



# Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan 2025-2040 (Regulation 18 – Issues and Options)

## Sustainability Appraisal (SA): Non-Technical Summary

February 2024





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# Glossary

Term (abbreviation)	Definition
Aftercare	The steps to be taken following restoration to bring land to the required standard for its intended use once mineral working or landfill has taken place, and its subsequent maintenance.
Aggregates	Sand, gravel, crushed rock and other bulk materials used by the construction industry.
Aggregate Working Party	Established in the 1970's to identify and consider problems in the supply of aggregates. They provide technical advice in relation to the supply of, and demand for, aggregates (including sand, gravel and crushed rock) to the Secretary of State, local government and mineral planning authorities.
Annual Monitoring Report	A yearly report submitted to the government by the Local Planning Authority/ Minerals Planning Authority assessing progress with, and the effectiveness of, the Local Development Framework.
Apportionment	This is the 'amount of minerals needed'. The splitting of national supply guidelines for minerals demand between Minerals Planning Authorities or sub regions.
Appropriate Assessment (AA)	The process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Appropriate Assessment Habitats and Species Directive.
Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land	Land identified by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as falling within classification grades 1, 2 or 3a, based on the physical characteristics of the land and the limits these impose upon its agricultural uses.
Blue Infrastructure	Blue landscape elements are linked to water. Examples include pools, ponds and pond systems, artificial buffer basins, Sustainable Drainage Systems and water courses.
Borrow Pit	A temporary mineral working to supply material for a specific construction project.
Construction, Demolition and	Controlled (predominantly inert) waste arising from the construction, repair, maintenance and demolition of buildings and

Term (abbreviation)	Definition
Excavation (CD&E) Wastes	structures and the excavation of minerals. It mostly includes brick, concrete, hardcore, subsoil and topsoil, but can include timber, metal, plastics and occasionally special hazardous waste materials.
Development Management (DM)	The process whereby a Local Planning Authority manages development by considering the merits of a planning application and determines the application, having regard to the Development Plan and all other material considerations.
Development Plan	A document setting out the local planning authority’s policies and proposals for the development and use of land and buildings in the authority’s area. This includes adopted Local Plans, neighbourhood plans and the London Plan, and is defined in section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. (Regional strategies remain part of the development plan until they are abolished by Order using powers taken in the Localism Act.
East of England Aggregates Working Party	The Aggregates Working Party that Essex County Council is a member of through being the Minerals Planning Authority for the county.
Environment Agency (EA)	A body that aims to prevent or minimise the effects of pollution on the environment and issues permits to monitor and control activities that handle or produce waste. It also provides up-to-date information on waste management and deals with other matters such as water issues, including flood protection advice.
Historic England (HE)	Advisors with responsibility for all aspects of protecting and promoting the historic environment. Historic England is responsible for advising the government on the listing of historic assets.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Statement (ES)	Applicants for certain types of development, usually more significant schemes, are required to submit an environmental statement accompanying a planning application. This evaluates the likely environmental impacts of the development, together with an assessment of how the severity of the impacts could be mitigated.
Examination in Public (EiP)	A term given to the public examination of Development Plan Documents

Term (abbreviation)	Definition
Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) / Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	An assessment of the flooding risk in a particular area so that development needs and mitigation measures can be carefully considered. A SFRA is undertaken at the Plan level.
Green Infrastructure (GI)	Green infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands and also street trees, allotments, private gardens, green roofs and walls, sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and soils. It can include rivers, streams, canals and other water bodies, sometimes called ‘blue infrastructure’.
Groundwater	An important part of the natural water cycle present underground, within strata known as aquifers.
Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA)	The assessment of the impacts of implementing a plan or policy on a Habitats site. It considers the impacts of a land use plan or project against the conservation objectives of the site and ascertains whether any impacts would adversely affect the integrity of them.
Habitats Site	As per the NPPF, any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites.
Landbank	In the context of the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) this is the stock of planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals.
Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA)	Aids in the planning of a steady and adequate supply of minerals by assessing historic sales data and accounting for all potential supply options. The assessment is produced by the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) and incorporates the advice of the relevant Aggregates Working Party (AWP).
Local Plan	A Development Plan Document prepared by district and other local planning authorities, including minerals and waste planning authorities, to guide development in their administrative area.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	The local authority or council that is empowered by law to exercise planning functions. Often the local borough/ district/ city council. County councils are the authority for waste and minerals matters.



Term (abbreviation)	Definition
Low Level Restoration	The re-establishment of land following mineral extraction to a lower level with partial or no infilling (filling the hole created by extraction).
Mineral Consultation Area (MCA)	An area designated up to 100m around Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs), identified in order to ensure consultation with the relevant Minerals Planning Authority (MPA), on applications for non-mineral development in that area located in close proximity to safeguarded land that may compromise the potential future working of that land.
Minerals Development	Any development primarily involving the extraction, processing, storage, transportation or manufacture of minerals. It includes associated minerals development such as rail aggregate depots, facilities for aggregate recycling, secondary processing facilities and coastal wharves for mineral transshipment.
Mineral Extraction	Refers to the quarrying of mineral and the ancillary development associated with this such as processing plants, site offices and weighbridges.
Minerals Hierarchy	The minerals hierarchy sets out the different approaches to the supply of minerals, and orders them in terms of their sustainability. The most sustainable option is to reduce the amount of minerals used, followed by sourcing minerals from secondary and recycled materials, and finally through the primary extraction of minerals.
Mineral Infrastructure	Mineral Infrastructure applies to mineral facilities that are involved in the working and distribution of mineral resources.
Mineral Infrastructure Impact Assessments	Minerals Infrastructure Impact Assessments assess both the potential impact of a nonmineral led development on proximal safeguarded mineral infrastructure, and the impact of the latter on the former, to understand what mitigation measures may be required such that the operations of the mineral infrastructure are not compromised. The assessment should be carried out at such a time as to be capable of informing the planning application that it supports.'
Mineral Infrastructure Consultation Areas (MICA)	Mineral Infrastructure Consultation Areas cover land up to 250m from safeguarded mineral infrastructure. Where non-mineral development is proposed within Minerals Consultation Areas, the appropriate Planning Authority must consult the Mineral Planning

Term (abbreviation)	Definition
	Authority and the application be informed by a Minerals Infrastructure Impact Assessment.
Minerals Local Plan (MLP)	A statutory development plan prepared by a Minerals Planning Authority setting out policies for the control of development constituting of the winning and working of minerals, or the deposit of mineral waste.
Mineral Planning Authority (MPA)	The planning authority responsible for planning control of minerals development. Essex County Council is the MPA for Essex.
Mineral Resource	A potential mineral deposit where the quality and quantity of material present has not been tested.
Mineral Reserves	Mineral deposits which have been tested to establish the quality and quantity of material present and which could be economically and technically exploited.
Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA)	An area designated by Minerals Planning Authorities which covers known deposits of minerals which are desired to be kept safeguarded from unnecessary sterilisation by non-mineral development.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)	Sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.
Natural Capital	Natural capital is another term for the stock of renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people.
Natural England (NE)	Body formed by bringing together English Nature, the landscape, access and recreation elements of the Countryside Agency and the environmental land management functions of the Rural Development Service.
Permitted Reserves	Mineral deposits with the benefit of planning permission for extraction.

Term (abbreviation)	Definition
Preferred Site	An area containing mineral resources identified within this Plan where there is a strong presumption in favour of extraction.
Recycled Aggregates	Aggregates comprising waste materials (for example damaged bricks, broken concrete, brickwork, masonry and tarmac) from roads, construction and demolition sites that have been recovered and recycled in the form of manufactured materials such as concrete, brick, plasterboard and ceramic articles.
Restoration (in terms of minerals operations)	The method used to positively enhance a site once mineral extraction has ceased. This could be to restore the site to its original state or another suitable use, by filling the void to former levels, flooding the void or using low level restoration techniques.
Special Area Of Conservation (SAC)	A site designated under the European Community Habitats Directive, to protect internationally important natural habitats and species.
Statutory	Required by law (statute), usually through an Act of Parliament.
Sterilisation	When development or land use changes prevent possible mineral exploitation in the foreseeable future.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	SEAs integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes. They are required by the European Directive 2000/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment” (the SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive). Government guidance considers that it is possible to satisfy the requirements for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and SEA through a single approach provided that the requirements of the SEA Directive are met. The environmental, economic and social effects of the plan are presented in the form of an iterative Environmental Report which informs each consultation stage of the Minerals Local Plan’s development.
Traffic Assessment (TA)	The Local Validation Checklist states that a Transport Assessment (TA) is to be required where there is likely to be a significant amount of traffic generated. This is defined as generating in excess of 50pcu (passenger car units (PCU’s)) in the peak hour. PCU’s are a Traffic Assessment calculation of all types of vehicles as car equivalents: an HGV is 2 car units. Mineral sites generate few car movements, but often significant volumes of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic. This can have

Term (abbreviation)	Definition
	major impacts on neighbouring residents and businesses, and is often the cause of most local concern. A TA forms part of an Environmental Statement submitted with most applications requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). However smaller developments not requiring an EIA do not submit a TA.
Traffic Statement (TS)	A short, straightforward document, dealing with impacts on the transport network accompanying planning applications without providing detailed capacity assessments. A TS is required by the new validation checklists (June 2008) for all development that fall beneath the threshold for a TA but still have some form of material impact on the highway.
Windfall Site	A site not specifically allocated for development in a development plan, but which becomes available for development during the lifetime of a plan.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

On behalf of Essex County Council (ECC), Place Services has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Essex Minerals Local Plan.

## 1.2 The Minerals Local Plan (MLP)

A Minerals Local Plan (referred to hereafter as 'the Plan') is being undertaken by ECC. The Plan will provide planning policies for minerals development in Essex until 2040. It will set a policy framework within which the best possible use of finite resources can be made and will allocate sites for future mineral extraction and associated development. The MLP will contain policies promoting recycling and secondary processing, the safeguarding of resources and facilities, and high-quality site restoration, all in the pursuit of sustainable development.

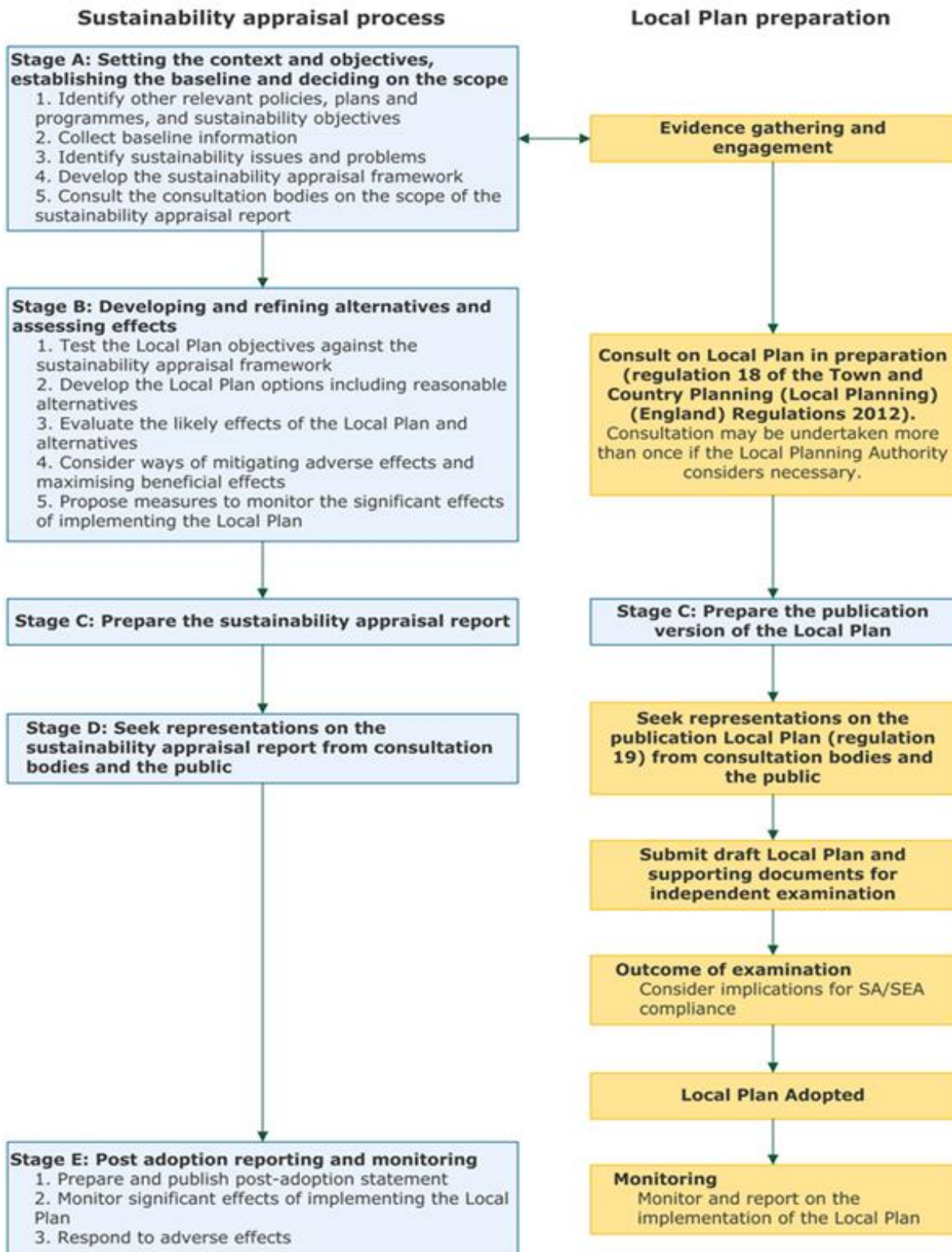
## 1.3 The Requirement for Sustainability Appraisal

The legislative requirement for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) emanates from a high level national and international commitment to sustainable development. SA examines the effects of proposed plans and programmes in a wide context, taking into account economic, social and environmental considerations in order to promote sustainable development. It is mandatory for Local Plans to undergo a SA in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 as amended by the Planning Act 2008, and in accordance with paragraph 165 of the NPPF.

## 1.4 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

The methodology adopted for the SA of the Minerals Local Plan Review at this stage follows that of the Sustainability Appraisal process. The following 5 sequential stages are documented below.

**Figure 1: Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process and Local Plan Preparation**



Source: Planning Practice Guidance – Sustainability appraisal requirements for local plans (Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 11-013-20140306 Revision date: 06 03 2014)

## 1.5 The Aim and Structure of the SA at this stage

The aim of this Report is to respond to Stages B and C of the SA process shown in the previous figure; notably to:

- Test the MLP content against the sustainability appraisal framework (Stage B1)
- Develop the MLP options including reasonable alternatives (Stage B2)
- Evaluate the likely effects of the MLP content and alternatives (Stage B3)
- Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects (Stage B4)
- Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the MLP (Stage B5)



## 2. Key Issues & Sustainability Objectives

### 2.1 Contextual Review of other relevant Plans and Programmes

The MLP must have regard to existing policies, plans and programmes at national and regional levels and strengthen and support other plans and strategies. It is therefore important to identify and review those policies, plans and programmes which are likely to influence the Plan at an early stage. The content of these plans and programmes can also assist in the identification of any conflicting content of plans and programmes in accumulation with the Plan. Local supporting documents have also been included within this list as they will significantly shape policies and decisions in the area.

It is recognised that no list of plans or programmes can be definitive and as a result the SA describes only the key documents which influence the Plan. A comprehensive description of these documents together with their relevance to the Plan is provided within Annex A to the SA Interim Report.

### 2.2 Baseline summary of the County relevant to the remit of the Plan

Annex B to the SA Interim Report outlines the baseline information profile for the Plan area, and where relevant further afield. The baseline information identifies current sustainability issues and problems in the Plan area to be addressed and provides a basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of implementing the document. To ensure the data collected within Annex B was relevant and captured a range of sustainability issues, it was categorised under thematic topics. They cover all the topics referred to in Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive and follow the order of:

- Minerals
- Waste
- Economy and employment
- Housing
- Health and wellbeing
- Transport and connectivity
- Cultural heritage
- Biodiversity and nature conservation



- Landscapes
- Water
- Climate and energy
- Air
- Soils

## 2.3 Key Sustainability Issues

The outcome of the above processes related to the identification of relevant plans and programmes and the baseline information profile of the Plan area is the identification of key sustainability and environmental issues. These represent those sustainability and environmental problems facing the Plan area which assist in the finalisation of a set of relevant SA Objectives that can be subsequently expanded upon in a SA Framework.

The assessment of the Plan will be able to evaluate, in a clear and consistent manner, the nature and degree of impact and whether significant effects are likely to emerge from the Plan Review’s content. The following table outlines the thought process which has led to the formulation of the SA Objectives for the Plan.

**Table 1: Key Sustainability Issues**

General Theme	Focused Theme	Description / Supporting Evidence
Biodiversity	Ecological designations and the effects of minerals activities	Essex contains a range of sites with ecological designations, including Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National and Local Nature Reserves. In addition, a number of Biodiversity Action Plans and Habitat Action Plans are in place, with the aim of conserving and increasing nationally and locally important habitats and species in the county.
Water quality	Risk of contamination	The quality of water within the County’s rivers is generally fair to good in terms of chemical and biological quality. However, the chemical quality of the rivers is worse than the average quality of rivers in the East of England. There are potential issues with removal of part of an aquifer and disrupting groundwater flows.

General Theme	Focused Theme	Description / Supporting Evidence
		<p>Risk of contamination of surface and groundwater and siltation of watercourses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pollution from the working of previously contaminated land, including the reworking of mineral waste tips for secondary aggregates and post-restoration uses, e.g. use of fertilisers, surface water run-off.</li> <li>• by suspended sediment from mineral working and tipping of mineral waste.</li> <li>• pollution from natural contaminants and fuels, oils and solvents.</li> </ul>
Soils	Soil quality and land stability	<p>Mineral operations need to have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degradation of soil stored during period of mineral working</li> <li>• Risk of land contamination</li> <li>• Fragmentation of agricultural holdings</li> <li>• Land take and permanent loss of soils</li> <li>• Land instability during mining operations and reclamation</li> <li>• Risk of subsidence or instability from sub-surface working, tipped land or hydrological changes</li> </ul>
Landscape	Restoration for landscape benefits	<p>Many mineral deposits in Essex lie close or in sensitive landscapes. The Essex landscape and its relationship with historic settlements form an important component of the historic environment contributing to place making and local distinctiveness. Landscape plays an important role in proving the setting for all heritage assets, and as such, landscape is an important part of the setting of heritage assets.</p> <p>The use of quarries as landfill sites can extend the time for restoration and therefore increases landscape impacts. Landscape restoration and</p>

General Theme	Focused Theme	Description / Supporting Evidence
		<p>management opportunities should be maximised in relation to minerals/landfill operations and after-use.</p>
<p>Historic environment</p>	<p>Minimising / avoiding effects on assets</p>	<p>The county includes large numbers of recorded archaeological sites, listed buildings and conservation areas, as well as scheduled monuments. Many of these assets lie in close proximity to mineral deposits. The NPPF requires a positive strategy for the conservation of the historic environment.</p> <p>Landscape scale heritage assets such as Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, or non-designated heritage assets, can be particularly sensitive to changes in their setting, for example through visual intrusion, the introduction of movement and noise, and changes in hydrology / groundwater flows.</p>
<p>Flooding</p>	<p>Drainage and disturbance</p>	<p>Throughout the county there is a greater need for flood and surface water management which has implications regarding the location, longevity and viability of minerals operations.</p> <p>Proposed minerals developments must ensure they do not impede drainage in any way, and that mineral processing plant is not at risk of flood damage. Similarly, any proposed minerals and waste developments should not impact any flood infrastructure. In general, the following risks relate to mineral development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbance or removal of surface features such as watercourses or flood storage.</li> <li>• Increased risk of groundwater flooding from low level restoration.</li> <li>• Effects of long-term pumping on other abstractors and wetland habitats.</li> <li>• Potential impacts of dewatering on the historic environment, for example on archaeology as well as ornamental water features such as lakes and</li> </ul>

General Theme	Focused Theme	Description / Supporting Evidence
		<p>fountains within Registered Parks and Gardens</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Congestion and road safety</p>	<p>Parts of the strategic road network pass through towns and villages creating issues for local communities in terms of air quality, amenity and road safety which can be heavily impacted by increases in HGV trips - particularly in sensitive rural areas and designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).</p> <p>Minerals and waste development may lead to changes in local travel patterns that may intensify existing issues such as congestion or road safety.</p>
<p>Minerals development</p>	<p>Safeguarding resource</p>	<p>There is a strong need to safeguard mineral resources, including through increased use of secondary and recycled materials.</p> <p>There is a strong need to ensure that mineral resources are both adequately supplied and also viable from an economic viewpoint. This is also the case for wider minerals and waste industries.</p>
<p>Minerals development</p>	<p>Meeting demand / growth needs</p>	<p>At the LPA level, growth requirements are at an unprecedented level, and house building is needed to meet a housing shortage. Similarly, a number of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects have been identified within Essex.</p> <p>Without a plan-led system a steady and adequate supply of building materials might not be forthcoming to facilitate forecasted development needs.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>Human health and pollution</p>	<p>Potential impacts on health, well-being and quality of life should be taken into account in identifying suitable sites for minerals sites and waste facilities. The potential impact of noise, dust, vibration, lighting and water pollution generated by ongoing operations needs to be considered.</p>

## 2.4 The Sustainability Objectives formulated for the SA

The following identifies relevant SA Objectives for the Plan and Plan area, and further identifies whether they fall into the three broad categories of sustainability; namely social, environmental and economic themes.

**Table 2: The SA Objectives**

SA Objective	Environmental	Social	Economic
1) To protect and enhance biodiversity through Essex and beyond	✓		
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources	✓	✓	
3) To minimise the risk of flooding	✓	✓	
4) To encourage the sustainable use of land and protection of soils, including the best and most versatile agricultural land.			✓
5) To promote the minerals supply hierarchy and where mineral waste is produced, to promote the movement of minerals waste up the waste management hierarchy.	✓	✓	✓
6) To safeguard and where possible improve air quality.	✓	✓	
7) To minimise net emissions of greenhouse gases and increase adaptability to climate change.	✓	✓	✓
8) To avoid, and if this is not possible minimise impacts, both direct, and indirect (e.g. through changes in setting), on the significance of the historic environment, both above and below ground.	✓	✓	

SA Objective	Environmental	Social	Economic
9) To protect and enhance the quality and character of landscapes, including the Metropolitan Green Belt	✓	✓	
10) To maximise opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from minerals activities.		✓	✓
11) To promote improvements in the sustainable use of minerals.	✓	✓	✓
12) To achieve restoration and the aftercare of all mineral sites that offer the best sustainability benefits.	✓	✓	✓
13) To reduce the transportation of minerals, road congestion, and promote the movement of minerals using sustainable transport.	✓	✓	✓
14) To protect and where possible enhance human health and well-being.		✓	
15) To minimise any nuisance and impact on local amenity resulting from minerals activities		✓	

### 3. The Approach to Assessing the MLP

#### 3.1 The types of effects considered

The SA of the Plan within the SA Interim Report assesses the MLP’s content against the SA Objectives and key questions / criteria outlined in the sustainability framework. The aim is to assess the sustainability effects of the MLP following implementation. The assessment looks at indirect and cumulative effects, as well as effects over time. Importantly however the assessment identifies the significance of effects.

##### 3.1.1 Description of ‘Significant Effects’

The strength of impacts can vary dependant on the relevance of the policy content to certain SA Objectives or themes. Where the policies have been appraised against the SA Objectives the basis for making judgements within the assessment is identified within the following key:

Possible impact	Basis for judgement
++	Strong prospect of there being significant positive impacts.
+	Strong prospect of there being minor positive impacts.
?	General uncertainty where there is a lack of current evidence (to be elaborated in commentary in each instance) or uncertainty surrounding the degree of impact assessed (also elaborated on within commentary).
0	No impact.
-	Strong prospect of there being minor negative impacts and mitigation would be possible / issues can be rectified.
--	Strong prospect of there being significant negative impacts with mitigation unlikely to be possible (pending further investigation) / further work is needed to explore whether issues can be rectified.
N/A	Not applicable to the scope or context of the assessed content.

## 4. Effects of the Replacement MLP

### 4.1 ‘Whole Plan’ Effects by Sustainability Theme

The conclusions of the SA are outlined within sub-headings that correspond to a thematic Sustainability Objective. The conclusions are drawn from an analysis of the individual policy appraisals within the SA Interim Report, as well as the cumulative, synergistic, and temporal assessment work undertaken. At this stage, and without any identified site allocations for mineral extraction or transshipment, the conclusions focus on the Plan’s policy framework.

#### 4.1.1 Biodiversity

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / significantly negative effects	Positive effects

The Plan’s effects on biodiversity have been assessed as uncertain but with a degree of caution that ‘significantly negative’ effects may occur in the short-medium term associated with extraction. There is a strong possibility of positive outcomes in the long term, post-restoration of mineral extraction sites. These short-medium term effects are derived from the findings of the HRA work accompanying the MLP at this stage, which raises the potential for direct and indirect effects from possible new extraction sites dependent on location.

Separate to this, positive effects on biodiversity could be realised in the long term and possibly after the plan period in many cases, associated with restoration and after-uses that require biodiversity net gain. The Plan ensures alignment to District-level Green and Blue Infrastructure studies in restoration schemes, which is likely to ensure some biodiversity benefits, as well as ensuring net gains as a minimum.

#### 4.1.2 Water quality and resources

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / neutral effects	No effects

There is the possibility that minerals extraction / activities can lead to adverse impacts on groundwater conditions, and also water quality associated with impact pathways to Habitats sites as identified through the HRA. At this stage of the Plan making process, and without the identification of site allocations with site-specific policies that seek to address on-site concerns, it is difficult to gauge the impacts on water quality which are largely location



specific.

Nevertheless, the assessment of Policy DM1 – Development Management Criteria indicates positive effects where Sustainability Objective 2, regarding water quality, can be positively met through protection or mitigation. Neutral effects are highlighted through an approach to assessment that acknowledges that minerals activities can not ensure that existing water quality is improved, and that the best possible effect is to seek a neutral outcome from the baseline position.

### 4.1.3 Flood risk

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / neutral	Uncertain / positive

At the planning application stage, which all future site allocations will need to go through, the Plan’s DM1 covers the requirements of proposals regarding flood risk. The MLP includes that proposals for minerals development will be permitted subject to it being demonstrated that development would not have an unacceptable impact, including cumulative impact with other developments, upon flood risk. Within this SA, neutral effects are therefore highlighted through this approach to assessment that acknowledges that minerals activities can only mitigate impacts, which in the case of flood risk includes those at the individual proposal level and cumulatively with other development. It is considered that the best possible outcome is again to seek a neutral effect from the baseline position.

It should be noted that the Plan, in consideration of its flexible approach to after-uses, adds that the potential to provide additional flood storage areas could be particularly advantageous when carrying out prior mineral extraction, in advance of built development, to create topographies to provide flood storage areas as well as offer sustainable drainage benefits. This could ensure long term positive implications.

### 4.1.4 Soils / agricultural land

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain	Uncertain

The requirement for new allocations for mineral extraction identified within the MLP at this stage, and the subsequent assessment of candidate sites, raises the potential for the short-medium term loss of the ‘best and most versatile land’ (BMV) in the Plan area. This potential extends from Grade 3 agricultural land, to Grade 1 and there is no guarantee that restoration proposals will see a return of this soil quality.

Policy S12 outlines the Plan’s requirements concerning restoration, including to agricultural land. The adopted MLP (2014) approach has a focus on agricultural after-uses alongside habitat creation. Such schemes may still come forward, however this is not the sole focus of preferred restoration proposals within the new Plan, which is more flexible to a range of uses on a case-by-case basis. It should be noted however that many after-uses, including habitat creation, need not be incompatible with restoration to agriculture and BMV.

This is acknowledged within the Plan, which sets out that land of the best and most agricultural value should be capable of being restored back to the best and most versatile agricultural land, though the proposed after-use need not always be for agriculture. This is compliant with the requirements of the PPG and considered in isolation can ensure positive effects. Effects are not anticipated as being significant however, and general uncertainty is raised as it is not yet possible to determine the specific after-uses of forthcoming planning applications at this stage.

### 4.1.5 Minerals supply

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Significant positive effects	Significant positive effects

The Plan seeks to ensure a ‘steady and adequate’ supply of minerals throughout the Plan period, through a plan-led approach of ensuring provision can be met through new allocations, albeit these are undecided at this stage. Plan provision is above the required ten-year average of rolling sales, with a 20% buffer or ‘uplift’.

The provision figure maintains a buffer between Plan provision and actual sales, such that the Plan can respond to any sudden uplift in sales. It should be noted however that the Plan’s mineral provision figure, and its forecasted provision rate of 3.98mtpa, is not a ‘target’, nor has it created a situation in Essex where sales have increased to match this figure. Sales of sand and gravel are market-led, and should sales not match the provision rate, it translates to the reserve.

This SA also makes the assessment that the Plan’s position on prior extraction in MSAs / MCAs for non-mineral developments (now ‘required’) has the potential to increase minerals extracted as windfalls, i.e. resource that is in addition to that planned at site allocations and existing operating sites. There will therefore likely be significant positive effects in regard to mineral supply across the lifetime of the Plan.

## 4.1.6 Air quality

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain effects	No effects

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) at the Plan level has been undertaken for the MLP as amended. This ‘strategic’ HIA concludes that the extent of health impacts arising from mineral activities are more suitably identified at the application stage. The Plan includes that where relevant a project-level Health Impact Assessment (HIA) may be required to accompany any planning application. HIAs will need to address issues of nuisance and amenity, where they correlate to health impacts, such as routeing, dust, air quality, noise, and safety.

Associated with highways and transportation, Policy S11 offers a stance on air quality, stating that ‘where the movement of minerals are by road, the increase in traffic movement and effects on air quality shall be in accordance with published highway design guidance and national air quality objectives and strategies.’ How this is sought to be achieved is reflected through the Plan’s criteria pertaining to Transport Statements or Transport Assessments. The stance of the Policy seeks to ensure ‘no effect’, also acknowledging the correlation between traffic movement and air quality.

Nevertheless, it is assumed that there would be an increase in transport movements (and therefore emissions) from any and all development. It is difficult at this stage to substantiate any direct transport related air quality effects occurring from the Plan or subsequent minerals activities, especially in consideration of the fact that many minerals activities are temporary. As such, ‘uncertain’ effects are cautiously highlighted for air quality in the short-medium term, reflecting the lifetime of permissions.

## 4.1.7 Climate change

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Neutral effects	Positive effects

The Plan seeks to ensure that ‘all minerals development is located, operated and managed whilst having regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation, so the County plays its part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is resilient to potentially more extreme future weather conditions’ as included in the Plan’s Vision. Policy S3 touches on how development proposals can meet Plan objectives, which extend to minimising greenhouse gas emissions and resilience for the lifetime of the development (including restoration and after-care). As minerals operations are temporary, the effects of wider positive outcomes are therefore

limited. The minimisation of any negative effects of proposals would therefore lead to neutral outcomes in the short-medium term, reflective of the lifetime of operations, although where proposals include permanent buildings, these are required to be built to be Net Zero Carbon in operation, be fossil fuel free, and generate renewable energy on-site to at least match annual energy use.

Further, the potential for minor long-term positive effects exists in the form of a joined-up approach to restoration and after-uses associated with Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategies at the LPA level. Further, Policy S3 sets out that ‘The Mineral Planning Authority will support minerals development which increases the resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts.’ This considered, positive long-term effects have been highlighted in this assessment.

### 4.1.8 The historic environment

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / neutral effects	Neutral effects

It can be considered that the majority of the Plan’s effects on the historic environment would be at the site level and identifiable only once site allocations are decided in future iterations. The assessment of the candidate sites, undertaken to aid the MPA’s site selection process, has identified many instances of potential harm both above and below ground. This leads to the identification of uncertainty in the short-medium term, with the potential for negative effects associated with extraction until that time that sites are identified and site-specific allocation policies drafted.

Policy S10 of the Plan (Protecting and Enhancing the Environment and Local Amenity) states that, ‘applications for minerals development shall demonstrate that appropriate consideration has been given to public health, wellbeing and safety, amenity, quality of life of nearby communities, and the natural, built, and historic environment. Appropriate mitigation measures shall be included in the proposed scheme of development to ensure that no unacceptable adverse impacts would arise.’ This position ensures that mitigation would be forthcoming in the first instance, with an additional requirement for enhancements to be sought.

Plan policy offers neutral outcomes in response to a need to understand the scope of any harm at the planning application stage with the outcome of mitigating effects. There is considered little scope for long-term enhancements from the Policy framework, in so far as this is not covered with any preferred direction; it is considered unlikely that mineral operations would be permitted in the first instance should any harm be significant.

## 4.1.9 Landscape

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain effects	Uncertain effects

The extraction of minerals inevitably leads to concerns surrounding landscapes, in the short-medium term at least. In the long term however, restoration schemes can ensure that landscapes are at best improved and at least returned to a similar land use and form to those pre-extraction. Effects are more appropriately identified, and identifiable, at the site level associated with site allocations. These are yet to be determined, although this SA and other Plan evidence base, has assessed all the candidate sites submitted for consideration. A number of these sites have been identified as having negative impacts on landscape and landscape features. This leads to uncertainty in the short-medium term at this stage, with the potential for negative effects.

In the longer term, Policy S12 ensures that restoration is now outcome led, through the proposed omission of the hierarchical approach as adopted in the 2014 MLP. The focus can now be seen as less on restoration to low levels and more about after-use to ensure net gains in biodiversity, but also health and well-being improvements. It is proposed that the final restoration level of sites will now generally be decided on a case-by-case basis, however must be sympathetic to the surrounding landscape with infilling only at a scale considered necessary to achieve beneficial restoration. This considered and on balance, uncertain effects are assessed of the Plan as whole in regard to landscape at this stage.

## 4.1.10 Economic development, including jobs arising from minerals activities

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Positive effects	Positive effects

It is considered that the effects on increasing jobs in the mineral industry will be marginal to neutral, in line with less transportation of mineral in response to the Plan’s locational preference for minerals infrastructure and the objective of reducing mineral miles, and also the possibility of restoration proposals now being permitted for a wider range of after-uses. Where employment through transportation can be seen to be minimised, jobs within restoration proposals may increase.

The mineral provision figure can be seen to offer flexibility should any uplift associated with housing and employment growth be forthcoming, as is indicated through LPA housing

requirements in Greater Essex. Similarly, various and multiple infrastructure schemes are identified within the County, including National Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS) which are likely to require additional aggregates in the Plan period that may not be captured or calculated in past analysis of sales data. To this extent, positive effects are highlighted at the Plan level regarding economic growth. Effects are not however predicted as significant in consideration of a level of uncertainty surrounding the industry; as sales of sand and gravel are market-led and there is no evidence to support any determination that the availability of minerals stimulates growth in the first instance.

### 4.1.11 The sustainable use of minerals

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Positive effects	Significantly positive effects

It is important to consider that the 20% buffer included within the Plan’s provision figure does not necessarily mean that mineral resources are extracted at a quicker rate than needed and are then lost or necessarily exported from the County. The MLP seeks to ensure a supply of minerals that can respond to any uplifts in sales, through a plan-led system. By allocating sites (in future iterations of the MLP), this ensures that primary extraction can occur on sites that have been selected through a robust selection process and can be considered the most sustainable available at the time.

Of further consideration within this assessment is the relationship between aggregate recycling as a mineral operation and the waste hierarchy. The Plan’s approach to aggregate recycling facilities, as aligned to that of the Waste Local Plan (2017), ensures the sustainable use of land and resources. This intends to minimise the number of extraction sites needed in the future and ensure the sustainable use of minerals. Similarly the Plan’s amended approach to ‘requiring’ prior extraction on non-mineral development sites within the MSA / MCA, rather than merely ‘considering’ it (as included within the adopted MLP (2014)) increases the likelihood of resource being extracted as windfalls. This considered, significant positive effects are highlighted in the long term in regard to the Plan’s amended approach to ensuring the sustainable use of minerals, in so far as this can be influenced by a strategic Plan.

### 4.1.12 Restoration and aftercare of mineral sites

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
No effects	Significantly positive effects

The Plan’s approach to restoration is assessed at this stage as having significant positive

effects in line with a flexible approach that can ensure a wide range of after-uses. The changes ensure that restoration and after-uses can benefit not only environmental tenets of sustainability, but also those related to social and economic themes.

Policy S12 regards restoration and the after-use of mineral extraction sites. As previously set out, Policy S12 ensures that restoration is now outcome led, through the proposed omission of the hierarchical approach of the adopted MLP (2014). The focus can now be seen as less on restoration to low levels and more about after-use to ensure net gains in biodiversity, health and well-being improvements and also alignment to Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategies at the District-level. The Plan also considers built development after-uses, such as housing or employment uses, if consistent with District / Borough Local Plan objectives, offering scope for economic benefits. This, alongside the previously mentioned potential for environmental and social gains, allows for significant positive effects to be highlighted of the Plan.

### 4.1.13 The sustainable transportation of minerals

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / positive effects	No effects

Associated with highways and transportation, Policy S11 pertains to the need for Transport Statements or Transport Assessments. These ensure that for applications for proposals reliant on road transportation, the road network is appropriate to accommodate that use and that vehicle traffic use appropriate routes, amongst other considerations. The stance of the Policy seeks to ensure ‘no effect’, acknowledging the importance of traffic movement. Nevertheless, the Plan acknowledges that due to the pattern of infrastructure in the county, there is a necessary reliance on the road network for mineral movements. Similarly, the market ensures that it is not economic to transport minerals significant distances. This is considered a constant that is beyond the remit of the Plan to influence at this stage.

The Plan does respond positively in ensuring that mineral miles are reduced, and that the location of any new mineral infrastructure is located in close proximity to the strategic road network. Similarly, the Strategy of the MLP is to ‘provide for the best possible geographic dispersal of sand and gravel across the County’, taking into consideration where the resource is located. The Plan seeks to serve areas of development, which is considered a flexible approach in ensuring that aggregate recycling facilities, amongst other minerals infrastructure, is located where development may occur in the Plan area. This theoretically will reduce mineral miles and ensure the sustainable movement of minerals. It should be acknowledged though, that allocations for mineral sites are yet to be determined within the Plan, and much will depend on how areas of growth in the County relate to the most sustainable sites submitted for consideration. Similarly uncertain are restoration proposals or requirements associated with future site allocations, and whether material would need to be imported to ensure an appropriate afteruse.



The Plan is therefore assessed as having uncertain to minor positive effects on the sustainable transportation of minerals through extraction periods, in so far as the Plan can influence the location of proposals. Effects are limited and not significant due to the existing transport infrastructure of the County and nature of the industry, which is market led. This is, as previously mentioned, beyond the remit of the Plan.

#### 4.1.14 Human health and well-being

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / neutral effects	Uncertain / positive effects

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) at the Plan level has been undertaken for the MLP as amended. This ‘strategic’ HIA concludes that the extent of health impacts arising from mineral activities are more suitably identified at the application stage. The Plan includes that where relevant a project-level Health Impact Assessment (HIA) may be required to accompany any planning application. HIAs will need to address issues of nuisance and amenity, where they correlate to health impacts, such as routeing, dust, air quality, noise, and safety. The Plan is therefore assessed as ensuring the impacts of minerals development as they may impact on health are an understood consideration of individual applications. Policy DM1 of the Plan further ensures that health related impacts are understood at the application stage, with the added consideration of cumulative effects with other developments.

Nevertheless, candidate sites for potential allocation have been assessed in consideration of the proximity of residential properties. Many of the sites put forward are within 250 of existing properties and any effects regarding health will be required to be mitigated, and also considered as part of the site selection process. Uncertain effects are highlighted at this stage and it is further considered that only neutral best case scenario outcomes could be realised from the effective application of Policy in the short-medium term.

Possible positive long-term effects are also highlighted regarding restoration that offers the best sustainability benefits, including open space and / or recreational opportunities as included within Policy S12. Despite this, uncertainty is raised at this stage where the after use of any future site allocations is currently unknown.

#### 4.1.15 Nuisance and impact on local amenity

Short-Medium Term Effects	Long Term Effects
Uncertain / neutral effects	No effects



A strategic priority for minerals development, as outlined in Policy S2 of the Plan, is ensuring there are no unacceptable adverse impacts arising from proposed minerals development for public health and wellbeing, public safety, amenity, the quality of life of nearby communities, and the environment. The Plan acknowledges that when considering planning applications, the MPA must be satisfied that those potential adverse impacts have all been satisfactorily investigated and addressed.

It should be acknowledged that the Plan's development management policies, in particular Policy DM1, offer more detail to developers / landowners on what evidence based assessments should be submitted alongside a planning application. Positive implications have been highlighted for Policy DM1 in ensuring neutral effects, where social Sustainability Objectives can be positively met through protection or mitigation. This is true of nuisance and impact on local amenity both at the development level and cumulatively on issues such as noise, dust, light pollution, and vibration. The coverage of this theme, and an explanation of its relevance to minerals planning and operations, is further elaborated on within the Policy's supporting text / reasoned justification.

Nevertheless, candidate sites for potential allocation have been assessed in consideration of the proximity of residential properties. Many of the sites put forward are within 250 of existing properties and any effects regarding nuisance and amenity will be required to be mitigated, and also considered as part of the site selection process. Uncertain effects are highlighted at this stage and it is further considered that only neutral best case scenario outcomes could be realised from the effective application of Policy in the short-medium term (associated with the lifetime of extraction activities).

## 4.2 Recommendations / Mitigation Measures

It should be noted that the MLP benefits from a starting point of an adopted Plan, which was subject to SA and examined in 2014. For the adopted MLP, in 2014, the SA made numerous recommendations as part of the iterative process, which were outlined in the SA at that stage and reiterated fully in an Adoption Statement that same year.

The SA of the new MLP at this stage focuses on the policy framework and does not factor in any site allocations, which can be expected to be introduced within the next iteration of the Plan. As such, no recommendations have been made within this SA, as the MLP has factored in any such requirements through previous iterations and through iterative working.

## 5. The Assessment of the Minerals Local Plan (Site Options)

### 5.1 Approach to Assessing Sites for Mineral Extraction

Following a review of the comments received to the previous Regulation 18 MLP Review consultation in 2021, as well as a further review of evidence and the current rate of plan formation, it has become evident that the emerging MLP needs to allocate additional sites for the extraction of sand and gravel. Accordingly, a Call for Sites exercise was undertaken alongside the informal engagement which resulted in the submission of numerous sites to be assessed for their suitability to contribute to future supplies of sand and gravel.

The SA is required to assess the potential effects of the sites submitted for consideration as mineral extraction allocations within the MLP. Such an assessment can ensure that sustainability is a key consideration within the MPA's site selection process and also that suitable policy requirements exist to ensure that the potential impacts associated with any sites' allocation can and will be mitigated.

An SA site assessment framework has been devised for this SA, introducing detailed site-specific criteria relevant to the themes of the above Sustainability Objectives in order to identify any indicative sustainability concerns and merits. The framework draws on Plan evidence and site submission information (as submitted through the call-for-sites process). The framework allows distinctions to be identified that allow the comparison and analysis of sites in a fair and consistent manner. The SA site assessment framework is included in the table below.

**Table 3: Proposed SA Site Assessment Framework for assessing candidate sites for mineral allocation**

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
1a) To protect and enhance biodiversity through Essex and beyond.	Place Services' Ecology specialists – MLP Site Assessment Report	Significant positive effects regarding biodiversity are more appropriately addressed under SA Objective 12.	Positive effects regarding biodiversity are more appropriately addressed under SA Objective 12.	The site could potentially impact on the natural environment including biodiversity and ecological conditions for habitats and species, including the effect on national or local designations.	The site is not likely to have an unacceptable impact/effect and/or unacceptable cumulative impact on the natural environment including biodiversity and ecological conditions for habitats and species, including the effect on national or local designations.	The site could have an unacceptable impact on the natural environment including biodiversity and ecological conditions for habitats and species, including the effect on national or local designations.	The site is within/ or adjacent to a nationally designated habitat
1b) To protect and enhance biodiversity through Essex and beyond.	MLP HRA (2024)	Significant positive effects regarding biodiversity are more appropriately addressed under SA Objective 12.	Positive effects regarding biodiversity are more appropriately addressed under SA Objective 12.	HRA & AA stage: The adverse effects on the integrity of internationally or nationally important wildlife sites are avoidable.	HRA stage: Likely Significant Effects screened out  AA stage: There are no adverse effects on the integrity of internationally or nationally important wildlife sites	HRA stage: Likely Significant Effects screened in (pathways and functionally linked land)  AA stage: The adverse effects on the integrity of internationally or nationally important	HRA stage: Likely Significant Effects screened in (disturbance)  AA stage: The site is within/ or in close proximity to an internationally designated habitat  And / or

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
						wildlife sites are mostly unavoidable.	The adverse effects on the integrity of internationally or nationally important wildlife sites are unavoidable.
2) To maintain and enhance water quality and resources.	MAGIC Map	It is not considered possible for significant positive impacts to be ensured, as the criterion is focused on the conservation of water in the first instance.	It is not considered possible for positive impacts to be ensured, as the criterion is focused on the conservation of water in the first instance.	The site is partly within a Source Protection Zone. Or The site is outside groundwater protection zones (SPZs) but sits above principle or secondary aquifers. Or More detailed assessment required.	There are no known constraints regarding surface or groundwater.	The site is located within a ground water Source Protection Zone. Or There are known constraints regarding surface water.	The site is located within a ground water Source Protection Zone. And There are known constraints regarding surface water.
3) To minimise the risk of flooding.	ECC's Flooding risk assessments – MLP Site	Restoration proposal would lead to outstanding benefits through restoration,	Restoration proposals would lead to marginal benefits through restoration,	The site is in part within FRZ2 or FRZ3 and has high – medium flood risk for	The site is either entirely or predominantly within FRZ1 and has a low flood risk	The site is pre-dominantly (i.e. 50% or over) within FRZ2 or FRZ3 and has high flood risk	The site is pre-dominantly (i.e. 50% or over) within FRZ3 and has high flood risk for both

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
	Assessment Report	regarding flood water storage or alleviation.	regarding flood water storage or alleviation.	EITHER / BOTH surface water and groundwater (in SFRA) and is considered 'water compatible' development	for surface water and groundwater (in SFRA).	for EITHER surface water and groundwater (in SFRA) and is not 'water compatible' development	surface water and groundwater (in SFRA) and is not 'water compatible' development
4) To encourage the sustainable use of land and protection of soils, including the best and most versatile agricultural land.	ALC Maps / call-for-sites material	The proposal is not on land in agricultural use or has no intrinsic value (Grade 4 or 5 ALC)  And, where relevant Restoration proposals intended to improve original (ALC) soil quality grading.	The proposal is not on land in agricultural use or has no intrinsic value (Grade 4 or 5 ALC)  And, where relevant Restoration proposals intended to reinstate original (ALC) soil quality grading.	Grade 3 ALC  Or Where relevant in specific circumstances	The proposal is not on land in agricultural use and, or has no intrinsic value (Grade 4 or 5 ALC)	Grade 2 ALC	Grade 1 ALC
5) To promote the minerals supply hierarchy and where mineral waste is	ECC planning website	The site significantly contributes to meeting mineral supply needs	The site is for mineral extraction not considered significant in	The site is for mineral extraction, however the proposal has issues with policy compliance (of the	All other proposals	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
produced, to promote the movement of minerals waste up the waste management hierarchy.			meeting mineral supply needs	adopted MLP and emerging policies) or previous proposals have been refused planning permission (planning history).			
6) To safeguard and where possible improve air quality.	AQMA Maps (District level)	It is not considered possible for significant positive impacts to be ensured, as the criterion is focused on the maintenance of air quality in the first instance.	It is not considered possible for positive impacts to be ensured, as the criterion is focused on the maintenance of air quality in the first instance.	Where relevant.	There are no Air Quality Management Areas in the immediate area.	The site is within close proximity to an Air Quality Management Area.	The site is within an Air Quality Management Area and will result in additional road transport movements.
7) To minimise net emissions of greenhouse gases and increase adaptability to climate change.	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	All proposals - no impact identified at this stage as impacts would only be identifiable at the planning application stage and in adherence to	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
					relevant Plan policies.		
8a) To avoid, and if this is not possible minimise impacts, both direct, and indirect (e.g. through changes in setting), on the significance of the historic environment, both above and below ground. (Archaeology)	Place Services' Historic Environment specialists – MLP Site Assessment Report	It is not considered possible to ensure significant positive effects due to the type and nature of minerals development.	The development of the site would enhance the significance of a heritage asset.	The development of this site will cause harm (or limited harm) to a heritage asset (s) however, this is likely to be able to be mitigated through archaeological investigation, or controlled by an appropriate condition.	The development of this site will have no impact on the heritage asset and its significance.	The development of this site will cause harm to a heritage asset (s) and this harm is at a MID level. There may be options, through mitigation, to reduce this harm.	The development of this site will cause significant harm to a heritage asset (s) and this harm is at the HIGHEST or HIGH level. There are likely no options for mitigation.
8b) To avoid, and if this is not possible minimise impacts, both direct, and indirect (e.g. through changes in	Place Services' Historic Environment specialists – MLP Site Assessment Report	It is not considered possible to ensure significant positive effects due to the type and nature of minerals development.	The development of the site would enhance the significance of a heritage asset.	The development of this site will cause harm (or limited harm) to a heritage asset (s) however, this is likely to be able to be mitigated through	The development of this site will have no impact on the heritage asset and its significance.	The development of this site will cause harm to a heritage asset (s) and this harm is at a MID level. There may be options, through	The development of this site will cause significant harm to a heritage asset (s) and this harm is at the HIGHEST or HIGH level. There

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
setting), on the significance of the historic environment, both above and below ground. (Historic Buildings)				archaeological investigation, or controlled by an appropriate condition.		mitigation, to reduce this harm.	are likely no options for mitigation.
9) To protect and enhance the quality and character of landscapes, including the Metropolitan Green Belt.	Place Services' Landscape specialists – MLP Site Assessment Report	It is not considered possible to ensure significant positive effects due to the type and nature of minerals development.	It is not considered possible to ensure positive effects due to the type and nature of minerals development.	Landscape and / or visual characteristics of the assessment unit are susceptible to change and / or its values are medium / low through to high / medium and / or it may have some potential to accommodate the relevant type of development in some defined situations without significant	Landscape and / or visual characteristics of the assessment unit are robust or degraded and are not susceptible to change and / or its values are low and it can accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very high.	Landscape and / or visual characteristics of the assessment unit are susceptible to change and / or its values are medium through to high. It may be able to accommodate the relevant type of development but only in limited situations without significant character change or adverse effects if defined in the relevant land parcel summary.	Landscape and / or visual characteristics of the assessment unit are very susceptible to change and / or its values are high and it is unable to accommodate the relevant type of development without significant character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are very low.



SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
				character change or adverse effects. Thresholds for significant change are intermediate to high.		Thresholds for significant change are low.	
10) To maximise opportunities for economic development, including jobs, arising from minerals activities.	Call-for-Sites submission material	It is considered that no single site or proposal would lead to a significant positive effect on employment opportunities on a countywide scale.	The proposal will lead to job creation or retention on site.	The site could conflict with neighbouring employment uses.  Or Employment numbers not provided.	The proposal is unrelated to activities associated with job creation or retention.	The site is proposed for an alternative employment use within a Local Plan or there is an unimplemented permission for an employment use.	The site is existing or safeguarded employment land in the relevant district Local Plan or has planning permission for employment use.
11) To promote improvements in the sustainable use of minerals.	N/A	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	All proposals - no impact identified as this Sustainability Objective is considered a policy consideration only.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
12) To achieve restoration and the aftercare of all mineral	Call-for-Sites submission material	Restoration proposal would lead to outstanding benefits through	Proposals would lead to minimum policy standards (as established in	Further information required	Proposals that do not require or	Restoration scheme is considered unsuitable.	It is not considered that the nature of minerals proposals would be deemed

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
sites that offer the best sustainability benefits.		restoration (including but not limited to: biodiversity net gain, green infrastructure, recreation, flood water storage or the storage of water for agriculture or industry gain).	the MLP) in regard to (e.g.) biodiversity value or to social and, or economic gains.		involve a need for restoration		capable of having the potential for significant negative impacts.
13) To reduce the transportation of minerals, road congestion, and promote the movement of minerals using sustainable transport.	ECC's Transport specialists – MLP Site Assessment Report	It is not considered possible to ensure significant positive effects due to the type and nature of minerals development.	It is not considered possible to ensure positive effects due to the type and nature of minerals development.	The impact or issue is moderate / minor and this is likely be made acceptable by mitigation.  Likely to require medium / low levels of mitigation in order to make the site / transport route acceptable in highway terms	There are no impacts or issues that require mitigation.  Site / transport route acceptable. Mitigation not required.	The impact or issue is major but this may be made acceptable by mitigation.  Likely to require high levels of mitigation in order to make the site / transport route acceptable in highway terms.	The impact or issue is so severe that information currently available suggests that a serious impact will result from the development of the Site which will be difficult to mitigate to an acceptable level.  Mitigation in order to make the site / transport route acceptable in

SA Objective	Source	Significant Positive Effects	Positive Effects	Uncertain Effects	Neutral Effects or No Effect	Negative Effects	Significantly Negative Effects
							highway terms is difficult.
14) To protect and where possible enhance human health and well-being.	Aerial mapping / MLP Site Assessment Report	It is not considered possible for significant positive impacts to be ensured, as the criterion is focused on the minimisation of related impacts in the first instance.	It is not considered possible for positive impacts to be ensured, as the criterion is focused on the minimisation of related impacts in the first instance.	Properties within 250m of the proposed and impacts can be mitigated	No properties within 250m of the site	Properties within 250m of the site and impacts cannot be easily mitigated	Any properties within 250m of the site with no capability of mitigation
15) To minimise any nuisance and impact on local amenity resulting from minerals activities	ECC's PRoW specialists – MLP Site Assessment Report / Call-for-Sites submission material	Restoration proposal would lead to outstanding benefits through restoration regarding accessible open space or recreation or sports provision.	Restoration proposal would lead to small benefits through restoration regarding accessible open space or recreation or sports provision.	A PRoW(s) or and, or bridleway and, or byway(s) borders the proposal site.	There is no conflict between the proposal and any PRoW(s) or bridleway(s) or byway(s).	The proposal would require the diversion of a PRoW(s) and, or bridleway(s) and, or byway(s)  Or The proposal would lead to the loss of a PRoW(s) or bridleway(s) or byway(s).	The proposal would lead to the loss of multiple PRoWs or bridleways or byways.

## 5.2 The Candidate Sites

This section sets out the appraisal of the candidate mineral extraction sites that have been submitted for consideration (as allocations) through the MPA's call-for-sites process in 2022.

The table below represents the definitive list of sites that have been submitted. All candidate sites are assessed within the SA and a summary of the impacts identified are included within this section. The detailed assessment of the sites is included within Appendix 2 of this Interim SA Report.

**Table 4: Candidate mineral extraction sites for consideration**

Site Reference	Site address	District	Site area (hectares)	Mineral reserves (million tonnes)
A6	Bradwell Quarry (a)	Braintree	37.50	2.50
A22	Little Bullocks Farm, (a)	Uttlesford	6.90	0.64
A23	Little Bullocks Farm, (b)	Uttlesford	5.50	0.06
A31	Maldon Road	Colchester	25.00	4.00
A47	Bradwell – Monk's Farm	Braintree	84.80	4.00
A48	Bradwell – Grange Farm	Braintree	143.15	12.20
A49	Colemans Farm - Hill Broad Farm Full Site	Braintree	40.74	2.00
A50	Colemans Farm - Eastern extension (Appleford Farm)	Braintree	24.25	0.93
A51	Colemans Farm - North extension (Hill Broad Farm)	Braintree	19.77	0.60
A52	Colemans Farm - Southern Extension	Braintree	4.13	0.11
A54	Whiteheads	Braintree	10.22	0.40

Site Reference	Site address	District	Site area (hectares)	Mineral reserves (million tonnes)
A55	Sheepcotes - Southern	Chelmsford	25.19	1.97
A56	Sheepcotes - Western	Chelmsford	9.88	1.06
A57	Chalk End	Chelmsford	6.60	0.25
A58	Little Smiths	Maldon	3.80	0.31
A59	Lowleys Farm	Chelmsford	75.00	7.50
A60a	Shellow Cross Farm - Chelmsford	Chelmsford	103.00	3.25
A60b	Shellow Cross Farm - Chelmsford	Chelmsford	103.00	3.50
A61	Heckfordbridge – Site 1	Colchester	61.16	5.00
A62	Heckfordbridge – Site 2	Colchester	94.44	8.20
A63	Patch Park, Abridge	Epping Forest	54.00	1.00
A64	Land East of Asheldham Quarry	Maldon	24.30	2.00
A65	Land South of Asheldham Quarry	Maldon	4.00	0.10
A66	White House Farm	Maldon	56.00	4.00
A67	Church Farm	Tendring	21.00	2.00
A68	Crabtree Farm	Tendring	67.72	6.10
A69	Frating Hall	Tendring	47.00	4.00
A71	Lodge Farm	Tendring	11.20	0.80

Site Reference	Site address	District	Site area (hectares)	Mineral reserves (million tonnes)
A72	Martells – Southern Extension	Tendring	16.98	1.17
A73	Martells – Western Extension	Tendring	13.28	0.25
A74	Thorrington Hall Farm	Tendring	105.60	4.70
A75	Land at Orford	Uttlesford	11.50	1.80
A76	Elsenham	Uttlesford	16.80	2.00
A77	Westward Extension to Highwood Quarry	Uttlesford	19.45	1.23
A79	Crown Quarry – North of Wick Lane	Tendring	23.19	1.00
A80	Crown Quarry – South of Wick Lane	Tendring	5.88	0.26
A82	Colemans Farm – Elm Springs Extension	Braintree	15.42	1.00
A83	Colemans Farm – Hole Farm	Braintree	14.17	0.80
A84	Colemans Farm – Appleford Farm North Extension	Braintree	18.40	0.69
A85	Martells – North of Frating Road (East)	Tendring	26.12	1.90
A86	Martells – North of Frating Road (West)	Tendring	28.90	2.00
A87	Martells – East of Slough Lane	Tendring	10.47	0.56
A88	Gurnhams Farm	Tendring	61.00	2.20

Site Reference	Site address	District	Site area (hectares)	Mineral reserves (million tonnes)
A89	Covenbrooke Hall Farm	Braintree	29.53	2.45
A90	Rayne Quarry – Northern Extension	Braintree	13.40	1.00
A91	Land at Chignal St James	Chelmsford	24.10	0.68
A92	Land at Pattiswick Hall Farm – Small Site	Braintree	65.45	3.40
A93	Land at Pattiswick Hall Farm – Full Site	Braintree	130.74	8.20
A94	Land at Highfields Farm	Braintree	34.69	0.75
A95	Land at Bellhouse Fam South	Colchester	12.68	0.83
A96	Rayne Quarry – Southern Extension	Braintree	11.30	0.20
D7	Land at Pond Farm (proposed transshipment site)	Braintree	15.38	N/A

## 5.3 Site Assessment Overview

The below table shows the impacts of the candidate sites that are raised at this stage of the SA process through their assessment against the criteria included within 3.3 of this Report. Detailed discussion of the impacts is also included within Appendix 2 of this Report.

Table 5: Assessment of candidate mineral extraction sites - overview

Site Ref.	SO1 (a)	SO1 (b)	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8 (a)	SO8 (b)	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12	SO13	SO14	SO15
A6	-	0	-	?	-	+	0	0	?	-	-	?/+	0	+	0	-	?
A22	?	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	0	?	?/+	0	+	?	0	0
A23	-	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	0	?	?/+	0	+	?	?/-	-
A31	?	-	?	?	?	+	0	0	?	-	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	0
A47	0/?	0	-	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?	?/+	0	+	0	-	-
A48	-	0	-	0/?	-	++	0	0	?	-	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A49	?	-	-	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	-	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A50	?	-	-	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	?	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	0
A51	?	-	-	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	-	?	?/+	0	+	0	-	-
A52	?	-	-	-	?/-	+	0	0	?	?/0	?	?/+	0	+	0	0	0



Site Ref.	SO1 (a)	SO1 (b)	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8 (a)	SO8 (b)	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12	SO13	SO14	SO15
A54	?	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	?	?/0	?/+	0	+	0/?	0	0
A55	?	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	?	?	?	?/+	0	+	0	-	-
A56	-	0	0	0	-	+	0	0	?/0	0	?/0	?/+	0	+	0	?/-	0
A57	0/?	0	0	0	-	+	0	0	?	?/0	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	?	0
A58	-	-	-	?	-	+	?/-	0	?/0	0	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	-	0
A59	-	0	0	?	?/-	++	0	0	?	-	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A60a	-	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	-	-	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A60b	-	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	-	-	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A61	?	-	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	-	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A62	?	-	?	?	?/-	++	0	0	?	-	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A63	-	-	0	-	?/+	+	0	0	-	?	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	-

Site Ref.	SO1 (a)	SO1 (b)	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8 (a)	SO8 (b)	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12	SO13	SO14	SO15
A64	0/?	-	0	?	-	+	0	0	?	-	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A65	?	-	0	0	?	+	0	0	?	?	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A66	?	-	-	?	-	+	0	0	-	?	?	?/+	0	+	-	?	-
A67	-	--	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	-	?/0	?/+	0	+	--	-	0
A68	0/?	-	?	0	-/-	++	0	0	-	-	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	?	-
A69	?	-	?	0	-/-	+	0	0	?	-	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A71	-	--	?	0	-	+	0	0	?	?/0	-	?/+	0	+	--	?/-	-
A72	?	-	?	?	-/-	+	0	0	?	-	?/0	?/+	0	+	?	?/-	0
A73	?	-	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?	?/+	0	+	?	-	0
A74	-	--	0	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	-	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A75	?	0	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?	?/+	0	+	-	?	-

Site Ref.	SO1 (a)	SO1 (b)	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8 (a)	SO8 (b)	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12	SO13	SO14	SO15
A76	?	0	?	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?	?/+	0	+	?	-	-
A77	?	0	?	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	?	?	?/+	0	+	0	?	-
A79	?	-	?	?	-	+	0	0	?	-	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	-	0
A80	?	0	?	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?/0	?/+	0	+	?	-	0
A82	?	-	-	?	?/-	+	0	0	?/0	?	?/0	?/+	0	+	0	-	?
A83	0/?	-	-	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	--	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A84	?	-	-	-	?/-	+	0	0	--	?	?	?/+	0	+	-	?/-	-
A85	0/?	-	?	?	--	+	0	0	?	0	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A86	?	-	?	?	-/-	+	0	0	--	?	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A87	?	-	?	0	-/-	+	0	0	?	-	?	?/+	0	+	?	?	-
A88	-	-	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?	?/+	0	+	-	-	-

Site Ref.	SO1 (a)	SO1 (b)	SO2	SO3	SO4	SO5	SO6	SO7	SO8 (a)	SO8 (b)	SO9	SO10	SO11	SO12	SO13	SO14	SO15
A89	0/?	0	-	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	?	?/0	?/+	0	+	-	-	-
A90	?	0	?	?	-	+	0	0	?/0	-	?	?/+	0	+	?	-	-
A91	0/?	0	0	?	-	+	0	0	?	?/0	?/0	?/+	0	+	?	?	-
A92	-	0	-	0	?/-	+	0	0	?	?	-	?/+	0	+	--	-	-
A93	-	0	-	0/?	?/-	++	0	0	?	-	-	?/+	0	+	--	-	-
A94	?	0	-	?	?/-	+	0	0	-	--	?	?/+	0	+	--	-	-
A95	-	-	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	--	-	?/+	0	+	?	-	0
A96	-	0	?	?	?/-	+	0	0	?	?	-	?/+	0	+	-	-	0
D7	0	-	-	?	-	0	0	0	?	-	?/0	?/+	0	0	-	-	0

## 5.4 Summary of potential Significant Effects identified

The significance of effects at this stage of the plan-making process, and the iterative SA process, is raised cautiously and it should be acknowledged that further Plan evidence, newly submitted material by site promoters, or consultation comments from statutory bodies could mean that effects are re-assessed within future iterations of the SA.

This summary identifies only those effects that have, at this stage, the potential to be 'significant' in regard to the sustainability objectives and the criteria against which sites have been assessed. It should be acknowledged that at this stage none of the sites assessed have been proposed for allocation within the Plan and similarly there is no known preference for any sites over others.

The potentially significant effects highlighted within the assessment of sites within this SA cover a range of themes, but broadly cover the following sustainability objectives:

- SO1(b): Biodiversity – 'Likely Significant Effects' on Habitats sites.
- SO4: Soils – The best and most versatile agricultural land.
- SO5: Meeting mineral needs.
- SO8(a): The Historic Environment – archaeology.
- SO8(b): The Historic Environment – historic buildings.
- SO13: Transport and access

The following sub-sections consider the potential effects raised in the above bullet points.

### 5.4.1 Potential effects on Habitats sites

The potential for significantly negative effects has been identified for the following sites:

- Site A67 – Church Farm (Tendring)
- Site A71 - Lodge Farm (Tendring)
- Site A74 - Thorrington Hall Farm (Tendring)

The HRA 'screens in' in the possibility of Likely Significant Effects on the integrity of a Habitats site, should any of these sites be allocated and subsequently developed as proposed. The effects relate to water quality, and falling within Functionally Linked Land, but are most keenly identified in regard to 'direct disturbance' on breeding and wintering birds. These species underpin the designation of the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (and Habitats site), which are within 400m of these candidate sites in Tendring. Direct disturbance (aside from any effects on Functionally Linked Land to this Habitats site) is considered by the HRA as these effects arising from quarrying and after uses, such as noise, light, dust,

vibration, human presence and vehicular traffic.

Detailed studies will be required as part of the Appropriate Assessment (AA) to assess whether these site options would have an 'Adverse Effect on Integrity' (AEOI) of the Colne Estuary Habitats site and whether these could be avoided with appropriate mitigation (likely to be of a significant level).

## 5.4.2 Potential effects regarding soil quality

The potential for significantly negative effects has been identified for the following sites:

- Site A85 – Martells, North of Frating Road (East) (Tendring)
- Site A86 – Martells, North of Frating Road (West) (Tendring)
- Site A87 – Martells, East of Slough Lane (Tendring)

The above candidate sites in Tendring all contain Grade 1 quality soil, which is identified as of an 'excellent quality'. Grade 1 land in context is that which gives a high yield or output, has the widest range and versatility of use, produces the most consistent yield, and requires little input.

Development of such agricultural land is not precluded by national policy or guidance, and it should be considered that any restoration to an environmental or social benefit can be equally desirable to a return to the 'best and most versatile' land. It may be possible that biodiversity-led restoration of such land could be delivered, should the site(s) be allocated and developed as proposed, that is still capable of supporting an agricultural after use.

## 5.4.3 Meeting mineral needs

The potential for significantly positive effects has been identified for the following sites:

- Site A48 – Bradwell, Grange Farm (Braintree)
- Site A49 – Colemans Farm, Hill Broad Farm (Full Site) (Braintree)
- Site A62 – Heckfordbridge, Site 2 (Colchester)
- Site A93 – Land at Pattiswick Hall Farm (Full Site) (Braintree)

These sites have been identified as enabling significantly positive effects in regard to meeting mineral needs. They represent the largest candidate sites, by size of mineral reserve, that have been submitted for consideration.

## 5.4.4 Potential effects regarding archaeology

The potential for significantly negative effects has been identified for the following sites:

- Site A84 – Colemans Farm, Appleford Farm (North Extension) (Braintree)
- Site A86 – Martells, North of Frating Road (West) (Tendring)

In the instances of both sites, either a Scheduled Monument lies within the site or adjacent to the site which subsequently lie within areas of archaeological features. Both sites are also identified as having further potential to contain Palaeolithic archaeological remains and Pleistocene faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains, which are more widely identified across many of the candidate sites.

It should be noted that the two sites are not in close proximity to each other, so their impacts can be considered in isolation i.e. harm has not been identified from each site to the same asset of the historic environment.

### 5.4.5 Potential effects regarding historic buildings

The potential for significantly negative effects has been identified for the following sites:

- Site A83 – Colemans Farm, Hole Farm (Braintree)
- Site A94 – Land at Highfields Farm (Braintree)
- Site A95 – Land at Bellhouse Farm South (Colchester)

The allocation of the above sites and their development as proposed, have been identified as having the potential for significant effects on nearby listed buildings. These effects are identified within the MLP's Site Assessment Report (2024) and historic buildings assessments undertaken by Place Services' Historic Buildings Consultants. In the instance of site A83, and the proposed quarrying works would result in the fundamental alteration of the last surviving part of the Grade II\* Listed Hole Farmhouse's original setting. In the case of A94, there would be ranging harm on numerous assets including the Grade I Listed Parish Church of All Saints, and this is also the case for the allocation and subsequent development of site A95 (in regard to the Grade I listed Church of St Michael and All Angels).

It should be noted however, that the potential for mitigation (and its ease) is identified within the MLP's Site Assessment Report (2024). The assessments at this stage are cautious, including within this SA, and effects may be lessened through the application of Policy considerations that exist within the Plan or can be developed in future iterations.

### 5.4.6 Potential effects regarding transport and access

The potential for significantly negative effects has been identified for the following sites:

- Site A67 – Church Farm (Tendring)
- Site A71 – Lodge Farm (Tendring)
- Site A92 – Land at Pattiswick Hall Farm (Small Site) (Braintree)

- Site A93 – Land at Pattiswick Hall Farm (Full Site) (Braintree)
- Site A94 – Land at Highfields Farm (Braintree)

Numerous candidate sites at this stage have little information regarding access and transport arrangements in comparison to, for instance, a planning application that has been submitted alongside a Transport Statement / Assessment which would provide more detailed information. Nevertheless, a total of five sites have been identified with the potential to have limitations as to their suitability on grounds of transport and access.

In the majority of cases, concerns regard the ability for HGVs to connect satisfactorily with the Main Road Network, as access roads would likely be unsuitable, via a Secondary Distributor in Essex County Council's Development Management Route Hierarchy, or directly onto strategic roads that fall within the remit of National Highways. For instance, in the case of sites A92 and A93, the creation of a new access onto the A120 is contrary to Department for Transport Circular 1/2022 Strategic Road network and the delivery of sustainable development and there have been initial policy objections from National Highways, who were consulted as part of the work undertaken within the MLP Site Assessment Report (2024).



## 6. Next Steps

### 6.1 Consultation

The Regulation 18 MLP and this SA Environmental Report will be subject to consultation. There are three statutory consultees that are required to be consulted for all Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment documents. These are:

- The Environment Agency;
- Natural England; and
- Historic England.

In addition to these, consultation will seek to engage the wider community in order to encompass comprehensive public engagement. Essex County Council, as the Minerals Planning Authority, are additionally required to invite comments from focussed groups, relevant stakeholders and interested parties.

### 6.2 The Regulation 19 MLP

Once the Regulation 18 MLP and SA Environmental Report have been consulted upon, work will begin on formalising a Regulation 19 Plan for further consultation taking into account those comments received during the Regulation 18 consultation. The Regulation 19 Plan will be accompanied by a new iteration of the SA Environmental Report.

### 6.3 Future Monitoring

The significant sustainability effects of implementing a Local Plan must be monitored in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. The Sustainability Framework contained in Appendix 1 of this Report includes suggested indicators in order to monitor each of the Sustainability Objectives, however these may not all be collected due to limited resources and difficulty in data availability or collection.

Guidance stipulates that it is not necessary to monitor everything included within the Sustainability Framework, but that monitoring should focus on significant sustainability effects, e.g. those that indicate a likely breach of international, national or local legislation, that may give rise to irreversible damage or where there is uncertainty and monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken.

Upon adoption Local Plans will be accompanied by an Adoption Statement which will outline those monitoring indicators most appropriate for future monitoring of the Plan in line with Regulation 16 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.



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