

APPENDIX 1

Kent Minerals Sites Plan - Pre Submission Draft 2018

v2 December 2018

Kent Minerals Sites Plan - Pre Submission Draft 2018

An Invitation to Comment

The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (KMWLP) was adopted in July 2016. It sets out the vision and objectives for Kent's minerals supply and waste management capacity from 2013 to 2030. It does not allocate specific sites suitable for minerals and waste development except for two strategic sites - one for cement production (and related mineral reserves) at Holborough in the Medway Valley and one for hazardous waste disposal at Norwood Quarry on the Isle of Sheppey.

A Mineral Sites Plan is being prepared to allocate specific sites within Kent suitable in principle for mineral extraction in accordance with policy CSM 2 of the KMWLP. Once adopted, the document will form part of the Development Plan for Kent, along with the KMWLP, District and Borough Local Plans and any Neighbourhood Plans

A 'Call for Sites' exercise was carried out between December 2016 and March 2017 which invited interested parties to submit details of sites that could meet the County's need for minerals. These were then assessed against an agreed phased methodology to determine which sites were suitable to be allocated in a Minerals Sites Plan and be subject to independent examination by an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. Following Initial Screening¹, 9 sites were identified as Mineral Site Options potential options. These 'Site Options'² were subject to public consultation in late 2017/early 2018. The views from this consultation³, along with further detailed technical assessment (DTA) work⁴, has informed which sites should be allocated for mineral development in the Mineral Sites Plan. The methodology for the Sites Plan work is set out in the Site Selection Methodology 2018.

This is the final stage in the preparation of the Mineral Sites Plan prior to the Plan's submission to the Secretary of State for examination. This document is the Pre-Submission Plan, published in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. These documents are available for public inspection and representations are invited on the soundness and legality of the Plan in advance of submission to the Secretary of State for an Independent Examination in public. Ultimately the Inspector will report on the whether the Plan is 'sound' taking account of supporting evidence and representations received. A 'sound' Plan is one that is:

- 'Positively prepared';
- 'Justified';
- 'Effective'; and,
- Consistent with national policy.

The preparation of this Plan has involved considerable and ongoing engagement and collaboration with communities, local organisations and businesses. To ensure effective consideration of cross-boundary impacts that may be affected by the strategies and policies

¹ Screening was carried out in line with the County Councils Site Selection Methodology 2018.

² Kent Mineral Sites Plan Options Consultation September 2017.

³ See Options Consultation Report

⁴ See Kent Mineral Site Plan – Mineral Site Assessment 2018

in this Plan, it has also been prepared in cooperation with Kent's district and borough councils, neighbouring authorities and other Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities. This Plan is accompanied by a comprehensive evidence base including Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and an Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA).

The period for representations will run for xxxx weeks from xxxxx to xxxxx. The minimum statutory time period of six weeks has been extended to allow for the Christmas holiday.

You can make comments:

- Online at
- By email to mwlp@kent.gov.uk
- By post to: Kent County Council
Minerals and Waste Planning Policy
1st Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Kent Minerals Sites Plan - Pre Submission Draft 2018

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. Kent County Council has responsibility for the planning of future mineral supply for the county. Following the adoption of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 (KMWLP), this responsibility is being fulfilled by the preparation of a Kent Mineral Sites Plan (the Sites Plan). The plan area for this document is the administrative area of Kent, excluding Medway.
- 1.2. Kent contains a wide variety of mineral resources. Minerals are extracted for aggregate and non-aggregate markets. Aggregates are materials derived from sand and gravel deposits, soft (building) sands from the Folkestone Formation and crushed hard rock (Kentish Ragstone a limestone). They are used in the construction industry for building and maintenance purposes, including asphalt production in road building, concrete and mortar production for construction. Some aggregate minerals are also used for non-aggregate purposes, for example for beach feeding for flood defence purposes on parts of the coast line. Kent also has non-aggregate minerals, they include clay, brickearth, chalk (for construction/engineering and agricultural lime applications) and building stones (Kentish Ragstone, and extensive deposits of various sandstones that have been historically extracted). There also are reserves of industrial silica sand and brick clay within the county. However, the most significant minerals produced in the county are sharp sand and gravel, soft sand (building) and hard crushed rock (Kentish Ragstone).
- 1.3. The Sites Plan provides the spatial detail for meeting requirements for sharp sand and gravel and for soft sand in accordance with policy CSM2 of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 which the authority adopted in July 2016, following an Independent Examination in 2015. The Sites Plan identifies potential locations for extraction of sharp sand and gravel and of soft sand, providing communities and the minerals industry with greater certainty about where minerals development may take place within Kent and the criteria that will need to be met.
- 1.4. Once adopted, the Kent Mineral Sites Plan will replace the currently saved Policy CA6 of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Construction Aggregates 1993.
- 1.5. Once adopted, the Kent Mineral Sites Plan will replace the currently saved Policy B1 of the Kent Minerals Subject Plan: Brickearth 1986.

2 The Policy Context

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 2.1 The adopted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 (KMWLP) is part of the Development Plan for planning purposes. It sets out the overarching framework for the strategy and planning policies for sustainable minerals extraction, importation and recycling, and the management of all waste streams that are generated in Kent, together with their spatial implications. This includes consideration of the economic, social and environmental aspects of strategic minerals and waste planning within the county.
- 2.2 Chapter 3 of the KMWLP sets out the vision for mineral development in Kent and chapter 4 sets out 6 objectives to support this vision. Chapter 5 sets out the spatial strategy for meeting the need for minerals, identifying in general terms how much mineral will be provided over the Plan period and includes policies related to the delivery strategy for minerals (CSM policies) and Chapter 7 includes the development management policies (DM policies) which seeks to ensure that minerals development does not have unacceptable impacts.
- 2.3 Chapter 5 expects that the Mineral Sites Plan will develop the delivery strategy by allocating specific sites for mineral development in order to provide a level of certainty to local residents, the minerals industry, land owners and other interested stakeholders as to where minerals development is likely to take place.
- 2.4 Some work was previously undertaken on preparation of the Sites Plans that led to a Preferred Options Consultation (for waste and minerals) in May 2012. This work was not taken forward and to enable a more up-to-date appraisal of site suitability and deliverability it was considered necessary to undertake a second 'Call for Sites' exercise. This commenced in late 2016, continuing into 2017.
- 2.5 Policy CSM2 of the KMWLP sets out the policy context for the Supply of Land-won Minerals in Kent. It states that "Mineral working will be granted planning permission at sites identified in a Sites Plan, subject to meeting the requirements set out in the relevant site schedule in the Mineral Sites Plan and the Development Plan".

Preparation of the Minerals Sites Plan – Matters Considered

- 2.6 For a site to be allocated in the Sites Plan, Policy CSM2 requires site allocations to meet the following criteria:
- There has to be a requirement for the mineral;
 - consistency with relevant development management criteria;
 - consistency with relevant policies in district local and neighbourhood plans;
 - assessment based on strategic environmental information and Habitat Regulation Assessment;
 - Deliverability; and
 - consistency with other relevant national planning policy and guidance.

- 2.7 In addition, the policy states that sites will generally be where viable mineral resources are known to exist, where landowners are supportive of mineral development taking place and where the Mineral Planning Authority considers that planning applications are likely to be acceptable in principle in planning terms. Discussion of some of the matters to be taken into account when preparing the Mineral Sites Plan is set out below
- 2.8 District and Borough Councils in Kent are preparing their own Local Plans. Care has been taken to avoid any material conflict between the Mineral Sites Plan and adopted Local Plans through consultation and engagement during the Local Plan formulation process. Local Plans produced by the County Council and the District and Borough Councils, along with any Neighbourhood Plans form the Development Plan.
- 2.9 Local District and Borough council input has been sought on the site selection process. The outcomes of meetings held with each local council fed into the overall site screening process, and their comments were again sought prior to detailed technical assessments being undertaken on the Site Options
- 2.10 Minerals and Waste Local Plans have been adopted and are also being prepared by the minerals and waste planning authorities bordering the Sites Plan area and these have been taken into account. In accordance with the Duty to Cooperate, there has been ongoing discussion and consultation with neighbouring mineral planning authorities, especially those within the South East Region in respect of need considerations. The County Council is a member of the South East Aggregate Working Party, which represents the Mineral Planning Authorities in the South East and industry representatives. The work of this Group has also informed the Sites Plan work. The County Council will continue to work closely with adjoining authorities on strategic cross boundary matters.
- 2.11 In accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive 1992, the Site Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This work has helped to inform which sites should be included for allocation within the Site Plan. Related consultation has taken place with Natural England regarding the impact on international designations. Full details of the HRA assessment are available on the Council's website.
- 2.12 Post publication of the Site Options for consultation at Regulation 18 stage, the County Council attended a number of public meeting hosted by Parish and Town Councils to explain the Site Plan work and seek views on the proposals. The views received have informed the Site Plan work.
- 2.13 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the legislative framework for the preparation of Local Plans whilst European and National policies and strategies provide guidance on their content. The Minerals Sites Plan must be consistent with European and National policies. This Pre-Submission Draft Mineral Sites Plan has been produced within the context of relevant Plans, Programmes and Directives which were also instrumental in shaping the Minerals Strategy 2014. The Sites Plan has also been prepared in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2018 and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) 2014 for Minerals.

- 2.14 **It should be noted that the site allocations do not equate to the grant of planning permission. Any proposal for the development of an allocated site will need to secure planning consent, and satisfy the requirements of the development plan and planning policy considerations at that time.**
- 2.15 Development of the allocations of the Mineral Sites Plan, and any other mineral developments, are subject to all the relevant policies, particularly the development management policies of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30, along with other local plans and relevant national policies.

3 Provision of Mineral Sites

- 3.1 The Mineral Sites Plan proposes sites for the extraction of soft sand, and sharp sand and gravel. It is considered that these allocations, in conjunction with current permitted reserves and the criteria based approach to the provision of aggregates established in Policy CSM2 of the adopted KMWLP, will provide sufficient minerals during the Minerals Sites Plan period for the identified soft sand requirements and make an effective contribution to the supply of land-won sharp sand and gravel.

Sharp Sand and Gravel

- 3.2 Policy CSM 2 of the adopted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30, in compliance with national policy, commits the County Council to make provision for at least a 7 year landbank for land-won sharp sands and gravel based on the current agreed local annual supply requirement for Kent while resources allow.
- 3.3 The local annual supply requirement is established annually through the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) process, and has been taken as the average of the previous 10 years of sales and projected over the anticipated Mineral Sites Plan Period (2019-2030) including provision for an at least 7 year landbank to be available at the end of this Plan period.

The supply of locally extracted sand and gravel will be sourced from:

- Existing permitted sites
 - New sites, including extensions, as identified in the Mineral Sites Plan, and
 - Other new sites not identified in the Mineral Sites Plan, deemed as acceptable sustainable mineral development in accordance with local planning policy and all material planning considerations including national planning policy
- 3.4 Based on 2014 data, the KMWLP identified a required provision over the life of the plan period of 10.8mt of sharp sands and gravel and at least 7 years supply (5.46mt). Since this time, permitted reserves have increased (due to current reserves being re-estimated), and the 10 year sales average has decreased. Therefore, a new requirement⁵ has been calculated as shown in Figure 1.

⁵ See Sharp Sand and Gravel Topic Paper 2018

Figure 1 - Revised Sharp Sand and Gravel Site Plan Requirements

10 year average figure x Years covered by the Plan (18 years, 2019 to 2030 plus 7 year landbank) - Existing Permitted Reserves (estimated when Plan starts in our case 2019) = Requirement tonnage to be provided over the Plan period

Estimated permitted reserves have been calculated as follows:

Reserves as of end of 2017 = 3.69
Current 10-year sales average=0.472mt

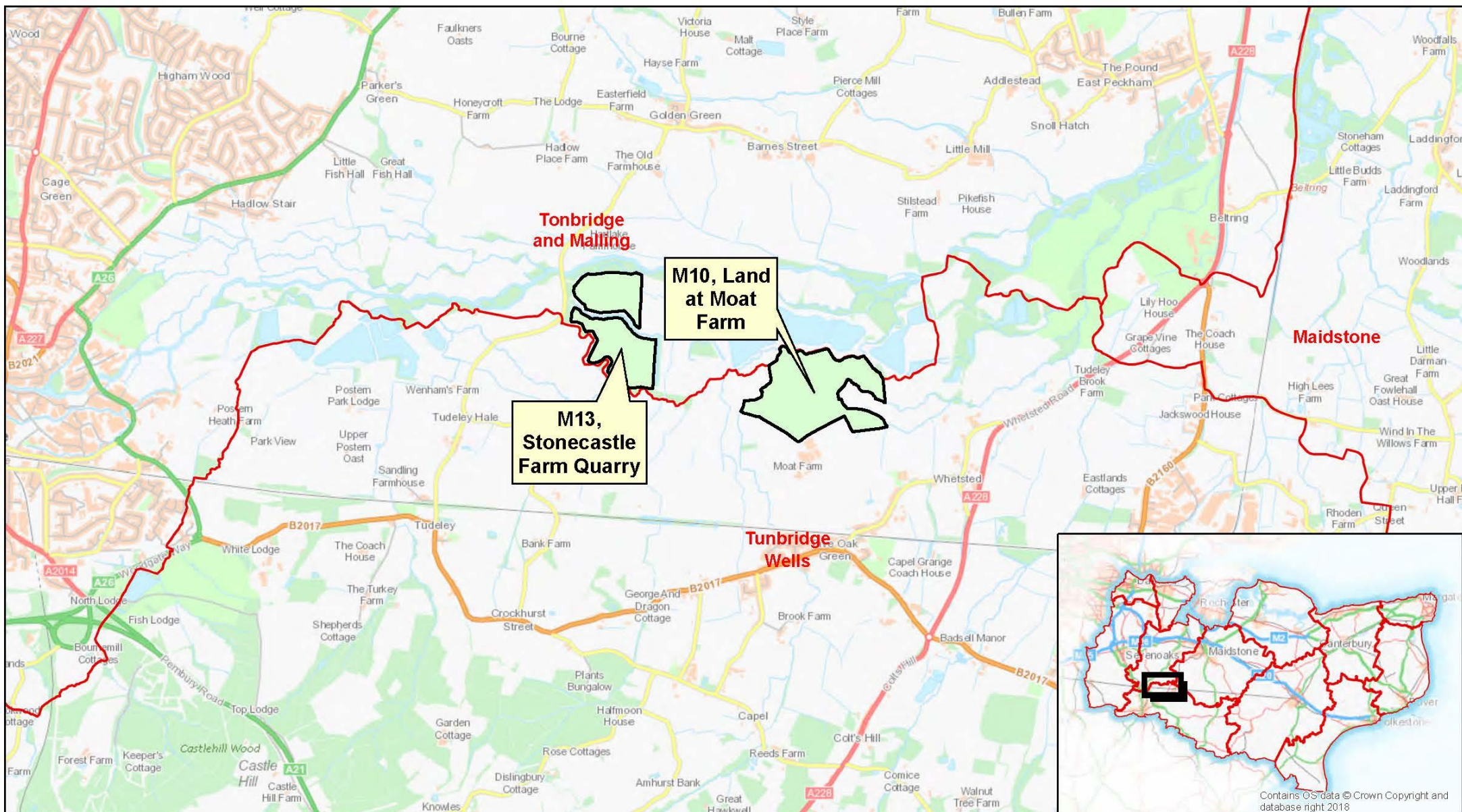
Available reserves by the end 2019 would be reduced by 2 years equivalent extraction (during 2018 and 2019 at the current 10-year sales average rate)

Available reserves at end 2019 = 3.69mt minus (2 x 0.472mt) = 2.746 mt

Therefore:

$(0.472 \times 18) - 2.746 = \mathbf{5.75\text{mt overall Plan requirement}}$

- 3.5 Having assessed the sharp sand and gravel sites that were promoted through the 'call for sites' in accordance with planning policy, two sites are allocated to contribute to the steady and adequate supply of sharp sands and gravel, subject to demonstrating at planning application stage compliance with the development management criteria set out below and national and local planning policy:
- **Stonecastle Farm Quarry Extensions, Hadlow (M13)** – an extension to the existing quarry (total yield of 1,000,000 tonnes), and
 - **Land at Moat Farm, Five Oak Green (M10)** - a proposed new quarry (total yield of 1,500,000 tonnes)
- 3.6 Details of the sites and the development criteria are shown on the map Kent Minerals Sites Plan – Sharp Sand and Gravels and in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 The total yield of the sites suitable for allocation is 2.5mt. This results in a deficit of 3.25mt over the Plan period. Therefore, Kent will continue to be increasingly dependent on alternative sources to meet the demand for sharp sand and gravel. This will likely entail increased importation of sand and gravel via wharves and railheads, mainly from marine dredged materials from the East English Channel and North Sea (see LAA2018). Railheads may further distribute this material and may also have some potential to introduce land-won supply from other areas. Recycled and secondary aggregates will also contribute to overall aggregate needs but cannot be used as a substitute for all applications and is seen as making a contribution to overall supply compared to primary aggregates.
- 3.8 Any proposal for the development of either of the above allocations must address the development management considerations set out for each site in Appendix 1, in addition to any other matters relevant to the development of each proposed allocation demonstrating that any unacceptable impacts will be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority.



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Miles

Kent Minerals Sites Plan - Sharp Sand and Gravels

Legend

- KCC
- District Boundaries



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Soft Sand

- 3.9 Policy CSM 2 of the adopted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30, in compliance with national policy, commits the County Council to make the provision of at least a 7-year landbank for soft sand based on the current agreed local annual supply requirement for Kent.
- 3.10 The local annual supply requirement is established annually through the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) process, and has been taken as the average of the previous 10-years of sales and projected over the anticipated Mineral Sites Plan Period (2019-2030) including provision for an at least 7-year landbank to be available at the end of this Plan period
- 3.11 The supply of locally extracted soft sand will be sourced from:
- Existing permitted sites
 - A new site, as identified in the Mineral Sites Plan, and
 - Other new sites not identified in the Mineral Sites Plan, deemed as acceptable sustainable mineral development in accordance with local planning policy and all material planning considerations including national planning policy
- 3.12 Requirements in the adopted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (KMWLP) suggest a 5 million tonne shortfall to be met from sites identified in the Kent Mineral Sites Plan. This shortfall was based on 2014 data and assumed the need to plan for a 24-year land bank, however, the Mineral Sites Plan period is shorter (the Plan period of 11 years (2019 to 30) plus 7 years at the end of the Plan period giving 18 years in total to plan for). More recent calculations based on data in the LAA2018 regarding supply in the form of sales and available reserves to meet that demand over the Plan period, taken together with an 18-year landbank suggest the shortfall is now 2.5mt⁶. See Figure 2.

⁶ See Soft Sand Topic Paper 2018

Figure 2 - Revised Soft Sand Site Plan Requirements

10-year average figure x Years covered by the plan (18 years, 2019 to 2030 plus 7 year landbank) - Existing Permitted Reserves (estimated when the plan period commences in our case 2019) = Requirement tonnage to be provided over the Sites Plan period

Estimated permitted reserves have been calculated as follows:

Reserves as of end of 2017 = 8.85

Available reserves by the end 2019 would be reduced by 2 years equivalent extraction (using the 10-year sales average of 0.568mt for 2018 and 2019 extraction)

Available reserves at end 2019 = 8.85 - (2 x 0.568mt) = 7.714mt

Therefore:

$(0.568 \times 18) - 7.714 = \text{Overall Plan of 2.51mt requirement (rounded to 2.5mt)}$

3.13 Having assessed the soft sand sites that were promoted through the 'call for sites' in accordance with planning policy, one site is allocated to contribute to the steady and adequate supply of soft sand, subject to demonstrating at planning application stage compliance with the development management criteria set out below and national and local planning policy:

- **Chapel Farm (West), Lenham (M3⁷)** – a proposed new quarry (total yield 3,200,000 tonnes)

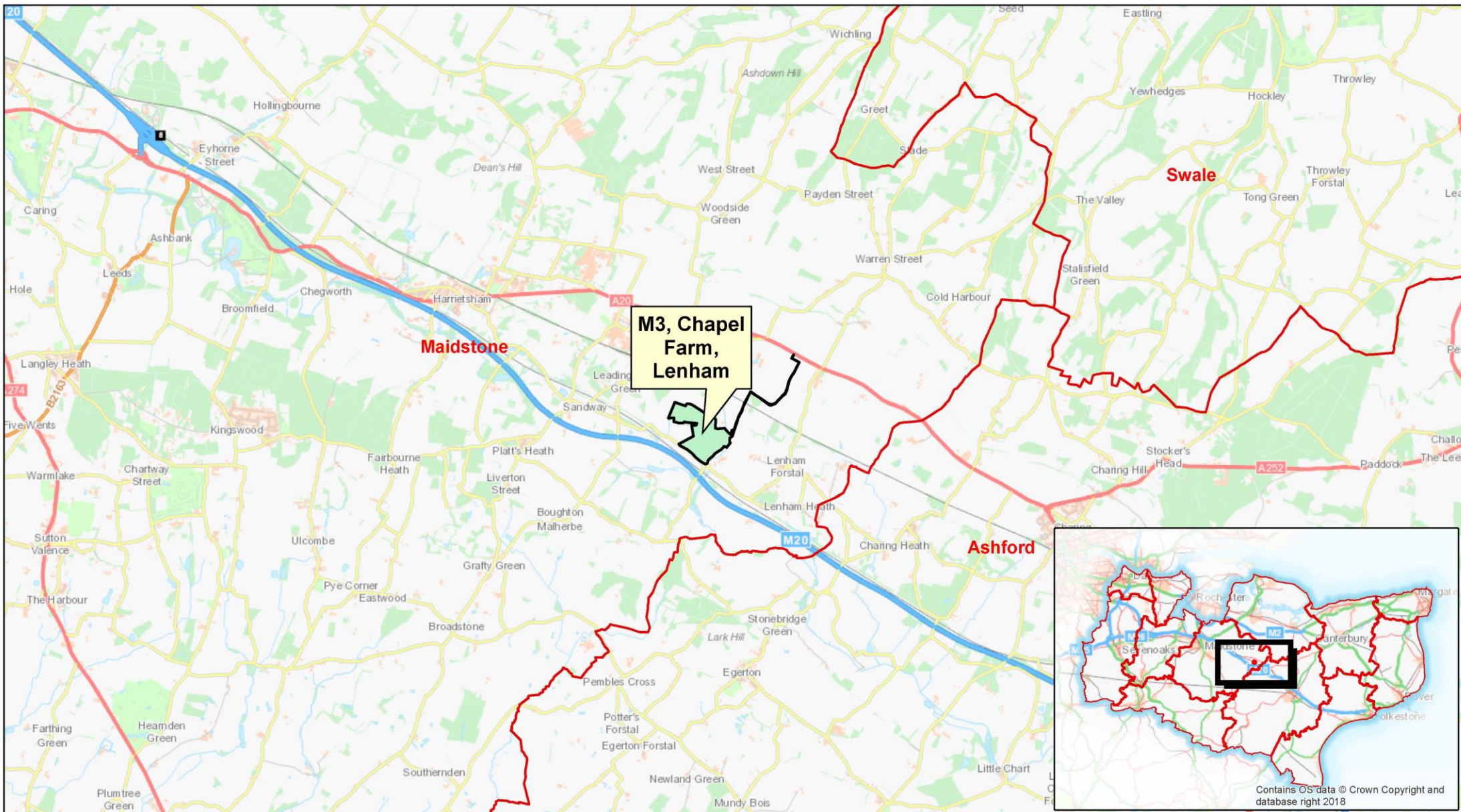
3.14 Details of the site and the development criteria are shown on the map Kent Minerals Sites Plan – Soft Sand and in Appendix 1.

3.15 Any proposal for the development of the above allocation must address the development management considerations set out for the site in Appendix 1, in addition to any other planning considerations relevant to the development and that any adverse impacts will be mitigated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority.

3.16 The yield of the Chapel Farm West site is 3.2mt. This amount can adequately meet the objectively assessed need for soft sand over the life of the Plan and will meet the requirement for a steady and adequate supply of soft sand in accordance with Policy CSM 2 of the KMWLP.

3.17 There will also be a surplus of 0.7mt of soft sand available to contribute to the wider regional need for this material.

⁷ As amended to exclude the eastern parcel 2018



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Kent Minerals Sites Plan - Soft Sand

Legend

- KCC
- District Boundaries



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Appendix 1 - Kent Minerals Site Plan - Site Allocations

Background

This appendix contains the Development Management Criteria for each of the allocated mineral sites. These set out the key, site specific information relating to potential constraints, opportunities and issues to be addressed at the planning application stage.

The Kent Minerals Sites Plan is an integral part of, the KMWLP. The two documents should be read together, and the policies of the KMWLP, particularly the development management policies (Chapter 7) will be applied to proposals for development on sites allocated in the Kent Minerals Site Plan.

Development Management Criteria

The Development Management criteria are specific matters to be taken into account in relation to the development of each site. They also include guidance on restoration objectives. The information set out in criteria should not be considered as exhaustive. These criteria are based on an assessment of the sites at the time this Plan was prepared and if circumstances change or new information becomes available prior to sites coming forward through a planning application, this will also need to be taken into account in decision making.

As a result of the issues set out in the Development Management Criteria, and depending on the precise nature of the development proposed, mitigation measures are likely to be required in order to prevent adverse impacts occurring. If adverse impacts are unavoidable and it is considered that they are an acceptable part of the development proposed, compensation measures may be required.

Sharp Sand

Extensions to Stonecastle Farm Quarry, Hadlow/Whetsted

Site Location: Hadlow, Tonbridge

Grid reference: Eastings 563335 Northings 146908

District/Borough Council: Tonbridge and Malling (Access is within Tunbridge Wells)

Parish: Hadlow

Site Area: 28 hectares

Estimated Mineral Reserve: 1,000,000 tonnes

Existing Land Use: Agriculture

Proposed Development: Extraction of sharp sands and gravel (Sub-alluvial River Terrace Deposits)

Proposed Restoration: Reedbeds and lakes

Development Management Criteria:

The Stonecastle Farm Quarry Extension site is acceptable in principle for mineral development, subject to compliance with the development management considerations, with particular reference to:

Transport

- A detailed transport assessment to demonstrate compliance with KMWLP Policy DM13.
- All quarry traffic to utilise the existing Stonecastle Quarry access onto Whetsted Road, and only turn left when exiting the site.
- The site shall only be worked sequentially to the permitted phases at Stonecastle Farm Quarry or the Moat Farm Quarry (should planning permission be granted for this latter site). To avoid unacceptable impacts on the local highway network, the Stonecastle Farm Extension (M13), the Moat Farm Site (M10) and the permitted Stonecastle Farm Quarry shall not be worked concurrently .

Water Resources

- A minimum 16 metre buffer will need to be provided between extraction and nearby watercourses.
- Demonstration that the site will have no adverse impacts on hydrology or hydrogeology. This should be undertaken in liaison with South East Water and the Environment Agency and will need to include (amongst other matters) the following:
 - The risk of pollutants entering the restored open lakes
 - A Hydrometric Monitoring Strategy; the results of this should be regularly reviewed and the conceptual model of the site updated as required

- Risk to derogation of the activities subject to Abstraction Licences in the vicinity of the site.
- Compliance with the Environment Agency's approach to the management and protection of groundwater as outlined within their Groundwater Protection Position Statements and take all measures and precautions necessary to avoid deterioration in the quality of groundwater below the site.
- The restoration plan will need to have reference to the proposed lakes and their interface with the nearby watercourses in accordance with Environment Agency advice. It must also include evidence to demonstrate how the integrity of nearby watercourses will be retained.
- The two abstraction licences within the vicinity of the site will need to be taken into account.
- Dewatering techniques must not be used that would impact local water resources.
- Any application will need to be accompanied by a detailed flood risk assessment.

Amenity

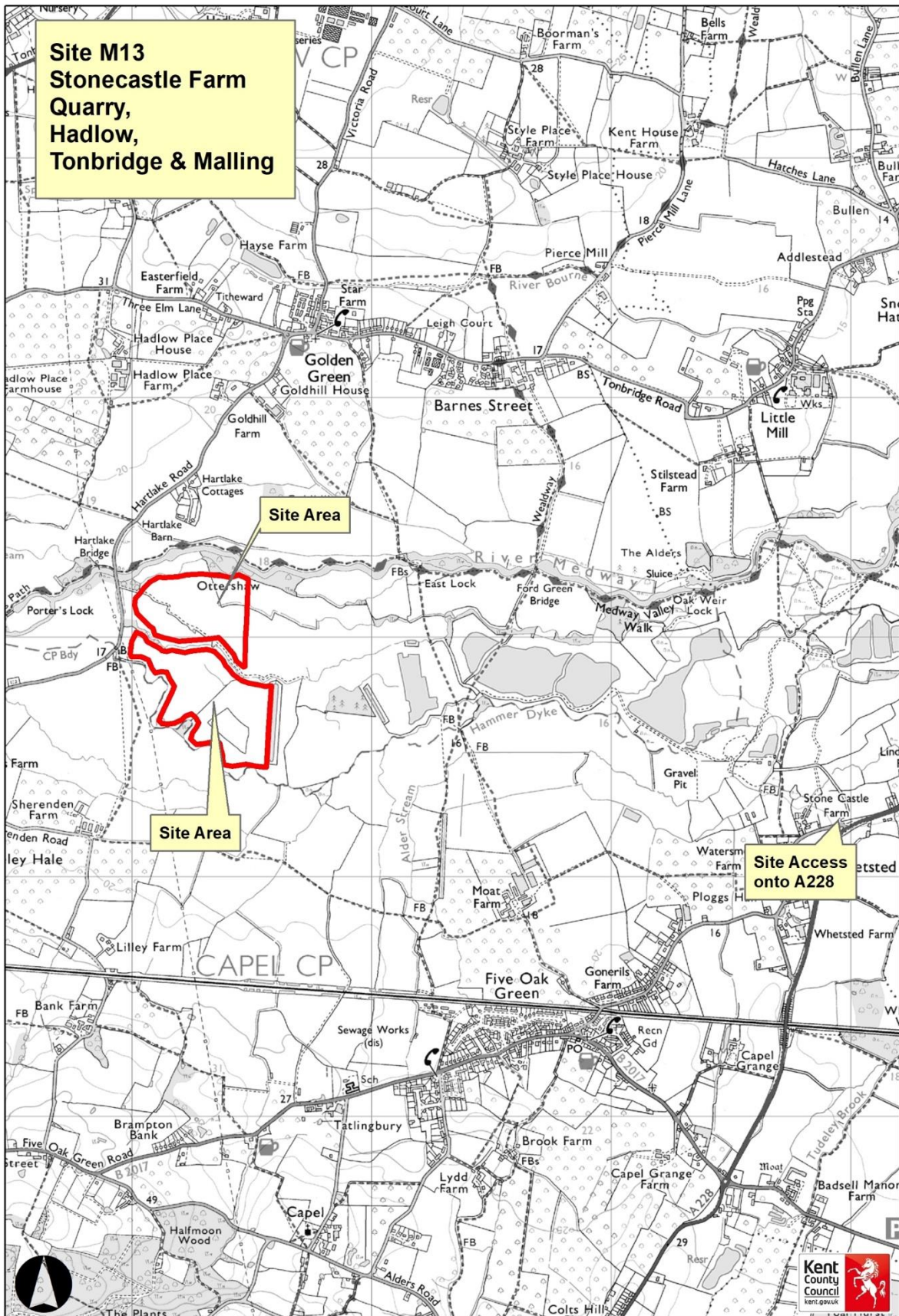
- A lighting, noise, dust and vibration management plan should be completed, setting out how unacceptable impacts will be avoided. A detailed dust assessment and management plan should be submitted which follows best practice and any national Government guidance (e.g. Planning Practice Guidance).
- Compliance with policy DM11 of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan in respect of health and amenity.

Biodiversity

- A detailed ecological appraisal setting out any mitigation measures needed to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on Kent's biodiversity assets
- Detailed restoration proposals will need to demonstrate that the potential loss of the BAP habitat deciduous woodland is offset by replacement woodland provision within the proposed restoration plan. This should include a range of trees and shrub sizes to create a vertical design element to the planting.
- Any operations should exclude the Ancient Woodland and a suitable buffer should be employed as to not impact on the designation directly or indirectly
- Restoration scheme should incorporate additional woodland planting where possible, including native evergreen species along the western and southern boundaries of the proposed quarry extension site.
- Suitable buffer zones and mitigation to be proposed to mitigate impacts to Local Wildlife Site TM20.
- The developer to appropriately manage the Nuttall's pondweed and Crassula in the area.
- The need for compensatory replacement habitat should be considered.

Heritage

- Further assessment of the potential impact of proposals on the historic landscape and surviving features is necessary and should account of the historic landscape should be taken during works and in later site landscaping and restoration programme.
- The impact of proposals upon the Listed Buildings should be fully assessed and mitigation measures undertaken to avoid impact on their setting.
- Any planning application should be accompanied by a full archaeological impact assessment to ascertain the extent of such remains.



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Moat Farm, Capel, Tonbridge

Site Location: Five Oak Green, Capel, Tonbridge

Grid reference: Eastings 564578 Northings 146400

District/Borough Council: Tonbridge and Malling

Parish: Capel

Site Area: 38.2 hectares

Estimated Mineral Reserve: 1,500,000 tonnes

Existing Land Use: Agriculture

Proposed Development: Extraction of sharp sands and gravel (Sub-alluvial River Terrace Deposits)

Proposed Restoration: Phased wetland restoration

Development Management Criteria:

The Moat Farm site is acceptable in principle for mineral development, subject to compliance with the development management considerations, with particular reference to:

Transport

- A detailed transport assessment to demonstrate compliance with KMWLP Policy DM13.
- Mineral must be removed from the site via the Stonecastle Farm site to the north such that access onto the highway network is achieved using the existing and approved access for the Stonecastle Farm Quarry.
- The site shall only be worked sequentially to the permitted phases at Stonecastle Farm Quarry or the Moat Farm Quarry (should planning permission be granted for this latter site).
- To avoid unacceptable impacts on the local highway network, the Stonecastle Farm Extension, the Moat Farm Site and the permitted Stonecastle Farm Quarry shall not be worked concurrently.
- Proposals for the diversion for PROW will be required which show how connectivity of the surrounding PROW network will not be lost.

Water Resources

- A 16 metre buffer should be provided between extraction and nearby watercourses to alleviate flood risk in the area. Furthermore, should the Alder Stream require diversion, this should be subject to EA approval and hydraulic modelling must be undertaken to inform the diversion route and the potential impact on flood risk elsewhere.
- Demonstration that the site will have no adverse impacts on hydrology or hydrogeology. This should be undertaken in liaison with South East Water and the Environment Agency

- Any restoration works should not include raising the ground levels over existing levels as this will have an adverse impact on flood risk. Wetland restoration is preferable.

Biodiversity

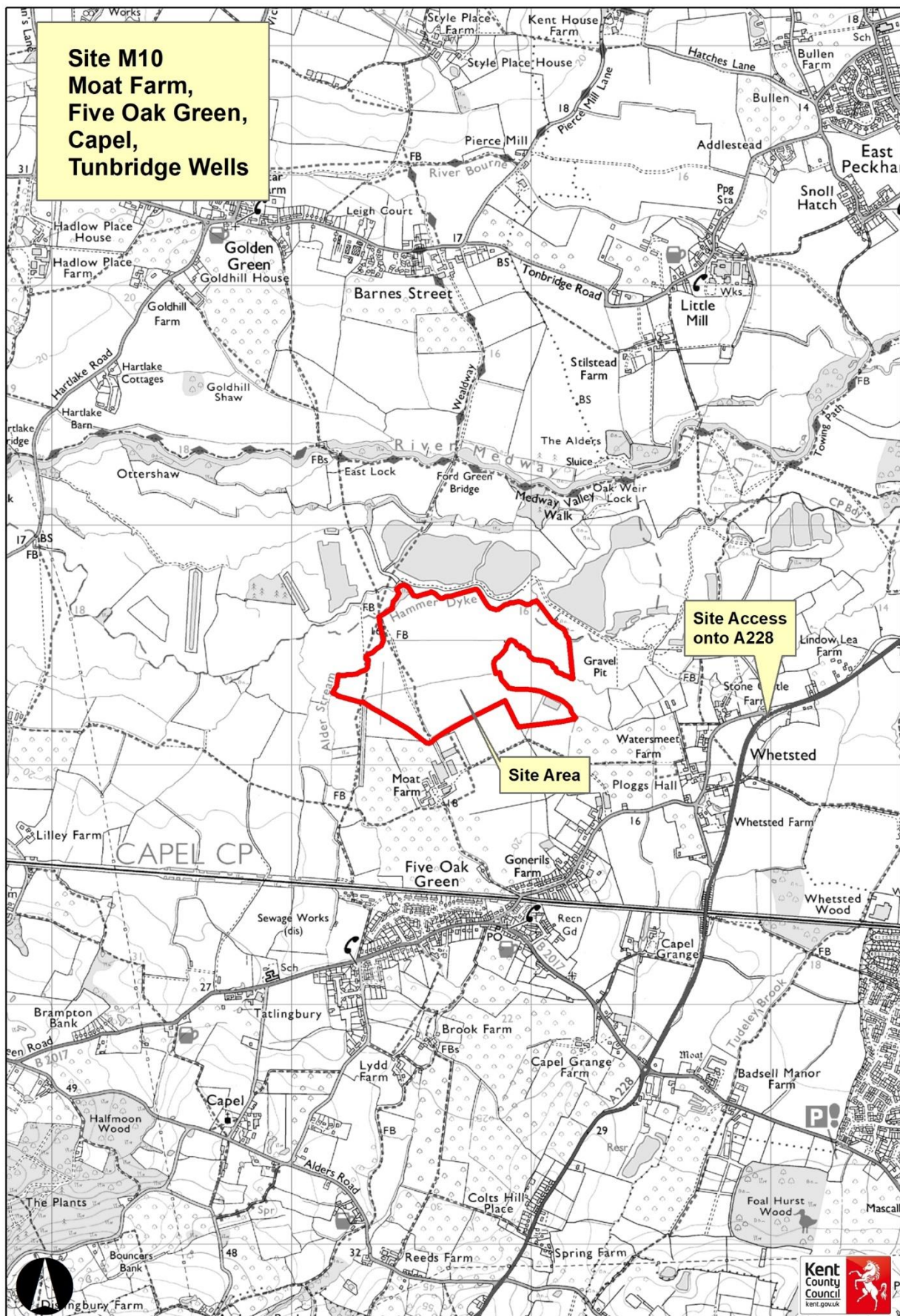
- Any proposal would need to be accompanied by a detailed ecological appraisal setting out any mitigation measures needed to ensure there are no unacceptable impacts on Kent's biodiversity assets
- Any operations should exclude the Ancient Woodland and a suitable buffer should be employed as to not impact on the designation directly or indirectly.

Health and Amenity

- Compliance with policy DM11 of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan in respect of health and amenity.
- A lighting, noise, dust, and vibration management plan should be completed, setting out how unacceptable impacts will be avoided. A detailed dust assessment and management plan should be submitted which follows best practice and any national Government guidance (e.g. Planning Practice Guidance).

Heritage

- There is potential for Palaeolithic remains within the site. Therefore, any planning application should be accompanied by a full archaeological impact assessment to ascertain the extent of such remains.



Soft Sand

M3: Chapel Farm, Lenham (Western Site)

Site Location: Lenham, Maidstone

Grid reference: Eastings 590223 Northings 150704

District/Borough Council: Maidstone

Parish: Lenham

Site Area: 35.4 hectares

Estimated Mineral Reserve: 3,200,000 tonnes

Existing Land Use: Agriculture

Proposed Development: Extraction of soft sand (Sandstone: Folkestone Formation)

Proposed Restoration: Lower level agriculture

Development Management Criteria:

The Chapel Farm, Lenham (Western Site) (M10) is acceptable in principle for mineral development, subject to compliance with the development management considerations, with particular reference to:

Biodiversity

- At least a 15 metre buffer to be maintained around the Ancient Woodland at all times
- Lenham Quarry SSSI is approximately 800m from the site and Hart Hill SSSI is 2.5km away; both are designated for their geological interest. Lenham Heath & Chilston Park and Bull Heath Pit Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are adjacent to the proposed site. Evidence to be submitted with any planning application to confirm that the LWS and SSSIs will not be adversely impacted
- Woodland copse to the north-west corner of the site must be maintained

Landscape

- Detailed information setting out proposed mitigation of visual impacts and demonstrating that the setting of the Kent Downs AONB will not be adversely impacted

Heritage

- Nearby listed buildings include Royton Manor (Grade II*) and Chapel Mill (II), Vine House (II) and Mount Castle Farm Cottage (II). Consideration and mitigation of impacts on heritage assets including listed buildings is required.

Water Resources

- Any application will need to be accompanied by an EIA with particular emphasis on the site's relationship and impact on the Great Stour;
- Appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring will need to be implemented as per the request of the Environment Agency, to demonstrate the following:
 - o Hydraulic continuity between those reaches of the Great Stour and associated tributaries, if proven to be in part dependent on groundwater baseflow originating from the adjoining aquifer (Folkestone Formation).
 - o The hydraulic integrity of the river is not compromised. In particular, the proposed plans will need to recognise the function of the foremost transient reaches of the Great Stour, which are dependent on both chalk escarpment seepage and surface runoff contributions, where underlain by Gault Clay to the immediate north of Chapel Farm. Any submission will need to account for this 'contribution', and the plans cannot allow the Great Stour to become hydraulically 'isolated' from its headwaters, irrespective of whether those watercourses are quantified as ephemeral.
 - o The underlining Sandgate Formation is not compromised, especially if the Formation is shown to be acting as an aquiclude at Chapel Farm, and within the immediate vicinity. Such a response is required to protect the Hythe Formation, which is classified as a major water resources aquifer unit.

Transport and Access

- A detailed transport assessment to demonstrate compliance with KMWLP Policy DM13.
- The Transport Assessment should consider ability to access the site via rail, impacts on the A20 and the Maidstone AQMA and show how any potential adverse impacts on this AQMA will be mitigated.

Utilities

- Demonstration that sensitive receptors such as sewage lines, electricity pylons and the railway lines will not be affected by land instability caused by the development.
- The functioning of the Lenham WWTW and other sewerage infrastructure must not be adversely impacted

Health and Amenity

- Compliance with policy DM11 of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan in respect of health and amenity.
- A lighting, noise, dust, and vibration management plan should be completed, setting out how unacceptable impacts will be avoided. A detailed dust assessment and management plan should be submitted which follows best practice and any national Government guidance (e.g. Planning Practice Guidance).

