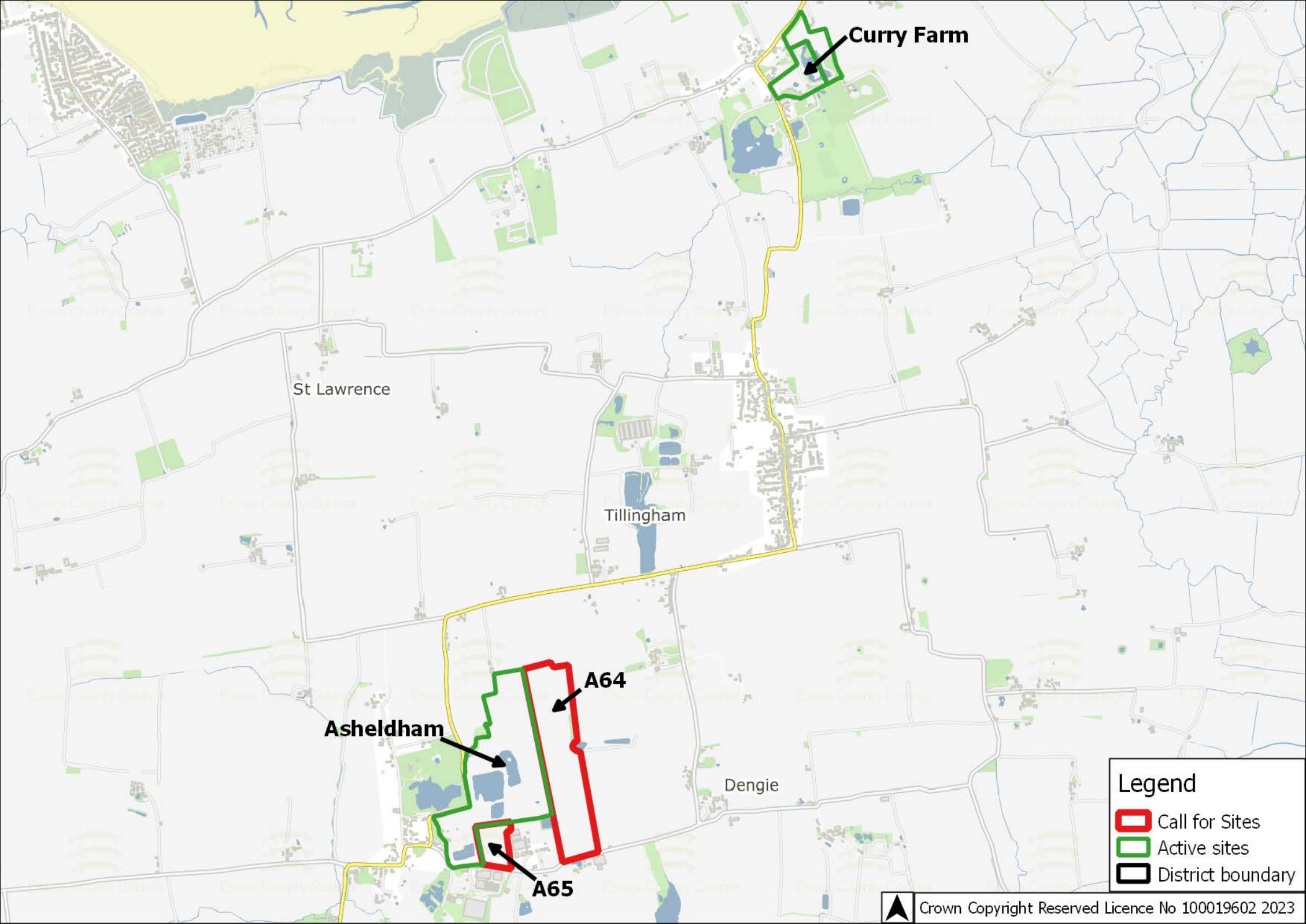


**Asheldham Quarry
A64**

Legend
[Red outline symbol] Site Boundary

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Curry Farm

St Lawrence

Tillingham

Asheldham

Dengie

A64

A65

Legend

-  Call for Sites
-  Active sites
-  District boundary

<i>Candidate Site Reference</i>	<i>Candidate Site Name</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Existing use</i>	<i>Site Area (ha)</i>	<i>Potential Yield (million tonnes)</i>
A64	Land East of Asheldham Quarry	Maldon	Agricultural	24.3	2

The Site is promoted as an extension to the existing mineral site (Asheldham Quarry) and is located to the east of Asheldham Quarry. The Site area is approximately 24.3 hectares and is proposed for 2 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction. The Site could be worked at any time during the plan period. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields, residential and farm buildings, and woodland. The village and parish of Asheldham is located to the west of the Site. The Site would be accessed through the existing Asheldham quarry. See Appendix J for a detailed map of the Site.

Summary of RAG Assessment

The results of the technical and desktop RAG assessment are detailed below.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Biodiversity	Historic Buildings	Archaeology	Flooding	Transport	Access	Public Rights of Way	Geo-Environmental	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Services & Utilities	Health & Amenity	Green Belt	Airport Safeguarding Zones
Amber	Amber /Green	Red/ Amber	Amber	Amber	Red/ Amber	Green	Red/ Amber	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Amber /Green	Red/ Amber	Green	Amber/ Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Landscape Character Area (LCA) for this Site is Dengie and Foulness Coast (F3) and the Site possesses a number of characteristic features, which includes the large scale, flat landscape with a sense of openness and wide views toward the North Sea. Views are obtained of the reclaimed marshlands for arable farmland which are located close to the south-east. Located away from Dengie Crops and the working Asheldham Quarry, parts of the Site also have a rural tranquil character. Appropriate consideration is required to protect the characteristic features of the LCA and mitigate the impacts on the landscape.
- Site A64 is not within a minerals Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zone (IRZ). However, it is situated just outside of several IRZs as it is located in the middle of the Dengie peninsula which is surrounded on three sides by coast and estuaries, which are all internationally designated. The Blackwater Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site is 3 km to the north. The Dengie SSSI, National

Nature Reserve, SPA and Ramsar site is 4.5km to the east. The Crouch and Roach Estuaries SSSI, SPA and Ramsar site is 5.8km to the south. These designated areas are also within the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation and the Blackwater, Crouch, Roach, and Colne Estuaries Marine Conservation Zone.

- There is a watercourse less than 300 m east of the Site which is the boundary of the next field. This drains into a main river c.500 metres to the south. From here it makes its way eastwards towards the coast. This creates hydrological connectivity with the Dengie SSSI, National Nature Reserve, SPA and Ramsar site. Although these are some distance from the Site, the watercourses create a potential pollution pathway between A64 and these designated sites, with respect to water quality and water quantity. The potential for the likely significant effects to the SPA and Ramsar site and SAC would need to be considered further through the plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment and any subsequent planning application.
- Site A64 is a field of agricultural grassland to the east of the extant Asheldham Quarry. Much of the Site is bounded by Hedgerows (Priority habitat) or mature trees and scrub. There is a patch of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat on the eastern boundary- which could be lost to the development- and a large pond/small lake. There are two mature trees within the field that would be lost to the development.
- The Site is graded Amber- Green because ecological impacts are likely to be minor and likely to require low levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable. The Site could have a minor impact upon international or national designations. This includes impacts to water quality of the tributary watercourses. The Site could have a moderate impact upon the natural environment including local designations and Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland and Hedgerow Priority habitats and Priority species. This includes impacts to mature trees within the field which would be lost, and surrounding perimeter vegetation and numerous water bodies. It could result in disturbance and loss of habitat for Priority farmland species, e.g. Skylarks. The surrounding water bodies, Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland and Hedgerow Priority habitats could also be indirectly affected e.g. through changes to the hydrology; smothering of leaves by dust, disturbance e.g. by noise and lighting.
- Any application would require demonstration that the operations would not affect the hydrology of the existing water bodies, Hedgerows, small woodland, and other boundary habitats. Mitigation may include - but not be limited to - adequate and appropriate buffers between the Site and these habitats; prevention of deterioration of water quality to watercourses; compensatory habitat for farmland Priority species. Water run-off from the Site should not be allowed to enter directly into the watercourses.
- The allocation of The Site would likely result in 'less than substantial' harm at a mid-level to the significance of New Hall Farmhouse ((list UID: 119187) due to a change within its setting.

- The impact to Asheldham Youth Church of St Lawrence (List UID: 119188) is likely to be the low level of 'less than substantial' harm due to the increased distance from The Site.
- The impact to Asheldham Hall (List UID: 473017) would likely be at the lowest end of 'less than substantial' harm due to the distance and intervening development. There are likely to be environmental impacts from the allocation of The Site.
- The allocation of the Site would have a cumulative impact on the listed buildings.
- The undeveloped, agrarian landscape of The Site contributes to the setting and significance of these assets and the fundamental change in land use and land character would undermine the ability to understand and appreciate their significance.
- The Site lies adjacent to an area known to contain extensive areas of archaeological features identified through previous archaeological excavation. To the west of the Site archaeological evaluation and excavation has shown the presence of extensive Late Iron Age and Roman occupation. Excavation has also identified the presence of Saxon occupation. Both this and the earlier occupation will extend into the new Site area.
- Within the Site, cropmarks from aerial photography indicate a sequence of linear features being present. Their date at present is unclear but is probably similar to those already identified to the west.
- There is high potential for Palaeolithic archaeological remains and palaeoenvironmental remains.
- The Site is assessed as having a 'low' potential for surface water flood risk as identified within the SFRA.
- The Site has been identified as having a 'high' groundwater flood risk.
- The Site is entirely within Flood Risk Zone 1 and therefore is not at risk from fluvial flooding.
- The Site is proposed to be served by the use of an existing access onto the B1021 Tillingham Road. The B1021 is a Secondary Distributor Road and accords with (iii) in the methodology (see Appendix G Transport for full methodology):

Where access to the main road network in accordance with (i) and (ii) above is not feasible, road access via a suitable existing road prior to gaining access onto the main road network will exceptionally be permitted, having regard to the scale of the development, the capacity and form of the road and an assessment of the impact on road safety.

- 1 Public Right of Way crosses the Site. 1 Public Right of Way is within 100m of the Site. Appropriate consideration would be needed to mitigate potential impacts on these Public Rights of Way and high levels of mitigation may be required which is likely to include diversion especially with regard to the Public Right of Way crossing the Site.
- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural land) which is BMV land. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the impacts on soil quality and agricultural land – this is likely to include removal of soils for stockpiling prior to reuse, potentially in site restoration.
- The Site contains overhead and underground 11kV electricity lines within the Site boundary. Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine whether mitigation measures are needed to avoid any impact on the electricity lines. Such mitigation may include diversion and/or protection.
- Three buildings of unknown use and one farm building are outside the Site boundary less than or equal to 20m from the Site. Three residential buildings are more than 20m but less than or equal to 50m from the Site. Six residential buildings, two farm buildings, two commercial buildings and one community facility (place of worship) are more than 50m but less than or equal to 250m from the Site. Given the proximity of sensitive receptors, high levels of mitigation are likely to be required to make the Site acceptable in terms of impacts on health and amenity e.g. high level noise screening and extensive dust suppression measures.
- The Site is within an Airport Safeguarding Zone (Tillingham and Southend). Restoration proposals assume the Site would be returned to agricultural use meaning the nature of the Site is unlikely to attract birds and therefore is likely to have a minor impact on aircraft safety and should not increase the risk of bird strike for aircrafts. Detailed assessment of this matter would need to accompany any planning application.

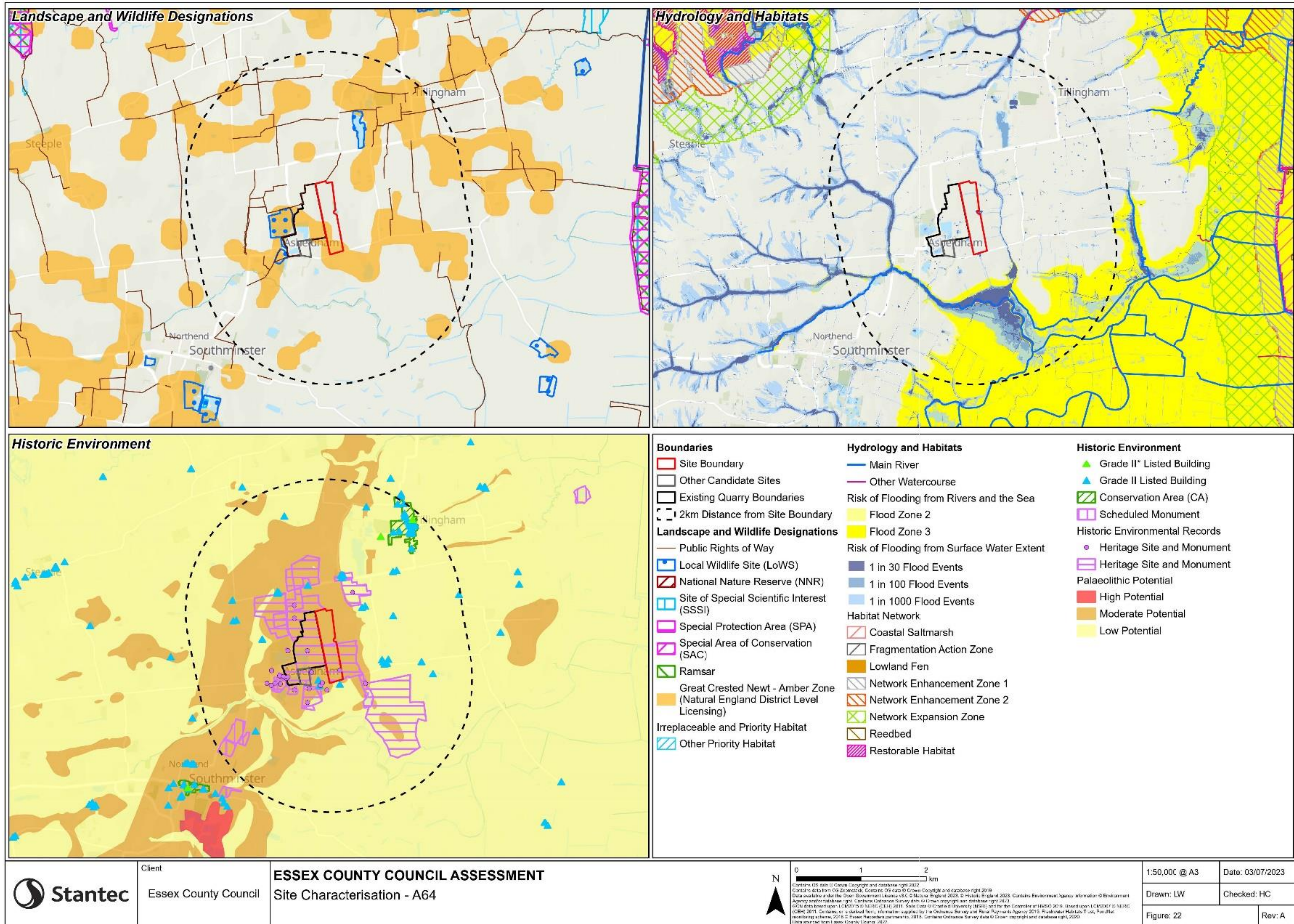


Figure 3.22: A64 - Land East of Asheldham Quarry
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The information and maps above represent a summary of the site assessment. You are encouraged to view the methodology and more detailed assessment for each site within appendices B-I. These can be found on the Candidate Sites Assessment webpage on our consultation pages:

www.essex.gov.uk/minerals-review

Appendix B - Landscape and Visual Sensitivity

Appendix C - Biodiversity

Appendix D - Historic Buildings

Appendix E - Archaeology

Appendix F - Flooding

Appendix G - Transport

Appendix H – Access

Appendix I - Public Rights of Way, Geo-Environmental, Hydrology, Hydrogeology & Drainage, Air Quality, Soil Quality, Services & Utilities, Health & Amenity, Green Belt, and Airport Safeguarding Zones