to be present at any location on the site, then affected material would need careful management/remediation. • Protection and enhancement of adjacent public rights of way (Footpath Hamble-le-Rice 103/1) and connectivity to the wider network. • Assess, Maintain, and manage existing informal recreational use of the site and provision of enhanced public recreational after-use*. • Phasing programme and working to protect local businesses and the amenity and well-being of local residents and schools, taking into account their proximity and density and the Hamble River. • Hydrological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required to ensure protection of the water quality and recharge of the groundwater and surface water*. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in 	
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			<p>no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of existing sewer pipelines utilities within the site. (<i>'The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.'</i>) <p>Dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions. • Dust suppression will be controlled by a specific planning condition imposed on any planning permission. • Where dust emissions are likely to arise, mineral operators are expected to prepare a Dust Assessment Study, which should be undertaken by a competent person/organisation with acknowledged experience of undertaking this type of work.⁶⁴ <p>Noise:</p> <p>Where noise has the potential to effect the integrity of an International site, a noise assessment can be required as part of a planning proposal and planning conditions would be imposed to assess and monitor levels, and provide necessary mitigation.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Construction of earth bunds, from soils and overburden, around the perimeter of operational quarrying phases to screen the works and provide acoustic mitigation. The calculations undertaken for the noise assessment⁶⁵ have shown that due to the distances between the site and the SAC, the calculated site noise levels are no more than 4dB(A) above background noise levels at the nearest assessment location to the site. • Further conditions applied to control noise limits on any development. • Provision of a generous stand-off buffer zone around the site perimeter between the outer edge of bunding and the site boundary incorporating existing and newly created habitats, most notably retained and newly planted hedgerows along the eastern boundary which will contribute to further visual screening. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. 	
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⁶⁴ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals#Dust-emissions>

⁶⁵ Appendix 4.2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment – Hamble Airfield (LC Ecological Services) Updated October 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0787>

			Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA , which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.	
	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources at this proximity. A recent hydrological assessment has confirmed that there are currently no surface water features within the footprint of the site and there are no surface water links from the site to the River Hamble.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'. <i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards.</p>	<p>YES</p>

			<p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Process and treat foul water associated with the site offices and infrastructure at Peel Common, a Southern Water facility and Treatment Works (the development could result in increased nitrogen outputs to the SSW SPA/Ramsar and SDC SPA through the increase of foul water that Peel Common deals with, and the eventual discharge to sea via outfalls into the Solent waters, which can cause an increase in nutrient loading (nitrogen). However, current Natural England guidance on nitrogen neutrality advises local authorities that commercial development not providing overnight accommodation should not generally be required to deliver mitigation. This is to prevent 'double-counting' of waste water produced by residents living and working in the same region. • A small proportion of the water that will collect within constructed lagoons to be utilised for washing the mineral. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. <p>Fuel and chemicals will be stored in a secure bunded area. Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland</p>	<p>Dewatering is a key process in the extraction of sand and gravel. This can have impacts on groundwater flow up to 2 km from the extraction site. As the site is only 0.29 km from the SAC, mineral extraction operations could have a significant negative effect on the International site. The qualifying features of the SAC are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>A recent hydrological assessment⁶⁶ has confirmed that there are currently no surface water features within the footprint of the site and there are no surface water links from the site to the River Hamble. As the River Hamble is influenced by tidal input from the Solent and freshwater inputs from upstream, at this point it is not dependant on ground water to maintain flows.</p> <p>Following restoration, the permeability of any fill material used to restore the site may be lower than that of the sand and gravel reserve extracted and therefore infiltration rates across the site are expected to be lower.</p>	<p>(see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Provision of a detailed drainage scheme include attenuation ponds and conveyance structures to perimeter infiltration trenches. Thus, the majority of rainfall to the site would continue to infiltrate to ground, albeit at the perimeter of the site rather than within it. • During the operational phases, water collecting within the worked void to be pumped to other parts of the site where it can infiltrate to ground (volumes of water requiring to be pumped will be small). • A small proportion of the water that will collect within constructed lagoons to be utilised for washing the mineral. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Recreation related impacts</p> <p>Recreation can be displaced on to areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>As the proposed site may be currently subject to significant informal recreational use, displacement of users as a result of development may have a negative effect on the interest features of the SAC.</p> <p>However, Ordnance Survey maps show that there is also a considerable local network of other public footpaths/rights of way and cycle paths to the immediate north and west of the site which run through areas of land that are a substantial distance from the coastline and it is very likely that these would also be utilised as an alternative.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current recreational use of the site to provide a baseline. • Enable public commuting (on foot), recreation and dog walking activities on site throughout the duration of the operational phases and site restoration. Once quarrying is completed and the site restoration plan implemented, provide and retain a permissive footpath and a 'community access meadow' provided in the far north-east of the site with free public access as a recreational space, in perpetuity. • Provision of a permissive path of approximately 2km running from the south-east to north-west corners from early in the development, and along the western side upon restoration. It should be noted that there are no direct links 	<p>YES</p>

⁶⁶ Appendix 4.2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment – Hamble Airfield (LC Ecological Services) Updated October 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0787>

			<p>from the site to the SPA/Ramsar via public rights of way, so therefore the redistribution of recreational activity to the eastern and northern fringes of the site will not increase the risk of locals accessing the River Hamble on foot as no direct links exist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake pre-app recreational surveys of the site and establish recreational monitoring during operational phases, both secured by planning condition. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Provision of long-term management plan for the whole site (for minimum post-restoration period of 30 years), secured through legal agreement, to ensure maintenance and management of footpath, open space provision and connectivity to wider footpath network, and long-term management of a community meadow. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA. This would include Recreation Use studies undertaken prior to planning application submission to inform detailed mitigation.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the potential for the proposed site to provide supporting habitat for SPA qualifying bird species, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>Traffic associated with the proposal would access the site via the B3397 (Hamble Lane). Some site traffic may cross the Solent Maritime SAC on the M27 east bound.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁶⁷.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. 	<p>YES</p>

⁶⁷ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Incorporation of bunding around phasing, utilising site overburden. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>Solent and Dorset Coast SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Sandwich tern (Breeding) • A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Common tern (Breeding) • A195 <i>Sternula albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding) <p><i>Former Hamble Airfield (EAL02) is 0.30 km from the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</i></p>	<p>Removal of supporting habitat</p> <p>New/extended minerals and waste sites can lead to loss of, or impact on, habitat that provides functional support to International sites, such as grassland that provides roosting and foraging sites for qualifying bird species.</p>	<p>The main issue is the proximity of the proposed site to the SPA and the potential for the site to provide supporting SPA habitat for qualifying feature bird species, particularly breeding birds.</p> <p>The findings of the wintering bird surveys to date (Phase 2 wintering bird surveys undertaken on site in 2015/2016, 2017/2018 and 2021/2022) are in line with the current Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020 which does not identify the site as being used by citation SPA/Ramsar species. The site is not therefore currently considered as functionally linked to the SPA.</p> <p>The closest tern colony is at Titchfield Haven which is located approximately 9.3km from the proposed site allocation Tern species are opportunistic feeders, and their diet consists predominantly of small fish and occasionally planktonic crustaceans and insects. Though they can forage for up to 37km from their nesting sites, the proposed site allocation area contains no habitat suitable for</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. <i>[significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and Solent Maritime SAC*. • A hydrological assessment is required to determine the risk and appropriate protection of consider whether proposed works will affect adjacent National Site Network, Ramsar site and SSSIs, especially with regards to any changes to freshwater flows into the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI and Solent & Southampton Water SPA/SAC/Ramsar and the issue of nutrient enrichment*. • The impact Ensure no significant adverse impact on all roosting, foraging, and breeding areas used by qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs and Ramsar, and on their functional linkage*. Mitigation and possible compensation are likely to be required. • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the Lee-on-Solent to Itchen Valley Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest*. 	YES

		<p>nesting or foraging for tern species⁶⁸.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early habitats creation through progressive restoration and/or edge buffer zones creation is required and a range of suitable habitats as the site provides a network opportunity. This should include provision of woodland (and wet woodland) habitat linkages. • Protection of mature trees around the site boundary including Priority and Ancient Woodland*. • A Dust, noise, and lighting management plan, air quality assessment, and monitoring is required*. • The impact on Badnam Copse and West Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. • Large Sufficient areas for mitigation, either as buffer around site, a single large area, or several smaller areas should be provided. This will need to tie in with the long-term aims for the site (housing development) and will need liaison with Local Planning Authority. • Soil testing, handling and management is required including for the potential for associated impact on groundwater and to determine soil quality. If PFAS contaminants are found to be present at any location on the site, then affected material would need careful management/remediation. • Protection and enhancement of adjacent public rights of way (Footpath Hamble-le-Rice 103/1) and connectivity to the wider network. • Assess, Maintain, and manage existing informal recreational use of the site and provision of enhanced public recreational after-use*. • Phasing programme and working to protect local businesses and the amenity and well-being of local residents and schools, taking into account their proximity and density and the Hamble River. • Hydrological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required to ensure protection of the water quality and recharge of the groundwater and surface water*. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Protection of existing sewer pipelines utilities within the site. (<i>'The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.'</i>) <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision, post-restoration, of appropriately managed additional greenspace of 60ha+ that would enhance provision of habitat for overwintering birds, including permanent grassland and other relevant habitat types. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. 	
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⁶⁸ Appendix 4.2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment – Hamble Airfield (LC Ecological Services) Updated October 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0787>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Noise; dust; lighting; vibration</p> <p>Noise and vibration effects can be caused by activities associated with the operation of machinery and / or extra traffic movements to and from the facility.</p> <p>Dust deposition on ground and water from operational activities can lead to contamination at nearby International sites.</p> <p>Light pollution can be caused by artificial lighting on site as well as vehicle traffic movements to and from and within the site.</p>	<p>The qualifying features could be vulnerable to the effects of noise, dust, light pollution and vibration at this proximity.</p> <p>The University of Hull has produced a Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit⁶⁹ to inform estuarine planning and construction projects. The toolkit provides information on species' responses to varying noise levels and sources of visual disturbance. Overall, the toolkit concludes that noise levels below 50dB promoted a low-level response in most estuarine species covered in the toolkit. A low level of response is classed as one where there is unlikely to be an observable response to the noise, e.g. reduction in feeding, birds scanning for danger etc. It should be noted that an observable reaction in a bird species is not the same as an impact. A brief change in behaviour in response to a noise event will not necessarily have any impact on the individual(s) concerned. The toolkit suggests that the most sensitive species of wader will demonstrate</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause significant adverse noise, dust, lighting, vibration...' <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions. • Dust suppression will be controlled by a specific planning condition imposed on any planning permission. • Where dust emissions are likely to arise, mineral operators are expected to prepare a Dust Assessment Study, which should be undertaken by a competent person/organisation with acknowledged experience of undertaking this type of work.⁷¹ <p>Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where noise has the potential to affect the integrity of an International site, a noise assessment can be required as part of a planning proposal and planning conditions would be imposed to assess and monitor levels, and provide necessary mitigation. <p>Lighting:</p>	YES

⁶⁹ Cutts, N., Hemingway, K. and Spencer, J., 2013, Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects [Version 3.2]. Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull.

⁷¹ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals#Dust-emissions>

	<p>an alert response to certain forms of visual disturbance at ranges of approximately 300 metres. In certain circumstances (in countries where brent geese are a quarry species) brent geese have been recorded responding to disturbance stimuli at ranges of 350 metres.</p> <p>A recent survey⁷⁰ concluded that there are no breeding tern colonies within 1 kilometre of the site boundary, so noise and visual disturbance is not considered to be an issue for these species. Foraging terns range over wide distances and their use of the Hamble will vary temporally and spatially in response to a range of factors such as the state of the tide, presence of fish and season.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The potential for lighting impacts on International sites can be avoided/mitigated through the imposition of planning conditions to limit hours of operation, specify types and extent of lighting used and use of screening, to reduce light pollution. <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of earth bunds, from soils and overburden, around the perimeter of operational quarrying phases to screen the works and provide acoustic mitigation. The calculations undertaken for the noise assessment have shown that due to the distances between the site and the SPA/Ramsar, the calculated site noise levels are no more than 4dB(A) above background noise levels at the nearest assessment location to the site. Assess current recreational use of the site to provide a baseline. Provision of a generous stand-off buffer zone around the site perimeter between the outer edge of bunding and the site boundary incorporating existing and newly created habitats, most notably retained and newly planted hedgerows along the eastern boundary which will contribute to further visual screening. A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. External lighting could be limited to the Plant Site and access from the B3081 to ensure a safe working environment during poor lighting conditions, principally envisaged at the start and end of the working day during the winter months. Apart from individual lighting on plant machinery (loading shovel, excavator, etc), the excavation and restoration operations should not be lit and operations would stop when there is insufficient light. This would protect sensitive features such as nesting birds and foraging bats. Any lighting used onsite should comply with appropriate British Standards to minimise sky glow and light spill, using LED light sources where possible to avoid ultraviolet and infrared output affecting wildlife. Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals ‘do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁷⁰ Appendix 4.2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment – Hamble Airfield (LC Ecological Services) Updated October 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0787>

	<p>impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>A recent hydrological assessment has confirmed that there are currently no surface water features within the footprint of the site and there are no surface water links from the site to the River Hamble.</p>	<p>source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'. <i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and treat foul water associated with the site offices and infrastructure at Peel Common, a Southern Water facility and Treatment Works (the 	
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			<p>development could result in increased nitrogen outputs to the SSW SPA/Ramsar and SDC SPA through the increase of foul water that Peel Common deals with, and the eventual discharge to sea via outfalls into the Solent waters, which can cause an increase in nutrient loading (nitrogen). However, current Natural England guidance on nitrogen neutrality advises local authorities that commercial development not providing overnight accommodation should not generally be required to deliver mitigation. This is to prevent 'double-counting' of waste water produced by residents living and working in the same region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small proportion of the water that will collect within constructed lagoons to be utilised for washing the mineral. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Fuel and chemicals will be stored in a secure bunded area. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water</p>	<p>Dewatering is a key process in the extraction of sand and gravel. This can have impacts on groundwater flow up to 2 km from the extraction site. As the site is only 0.30 km from the SPA, mineral extraction operations could have a significant negative effect on the International site. The qualifying features of the SPA are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology.</p> <p>A recent hydrological assessment has confirmed that there are currently no surface water features within the footprint of the site and there are no surface water links from the site to the River Hamble. As the River Hamble is influenced by tidal input from the Solent and freshwater inputs from upstream, at this point it is not dependant on ground water to maintain flows.</p> <p>Following restoration, the permeability of any fill material used to restore the site may be</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a detailed drainage scheme include attenuation ponds and conveyance structures to perimeter infiltration trenches. Thus, the majority of rainfall to the site would continue to infiltrate to ground, albeit at the perimeter of the site rather than within it. • During the operational phases, water collecting within the worked void to be pumped to other parts of the site where it can infiltrate to ground (volumes of water requiring to be pumped will be small). 	<p>YES</p>

	chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.	lower than that of the sand and gravel reserve extracted and therefore infiltration rates across the site are expected to be lower.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small proportion of the water that will collect within constructed lagoons to be utilised for washing the mineral. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Based on the potential for the proposed site to provide supporting habitat for SPA qualifying bird species, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p> <p>Traffic associated with the proposal would access the site via the B3397 (Hamble Lane). Some site traffic may cross the Solent Maritime SAC on the M27 east bound.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁷².</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Incorporation of bunding around phasing, utilising site overburden. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. 	YES

⁷² HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

	<p>Recreation related impacts</p> <p>Recreation can be displaced on to areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>As the proposed site may be currently subject to significant informal recreational use, displacement of users as a result of development may have a negative effect on the interest features of the SPA.</p> <p>However, Ordnance Survey maps show that there is also a considerable local network of other public footpaths/rights of way and cycle paths to the immediate north and west of the site which run through areas of land that are a substantial distance from the coastline and it is very likely that these would also be utilised as an alternative.</p> <p>Access to the water's edge is highly unlikely to affect foraging terns. Both common and sandwich terns will forage in shallow water close to areas where there are high levels of human activity. This is apparent within the SSW SPA/Ramsar where common terns will fish pools alongside the seawall at Pennington and sandwich terns foraging along the shoreline of Studland Bay and Pool Harbour.</p>	<p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p> <p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current recreational use of the site to provide a baseline. • Enable public commuting (on foot), recreation and dog walking activities on site throughout the duration of the operational phases and site restoration. Once quarrying is completed and the site restoration plan implemented, provide and retain a permissive footpath and a 'community access meadow' provided in the far north-east of the site with free public access as a recreational space, in perpetuity. • Provision of a permissive path of approximately 2km running from the south-east to north-west corners from early in the development, and along the western side upon restoration. It should be noted that there are no direct links from the site to the SPA/Ramsar via public rights of way, so therefore the redistribution of recreational activity to the eastern and northern fringes of the site will not increase the risk of locals accessing the River Hamble on foot as no direct links exist. • Undertake pre-app recreational surveys of the site and establish recreational monitoring during operational phases, both secured by planning condition. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Provision of long-term management plan for the whole site (for minimum post-restoration period of 30 years), secured through legal agreement, to ensure maintenance and management of footpath, open space provision and connectivity to wider footpath network, and long-term management of a community meadow. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA. This would include Recreation Use studies undertaken prior to planning application submission to inform detailed mitigation.</p>	<p>YES</p>
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<p>Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A046a(NB) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>: Dark-bellied brent goose • A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal • A156(NB) <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>: Black-tailed godwit • Waterbird assemblage • A176(B) <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>: Mediterranean gull • A191(B) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>: Sandwich tern • A192(B) <i>Sterna dougallii</i>: Roseate tern • A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i>: Common tern • A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern • A137(NB) <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>: Ringed plover <p>Former Hamble Airfield (EAL02) is 0.29 km from the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA.</p>	<p>Removal of supporting habitat</p> <p>New/extended minerals and waste sites can lead to loss of, or impact on, habitat that provides functional support to International sites, such as grassland that provides roosting and foraging sites for qualifying bird species.</p>	<p>The main issue is the proximity of the proposed site to the SPA/Ramsar and the potential for the site to provide supporting SPA/Ramsar habitat for qualifying feature bird species.</p> <p>The findings of the wintering bird surveys to date (Phase 2 wintering bird surveys undertaken on site in 2015/2016, 2017/2018 and 2021/2022) are in line with the current Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy 2020 which does not identify the site as being used by citation SPA/Ramsar species. The site is not therefore currently considered as functionally linked to the SPA.</p> <p>The proposed site allocation is located approximately 280 metres from the nearest point of the SSW SPA. For the most part, the SSW SPA boundary is at least 300 metres from the proposed site allocation boundary and is screened from the SSW SPA by existing built development, hedgerows, scrub and woodland. There are no direct views between the eastern side of the application site and the SSW SPA, this was confirmed on the ground by one of LCES' ornithologists during a recent fieldwork visit on 09/11/2021⁷³.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment.</p> <p><i>[significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar, Solent and Dorset Coast SPA and Solent Maritime SAC*. • A Hydrological assessment is required to determine the risk and appropriate protection of consider whether proposed works will affect adjacent National Site Network, Ramsar site and SSSIs, especially with regards to any changes to freshwater flows into the Hythe to Calshot Marshes SSSI and Solent & Southampton Water SPA/SAC/Ramsar and the issue of nutrient enrichment*. • The impact Ensure no significant adverse impact on all roosting, foraging, and breeding areas used by qualifying bird species of nearby SPAs and Ramsar, and on their functional linkage*. Mitigation and possible compensation are likely to be required. • Protection of Ensure no significant adverse impact on the Lee-on-Solent to Itchen Valley Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest*. • Early habitats creation through progressive restoration and/or edge buffer zones creation is required and a range of suitable habitats as the site provides a network opportunity. This should include provision of woodland (and wet woodland) habitat linkages. • Protection of mature trees around the site boundary including Priority and Ancient Woodland*. • A Dust, noise, and lighting management plan, air quality assessment, and monitoring is are required*. • The impact on Badnam Copse and West Wood Site of Importance for Nature Conservation. 	<p>YES</p>
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⁷³ Appendix 4.2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment – Hamble Airfield (LC Ecological Services) Updated October 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0787>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Sufficient areas for mitigation, either as buffer around site, a single large area, or several smaller areas should be provided. This will need to tie in with the long-term aims for the site (housing development) and will need liaison with Local Planning Authority. • Soil testing, handling and management is required including for the potential for associated impact on groundwater and to determine soil quality. If PFAS contaminants are found to be present at any location on the site, then affected material would need careful management/remediation. • Protection and enhancement of adjacent public rights of way (Footpath Hamble-le-Rice 103/1) and connectivity to the wider network. • Assess, Maintain, and manage existing informal recreational use of the site and provision of enhanced public recreational after-use*. • Phasing programme and working to protect local businesses and the amenity and well-being of local residents and schools, taking into account their proximity and density and the Hamble River. • Hydrological/Hydrogeological Assessment is required to ensure protection of the water quality and recharge of the groundwater and surface water*. • A Transport Assessment or Statement is required. • Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Protection of existing sewer pipelines utilities within the site. (<i>The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.</i>) <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision, post-restoration, of appropriately managed additional greenspace of 60ha+ that would enhance provision of habitat for overwintering birds, including permanent grassland and other relevant habitat types. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Noise; dust; lighting; vibration</p>	<p>The qualifying features could be vulnerable to the effects of noise, dust, light pollution and vibration at this proximity.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p>	<p>YES</p>

	<p>Noise and vibration effects can be caused by activities associated with the operation of machinery and / or extra traffic movements to and from the facility.</p> <p>Dust deposition on ground and water from operational activities can lead to contamination at nearby International sites.</p> <p>Light pollution can be caused by artificial lighting on site as well as vehicle traffic movements to and from and within the site.</p>	<p>The University of Hull has produced a Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit to inform estuarine planning and construction projects⁷⁴. The toolkit provides information on species' responses to varying noise levels and sources of visual disturbance. Overall, the toolkit concludes that noise levels below 50dB promoted a low-level response in most estuarine species covered in the toolkit. A low level of response is classed as one where there is unlikely to be an observable response to the noise, e.g. reduction in feeding, birds scanning for danger etc. It should be noted that an observable reaction in a bird species is not the same as an impact. A brief change in behaviour in response to a noise event will not necessarily have any impact on the individual(s) concerned. The toolkit suggests that the most sensitive species of wader will demonstrate an alert response to certain forms of visual disturbance at ranges of approximately 300 metres. In certain circumstances (in countries where brent geese are a quarry species) brent geese have been recorded responding to disturbance stimuli at ranges of 350 metres.</p>	<p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause significant adverse noise, dust, lighting, vibration...'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Dust:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions. • Dust suppression will be controlled by a specific planning condition imposed on any planning permission. • Where dust emissions are likely to arise, mineral operators are expected to prepare a Dust Assessment Study, which should be undertaken by a competent person/organisation with acknowledged experience of undertaking this type of work.⁷⁵ <p>Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where noise has the potential to affect the integrity of an International site, a noise assessment can be required as part of a planning proposal and planning conditions would be imposed to assess and monitor levels, and provide necessary mitigation. <p>Lighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential for lighting impacts on International sites can be avoided/mitigated through the imposition of planning conditions to limit hours of operation, specify types and extent of lighting used and use of screening, to reduce light pollution. <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Construction of earth bunds, from soils and overburden, around the perimeter of operational quarrying phases to screen the works and provide acoustic mitigation. The calculations undertaken for the noise assessment have shown that due to the distances between the site and the SPA/Ramsar, the calculated site noise levels are no more than 4dB(A) above background noise levels at the nearest assessment location to the site. 	
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⁷⁴ Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit - https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/#:~:text=The%20Waterbird%20Disturbance%20Toolkit%20has,tool%20will%20be%20of%20value

⁷⁵ Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 023 Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/minerals#Dust-emissions>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current recreational use of the site to provide a baseline. • Provision of a generous stand-off buffer zone around the site perimeter between the outer edge of bunding and the site boundary incorporating existing and newly created habitats, most notably retained and newly planted hedgerows along the eastern boundary which will contribute to further visual screening. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • External lighting could be limited to the Plant Site and access from the B3081 to ensure a safe working environment during poor lighting conditions, principally envisaged at the start and end of the working day during the winter months. Apart from individual lighting on plant machinery (loading shovel, excavator, etc), the excavation and restoration operations should not be lit and operations would stop when there is insufficient light. This would protect sensitive features such as nesting birds and foraging bats. Any lighting used onsite should comply with appropriate British Standards to minimise sky glow and light spill, using LED light sources where possible to avoid ultraviolet and infrared output affecting wildlife. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Water pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources.</p> <p>A recent hydrological assessment has confirmed that there are currently no surface water features within the footprint of the site and there are no surface water links from the site to the River Hamble.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals 'do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'. <i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p>	<p>YES</p>

			<p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p><u>Potential Mitigation Measures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process and treat foul water associated with the site offices and infrastructure at Peel Common, a Southern Water facility and Treatment Works (the development could result in increased nitrogen outputs to the SSW SPA/Ramsar and SDC SPA through the increase of foul water that Peel Common deals with, and the eventual discharge to sea via outfalls into the Solent waters, which can cause an increase in nutrient loading (nitrogen). However, current Natural England guidance on nitrogen neutrality advises local authorities that commercial development not providing overnight accommodation should not generally be required to deliver mitigation. This is to prevent 'double-counting' of waste water produced by residents living and working in the same region. • A small proportion of the water that will collect within constructed lagoons to be utilised for washing the mineral. • Adherence to industry best-practice pollution control measures. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Fuel and chemicals will be stored in a secure bunded area. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. 	
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			Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA , which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.	
	<p>Changes in surface / groundwater hydrology</p> <p>Changes in the movement of groundwater flows can result in the drying out of certain sites, changing vegetation communities, concentrating contaminants and reduce wetland habitat's ability to support flora and fauna. Alternatively, changes in groundwater flows can result in saturation or flooding, or changes in water chemistry, which similarly can affect habitat and species composition.</p>	<p>Dewatering is a key process in the extraction of sand and gravel. This can have impacts on groundwater flow up to 2 km from the extraction site. As the site is only 0.29 km from the SPA/Ramsar, mineral extraction operations could have a significant negative effect on the International site. The qualifying features of the SPA/Ramsar are vulnerable to the effects of changes in local hydrology.</p> <p>A recent hydrological assessment has confirmed that there are currently no surface water features within the footprint of the site and there are no surface water links from the site to the River Hamble. As the River Hamble is influenced by tidal input from the Solent and freshwater inputs from upstream, at this point it is not dependant on ground water to maintain flows.</p> <p>Following restoration, the permeability of any fill material used to restore the site may be lower than that of the sand and gravel reserve extracted and therefore infiltration rates across the site are expected to be lower.</p>	<p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p> <p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a detailed drainage scheme include attenuation ponds and conveyance structures to perimeter infiltration trenches. Thus, the majority of rainfall to the site would continue to infiltrate to ground, albeit at the perimeter of the site rather than within it. • During the operational phases, water collecting within the worked void to be pumped to other parts of the site where it can infiltrate to ground (volumes of water requiring to be pumped will be small). • A small proportion of the water that will collect within constructed lagoons to be utilised for washing the mineral. • Undertake continuous groundwater monitoring. • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	YES
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities</p>	<p>Based on the potential for the proposed site to provide supporting habitat for SPA/Ramsar qualifying bird species, the interest features are vulnerable to this hazard.</p>	<p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p> <p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'.</p>	YES

	<p>on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Traffic associated with the proposed site allocation would access the site via the B3397 (Hamble Lane). Traffic would be routed to and from the M27.</p> <p>At no point along the route between the Windhover Roundabout and the entrance to the site is the SSW SPA less than 850 metres away. Along the A27 east of the bridge crossing the Hamble at Bursledon the SSW SPA is over 300 metres from the A27 at the closest point. Beyond the Hamble estuary traffic associated with the proposals will be spread across the wider road network as the destination of lorries carrying aggregates will be determined by regional demand. The M27 does not cross the SSW SPA or is within 200m.</p> <p>SSW SPA is largely unaffected by nitrogen deposits. APIS lists terns using coastal stable dune habitat as vulnerable to nitrogen deposition, and common tern using supralittoral sediment as vulnerable to acid deposition. However, there are no breeding terns in the vicinity of the proposed site allocation and no suitable nesting habitat (dunes or shingle beaches)⁷⁶.</p> <p>The Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment for the recent planning application did not conclude that there would be a likely significant air quality effect.</p>	<p><i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small phasing and immediate site restoration on completion of each phase, together with phase planning to create mosaic. • Active management of restored areas to maximise habitat quality. • Avoidance of harm to protected and notable species. • Preparation and implementation of a 60 year plus Landscape and Ecology Management and Monitoring Plan. • Detailed nesting bird protection scheme and avoidance of nesting bird habitat removal. • Incorporation of bunding around phasing, utilising site overburden. • A Dust Management Plan to be prepared and implemented, and secured through planning condition. • Site operation air quality monitoring. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
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⁷⁶ Appendix 4.2 – Habitats Regulations Assessment – Hamble Airfield (LC Ecological Services) Updated October 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2021/0787>

		This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁷⁷.		
	<p>Recreation related impacts</p> <p>Recreation can be displaced on to areas vulnerable to disturbance or pressure by changes to the accessibility of footpaths and cycleways or areas of permissive access.</p>	<p>As the proposed site may be currently subject to significant informal recreational use, displacement of users as a result of development may have a negative effect on the interest features of the SPA/Ramsar.</p> <p>However, Ordnance Survey maps show that there is also a considerable local network of other public footpaths/rights of way and cycle paths to the immediate north and west of the site which run through areas of land that are a substantial distance from the coastline and it is very likely that these would also be utilised as an alternative.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 10: Restoration of minerals and waste developments requires that 'Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for... community use where these are consistent with the development plan.</p> <p>Development Considerations (see text in first table row for this International site, above)</p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess current recreational use of the site to provide a baseline. • Enable public commuting (on foot), recreation and dog walking activities on site throughout the duration of the operational phases and site restoration. Once quarrying is completed and the site restoration plan implemented, provide and retain a permissive footpath and a 'community access meadow' provided in the far north-east of the site with free public access as a recreational space, in perpetuity. • Provision of a permissive path of approximately 2km running from the south-east to north-west corners from early in the development, and along the western side upon restoration. It should be noted that there are no direct links from the site to the SPA/Ramsar via public rights of way, so therefore the redistribution of recreational activity to the eastern and northern fringes of the site will not increase the risk of locals accessing the River Hamble on foot as no direct links exist. • Undertake pre-app recreational surveys of the site and establish recreational monitoring during operational phases, both secured by planning condition. • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Provision of long-term management plan for the whole site (for minimum post-restoration period of 30 years), secured through legal agreement, to ensure maintenance and management of footpath, open space provision and connectivity to wider footpath network, and long-term management of a community meadow. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA. This would include Recreation</p>	YES

⁷⁷ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

			Use studies undertaken prior to planning application submission to inform detailed mitigation.	
<p>River Itchen SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation • 1044 Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> • 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> • 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> • 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> • 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • 1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> <p><i>Hamble Airfield (EAL02) is 7.57 km from the River Itchen SAC</i></p>	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Traffic associated with the proposal would access the site via the B3397 (Hamble Lane). Some site traffic may cross the Solent Maritime SAC on the M27 east bound.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁷⁸.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'have a significant adverse impact on air quality'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (See list of Development Considerations, above)</p> <p>Environment Agency permitting requirements will provide strict control over site operations and emissions.</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	

⁷⁸ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

Table A4.4: Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01)

Elements of the following text and the Development Considerations in the table incorporate the Main Modifications (MMs). Text that has been added since the Submission Appropriate Assessment is **bold and underlined** and text that is deleted is ~~struck through~~.

Total mineral resource: 1.~~75~~ million tonnes of sharp sand and gravel from 202~~5~~**4+**.

Restoration to agriculture with species rich meadow, ditches/ponds and extra hedgerows, utilising approximately 1.~~75~~ million tonnes of inert material.

Planning permission has been granted (planning application number: 22/10823) for sand and gravel extraction at Ashley Manor Farm, with restoration using imported materials to agriculture, enhanced ecological interest and public access, subject to conditions.

International sites potentially affected and qualifying features	Potential impacts identified at Screening stage	Could the development have an adverse effect on any International site integrity either alone or in combination with other plans or projects?	Mitigation / measures	If mitigation / measures are implemented, can adverse effects on the International site from the Plan Partial Update be ruled out?
<p>Solent and Dorset Coast SPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A191 <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>; Sandwich tern (Breeding) • A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Common tern (Breeding) • A195 <i>Sternula albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding) <p><i>Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01) is 1.27 km from the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA</i></p>	<p>Water Pollution</p> <p>Water pollution can result in a number of detrimental impacts on flora and fauna in waterbodies, from direct effects, eutrophication, sedimentation, changes to species composition, including impacts on waterfowl. Sedimentation can also affect flow conveyance (potentially</p>	<p>There is the potential for a water pollution impact on the SPA from the development of this site, which includes nutrient enrichment. Further consideration needs to be given to the presence of impact pathways between the proposed site and the SPA. The qualifying features of the SPA are vulnerable to the effects of changes in water quality from a range of pollution sources.</p> <p>A recent hydrological and hydrogeological survey⁷⁹ has been undertaken for the proposed site allocation area and concluded that there are considered to be no over-riding hydrogeologically or hydrologically based reasons why</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 8: Water resources requires that planning proposals ‘do not result in the deterioration of the physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody including rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, groundwater source protection zones and groundwater aquifers; and cause significant adverse risk to the quantity and quality of water resources; and cause changes to groundwater and surface water levels which would result in significant adverse impacts on adjoining land, potential groundwater resources, the potential yield of groundwater resources, river flows or natural habitats; and achieve nutrient</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁷⁹ Ashley Manor Farm – Environmental Statement - Chapter 12 – Hydrology and Hydrogeology (BCL Hydro) November 2022 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2022/0338>

	<p>increasing flood risk).</p>	<p>the development of the site could not proceed. This conclusion is supported in the Shadow HRA⁸⁰ for the current planning application at this site.</p>	<p>neutrality, where relevant'. The policy requires a WFD screening assessment in all cases where there are potential impacts on groundwater bodies and surface water bodies. The policy also requires that 'where proposals are in a groundwater source protection zone, a Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment must be provided to determine whether there is a hazard to water resources, quality or abstractors. If the Hydrogeological / Hydrological Risk Assessment identifies unacceptable risk, the developer must provide appropriate mitigation'. <i>[Policy wording has been modified following the initial screening stage - to make reference to nutrient neutrality, quality of water resources, requirement for WFD assessment and change reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse, throughout]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Policy 12: Flood risk and prevention requires that minerals and waste development apply the Sequential Test and where necessary the Exception Test to the selection of unplanned proposals; apply the sequential approach directing development to the area at the lowest risk of flooding; and not result in an increased flood risk overall; ensure development is safe from flooding for its lifetime including an assessment of climate change impacts, and incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures where appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site; include site drainage systems 1:100 year events (with appropriate allowance for climate change); incorporate SuDS (if appropriate); and refer to Catchment Management Plans in determining whether a proposal is located in a Priority Area or Critical Contributing Area and, where relevant, apply the recommended standards. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial screening stage to make reference to the Sequential Test, Exception Test, sequential approach, climate change allowances and the requirement re: CMPs]</i></p> <p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. <i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i> Relevant Development Considerations include:</p>	
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⁸⁰ Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment – Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton (Richard Green Ecology) January 2024 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2022/0338>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar and the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA*. • An ecological and hydrological assessment of all watercourses, ditches and aquatic habitats will be required to determine the risk including an understanding of the hydrological regime and interaction between and importance of any functional connection to offsite habitats and features, including the nearby SINC, SSSIs, SPAs and Ramsar and their appropriate protection*. • The impact Ensure no significant adverse impact on all roosting, foraging, and breeding areas used by qualifying bird species of the nearby SPAs and Ramsar, and on their functional linkage*. • Mitigation should comply with the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy. • Early establishment of replacement and enhanced hedgerows bounding the site with an ecological receptor for reptiles and other species is required. • Long term management of species-rich meadows, ponds and other habitats is required. • Dust management plan and monitoring is required. • Restoration should be to existing ground levels and should include Crooked Lane replacing the double hedgerow feature along the whole route. Restoration should provide a suitable setting for the Listed Buildings and respect their significance. • The site is Best and Most Versatile (Grade 2 and 3). Soil handling and management is required and restoration to original (or improved) agricultural land classification. • The new planting around the site should be managed to allow it to reach maturity. • Footpaths New Milton 168/721 and 168/720 will require protection and enhancement with greater connectivity to wider network, including the 'Green Loop' as adopted in the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. • A Transport Assessment is required. It must include details of the shift in HGV movement from Downtown Manor Farm to Ashley Manor Farm. • A Hydrological/Hydrogeological Assessment and monitoring is required, taking into account the adjacent Historic Landfill, to ensure that any impacts on groundwater flows and water quality are considered and mitigated where needed. • A Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Protection of existing sewer pipelines is required. <p><i>('The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.')</i></p> <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p>	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) produced prior to start of the works and submitted to and approved in writing by the Hampshire Authorities, secured by an appropriate planning condition or obligation. • Phased extraction with immediate restoration of completed phases. • Installation of perimeter drainage. • Imported infill used in site restoration to be wholly inert. • Settlement treatment to discharge waters to be provided in quarry sump. • Dewatering discharge to unlined perimeter drainage with overflow to Angel Stream. • Dewatering to be undertaken in line with any requirements that may be imposed by the necessary consenting Water Abstraction Licence. • Submission and implementation of Hydrometric Monitoring Scheme (including groundwater level monitoring). • Adoption of best practice fluids handling measures. • All fuels and fluids kept in bunded double-walled containers • Operation of Site under ISO 14001 accredited Management System. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Traffic associated with the proposal could cross the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA (River Avon) on the A35.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁸¹.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species (see text above)</p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being (see text above)</p> <p>Development Considerations (See list of Development considerations, above)</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	YES
<p>Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A046a(NB) <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>: Dark-bellied brent goose 	<p>Removal of supporting habitat</p> <p>New/extended minerals and waste sites can lead to loss of, or impact on, habitat that provides functional support to International sites,</p>	<p>The proposed development in this location could have potential significant effects on the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) in relation to potential SPA bird use of the site at high tide for foraging/roosting. It is recognised that the allocation site lies outside of the current mapped Solent Wader and Brent Goose network, which aims to identify, maintain</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites.]</i></p>	YES

⁸¹ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A052(NB) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal • A156(NB) <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>: Black-tailed godwit • Waterbird assemblage • A176(B) <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>: Mediterranean gull • A191(B) <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>: Sandwich tern • A192(B) <i>Sterna dougallii</i>: Roseate tern • A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i>: Common tern • A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern • A137(NB) <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>: Ringed plover <p>Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01) is 3.87 km from the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar</p>	<p>such as grassland that provides roosting and foraging sites for qualifying bird species.</p>	<p>and protect a network of sites within the Solent area that are regularly used by the designated overwintering birds of the Solent Special Protection Areas (SPAs).</p> <p>A recent Ecological Impact Assessment⁸² has been prepared for the current planning application for the site (includes details of four wintering bird surveys undertaken in 2022 and 2023). The Impact Assessment concluded that there would not be a likely significant effect on SPA/Ramsar qualifying species from development of the site. This conclusion is replicated in the Shadow HRA for the development⁸³.</p>	<p>Development Considerations for the site allocation have been designed to ensure that the consideration of this and other hazards will be addressed at the planning proposal stage to address any uncertainty with respect to the operational use of the site, at this stage of the assessment. <i>[Significant improvements / additions have been made to the Development Considerations since the initial Screening stage].</i></p> <p>Relevant Development Considerations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Ensure no significant adverse impact on the integrity of the Solent and Southampton Water SPA/Ramsar and the Solent and Dorset Coast SPA*. • An ecological and hydrological assessment of all watercourses, ditches and aquatic habitats will be required to determine the risk including an understanding of the hydrological regime and interaction between and importance of any functional connection to offsite habitats and features, including the nearby SINCS, SSSIs, SPAs and Ramsar and their appropriate protection*. • The impact Ensure no significant adverse impact on all roosting, foraging, and breeding areas used by qualifying bird species of the nearby SPAs and Ramsar, and on their functional linkage*. • Mitigation should comply with the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy. • Early establishment of replacement and enhanced hedgerows bounding the site with an ecological receptor for reptiles and other species is required. • Long term management of species-rich meadows, ponds and other habitats is required. • Dust management plan and monitoring is required. • Restoration should be to existing ground levels and should include Crooked Lane replacing the double hedgerow feature along the whole route. Restoration should provide a suitable setting for the Listed Buildings and respect their significance. • The site is Best and Most Versatile (Grade 2 and 3). Soil handling and management is required and restoration to original (or improved) agricultural land classification. • The new planting around the site should be managed to allow it to reach maturity. • Footpaths New Milton 168/721 and 168/720 will require protection and enhancement with greater connectivity to wider network, including the 'Green Loop' as adopted in the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan. • A Transport Assessment is required. It must include details of the shift in HGV movement from Downtown Manor Farm to Ashley Manor Farm. • A Hydrological/Hydrogeological Assessment and monitoring is required, taking into account the adjacent Historic Landfill, to ensure that any impacts on 	
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⁸² Ecological Impact Assessment – Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton (Richard Green Ecology) January 2024 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2022/0338>

⁸³ Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment – Ashley Manor Farm, New Milton (Richard Green Ecology) January 2024 - <https://planning.hants.gov.uk/Planning/Display/HCC/2022/0338>

			<p>groundwater flows and water quality are considered and mitigated where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Flood Risk Assessment is required. The sSite must be designed and constructed to remain operational and safe for users in times of flood, result in no net loss of floodplain storage, not impede waterflows and not increase flood risk elsewhere. • Protection of existing sewer pipelines is required. (<i>'The Asterix denotes that development cannot be permitted if it may negatively affect the integrity of International protected sites and the development requirements for maintaining this integrity must be addressed.'</i>) <p>Potential Mitigation Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration to return site to existing landform and agricultural landuse with increased focus on nature conservation, to include other habitats such as species rich hedgerows, grassland, scrub and woodland designed to complement the existing retained and adjacent habitats. • Hedgerow and tree planting at the outset of the development as well as during restoration • Preparation and implementation of a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. • Restoration to include greater emphasis on creating wildlife corridors with proposed ditches, woodland, scrub and grassland providing a network of interconnected habitats in an arable setting. • Arable fields to have rounded field corners left unsown to develop marginal grassland, with new hedgerows and 4m wide headlands. • Woodland planting in the wider site to link to existing woodland and improve connectivity in the wider landscape. • Construction of an attenuation pond to provide a water source for birds and other wildlife. • Preparation and implementation of a Soil Management Plan, secured through planning condition. <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>River Avon SAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and Callitricho- 	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and</p>	<p>Traffic associated with the proposal could cross the River Avon SAC on the A35.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁸⁴.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally</i></p>	YES

⁸⁴ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

<p>Batrachion vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> • 1095 Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> • 1096 Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> • 1106 Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> • 1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> <p>Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01) is 8.98 km from the River Avon SAC</p>	<p>associated vehicle movements.</p>		<p><i>designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (See list of Development considerations, above)</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	
<p>Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>: Bewick swan • A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall <p>Ashley Manor Farm (NFD01) is 8.98 km from the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar</p>	<p>Air quality / Traffic</p> <p>Air pollution can result from emissions from on-site activities on minerals and waste sites and associated vehicle movements.</p>	<p>Traffic associated with the proposal could cross the Avon Valley SPA/Ramsar on the A35.</p> <p>This issue is considered further in the HRA Air Quality Addendum⁸⁵.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species requires that development that is likely to result in a significant effect, either alone or in combination, on the following designated sites: Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites; sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on such sites; and European Protected Species, will need to satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <i>[Policy wording modified following the initial Screening stage to strengthen reference to sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effects on International sites to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites; and make reference to Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and river basins.]</i></p> <p>Policy 11: Protecting public health, safety, amenity and well-being requires that minerals and waste development not release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards), including 'cause a significant adverse impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters'. <i>[Policy wording modified following initial screening stage to change all reference to 'unacceptable' to 'significant adverse']</i></p> <p>Development Considerations (See list of Development considerations, above)</p> <p>Any proposed development at this site would be subject to a development-specific project level HRA, which will provide a greater level of detail on potential impacts than is possible in this HRA.</p>	<p>YES</p>

⁸⁵ HMWP Partial Update: HRA Air Quality Addendum (July 2024) - <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HMWP-PartialUpdate-HRAAirQualityAddendum-July2024.pdf>

Appendix 5: Natural England Response to Main Modifications Consultation

Date: 12 February 2026
Our ref: 535635



HCC Minerals and Waste Policy Team
Minerals and Waste Planning Policy

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir or Madam,

Planning Consultation: Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Main Modifications

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 04 December 2025 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We welcome the revisions included in the Main Modifications consultation, particularly the further references to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

We also support the changes to the Purple Haze and Midgham Farm allocations, which appropriately reflect the agreements set out in the Statement of Common Ground dated 09 October 2025.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
Higher Officer - Sustainable Development
Thames Solent Team

A summary of this document can be made available in large print, in Braille or audio cassette. Copies in other languages may also be obtained. Please contact the Minerals and Waste Policy Team at Hampshire County Council by email HMWP.consult@hants.gov.uk or by visiting hants.gov.uk.