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Date: 5 March 2025

Dear Member

COUNTY COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 13 MARCH 2025

Please find enclosed the documentation for Item 8. This was published concurrently with main agenda but is provided separately due to document size.

Agenda Item No

8

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 (Pages 1 - 300)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Watts', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel

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From: Derek Murphy – Cabinet Member for Economic Development
Simon Jones, Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport

To: County Council 13th March 2025

Subject: Adoption of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Cabinet – 4th March 2025 Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee 6th March 2025

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: Countywide

Summary: County Council is recommended to adopt the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039. The Council has a statutory responsibility to plan for future minerals supply and waste management within Kent. As a result, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 was adopted by County Council in July 2016 with some limited changes adopted in September 2020. The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan contains planning policies relating to minerals supply and waste management against which the Council assesses planning applications for these types of development. In addition, the Kent Mineral Sites Plan (KMSP) (adopted in September 2020) identifies three sites suitable for the quarrying of sand and gravel.

Regulations require local plans to be reviewed every five years and a review of the adopted Kent Mineral and Waste Local Plan in 2021 concluded a need for updates including to its Vision, Strategic Objectives, policies and supporting text to reflect changes in national and local policy and guidance since 2016. These include changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, government policy on climate change, protection and enhancement of the natural environment and achievement of a circular economy.

In December 2023, following three rounds of public consultation between 2021 and 2023, and consideration by Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee (ETCC), County Council agreed that the 'Pre-Submission' Draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024- 2039 should be published for representations on soundness and legality and submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The Plan, its evidence base and the 58 representations received were submitted in May 2024. The examination was required to ensure that the Plan is sound and prepared in accordance with statutory requirements relating to plan-making. On 10 September 2024, Planning Inspector Joanne Burston BSc MA MRTPI AIPROW commenced hearings associated with the examination which ran for four days. During the examination the Inspector identified the need for certain modifications, and these were subject to public consultation.

On 6th February 2025, the Council received the Inspector's Report (see Appendix A) which concludes that, subject to modifications, the Plan is sound and legally compliant. Following receipt of the Inspector's Report, Council is now able to adopt the Plan (see Appendix B) subject to the modifications being made. The modifications clarify the wording of certain policies which includes confirming safeguards to the environment and communities associated with waste and minerals development. Following adoption,

policies of the updated KMWLP will be monitored to assess whether they are being effective in meeting the local plan objectives on waste management and minerals supply.

Recommendation(s):

County Council is asked to:

- (i) NOTE the Inspector's Report (see Appendix A) on the examination of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (KMWLP) and the recommended modifications (incorporated in the Plan presented for Council approval);
- (ii) NOTE the content and recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal of the KMWLP (Appendix D); and,
- (iii) ADOPT the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 as set out in Appendix B; and
- (iv) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, to approve any non-material changes to the text of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 and take other relevant actions as required to support final production and publication of the approved Plan.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 As the minerals and waste planning authority for Kent, the County Council is required to prepare and maintain planning policy concerning waste management and minerals supply in the County. The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30 was adopted by the Council in July 2016 and sets out the strategy and policy framework for minerals and waste development in Kent which includes future capacity and supply requirements. The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan, together with the Kent Mineral Sites Plan, forms part of the Development Plan for Kent which is key, both for the determination of planning applications for minerals and waste development by the County Council, and applications relating to other development that may affect minerals and waste development or other aspects determined by the District and Borough Councils in Kent.
- 1.2 Following its adoption, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016 was subject to an 'Early Partial Review' and changes to the Plan resulting from this review were adopted by the Council in September 2020. Also in September 2020, the Council adopted the Kent Mineral Sites Plan.
- 1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated legislation states policies in Local Plans should be reviewed at least once every five years to assess whether they need updating and should then be updated, as necessary. A review of the Vision, Strategic Objectives and policies in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan was undertaken in 2021 that concluded a need for updates to the Plan in response to relevant Government policy and legislation published since the Plan was adopted in 2016. The review also identified changes to the local context requiring further updates to be made.

- 1.4 The process of updating the Plan needs to follow that set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 ('the plan making regulations') as well as the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance. In line with the legislation and guidance, updates to the Plan were proposed which communities and relevant stakeholders were consulted upon in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. The table below outlines the consultation that took place. Additional consultation also took place with stakeholders on matters of particular concern to them e.g. Natural England.
- 1.5 The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee and related Cabinet Members considered the draft updates to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan prior to their publication for public consultation. In addition, from time to time an informal members' group met to oversee the work on updating the Plan.

Consultation	Dates	Summary
Initial consultation with key stakeholders	26 th March 2021 - 9 th April 2021 (14 days)	Initial evidence gathering to determine which parts of the Plan needed updating
'Regulation 18' public consultation on Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Refresh	16 th December 2021 - 9 th February 2022 (8 weeks (over Christmas period))	Consultation on proposed changes to the KMWLP's vision, objectives, policies and supporting text in light of government policy and legislation published since 2016.
Second 'Regulation 18' public consultation on draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2023-38	24 th October 2022 - 5 th December 2022 (6 weeks)	Consultation on a further draft updated KMWLP with changes including, amongst other matters, extending the plan period to 2038 and changes to policies CSW 8, 12 and 17 and the removal of the strategic mineral site at Holborough (CSM 3).
Third 'Regulation 18' public consultation on Further Proposed Changes to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan	13 th June - 25 th July 2023 (6 weeks)	Consultation focused on further proposed changes to KMWLP including: Extending the plan period to 2039; changes to aggregate provision (CSM2); removal of the Norwood Quarry strategic waste site (CSW5); and, removal of a commitment to make specific provision for the management of certain waste produced in London.

- 1.6 Comments on the proposed changes to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan were received at each public consultation stage and taken into account during the preparation of the updated Plan.

1.7 A final draft version of the updated Plan, known as the 'Pre-Submission Draft Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan' was considered by the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, the Cabinet Members with responsibility for the Local Plan and subsequently County Council in December 2023. This Plan included changes to the adopted Plan which can be summarised as follows:

- Updates to the National Planning Policy Framework in 2018, 2019 and 2021 and associated Planning Practice Guidance;
- legislation and policy concerning: The need to adapt to, and mitigate, climate change; and, associated low carbon growth;
- policy and legislation concerned with achieving a circular economy where more waste is prevented or reused;
- adoption by the County Council of the Kent Environment Strategy and Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy;
- extending the plan period to 2039;
- updates to aggregate requirements in Policy CSM2 and waste management targets in Policy CSW4;
- deletion of Policy CSM5 that allocates a strategic site for minerals (as planning permission has been granted);
- removal of a strategic site allocation at Norwood Quarry, Sheppey for the landfill of hazardous waste specifically incinerator fly ash (Policy CSW5);
- a recognition within supporting text of the need for the development of additional capacity for the management of household waste identified by the Waste Disposal Authority;
- removal of a commitment to make specific provision for the management of residual non-hazardous waste by landfill or energy recovery that arises in London;
- Changes to Policy CSW17 relating to waste management at Dungeness were made to ensure that it is consistent with national policy.
- a change to Policy DM3 seeking the achievement of maximum biodiversity net gain on the basis that restoration of quarries can often easily result in much greater than the statutory minimum of 10% and Kent Nature Partnership preferred level of 20%;
- changes to settlement boundaries affecting the extent of areas identified in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan where the presence of economic minerals needs to be taken into account before surface development can take place. These areas are known as 'Mineral Safeguarding Areas';
- changes to the monitoring framework to ensure it properly reflects the updated policies; and,
- further changes intended to improve the clarity of the Plan's wording and hence the meaning of certain objectives and policies.

Independent Examination

1.8 Before the updated Plan can be adopted by the Council, it must be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent Examination by a Government-appointed

inspector. The examination is to determine whether the Plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with statutory plan making requirements. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) defines a 'sound' local plan as one that is:

- a) Positively prepared – provides a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed need; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;
- b) Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
- c) Effective – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and,
- d) Consistent with national policy – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the NPPF and other statements of national planning policy, where relevant.

1.9 Prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, the Plan was published for a statutory minimum six-week period¹ providing an opportunity for communities and other stakeholders to provide views on whether they thought the Plan was sound and legally compliant. In response to this consultation 58 representations were received.

1.10 The updated Plan, evidence base documents and the representations were submitted in May 2024 and the Secretary of State appointed Planning Inspector Joanne Burston BSc MA MRTPI AIPROW to examine the Plan. The Inspector convened public hearings for four days in September 2024.

1.11 During the examination, the Inspector considered all the representations received. At the request of the Council, the Inspector considered a small number of changes needed to ensure soundness of the Plan (known as 'main modifications'). In addition, a number of minor modifications (known as additional modifications) were also proposed. These latter seek to improve the clarity of the plan and addressed presentation and typographical or factual changes such as revised government department names. These additional modifications were not necessary to address soundness and legal compliance matters. The modifications were discussed with the Council and representors during the hearings and the Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

1.12 Following the hearings, the proposed main modifications were published for representations over a six-week period from 17 October 2024 to 28 November 2024. 25. Representations were received from 25 parties during the consultation which were considered by the Inspector, but these did not result in any further main modifications. A number of minor (additional) modifications were however proposed

¹ Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

to address comments raised. A copy of the Plan showing the modifications arising from the examination as tracked changes is included at Appendix C.

- 1.13 The Council received the report of the Inspector on 6th February 2025 and this report to County Council provides a summary and details of next steps.

2. The Inspector's Report

- 2.1 The Inspector's Report is included in Appendix A and this confirms that, subject to modifications, the submitted Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 is 'sound' and has been prepared in accordance with statutory plan making requirements.
- 2.2. The modifications are set out in Appendix 1 of the Inspector's Report with justification included in the body of her report. The main modifications concerned tightening up the wording of the Plan in a number of areas as follows:
- Changes to ensure consistency with current terminology, legislation, policies, and guidance (e.g., replacing "Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)" with "National Landscapes"; reference to the latest Kent Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy);
 - updates to references to organisations which have an interest in the Plan e.g. addition of reference to Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP);
 - update to footnotes to clarify references to relevant documents;
 - changes to supporting text and policies to ensure the Plan's intentions are clear e.g. deletion of reference to 'Mineral Consultation Areas' as these are the same as 'Mineral Safeguarding Areas' and use of a separate term may cause confusion;
 - Amendments to supporting text and Policies: CSW 3; CSW 4; CSW 6; CSW 15; DM 2; DM 3; DM 4; DM 7; DM 10; DM 13; DM 14; DM 17; DM19; DM 20; and DM 22 to ensure that they are effective and/or consistent with national policy.
 - Specific changes to policy included:
 - A change to Policy CSW15 to reflect potential need for upgrades to wastewater treatment works to control releases of nitrates and phosphates to watercourses;
 - Updates to Policy DM2 to ensure consistency with statutory requirements in relation to protection of landscapes; internationally and nationally designated habitats;
 - Updates to Policy DM10 to ensure consistency with Environment Agency requirements concerning the protection of the water environment;
- 2.3 The modifications are taken into account in the text of the Plan provided in Appendix B to this report. Importantly, the modifications do not alter the objectives or intentions of policy. The Plan in Appendix B will upon adoption become the published Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Strategy upon which planning decisions in the County will be determined.

- 2.4 The additional modifications referred to above were also published for information alongside the main modifications.

3. Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal

- 3.1 During its preparation, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 was subject to sustainability appraisal (SA) (incorporating strategic environmental assessment (SEA)). The SA report provides an assessments of impacts (both beneficial and detrimental) on environmental, social and economic objectives which are expected to arise from development consistent with the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39. The SA also considered reasonable alternatives to the proposals in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39. The recommendations from the SA were taken into account as the Plan was prepared.
- 3.2 A non-technical summary of the SA of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 (with modifications recommended by the Inspector) is included in Appendix D. The full SA report is available on the Council's website [here](#) . The inspector concluded that the SA was in line with the legal requirements

4. Adoption

- 4.1 In accordance with Section 23 (3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, having received a report confirming the soundness and legality of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39, provided the Council makes the modifications recommended by the Inspector, it may now adopt the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 as updated planning policy for minerals supply and waste management in Kent.
- 4.2 The new and revised policy will be used by the County Council when determining planning applications related to proposals for waste management and minerals supply. It will ensure that planning decisions in Kent will be made in accordance with national policy and have regard to local policy considerations, such as the Kent Environment Strategy and the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy. The updated policies concerning mineral and waste safeguarding and the circular economy will also be used by District and Borough Councils when determining applications for non-waste and mineral development. It should be noted that the adopted Kent Mineral Sites Plan remains in place and information concerning a related potential change to that Plan is included below (see paragraphs 4.3 and 6.2-6.4).
- 4.3 Members may recall that there is considerable objection to the Mineral Sites Plan work and in particular the merits of the nominated hard rock site at Oaken Wood, Aylesford, that has been submitted in response to the Council's 'call for sites' as part of the Sites Plan work. For the avoidance of doubt, the Kent Mineral and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 before County Council makes no decision in relation to the Oaken Wood site. This is a matter for the separate Mineral Sites Plan work. Work on the review of this Plan is ongoing and currently subject to detailed technical assessment of the submitted hard rock site. Until that assessment is complete, no decision can be taken on whether the site should be allocated or not. Once the assessment is complete, a report will be considered by a future Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee. The KMWLP before County

Council for adoption provides the strategy for minerals supply including the quantity of minerals required, not where sites to meet this need are to be allocated.

5. Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 - Next Steps

- 5.1 Whilst noting that the decision to adopt the Local Plan is a matter for County Council, Cabinet (4th March) and Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee (6th March 2025) considered reports on the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39. The Committees were invited to note the Inspector's report along with the recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal and to endorse the Cabinet Member's proposal to recommend the KMWLP (Appendix B), as modified, to County Council for Approval and Adoption.
- 5.2 In accordance with Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) stakeholders will be notified of the Council's adoption of the updated planning policy.
- 5.3 Prior to final publication of the Plan, minor non-material changes (e.g. changes related to format and grammar) may be needed, and it is proposed if required that the agreement to such changes be delegated to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development.
- 5.4 Following adoption there is a six-week period for legal challenges. To be successful any such challenge would need to demonstrate that the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 has not been prepared in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- 5.4 Once adopted, policies in the Plan will be implemented and monitoring will be undertaken to assess the effect of the policies. Legislation requires a review of planning policy every five years and so the outcome of a review of Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 policies will be required by 2030.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The costs of preparing and adopting the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 has been met from the existing Planning Applications Group budget.
- 6.2 Implementation of the Plan will ensure the wider Kent economy continues to benefit from the sustainable management of waste and supply of minerals within its area. For example, costs of waste management and mineral supply to businesses in Kent would be higher if a Plan was not in place which does not clearly state how and where waste can be managed and minerals supplied in Kent. It would also assist in measures to address fly-tipping by providing adequate capacity and facilities to manage Kent's waste.

7. Policy Framework

- 7.1 Updating minerals and waste planning policies takes account of changes since 2016 to national planning policy and guidance and the County Council's corporate policies which are concerned with the way in which land is developed in Kent. These include

the Kent Environment Strategy, the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy and the Kent's Plan Bee Pollinator Action Plan. In light of the timing, there is no requirement for this Plan to take account of changes made to the National Planning Policy Framework in December 2024 and in any event these changes were focussed mainly on the provision of housing.

- 7.2 The adoption of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan supports the County Council's strategy, Framing Kent's Future 2022-2026. In particular, the KMWLP helps facilitate the key strategic priorities of an Environmental Step Change and Infrastructure for Communities by supporting the delivery of sustainable growth in Kent's economy. The Plan recognises Kent's environment as a core asset and seeks to adapt to, and mitigate, the impacts of climate change and assist in the delivery of net zero objectives. The proposed planning strategy reflects recent changes to the environmental agenda including mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change and Kent's Climate Change Statement, the circular economy and biodiversity.
- 7.3 The Local Plan work is a statutory requirement as part of the Council's town planning responsibilities. The local plan work has been carried out in accordance with Objective 3 of Securing Kent's Future which seeks to ensure that the Council prioritises its Best Value Statutory obligations.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The County Council has a legal obligation under the Town and Country Planning Acts to prepare a statutory Development Plan for planning purposes (commonly known as the Local Plan).
- 8.2 The County Council is also required by national planning policy to ensure that local plans promote sustainable minerals and waste development. The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 plays an important role in ensuring that minerals and waste development in Kent is in line with national planning policy.
- 8.3 There is an expectation by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that all planning authorities have an up-to-date Local Plan in place. Without an up to date adopted plan, there is a risk that central government will step in as the plan making authority, reducing local accountability.
- 8.4 During its preparation, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 has been the subject of Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programme Regulations 2004, and an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 8.5 The resulting Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment were published for consultation and taken into consideration when making decisions with regard to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39. These reports are available as background papers.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 An equality impact assessment (EQIA) has been completed, and no equality implications have been identified. A copy of the assessment is attached at Appendix E. The earlier Local Plan work was accompanied by a separate EQIA.

10. Conclusion

10.1 The Town and Country Planning Acts requires the County Council to prepare a Development Plan (local plan) setting out how mineral and waste planning matters will be considered in Kent. The Kent Mineral and Waste Local Plan adopted in July 2016 and partially updated in 2020 set out the overarching strategy and vision until 2030.

10.2 In accordance with statutory requirements, a full review of the Kent Mineral and Waste Local Plan was undertaken in 2021 which revealed the need for updates to the Plan to bring it into line with Government and local policy, legislation, and to reflect changes to other factors affecting future waste management and mineral supply in Kent. Changes to the Plan were proposed, consulted upon and ultimately examined by a Planning Inspector.

10.3 Before the updated Kent Mineral and Waste Local Plan can be adopted, the Council must receive a report from the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) which states that the Plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with relevant legislation. On 6th February 2025, the Council received the report of the Inspector who examined the updated KMWLP, and this states that the legislation was followed and that, subject to modifications that were promoted and considered during the examination, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 is sound. Having received the Inspector's report, subject to the Council accepting the recommended modifications it can now adopt the Plan.

11. Recommendation(s):

County Council is asked to:

(i) NOTE the Inspector's Report (see Appendix A) on the examination of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (KWMLP) and the recommended modifications (incorporated in the Plan presented for Council approval);

(ii) NOTE the content and recommendations of the Sustainability Appraisal of the KMWLP (Appendix D); and,

(iii) ADOPT the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 as set out in Appendix B; and

(iv) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, to approve any non-material changes to the text of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 and take other relevant actions as required to support final production and publication of the approved Plan.

12. Contact details

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Appendix A:

Planning Inspector's Report on the Examination of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 (including appendix 1 Schedule of Main Modifications)

Appendix B:

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 (as modified by the Inspector's recommendations) – the Plan for adoption

Appendix C:

KMWLP 2024-39 showing modifications as tracked - March 2025

Appendix D:

KMWLP 2024-39 Sustainability Appraisal Non-Technical Summary

The main document is available via this hyperlink. [KMWLP 2024-39 Sustainability Appraisal](#)

Appendix E:

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 (as modified by the Inspector's recommendations) – Equality Impact Assessment [Equality Impact Assessment](#)

Background Documents

The supporting documents to the Mineral and Waste Local Plan work are available on the Council's website as part of the Examination library via this link [here](#).

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Planning Inspectorate

Report to Kent County Council

by J Burston BSc (Hons), MA, MRTPI, AIPRoW

Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

06 February 2025

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended)

Section 20

Report on the Examination of the Kent Minerals & Waste Local Plan 2024 - 2039

The Plan was submitted for examination on 17 May 2024

The examination hearing was held between 10-12 September and 17 September 2024

File Ref: PINS/W2275/429/11

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Abbreviations used in this report

AM	Additional Modification
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscapes)
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
C, D & E	Construction, Demolition and Excavation
C & I	Commercial and Industrial
EA	Environment Agency
ha	Hectare
HE	Historic England
HLW	High Level Waste
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste
LAA	Local Aggregate Assessment
LACW	Local Authority Collected Waste
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LLW	Low Level Waste
MM	Main Modification
MCA	Minerals Consultation Area
MNA	Minerals Need Assessment
MSA	Minerals Safeguarding Area
MSP	Mineral Sites Plan
Mt	Million tonnes
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NE	Natural England
NH	National Highways
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PLA	Port of London Authority
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
SEEAWP	South East England Aggregates Working Party
SEWPAG	South East Waste Planning Advisory Group
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
tpa	tonnes per annum
UKRWI	United Kingdom Radioactive Waste and Material Inventory

Non-Technical Summary

This report concludes that the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024 – 2039 (the Plan) provides an appropriate basis for the planning of minerals and waste development in Kent, provided that a number of main modifications [MMs] are made to it. The Council has specifically requested that I recommend any MMs necessary to enable the Plan to be adopted.

Following the hearing, the Council prepared schedules of the proposed modifications and, where necessary, carried out sustainability appraisal (SA) and habitats regulations assessment (HRA) of them. The MMs were subject to public consultation over a six-week period, between 17 October – 28 November 2024. I have recommended their inclusion in the Plan after considering the SA and HRA and all the representations made in response to consultation on them.

The Main Modifications can be summarised as follows:

- Amendments to ensure the correct terminology is used to ensure that the wording of the Plan is effective and/or consistent with national policy.'
- Amendments to the strategic objectives.
- Ensuring that the 3 year sales average was included to assess local demand.
- Additional text to the land won aggregate supply considerations to reference relevant policy.
- Ensuring that soft sand site allocations would be examined in an updated Mineral Sites Plan.
- Amendments to remove reference to Mineral Consultation areas in supporting text and policy.
- Additional text to clarify the safeguarding of building stone in the supporting text.
- Update to footnotes to reference relevant documents.
- Amendments to supporting text in relation to the waste hierarchy.
- Amendments to supporting text and Policies: CSW 3; CSW 4; CSW 6; CSW 15; DM 2; DM 3; DM 4; DM 7; DM 10; DM 13; DM 14; DM 17; DM19; DM 20; and DM 22 to ensure that they are effective and/or consistent with national policy.'
- Clarification of the disposal of dredgings including a new footnote and reference to the Vision for the Tidal Thames 2022.
- Amendments to supporting text in relation to waste management at the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites.
- A number of other modifications to ensure that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Introduction

1. This report contains my assessment of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024 - 39 (the Plan) in terms of Section 20(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). It considers first whether the preparation of the Plan has complied with the duty to co-operate. It then considers whether it is compliant with the legal requirements and whether it is sound. The Plan was examined against the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 version (NPPF) which was extant at the time the Plan was prepared. Paragraph 35 of the NPPF, makes it clear that in order to be sound, a Local Plan should be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
2. The starting point for the examination is the assumption that the Council has submitted what it considers to be a sound and legally compliant plan. The Kent Minerals and Waste Plan, submitted in May 2024 (SD01) is the basis for my examination. It is the same document as was published for consultation in January 2024.

Main Modifications

3. In accordance with section 20(7C) of the 2004 Act the Council requested that I should recommend any main modifications [MMs] necessary to rectify matters that make the Plan unsound or not legally compliant and thus incapable of being adopted. My report explains why the recommended MMs are necessary. The MMs are referenced in bold in the report in the form **MM1**, **MM2** etc, and are set out in full in the Appendix.
4. Following the examination hearing, the Council prepared a schedule of proposed MMs and, where necessary, carried out SA and HRA of them. The MM schedule, SA and HRA were subject to public consultation for six weeks from 17 October – 28 November 2024. I have taken account of the consultation responses in coming to my conclusions in this report. I have made some amendments to the MMs. None of the amendments significantly alters the content of the modifications as published for consultation or undermines the participatory processes and SA/HRA that has been undertaken. Where necessary I have highlighted these amendments in the report.

Policies Map

5. The Council must maintain an adopted Policies Map which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the adopted development plan. When submitting a local plan for examination, the Council is required to provide a submission Policies Map showing the changes to the adopted Policies Map that would result from the proposals in the submitted Local Plan. In this case, the submission policies map comprises the plans contained in Chapter 9 of the Pre-Submission draft of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024 - 39 (November 2023) (document reference SD01).

6. The Policies Map is not defined in statute as a development plan document and so I do not have the power to recommend MMs to it. However, no changes are proposed to be made to the Policies Map.

Context of the Plan

7. As the Plan itself explains, it deals only with the two matters of mineral supply and waste management for the entire administrative area of Kent County Council for the period to 2039. The specific sites for mineral developments are set out in the separate Kent Mineral Sites Plan, adopted in September 2020.
8. The Plan will form part of the development plan together with the Kent Mineral Sites Plan (MSP) and the 12 district and borough Local Plans and any Neighbourhood Plans. It supersedes policies in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30, as amended by the Early Partial Review in 2020.
9. Kent is a large, predominately rural county situated in the southeastern corner of the southeast region. Kent has an historic cathedral city, namely Canterbury, however, Maidstone is the County Town. The population of Kent is spread unevenly throughout the county, with the main urban area towards the northwest of the County, forming part of the Thames Gateway area.
10. The known economic mineral resources in Kent are sand and gravel, crushed rock (a limestone informally called Kentish Ragstone of the Hythe Formation), building sand, silica sand, brickearth, clay for tile-making, chalk for agricultural and industrial uses, and building stone. Secondary or recycled materials are also gained from quarry and waste operations. Mineral aggregates are both imported to, and exported from, Kent, including by rail and sea. There are also licensed areas for petroleum exploration.
11. Kent currently achieves net self-sufficiency in waste management capacity for all waste streams.

Public Sector Equality Duty

12. I have had due regard to the aims expressed in S149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 regarding eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations with respect to the nine characteristics protected by the Equality Act.
13. Kent County Council undertook an Equality Impact Assessment [SD09] of the Plan. This concluded that the Plan and its policies are unlikely to have any specific impacts on any of the nine protected characteristics, to any lesser or greater extent than the general population.

14. I find no reason to question these conclusions, having discovered no aspect of the Plan that would affect any person who shared any of the nine protected characteristics any more than a person who does not share them.

Assessment of Duty to Co-operate

15. Section 20(5)(c) of the 2004 Act requires that I consider whether the Authority complied with any duty imposed on it by section 33A in respect of the Plan's preparation. Section 33A imposes a duty to co-operate with other local planning authorities and prescribed bodies in maximising the effectiveness of plan preparation in relation to strategic matters. Minerals and waste developments are strategic matters for the purposes of the statutory duty.
16. The Duty to Co-operate Report [SD03] indicates that there has been ongoing and direct engagement with the bodies prescribed in section 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The Environment Agency (EA), National Highways (NH), Historic England (HE) and Natural England (NE) have been actively engaged in the consultation processes on the Plan and comments made by those bodies have been addressed. This has strongly influenced the development of the Plan.
17. The Council has engaged with neighbouring authorities and representatives of the minerals industry in planning for minerals through the South East England Aggregates Working Party (SEEAWP).
18. The Council has also participated in meetings of the South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG) in planning for waste. This group comprises neighbouring authorities, the EA and representatives of the waste industry. Discussions were also held with the Greater London Authority (GLA) about the need to maintain sufficient waste management capacity to address both Kent's arisings and that of London's exports of residual wastes, though decreasing over time.
19. Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) were prepared throughout the Plan making process. Some SoCG were not completed until after submission, but this does not mean that the duty to co-operate has not been met.
20. The SoCG in respect of soft sand was dated July 2022. In 2023 the South East Mineral Planning Authorities produced a Soft Sand Position Statement which states at paragraph 1.3 that "*The Position Statement is intended to form the basis of any Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) to be produced by the parties and agreed by the different Mineral Planning Authorities. Any SoCGs between individual Mineral Planning Authorities will consider, in more detail, the implications of evidence provided in this Position Statement and seek to address issues on soft sand supply, and its coordination between those areas.*" Whilst this Statement postdates the SoCG and provides up to date evidence in terms of present and future supply taking into account

environmental and landscape designations, there is no change to the position set out in the SoCG in respect of how soft sand will be supplied. There is no evidence before me that the MPAs that signed the SoCG no longer supported the approach taken by KCC. In any event the Duty to Cooperate is a duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities and not necessarily a duty to agree.

21. There has been on-going consultation on the Plan with waste operators and SEWPAG, particularly, in respect to hazardous waste disposal and the deletion of Policy CSW 5. The Council has demonstrated that there is no need to make specific provision for this purpose and whilst there may be an outstanding point of objection on this matter, the Council has demonstrated that it has engaged actively and constructively in preparing the Plan.
22. I am satisfied overall that, where necessary, the Council has engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis with the prescribed bodies and that the Duty to Co-operate has therefore been met in the preparation of the Plan.

Assessment of Other Aspects of Legal Compliance

Local Development Scheme

23. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) produced in December 2023 [EB14].

Statement of Community Involvement

24. Prior to the submission of the Plan, consultation was carried out in compliance with the adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2021 [EB15].

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

25. The Council carried out a SA of the Plan, prepared a report of the findings of the appraisal, and published the report [SD05] along with the Plan and other submission documents under Regulation 19.
26. The MMs have been assessed in the SA Report (October 2024). This was published for consultation together with the schedule of MMs.
27. A HRA for the Publication Draft Plan was carried out in January 2024 [SD07]. The HRA screening exercise found potential for likely significant effects arising from the proposed changes to Policy CSW17 relating to the potential for importation and

deposition of low-level nuclear waste and other waste on the: Dungeness Special Area of Conservation; and Dungeness, Rye Bay and Romney Marsh Ramsar Site.

28. An Appropriate Assessment of the effects of the Plan on those sites has been carried out. The HRA concludes that the additional operations permitted under the proposed revisions to Policy CSW17, either alone or in combination with other ongoing de-commissioning operations, coast protection operations and other development are unlikely to have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and the populations of its qualifying bird species as a result of noise or visual disturbances.
29. I am content that both the SA and HRA are in line with the legal requirements.

Other Requirements

30. The Plan complies with all other relevant legal requirements, including in the 2004 Act (as amended) and the 2012 Regulations.
31. The development plan, taken as a whole, includes policies to address the strategic priorities for the development and use of land in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan area.
32. The strategic policies within the Plan, as introduced in the Spatial Vision for Minerals and Waste in Kent, drive waste up the Waste Hierarchy enabling waste to be considered as a valuable resource, while at the same time providing a steady supply of minerals to allow sustainable growth to take place. It will also ensure that requirements such as a Low Carbon Economy (LCE) and climate change issues are incorporated into new developments for minerals and waste development in Kent.
33. The strategic policies for minerals are set out in Policies CSM 1 to CSM 12 and for waste are set out in Policies CSW 1 to 18.

Assessment of Soundness

Main Issues

34. Taking account of all the representations, the written evidence and the discussions that took place at the examination hearing, I have identified 9 main issues upon which the soundness of this Plan depends. This report deals with these main issues. It does not respond to every point or issue raised by representors. Nor does it refer to every policy, policy criterion or allocation in the Plan.

Issue 1 – Whether the Spatial Portrait, Spatial Vision and Objectives are appropriate, positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy and provide an appropriate basis for meeting the future demand for minerals and managing waste sustainably.

35. Chapters 1 - 4 of the Plan set out the context of the Plan, including local policies and strategies. This includes establishing the status of the Plan, how it was prepared in accordance with national legislation and how it will be used by the County Council, the District and Borough Councils and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation. The development of this vision has been shaped by SAs of the options, and a robust analysis of available data and information. It is important that there is clarity in the reference to legislation and that the role of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is recognised and the role that they play in determining non-mineral developments. This information needs to be added to the introduction chapter to ensure that the Plan is effective. **MM1 and MM2** add further text accordingly.
36. The introduction at section 1.3 establishes the links with legislation, other policies and strategies. The objectives of the Plan reference the need to encourage the sustainable transportation of minerals and waste. This position is supported by the Department for Transport Circular 01/2022 in relation to the Strategic Road Network (SRN). Furthermore, to ensure consistency the Plan should acknowledge that the Plan should not compromise the SRN's function. Further updates to reflect the most up to date targets for waste and recycling are required for consistency. This information needs to be added to the introductory chapter to ensure that the Plan is effective **MM3 and MM4** add further text accordingly. Similarly, the references to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership require amendment to reflect the change of name to the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) and its five key ambitions for effectiveness. **MM6 and MM7** amend the text accordingly.
37. Paragraph 1.5.1 sets out the Council's approach to determining planning applications. The NPPF establishes at paragraph 8c) that "*an environmental objective of sustainable development is to minimise pollution*". Tackling pollution requires a joined-up approach, which needs to be clear within the Plan. **MM5** provides this clarity and is necessary to ensure that the Plan is positively prepared.
38. The spatial portrait of Kent confirms the environmental and landscape assets of the area, which include those of: international, national and local importance. Landscapes of national importance include the areas, that until recently (November 2023), were known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The change in the name reflects their national importance; the vital contribution they make to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness of the work that they do. A number of paragraphs, policies and diagrams of the Plan refer to AONBs and to be consistent with national policy these references should be amended to make the Plan sound. Therefore, **MM8, MM10, MM11, MM27, MM38, MM48 and MM68** are necessary to make this change.

Conclusion on Issue 1

39. Subject to the MMs identified above, the Plan's Spatial Portrait, Spatial Vision and Objectives are appropriate, positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy and provide an appropriate basis for meeting the future demand for minerals and managing waste sustainably.

Issue 2 – Whether the provision made in the Plan for the future supply of aggregate and industrial minerals would deliver a steady and adequate supply and is therefore positively prepared.

40. The NPPF sets out, at paragraph 209, that it is essential that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. Since minerals are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, best use needs to be made of them to secure their long-term conservation.

Policy CSM 2: Supply of Land-won Minerals in Kent

41. In terms of identifying the future land release for land-won aggregates, the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) considers that use of the last 10 years' sales data, as required by national policy, is the most reliable metric for considering demand over the Plan period. However, it is acknowledged that for additional assurance a 6-year sales average is also used for hard rock. In any event, SEEAWP endorses the use of the 10-year sales' average without any supplementary local demand modelling.
42. I agree that the use of 10 years' sales data is one of the most reliable methods of forecasting demand. However, as clearly stated by the NPPF at paragraph 219 mineral planning authorities should plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by, amongst other matters, relevant local information. Such local information may include the '3 year sales' average'. Using both a 10 and 3 year sales' average would usefully detect trends which may be disguised by the long term 10 year sales' average. This would assist in determining whether further mineral extraction sites would need to be allocated. **MM12** modifies the text in paragraph 5.2.10 to provide the necessary consistency with the NPPF to take account of relevant local information. Similarly, footnote 46 should be changed to refer any reader to the most up to date Local Aggregate Assessment for Kent for effectiveness. **MM14** amends Footnote 46.
43. The approach to the calculation of the future demand for aggregate minerals over the Plan period is set out in the supporting evidence, including the 'Kent Local Aggregate Assessment 2023' (LAA) [EB12] and 'Annual Monitoring Report December 2023 (AMR) [EB13].

44. The calculation of the amount of sand and gravel and crushed rock aggregate that the Plan needs to provide for are based on the 10 years' sales figures rolling average taken from the most up to date LAA, the 2023 LAA, using past sales data from 2022. This was the most recent published data available prior to the submission of the Plan. This included periods of both high and low levels of economic growth, including the periods of COVID-19 lockdowns, giving this 10 year average (and 6-year for hard rock) a more balanced basis on which to plan for the level of growth expected over the Plan period, to provide the production capacity needed to respond to growth and certainty to communities on the planned level of mineral extraction likely in the next 15 years.
45. For sharp sand and gravel, the average 10 year sales' figure is 0.176 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa). The Plan requirement over a 15 year Plan period (2024 – 2039) is 3.872 Million tonnes (Mt) which includes a required 7-year landbank of 1.232Mt maintained at the end of the Plan period. The permitted reserves for sand and gravel are identified as being 2.230Mt. However, the annual sales of sharp sand and gravel have been reducing which has had the effect of lengthening the life of the permitted reserves projected over the Plan period. As such the available reserves at commencement of year 2024 are estimated at 2.054Mt. Two further sites are also allocated in the MSP, which would deliver 2.5Mt, should these sites be granted planning permission this would provide a total surplus of 0.682Mt over the Plan period. Nevertheless, these sites were found sound following the examination of the MSP in 2019.
46. If the allocated sites did not come forward during the Plan period there would be a shortfall of some 1.642Mt. Nevertheless, there is no evidence that these sites would not be delivered, and the Plan strategy is for a managed decline due to the fact that land won supplies in Kent are severely limited and opportunities for additional supplies are heavily constrained by landscape and environmental designations. I consider that the annual LAA should be able to identify the consequences and impact there might be on sand and gravel resources, reserves and landbanks and whether a review of the Plan would be triggered earlier than might otherwise be the case. As such, I see no convincing reason to depart from the basis of the supply figures outlined above and I conclude that the Plan, as submitted, adequately identifies the required provision for sharp sand and gravel over the Plan period.
47. Turning to soft sand, the average 10-year sales' figure is 0.475Mtpa, although I accept that the 3 year average is greater at 0.521Mtpa. The Plan requirement over a 15 year Plan period (2024 – 2039) is 10.45 Mt which includes a required 7-year landbank of 3.325 Mt maintained at the end of the Plan period, which is over a greater period than the neighbouring MPAs in the Southeast. The permitted reserve for soft sand is identified as being 5.574Mt (at the end of 2022), but the available reserve at commencement of year 2024 is estimated to be somewhat lower at 5.099Mt, approximately half the Plan's requirement. A further soft sand allocation is provided in the MSP, which if it came forward during the Plan period, would deliver 3.2Mt. In any event, even with this additional allocation there would still be a shortfall of 2.15Mt in the maintained 7 year landbank at the end of 2039. The methodology for calculating

the soft sand requirement is not set out in the Plan and although this could aid industry confidence, I consider that the available evidence base such as the LAA, satisfactorily provides this detail and it is not necessary for the Plan to be effective.

48. The Plan states that a shortfall in the soft sand requirement has been identified. In this respect the critical period for the supply of soft sand would be post 2036 (best case scenario) or 2031 (worst case scenario). There is a subsequent statutory requirement to review the Plan every five years which, for either scenario, provides an opportunity to assess if further monitored supply requirements justify any allocation of additional sites in the MSP. Moreover, **MM12** amends the text at paragraph 5.2.10 to include reference to the 3 year sales' average as part of the LAA which may trigger an early review of the Plan if there is an increase in demand caused by economic growth in the area. I have also taken account of the potential for 'windfall' extraction sites where large strategic development sites are required to extract minerals prior to construction activities to avoid sterilisation. The Council advised that this has been achieved at sites such as Otterpool Park, which can boost the soft sand tonnage over the Plan period. Accordingly, I conclude that the Plan, as submitted, adequately identifies the required provision for soft sand over the Plan period.
49. The average 10-year sales' figure for hard rock is 1,018,922 Mtpa. However, the LAA shows that the sales of hard rock have increased in the later part of the 10-year sales' figures and therefore the use of a six-year average would provide a greater degree of certainty to forecast any future requirement. The average 6 years' sales of crushed rock is, as of 2022, 1.24Mtpa.
50. Using the 6-year sales' average the Plan requirement over a 15-year Plan period (2024 – 2039) is 31.0 Mt which includes a required 10-year landbank of 12.4 Mt maintained at the end of the Plan period. The permitted reserve for hard rock is identified as being 14,85Mt (at the end of 2022), therefore a significant shortfall will exist with a maintained landbank of 11.97 years.
51. No further allocations for hard rock are provided in the MSP, however, the MSP is subject to review where further sites could be allocated. As set out in the Local Development Scheme 2024 [ED35] the review of the MSP is scheduled for adoption in September 2026. The sales figures also demonstrate that a significant volume of hard rock is imported to Kent (1,491,346 tonnes 10-year average sales through wharves and rail depots combined). I also acknowledge that there is scope for importation of materials to increase as there is headroom in wharf capacity of approximately 56% and 84% headroom of unused capacity rail connectivity. The recycled and secondary sales of aggregate also have the potential to replace primary aggregate, albeit limited.
52. Looking at economic growth factors that may increase the demand for hard rock, there are no local construction indicators, such as housing, that indicate a likelihood of significant increases in the demand for construction aggregates above the historic 5-6Mtpa levels observed in Kent.

53. The remaining landbank is limited to 11.97 years. However as set out above, I consider that the annual LAA should be able to identify the consequences and impact there might be on hard rock resources, reserves and landbanks and whether a review of the Plan would be triggered earlier than might otherwise be the case. Moreover, if a suitable site can be found, the updated MSP would address the shortfall in hard rock reserves and identifying potential sites for allocation. The Plan also sets out policies so that sites could come forward for planning permission outside the MSP process. Consequently, at this time, I see no convincing reason to depart from the basis of the supply figures outlined above and I conclude that the Plan, as submitted, adequately identifies the required provision for hard rock over the Plan period.
54. The NPPF at paragraph 214 (a and b) explains that the maintenance of a steady and adequate supply of industrial minerals may require co-operating with other authorities to support their likely use in industrial and manufacturing processes and encourages the safeguarding or stockpiling of important minerals. This approach is supported in the Plan, which also seeks to maintain a stock of permitted reserves to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment. Kent has reserves of brickearth and brick clay; silica sand; and chalk. Sufficient reserves of brickearth and brick clay are available over the Plan period and will continue to be monitored and assessed.
55. There are no sites in Kent that exclusively provide silica sand. National policy requires MPAs to plan for a steady and adequate supply of silica sand by providing a stock of permitted reserves to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant, and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment. This is carried out by providing a stock of permitted reserves of at least 10 years at established existing sites, and at least 15 years for silica sand sites where significant new capital is required, this would include entirely new sites. In 2022, an estimated permitted total reserve in the region of 1.58Mt remained in Kent. Further potential extensions to existing sites may not be possible given the site locations close to/within the National Landscape. Nevertheless, Policy CSM 2 supports the consideration of future extraction sites having regard to the Policies within the Plan.
56. The LAA confirms that there were no sales of Chalk as a graded aggregate in Kent in 2022. However, there were estimated sales of some 6,000tpa of agricultural and engineering chalk (AMR 2022-23). I acknowledge that this figure should be considered as indicative due to poor participation in survey returns and is a low figure when compared to data from 2018-19, where extraction rates were approximately 70,000tpa. As such, it will be important for continued monitoring to establish any trends. Based on the current estimated reserves at the end of 2022 of 0.496 million tonnes and the rate of extraction of 6,000 tpa for agricultural and engineering chalk there is a permitted reserve life of some 82 years. Should extraction rates increase to the 2018-19 level, a reserve life of approximately 7 years remains. However, it should be noted that the NPPF does not require specific chalk landbanks to be maintained at any particular level, rather that a 15-year landbank for chalk used in cement is maintained to support the level of actual and proposed

investment required for new or existing plant, and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment.

57. In terms of the supply of Chalk for cement, there are currently no active cement quarries in Kent. The site of the Medway Cement Works at Holborough is subject to an implemented planning permission which has mineral resources available for at least 25 years of cement manufacture. Therefore, there is the possibility that there is an insufficient permitted landbank to maintain a supply of chalk for cement over the entire Plan period. Nevertheless, given the fluctuations in extraction/sales rates I consider that the AMR should be able to identify any impact on the chalk landbank and whether a review of the Plan would be triggered earlier than might otherwise be the case. Furthermore, Plan Policy CSM 4 would facilitate the consideration of new chalk extraction sites should they come forward.”
58. I conclude that the Plan, as submitted, adequately identifies the required provision for industrial minerals (where required) over the Plan period.
59. The land won aggregate supply considerations take into account the requirements for future land release for land won aggregates, the materials that can be supplied from existing sites and the contributions from substitute materials. Whilst a cross reference to Policy CSM 2 is provided so that a reader of the Plan would know where to find further information relating to site allocation, further cross referencing should be provided to Policy CSM 4 (Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites) and CSM 9 (Building Stone in Kent). The text at **MM13** is necessary for effectiveness.
60. An amendment to the text of footnote 47 is necessary to update the position on relevant mineral sites to ensure effectiveness. **MM15** therefore updates this footnote.
61. Policy CSM 2 sets out the supply of land-won minerals in Kent and that mineral working will be granted planning permission at sites identified in the MSP. The MSP was adopted by the County Council on 10 September 2020. As set out in the Local Development Scheme 2024 [ED35] the review of the MSP is scheduled for adoption in September 2026. The Council's approach to preparing an updated MSP and to ensure that sufficient sites are allocated to meet the requirement should be reflected in the Plan for clarity and effectiveness. **MM16** provides for the consideration of future sites in an MSP.
62. Paragraph 5.2.30 establishes that the consented reserves of crushed rock are contained within two Kentish Ragstone sites, in the context of establishing the hard rock reserve and supply position. Reference to the possibility of consenting further sites is not relevant here and should be deleted for clarity as Policy CSM 4 considers this matter. **MM17** makes this change for effectiveness.

63. The first sentence of Policy CSM 2, bullet point 3, contains a repetition of '10 years' which could lead to confusion in terms of investment for individual silica sand sites. For clarity and effectiveness **MM18** deletes the erroneous text.

Policy CSM 5 Land won mineral safeguarding

64. Bullet point 7 of the Plan's Spatial Vision provides for the safeguarding of minerals resources. Policy CSM 5 sets out how the Plan will protect mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation. Paragraph 210 of the NPPF states that planning policies should safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs). A MCA is defined in the NPPF as a geographical area based on the MSA where the District or Borough Councils should consult the MPA for any proposal for non-minerals development. In Kent the MSAs and MCAs are identical having the same geographical boundaries and therefore the MSAs have a dual role of acting as both MSAs and MCAs. Moreover, national policy expects that MSAs should be included on the Policies Maps of the development plan maintained by the District and Borough Councils. This is intended to alert prospective promoters of development and the local planning authority, to the existence of mineral resources and shows where local mineral safeguarding policies may apply. Given this situation reference to MCAs are not necessary for effectiveness. **MM19, MM20** and **MM21** delete references to the MCA.

Policy CSM 11 prospecting for carboniferous limestone

65. The supporting text to Policy CSM 11 establishes that if prospecting is proposed in the Plan period, it will have to be undertaken sensitively with sufficient controls to avoid any impacts upon sensitive receptors, such as calcareous grassland. As such it is expected that any application may need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement and surveys. To provide clarity for any potential developers it is necessary for the supporting text to set out what survey is required. **MM28** provides additional text 'following prospecting' to ensure the Plan is effective in this respect.

Conclusion on Issue 2

66. The Plan, when considered with the recommended changes, provides an appropriate basis to secure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and industrial minerals and is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The Plan is therefore sound in this regard.

Issue 3 – Whether the Plan adequately balances the needs of competing development and provides appropriate direction for the sustainable transport of minerals.

67. Kent benefits from a range of mineral transportation facilities, including wharves and rail depots. Bullet point 7 of the Plan's Spatial Vision provides for the safeguarding of

this infrastructure, which also supports Policy CSM 1 sustainable development. The locations of the safeguarded wharves and rail depots are shown in Figure 13: Minerals Key Diagram and in Chapter 9: Adopted Policies Maps.

68. Minerals can only be worked where they are found, which limits the potential to spatially distribute sites, or the ability to 'develop' sites close to existing transport infrastructure. Nevertheless, Policy CSM 12 encourages an increase in sustainable transport modes for minerals so that where potential linkages can be made these can be supported by the Plan.
69. Policies CSM 6: Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots; Policy CSM 7: Safeguarding Other Mineral Plant Infrastructure; and Policy CSM 12: Sustainable Transport of Minerals, all seek to address the need to safeguard mineral transportation and production infrastructure, while being flexible to the needs of the industry. In particular Policy CSM 12 encourages an increase in sustainable transport modes for minerals. These policies are supported by specific development management policies such as DM 13 Transportation of Minerals and Waste.

Conclusion on Issue 3

70. The Plan provides an appropriate basis to adequately balance the needs of competing development and provides appropriate direction for the sustainable transport of minerals and is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The Plan is therefore sound in this regard.

Issue 4 - Whether the Plan sufficiently promotes the use of secondary and recycled aggregates and is effective.

71. Chapter 3 sets out the Spatial Vision and Objectives of the Plan. The spatial vision states that planning for minerals will facilitate the processing and use of secondary and recycled aggregates to become less reliant on land won construction aggregates. Objective 6 states that that the Plan will promote and encourage the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in place of primary land and marine won minerals.
72. To support the sustainable vision of the Plan the supporting text to Policy CSM 8 establishes that the use of minerals and the replacement of primary aggregates with secondary and recycled materials is becoming increasingly important as indigenous land-won primary supplies diminish and that the County Council is keen to see the quantities of secondary and recycled aggregates being produced within Kent increase. To facilitate this ambition, additional supporting text is necessary to demonstrate the link between construction waste as a source of recycled aggregate and that the targets for the recycling targets are within CSW4. **MM22** addresses these matters and is necessary for the Plan to be effective.

Conclusion on Issue 4

73. Subject to the identified modification, the Plan provides an appropriate basis to sufficiently promote the use of secondary and recycled aggregates and is effective.

Issue 5 - Whether the Plan makes adequate provision for other minerals of significance in Kent and is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Policy CSM 9: Building Stone in Kent

74. The Plan identifies that there are currently only two consented sites that produce building stone in the County, however only Hermitage Quarry has the ability to produce high-quality cut stone from the full sequence of ragstone beds in the Hythe Formation, and it continues to provide building stone for building conservation uses. Historically the ragstone was used for many public buildings such as Westminster Abbey and the Tower of London, as well as castles such as Leeds and Rochester. The building stone provides a distinctive character to both new and old buildings in the County. The ragstone, being a hard coarse grained limestone, is also used as a crushed rock and a significant amount of the reserve is used for this purpose.
75. The majority of the reserve at Hermitage Quarry is used for aggregate, but I note that the planning permission includes conditions regulating the supply of building stone from the quarry as part of the overall operations. This would ensure a continued supply of building stone for the repair of historic buildings. Moreover, the ragstone resource is extensive across the County and is protected by the MSA as identified on the Policies Map and Policy CSM 9 would support planning applications for building stone extraction subject to the policy criteria.
76. To support the spatial vision to deliver a sustainable, steady and adequate supply of land won minerals additional text is proposed to be added **MM23** to highlight the joint working of Hermitage Quarry and that the geological resource will be safeguarded.

Policy CSM 10: Oil, Gas and Unconventional Hydrocarbons

77. Policy CSM 10 of the Plan sets out the criteria against which to consider proposals associated with the exploration, appraisal and production of oil, gas and unconventional hydrocarbons. The Policy is generally consistent with paragraph 215(a) of the NPPF in distinguishing between the three phases of development (exploration, appraisal and production) and it considers the environmental and amenity impact of drilling operations. Nevertheless, for clarity the supporting text at paragraph 5.10.2 should be amended to delete the word 'unconventional' as the term hydrocarbons covers both conventional and unconventional. Additionally, paragraph 5.10.3 should refer to the role of the Government, EA and others with regard to the

necessity of appropriate licences. **MM24** and **MM25** address these matters and are necessary for the Plan to be effective.

78. Amended wording of Footnote 63 is also necessary to clarify that Protected Groundwater Source Areas are designated by the EA. This matter is addressed by **MM26** which is necessary for clarity and effectiveness.

Conclusion on Issue 5

79. Subject to the identified modifications, the Plan makes adequate provision for other minerals of significance in Kent and is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy

Issue 6 – Whether the Plan's overall approach and policies in relation to waste that needs to be managed in the Plan area over the Plan period are robust, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Overview

80. Kent currently achieves net self-sufficiency in waste management capacity for all waste streams. It should be noted that there is no expectation that WPAs should be net self-sufficient in capacity for the management of hazardous waste, due to the wide range of such wastes and the facilities generally needing to serve a 'larger than local' catchment to be viable.
81. Looking forward over the Plan period, the Plan sets out the ambition to facilitate the achievement of a more circular economy and to ensure that waste management is sustainable and takes place as high up the waste hierarchy as possible.
82. The Council has undertaken a number of Waste Needs Assessments to assess the future demand for waste management capacity for each waste stream. For clarity a new footnote will be added to identify the relevant waste needs assessment **MM29**, which is required for effectiveness. Policy CSW 4 sets out the targets for recycling, composting and landfill.
83. Whilst no specific allocations are made, the Plan recognises that treatment capacity for food arising both from the Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Commercial & Industrial (C&I) streams may be required as well as the upgrading and expansion of existing facilities. Facilities may also be required for development that supports more sustainable waste management, assists in moving the management of waste up the waste hierarchy and responds to the proximity principle requiring facilities to be located close to the source of waste generation. In this respect, the waste management policies provide a flexible approach to ensure that where local

needs for particular facilities are identified then such facilities would be permitted subject to consideration of the development management policies of the Plan.

84. As set out in the spatial vision, the Plan is working towards a low carbon economy and as part of this approach the Plan recognises that the current distribution of waste transfer facilities receiving household waste across the County results in excessive transport and therefore there is a need for the development of new waste transfer facilities where collected waste can be bulked up for onward management. Furthermore, over the Plan period it is possible that significant development elsewhere in Kent may require the provision of additional waste management facilities.
85. Apart from Policies CSW 1, CSW 7, CSW 10, CSW 11, CSW 12, CSW 13 and CSW 16 and the supporting text, which are sound without modification, the remaining Waste Management policies are considered below.

Policy CSW 2 Waste Hierarchy

86. In common with national policy, one of the central themes of the Plan is driving waste up the waste hierarchy. The supporting text to Policy CSW 2 explains that the Plan gives priority to planning for waste management developments that prepare waste for re-use or recycling. However, it is also important for proposals looking to manage residual waste to consider how this can be sustainably managed. To achieve this such proposals should be accompanied by a waste hierarchy statement. Consequently, a change is required to the supporting text of the policy to reflect this for effectiveness **[MM30]**.

Policy CSW 3 Waste Reduction

87. Waste reduction as set out in Policy CSW 3 embraces the requirements of a 'circular economy' and therefore minimising waste generation at every stage of a product's lifecycle. To ensure that the policy is effective the definition of 'major developments' should be set out within it. The footnote that sets out what is a major development should also be deleted. These matters are addressed in **MM31**. To aid clarity for developers the third paragraph should refer to 'all' new development as set out in **MM32** for effectiveness.

Policy CSW 4 Strategy for Waste Management Capacity Net Self-sufficiency and Waste Movement

88. The Planning Practice Guidance for Waste requires Waste Planning Authorities to monitor and report the amounts of each principal waste stream forecast to arise in their area to assess available capacity for the management of each of the streams, and then determine if any capacity gaps might exist. Any resulting shortfall may mean that the objectives/targets of the Plan would not be met.

89. The 'Capacity Requirement for the Management of Residual Non-Hazardous Waste in Kent 2022' [EB04] assessment confirms that the combined consented EfW capacity and remaining consented non-hazardous landfill capacity will be more than sufficient to meet the Plan requirements for the management of residual non-hazardous waste. Therefore, net self-sufficiency in residual waste management capacity can be achieved in Kent without the development of additional capacity. However, should additional capacity be required policies CSW 8 and CSW 9 provide for this.
90. The 'Construction, Demolition & Excavation Waste Management Requirements in Kent 2022' [EB05] assessment demonstrates that, apart from permanent deposit to land, no specific additional provision for the management of the C, D & E waste stream is required. The requirement for landfill provision for C, D and E waste has arisen due to the reduction in mineral extraction and therefore lack of void space. Policy CSW11 addresses this need by supporting operations involving the permanent deposit of inert waste, as well as the continuing use of such waste for the restoration of mineral sites. Accordingly, self-sufficiency can be achieved.
91. The capacity requirement for the management of residual non-hazardous waste including LACW and C&I waste is set out in EB06 and EB08. The calculation of the capacity requirements takes into account revised recycling / household growth rates which are based on government guidance and the actual rates achieved in 2020/21. The forecast results in the projection of these waste streams decreasing overall and therefore a reduction in capacity requirement over the Plan period. Nevertheless, the reduction in waste going to landfill and the achievement of the Plan's recycling targets will depend on the appropriate waste management facilities, particularly to manage food waste, being available and sustainability located. Whilst the Plan does not allocate sites for waste facilities, Policies CSW 6 - 8 establish the approach to be taken when assessing proposals, in particular the management of waste at sustainable locations.
92. The 'Non-Hazardous Waste Recycling/Composting Capacity Requirement in Kent 2022' [EB09] assessment demonstrates that the combined consented recycling/composting capacity in Kent would be sufficient to meet the proposed recycling/composting targets associated with the management of non-hazardous waste over the Plan period as set out in Policy CSW 4. As such, net self-sufficiency in recycling/composting capacity would be achieved and no additional capacity is required.
93. The Waste Needs Assessments (EB04 to EB09) confirm that Kent currently achieves net self-sufficiency in waste management capacity for all waste streams and is forecast to do so over the Plan period. Accordingly, the capacity of the waste management facilities (excluding transfer) in Kent is sufficient to manage the equivalent quantity of waste to that which is predicted to arise in Kent in the manner proposed by the Plan (as set out in the targets included in Policy CSW 4).

94. A number of modifications to Policy CSW 4 and its supporting text are required as set out in the following paragraphs. To ensure that the supporting text refers readers to the most up to date documents an additional footnote is also necessary at paragraph 6.3.6. For effectiveness **MM33** addresses this matter.
95. Footnote 72 provides the context of the Plan's relationship with the London Plan and the expectation that Kent may have to manage some non-hazardous waste arising in London. In this respect, the commissioning of the Kemsley K3 EfW plant in 2019 and recent grant of a Development Consent Order to increase its throughput by up to 107,000 tpa of non-hazardous residual waste makes more than ample provision for non-hazardous waste from London (Review of Waste Flows Between London and Kent [EB10]). Given the need for the Plan to be positively prepared and effective it is necessary to delete footnote 72 but transpose the text within a new paragraph in the supporting text. **MM34** addresses this issue.
96. Turning to Policy CSW 4, a number of MMs are required. Firstly, to ensure that the policy aligns with the vision and objectives of the Plan the first paragraph requires an additional sentence so that waste is also managed in proximity to where it is generated. Secondly, a footnote is required to clarify that proximity may vary according to the waste stream due to different locational catchments. Finally, a couple of typographical errors require amendment where the abbreviation for CEDW has been incorrect. **MM35**, **MM36** and **MM37** make these changes and are necessary for the Plan to be effective.

Policy CSW 6: Location of Built Waste Management Facilities

97. Policy CSW 6 provides a criteria-based approach for assessing the suitability of sites for waste management facilities. To ensure that sufficient policy opportunities are available in appropriate circumstances changes to Policy CSW 6 are required to add effective wording which better reflects national policy and ensures consistency with other policies within the Plan. **MM38** makes these changes.

Policy CSW 7: Waste Management for Non-hazardous Waste

98. The National Planning Policy for Waste, in requiring communities to take more responsibility for their own waste, is not restricted to any particular waste streams, but applies to waste in general. Also, within the Plan's vision and objectives, is the ambition to ensure sufficient capacity exists to maintain a County-wide network for the sustainable management of Kent's waste. Consequently, there should be clear policy direction for the provision of facilities to meet any identified waste management capacity gaps. Whilst not specifically identified, there may be gaps in waste management capacity during the lifetime of the Plan, therefore, it is appropriate for Policy CSW 7 to make it clear that the Plan aims to meet any gaps in non-hazardous waste capacity. Accordingly, no changes are required to the Plan in this respect.

Policy CSW 8: Other Recovery Facilities for Non-hazardous Waste

99. Policy CSW 8 provides a framework to help secure the recovery of waste by replacing other materials that would otherwise have been used without endangering human health and without harming the environment. This approach aligns with the Plan's vision to move waste up the hierarchy and achieve a circular economy. To aid the effectiveness of the policy, reference to the correct regulations is necessary, therefore footnote 81 should be amended as set out in **MM39**.

Policy CSW 9: Non Inert Waste Landfill in Kent

100. The key thrust of the Plan is to drive waste up the waste hierarchy and therefore avoid the need for landfill. Nevertheless, there may be circumstances where waste can only be disposed of via landfill and therefore it is important for the Plan to set out how this can be sustainably managed. For the policy to be effective, in terms of developers understanding that they need to address every criterion, an additional 'and' is required after bullet point 2. A number of typographical errors also require amendment within the policy and consequently both these matters are addressed within **MM40**.

Policy CSW 12: Hazardous Waste Management

101. The management of hazardous waste involves many distinct specialist management activities which are often only viable at a regional, or larger scale and therefore net self-sufficiency is not often sustainable. In this respect the 'Hazardous Waste Management Requirements in Kent 2022' [EB07 & EB07/1] states that Kent is a net exporter of hazardous waste. Furthermore, the profile of hazardous waste arisings has changed over the previous 4 years and Government guidance has had to adapt to respond to emerging waste. In recognition of this, the Plan policies need to be flexible to facilitate changes to the existing arrangements. It should also be acknowledged that landfill is at the bottom of the hierarchy and future hazardous waste arisings requiring management may be managed through methods other than landfill. To provide this flexibility Policy CSW 12 specifically addresses applications for built hazardous waste management facilities.
102. For the reasons set out above the Plan does not propose an extension to landfilling hazardous flue dust ash residues at Norwood Quarry. I acknowledge that the Norwood Quarry site plays a significant role in the sustainable management of hazardous waste in the region and that it could expand the waste types that it receives, subject to EA Permitting. Any future expansion of waste types received would reduce the existing void space at the site. Nevertheless, if alternative provision was required within Kent for hazardous waste disposal, Policy CSW 12 would provide the flexibility to assess any future applications. Moreover, even if the void space at Norwood Quarry was significantly reduced during the Plan period, the review of the Plan would be able to address such matters. Therefore Policy CSW 12 is sound as it is currently worded and no modifications are necessary.

Policy CSW 14: Disposal of Dredgings

103. The Thames Estuary, which, in navigation terms, connects the London conurbation to the North Sea, has a large tidal excursion, which requires maintenance dredging to maintain safe operational water depths for navigation. Such works are carried out under the direction of the Port of London Authority (PLA). The PLA has completed a review of its 'Vision for the Tidal Thames', which is built around three connecting themes. Given that the PLA has its own application process for dredging, reference to its vision document is justified for the Plan to be positively prepared. The appropriate text required for effectiveness is set out at **MM42**.
104. In terms of disposing of the dredged material, section 6.14.1 of the Plan states "*When the dredged materials do not consist of aggregates or cannot be accommodated within projects to enhance the biodiversity of the estuaries, then landfill is the only option currently available.*" However, to avoid landfill the EA permits, through a waste exemption, the deposit of dredging spoil on the banks of the water it was dredged from and to treat it by screening and removing water. To clarify this approach an additional footnote should be added to paragraph 6.14.1 for effectiveness as set out in **MM41**.

Policy CSW 15: Wastewater Development

105. The treatment of wastewater is at the forefront of tackling nutrient neutrality because the sources of excess nutrients, although very site specific, often include sewage treatment. As such, it is important that any proposed wastewater developments do not add to existing nutrient burdens within catchments, so there is no net increase in nutrients as a result of the plan or project. Changes are therefore required to the supporting text at paragraph 6.15.2 and to Policy CSW 15 to add wording and a footnote to ensure consistency with national policy and other policies within the Plan **[MM43]**.

Policy CSW 16: Safeguarding of Existing Waste Management Facilities

106. Policy CSW 16 seeks to safeguard existing waste facilities from the inappropriate siting of non-waste facilities, such as housing. This is completely justified, as sensitive uses could adversely affect the functioning of waste sites. As such Policy CSW 16 is sound as submitted.

Policy CSW 17: Waste Management at the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites

107. Kent has two nuclear power stations sites (Dungeness A and B) located on the Dungeness Peninsula and have both formally ceased power generation. As set out in the Plan and the Radioactive Waste Topic Paper [EB03], the decommissioning of Dungeness A is managed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Nuclear Restoration Services. Dungeness B is currently the responsibility of EDF

Energy but will transfer to NDA/Nuclear Restoration Services upon obtainment of fuel free verification and licence transfer.

108. The latest UK Radioactive Waste and Material Inventory (UKRWI) was published by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the NDA in 2023. The 2023 UKRWI lists the major sources of current and future radioactive waste arisings. Apart from Dungeness A and B power stations, there are no other major radioactive waste sources identified in Kent.
109. Current waste management routes for radioactive wastes from the Dungeness sites are varied and include some Low Level Waste (LLW) being sent off-site for incineration and some to metal recycling facilities. Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) is being, and will continue to be, produced during the decommissioning of Dungeness A and B stations. There is no High Level Waste (HLW) at Dungeness A or B.
110. The UK has a rigorous and robust framework for regulating radioactive waste. The Government has recently published the UK Policy Framework for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning (May 2024). The purpose of this framework is to provide a coherent UK-wide policy framework for managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning. Solid radioactive waste needs to be disposed of in specialised facilities, except when the waste has a very low level of radioactivity. In setting limits and conditions for disposal of solid radioactive wastes, the guidance contained in 'Near-surface Disposal Facilities on Land for Solid Radioactive Wastes' (2009) should be considered.
111. To ensure that the Plan is positively prepared and consistent with national policy reference should be made to both these documents within the supporting text and/or in the footnote to Policy CSW 17. **MM44** and **MM45** include the reference to these documents.

Conclusion on Issue 6

112. I am satisfied that the Plan, when considered with the MMs set out above, provides appropriate provision for the future management of waste in Kent and is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in this respect.

Issue 7 – Whether the Development Management Policies are justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Overview

113. The Plan contains a number of development management policies that collectively seek to control the impacts from future mineral and waste development. These include criteria-based policies that consider, amongst other things, the impacts of

development on the environment; Green Belt; transport infrastructure; health and amenity considerations; restoration and aftercare; the historic environment; water resources; highways and public rights of way; and landscape matters.

114. Apart from Policies DM 6, DM 8, DM 9, DM 11, DM 12, DM 15, DM 18 and DM 21 and the supporting text, which are sound without modification, the remaining development management policies are considered below.

Policy DM 1: Sustainable Design

115. National guidance expects that plans should, at the most appropriate level, set out a clear design vision and expectations, so that applicants have as much certainty as possible about what is likely to be acceptable. Policy DM 1 sets out the overarching framework for sustainable design of mineral and waste developments to minimise impacts on the environment and communities.
116. To ensure clarity and the effectiveness of the supporting text a date reference should be added to the document cited in paragraph 7.1.4 as set out in **MM46**.

Policy DM 2: Environmental and Landscape Sites of International, National and Local Importance

117. This policy relates to the consideration of development proposals that may affect landscape sites of 'International', 'National' and 'local' importance, to ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on these important assets. The policy also sets out the circumstances where impacts upon them would be acceptable.
118. The NPPF, at paragraph 180, sets out a number of principles to be applied when determining planning applications which impact on habitats and biodiversity. As currently worded, the policy is inconsistent with the NPPF. Therefore, in order for it to be consistent with the NPPF the terminology of Policy DM 2 requires amending to effectively consider environmental and landscape sites of international, national and local importance. Furthermore, footnotes 101 and 103 require deletion because these are now either embodied within Policy DM 2 or are now inconsistent with national policy. Footnote 102 should be amended to reflect the correct legislation to be effective. **MM48**, **MM49**, **MM50** and **MM51** are therefore necessary to ensure that the Plan is effective and consistent with national policy.
119. The use of the phrase 'buffer zone' can have a variety of meanings. For clarification a footnote to paragraph 7.2.4 should be added to address this in order for the Plan to be effective [**MM47**].

Policy DM 3: Ecological Impact Assessment

120. This policy requires developers to use an adequate level of ecological assessment, with an approach to this set out in bullet points 1 – 4. The policy also sets out the requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). A proportion of the policy repeats what is set out in Policy DM 2 and is not necessary and should be deleted. Similarly to my comments made in respect of DM 2 above, amendments are necessary to Policy DM 3 and footnote 104 to ensure consistency with national policy. I have considered whether the policy should specify 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) or a higher percentage. Nevertheless, the evidence base for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity does not support a figure greater than that set out in national policy, particularly where the policy stipulates that the 10% is an 'at least' figure and it may be that the restoration of mineral sites can achieve far greater ecological enhancements.
121. Together, these changes, set out in **MM52** and **MM53** which also include some corrections to typographical errors, are necessary for the policy to be effective and consistent with national policy.

Policy DM 4: Green Belt

122. The NPPF establishes that mineral development in the Green Belt is a use that is considered to be 'not inappropriate' provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. In this respect the western area of Kent is located within the Green Belt around London, which is designated to prevent urban sprawl. Policy DM 4, as drafted, states that mineral and waste developments in the Green Belt will be considered in light of their potential impacts. However, the policy is unclear in relation to what the potential impacts are and therefore how the policy will be applied. **MM54** amends the policy so that it relates directly to national policy. These changes are necessary in the interests of clarity, consistency and effectiveness.

Policy DM 5: Heritage Assets and Policy DM 6: Historic Environment Assessment

123. Policies DM 5 and DM 6 relate to the built and historic environment. **MM55** provides additional text to footnote 107 to clarify the current number of designated heritage coastlines. This MM is necessary for effectiveness.

Policy DM 7: Safeguarding Mineral Resources

124. Policy DM 7 sets out the circumstances when non-minerals development may be acceptable at a location within a MSA. Footnote 110 provides a definition of what mineral safeguarding means, however this footnote is not necessary and provides information that should be within the Plan itself. Indeed, the detail of mineral safeguarding is established in the supporting text to this policy and within section 5.5. **MM56** deletes footnote 110 and is required to enable the Plan to be effective.

125. Policy DM 7 says that *“Further guidance on the application of this policy is included in a Supplementary Planning Document”*. For effectiveness the policy should cite the relevant SPD and the date it was adopted. **MM57** provides this additional text and is necessary in order for the Plan to be effective.

Policy DM 10: Water Environment

126. Policy DM 10 and its supporting text relates to water quality, impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and flood risk. The supporting text to Policy DM 10 at paragraph 7.8.2 should be amended to include that flood risk can be safely managed elsewhere to be consistent with national policy **[MM58]**. To be effective, the second sentence of Paragraph 7.8.4, which directs applicant to provide a hydrological / hydrogeological assessment(s) should be deleted and transposed within Policy DM 10 **[MM59 and MM60]**. These changes are necessary for clarity and for the policy to be effective and consistent with national policy.

Policy DM 13: Transportation of Minerals and Waste

127. The policy sets out comprehensive requirements to ensure that the transportation of minerals and waste contributes to sustainable development. However, the policy has two omissions which undermine its effectiveness. As such, changes are required to ensure that the policy identifies that emissions associated with road transport should include carbon **[MM61]**; and that the word ‘safely’ is added to bullet point 2 to ensure that the policy is consistent with bullet point 1 of the policy **[MM62]**. These changes are necessary for effectiveness.

Policy DM 14: Public Rights of Way

128. This policy provides a criteria-based approach to the consideration of the impact of minerals and waste proposals on the Public Rights of Way network. **MM63** provides additional text to clarify that a ‘legal event’ is necessary for a change to the Public Rights of Way network and that any access improvements should be made in accordance with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018 -28. These changes are necessary for effectiveness.

Policy DM 16: Information Required in Support of an Application

129. The supporting text to Policy DM 16 refers developers to the type of information that may be required to support applications for planning permission and identifies particular developments that may require additional surveys or assessments. Given the wide range of information that may be required to support an application the policy as currently worded is somewhat vague and ineffective. **MM64** moves the text currently provided in footnote 19 to the policy so that developers can reference the most up to date validation guidance available on the Council’s website. This is necessary for effectiveness and clarity.

Policy DM 17: Planning Obligations

130. The NPPF establishes, at paragraph 55, that local planning authorities should consider whether otherwise unacceptable development could be made acceptable through the use of conditions or planning obligations. Policy DM 17 sets out where the Council consider it would be appropriate to seek a planning obligation. In particular, bullet point 18 refers to large waste developments, with clarity for what equates to a 'large waste development' set out in footnote 120. However, for effectiveness the footnote information should be added to the policy itself. **MM65 and MM67** provide this additional policy text and delete footnote 120.

Policy DM 19: Restoration, Aftercare and After-use

131. This policy sets out the Council's approach to the consideration of restoration, aftercare and after-use of waste and mineral developments. However, the final paragraph of the policy fails to fully reflect the consideration of schemes that are concerned with BNG, insofar as the aftercare scheme should be for at least 30 years, as set out in the Environment Act 2021. Policy DM 19 should be amended to reflect this. **MM69** is therefore necessary to ensure that the Plan is effective and consistent with national policy.

Policy DM 20: Ancillary Development

132. **MM70** provides additional text to footnote 123 to correctly cite the reference to Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This MM is necessary for effectiveness.

Policy DM 22: Enforcement

133. Planning breaches can cause significant environmental and amenity issues. To fully meet such challenges the Council has an Enforcement Protocol in place, however, some enforcement actions require a multi-disciplinary approach, particularly with the EA. **MM71** provides additional text to paragraph 7.20.1 to clarify that the Council will work with other stakeholders, which is required for effectiveness and positive planning.

Conclusions

134. Subject to the identified MMs, the minerals and waste development management policies and their supporting text are justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

Issue 8 – Is the strategy for the delivery, implementation and monitoring of the Plan appropriate and robust?

Overview

135. Section 8 of the Plan sets out the managing and monitoring of the delivery of the Plan. A monitoring schedule is included that sets out the key indicators to monitor the effectiveness of each policy cross referenced with the strategic objectives.
136. The monitoring of each indicator will be carried out as part of the production of the Kent AMR. Policies may be subject to review if annual monitoring indicates that significant, adverse trends are likely to continue. The AMR includes the Kent LAA which sets out demand and supply indicators which are agreed by the SEEAWP. These can show whether a review of minerals policies is necessary.
137. The waste data to be collected will help to demonstrate whether the waste policies are effective. Data on LACW is readily available and reported to central Government on an annual basis. Data on C&I waste arisings is less readily available. Nevertheless, the following local output indicators will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan's policies regarding C&I and hazardous waste management: C&I waste generated in Kent that is landfilled within Kent and outside Kent; and hazardous waste arising in Kent that is managed within Kent and outside Kent.
138. The monitoring trigger for Policy CSW 8 is set out in the Monitoring Schedule as *"Within 10% of the target maximum for the household waste landfill diversion target at or beyond the dates stated in Policy CSW4"*. However, for clarity the term 'household waste' should be amended to 'Local Authority Collected Waste' to accurately reflect the definition provided in the Kent Waste Needs Assessment. This would result in a continuity of data collection over the Plan period. **MM72** is necessary to ensure that the Plan's Monitoring Schedule is clear and effective.
139. I consider that the Monitoring Schedule provides an appropriate framework for the production of the Kent AMR. The AMR provides a suitable regular assessment of how effective the policies are proving to be in meeting their objectives, thereby facilitating the identification of any changes needed including the need for any early review of the Plan.

Other Matters

140. Section 9 of the Plan sets out the 'Adopted policies maps', including the: Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Transportation Adopted Policies Maps; and the Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). As set out above MMs are recommended to delete reference to MCAs. Therefore, to ensure effectiveness and consistency reference to MCAs should also be deleted from paragraph 9.2.1, as set out in **MM73**.

141. The 'Glossary' to the Plan provides definitions of the terms used within it. MMs are proposed to update the glossary to reflect national policy and guidance. This includes **MM74** and **MM75**, which update '*Agent of Change Principle*' and '*Ancient Woodland*' for both clarity and effectiveness.

Overall Conclusion and Recommendation

142. The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan has a number of deficiencies in respect of soundness for the reasons set out above. Accordingly, in terms of Section 20(7A) of the 2004 Act, I recommend non-adoption of it as submitted.
143. The Council has requested that I recommend MMs to make the Plan sound and capable of adoption. I conclude that the Duty to Cooperate has been met and that with the recommended Main Modifications set out in the Appendix to this Report, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Act and is sound.

J Burston

Inspector

This report is accompanied by an Appendix containing the Main Modifications.

Appendix 1

Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39 - Schedule of Main Modifications

The modifications below are expressed in the conventional form of ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions and **bold underlining** for additions of text.

Ref Number	Page Number	Policy/ Paragraph	Main Modification
MM1	12	Paragraph 1.2.3	Amend second sentence of paragraph 1.2.3 as follows: 'The Plan is also relevant to the determination of non-minerals and waste applications which may be determined by the District and Borough Councils, <u>Ebbfleet Development Corporation</u> , and the County Council (in terms of other County matters such as schools).'
MM2	13	Footnote 2 Paragraph 1.2.5	Amend footnote 2 as follows: 'The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act (2011), Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 <u>and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</u> .'

MM3	15	Paragraph 1.3	<p>Create a new paragraph 1.3.10 as follows:</p> <p><u>'The policy of the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the Strategic Road Networks is Circular 01/2022: Strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development. Particularly paragraph 4 of the Circular which states "...The principal purpose of the SRN is to enable safe, reliable, predictable, efficient, often long distance, journeys of both people (whether as drivers or passengers) and goods..." and paragraph 28 which outlines "...The policies and allocations that result from plan-making must not compromise the SRN's prime function to enable the long-distance movement of people and goods...".'</u></p>
MM4	16	Paragraphs 1.3.15 and 1.3.16	<p>Amend paragraphs 1.3.15 and 1.3.16 as follows:</p> <p><u>'1.3.15 A refreshed The latest Kent JMWMS (2018/19 to 2020/21) was agreed by the KRP in 2018 which sets out new objectives and policies being implemented across Kent. These included a recycling rate of 50% and a landfill target of no more than 2% by 2020/21 and a year on year reduction in residual waste per household. Up to date performance against these targets can be found in the AMR. The Kent JMWMS is due to be updated.</u></p> <p>1.3.16 The County Council as Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) is conducting a five-year review of its Waste Disposal Strategy <u>(2017-35)</u> originally adopted in July 2017.....'</p>
MM5	19	Paragraph 1.5.1	<p>Amend the second sentence of paragraph 1.5.1 as follows:</p> <p><u>'In respect of pollution, i</u>n arriving at its decision, the County Council and its partner planning authorities will:'</p>

MM6	21	Paragraph 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 Footnote 25 Footnote 26	<p>Amend paragraph 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 as follows:</p> <p>'2.1.4 Kent is a member of The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP). This encompasses East Sussex, Essex, Kent, Medway, Southend and Thurrock. LEPs are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses which were formed in 2011 by the former Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local areas. LEPs are responsible for some of the functions previously carried out by the regional development agencies which were abolished in March 2012. There were 38 LEPs in operation in October 2021.</p> <p>2.1.5 Figure 3 shows the extent of the SE LEP and the Thames Gateway area. The SE LEP area has 156,000 businesses and 3.9 million people. 1,526,000 people work within the LEP area, contributing £63bn Gross Value Added (GVA)²⁵. This represents 5% of the national contribution²⁶. The SE LEP's aim is to ensure the survival and stability of our economy in the short term and to drive sustainable economic renewal and growth in the medium to long term. The SE LEP has identified four strategic priorities which reflect the unique geography, assets and opportunities: 1. business resilience and growth 2. UK's global gateway 3. communities for the future 4. coastal catalyst.'</p> <p>Footnote 25 – GVA is explained in the Glossary in Appendix A. Footnote 26 – South East Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan</p> <p><u>'2.1.4 Kent is part of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) which is responsible for producing the economic framework for the county. It brings together councils, businesses, educators, the health sector, and community groups to drive forward economic growth. It has produced the Kent and Medway Economic Framework which sets out 5 key ambitions and 21 action areas to</u></p>
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			<p><u>develop the economy to be more productive, sustainable and inclusive. The 5 ambitions are, to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>enable innovative, creative, and productive businesses</u> • <u>widen opportunities and unlock talent</u> • <u>secure resilient infrastructure for planned, sustainable growth</u> • <u>place economic opportunity at the centre of community wellbeing and prosperity</u> • <u>create diverse, distinctive and vibrant places.'</u>
MM7	23	Figure 3	Amend Figure 3 to remove reference to SELEP and replace with KMEP.
MM8	24	Paragraph 2.2.1	<p>Amend the first bullet point under 'National Importance' as follows:</p> <p>'almost a third of Kent is protected by two <u>National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB))</u>: the Kent Downs AONB and High Weald AONB'</p>
MM9	56	Strategic Objective 5	<p>Amend bullet 5 as follows:</p> <p>Seek to ensure the delivery of adequate and steady supplies of sand and gravel, chalk, brickearth, clay, building sand, silica sand, crushed rock, building stone and minerals for cement during the plan period, through identifying sufficient sites <u>by maintaining a stock of permitted reserves</u> and safeguarding mineral bearing land for future generations.</p>
MM10	56	Strategic Objective 9	<p>Amend the second sentence of strategic objective 9 as follows:</p> <p>'Where possible, after-uses should conserve and improve local landscape character, and provide opportunities for improvements in biodiversity which meet and, where relevant, exceed targets outlined in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045, the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, <u>National Landscape (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB))</u> Management Plans and Local</p>

			Nature Recovery Strategies to help maximise overall net-gain in biodiversity on restoration.'
MM11	57	Strategic Objective 15	<p>Amend strategic objective 15 as follows:</p> <p>'15 Restore waste management sites at the earliest opportunity to the highest possible standard to sustainable after-uses that benefit the Kent community economically, socially or and environmentally. Where possible, after-uses should conserve and improve local landscape character and provide opportunities for biodiversity to meet and where relevant, exceed targets outlined in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045, the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, Greater Thames Nature Improvement Area, <u>National Landscape (formerly known as</u> Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Management Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies to maximise overall net-gain in biodiversity on restoration.'</p>
MM12	61	Paragraph 5.2.10	<p>Amend the first sentence of paragraph 5.2.10 as follows:</p> <p>'The NPPF[43] requires Minerals Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates through preparing an annual Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) from which future planned provision should be derived based on a rolling average of 10-years aggregates sales data⁴⁴ and an assessment of all supply options (including marine dredged, secondary and recycled sources), and other relevant local information <u>including the 3 year sales average.</u>'</p>
MM13	62	New paragraph 5.2.17	<p>Add a new paragraph 5.2.17 to Land won Aggregate Supply Considerations section after paragraph 5.2.16 as follows:</p> <p><u>'A policy covering situations where non-identified land won mineral sites could be acceptable is included as Policy CSM 4. In considering proposals that create</u></p>

			<u>building stone from aggregate development, Policy CSM 9 shall also be considered.'</u>
MM14	63	Footnote 46 Paragraph 5.2.20	Amend footnote 46 as follows: ' KCC (January 2015) The 2nd <u>See the</u> latest Local Aggregate Assessment for Kent; Table 3.'
MM15	63	Footnote 47 Paragraph 5.2.20	Amend footnote 47 as follows: 'This currently occurs at two <u>one</u> sites (Hermitage Quarry - rock and hassock & East Peckham – imported rock and extracted sandstone gravels).'
MM16	65	Paragraph 5.2.24	Add to the end of paragraph 5.2.24: ...justify any allocation of additional sites: <u>in an updated Mineral Sites Plan. Any allocation would need to be acceptable in planning terms and subject to detailed examination.</u>
MM17	65	Paragraph 5.2.30	Delete the last sentence of paragraph 5.2.30 as follows: ' A policy covering situations where non-identified land won mineral sites could be acceptable is included as Policy CSM 4.'
MM18	69	Policy CSM 2	Amend the first sentence point 3 of Policy CSM 2 as follows: 'In response to planning applications, the Mineral Planning Authority will seek to permit sites for silica sand production sufficient to provide a stock of permitted reserves of at least 10 years for individual sites of 10 years and 15 years for sites where significant new capital is required, to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment.'

MM19	72	Paragraph 5.5.3	Amend paragraph 5.5.3 as follows: 'Land-won mineral safeguarding is carried out through the designation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) and Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs). Further explanation is provided below.'
MM20	73	Paragraph 5.5.7	Delete this paragraph. 5.5.7 The MCA designation is intended to ensure that consultation takes place between county and district/borough planning authorities when mineral interests might be compromised by non-minerals development, especially in close proximity to a known mineral resource. The designation of MCAs is not obligatory, but consultation on development within an MCA is. The MCAs within Kent cover the same areas as the MSAs.
MM21	74	Policy CSM 5	Delete bullet point two: Mineral Consultation Areas which cover the same area as the Minerals Safeguarding Areas.

MM22	77	<p>Section 5.8</p> <p>Paragraphs 5.8.1 and 5.8.2</p>	<p>Amend paragraphs 5.8.1 and 5.8.2 as follows:</p> <p><u>'5.8.1 The use of secondary and recycled aggregates is generally more sustainable than extracting primary land-won aggregates. It is for this reason that national policy expects MPAs to, so far as practicable, take account of the contribution that secondary and recycled materials would make, before considering extraction of primary materials. As considered in Section 5.2, the replacement of primary aggregates with secondary and recycled supplies materials is becoming increasingly important as indigenous land-won primary supplies diminish. The County Council is therefore keen to see the quantities of secondary and recycled aggregates being produced within Kent increase. <u>Inert Construction, Demolition and Excavation waste (CDEW) is the main source of recycled aggregate and Policy CSW4 includes ambitious targets for the recycling of such waste. In addition, Policy CSW 3 expects CDEW arising from all types of new development to be recycled, as well as the use of recycled materials in construction.</u></u></p> <p>5.8.2 In 2016 the consented secondary and recycled aggregates processing capacity within Kent exceeded 2.7Mtpa, 0.63 Mtpa of which was identified as temporary capacity. Inert Construction, Demolition and Excavation (CDE) waste is the main source of recycled aggregate and a <u>Arisings of CDEW</u> this waste in Kent were estimated to be 2.6 Mtpa which indicates that some capacity may be utilised for imported materials. In addition, arisings of materials suitable for conversion into secondary aggregates such as furnace bottom ash will increase if more Energy from Waste capacity is developed during the plan period in line with Policy CSW 8: Recovery Facilities for Non-hazardous Waste.'</p>
MM23	78	<p>Paragraph 5.9.1</p>	<p>Add the following sentence to the end of paragraph 5.9.1:</p> <p><u>'This was recognised, for example, in the permission for extraction of Kentish Ragstone (Hythe Formation) at Hermitage Quarry in 2013 where the Secretary of State imposed two conditions regulating the supply of building stone from the</u></p>

			<u>quarry as part of the overall operations. Furthermore, this geological resource will be safeguarded as set out in Policy CSM 5.'</u>
MM24	79	Paragraph 5.10.2	Amend paragraph 5.10.2 as follows: 'Where possible reserves have been identified there is a need to establish, through exploratory drilling, whether or not there are sufficient recoverable quantities of unconventional hydrocarbons present to facilitate economically viable full scale production. There are three phases of onshore hydrocarbon extraction: exploration, testing (appraisal) and production.'
MM25	79	Paragraph 5.10.3	Amend paragraph 5.10.3 as follows: 'In the case of appraisal wells, decisions will not take account of hypothetical future activities, since the further appraisal and production phases will be the subject of separate planning applications, <u>licences</u> and assessments.....'
MM26	83	Footnote 63	Change footnote as follows: 'Advice will be sought from <u>As designated by</u> the Environment Agency.'
MM27	82	Paragraph 5.10.14	Amend the second to last sentence of paragraph 5.10.14 as follows: 'Section 3 of these Regulations define "other protected areas" in the following manner, as areas of land at a depth of less than 1,200 metres beneath a National Park, the Broads, <u>National Landscapes (formerly known as</u> Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or a World Heritage site.
MM28	84	Paragraph 5.11.2	Amend paragraph 5.11.2 as follows: 'As any application may need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement, details of the results of the survey <u>following prospecting</u> , and implications of such a development for the environment would need to be included in this Statement.'

MM29	87	Paragraph 6.2.4	<p>Insert a new footnote into paragraph 6.2.4 as follows:</p> <p>6.2.4 In accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, the Plan gives priority to planning for waste management developments that prepare waste for re-use or recycling. The most recent assessment of waste management capacity requirements <u>(new footnote)</u> shows that, 68 HM Government (2020), The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 69 Environment Act 2021 70 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023), Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 88 overall, Kent's current recycling and processing facilities have adequate capacity for the anticipated rate of usage.</p> <p><u>'BPP Consulting Waste Needs Assessment November 2022'</u></p>
MM30	88	Paragraph 6.2.6	<p>Add the following sentence to the end of paragraph 6.2.6:</p> <p><u>'Proposals for the management of residual waste by landfill or 'other recovery' will need to be accompanied by a waste hierarchy statement.'</u></p>
MM31	89	Policy CSW 3	<p>Delete footnote 71:</p> <p>⁷⁴Development requiring a Circular Economy Statement will have a total floor space of greater than 1000 square metres and/or comprise greater than 10no. units of housing and/or where the site is 1 hectare or more</p> <p>Amend second paragraph of Policy CSW 3 as follows:</p> <p>For major developments⁷⁴ the above should be demonstrated via the submission of a Circular Economy Statement. <u>For development which has a total floor space of greater than 1000 square metres and / or comprises greater than 10no. units of housing and / or where the site is 1 hectare or more, the above principles (1 to 4) should be demonstrated via the submission of a Circular Economy Statement.</u></p>

MM32	90	Policy CSW 3	<p>Amend Policy CSW 3 as follows:</p> <p><u>'All new development should include detailed consideration of waste arising from the occupation of the development including consideration of how waste will be stored, collected and managed.'</u></p>
MM33	90	Paragraph 6.3.6	<p>Add a new footnote after the last sentence of paragraph 6.3.6 as follows:</p> <p><u>'For further details please see the Waste Needs Assessments November 2022.'</u></p>
MM34	91	Paragraph 6.3.6 and footnote 72	<p>Delete footnote 72: The London Plan 2021 expects net self sufficiency in the management of waste to be achieved by 2026. Actual progress towards meeting this target will be considered.</p> <p>Add new paragraph 6.3.7 before Policy CSW 4:</p> <p><u>'6.3.7 The London Plan 2021 expects net self-sufficiency in the management of waste to be achieved by 2026. Due to its proximity and constraints within London, it is reasonable to assume that some non-hazardous residual waste arising in London may be transported to Kent for management.'</u></p>
MM35	91	Policy CSW 4	<p>Amend the last sentence of the first paragraph of Policy CSW 4 as follows:</p> <p>'As a minimum it is to achieve the targets set out below for recycling and composting (minima) and landfill limits (maxima) with the difference managed by other forms of recovery <u>and with the management of waste proximate to where it is generated.</u>'</p> <p>Insert a new footnote after 'generated' as follows:</p> <p><u>'It is recognised that different waste streams may have different catchments.'</u></p>
MM36	92	Policy CSW 4	<p>Add a new footnote to define CDEW as follows:</p> <p><u>'Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste.'</u></p>

MM37	93	Policy CSW 4	<p>Amend the last paragraph of Policy CSW 4 as follows:</p> <p>'It is assumed that 20% of the CDE<u>W</u> waste stream comprises non-inert materials The subsequent targets are proportions of the inert or non-inert elements of the CDE<u>W</u> waste stream.'</p>
MM38	95	Policy CSW 6	<p>Amend points a, b and c of Policy CSW 6 as follows:</p> <p>'Planning permission will be granted for proposals that:</p> <p>a. Do not give rise to unacceptable significant adverse impacts upon national and international designated sites, including National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites, and heritage assets. (See Figures 4, 5 & 6).</p> <p>b. do not give rise to unacceptable significant adverse impacts upon Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Ancient Woodland, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and groundwater resources. (See Figures 7, 8, 10 & 15)</p> <p>c. are well located in relation to the Strategic Road Network Kent's Key Arterial Routes, and/or railheads and wharves avoiding proposals which would give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on strategic and local roads and/or villages.'</p>
MM39	99	Footnote 81	<p>Amend footnote 81 as follows:</p> <p>Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives. As defined in the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 or any subsequent amendment.</p>

MM40	100	Policy CSW 9	<p>Amend Policy CSW 9 as follows:</p> <p>'Non-Inert Waste Landfill in Kent Planning permission will only be granted for non-inert waste landfill if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. it can be demonstrated, in a Waste Hierarchy Statement, that the waste stream that needs to be landfilled cannot be managed in accordance with the objectives of Policy CSW 2 and no alternative suitable capacity for its management exists; and 2. environmental or other benefits will result from the development; and 3. the site and any associated land are to be restored to a high quality standard and an appropriate after-use that accords with the local landscape character as required by Policy DM 19; and 4. at least 85% of any landfill gas produced will be captured and utilised using best practice techniques.'
MM41	104	Paragraph 6.14.1	<p>Insert new footnote at the end of the second sentence of paragraph 6.14.1 as follows:</p> <p><u>'Please note that dredging spoils consisting of soil and plant matter can be deposited and used under the conditions of the D1, U1, U10 and U11 waste exemptions. Please see guidance: D1 waste exemption: depositing waste from dredging inland waters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), U1 waste exemption: use of waste in construction - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), U10 waste exemption: spreading waste to benefit agricultural land -creating a better place for people and wildlife GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), U11 waste exemption: spreading waste on non-agricultural land - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).'</u></p>
MM42	104	Paragraph 6.14.1	<p>Amend paragraph 6.14.1 as follows:</p> <p>'Retaining the navigable channels within the estuaries within Kent is the statutory duty of the Port of London Authority (PLA) and the Medway Ports Authority. When the dredged materials do not consist of aggregates or cannot be accommodated within projects to enhance the biodiversity of the estuaries, then landfill is the only option currently available. The PLA completed a review of is reviewing its 'Vision for the Tidal Thames (The Thames Vision)' in 2024<u>2 which sets out future priorities for the Tidal Thames around three themes 'Trading', 'Destination' and 'Natural'</u></p>

			<p><u>Thames</u>. Any sites that would require planning permission for the disposal of dredged materials to land will be considered against the policies of the Plan as a whole. Specifically, Policy CSW 14 should ensure that such waste development would be the most sustainable option for the management of this material and that it affords increased opportunities for enhanced biodiversity in the Kent estuaries.'</p>
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			<u>2009 and 'UK Policy Framework for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear De-Commissioning', May 2024.'</u>
MM45	109	Paragraph 6.18.7	Amend paragraph 6.18.7 as follows: 'The Government <u>has published UK Policy Framework for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear De-Commissioning (May 2024) and</u> is currently preparing Planning Guidance for on-site disposal of suitable 'low level' and 'very low level' radioactive waste on nuclear and decommissioned sites'.
MM46	114	Paragraph 7.1.4	Amend the last sentence of paragraph 7.1.4 as follows: 'Planning applications should therefore include details of how soil disturbance is to be minimised. Best practice examples are set out in the Defra publication 'Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites' <u>2009.</u> '
MM47	116	Paragraph 7.2.4	Add a new footnote after 'buffers' in the last sentence of paragraph 7.2.4 as follows: <u>'A buffer is a piece of land that separates or manages incompatible land uses.'</u>

MM48	117	Policy DM 2	<p>Amend Policy DM 2 as follows:</p> <p>'Policy DM 2 Environmental and Landscape Sites of International, National and Local Importance</p> <p>Proposals for minerals and/or waste development will be required to ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on <u>they are not likely to cause significant harm to</u> the integrity, character, appearance and function, biodiversity and geodiversity interests of sites of international, national and local importance, such that these proposals accord with the avoid, mitigate, compensate hierarchy. <u>Proposals in coastal locations that are considered likely to cause significant harm to Marine Conservation Zones should also accord with the avoid, mitigate and compensate hierarchy.</u></p> <p>1. International Sites Minerals and/or waste proposals <u>(for planning permission, or allocation within the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan), located within or that are considered to have a 'likely significant effect' to have any unacceptable adverse impact (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)</u> on international designated sites, including Ramsar <u>sites</u>, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation ('National Site Network' as defined by the Changes to the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and 'Habitat Sites' as defined by the NPPF), will need to be evaluated <u>as part of an 'appropriate assessment'</u> in combination with other projects and plans and be in accordance with established management objectives for the national sites network ('network objectives'). <u>Where an 'adverse effect on integrity' of an international designated site cannot be ruled out as a result of a proposal</u> Before any such proposal will be granted planning permission or identified in the Minerals and Waste Sites Plan, it will need to be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> there are no alternatives; there is a robust case established as to why there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest; and
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			<p>c. there is sufficient provision for adequate timely compensation <u>before permission can be granted, or the allocation can be included within the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan.</u></p> <p>2. National Sites Designated National Landscapes have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. <u>When exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land, in a National Landscape, relevant authorities must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape.</u> Regard must be had to the purpose of the designation when exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land, in an AONB. For the purposes of this policy, such functions include the determination of planning applications and the allocation of sites in a development plan.</p> <p>Planning permission for major minerals and waste development in a designated National Landscape will be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in the public interest. In relation to other minerals or waste proposals in a National Landscape, great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing its landscape and scenic beauty. Proposals within the setting of a National Landscape should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.</p> <p>Consideration of such applications will assess;</p> <p>a. the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations and the impact of granting, or refusing, the proposal upon the local economy;</p> <p>b. the cost of, and scope for developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need in some other way; and</p> <p>c. any detrimental impact on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which the impact could be moderated taking account of the relevant AONB Management Plan.</p>
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			<p>Sites put forward for allocation for minerals or waste development in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan or any Waste Sites Plan will be considered having regard to the above tests. Those that the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority considers unlikely to meet the relevant test(s) will not be allocated.</p> <p>Proposals for minerals and/or waste developments within or outside of designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserves, that are considered likely to have any unacceptable adverse impact on a Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserve, will not be granted planning permission or identified in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that <u>impacts cannot be avoided in the first instance (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), or adequately mitigated, unless</u> there is an overriding need for the development and any impacts can be mitigated or compensated for, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the benefits of the development <u>in the location proposed clearly</u> outweigh any impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest; and b. the benefits of the development outweigh any impacts that it is likely to have on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest. <p>Minerals and/or waste proposals located within or considered likely to <u>cause loss or deterioration of</u> have any unacceptable adverse impact on irreplaceable habitat such as Ancient Woodland and ancient or veteran trees will not be granted planning permission or identified in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan unless the need for, and the benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh any loss, justified by wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy is in place.</p> <p>3. Local Sites</p> <p>Minerals and/or waste proposals within, or likely to have an unacceptable adverse impact on, the Local Sites listed below will not be granted planning permission, or identified in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan, unless it can be</p>
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			<p>demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the development and any impacts can be mitigated or compensated for, such that there is a net planning benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Local Wildlife Sites; b. Local Nature Reserves; c. Priority Habitats and Species; d. land that is of regional or local importance as a wildlife corridor or for the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity; e. <u>habitats and species identified in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045</u> ef. Local Geological Sites; fg. irreplaceable habitat including aged and veteran trees; gh. Country Parks, common land and village greens and other important areas of open space or green areas within built-up areas. h. Marine Conservation Zones'
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MM49	117	Footnote 101	<p>Delete footnote 101:</p> <p>⁴⁰¹ NPPF defines 'habitat sites' as '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'</p>
MM50	117	Footnote 102	<p>Amend footnote 102 as follows:</p> <p>Changes to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017— https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitatsregulations-2017. <u>As defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).</u></p>
MM51	117	Footnote 103	<p>Delete footnote 103.</p> <p>⁴⁰³ The purpose of an AONB is set out in Section 82(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 states as follows: the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.</p>

MM52	119	Policy DM 3	<p>Amend Policy DM 3 as follows:</p> <p>'Policy DM 3 Ecological Impact Assessment Proposals for minerals and waste developments will be required to ensure that they result in no unacceptable adverse impacts on Kent's important biodiversity assets. These include internationally, nationally and locally designated sites, internationally and nationally protected species, and habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and habitats and species identified in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045.</p> <p>Proposals that are likely to have unacceptable adverse impacts upon important geodiversity and biodiversity assets <u>(as defined in Policy DM2)</u> will need to demonstrate that an adequate level of ecological assessment has been undertaken and should provide a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity. Such proposals will only be granted planning permission following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. an ecological assessment of the site, including preliminary ecological appraisal and, where likely presence is identified, specific protected species surveys; 2. consideration of the <u>exceptional circumstances that clearly demonstrate the</u> need for, and benefits of, the development and the reasons for locating the development in its proposed location, <u>that clearly outweigh its impacts;</u> 3. <u>Where impacts cannot be avoided,</u> the identification and securing of measures <u>required</u> to mitigate any adverse impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) <u>should be identified and appropriately secured;</u> and, 4. <u>finally, only as a last resort,</u> the identification and securing of compensatory measures where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated for, <u>then compensatory measures should be identified and secured.</u>
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			<p>All development¹⁰⁴ shall achieve a net gain in biodiversity value in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF. All major development shall deliver at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity value with an expectation that the maximum practicable net gain is achieved. All planning applications must should be supported by a draft Biodiversity Net-Gain Plan and relevant supporting reports that demonstrate net gain will can be achieved, implemented, managed and maintained.</p> <p>Remainder of Policy text remains as drafted in the Regulation 19 Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39.</p>
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MM53	120	Footnote 104	<p>Amend footnote 104 as follows:</p> <p>Please note an application to vary a condition of a planning permission under section 73 which is made after the commencement of the statutory framework for Biodiversity New Gain on [January xx 2024 subject to parliamentary timetabling] is not in scope if the original permission to which the section 73 application relates was either granted before [January xx 2024 subject to parliamentary timetabling] or the application for the original permission was made before [January xx 2024 subject to parliamentary timetabling]. <u>An application to vary a condition of a planning permission pursuant to section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act is exempt from BNG requirements where the original permission which the section 73 application relates to was either granted before 12 February 2024 or the application for the original permission was made before 12 February 2024</u></p>
MM54	121	Policy DM 4	<p>Amend Policy DM 4 as follows:</p> <p>'Proposals for minerals and waste development within the Green Belt will be considered in light of their potential impacts, and shall comply with national policy and the NPPF.'</p>
MM55	122	Footnote 107	<p>Amend footnote 107 as follows:</p> <p><u>Currently t</u>Two sites in Kent: (1.) South Foreland and (2.) Dover – Folkestone.</p>
MM56	125	Footnote 110	<p>Delete footnote 110:</p> <p>⁴⁴⁰ In this context 'mineral safeguarding' should be taken to mean safeguarding certain minerals identified within a Mineral Safeguarding Area shown in the policies maps in Chapter 9 and allocations in the Minerals Sites Plan.</p>
MM57	125	Policy DM 7	<p>Amend the last sentence of Policy DM 7 as follows:</p> <p>'Further guidance on the application of this policy is included in a <u>the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Safeguarding</u> Supplementary Planning Document <u>(March 2021).</u></p>

MM58	130	Paragraph 7.8.2	<p>Amend the last sentence of paragraph 7.8.2 as follows:</p> <p>'Planning applications for sites located in areas prone to flooding must be accompanied by a suitable Flood Risk Assessment <u>which demonstrates the flood risk of the site can be safely managed without increasing flood risk elsewhere.</u>'</p>
MM59	131	Paragraph 7.8.4	<p>Amend paragraph 7.8.4 as follows:</p> <p>'To ensure compliance with the Water FD113 minerals and waste developments must not cause any unacceptable adverse impact on local water bodies. Applications for minerals and waste proposals within Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and Groundwater Vulnerability and Aquifer Designation areas should be accompanied by a hydrogeological and/or hydrological assessment(s) that investigate the potential present and future risks of unacceptable adverse impacts on the water environment associated with the proposed development and how these will be adequately mitigated to prevent such impacts. Waste operations are not usually considered compatible within SPZ1.'</p>
MM60	131	Policy DM 10	<p>Change to text of Policy DM 10 as follows:</p> <p>'exacerbate flood risk in areas prone to flooding (as shown in Figure 15) and elsewhere, both now and in the future <u>(taking account of climate change recommended uplifts)</u>. Measures to reduce flood risk where possible are encouraged.'</p> <p>'All minerals and waste proposals must include measures to ensure the achievement of both no deterioration and improved ecological status of all waterbodies within the site and/or hydrologically or hydrogeologically connected to the site. <u>Applications for minerals and waste proposals within Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and Groundwater Vulnerability and Aquifer Designation areas must be accompanied by a hydrogeological and/or hydrological assessment(s) that investigate the potential present and future risks of unacceptable adverse impacts on the water environment associated with the proposed development and how these will be adequately mitigated to prevent such impacts. In all other cases,</u> Hhydrogeological and/or hydrological assessment(s) may be required to demonstrate the effects of the</p>

			<p>proposed development on the water environment and how these may be mitigated to an acceptable level.</p> <p><u>For sites within areas at risk of flooding, a Flood Risk Assessment will be required to demonstrate flood risks to the site can be safely managed, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.'</u></p>
MM61	134	Policy DM 13	<p>Amend the first sentence of Policy DM 13 as follows:</p> <p>'Minerals and waste development will be required to demonstrate that emissions <u>(including carbon)</u> associated with road transport movements are minimised as far as practicable and by preference being given to non-road modes of transport.'</p>
MM62	135	Policy DM 13	<p>Amend section 2 of Policy DM 13 as follows:</p> <p>'the highway network is able to <u>safely</u> accommodate the traffic flows that would be generated, as demonstrated through a transport assessment, and the impact of traffic generated does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment or local community; and'</p>

MM63	135	Policy DM 14	<p>Amend Policy DM 14 as follows:</p> <p>'Planning permission will only be granted for minerals and waste development that adversely affect a Public Right of Way, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • satisfactory prior provisions, <u>by means of relevant legal event</u>, for its diversion or stopping up are made which are both convenient and safe for users of the Public Rights of Way • provision is created for an acceptable alternative route both during operations and following restoration of the site. • opportunities are taken wherever possible to secure appropriate, improved access into and within the countryside <u>in accordance with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-28.</u>
MM64	139	Footnote 119	<p>Amend footnote 119 as follows:</p> <p>Applicants should refer to the following website for the most recent guidance on local information requirements and validation of applications: http://www.kent.gov.uk/planningapplications. Guidance will be reviewed and updated periodically <u>Kent County Council's website for the most recent guidance on local information requirements for validation of applications.</u></p>
MM65	139	Policy DM 17	<p>Ament bullet number 18 as follows:</p> <p>codes of construction practice for large¹²⁰ waste developments <u>with a capacity of over 100,000 tpa</u> that incorporate the requirement for the majority of the construction workforce to be recruited locally. Opportunities for modern apprenticeships to be made available for a proportion of the construction workforce.</p>
MM67	140	Footnote 120	<p>Footnote to be deleted:</p> <p>¹²⁰ A large waste development is one that has a capacity of over 100,000 tpa</p>

MM68	145	Policy DM 19	<p>Amend point 17 of Policy DM 19 as follows:</p> <p>‘17. proposals for meeting and where relevant exceeding, biodiversity net gain targets, including those outlined in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020-45, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, <u>National Landscapes (formerly known as</u> Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty] Management Plans and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy;’</p>
MM69	145	Policy DM 19	<p>Amend the final paragraph of Policy DM 19:</p> <p>‘Aftercare schemes <u>concerned with Biodiversity Net Gain should be for at least 30 years. Schemes related to other forms of aftercare</u> should incorporate an aftercare period of at least five years. Where appropriate, voluntary longer periods for certain uses will be sought through agreement between the applicant and minerals planning authority.’</p>
MM70	146	Footnote 123	<p>Amend footnote 104 as follows:</p> <p><u>As defined in s. 90 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In relation to minerals and waste developments</u> "Ancillary Development" is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act S90. In relation to minerals and waste developments “ancillary development” only includes development that is directly related to the minerals or waste development proposed.</p>
MM71	147	Paragraph 7.20.1	<p>Amend the last sentence of paragraph 7.20.1 as follows:</p> <p>‘To fully meet such challenges requires the actions of a local control and management regime and the support of a recognised policy base <u>and working with other stakeholders including the Environment Agency.</u>’</p>
MM72	160	Monitoring Schedule Policy CSM 8	<p>Amend trigger for Policy CSM 8 as follows:</p> <p>‘Within 10% of the target maximum for the household waste <u>Local Authority Collected Waste</u> landfill diversion target at or beyond the dates stated in Policy CSW4.’</p>

MM73	181	Paragraph 9.2.1	<p>Amend paragraph 9.2.1 as follows:</p> <p>'The following Policies Maps display the Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in Kent. <u>The MSAs within Kent cover the same areas as the Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs).</u> The maps cover the following authority's areas in Kent.'</p>
MM74	195	Glossary	<p>Amend the definition for the 'Agent of Change Principle' in the glossary as follows:</p> <p>'A developer proposing new development within an area that is of such a nature that it might be impacted by existing development or impact on that development (e.g. housing proposed within an industrial area). The 'agent of change principle' sets out a position that a person or business (i.e. the 'agent of change') introducing a new land use is responsible for managing the impact of that change, <u>in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.</u>'</p>
MM75	196	Glossary	<p>Insert definition of 'Ancient Woodland' into the glossary as follows:</p> <p><u>'Ancient Woodland - An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).'</u></p>

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Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39

As Modified by the Inspector's
Recommendations - The Plan for
Adoption

March 2025

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Abbreviations

AD	Anaerobic Digestion
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AoS	Area of Search
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AWP	Aggregate Working Party
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BAT	Best Available Techniques (Assessment)
BERR	Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
BGS	British Geological Society
BIS	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
BOA	Biodiversity Opportunity Area
CD	Construction and Demolition Waste
CDEW	Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste
CSM	Core Strategy Minerals
CSW	Core Strategy Waste
C&I	Commercial and Industrial Waste
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
DM	Development Management
DMR	Dry Mixed Recyclate
DOE	Department of the Environment
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Commission

EfW	Energy from Waste
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPR	Early Partial Review
ES	Environmental Statement
ESC	Environmental safety case
EU	European Union
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
GPDO	Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order
GVA	Gross Value Added
HDV	Heavy Duty Vehicle
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
HLW	High Level Waste (Radioactive Waste Classification)
HRA	Habitat Regulations Assessment
HWRC	Household Waste Recycling Centre
ILW	Intermediate Level Waste (Radioactive Waste Classification)
JMWMS	Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy
KCC	Kent County Council
km	Kilometres
KMEP	Kent and Medway Economic Partnership
KRP	Kent Resource Partnership
LAA	Local Aggregate Assessment
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LCE	Low-Carbon Economy
LDS	Local Development Scheme
LLW	Low Level Waste (Radioactive Waste Classification)
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy

LWS	Local Wildlife Site
m	Metres
MCA	Mineral Consultation Area
MDA	Marine Dredged Aggregates
MPA	Mineral Planning Authority
MCZ	Marine Conservation Zone
MPS	Marine Policy Statement
MSA	Mineral Safeguarding Area
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
mt	Million tonnes
mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
MWLP	Minerals and Waste Local Plan
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NERC	Natural Environment and Rural Communities
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPW	National Planning Policy for Waste 2014
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
PEDL	Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence
PLA	Port of London Authority
PROW	Public Rights of Way
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCI	Site of Community Importance
SEEAWP	South East England Aggregate Working Party
SEP	South East Plan

SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SWESC	Site Wide Environmental Safety Case
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act
tpa	Tonnes per annum
TRW	Topic Report on Waste
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VLLW	Very Low Level Waste (Radioactive Waste Classification)
Water FD	Water Framework Directive
WCA	Waste Collection Authority
WFD	Waste Framework Directive
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WMU	Waste Management Unit
WPA	Waste Planning Authority

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1. Introduction

1.0.1 The County Council has a statutory responsibility to plan for future minerals supply and waste management in Kent. This is fulfilled through the *Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan* (MWLP).

1.1 The Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39

1.1.1 This document, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39, is the main Local Plan document pertaining to minerals supply and waste management in Kent. It describes:

1. the overarching strategy and planning policies for mineral extraction, importation and recycling, and the waste management of all waste streams that are generated or managed in Kent, and
2. the spatial implications of economic, social and environmental change in relation to strategic minerals and waste planning.

1.1.2 This Plan identifies and sets out the following subjects for the period up to, and including, the year 2039:

1. the long term Spatial Vision and Strategic Objectives for Kent's minerals and waste
2. the delivery strategy for minerals and waste planning that identifies how the objectives will be achieved in the plan period
3. the area where strategic waste development is likely to occur
4. the Development Management (DM) policies that will be used when the County Council makes decisions on planning applications
5. the framework to enable annual monitoring of the policies within the Plan

1.1.3 The specific sites for mineral developments are set out in the separate Kent Mineral Sites Plan. The site selection process for the final sites included in the Mineral Sites Plan was based on the policies in the Kent MWLP.

1.1.4 Preparing the Plan has involved engagement and collaboration with communities, local organisations and businesses. Public consultation was held for each stage of the plan-making process. It has also been prepared in cooperation with Kent's districts, neighbouring authorities and other minerals and waste planning authorities that may be affected by the strategies and policies in the Plan. This has ensured that effective cooperation has been undertaken where there are cross-boundary impacts.

1.1.5 This Plan is accompanied by the following:

1. *Sustainability Appraisal* (SA)

2. *Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)*
3. *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)*
4. *Strategic Landscape Assessment*
5. *Strategic Transport Assessment*
6. *Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)*¹

1.2 The Status of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-39

1.2.1 The Plan is part of the statutory development plan for Kent together with the adopted Local Plans prepared by the twelve Kent district and borough planning authorities and relevant Neighbourhood Plans prepared by local communities. Proposals for waste and mineral developments will be considered against the policies contained in the development plan as a whole, not just those included in this Plan.

1.2.2 The policies in this Plan update policies in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2013-30.

1.2.3 This Plan will be mainly used by the County Council and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation when determining applications for minerals and waste facilities. The Plan is also relevant to the determination of non-minerals and waste applications which may be determined by the District and Borough Councils, Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, and the County Council (in terms of other County matters such as schools). It is envisaged that the main policies that will be implemented when non-minerals and waste applications are being determined are as follows:

1. Policy CSM 6: Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots
2. Policy CSM 7: Safeguarding Other Mineral Plant Infrastructure
3. Policy CSM 8: Secondary and Recycled Aggregates
4. Policy CSW 3: Waste Reduction
5. Policy CSW 16: Safeguarding of Existing Waste Management Facilities
6. Policy DM 7: Safeguarding Mineral Resources
7. Policy DM 8: Safeguarding Minerals Management, Transportation Production & Waste Management Facilities
8. Policy DM 9: Prior Extraction of Minerals in Advance of Surface Development
9. Policy DM 20: Ancillary Development
10. Policy DM 21: Incidental Minerals Extraction

1.2.4 Section 38(6) of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* and Section 70(2) of the *Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990* requires that planning applications "must be made in accordance with the [development] plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise."

¹ These documents form part of the Plan's evidence base and are available online from <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy#nul>.

1.2.5 This document was prepared in accordance with national legislation². It has also been prepared to be in general conformity with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF)³, *National Planning Policy for Waste* (NPPW)⁴ and the *Waste Management Plan for England*⁵.

1.2.6 The Kent MWLP only applies to the administrative county of Kent. Medway Council maintain their own local plan.

1.2.7 Annual monitoring will determine when it is necessary to trigger a review of the adopted plans and their policies. The monitoring schedule in Chapter 8 identifies when, where and by whom, actions will be taken to implement the Plan. The timetable for the preparation and review of Kent's minerals and waste plans is set out in the Kent MWLP Scheme⁶.

1.2.8 A list of the abbreviations used can be found on page 5 and Appendix A lists a glossary of terms.

1.3 The Links with Legislation, Other Policies and Strategies

1.3.1 When preparing plans, minerals and waste planning authorities must take account of international and national legislation and national planning policy. Until 2013, regional planning policy formed part of the development plan and was required to be taken into account in the preparation of local plans. The *Regional Spatial Strategy* (RSS) for the South East of England was substantially revoked⁷. The remaining part of the RSS relates to a policy about new residential development near the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA), which is not in Kent.

National Legislation

1.3.2 Following the departure of the UK from the European Union (EU), the text of EU Directives currently still provides much of the legislative context for minerals and waste plan-making.

1.3.3 The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/904), transpose the European Union's 2020 Circular Economy Package (2020

² The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Localism Act (2011), Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

³National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023).

⁴National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014)

⁵ DEFRA (January 2021) Waste Management Plan for England.

⁶ Available online from: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy#null>.

⁷ Statutory Instruments 2013 No. 427: The Regional Strategy for the South East (Partial Revocation) Order 2013.

CEP) in England and Wales, and were made on 25 August 2020. These Regulations implement six amending EU Directives in the field of waste concerning:

1. The Waste Framework Directive;
2. packaging and packaging waste;
3. landfill of waste;
4. end-of life vehicles;
5. batteries and accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators; and,
6. waste electrical and electronic equipment.

1.3.4 The changes are intended to increase the prevention, reuse and recycling of waste in accordance with the Waste Hierarchy⁸ e.g. by strengthening requirements for the separate collection of paper, metal, plastic or glass. The Regulations also put the Government commitments in the 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy to recycle 65% of municipal waste and to have no more than 10% of municipal waste going to landfill by 2035 into law.

1.3.5 Other important EU Directives are:

1. **Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)** which requires reductions in the quantity of biodegradable waste that is landfilled, and encourages diversion of non-recyclable and non-usable waste to other methods of treatment.
2. **Water Framework Directive (Water FD) (2000/60/EC)** which aims to improve the local water environment for people and wildlife, and promote the sustainable use of water. It applies to all surface water bodies, including lakes, streams and rivers as well as groundwater. The aim of the Water FD is for all water bodies to reach good status by 2027. This means improving their physical state, and preventing deterioration in water quality and ecology. The Water FD introduced the concept of integrated river basin management planning. Kent lies within the Thames River Basin District and South East River Basin District⁹.

National Planning Policy and Guidance

1.3.6 The Government originally published the NPPF in March 2012. The NPPF has been amended several times and most recently in December 2023. The NPPF describes the Government's planning policies for England and how to apply them. It provides a framework for people and their councils to produce distinctive local and neighbourhood plans that reflect local needs and priorities. It includes policies on plan-making and planning for minerals.

1.3.7 Specific policies on waste are described in the *Waste Management Plan for England*¹⁰ and the *National Planning Policy for Waste 2014*¹¹. Local authorities

⁸ The Waste Hierarchy is defined in the Glossary in Appendix A and is shown diagrammatically in the text supporting Policy CSW 2.

⁹ Environment Agency (December 2015) Thames River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and the South East RBMP.

¹⁰ DEFRA (January 2021) Waste Management Plan for England.

¹¹ National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014).

preparing waste plans are also advised to consider relevant NPPF policies. The National Waste Management Plan for England (2021) notes that National Planning Policy for Waste will be updated to align with the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and the Resources and Waste Strategy.

1.3.8 Since the publication of the NPPF, Government has published the following additional guidance notes which are relevant to minerals and waste plan-making:

1. *Guidance for Local Planning Authorities on Implementing Planning Requirements of the EU WFD (2008/98/EC)*¹²
2. Planning Practice Guidance on Minerals to accompany the NPPF, including guidance on the Managed Aggregate Supply System and Planning Practice Guidance on Waste¹³

1.3.9 The *Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009* introduced measures to enable the sustainable management and use of marine resources, including the requirement for a Marine Policy Statement (MPS). The UK MPS contains minerals policy relating to offshore mineral interests. All public authorities taking authorisation or enforcement decisions that affect, or might affect, the UK marine area must do so in accordance with the UK MPS, unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise. The MPS guides the development of Marine Plans across the UK. The South East Inshore Marine Plan provides guidance for sustainable development from Felixstowe in Suffolk to near Folkestone. The South Marine Plan covers an area of around 20,000 square kilometres of inshore and offshore waters across 1,000 kilometres of coast line from Folkestone to the River Dart. The County Council continues to work with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to aid the implementation of policies and ensure there is no conflict with the KMWLP and the Marine Plan.

1.3.10 The policy of the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the Strategic Road Networks is Circular 01/2022: Strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development. Particularly paragraph 4 of the Circular which states "...The principal purpose of the SRN is to enable safe, reliable, predictable, efficient, often long distance, journeys of both people (whether as drivers or passengers) and goods..." and paragraph 28 which outlines "...The policies and allocations that result from plan-making must not compromise the SRN's prime function to enable the long-distance movement of people and goods...".

Local Plans and Strategies

1.3.11 The Plan is also informed by the County Council's Strategic Statement, which sets out the priorities for the Council and considers other relevant local policies and strategies.

¹² DLUHC (December 2012) Guidance for local planning authorities on implementing planning requirements of the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

¹³ Planning Practice Guidance: Web-based resource available from:
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

Kent Joint Municipal Waste Strategy

1.3.12 As Waste Disposal Authority (WDA), in 2007 the County Council prepared the original Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS) with the districts in Kent, which was adopted by the Kent Resource Partnership (KRP). The partnership, which comprises 12 district/borough councils and KCC, is a forum for WDA and Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) co-operation.

1.3.13 The key objectives of the KRP are as follows:

1. Maximising the 'value' of resources that we manage from households, in terms of realising the social, environmental and economic opportunities;
2. Providing the best possible value for money service to the Kent taxpayer, taking into account whole service costs;
3. Realising opportunities to improve services now and in the future through engagement, collaboration and working in partnership with the supply chain; and
4. Supporting future thinking through ongoing research and evidence that will facilitate the transition to a circular economy for Kent.

1.3.14 Since 2007 the following targets have been achieved:

1. 40% recycling and composting across Kent
2. KCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) achieved a 60% recycling and composting rate

1.3.15 In addition, the amount of waste sent to landfill reduced from around 72% in 2005/06 to 2.8% in 2016/17.

1.3.16 The latest Kent JMWMS (2018/19 to 2020/21) was agreed by the KRP in 2018 which sets out objectives and policies being implemented across Kent. These included a recycling rate of 50% and a landfill target of no more than 2% by 2020/21 and a year on year reduction in residual waste per household. Up to date performance against these targets can be found in the AMR. The Kent JMWMS is due to be updated.

Kent Waste Disposal Strategy

1.3.17 The County Council as Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) is conducting a five-year review of its Waste Disposal Strategy (2017-35) originally adopted in July 2017. This strategy is the guiding document for the WDA's assessment of current and future infrastructure operational requirements in Kent for the ongoing management of local authority collected waste arising in Kent.

Kent County Council Climate Emergency Statement

1.3.18 In 2019 the County Council adopted a Climate Emergency Statement which states:

“Through the framework of the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, we will facilitate the setting and agreement of a target of net zero emissions by 2050 for Kent and Medway.”

The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy

1.3.19 The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy sets out how Kent County Council, in Partnership with Medway Council, and Kent district and borough councils, will respond to the UK climate emergency and drive clean, resilient economic recovery across the county. Priorities set out in the document include ensuring that climate change and circular economy principles are integrated into Local Plans, including environmental considerations, reducing carbon emissions, and ensuring management of resource sustainably. The Strategy includes the following statement:

‘Principles of Clean Growth (growing our economy whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions), must be factored into all planning and development policies and decisions, whilst not becoming a barrier to new development.’

The Strategy also expects a clean growth and climate change strategic planning framework for Local Plans and development to be prepared in the short term (by 2023) and clean growth and climate change to be fully integrated into Local Plans in the long term (by 2030).

Strategic Transport Plans

1.3.20 The County Council has a statutory duty to prepare and update its Strategic Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan for Kent 2016-2031 was adopted in 2017. This Plan explains how the council will work towards its transport vision over the coming years using the funding that it receives from Government, bringing together KCC transport policies, looking at local schemes and issues as well as those at a countywide and national significance. KCC also prepared a 20-year transport delivery plan, Growth Without Gridlock, which focuses on the key strategic transport improvement areas required in Kent, including the Thames Gateway. This aims to relieve the pressure on the Channel Corridor, cut congestion in West Kent along the A21, find a solution in East Kent for Operation Stack¹⁴ and provide an integrated public transport network.

1.3.21 The Freight Action Plan for Kent was adopted in 2017. It contains KCC's objectives to tackle key issues and find solutions to the following problems related to lorry movements in Kent:

1. overnight lorry parking
2. Operation Stack

¹⁴ Operation Stack is the name given to the process used to stack lorries on the M20 when cross channel services from the Port of Dover or through the Channel Tunnel are disrupted.

3. managing the routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles to ensure that they remain on the Strategic Road Network for as much of their journey as possible
4. impacts of freight traffic on communities and the environment
5. encouraging sustainable distribution

District Local Plans

1.3.22 The Kent district local plans form part of the development plan and these have been considered in the preparation of the Kent MWLP.

1.4 The Evidence Base

1.4.1 The evidence base required for plan-making must be: *proportionate*¹⁵, kept up-to-date and address all of the relevant legislative and policy requirements.

1.4.2 An adequate and relevant evidence base on the economic, social and environmental characteristics and prospects of the area has been available to inform the preparation of the Plan.

1.4.3 The Sustainability Appraisal (SA) identifies and evaluates the impacts that are expected to arise from the Plan's policies regarding social, environmental and economic factors. The SA process is *iterative*¹⁶ and prepared in parallel with the Kent MWLP. The SA influences the production of the Plan and ensures that plan-making is carried out in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. The SA report for the Plan was prepared independently by Amey Consultants. Each stage of plan-making has been accompanied by an SA.

1.4.4 Kent contains sites of international importance for wildlife including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Ramsar sites¹⁷. The Plan is accompanied by a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) which considers the impacts of the plan policies on the international sites and assesses whether the policies will have a significant impact. The Plan must comply with the requirements of the Habitat Regulations¹⁸ to minimise the possibility of impacts on internationally designated sites.

1.4.5 When the Plan was adopted in 2016 it was accompanied by the following assessments:

1. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) describing the impacts of the plan policies on flooding and identifying where mitigation measures could be needed

¹⁵ Proportionate means being in due proportion, so that there is sufficient evidence (facts and figures) to justify the decisions made in the Plan.

¹⁶ Iterative means that there is repetitive on-going discussion and resolution of issues.

¹⁷ Ramsar sites are sites designated under The Ramsar Convention as Wetlands of International Importance Sites.

¹⁸ The Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017.

2. *Strategic Landscape Assessment* describing the landscape impact of the Strategic Site for Minerals and the Strategic Site for Waste identified in the Plan
3. *Strategic Transport Assessment* describing the potential effects on Kent's transport network (see Figure 2) as a result of the Plan's policies

These assessments remain relevant to the updated Plan. Additional assessments accompanied the Mineral Sites Plan that was adopted in 2020.

1.4.6 Parts of the Kent MWLP evidence base were developed in conjunction with other adjoining local authorities, including:

1. the KCC and Medway Council collaboration on a study of mineral imports into the county in 2010¹⁹
2. the Kent and Surrey County Council collaboration on an evidence base for their plans for silica sand²⁰

1.4.7 The evidence base topic reports and other documents that have been prepared to inform and support the preparation of the Plan adopted in 2016 and its review and information on public consultation undertaken are available online²¹.

1.5 Planning and Permitting Interface

1.5.1 When determining planning applications, local planning authorities establish whether a development should go ahead in the particular location proposed. In respect of pollution, in arriving at its decision, the County Council and its partner planning authorities will:

1. seek to establish if the development is an appropriate use of the particular land, and, in doing so, that the development will not result in unacceptable risks from pollution.
2. respect the fact that the primary role of controlling pollution falls to the respective pollution regimes.
3. pay due regard to the fact that certain activities may be subject to non-planning consenting regimes and securing such consents may be critical in delivering the particular development.
4. seek advice from other relevant consenting bodies, such as the Environment Agency, around issues that might affect whether a development is acceptable.
5. where any significant issues are identified, it is recommended that other consents needed, such as environmental permits, be sought in parallel to submission of the planning application so that any issues can be resolved as early as possible.

¹⁹ KCC and Medway Council (May 2011) MTR7: Kent and Medway Mineral Imports Study.

²⁰ GWP Consultants Ltd (2010) Silica Sand Report for KCC and Surrey County Council.

²¹ See <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy#null>.

1.5.2 The NPPF (and NPPW) states that local planning authorities should focus on whether the development itself is an acceptable use of the land, and the impact of the use, rather than the control of processes or emissions themselves where these are subject to approval under pollution control regimes. Local planning authorities should assume that these regimes will operate effectively. Equally, where a planning decision has been made on a particular development, the planning issues should not be revisited through the permitting regimes operated by pollution control authorities²².

²² National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), para. 194.

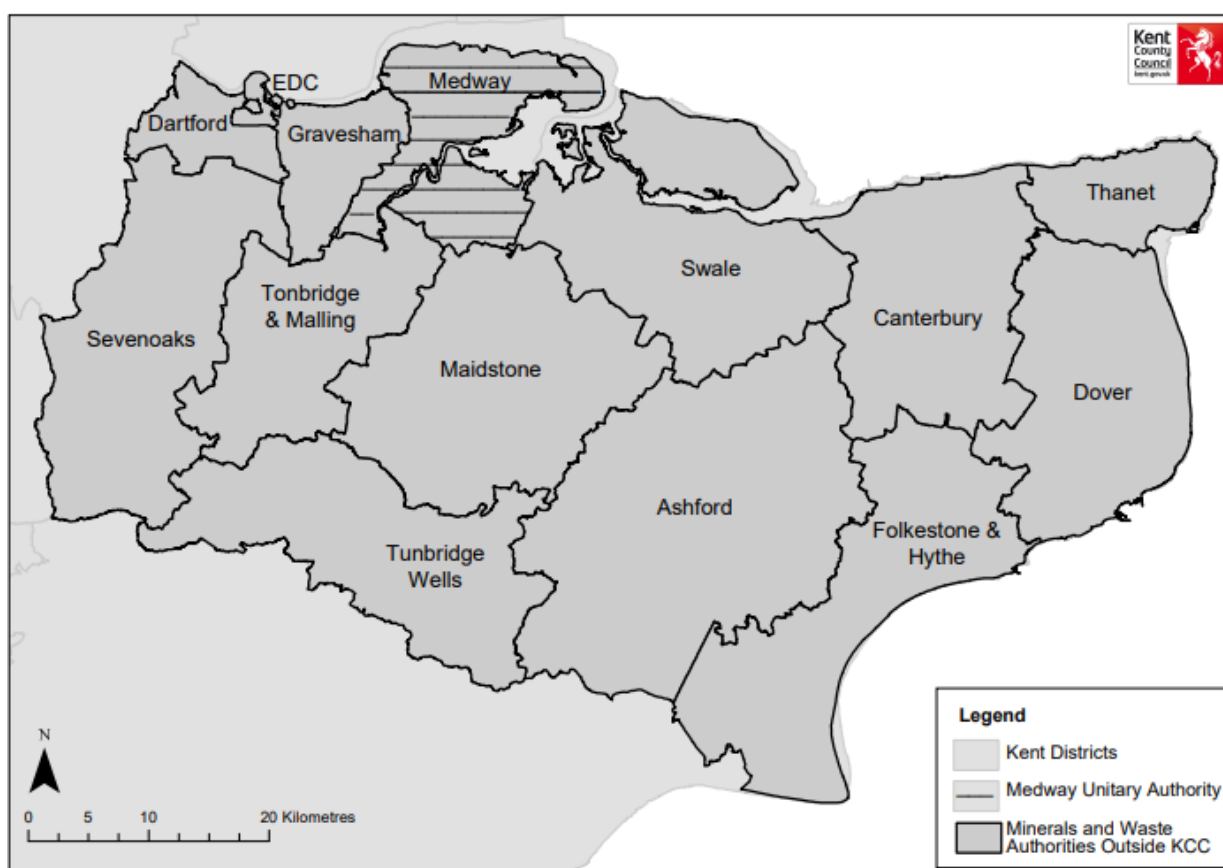
2. Minerals and Waste Development in Kent: A Spatial Portrait

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Kent is located in the south east corner of the United Kingdom (UK). The county consists of 12 districts, as shown in Figure 1. It is surrounded on two sides by water: the River Thames to the north and the English Channel to the south-east. It also neighbours London on its north-west perimeter. It has excellent transportation links by road, rail and water with northern France, London, Essex and the South East of England (see Figure 2). 85% of Kent is defined as rural.

2.1.2 With an estimated population of 1,578,000 people²³, Kent is the largest non-metropolitan local authority area by population in England. Projected population growth for Kent is a 7.5% increase between 2018 and 2028, with the total population of the county expected to be over 1.7 million people by 2028²⁴.

Figure 1: Kent Districts



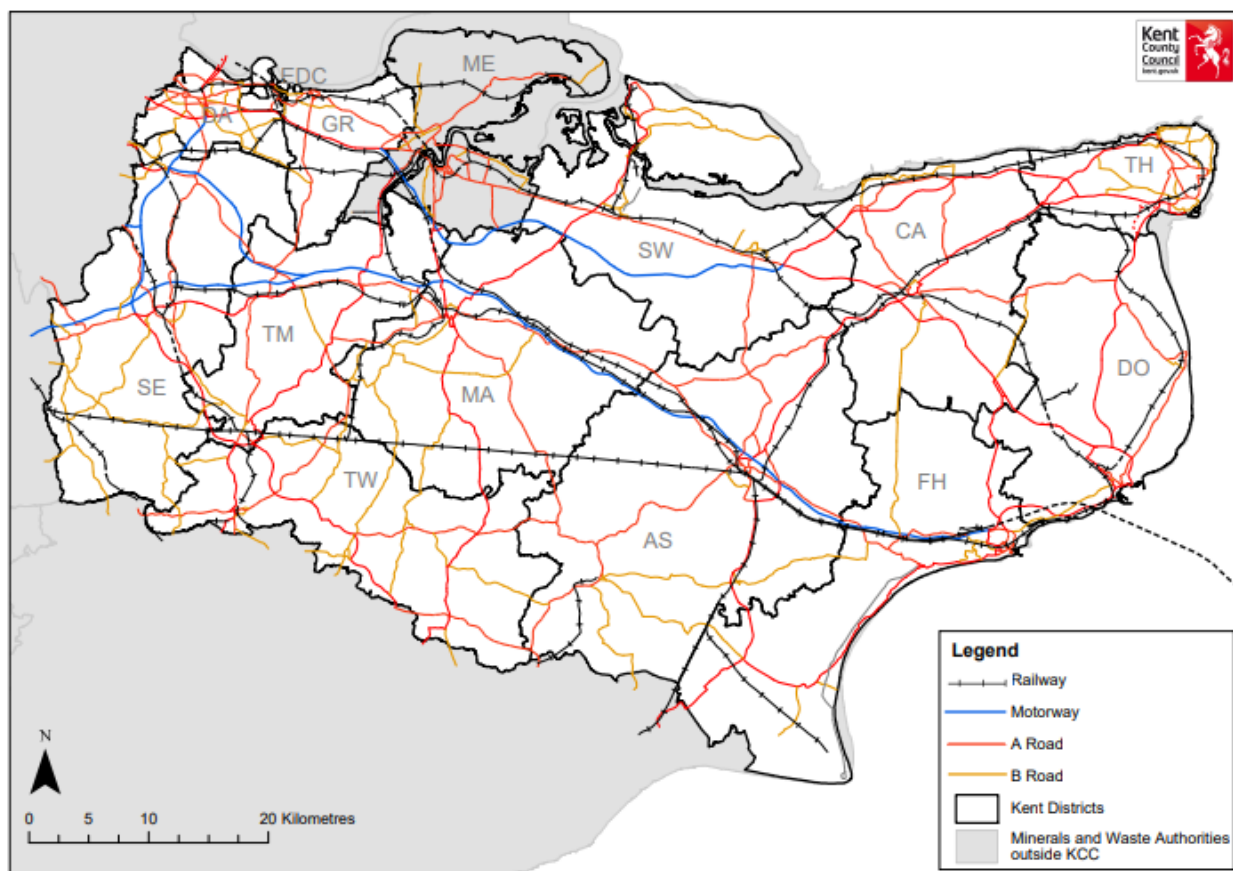
2.1.3 The population of Kent is spread unevenly throughout the county. North-west Kent is the main urban area as part of the Thames Gateway area. The Thames Gateway stretches along the River Thames from Stratford and Lewisham in London

²³ Kent Statistical Bulletin, January 2023, 2021 Mid-year population estimates: Total population in Kent, Kent County Council.

²⁴ KCC (2020) Strategic Commissioning Statistical Bulletin 2018 – Based Subnational Population Projections.

out to Sittingbourne, Kent and Southend, Essex. Within Kent, it contains parts of Dartford, Gravesham and Swale Districts and Medway Council.

Figure 2: Transport Links



2.1.4 Kent is part of the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership (KMEP) which is responsible for producing the economic framework for the county. It brings together councils, businesses, educators, the health sector, and community groups to drive forward economic growth. It has produced the Kent and Medway Economic Framework which sets out 5 key ambitions and 21 action areas to develop the economy to be more productive, sustainable and inclusive. The 5 ambitions are, to:

1. enable innovative, creative, and productive businesses
2. widen opportunities and unlock talent
3. secure resilient infrastructure for planned, sustainable growth
4. place economic opportunity at the centre of community wellbeing and prosperity
5. create diverse, distinctive and vibrant places.

Figure 3 Kent and Medway Economic Partnership Area



2.2 Kent's Environmental and Landscape Assets

2.2.1 Some of Kent's natural environment and features are formally identified as being of international, national and local importance. Kent also has statutorily protected species, under both international and national legislation. These formal designations include the following:

International Importance (see Figure 4):

1. Ramsar sites
2. Special Protection Areas for Conservation (SPAs)
3. Special Areas for Conservation (SACs)
4. UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church in Canterbury

National Importance (See Figures 5 & 6):

1. almost a third of Kent is protected by two National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)²⁵): the Kent Downs National Landscape and High Weald National Landscape
2. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs)
3. nationally important archaeological sites (most of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments), Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest and Listed Buildings²⁶
4. Kent areas of Heritage Coast including South Foreland and Dover to Folkestone
5. Green Belt
6. species and habitats listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in the UK (Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities* (NERC) Act 2006)²⁷
7. Ancient Woodland (Figure 10)
8. Marine Conservation Zones

Local Importance:

2.2.2 Kent's wildlife, geological, geomorphological, landscape and historic environmental areas and features that are of particular importance at county level, or that make a contribution to biodiversity and geological conservation, include:

1. Local Geological Sites and Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) (see Figure 7)
2. Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) (see Figure 8) and Roadside Nature Reserves
3. Species and habitats identified in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045

²⁵The statutory designation remains an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and is referred to as such in national policy and legislation.

²⁶ Listed Buildings in Kent are shown on The Historic England website.

²⁷ Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000).

4. the setting of the World Heritage Site (Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church) and Locally Listed buildings, conservation areas and their settings, Historic Environment Records and archaeological assets
5. landscape features of importance for wildlife that are essential for migration and dispersal, and which enable the protection, conservation and expansion of native flora and fauna
6. Kent rivers and waterways and their settings (Figure 9)
7. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) (Figure 11)
8. Groundwater in Kent (Flood Zones, Source Protection Zones) (Figure 15)

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas and Local Nature Recovery Strategy

2.2.3 The identification of BOAs present opportunities to contribute to large-scale biodiversity conservation in Kent.

2.2.4 Kent's network of BOAs has been identified to implement the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045. The BOAs show where the greatest gains can be made from habitat enhancement, restoration and recreation, as these areas offer the best opportunities for establishing or contributing to large habitat areas and/or networks of wildlife habitats. The BOAs include a range of biodiversity interests. BOA targets reflect the specific landscape, geology and key habitats that are present within each area.

2.2.5 The BOAs are not constraints to development. They are areas where minerals and waste sites will best be able to support the strategic aims for biodiversity conservation in Kent. Sites that are outside of the BOAs can still contribute to the delivery of BAP targets and the enhancement of Kent's biodiversity.

2.2.6 Whilst the BOAs remain current they are likely to be superseded by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, a requirement of the Environment Act 2021. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. Whilst the LNRS is not expected to be a constraint to development, they will be an important source of evidence for local planning and public authorities will have a duty to "have regard" to the LNRS. At the time of writing, the secondary legislation and statutory guidance relating to LNRS that will provide the detail and instruct the commencement of their development, is awaited.

Figure 4 International Designations

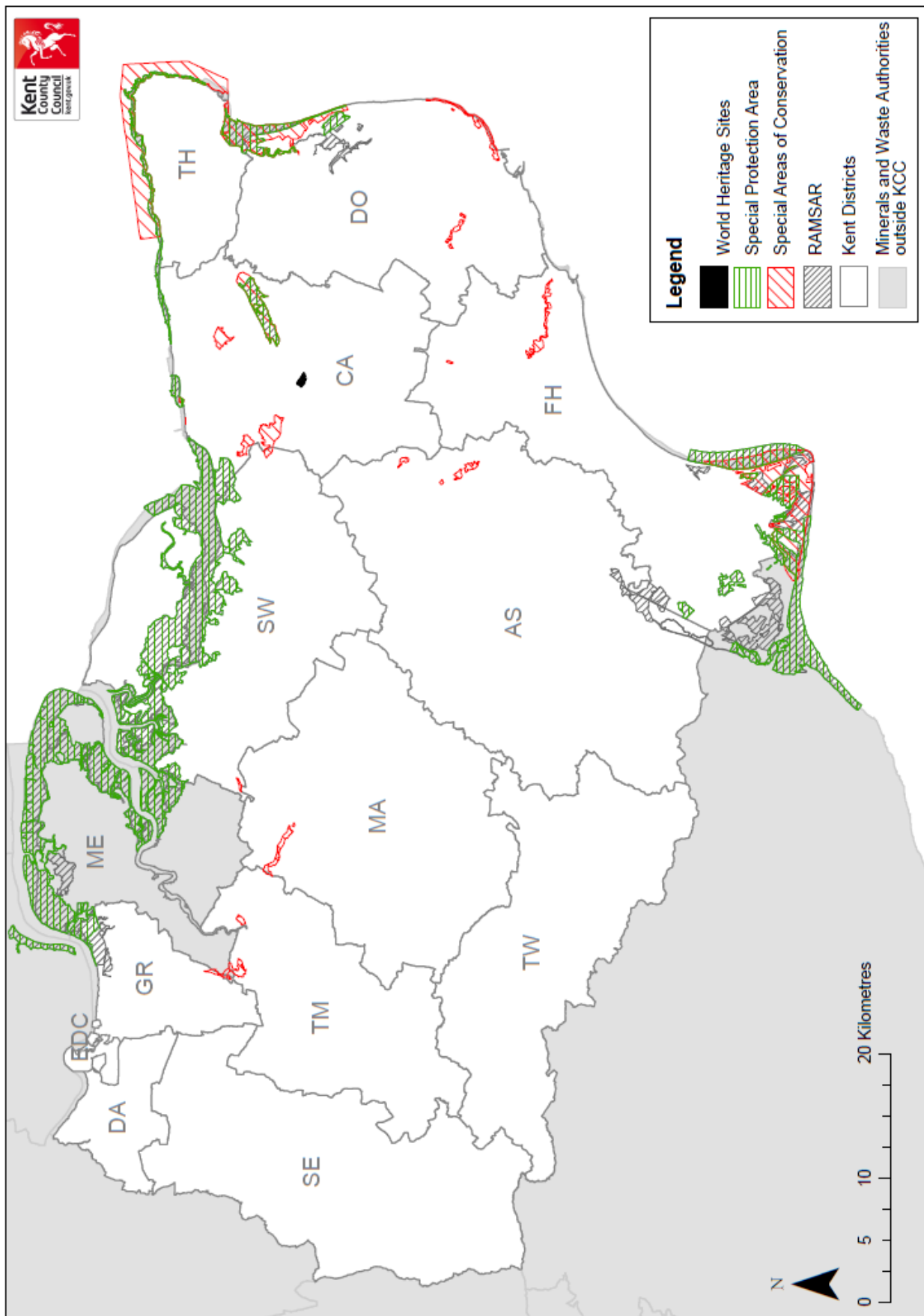


Figure 5: Nationally Important Designations: Landscape

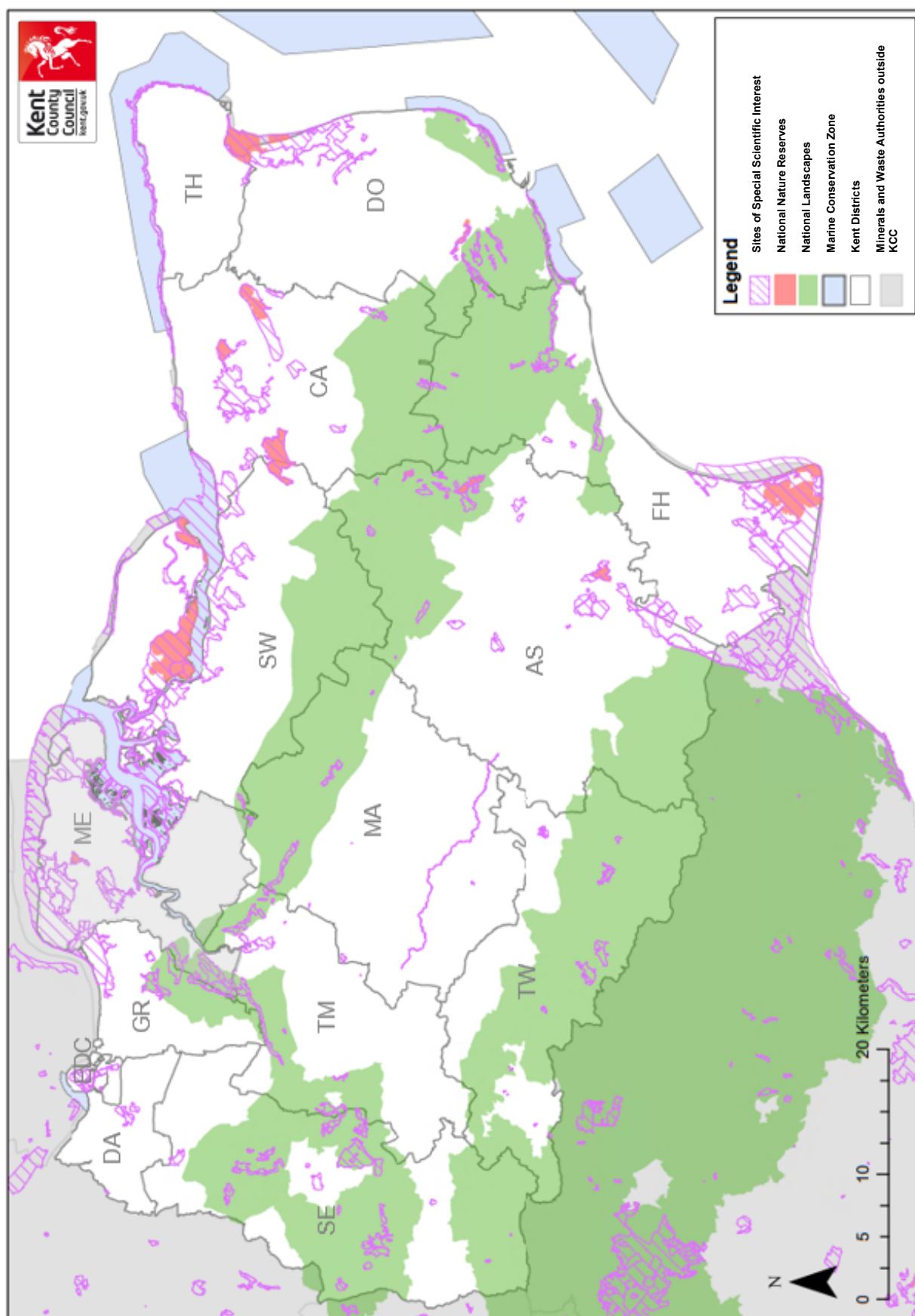


Figure 6: Nationally Important Designations: Heritage and Green Belt

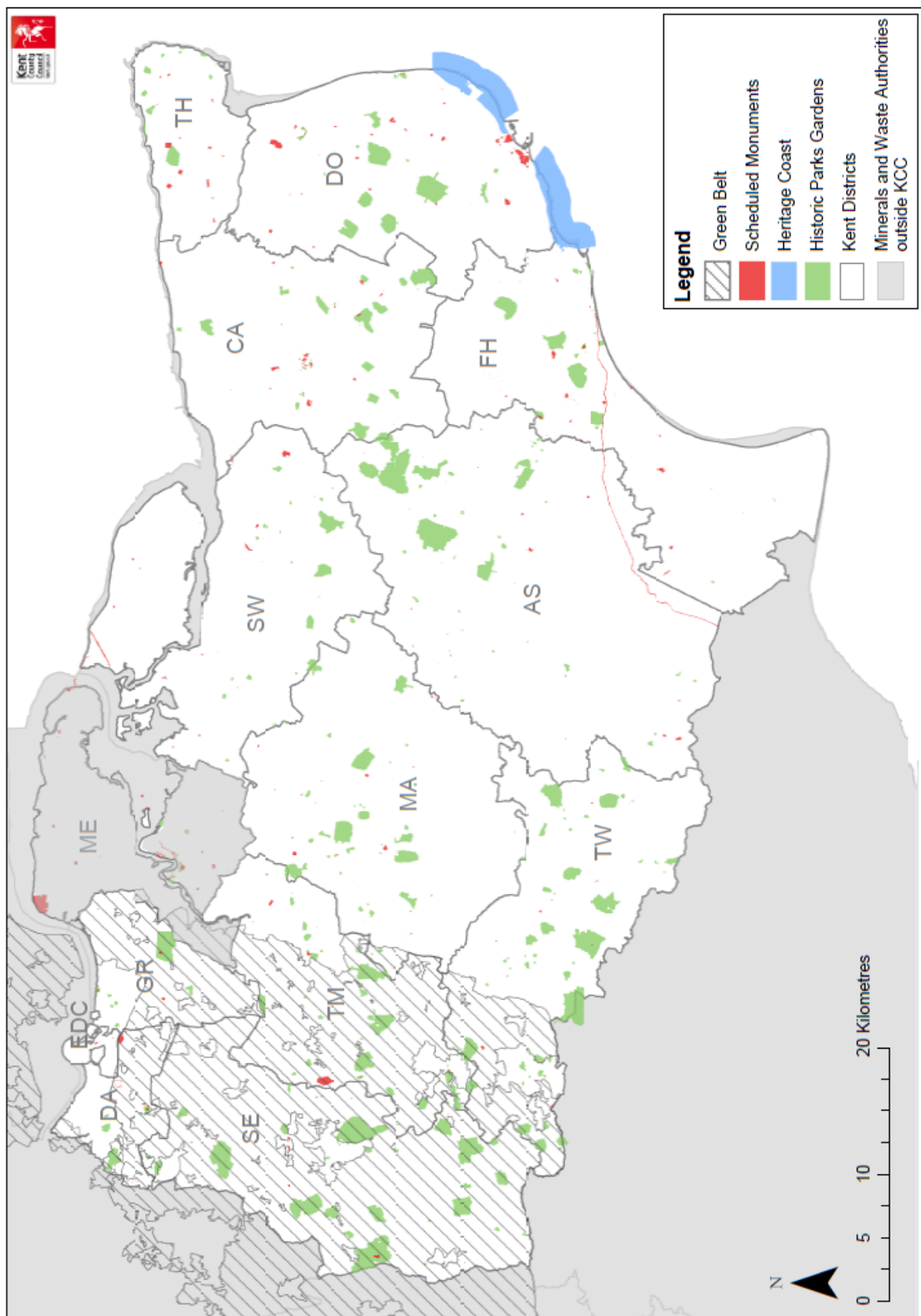


Figure 7: Local Geological Sites and Local Wildlife Sites

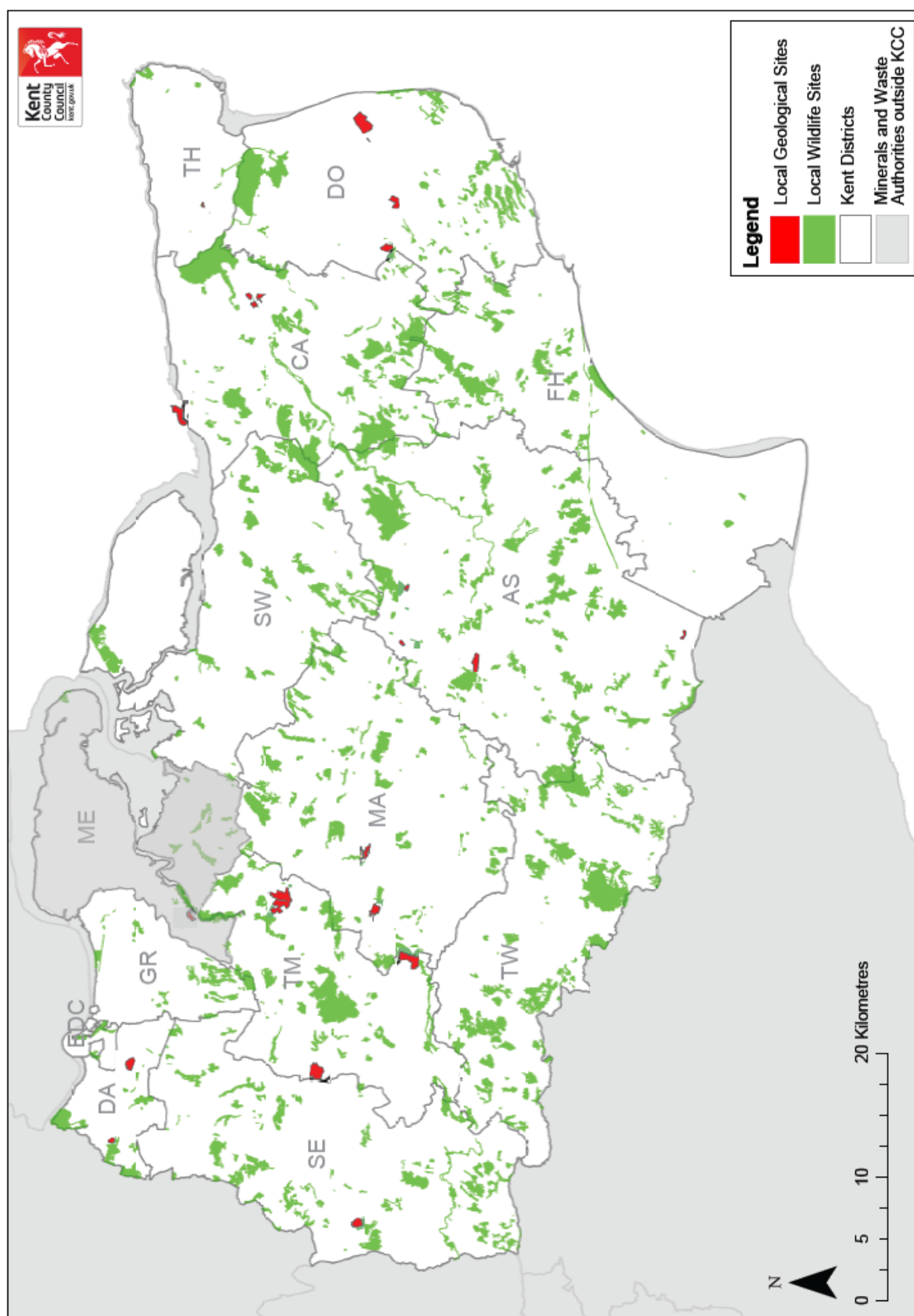


Figure 8: Local Nature Reserves

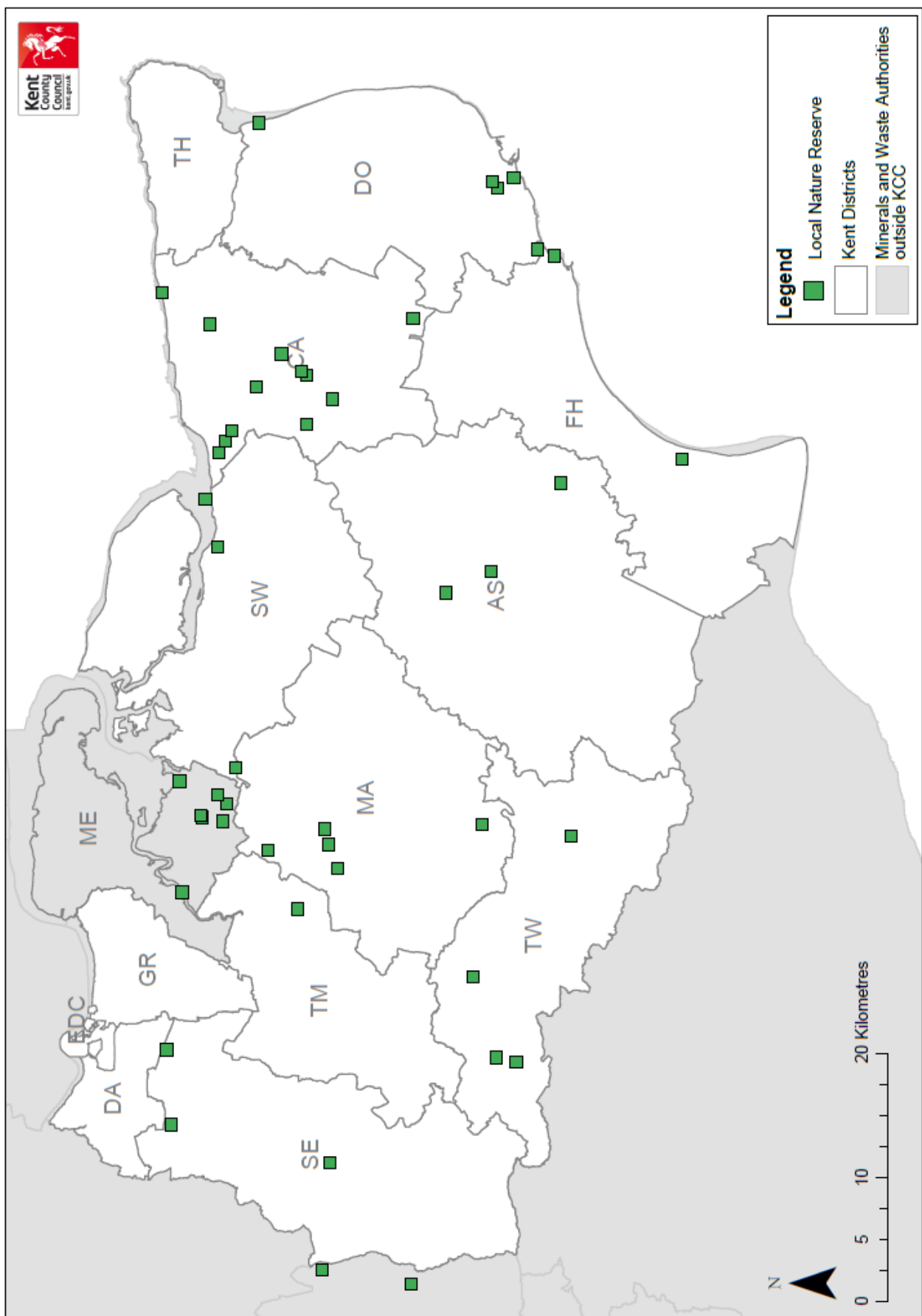


Figure 9: Kent Main Rivers and Waterways

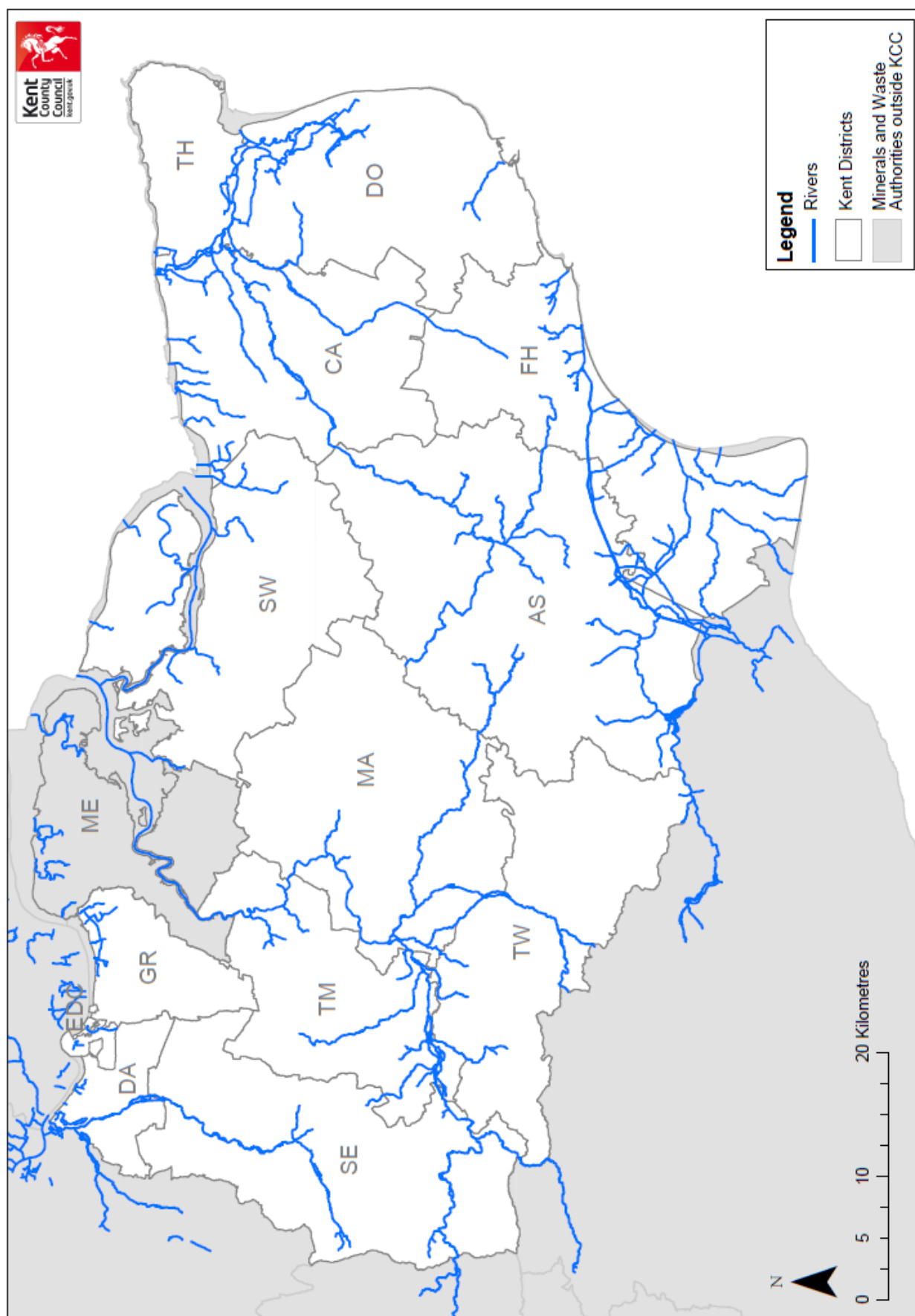


Figure 10: Ancient Woodland

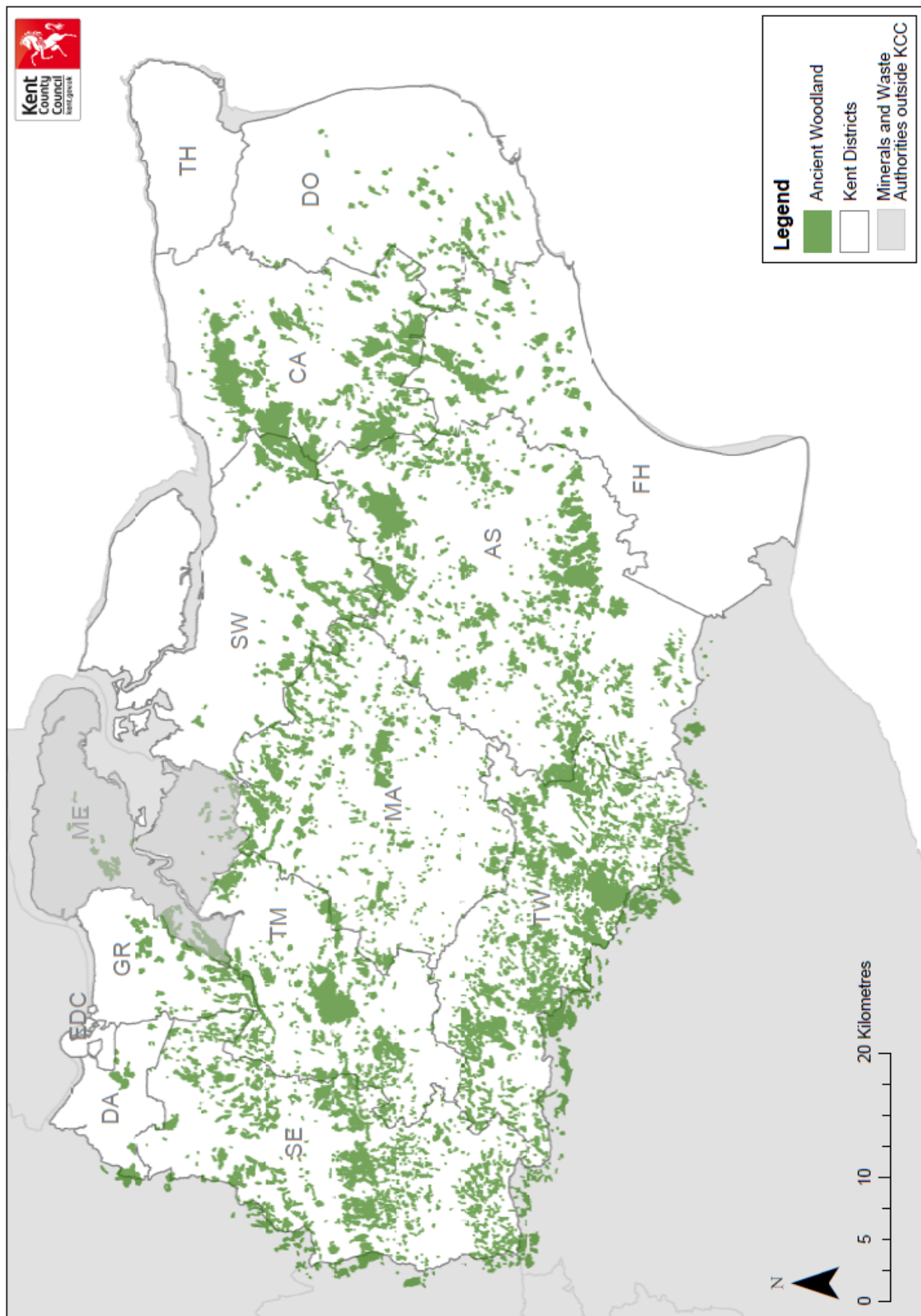


Figure 10A: Priority Habitats

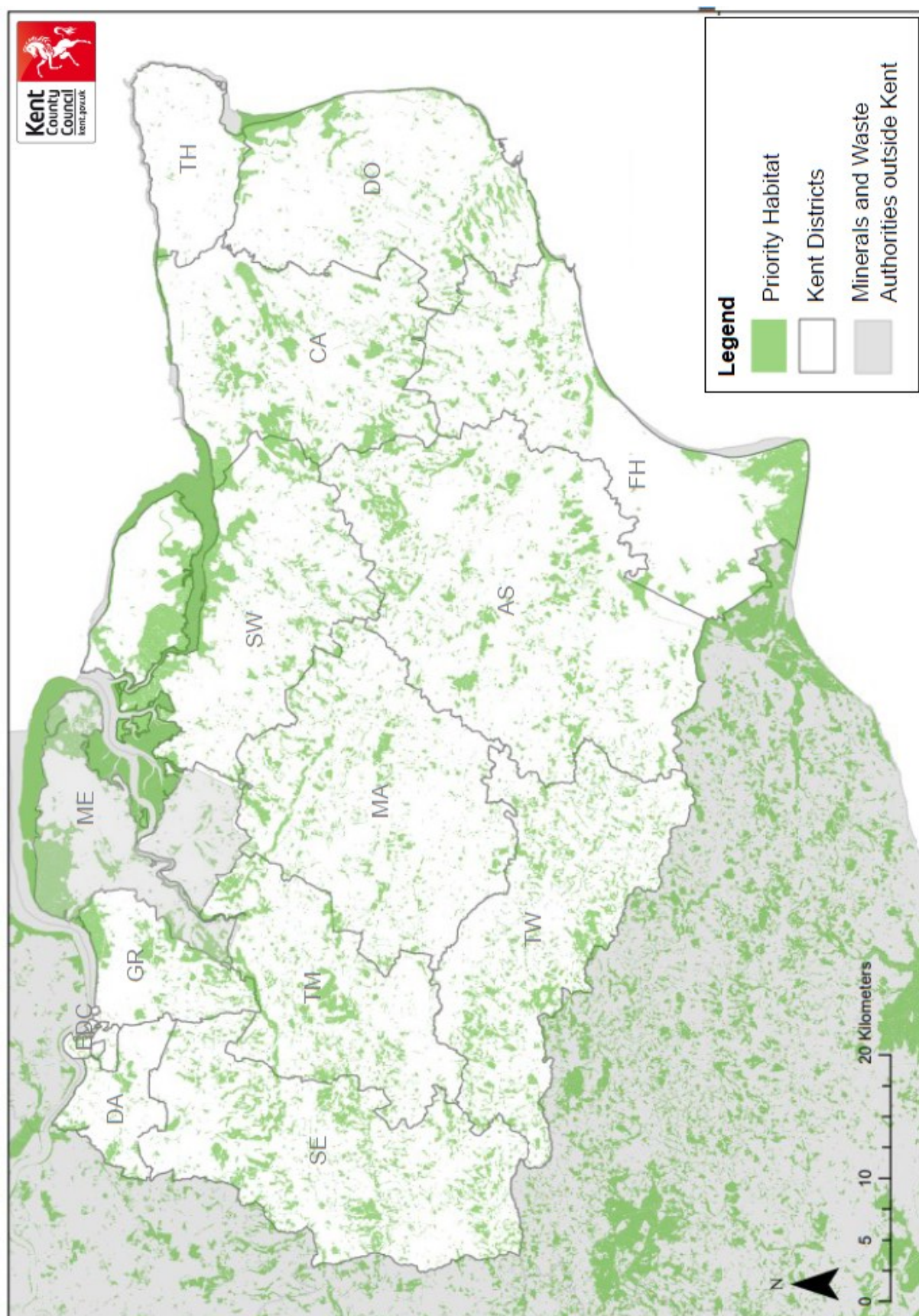
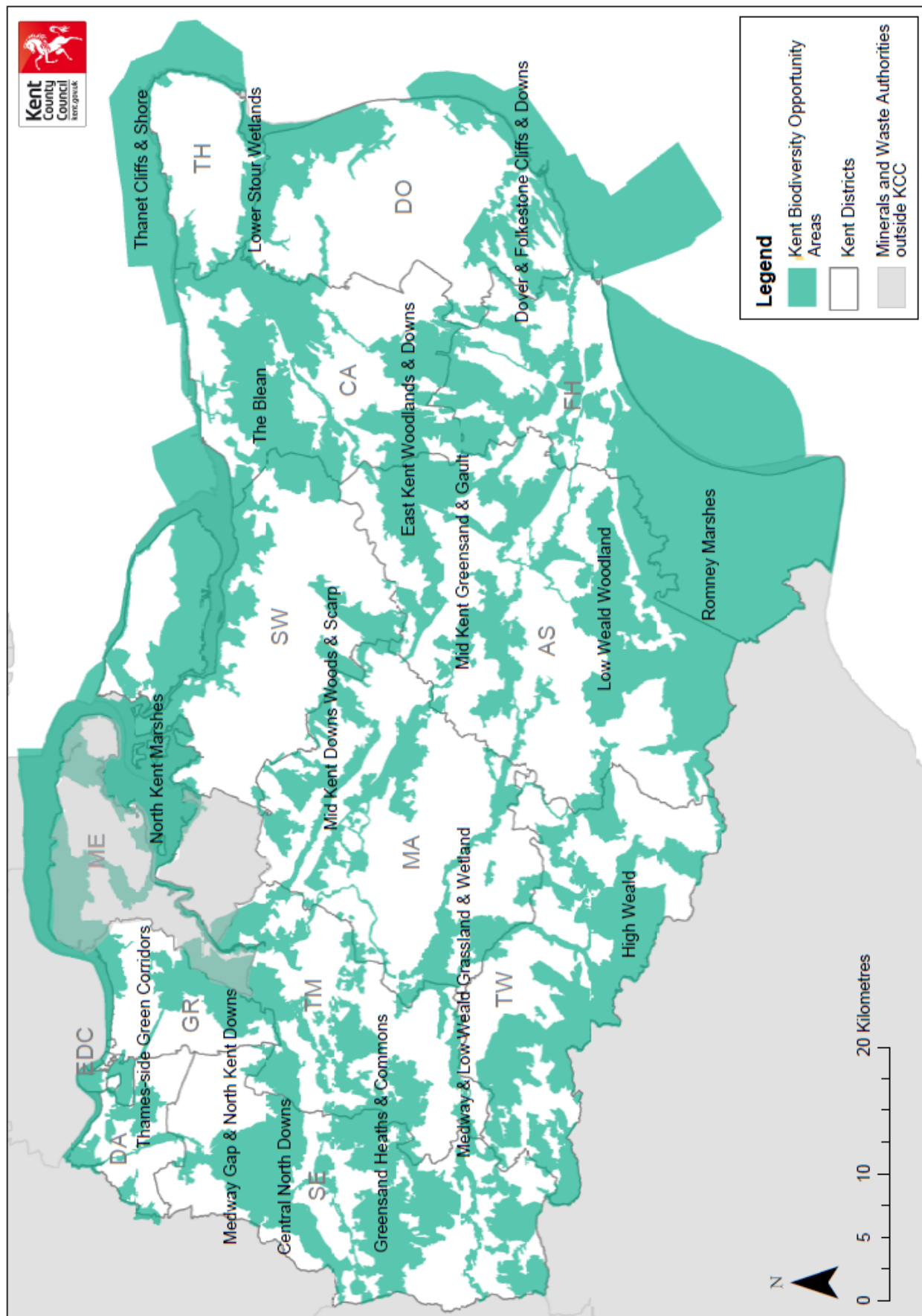


Figure 11: Biodiversity Improvement Areas



2.3 Kent's Economic Mineral Resources

2.3.1 The economic mineral resources²⁸ of Kent reflect its complex geological, economic and social history. Historically, the Carboniferous Coal Measures were of major economic importance until the East Kent Coal mines ceased operations by 1989. Until 2010 Kent also had a thriving cement industry based on the chalk and clay deposits of the Medway Valley and north-west Kent. There are now no active cement works in Kent. Areas of Kent have also been licensed by the Government for petroleum exploration and development, though none have been developed.

2.3.2 Economic minerals that are extracted from Kent quarries include sand and gravel, crushed rock (a limestone informally called Kentish Ragstone of the Hythe Formation), building sand, silica sand, brickearth, clay for tile-making, chalk for agricultural and industrial uses, and building stone.

2.3.3 Figure 12 shows the geology of Kent. Figures 13 and 14 shows all existing mineral extraction sites, wharves, rail depots and the areas licensed for petroleum exploration.

2.3.4 Details of operational and inactive quarries, wharves, rail depots and secondary and recycled aggregate sites in Kent are reviewed annually and listed alongside the Kent Minerals and Waste Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)²⁹.

Construction Aggregates

2.3.5 Construction aggregates consist of sand, gravel and crushed (hard) rock. These are the most significant in terms of the quantity of all of the minerals extracted in Kent.

2.3.6 Historically, sharp sand and gravel deposits have been extracted along Kent's river valleys (River Terrace deposits) and in the Dungeness and Romney Marsh area (Storm Beach deposits). The permitted reserves have become depleted and are no longer a significant source of supply to meet objectively assessed needs as they historically once were.

2.3.7 Soft sand or building sand, used to produce asphalt and mortar, is extracted from quarries situated on the Folkestone Formation between Charing and Sevenoaks. Some of these sand quarries produce a combination of soft sand (building sand which is a construction aggregate) and silica sand (a specialist sand of higher purity that can be used in certain industrial processes, e.g., foundry sands, ceramics, and chemical production).

2.3.8 The difference between sharp sand and soft sand is in the particulate shape, and the degree of variation of grain size. Soft sand particles are all similar in size and shape with a low angularity making soft sand suitable for mortar mixes. Sharp sands

²⁸ A resource is a concentration or occurrence of workable material of intrinsic economic interest.

²⁹ All Annual Monitoring Reports are available online from: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy/monitoring-and-assessment>.

are more angular and variable in size which provides a high structural strength (tensile and compressive) useful in concrete mixes.

2.3.9 The only type of crushed (hard) rock that is exploited commercially in Kent is Kentish Ragstone, found in a band crossing Kent from east to west. Currently Kentish Ragstone extraction is carried out to the west of Maidstone. Another crushed rock resource exists in East Kent, in the form of a Carboniferous Limestone deposit. This potential hard crushed rock resource is found at considerable depth below the ground surface (300m) and has not been exploited for aggregate use.

2.3.10 The use of secondary and recycled aggregates is more sustainable than extracting primary land-won aggregates. The County Council is therefore keen to increase the amount of secondary and recycled aggregates being re-processed. Recycled aggregates can replace sharp sand and gravel in concrete production. There are sites across Kent that screen and/or crush secondary and recycled aggregates for re-use. Some are located in industrial estates, or at existing quarries, wharves and rail depots.

2.3.11 As well as land-won minerals and mineral recycling, Kent handles minerals (construction aggregates and cement) through its wharves and rail depots and is the largest importer of Marine Dredged Aggregates (MDA) in the South East.

Other Minerals

2.3.12 Chalk and clay resources are very common in Kent. There are four main clay horizons in Kent: London Clay, Gault Clay, Weald Clay and Wadhurst Clay. London Clay has been extensively used as an engineering clay, particularly for sea defence works around the North Kent Marshes. Gault, Weald and Wadhurst Clay have been used, historically, in brick making.

2.3.13 Brick and tiles are manufactured from brickearth or clays. These industries have declined in Kent but there remains one operational brick and one operational tile works. The Sittingbourne to Faversham area is the original source of yellow London stock bricks. Hand-made Kent peg tiles are manufactured at a small Weald Clay site near Maidstone.

2.3.14 The chalk horizon in Kent has formed the North Downs and it forms a major and highly recognised landscape feature across the county from Dover in the east to Westerham in the west. It also forms the main bedrock to the Isle of Thanet. Chalk is used in agriculture, e.g. for neutralising acid soils, in construction and as a filler in industrial processes such as a whitening agent.

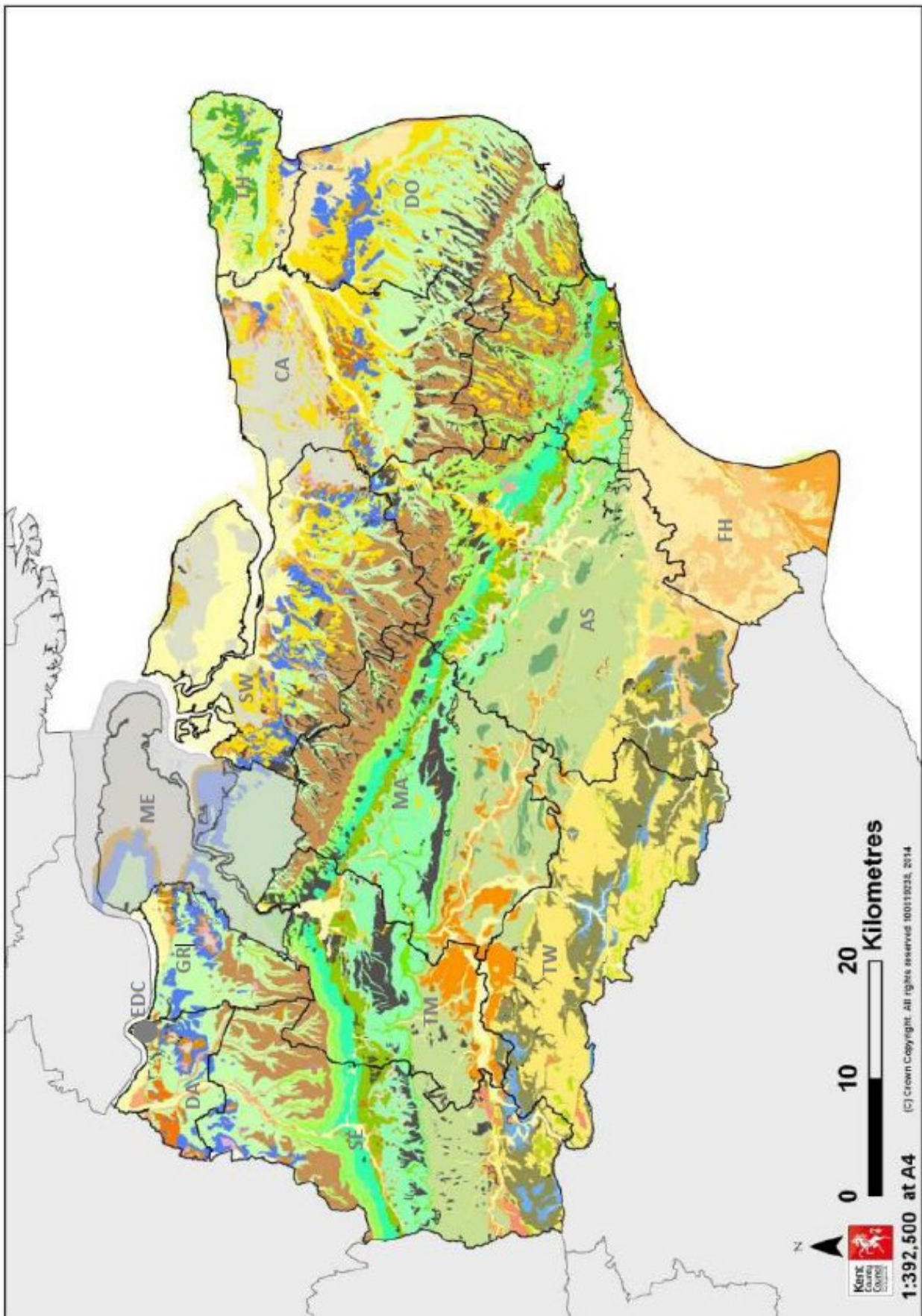
2.3.15 Building stone, required for specialist or conservation work, is currently provided only from the Hythe Formation (a limestone that can provide crushed rock) quarries of mid Kent. Other types of building stone, including Tunbridge Wells Sandstone and Bethersden Paludina Limestone, have been worked for local building materials but there are currently no active quarries in Kent.

2.3.16 The Kent silica sand (so called because of their high purity of silicon dioxide or quartz) deposits found within the Folkestone Formation, while not as pure as

those in Surrey, are used for industrial processes. These include: glass manufacture, production of foundry castings, horticulture and for sports surfaces such as horse menages and golf course bunker sand. There are no sites in Kent that provide only silica sand. All such sites also produce construction aggregate³⁰.

³⁰ GWP Consultants (March 2010). A study of Silica sand Quality and End Uses in Surrey and Kent. Final Report for KCC.

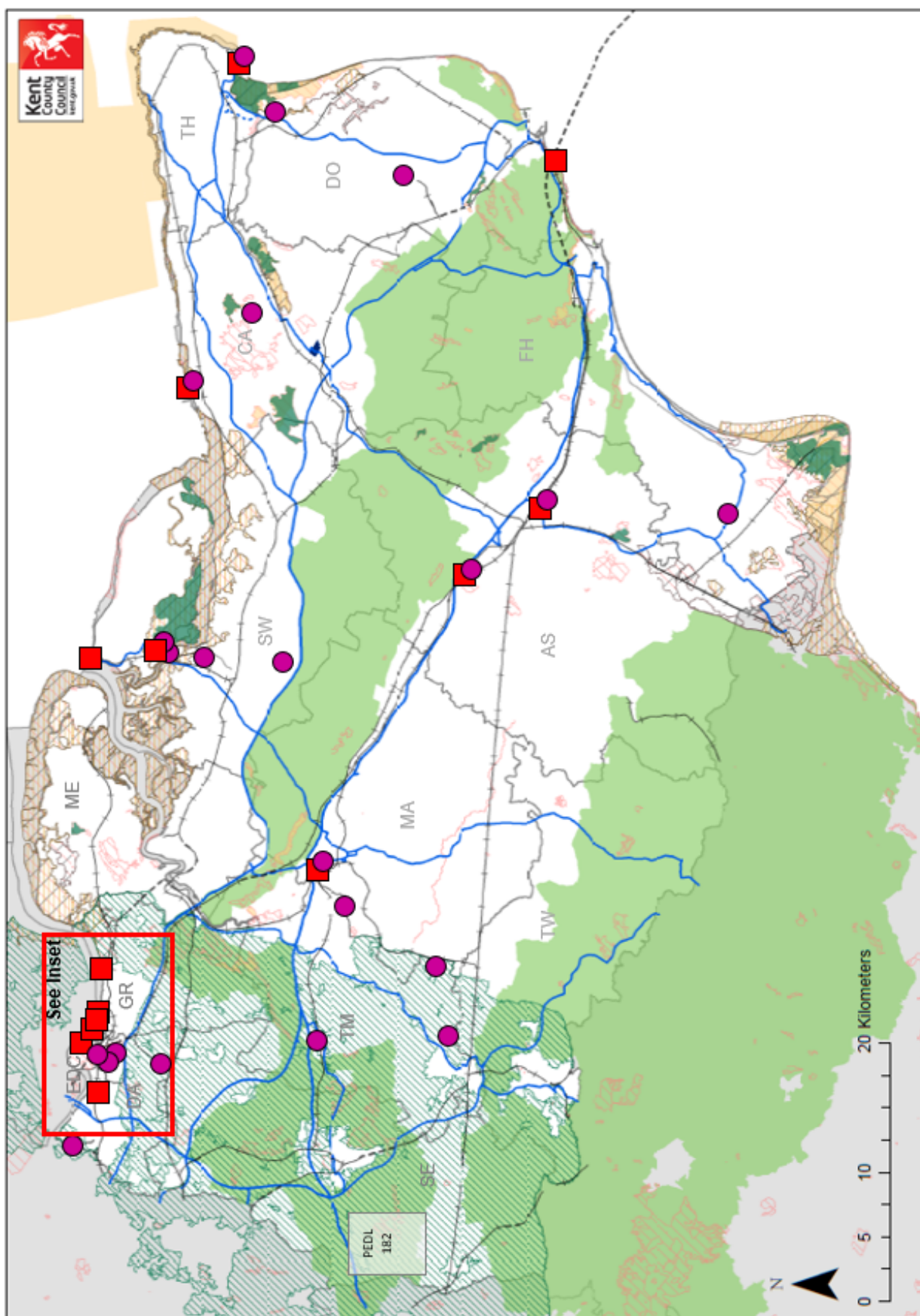
Figure 12: Geology of Kent



Legend: Geology of Kent

<u>Superficial (Drift) Deposits of Kent</u>		<u>Solid Geology of Kent</u>	
	Landslip		Mineral & Waste Authorities outside KCC
	Blown Sand		Lenham Beds
	Marine Beach / Tidal Flats		Bagshot Beds
	Storm Gravel Beach Deposits		Claygate Beds
	Marine (/Estuarine) Alluvium (Clay		London Clay
	(Sand (Sand & Gravel)		Blackheath / Oldhaven Beds
	Calcareous Tufa		Woolwich Beds
	Alluvium		Thanet Beds
	Dry Valley & Nailbourne Deposits		Bullhead Bed
	Peat		Upper Chalk
	Brickearth		Middle Chalk
	Undivided Flood Plain Gravel		Melbourne Rock
	1st Terrace River Gravel		Lower Chalk (Glaucouitic Marl)
	2nd Terrace River Gravel		Upper Greensand
	3rd Terrace River Gravel		Gault Clay
	4th Terrace River Gravel		Lower Greensand
	5th Terrace River Gravel		Folkestone Beds
	1st/2nd Terrace River Gravel		Sandgate Beds
	2nd/3rd Terrace River Gravel		Hythe Beds
	4th/5th Terrace River Gravel		Atherfield Clay
	Taplow Gravel		Weald Clay
	Boyn Hill Gravel		Sand in Weald Clay (/Sandstone)
	Head		Large 'Paludina' Limestone
	Coombe Deposits		Small 'Paludina' Limestone
	Head Brickearth		'Cyrene' Limestone
	Head Brickearth (Older)		Clay Ironstone
	Head Brickearth 1st Terrace		Undifferentiated Clay & Limestone
	Head Gravel		Hastings Beds
	Plateau Gravel		Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand
	Clay-with-Flints		Upper
	Sand in Clay-with-Flints		Cuxfield Stone
	Disturbed Blackheath Beds		Lower Grinstead Clay
			Ardingley Sandstone
			Lower Tunbridge Wells Sand
			Tunbridge Wells Sand
			Clay in Tunbridge Wells Sand
			Grinstead Clay
			Wadhurst Clay
			Sand in Wadhurst Clay
			Ironstone in Wadhurst Clay
			Ashdown Beds

Figure 13: Minerals Key Diagram - Sustainable Mineral Supply



Legend















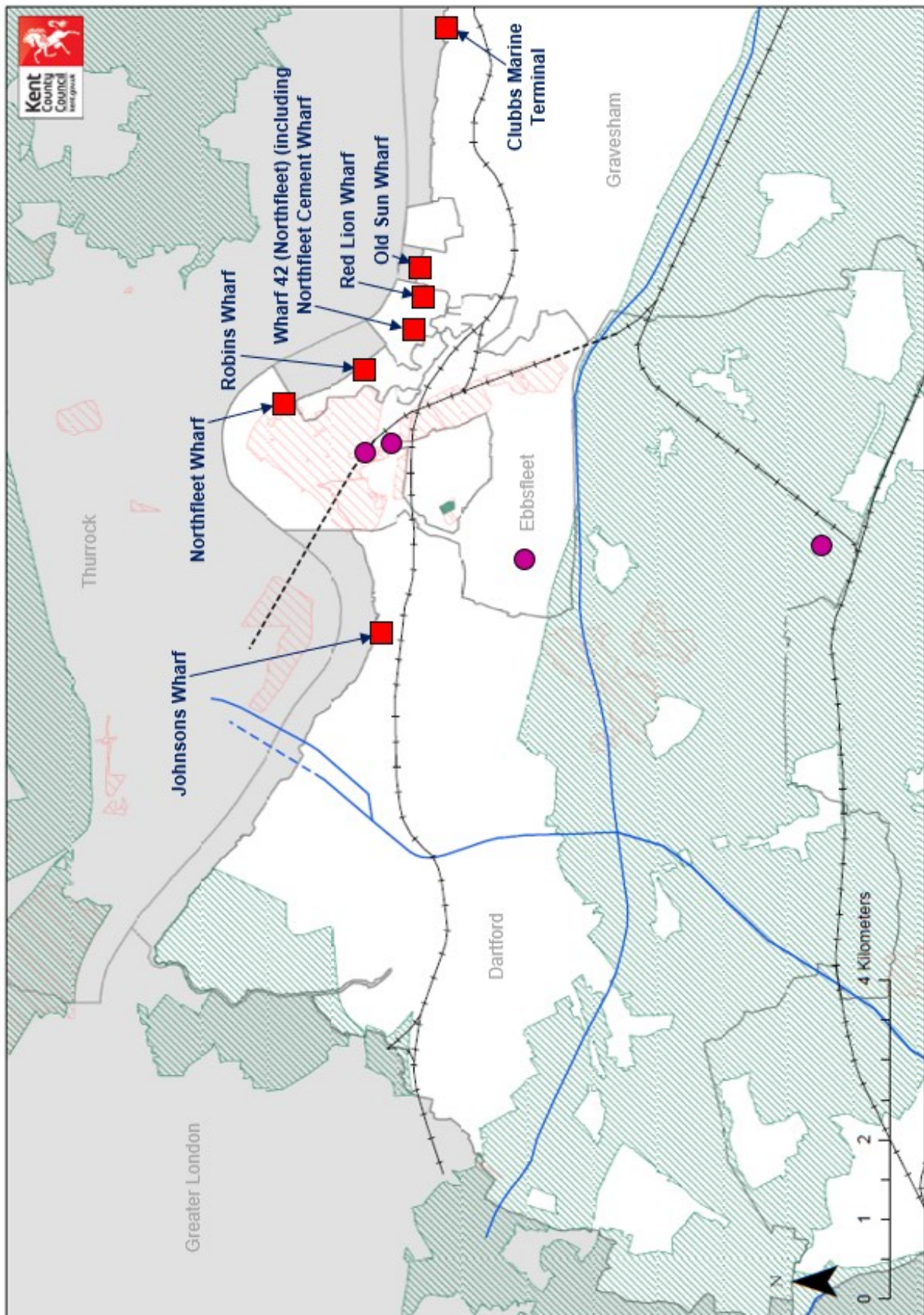
 Railway	 Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots
 Motorway	 Secondary and Recycled Aggregate Facilities
 Green Belt	
 National Nature Reserve	
 Ramsar	
 Special Area of Conservation	
 Special Protection Areas	
 World Heritage Sites	
 Sites of Special Scientific Interest	
 National Landscape	
 Kent Districts	
 Minerals and Waste Authorities outside KCC	

Figure 13A: Minerals Key Diagram Inset Map - Sustainable Mineral Supply



Legend















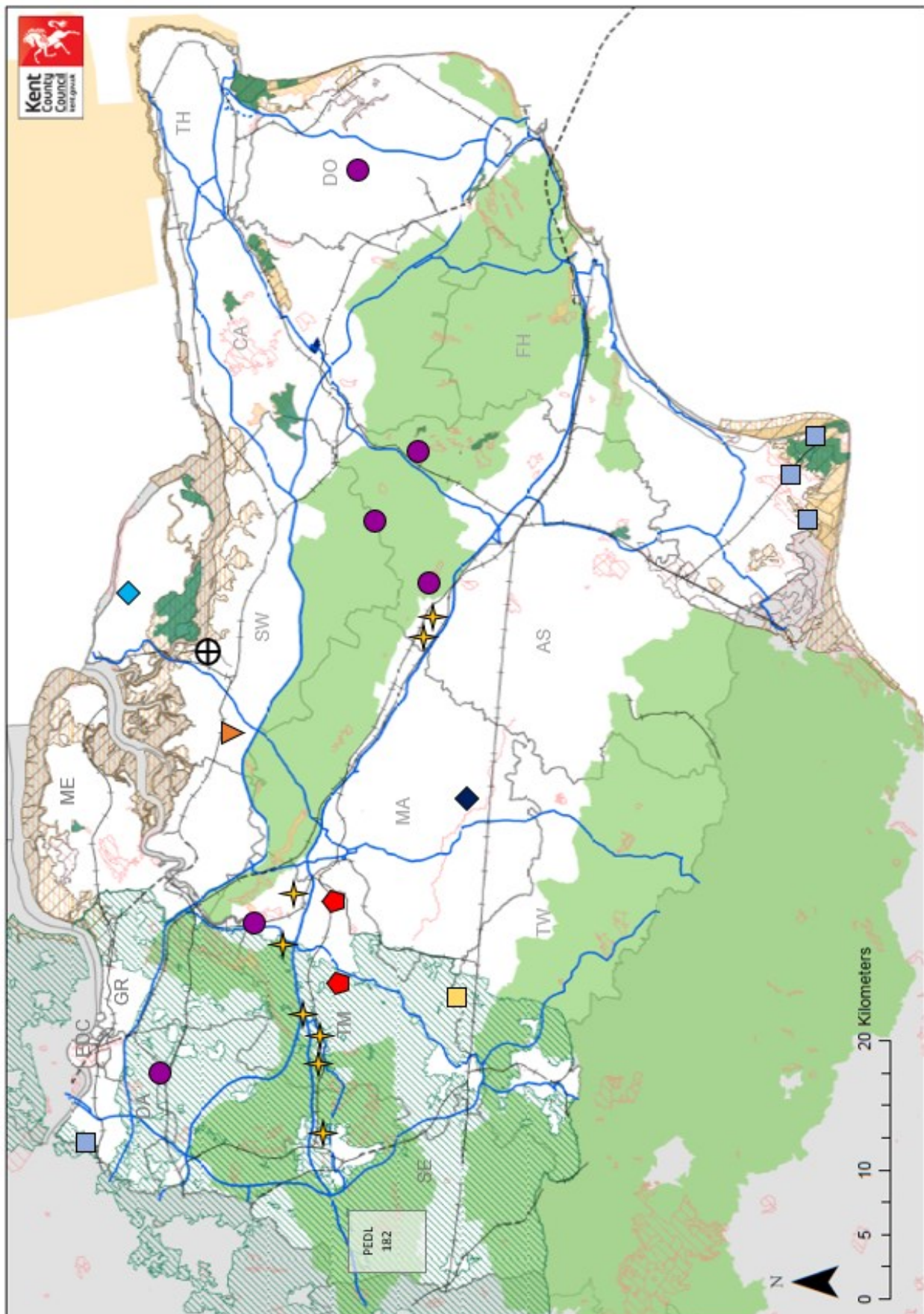



















- | | |
|--|---|
|  Railway |  Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots |
|  Motorway |  Secondary and Recycled Aggregate Facilities |
|  Green Belt | |
|  National Nature Reserve | |
|  Ramsar | |
|  Special Area of Conservation | |
|  Special Protection Areas | |
|  World Heritage Sites | |
|  Sites of Special Scientific Interest | |
|  National Landscape | |
|  Kent Districts | |
|  Minerals and Waste Authorities outside KCC | |

Figure 14: Minerals Key Diagram - Land-won Supply



Legend

 Railway	 Brickworks
 Motorway	 Chalk
 Green Belt	 Clay for Tiles
 National Nature Reserve	 Clay for Engineering
 Ramsar	 Brickearth
 Special Area of Conservation	 Building Sand (soft sand)
 Special Protection Areas	 Crushed Rock
 World Heritage Sites	 Sand and Gravel (flint)
 Sites of Special Scientific Interest	 Sand and Gravel (sandstone)
 National Landscape	
 Kent Districts	
 Minerals and Waste Authorities outside KCC	

2.4 Kent's Waste Infrastructure

2.4.1 It is estimated that Kent has a population of 1,578,000³¹ people with major urban areas in North Kent, Maidstone, Ashford and Thanet and smaller towns throughout the county. The county is an area of sustained growth for housing, employment and infrastructure, and retains important manufacturing industries in addition to the service employment that is prevalent in the South East. This infrastructure generates large volumes of household, Commercial and Industrial (C&I), and construction waste. To accommodate the forecast increase in population, local authority housing forecasts indicate that some 178,600 housing units are planned across Kent and Medway between 2011 and 2031³².

2.4.2 The district councils, as waste collection authorities (WCA), influence the rate of recycling of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) in their areas. However, the County Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) and the Waste Planning Authority (WPA), must achieve targets and apply policies for the county as a whole. The JMWMS³³, which provides guidance for the future direction of household waste management in Kent, has informed the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan.

2.4.3 The provision of waste management facilities is influenced by international and national planning constraints. Local geology and hydrology also constrain where non-hazardous and hazardous waste landfill might be sited. Areas with clay geology, outside water Source Protection Zones (SPZs) which are not liable to flooding, may be suitable for future landfill. This is subject to suitable engineering solutions and any local environmental impact being acceptable. Figure 15 shows the SPZs and Flood Zones in Kent.

2.4.4 Some of Kent's mineral workings are used for waste disposal. At the time of Plan preparation, there are two non-hazardous landfill sites and two hazardous landfill sites.

2.4.5 There are other Energy from Waste (EfW) facilities in Kent including one at Kemsley. The Allington EfW plant near Maidstone can treat residual household waste. It has additional capacity not contracted to the County Council available for Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) from outside Kent, or C&I waste from inside or outside Kent. It enables Kent to divert waste from landfill and to meet the national planning policy objective to move the treatment of waste up the hierarchy (see Figure 18). Blaise Farm, near West Malling has a large, modern enclosed plant for composting of green and kitchen waste. There is also EfW facility at Kemsley in Sittingbourne that has a waste throughput of 550,000 tonnes a year (with permission granted for a further 107,000 tonnes per year) and supplies 49.9MW of power to an adjacent paper mill.

³¹ Kent Statistical Bulletin, January 2023, 2021 Mid-year population estimates: Total population in Kent, Kent County Council

³² Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework 2018 Update

³³ KCC (2018) refreshed Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

2.4.6 Kent neighbours Medway, London, Essex, Surrey and East Sussex. Waste crosses the borders into and out of Kent, this includes those areas that border Kent and beyond.

2.4.7 Construction, demolition and excavation waste comes into the county from London for disposal in inert landfill sites.

2.4.8 Figures 16A and 16B show the location of key existing minerals and waste facilities.

Figure 15 Flood Zones, Source Protection Zones and Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence areas

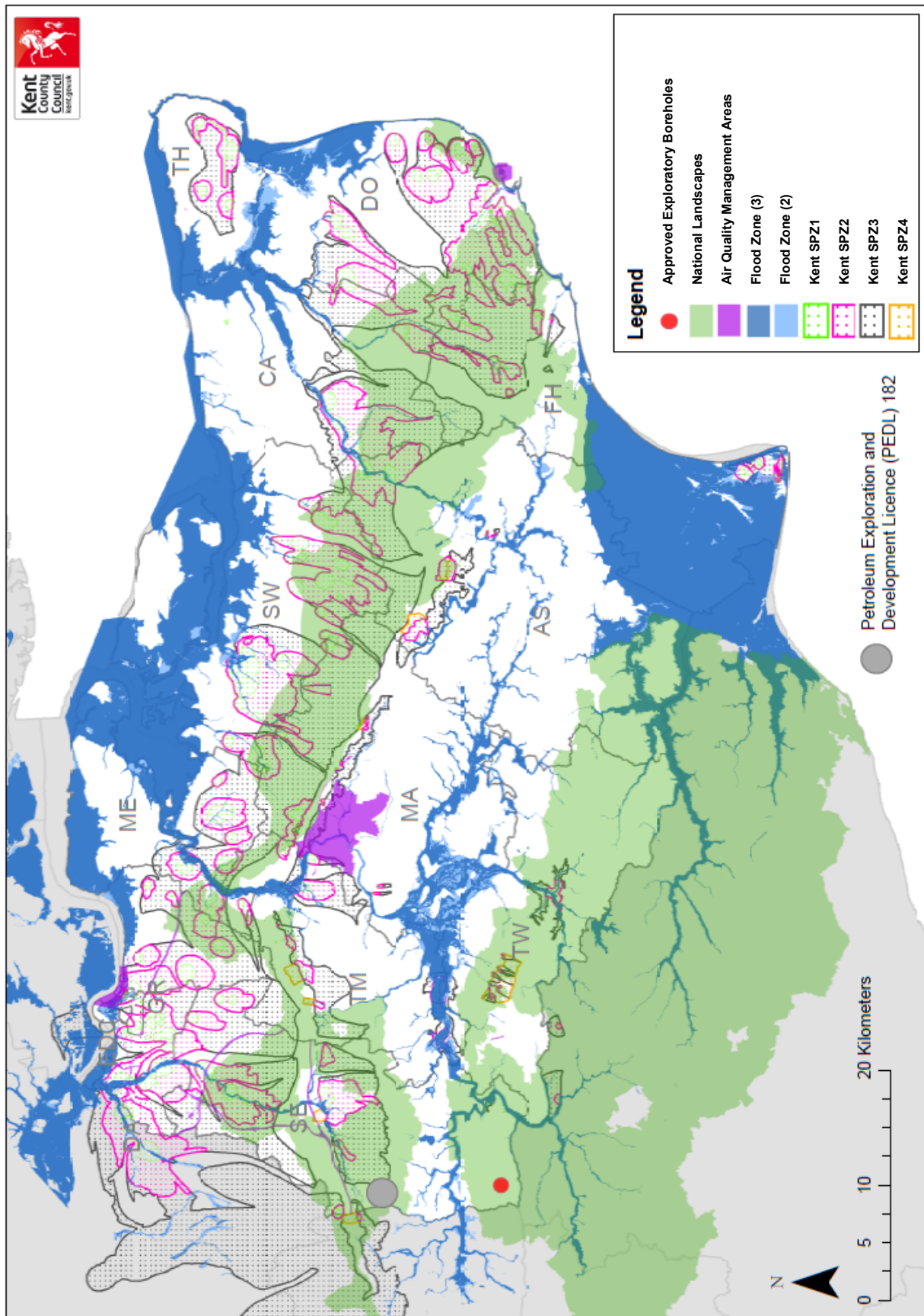
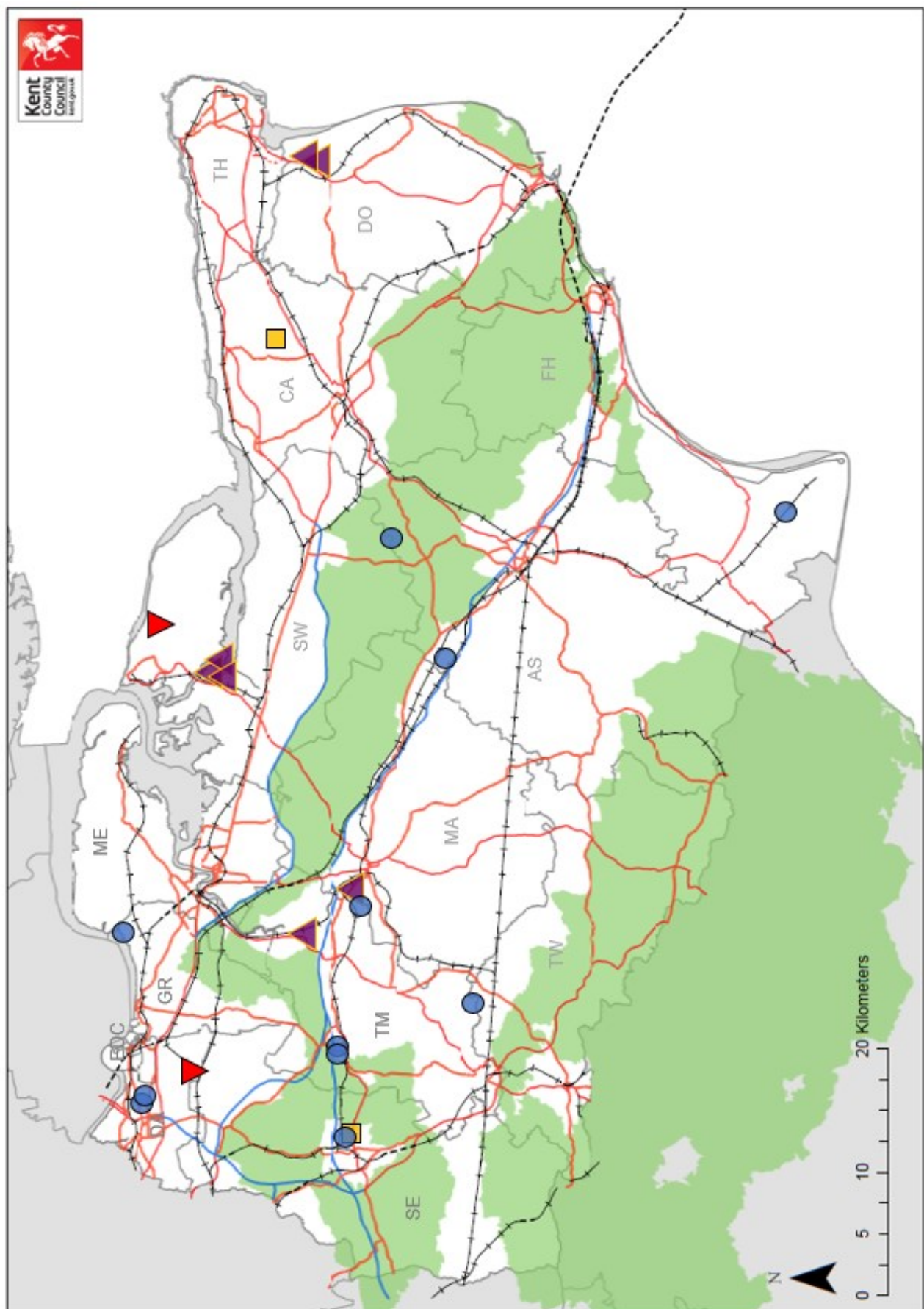


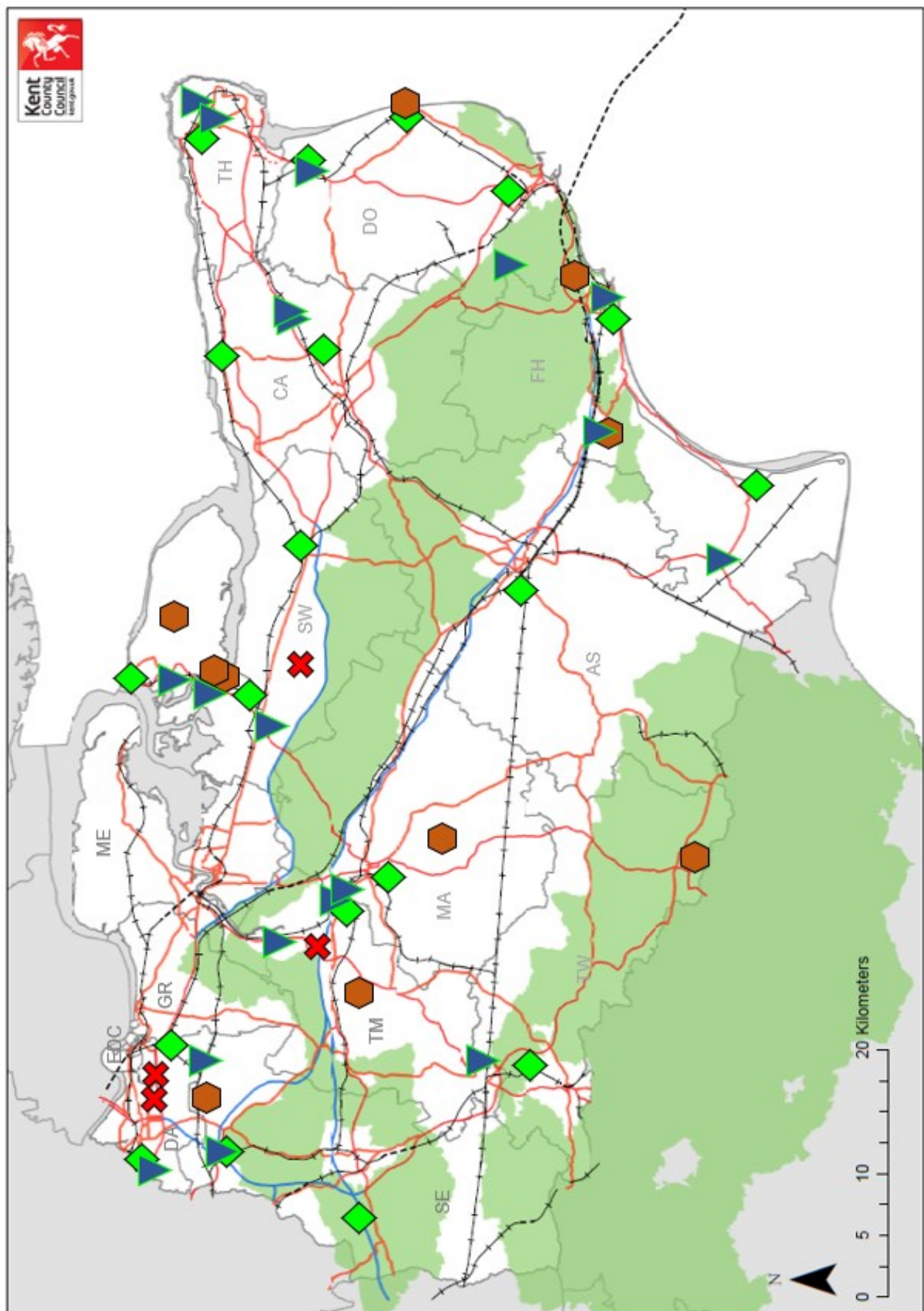
Figure 16A: Waste Key Diagram - Residual Waste Management Capacity













Legend

 Railway	 Energy from Waste
 Motorway	 Inert Landfill
 A Road	 Non-Hazardous Landfill
 National Landscape	 Hazardous Landfill
 Kent Districts	
 Minerals and Waste Authorities outside KCC	

Figure 16B - Waste Key Diagram - Reuse/Recycling and Treatment Capacity



Legend	
 Railway	 Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC)
 Motorway	 Organic Treatment and Composting
 A Road	 Hazardous Waste Transfer and Treatment
 National Landscape	 Recycling
 Kent Districts	
 Minerals and Waste Authorities outside KCC	

3. Spatial Vision for Minerals and Waste in Kent

3.0.1 The Kent MWLP provides an opportunity to take a fresh look at minerals and waste issues and to take some bold steps towards delivering improvements in mineral supply and waste resource management based on the principles of sustainable development. Identifying a vision for minerals and waste in Kent allows us to translate broad sustainability principles and put them into a context that is relevant to our communities and businesses.

3.0.2 The main aims of the Plan are to drive waste up the Waste Hierarchy (see Figure 18) enabling waste to be considered as a valuable resource, while at the same time providing a steady supply of minerals to allow sustainable growth to take place. It will also ensure that requirements such as a Low Carbon Economy (LCE) and climate change issues are incorporated into new developments for minerals and waste development in Kent.

3.0.3 The vision outlines our ambition for sustainable resource management and mineral supply.

3.0.4 As the Kent MWLP will plan for minerals and waste in Kent up to the end of 2039, it is important to recognise that technology will change over the plan period. Therefore, the Plan has to be robust and flexible enough to enable improvements in technology to be incorporated into future mineral supply and waste management developments.

Spatial Vision for Minerals and Waste in Kent

Throughout the Plan period 2024-39, minerals and waste development will:

1. Make a positive and sustainable contribution to the Kent area and beyond and ensure minerals and waste development contributes to the progression towards a low carbon economy.
2. Supports the needs arising from growth in Kent.
3. Deliver sustainable solutions to the minerals and waste needs of Kent and beyond through collaborative working with communities, landowners, the minerals and waste industries, the environmental and voluntary sector and local planning authorities.
4. Embrace the naturally and historically rich and sensitive environment of the plan area, and ensure that it is conserved and enhanced for future generations to enjoy.

Planning for Minerals in Kent will:

5. Seek to deliver a sustainable, steady and adequate supply of land-won minerals including aggregates, silica sand, crushed rock, brickearth, chalk and clay, building stone and minerals for cement manufacture.
6. Facilitate the processing and use of secondary and recycled aggregates to become less reliant on land-won construction aggregates.
7. Safeguard economic mineral resources for future generations and all existing, planned and potential mineral transportation and processing infrastructure (including wharves and rail depots and production facilities).
8. Restore minerals sites to a high standard that will deliver sustainable benefits to Kent communities.

Planning for Waste in Kent will:

9. Facilitate the achievement of a more circular economy in all forms of development, ensuring the maximum reuse of materials and goods, minimising waste and ensuring its management is sustainable and takes place as high up the Waste Hierarchy as possible.
10. Extract the maximum amount of renewable energy incorporating both heat and power, from waste that cannot be re-used or recycled (i.e. unavoidable residual waste) and minimise the amount of non-hazardous waste sent to landfill.
11. Ensure waste is managed close to its source of production.
12. Allow for the development of a variety of waste management facilities to ensure that Kent remains at the forefront of waste management with solutions for all major waste streams, while retaining flexibility to adapt to changes in technology and legislation.
13. Ensure sufficient capacity exists to meet the future needs for waste management.
14. Restore waste management sites to a high standard that will deliver sustainable benefits to Kent's environment and its communities.

4. Objectives for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

4.0.1 The Spatial Vision outlines our ambition for sustainable resource management for minerals and waste development in the plan area up to the end of 2039. While this vision describes what will be achieved, the objectives explain how the vision will be achieved.

4.0.2 All of the Kent MWLP objectives that follow are underpinned by an ambition to manage waste and mineral extraction and supply according to the principles of sustainable development, and in support of the National Infrastructure Strategy³⁴ and the delivery of Kent's community strategies.

4.0.3 Through regular monitoring and review of the progress of the Plan's policies against these objectives, it will be possible to see how much progress is being made towards achieving these requirements. Monitoring will also show whether the policies are having the required effects and will help to identify what may need to be undertaken to implement improvements, or whether a review of the policies is necessary. Chapter 8 sets out a schedule for managing and monitoring the delivery of the strategy.

4.0.4 The Strategic Objectives are listed overleaf and are in no particular order of priority.

³⁴ National Infrastructure Strategy (November 2020) HM Treasury

Strategic Objectives for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan

General

1. Encourage the use of sustainable, low carbon modes of transport for moving minerals and waste long distances and minimise road miles.
2. Ensure minerals and waste developments contribute towards the minimisation of, and adaptation to, the effects of climate change. This includes helping to shape places to secure radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.
3. Ensure minerals and waste sites are sensitive to both their surrounding environment³⁵ and communities, and minimise their impact on them.
4. Enable minerals and waste developments to contribute to the social and economic fabric of their communities through employment, educational and recreational opportunities where possible.
- 4a. Ensure that waste is managed and minerals are supplied in a manner which is consistent with the achievement of a more circular economy.

Minerals

5. Seek to ensure the delivery of adequate and steady supplies of sand and gravel, chalk, brickearth, clay, building sand, silica sand, crushed rock, building stone and minerals for cement during the plan period, by maintaining a stock of permitted reserves and safeguarding mineral bearing land for future generations.
6. Promote and encourage the use of recycled and secondary aggregates in place of primary land and marine won minerals.
7. Safeguard existing, planned and potential sites for mineral infrastructure including wharves and rail depots across Kent to enable the on-going transportation of marine dredged aggregates, crushed rock and other minerals as well as other production facilities.
8. Enable the extraction of building stone minerals for heritage building products.
9. Restore minerals sites at the earliest opportunity to the highest possible standard to sustainable after-uses that benefit the Kent community economically, socially or environmentally. Where possible, after-uses should conserve and improve local landscape character, and provide opportunities for improvements in biodiversity which meet and, where relevant, exceed

³⁵ Surrounding environment: see the Glossary in Appendix A for details.

targets outlined in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045, the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, National Landscape (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) Management Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies to help maximise overall net-gain in biodiversity on restoration

10. *Not in use.*

Waste

11. Minimise the production of waste and increase its reuse. Promote the movement of waste up the Waste Hierarchy by enabling the waste management industry to provide facilities that increase recycling, treatment and reprocessing to improve the management of resources and deliver further reductions in the amount of Kent's waste being disposed of in landfill and through waste to energy.
12. Promote the management of waste close to the source of production in a sustainable manner using appropriate technology and, where applicable, innovative technology, such that net self sufficiency is maintained throughout the plan period.
13. If it cannot be reduced, reused, recycled or composted, use waste as a fuel for the generation of renewable energy, in the form of both heat and electricity through energy from waste including technologies such as gasification and anaerobic digestion.
14. Ensure sufficient capacity exists to maintain a county-wide network for the sustainable management of Kent's waste.
15. Restore waste management sites at the earliest opportunity to the highest possible standard to sustainable after-uses that benefit the Kent community economically, socially and environmentally. Where possible, after-uses should conserve and improve local landscape character and provide opportunities for biodiversity to meet and where relevant, exceed targets outlined in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045, the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, Greater Thames Nature Improvement Area, National Landscape (formerly known as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Management Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies to maximise overall net-gain in biodiversity on restoration.

5. Delivery Strategy for Minerals

5.0.1 Minerals are essential to support sustainable economic growth and quality of life. It is important that there is a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure and its maintenance, buildings, energy and goods that the country needs. However, since they are a finite natural resource, and can only be worked where they are found, it is important to make the best use of them to secure their long-term conservation³⁶.

5.1 Policy CSM 1: Sustainable Development

5.1.1 The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development³⁷, there are three overarching interdependent objectives to the delivery of sustainable mineral development. These relate to economic, social and environmental considerations and are at the heart of planning decisions. The objectives are:

1. **Economic** - to ensure the economy is strong, responsive and competitive, such that land and resources are available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity. Minerals provision is particularly important in identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
2. **Social** - to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by the appropriate siting, operation and restoration of mineral development including the contribution minerals makes to the delivery on new homes, buildings and infrastructure needed to support communities' health, social and cultural well-being
3. **Environmental** - to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment, making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, including contributions from net biodiversity gain, in addition to the prudent use of primary mineral and natural resources and mitigating and adapting to climate change as society moves to a low carbon economy.

5.1.2 At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF requires that policies in local plans should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Kent MWLP is therefore based on the principle of sustainable development. This is demonstrated in the Spatial Vision and the Strategic Objectives, and the policies that seek sustainable solutions.

5.1.3 Planning law requires planning decisions to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF

³⁶ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), paragraph 7

³⁷ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), paragraph 215

states that it does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making.

5.1.4 All references to 'community' or 'communities' in the policies that follow should be taken in the widest sense of including both economic and social roles and potential impacts on both people and business.

5.1.5 Policy CSM 1 is included in the Plan to ensure the presumption in favour of sustainable development is taken into account in KCC's approach to minerals development.

Policy CSM 1

Sustainable Development

When considering mineral development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

5.2 Policy CSM 2: Supply of Land-won Minerals in Kent

5.2.1 Economic minerals that are currently extracted from Kent quarries include aggregate minerals and industrial minerals. Aggregate minerals include: soft sand, sharp sand, gravel and crushed rock (ragstone); industrial minerals include: silica sand, brickearth, clay for tile-making, chalk for agricultural and industrial uses and building stone. In the recent past, shale from the coal measures in East Kent has been used for brick making, clay has been used for brick-making and raw materials have been extracted for cement manufacture within Kent. Up until the late 1980s, coal was extracted from underground coal mines in East Kent³⁸.

5.2.2 The NPPF requires Mineral Planning Authorities (MPAs) to aim to source minerals supplies indigenously so far as practicable, and take account of the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials and minerals waste would make to supply, before considering extraction of primary materials. For land-won primary materials the NPPF expects MPAs to identify, and include policies for the extraction of, mineral resources of national and local importance in their area. Relevant Statements of Common Ground between Kent County Council and other MPAs are taken into account when planning for the supply of aggregate.

³⁸ More details of non-aggregate minerals in Kent are given in: KCC (May 2011) TRM3: Other Minerals

Aggregate

Sharp Sand and Gravel

Flint Gravels

5.2.3 High quality flint gravels (so called given their high compressive and tensile strength properties of their quartz mineral composition) in Kent are concentrated in the areas where flints derived from the eroded chalk have been deposited by river and marine action. These are sourced from the three main river valleys of the Darent, Medway and Stour, and the beach deposits along the coast (particularly at Dungeness). As far back as 1970, planning studies³⁹ identified concerns about the depletion of flint gravels in the river valleys and the constraints on availability of the coastal supply in the Dungeness area due to nature conservation and water resource protection. Flint dominant head gravel resources near Herne Bay, previously identified as Areas of Search (AoS)⁴⁰ have not proved to be sufficiently attractive for development.

Sandstone Gravels

5.2.4 The sandstone dominant gravels (so called by their brown coloration due to the occurrence of a quartz polymorph of lower compressive and tensile strength than the 'flint' gravels) in the Medway Valley upstream of Maidstone became the subject of increasing interest from operators as other deposits became worked out, although their use in the production of high-quality concreting aggregates has not normally been possible.

5.2.5 Recent (2022) monitoring identifies two active (and three inactive) sharp sand and gravel sites within the County.

Soft Sand

5.2.6 Kent's soft sand reserves extracted from the Folkestone Beds continue to be important for mortar and asphalt production. Soft sand supplies in Kent are relatively abundant, whereas they are scarce in other parts of the South East of England, with supplies from five sites continuing to be important for mortar and asphalt production.

Crushed Rock

5.2.7 The only resource exploited commercially to supply crushed rock in the county is from the Hythe Formation (limestone) informally called the Kentish Ragstone which is found in a band crossing Kent from east to west. The ragstone resource to the west of Maidstone has been the focus of crushed rock supply in the recent past. Other resources capable of producing crushed rock are found in the form of the Carboniferous Limestone deposit in east Kent (see section 5.11).

³⁹ Evidence prepared for the Kent Structure Plan in 1975.

⁴⁰ KCC (1993) Kent Minerals Local Plan Construction Aggregates Written Statement.

Alternative Sources of Materials to Markets Supplied by Land-won Sharp Sand & Gravels

5.2.8 Secondary and recycled aggregates can, in some circumstances, provide a replacement for sharp sand and gravel in many applications. The suitability of such materials to substitute for land-won supplies has been considered in detail⁴¹. Sales of secondary and recycled materials in 2022 were 0.802mt, although sales have been as high as 1.029mt in the last decade (2016). The importance of maintaining supply from this source is recognised in Policy CSM 8: Secondary and Recycled Aggregates which seeks to maintain and increase production capacity.

5.2.9 With its coastal location, Kent fulfils an important role in the importation of minerals including a range of construction aggregates from mainland Europe, as well as marine dredged aggregates (MDA) and imported recycled and secondary materials. Kent benefits from a number of aggregate wharves, into which significant quantities of MDA and crushed rock are landed. Kent is understood to be the largest importer of MDA in the South East of England, with 1.9 million tonnes (mt) being imported into its wharves in 2022. Monitoring shows no significant change in the importance of Kent's wharves in the supply of this material. The 10-year sales average in 2022 was 1.65mt and in 2019 the Kent and Medway area consumed up to 70% of sales recorded in the combined area. Land-won sharp sand and gravel is also imported by rail and road from areas beyond Kent.

Demand for Land-won Aggregates

5.2.10 The NPPF⁴² requires Minerals Planning Authorities to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates through preparing an annual Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA) from which future planned provision should be derived based on a rolling average of 10-years aggregates sales data⁴³ and an assessment of all supply options (including marine dredged, secondary and recycled sources), and other relevant local information including the 3 year sales average. It also seeks for plans to make provision for the maintenance of landbanks of at least seven years for land-won sand and gravel and ten years for crushed rock. Landbanks of aggregate minerals reserves are used as the principal indicator of the future security of aggregate minerals supply, and to indicate the additional provision that needs to be made for new aggregate extraction and alternative supplies in mineral plans.

5.2.11 The NPPF and planning practice guidance⁴⁴ also states that separate landbanks should be calculated and maintained for any aggregate materials of a specific type or quality which have a distinct and separate market.

⁴¹ See report: KCC (2013) Interchangeability of Construction Aggregates.

⁴² National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), para.219.

⁴³ Data collected annually by mineral planning authorities for their AMRs and the regional aggregate working parties. Details of how the rolling 10-year average sales data and how landbanks are calculated are given in the Local Aggregate Assessment.

⁴⁴ Planning Practice Guidance: Minerals.

5.2.12 The Kent Local Aggregate Assessment sets out the 10-year average of sales for all aggregates and the contribution of different aggregates to overall supply. Since the sharp sands and gravels and soft sands serve predominantly different markets their supply has been assessed separately.

Land-won Aggregate Supply Considerations

5.2.13 The starting point for identifying requirements for future land release for land-won aggregates is the expected need for materials over the Plan period and beyond. It takes into account the material which can be supplied from sites which already exist and have planning permission, allocations in the Kent Mineral Sites Plan and the contribution that substitute or secondary and recycled materials would make. The Plan provides separate policies for sharp sand & gravel, soft sand and crushed rock, all of which are won from the land within Kent.

5.2.14 The sites included in the calculations of the supply of land-won aggregates are published in the LAA and/or AMR.

5.2.15 The sharp sand and gravel sites allocated in the Kent Mineral Sites Plan 2020 are Stonecastle Farm Quarry Extensions, Hadlow and Land at Moat Farm, Five Oak Green. The soft sand site allocated in the Kent Minerals Sites Plan 2020 is Chapel Farm (West), Lenham.

5.2.16 The criteria set out in Policy CSM 2 is used to select suitable sites for allocation in the Minerals Sites Plan.

5.2.17 A policy covering situations where non-identified land-won mineral sites could be acceptable is included as Policy CSM 4. In considering proposals that create building stone from aggregate development, Policy CSM 9 shall also be considered.

Sharp Sand & Gravel

5.2.18 The annual position on sharp sand and gravel in the County is reported in the Council's Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA). Between 2013 and 2022 sales of sharp sand and gravel from quarries in Kent dropped from around 376,250 tonnes in 2013 to around 124,200 tonnes in 2022. The average of 10 years' sales of sharp sand and gravel is 175,700 tonnes per annum (0.176mtpa) as of 2022. If demand were at this level for the rest of the Plan period (2024 to 2039 with a 7-year landbank of 1.232mt maintained at the end of the Plan period) the requirement (based on the 10-year sales average) would be 3.872mt.

5.2.19 Permitted reserves at the end of 2022 were recorded at 2.230mt. Annual sales from this sector have been reducing for several years and this has had the effect of lengthening the life of the permitted reserves projected over the Plan period which is estimated using the 10-year rolling sales average. The available reserves at commencement of year 2024 are estimated at 2.054mt. The allocation (two sites) of 2.5mt of potentially replenishing resource are identified in the Kent Mineral Sites Plan 2020. Should these sites be granted planning permission this would provide a total surplus of 0.682mt over the Plan period. If the allocations do not come forward

during the Plan period, increased importation is anticipated to occur, thereby addressing the market need for this aggregate type. Managed decline is the anticipated pattern of supply of land-won resources in Kent in the longer term, as sustainable resources of sharp sand and gravel are becoming depleted.

5.2.20 It is possible that other suitable sources of aggregates may be identified, for example, currently uneconomic deposits become economic, or constraints on the release of known aggregates sources (such as land ownership) may be overcome. This could lead to proposals coming forward to be judged against Policy CSM 4: Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites or to further sites being proposed in a review of the Mineral Sites Plan. However, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016 accepted that land-won sharp sands and gravel were a physically depleting resource that are unlikely to be sustainably replenished in the long term.

5.2.21 Therefore, it is anticipated that the diminishing land-won sharp sand and gravel supplies will increasingly be substituted over the plan period by supplies from production of alternative materials. This would include secondary and recycled aggregate⁴⁵ supplies gained from the blending of materials to generate a suitable supply to the construction aggregate market⁴⁶, together with landings of MDA and imports of land-won aggregates from elsewhere. Indeed, there is adequate existing capacity at wharves, railheads and recycling facilities for supplies from these sources to maintain adequate supply of sharp sand and gravel aggregate as land-won resources are exhausted. The Plan provides for flexibility in supply of aggregates as follows: Policy CSM 5 seeks to safeguard sharp sand and gravel resources that may become economic and to maximise the opportunities for the development of 'windfall' reserves which may come forward under Policy CSM 4. In addition, Policies CSM 7 and CSM 8 make provision for maintaining and developing further secondary and recycled aggregates supplies during the plan period, and Policies CSM 6, CSM 7 & CSM 12 seek to ensure that the necessary minerals importation and processing infrastructure is in place and safeguarded.

5.2.22 In conclusion, based on 2022 aggregate monitoring data, the position for land-won sharp sand and gravel is as follows:

- Sharp sand and gravel: at least 4.554mt of actual and potential reserves (comprising currently permitted reserves estimated at the commencement of 2024 as 2.054mt plus 2.5mt of resources from allocated sites), and a 7-year landbank of at least 1.232mt as long as resources allow. Should the allocated sites come forward, this provides a surplus of 0.682mt over the Plan period.

Soft Sand

5.2.23 The annual position of soft sand in the County is reported in the Council's Local Aggregate Assessment. Between 2013 and 2022 sales of soft (building) sand from Kent's quarries have increased from around 483,200 tonnes in 2013 to around 574,700 tonnes in 2022. The average 10 years sales of soft sand has also

⁴⁵ See the latest Local Aggregate Assessment for Kent

⁴⁶ This currently occurs at one site (Hermitage Quarry - rock and hassock)

increased slightly, and as of 2022 is 475,038 tonnes per annum (0.475mtpa). If demand were at this level for the rest of the Plan period (2024 to 2039 with a 7-year landbank of 3.325mt maintained at the end of the Plan period) the requirement (based on the 10-year sales average) would be 10.45mt.

5.2.24 Permitted reserves at the end of 2022 were recorded at 5.574mt. The available reserves at commencement of year 2024 are estimated at 5.099mt. The allocation (one site) of 3.2mt of potentially replenishing resource is identified in the Kent Mineral Sites Plan 2020 and is expected to come forward during the Plan period. Should this site be granted planning permission this would provide a total of 8.299mt of reserves over the Plan period, excluding any windfall sites. This results in an estimated shortfall of 2.15mt in the maintained 7-year landbank to the end of 2039.

5.2.25 Assuming the Chapel Farm allocation comes forward as expected without any windfall sites, this indicates a 7-year landbank (of 3.325mt) to be maintained until around 2036. The estimate of available reserves and sales rates will likely change over time and there is the potential for the maintained 7-year landbank requirement to increase or decrease over time. At no time over the Plan period will the supply of soft sand be exhausted (based on current sales rolling averages and permitted reserves plus potential reserves from the Chapel Farm allocation). In addition, following the Plan's adoption, there is a subsequent statutory requirement to review the Plan every five years which provides future staged opportunities to assess if further monitored supply requirements justify any allocation of additional sites in an updated Mineral Sites Plan. Any allocation would need to be acceptable in planning terms and subject to detailed examination.

5.2.26 It should be noted that there can be a lack of clarity in geology between soft sand and silica sand as they occur in the ground as part of the same geological deposit. In light of this, it is necessary, in consultation with the operators, to determine the degree to which sites identified as supplying soft sand and/or silica sand may supply both materials. This can affect the aggregate monitoring data.

5.2.27 In conclusion, based on 2022 aggregate monitoring data, the position for land-won soft sand is as follows:

- Soft sand: at least 8.299mt of actual and potential reserves (comprising currently permitted reserves estimated at the commencement of 2024 as 5.099mt plus 3.2mt of resources from the allocated site), and a 7-year landbank of at least 3.325mt. Should the allocated site come forward, this would result in a theoretical shortfall of 2.15mt over the Plan period, though no exhaustion of available reserves during the plan period to 2039 is indicated and no account is taken of windfall sites. In addition, following the Plan's adoption, there is a subsequent statutory requirement to review the Plan every five years which provides future staged opportunities to assess if further monitored supply requirements justify any allocation of additional sites.

Hard (Crushed) Rock

5.2.28 The annual position on crushed hard rock in the County is reported in the Council's Local Aggregate Assessment. Between 2013 and 2022 sales of hard (crushed) rock have increased from 722,985mt in 2013 to 1,242,839mt in 2022 (in 2020 they were as high as 1,508,859mt). Local circumstances support the use of an average 6-year sales figure. The average 6 years sales of crushed rock is, as of 2022, 1,240,913 tonnes per annum (1.24mtpa). If demand were at this level for the rest of the Plan period (2024 to 2039 with a 10-year landbank of 12.4mt maintained at the end of the Plan period) the requirement (based on the 6-year sales average) would be 31.0mt.

5.2.29 Permitted reserves at the end of 2022 were recorded at 14.85mt. The available reserves at commencement of year 2024 are estimated at 13.62mt giving an estimated 17.38mt shortfall over the Plan period.

5.2.30 The identified shortfall may be addressed by the allocation of new hard (crushed) rock potential reserves (in an updated Mineral Sites Plan) sufficient to ensure an adequate and steady supply of this type of aggregate is maintained over the Plan period 2024-2039. Any allocation would need to be acceptable in planning terms and subject to detailed examination.

5.2.31 Currently the consented reserves of crushed rock are contained within two Kentish Ragstone sites. In conclusion, based on 2022 aggregate monitoring data, for land-won hard (crushed) rock the position is as follows:

- Crushed rock: at least 13.62mt of reserves (comprising currently permitted reserves estimated at the commencement of 2024), and a 10-year maintained landbank of at least 12.4mt, giving an estimated 17.38mt shortfall over the Plan period. Subject to detailed assessment, the shortfall is to be addressed by an allocation(s) of new hard (crushed) rock reserves in an updated Mineral Sites Plan sufficient to ensure an adequate and steady supply of this type of aggregate is maintained over the Plan period 2024-2039.

Industrial Minerals

5.2.32 In seeking to provide a steady and adequate supply of industrial minerals, and following national policy, the County Council will co-operate with other Mineral Planning Authorities to co-ordinate the planning of industrial minerals (including silica sand) to ensure adequate provision is made to support their likely use in industrial and manufacturing processes. The County Council will also seek to maintain a stock of permitted reserves to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment as follows:

- at least 10 years for individual silica sand sites except where significant new capital is required in which case it is 15 years;
- at least 15 years for cement primary (chalk and limestone) and secondary (clay and shale) materials to maintain an existing plant; and

- at least 25 years for brick clay and for cement primary and secondary materials to support a new kiln.

5.2.33 This section deals with how the Plan intends to provide to meet these expectations.

Brickearth and Clay for Brick and Tile Manufacture

5.2.34 Kent has one operational brickworks near Sittingbourne, which is supplied by brickearth extracted from a site in the Sittingbourne area to make yellow London stock bricks. National planning policy requires the provision of a stock of permitted reserves of at least 25 years for brick clay⁴⁷ There is a need to ensure sufficient reserves are available to provide brickearth for the operational brickwork in Kent to ensure that the locally characteristic yellow London stock bricks can continue to be manufactured. Currently the permitted reserves come from Paradise Farm in the Sittingbourne area. Total permitted reserves have been reconsidered against anticipated extraction rates. Yearly production is highly variable, and can significantly reduce in any one year, the effect is to commensurately increase the landbank significantly. It is considered that available reserves sufficient for the Plan period remain; being up to 29 years.

5.2.35 In the past in Kent, bricks have also been made at various locations from supplies of Weald Clay, Gault Clay, London Clay, Wadhurst Clay and colliery shale. No operational brickworks that use clay and/or colliery shale remain in Kent. The stock of planning permissions for clay and colliery shale for brick and tile making is sufficient for the plan period if any of the dormant or closed brickworks is re-opened or new brickworks are established⁴⁸. Therefore, there is no need to identify further reserves of brick clay or colliery shale for brickmaking in a Mineral Sites Plan.

5.2.36 A small-scale tile manufacturer that makes traditional 'Kent Peg' tiles is located in the Weald of Kent at Hawkenbury. This site has a consented clay pit with reserves consented through to 2026. Permitted reserves are however sufficient to supply the tile works well beyond this date.

Silica Sand

5.2.37 Silica sand (a form of sand such that it is almost pure quartz, or silicon dioxide) is considered to be a mineral of national importance due to its limited distribution. The Folkestone Beds, west of Maidstone, is the traditional extraction area for silica sand in Kent and is made up of distinct horizons of building sand and silica sand. While the quality of these silica sand deposits in Kent is not as pure as those found in the neighbouring county of Surrey, some of this material is used for industrial processes including glass manufacture and the production of foundry castings. Silica sand is also used in horticulture and for sports surfaces including horse maneges and golf course bunker sand. There are no sites in Kent that provide only silica sand. All of Kent's existing silica sand sites produce construction

⁴⁷ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), paragraph 220.

⁴⁸ KCC (May 2011) TRM3: Other Minerals

aggregates to some extent⁴⁹. National policy requires MPAs to plan for a steady and adequate supply of silica sand by providing a stock of permitted reserves to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant, and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment. This is carried out by providing a stock of permitted reserves of at least 10 years at established existing sites, and at least 15 years for silica sand sites where significant new capital is required, this would include entirely new sites⁵⁰.

5.2.38 An example of a potential local use would be in the manufacture of 'Aircrete' blocks (also known as aerated concrete blocks) where it may substitute for the current supply of Pulverised Fuel Ash (PFA). Currently the existing market need for silica sand is being met by extraction from three quarries Igtham Quarry, Wrotham Quarry (Addington Sand Pit) and Nepicar Sand Pit. In 2022, these quarries had an estimated permitted total reserve in the region of 1.58mt. These quarries are shown in Figure 13: Minerals Key Diagram and reported in the Annual Monitoring Report. Wrotham Quarry has a potential extension area that lies within the Kent Downs National Landscape (formerly AONB). While the Plan seeks to maintain a stock of permitted reserves, in line with national policy, it is recognised that this may not be possible if it would be inconsistent with policy to conserve the landscape and scenic beauty of the National Landscape. In light of national policy, the Plan does not seek allocation of sites within the National Landscape or in locations which would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the setting of, and implementation of, the statutory purposes of the National Landscape. Proposals will be considered on their merits against policy CSM 2.

Chalk

5.2.39 Chalk is abundant in Kent. It is used for agricultural and construction purposes (primarily as a bulk fill material) across the county⁵¹. Local sales data for agricultural and engineering use combined indicates that sales vary considerably from year to year. Total reserves are currently estimated at 0.532 million tonnes as of the end of 2022 (these figures are considered broad estimates). Based on the current rate of extraction there is a permitted reserve life of approximately only 13 years, compared to an excess of 100 years as previously monitored. However, the rate of extraction varies greatly from year to year. As the NPPF does not require specific chalk landbanks to be maintained at any particular level and taking account of the massive nature of the deposit in Kent, sites for Chalk extraction are not included in the Mineral Sites Plan.

5.2.40 While Kent was once a major producer of cement, there are no operational cement works remaining within the county. A cement works and its associated mineral reserves (Medway Works, Holborough) has the benefit of an extant implemented planning permission with the permitted mineral resources that are required to supply the works being sufficient for at least 25 years. Policies CSM 5, DM 7 and DM 8 safeguard the permitted mineral use and, were an application to

⁴⁹ GWP Consultants (March 2010) A study of silica sand quality and end uses in Surrey and Kent. Final report for KCC and Surrey County Council.

⁵⁰ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), paragraph 220 footnote 78.

⁵¹ KCC (May 2012) TRM3: Other Minerals.

come forward that proposed another form of use for this site, then these would need to be taken into account.

5.2.41 Reserves of chalk and rates of demand will be monitored and reported in the successive Authority Monitoring Reports and taken into account when any proposals for new sites come forward.

5.2.42 Any proposals for new chalk extraction will be assessed against Policy CSM 4: Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites.

Clay for Engineering Purposes

5.2.4 Clay is abundant in Kent. Other than uses in brick manufacture, the principal use for extracted clay is for land engineering purposes. Since there are no specific requirements for engineering clay for bulk fill, waterproof capping or flood defences there is no requirement to make specific provision. Local sales data indicates that sales vary significantly from year to year, however an average for the 11 years in which data was available indicates sales of approximately 27,000 tpa with a peak demand of 69,000 tonnes in 2002⁵². Sites which come forward for the extraction of clay for engineering purposes will be assessed against Policy CSM 4: Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites for future extraction to maintain such supply.

Policy CSM 2

Supply of Land-won Minerals in Kent

Mineral working will be granted planning permission at sites identified in the Minerals Sites Plan⁵³ subject to meeting the requirements set out in the relevant site schedule in the Mineral Sites Plan and the development plan.

1. Aggregates

Provision will be made for the supply of land-won aggregates as follows:

- **Sharp sand and gravel:** A landbank of sharp sand and gravel at least equal to the 7-year landbank (as set out in the latest Local Aggregate Assessment) will be maintained throughout the Plan period for as long as reserves and potential resources allow.
- **Soft sand:** A landbank of soft sand at least equal to the 7-year landbank (as set out in the latest Local Aggregates Assessment) will be maintained throughout the Plan period.

⁵² KCC (2012) TRM3 Other Minerals, Table 4B.

⁵³ Sites identified in the Minerals Sites Plan are generally where viable mineral resources are known to exist, where landowners are supportive of mineral development taking place and where it is considered that planning applications are likely to be acceptable in principle in planning terms.

- **Crushed rock:** A landbank of hard crushed rock at least equal to the 10-year landbank (as set out in the latest Local Aggregates Assessment) will be maintained throughout the Plan period.

Additional sites required to maintain landbanks of land-won aggregates at the levels stated above will be identified if possible, in the Mineral Sites Plan. A rolling average of ten years' sales data and other relevant information will be used to assess landbank requirements on an on-going basis, and this will be kept under review through the annual production of a Local Aggregates Assessment.

2. Brickearth and Clay for Brick and Tile Manufacture

The stock of existing planning permission at Paradise Farm, Hartlip Sittingbourne for brickearth for brick making and clay for brick and tile making at Babylon Tile Works, Hawkenbury is sufficient for the plan period. Applications for sites supplying brickearth and clay for brick and tile making will be dealt with in accordance with the policies of this Plan. The existence of a stock of permitted reserves of at least 25 years (as reported in the latest Annual Monitoring Report) to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment will be a material consideration.

3. Silica Sand

In response to planning applications, the Mineral Planning Authority will seek to permit sites for silica sand production sufficient to provide a stock of permitted reserves of at least 10 years for individual sites and 15 years for sites where significant new capital is required, to support the level of actual and proposed investment required for new or existing plant and the maintenance and improvement of existing plant and equipment⁵⁴. Proposals will be considered on their own merits, having regard to the policies of the Development Plan as a whole subject to them demonstrating:

- how the mineral resources meet technical specifications required for silica sand (industrial sand) end uses; and
- how the mineral resources will be used efficiently so that high-grade sand deposits are reserved for industrial end uses.

4. Chalk for Agriculture and Engineering Purposes

The stock of existing planning permissions for chalk is sufficient to supply Kent's requirements for agricultural and engineering chalk over the plan period, although monitoring data is showing a wide variation in overall permitted reserves. Applications for sites supplying chalk for agriculture and engineering purposes will be dealt with in accordance with the policies of this Plan. The need for additional

⁵⁴ 'Plant and equipment' is taken to mean that used in the processing of minerals and its use in industrial and manufacturing processes.

supplies of chalk will be assessed based on the latest assessment of supply and demand set out in the Annual Monitoring Report.

5. Clay for Engineering Purposes

The stock of existing planning permission for engineering clay is sufficient to supply Kent's requirements for engineering clay over the plan period. Applications for sites supplying engineering clay will be dealt with in accordance with the policies of this Plan. The need for additional supplies of engineering clay will be assessed based on the latest assessment of supply and demand set out in the Annual Monitoring Report.

6. Selection of Sites for Allocation

The criteria that will be taken into account for selecting and screening the suitability of sites for allocation will include:

- the requirements for minerals set out above;
- relevant policies set out in Chapter 7: Development Management Policies
- relevant policies in district local plans and neighbourhood plans;
- strategic environmental information, including landscape assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) as appropriate;
- their deliverability; and
- other relevant national planning policy and guidance.

5.3 Policy CSM 3: Not in use - This Policy, its supporting text and associated Figure 17 were deleted as changes resulting from the full review adopted in 2025.

5.4 Policy CSM 4: Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites

5.4.1 Sites identified in the Mineral Sites Plan, help provide the framework that seeks to enable a stock of planning permissions for aggregates, chalk, brickearth, clay, silica sand and minerals for cement manufacture to be maintained at the required levels throughout the plan period.

5.4.2 Allocated sites are subject to a detailed assessment that seeks to balance demand for the mineral and any other benefits against potential adverse impacts, with a view to securing a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and industrial minerals, having regard to national planning policy and the objectives and policies of this plan, including sustainability objectives. The presumption is that provision will be made by means of the allocated sites coming forward and providing the mineral required at the appropriate time. Planning applications for minerals development on non-allocated sites (other than with respect to silica sand, which is provided for under Policy CSM 2 where no allocations are proposed to be made) will be considered having regard to the relevant objectives and policies of the development

plan as a whole, in particular the need to plan for a steady and adequate supply of mineral.

5.4.3 Where a proposal for minerals development on a non-allocated site fails to comply with the development plan or is otherwise shown to cause harm to its objectives, planning permission will be granted only if sustainable benefits are clearly demonstrated that are sufficient to outweigh the harm identified. Examples of criteria that may justify permission being granted include:

- the possibility of prior extraction of an economic mineral ahead of other development taking place within the safeguarded mineral resource⁵⁵
- the possibility of borrow pit developments that can supply materials in a sustainable manner to major infrastructure developments including road, rail and ports
- locations of consented reserves and any alternative supply options⁵⁶ being remote from main market areas necessitating unduly long road journeys from the source to the market
- the nature and qualities of the mineral such as suitability for particular use
- known constraints on the availability of consented reserves that might limit output over the plan period
- the extent to which permitted reserves are within inactive sites that are unlikely to ever be worked
- the assurance that large landbanks bound up in very few sites do not stifle competition
- sites in the Mineral Sites Plan not coming forward as anticipated.

Policy CSM 4

Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites

With the exception of proposals on land allocated in the Mineral Sites Plan and for the extraction of silica sand provided for under Policy CSM 2, proposals for mineral extraction and additional sites assessed for allocation in the Minerals Sites Plan will be considered having regard to the policies of the development plan as a whole and in the context of the Vision and Objectives of this Plan, in particular the objective to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and industrial minerals. Where harm to the strategy of the development plan is shown, permission will be granted only where it has been demonstrated that there are overriding benefits that justify extraction at the exception site.

5.5 Policy CSM 5: Land-won Mineral Safeguarding

⁵⁵ Safeguarding of mineral resources is dealt with by Policies CSM 5, DM 7 and DM 8 and prior extraction principally by Policy DM 9.

⁵⁶ Alternative supply options include secondary or recycled materials and imports through wharves and rail depots.

5.5.1 Protecting mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation is a very important part of minerals planning policy, it is central to supporting sustainable development. Minerals are a finite natural resource which need to be used prudently. The purpose of safeguarding minerals is to ensure that sufficient economic minerals are available for future generations to use. The viability of extracting resources may change over time and is likely to increase as resources become more scarce. Mineral transportation infrastructure is also important because, as described in section 5.2, imported minerals make a major contribution to the County's requirements and production facilities convert materials into useable products. Such transportation infrastructure also allows for the export of minerals from Kent to other areas. The British Geological Society (BGS) Mineral Resource maps provide the best available geological data on the extent of mineral resources in Kent and so have been used as the starting point for safeguarding mineral resources in Kent.

5.5.2 Policy CSM 5 describes how land-won minerals will be safeguarded and Policies CSM 6 and CSM 7 describe how mineral infrastructure will be safeguarded. Policy DM 7 describes the circumstances in which non-mineral developments that are incompatible with safeguarding a resource would be acceptable. Policies CSM 4 and DM 9 set out how applications for prior extraction of safeguarded mineral resources, that would otherwise be sterilised by non-minerals development, would be considered. Policy DM 8 describes the circumstances in which non-mineral developments that might be incompatible with safeguarding minerals (such as wharfs and rail depots) and/or waste infrastructure would be acceptable.

5.5.3 Land-won mineral safeguarding is carried out through the designation of Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). Further explanation is provided below.

5.5.4 MSAs cover areas of known mineral resources that are, or may in future be, of sufficient value to warrant protection for future generations. MSAs ensure that such resources are adequately and effectively considered in land-use planning decisions so that they are not needlessly sterilised. The level of information used to indicate the existence of a mineral resource can vary from geological mapping to more in-depth geological investigations. Defining MSAs carries no presumption for extraction and there is no presumption that any areas within MSAs will ultimately be acceptable for mineral extraction.

5.5.5 National policy expects all MPAs, both unitary and two-tier authorities, to include policies and proposals in their local plans to safeguard mineral resources and to set out their extent on maps of MSAs. In two-tier authority areas, such as Kent, MSAs should be included on the Policies Maps of the Development Plan maintained by the District and Borough Councils. This is intended to alert prospective promoters of development and the local planning authority, to the existence of mineral resources and shows where local mineral safeguarding policies may apply.

5.5.6 Geological mapping is indicative of the existence of a mineral resource. It is possible that the mineral has already been extracted and/or that some areas may not contain any of mineral resource being safeguarded. Nevertheless, the onus will be

on promoters of non-mineral development to demonstrate satisfactorily⁵⁷ at the time that the development is promoted that the indicated mineral resource does not actually exist in the location being promoted, or extraction would not be viable or practicable under the particular circumstances.

5.5.7 Where an application is made for non-mineral development within a MSA identified in this Plan, then the determining authority will consult the MPA for its views on the application and take them into account in its determination. For non-minerals development determined by the County Council e.g. schools and waste management, the safeguarding policies will equally apply.

5.5.8 Economic land-won minerals that are identified for safeguarding in Kent are sharp sand and gravel, soft sand, silica sand, crushed rock, building stone and brickearth. Chalk and clay (other than brickearth) are abundant across the county and so these resources are not being safeguarded. The mineral resource areas identified for safeguarding are shown in the MSAs in Chapter 9: Adopted Policies Maps. The MSAs are based on mapping of the mineral resource prepared by the BGS. Current guidance advises that mineral safeguarding should not be curtailed by any other planning designation, such as environmental designations without sound justification. The mineral resources within the Plan area are extensive and whilst they continue beneath urban areas they are already sterilised by non-mineral development with very little prospect of future working. Therefore in order for the safeguarding to be practical such areas have been excluded from the MSAs.

5.5.9 The surface working area of the proposed East Kent Limestone Mine is not identified for safeguarding. This is because there has been no advancement in the mine's development since the identification of this resource as a possible area of mining in the 1993 Minerals Subject Plan⁵⁸. There is no certainty where the built footprint for the surface aggregate processing facility is likely to be situated (if it is ever developed) and planning policies should avoid the long-term protection of sites identified for employment use where there is no reasonable prospect of a site being used for that purpose. Any proposals for prospecting the Carboniferous Limestone deposit will be considered under Policy CSM 11⁵⁹.

5.5.10 Coal, oil, and deep pennant sandstone resources are also not being safeguarded, as they are located at considerable depth underground and may potentially form extensive resources. The safeguarding of these deep underground minerals would dilute the focus of safeguarding mineral resources, access to which is more likely to be lost to built development.

5.5.11 MSAs will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Further reviews of the MSAs will take place at least every five years. Matters to be taken into account in these reviews are set out in a Supplementary Planning Document on minerals safeguarding. Such matters will include the following:

⁵⁷ Non-minerals development will mainly be promoted through planning applications or through proposed allocations in Local Plans. Advice will be provided by Kent County Council (as the Minerals Planning Authority).

⁵⁸ KCC (1993) Mineral Subject Plan Construction Aggregates.

⁵⁹ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), para. 126.

1. Previously worked land (provided the mineral resource is exhausted)
2. Transport infrastructure
3. Land within urban areas
4. Proposed urban extensions and site allocations for non-minerals uses in adopted local plans
5. The importance of minerals resources
6. The accessibility of the minerals resource i.e. whether it can be practicably and viably worked

5.5.12 At the same time, the need to safeguard sites hosting specific infrastructure (transportation and production) will also be reviewed.

5.5.13 The process of allocating land for non-minerals uses in local plans will take into account the need to safeguard minerals resources and mineral infrastructure. The allocation of land within an MSA will only take place after consideration of the factors that would be considered if a non-minerals development were to be proposed in that location, or in proximity to it, as set out in Policies DM 7, DM 8, CSM 5 and CSM 6. The Minerals Planning Authority will support the District and Borough Councils in this process.

Policy CSM 5

Land-won Mineral Safeguarding

Economic mineral resources are safeguarded from being unnecessarily sterilised by other development by the identification of:

1. Mineral Safeguarding Areas for the areas of brickearth, sharp sand and gravel, soft sand (including silica sand), ragstone and building stone as defined on the Mineral Safeguarding Area Policies Maps in Chapter 9
2. Sites for mineral working within the plan period are identified in the Annual Monitoring Report and in the Mineral Sites Plan.

5.6 Policy CSM 6: Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots

5.6.1 Kent has a range of mineral transportation facilities around its coast as well as inland. The importance of safeguarding these facilities to enable the on-going supply of essential minerals is identified in national planning policy. Development in proximity to a mineral transportation facility could prejudice or constrain current or future operations. It is important therefore, that the Plan ensures that wharves and rail depots are safeguarded, given their very probable irreplaceability, and are not put at risk by non-minerals developments. The revival of the Dover Western Docks to regenerate the dock infrastructure includes a safeguarded wharf (Dunkirk Jetty). At this time, the safeguarding status of this mineral importation and handling infrastructure is unchanged and the wharf remains listed in Policy CSM 6. The

locations of the safeguarded wharves and rail depots are shown in Figure 13: Minerals Key Diagram and in Chapter 9: Adopted Policies Maps.

5.6.2 Policy DM 8 identifies situations where development at, or in proximity to, safeguarded infrastructure including wharves and rail depots, would be acceptable.

Policy CSM 6

Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots

Planning permission will not be granted for non-minerals development that may unacceptably adversely affect the operation of existing⁶⁰ planned or potential sites, such that their capacity or viability for minerals transportation purposes may be compromised.

The following sites, and any allocated sites for wharves and rail depots included in the Minerals Sites Plan, are safeguarded:

1. Allington Rail Sidings
2. Sevington Rail Depot
3. Hothfield Work
4. East Peckham
5. Ridham Dock (both operational sites)
6. Johnson's Wharf, Greenhithe
7. Robins Wharf, Northfleet (both operational sites)
8. Clubbs Marine Terminal, Gravesend
9. East Quay, Whitstable
10. Red Lion Wharf, Gravesend
11. Ramsgate Port
12. Wharf 42, Northfleet (including Northfleet Cement Wharf)
13. Dunkirk Jetty (Dover Western Docks)
14. Sheerness
15. Northfleet Wharf
16. Old Sun Wharf, Gravesend

Their locations are shown in Figure 13: Minerals Key Diagram in Chapter 2 and their site boundaries are shown in Chapter 9: Adopted Policies Maps.

The Local Planning Authorities will consult the Minerals Planning Authority and take account of its views before making a planning decision (in terms of both a planning application and an allocation in a local plan) for non-mineral related development (other than that of the type listed in policy DM 8 (clause 1)) on all development proposed at, or within 250m of, safeguarded minerals transportation facilities.

⁶⁰ Existing sites are taken as sites that have permanent planning permission for minerals transportation purposes.

5.7 Policy CSM 7: Safeguarding Other Mineral Plant Infrastructure

5.7.1 National policy requires other types of mineral infrastructure to be safeguarded. This includes existing, planned and potential sites for concrete batching, the manufacture of coated materials, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate materials.

5.7.2 As there are many sites within the county, with considerable numbers being located on industrial estates identified in local plans for general industrial and commercial uses, a generic (non-site specific) policy for safeguarding these facilities and their ongoing, overall capacities is necessary. Policy CSM 7 addresses the need to safeguard mineral production infrastructure, while being flexible to the needs of the industry by enabling the loss of capacity (potentially required for the industry to remain competitive and viable) provided there is replacement capacity available elsewhere of a type that is at least equal to that provided by the original facility. Policy DM 8 identifies situations where development at, or in proximity to safeguarded mineral plant infrastructure would be acceptable.

Policy CSM 7

Safeguarding Other Mineral Plant Infrastructure

Facilities for concrete batching, the manufacture of coated materials, other concrete products and the handling, processing and distribution of substitute, recycled and secondary aggregate material in Kent are safeguarded for their on-going use.

Where these facilities are situated within a host quarry, wharf or rail depot facility, they are safeguarded for the life of the host site.

Where other development is proposed at, or within 250m of, safeguarded minerals plant infrastructure, Local Planning Authorities will consult the Minerals Planning Authority and take account of its views before making a planning decision (in terms of both a planning application and an allocation in a local plan).

5.8 Policy CSM 8: Secondary and Recycled Aggregates

5.8.1 The use of secondary and recycled aggregates is generally more sustainable than extracting primary land-won aggregates. It is for this reason that national policy expects MPAs to, so far as practicable, take account of the contribution that secondary and recycled materials would make, before considering extraction of primary materials. As considered in Section 5.2, the replacement of primary aggregates with secondary and recycled materials is becoming increasingly important as indigenous land-won primary supplies diminish. The County Council is therefore keen to see the quantities of secondary and recycled aggregates being produced within Kent increase. Inert Construction, Demolition and Excavation waste (CDEW) is the main source of recycled aggregate and Policy CSW 4 includes

ambitious targets for the recycling of such waste. In addition, Policy CSW 3 expects CDEW arising from all types of new development to be recycled, as well as the use of recycled materials in construction.

5.8.2 In 2016 the consented secondary and recycled aggregates processing capacity within Kent exceeded 2.7mtpa, 0.63 mtpa of which was identified as temporary capacity. Arisings of CDEW in Kent were estimated to be 2.6 mtpa which indicates that some capacity may be utilised for imported materials. In addition, arisings of materials suitable for conversion into secondary aggregates such as furnace bottom ash will increase if more Energy from Waste capacity is developed during the plan period in line with Policy CSW 8: Recovery Facilities for Non-hazardous Waste.

5.8.3 Policy CSM 8 sets out criteria to be used in the consideration of additional secondary and recycled aggregate production capacity. Where permanent consent is being sought, to avoid adverse amenity impacts, the presumption will be that processing activities will be contained within a covered building or similar structure. While sites with permanent consent will be safeguarded under Policy CSM 7, to compensate for the loss of capacity located on temporary sites, sites may be identified in the Minerals Sites Plan to ensure processing capacity is maintained to allow the production of at least 2.7 million tonnes per annum of secondary and recycled aggregates, throughout the Plan period.

Policy CSM 8

Secondary and Recycled Aggregates

Processing capacity will be maintained to allow the production of at least 2.7 million tonnes per annum or the productive capacity value in the latest Local Aggregate Assessment (whichever is the greater) of secondary and recycled aggregates, throughout the Plan period.

Proposals for additional capacity for secondary and recycled aggregate production including those relating to the expansion of capacity at existing facilities that increases the segregation and hence end product range/quality achieved, will be granted planning permission if they are well located in relation to the source of input materials or need for output materials, have good transport infrastructure links and accord with the other relevant policies in the development plan, at the following types of sites:

1. temporary demolition, construction, land reclamation and regeneration projects and highways developments where materials are either generated or to be used in the project or both for the duration of the project (as defined by the planning permission)
2. appropriate mineral operations (including wharves and rail depots) for the duration of the host site permission.
3. appropriate waste management operations for the duration of the host site permission.
4. industrial estates, where the proposals are compatible with other policies set

out in the development plan including those relating to employment and regeneration.

5. any other type of site that meets the requirements cited in the second paragraph of this policy above.

The term 'appropriate' in this policy is defined in terms of the proposal demonstrating that it will not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on communities or the environment as a whole over and above the levels that had been considered to be acceptable for the host site when originally permitted without the additional facility.

Planning permission will be granted to re-work old inert landfills and dredging disposal sites to produce replacement aggregate material where it is demonstrated that net gains in landscape, biodiversity or amenity can be achieved by the operation and environmental impacts can be mitigated to an acceptable level.

5.9 Policy CSM 9: Building Stone in Kent

5.9.1 Only two ragstone quarries have consented reserves at the time of the preparation of this Plan: Hermitage Quarry and Blaise Farm in mid Kent. Although building stone has been produced from both quarries, only Hermitage Quarry has the ability to produce high-quality cut stone from the full sequence of ragstone beds in the Hythe Formation, and it continues to provide building stone for building conservation uses. However, in the past, small-scale quarries have provided locally distinctive stone including Paludina Limestone (found near Bethersden), Tunbridge Wells Sandstone and flint (from chalk strata). Calcareous tufa found in small outcrops near Ditton has also been used in a few buildings, including Leeds Castle in Kent. These have been popular building materials and supplies may be needed in the future to maintain and restore the buildings that use them. This was recognised, for example, in the permission for extraction of Kentish Ragstone (Hythe Formation) at Hermitage Quarry in 2013 where the Secretary of State imposed two conditions regulating the supply of building stone from the quarry as part of the overall operations. Furthermore, this geological resource will be safeguarded as set out in Policy CSM 5.

5.9.2 Quarries for building stone can play an important part in providing historically authentic building materials in the conservation and repair of historic and cultural buildings and structures. Policy CSM 9 addresses the potential need for granting planning permission for small-scale, local restoration building stone quarrying in Kent.

Policy CSM 9

Building Stone in Kent

Planning permission will be granted for proposals that are needed to provide a supply of local building stone necessary for restoration work associated with the

maintenance of historic buildings and structures and new build projects, subject to:

1. Development taking place in appropriate locations where the proposals do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the local environment and communities; and
2. There being no other suitable, sustainable sources of the stone available.

5.10 Policy CSM 10: Oil, Gas and Unconventional Hydrocarbons

5.10.1 All hydrocarbons are owned by the State, in the form of the Oil and Gas Authority, the Coal Authority and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Companies who wish to exploit these minerals are invited to bid for licences by the Government. A conditional underground licence does not give an operator the power to exploit underground resources and is conditional upon planning permission (and other rights) being granted too.

5.10.2 Where possible reserves have been identified there is a need to establish, through exploratory drilling, whether or not there are sufficient recoverable quantities of hydrocarbons present to facilitate economically viable full scale production. There are three phases of onshore hydrocarbon extraction: exploration, testing (appraisal) and production.

5.10.3 In the case of appraisal wells, decisions will not take account of hypothetical future activities, since the further appraisal and production phases will be the subject of separate planning applications, licences and assessments. When determining applications for subsequent phases, the fact that exploratory drilling has taken place on a particular site is only likely to be material in determining the suitability of continuing to use that site insofar as it establishes the presence of hydrocarbon resources. There is no presumption that because permission is granted for one phase, then permission will be granted for a subsequent one, i.e. permission granted for exploration should not be assumed to lead to permission for appraisal, nor for appraisal to production. Each application will be considered on its merits. Proposals associated with exploration, appraisal and production might reasonably include underground gas storage and associated infrastructure, for which encouragement is sought in the NPPF.

5.10.4 The Mineral Planning Authority (MPA) is one of four key regulators for hydrocarbon extraction. Its role is to provide clear guidance and criteria for the local assessment of hydrocarbon extraction within Petroleum Licence Areas and to grant planning permission for the location of any wells and wellpads and impose conditions to ensure that the impact on the use of land is acceptable. There are clear roles and responsibilities for each of the regulators and an expectation that the Mineral Planning Authority should assume non-planning regimes will operate effectively and should not ordinarily need to carry out its own assessments where it can rely on the assessments of other regulatory bodies. However, before granting planning permission the MPA will need to be satisfied that these issues can or will be adequately addressed by taking and considering advice from the relevant regulatory body relating to the specific risks/concerns posed by particular proposals. For

example in the case of proposals involving hydraulic fracturing mitigation of seismic risks; well design and construction; well integrity during operation; operation of surface equipment on the well pad; mining waste; chemical content of hydraulic fracturing fluid flaring or venting; final off-site disposal of water and well decommissioning/abandonment.

5.10.5 Where it is intended to utilise new or existing infrastructure, the MPA will need to be satisfied that any associated environmental and amenity impacts are mitigated to ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on the local environment or communities.

Resources and Potential

Oil

5.10.6 Kent is part of the Southern Permian Basin Area, an area of potential for oil resource that stretches across northern Europe from Dorset to Yorkshire in the west, across northern France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Germany and Poland. On-going exploration has established a series of oil and gas fields across the Basin Area. Notable commercial discoveries in the English sector of this basin, associated with the Weald and south coast, are Wytch Farm (Dorset) which is the largest onshore oil field in western Europe, Alvington (Hampshire), Storrington (West Sussex) and Palmers Wood (Surrey). The Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) issues Petroleum Exploration and Development Licenses (PEDLs). In the past, parts of west and east Kent have been included. These licensing areas are subject to periodic revision by BEIS.

5.10.7 A planning permission was granted in 2012 for exploratory drilling and subsequent oil and gas field testing at Bidborough in West Kent. This permission has not been implemented and has now lapsed. Exploratory drilling has also taken place in Cowden near Tunbridge Wells from August 1999 (planning permission SE/98/234). Subsequent extensions were granted to complete planned testing operations on the capped well at Cowden to establish the extent of productive capacity of the oil field, the last of which expired in 2012 (SE/11/1396).

Gas

5.10.8 Minor reserves of natural gas have been exploited in the past in East Sussex; however only two resources have been detected following exploration undertaken more recently as a result of licences issued.

Unconventional hydrocarbons

5.10.9 Unconventional hydrocarbons refers to oil and gas which comes from sources such as shale or coal seams which act as the reservoirs. Shale gas, shale oil and coal bed methane are often referred to as unconventional hydrocarbons as they are extracted using technologies that enable oil and gas locked into rock formations that were previously considered to be unsuitable or uneconomic to be exploited.

5.10.10 Coal Bed Methane is methane that is trapped within the pore spaces of coal in coal seams, such as the East Kent Field. In coal, methane is held in an almost liquid state within the porous elements so that if pressure is reduced by human intervention such as mining or drilling into a coal seam, the gas is liberated. As the gas is combustible it is a potential resource. The East Kent Coalfield covers an area of 157,900 hectares beneath the Kent landmass. It was exploited for its coal reserves between 1912 and 1989. There is currently no information available on the potential of coal bed methane resources in Kent. However, interest has been shown in Kent and permission was granted to drill an exploratory borehole to test the in situ coals, Lower Limestone Shales and associated strata in 2011 at Woodnesborough, in East Kent. This permission was not implemented and has now lapsed. A further three planning applications for test drilling in East Kent were received by Kent CC in 2013 but were subsequently withdrawn.

5.10.11 Underground coal gasification is a technique that gasifies coal underground and then brings the resultant gas to the surface for subsequent use in heating or power generation. It requires precision drilling of two boreholes: one to supply oxygen and water/steam and the other to bring the resulting gas back to the surface. Currently there are no commercial scale underground coal gasification processes present in the UK.

5.10.12 Hydraulic fracturing (often called fracking) is a technique used to extract gas or oil from shale rock strata whereby water (and additives) is pumped under pressure into productive shale rocks via a drilled bore to open up pore spaces releasing the gas or oil for pumping to the surface for use⁶¹.

5.10.13 The BGS completed a resource study for the Weald Basin, which includes part of Kent. The study concluded that with the current level of geological data and information there is no significant shale gas potential within the Weald Basin. There is however potentially a significant volume of unconventional shale oil. The study estimates that the oil in place (OIP) across the whole Weald Basin, which is the resource estimate, ranges from 2.2 to 8.6 billion barrels (billion bbl). There is currently insufficient information and data to estimate how much of that oil resource is economically and technically viable to extract; further exploratory drilling, sampling and socio-economic and environmental studies would be required.

5.10.14 Section 50 of the Infrastructure Act 2015 inserts section 4A of the Petroleum Act 1998, which sets out a number of safeguards for developments involving onshore hydraulic fracturing. This includes no hydraulic fracturing within protected groundwater source areas and within "other protected areas". "Other protected areas" are defined in the secondary legislation, Onshore Hydraulic Fracturing (Protected Areas) Regulations 2016. Section 3 of these Regulations define "other protected areas" in the following manner, as areas of land at a depth of less than 1,200 metres beneath a National Park, the Broads, National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or a World Heritage site.

⁶¹ Information on unconventional hydrocarbon extraction is available in the Planning Practice Guidance website at: <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/minerals/planning-for-hydrocarbon-extraction/annex-a-shale-gas-and-coalbed-methane-coal-seam-gas>

Decisions on planning applications will be made in accordance with the Infrastructure Act and the associated secondary legislation.

5.10.15 The Act also places a duty on the Mineral Planning Authority to take account, where relevant, of the cumulative effects of an application for onshore hydraulic fracturing, and any other applications relating to exploitation of onshore oil and gas obtainable by hydraulic fracturing. It is important to examine how differences in context such as geological and environmental characteristics might lead to differing levels of risk, for example this may include consideration of the depth of shale exploration and mitigation measures such as restricting water use to wetter seasons or requiring recirculation. Each application will be considered on its merits.

5.10.16 Provision has also been made in the Infrastructure Act (in section 49) for the Secretary of State to request the Committee on Climate Change to provide advice (in accordance with section 38 of the Climate Change Act 2008) on the impact which combustion of, and fugitive emissions from, petroleum produced through onshore activity, is likely to have. The way in which minerals produced in Kent are subsequently used is not within the control of the Plan. However, the Council will review any such advice to consider whether it raises any consideration that needs to be taken into account in determining an application for planning permission relating to hydraulic fracturing and whether any review of policy CSM 10 is required. Any such reviews will take into account any relevant national planning policy and guidance.

5.10.17 There are several issues associated with the extraction of oil and gas and unconventional hydrocarbons which need careful attention at the planning application stage. The nature and significance of these issues will vary between the technology utilised and the phases of exploration, testing (appraisal) and production. These issues are set out below, together with the development management policies which ensure they are adequately addressed:

1. The discharge of artesian groundwater to the surface (Policy DM 10)
2. Impact on ground and surface waters (both quantity and quality) (Policy DM 10)
3. Visual and amenity (e.g. noise, lighting, PROW) impacts of surface operations (including those resulting from 24 hour operations) (Policies DM 2, DM 11, DM 12, DM 14)
4. Impacts of vehicles transporting staff and materials to and from the drill site (Policy DM 13)
5. Impacts on biodiversity (Policy DM 3)
6. Stability of land (Policy DM 18)
7. Restoration of the surface operations following their cessation (Policy DM 19)
8. Cumulative effects (Policy DM 12)

5.10.18 Policy CSM 10 sets out the matters that need to be taken into account when considering proposals for the exploration, appraisal and development of oil, gas and unconventional hydrocarbons.

Policy CSM 10

Oil, Gas and Unconventional Hydrocarbons

Planning permission will be granted for proposals associated with the exploration, appraisal and production of oil, gas and unconventional hydrocarbons subject to:

1. well sites and associated facilities being sited, so far as is practicable, to minimise impacts on the environment and communities
2. developments being located outside Protected Groundwater Source Areas⁶²
3. there being no unacceptable adverse impacts (in terms of quantity and quality) upon sensitive water receptors including groundwater, water bodies and wetland habitats
4. all other environmental and amenity impacts being mitigated to ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on the local environment or communities
5. exploration and appraisal operations being for an agreed, temporary length of time
6. the drilling site and any associated land being restored to a high-quality standard and appropriate after-use that reflects the local landscape character at the earliest practicable opportunity
7. it being demonstrated that greenhouse gases associated with fugitive emissions from the exploration, testing and production activities will not lead to unacceptable adverse environmental impacts

Particular consideration will be given to the location of hydrocarbon development involving hydraulic fracturing having regard to impacts on water resources, seismicity, local air quality, landscape, noise and lighting impacts. Such development will not be supported within protected groundwater source protection zones or where it might adversely affect or be affected by flood risk or within Air Quality Management Areas or protected areas for the purposes of the Infrastructure Act 2015, section 50.

5.11 Policy CSM 11: Prospecting for Carboniferous Limestone

5.11.1 While the East Kent Limestone mine has not been progressed since it was included in the *Kent Minerals Local Plan Construction Aggregates Written Statement (1993)*⁶³ as a possible area of mining, it is still considered to be a possible long-term source of construction aggregates in Kent. The location of the underground limestone resource is in the vicinity of calcareous grassland which is an important habitat, being registered with both the national and Kent BAPs and as a Habitat of Principal Importance under the NERC Act 2006. There are also Habitat sites, SSSIs and LWSs throughout the area. If prospecting is proposed in the plan period, it will

⁶² As designated by the Environment Agency.

⁶³ KCC (1993) Kent Minerals Local Plan Construction Aggregates Written Statement.

have to be undertaken sensitively with sufficient controls to avoid any impacts upon sensitive receptors.

5.11.2 As any application may need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement, details of the results of the survey following prospecting, and implications of such a development for the environment would need to be included in this Statement.

Policy CSM 11

Prospecting for Carboniferous Limestone

Planning permission will be granted at suitable locations for the drilling operations associated with the prospecting for underground limestone resources in East Kent subject to exploration and appraisal operations being for an agreed, temporary length of time.

5.12 Policy CSM 12: Sustainable Transport of Minerals

5.12.1 Whilst the Mineral Sites Plan does not allocate any sites for mineral wharves or rail depots, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan acknowledges that minimising road transport where possible plays a significant role in promoting sustainable development, aspiring to carbon neutrality and reducing harmful emissions. Therefore, it is important to encourage the sustainable transportation of minerals by rail and water wherever possible and safeguard related infrastructure. Policy CSM 12 encourages an increase in sustainable transport modes for minerals and encourages the development of new mineral importation facilities or facilities that have fallen out of use.

Policy CSM 12

Sustainable Transport of Minerals

Planning permission for any new wharf and/or rail depot importation operations, or for wharves and rail depots that have been operational in the past (having since fallen out of use), that includes the transport of minerals by sustainable means (i.e. sea, river or rail) as the dominant mode of transport will be granted planning permission where:

1. They are well located in relation to the Key Arterial Routes⁶⁴ across Kent; and

⁶⁴ These are made up of Motorways and Trunk Roads, County Primary Routes and County Principal Routes. County Primary Routes link major urban centres, including the A228/A26 between Medway and Tonbridge, the A229 between Medway and East Sussex, the A299 between Faversham and Thanet, the A28 between Thanet and East Sussex, the A256 between Dover and Thanet, the A26

2. The proposals are compatible with other local employment and regeneration policies set out in the development plan.

between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and the A25 between Wrotham and Sevenoaks. County Principal routes are generally A class roads with relatively high traffic flows, including the A225 between Sevenoaks and Dartford and the A251 between Faversham and Ashford. These are shown on Figure 2.

6. Delivery Strategy for Waste

6.0.1 The following policies give the delivery strategy for waste management development in Kent over the plan period.

6.1 Policy CSW 1: Sustainable Development

6.1.1 As stated in paragraph 5.1.1, the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development⁶⁵ At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF requires that policies in local plans should follow the approach of this presumption. The Kent MWLP is therefore based on the principle of sustainable development. This is demonstrated in the Spatial Vision, the Strategic Objectives and the policies that seek sustainable solutions.

6.1.2 Planning law requires planning decisions to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The NPPF states that it does not change the statutory status of the development plan as the starting point for decision making. Policy CSW 1 ensures the presumption in favour of sustainable development is taken into account in KCC's approach to waste development.

Policy CSW 1

Sustainable Development

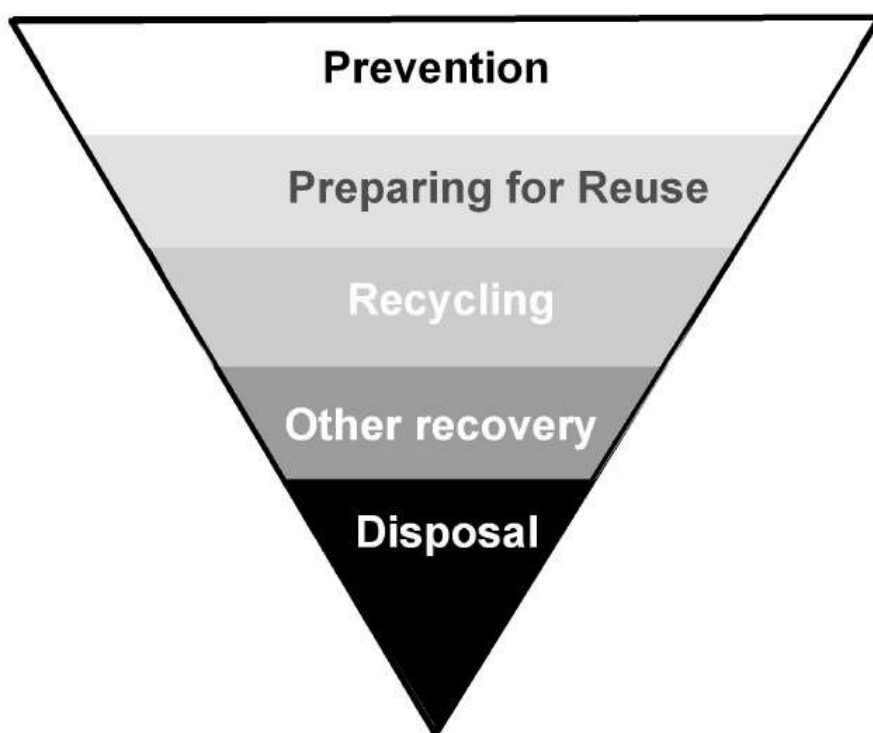
When considering waste development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.

6.2 Policy CSW 2: Waste Hierarchy and Policy CSW 3: Waste Reduction

6.2.1 It is Government policy to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste by moving the management of waste up the Waste Hierarchy, as shown in Figure 18⁶⁶.

⁶⁵ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023): Chapter 2.

⁶⁶ The Waste Hierarchy diagram is a copy of the version in Appendix A National Planning Policy for Waste (2014).

Figure 18 Waste Hierarchy

6.2.2 The Government has also introduced legal requirements to drive waste up the hierarchy including the following:

- plans must be in place detailing measures to ensure 65 per cent of municipal waste, including household waste and household like waste from commercial and industrial sources, is recycled by 2035⁶⁷
- the volume of residual waste per person which is not reused or recycled must be halved by 2042 from 2019 levels⁶⁸
- by 2050, avoidable waste must be eliminated by recycling or reusing any waste which possibly can be reused or recycled⁶⁹.

6.2.3 The Kent MWLP mainly implements this policy through influence over waste and minerals developments. However, the Plan also includes a policy (Policy CSW 3) seeking to influence/reduce waste arising from all forms of development. The Kent MWLP forms part of the development plan, along with the district local plans, and is therefore relevant to the determination of planning applications for all forms of development in Kent.

6.2.4 In accordance with the Waste Hierarchy, the Plan gives priority to planning for waste management developments that prepare waste for re-use or recycling. The most recent assessment of waste management capacity requirements⁷⁰ shows that, overall, Kent's current recycling and processing facilities have adequate capacity for

⁶⁷ HM Government (2020), The Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

⁶⁸ Environment Act 2021

⁶⁹ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2023), Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

⁷⁰ BPP Consulting Waste Needs Assessment November 2022

the anticipated rate of usage. These calculations are based upon a rate of use that should only be regarded as a minimum, as the aspiration is to encourage more of the waste produced in Kent to be managed by methods at this tier of the hierarchy. Local needs may arise to enhance waste logistics on a case by case basis.

6.2.5 Encouraging more waste to be managed via re-use or recycling will be achieved by enabling policies for the development of additional waste management capacity for recycling and processing for reuse including a policy presumption to grant planning permission for redevelopment or extensions to lawful existing waste management facilities to enable more waste to be recycled or processed for re-use providing the proposal is in accordance with the locational and development management policies in the Plan.

6.2.6 The application of the Waste Hierarchy is a legal requirement under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011. The transition to forms of waste management at the higher end of the Waste Hierarchy is ongoing and the Kent MWLP addresses this transition by encouraging a more sustainable option for the mixed non-hazardous waste that is going to landfill by applying ambitious but achievable landfill diversion targets presented in Policy CSW 4. Ambitious targets for recycling have also been applied. Proposals for the management of residual waste by landfill or 'other recovery' will need to be accompanied by a waste hierarchy statement.

Policy CSW 2

Waste Hierarchy

Proposals for waste management must demonstrate how the proposed capacity will ensure that waste to be managed at the facility will be managed at the highest level of the Waste Hierarchy practicable, unless life cycle assessment (LCA) demonstrates otherwise.

6.2.7 In terms of the design of new buildings, application of circular economy thinking takes considerations beyond how waste is managed and places a greater emphasis on how buildings can be designed to ensure that they are less likely to result in waste being produced in the first place. Examples include using modular off site construction techniques and designing buildings in ways to make them adaptable to changes in their use. It is now widely recognised that while old buildings may be less energy efficient in their use phase, replacing them with a new energy efficient one may have a greater impact than the carbon savings that occur during the operational phase of the new buildings. This is because of the embodied energy associated with the manufacture of the materials used in the fabric of the new building. Another example is designing with a building's 'deconstruction' in mind such that structures and building elements can be reused in other buildings.

6.2.8 Proposals for major development as set out in Policy CSW 3 should be submitted with a Circular Economy Statement that demonstrates how the above matters have been taken into account. This will include a waste management audit

setting out how waste is to be managed during construction (including any demolition and refurbishment) and during the occupation and use of the development. Guidance on the content of Circular Economy Statements will be prepared but in the meantime, developers should refer to related guidance published by the Greater London Authority in 2022.

6.2.9 Financial contributions from applicants for development which will rely on the use of the Council's waste management service for the collection and management of waste (mainly that from households) will be sought to assist with the provision of related infrastructure.

6.2.10 As Policy CSW 3 applies to all forms of development (not just minerals and waste), it should be read alongside other policies in the Development Plan which may require consideration of waste and resource use.

6.2.11 The Environment Act 2021 requires the collection of five waste streams from premises producing household-like waste as follows: food waste; plastics; metal; glass; and paper/card, except where this is not practicable for technical or economic reasons or there is no significant environmental benefit. This will require business premises to be designed with sufficient space for the storage of materials to be separately collected.

6.2.12 In order to maximise the opportunities for new residents to reuse and recycle their household waste, except for householder applications, planning applications involving additional residential development should include the following details:

- the measures to be taken to show compliance with this policy; and
- the details of the nature and quantity of any construction, demolition and excavation waste which will arise from the development and its subsequent management.

Policy CSW 3

Waste Reduction

All new development must be designed in accordance with circular economy principles to:

1. Minimise the production of construction, demolition and excavation waste and manage any such waste arising during the development in accordance with Policy CSW 2;
2. retain and repurpose existing structures where possible;
3. allow for ease of redevelopment and refurbishment; and,
4. maximise sustainable construction methods which include the use of recycled and recyclable materials and techniques which minimise waste and allow for ease of deconstruction and reuse of building components.

For development which has a total floor space of greater than 1000 square metres and / or comprises greater than 10no. units of housing and / or where the site is 1

hectare or more, the above principles (1 to 4) should be demonstrated via the submission of a Circular Economy Statement.

All new development should include detailed consideration of waste arising from the occupation of the development including consideration of how waste will be stored, collected and managed.

In particular proposals should ensure that:

1. there is adequate temporary storage space for waste generated by that development allowing for the separate storage of recyclable materials;
 2. as necessary, there is adequate communal storage for waste, including separate recyclables, pending its collection; and
 3. storage and collection systems (e.g. any dedicated spaces, storage areas and chutes or underground waste collection systems), for waste are of high quality design and are incorporated in a manner which will ensure there is adequate and convenient access for users and waste collection operatives and will contribute to the achievement of waste management targets; and
 4. adequate contingency measures are in place to manage any systems failures.
- All relevant proposals should be accompanied by a recycling and waste management strategy which considers the above matters and demonstrates the ability to meet local authority waste management targets.

6.3 Policy CSW 4: Strategy for Waste Management Capacity Net Self-sufficiency and Waste Movements

6.3.1 Kent currently achieves net self-sufficiency in waste management capacity for all waste streams. I.e. the annual capacity of the waste management facilities (excluding transfer) in Kent is sufficient to manage the equivalent quantity of waste to that predicted to arise in Kent. The continued achievement of net self-sufficiency and the management of waste close to its source are key Strategic Objectives of the Kent MWLP, because it shows that Kent is not placing any unnecessary burden on other WPAs to manage its waste. Net self-sufficiency recognises that existing (and future) waste management capacity within Kent may not necessarily be for the exclusive management of Kent's waste. Moreover, proposals that would result in more waste being managed in Kent than is produced may be acceptable if they result in waste moving up the hierarchy. Achievement of net self-sufficiency is the baseline aspiration and can be monitored on an annual basis and will provide an indicator as to whether the policies in the Plan need to be reviewed. The purpose in adopting the principle of net self-sufficiency is not to restrict the movement of waste, as such restriction of waste catchment areas could have an adverse effect upon the viability of the development of new waste management facilities that may be needed to provide additional capacity for the management of Kent's waste arisings in accordance with the waste hierarchy.

6.3.2 In reality, different types of waste are managed at different types of facilities. To assess the future needs for waste management capacity in Kent, net self-sufficiency has been studied for the individual waste streams of inert and non-inert (also called non-hazardous) wastes. While Kent currently achieves net self-

sufficiency in the management of each waste stream, this position will be monitored to ensure this remains the case throughout the plan period.

6.3.3 Implementation of the Environment Act 2021 requirements will be crucial to achievement of the recycling/composting ambitions of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan. These include recycling targets for the Kent Commercial & Industrial (C&I) waste stream of 55% by 2025/26 and 60% by 2030/31.

6.3.4 Treatment capacity for food waste arising both from the Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Commercial & Industrial (C&I) streams may be required. This pressure is additional to capacity required for the management of a growing quantity of additional household derived recyclable materials generated as a consequence of population growth and the imperative to achieve increasing recycling targets. Many of the existing facilities managing LACW have been identified as requiring upgrade, expansion or replacement by the County Council as Waste Disposal Authority (WDA).

6.3.5 The spatial distribution of capacity for the management of LACW in the form of recycling facilities (e.g. MRFs) and other recovery facilities (i.e. EfW plants) has also been identified as an issue by the WDA. The current distribution of waste transfer facilities receiving household waste across the county results in excessive transport especially from Folkestone and Hythe district and the Ebbsfleet Garden City area. In light of this the WDA has identified a pressing need for the development of new waste transfer facilities to serve those particular areas where collected waste can be bulked up for onward management-and is working with the local WCAs to secure this. Over the plan period it is possible that significant development elsewhere in Kent may require the provision of additional waste management facilities.

6.3.6 An assessment has been made of the current profile of management of the principal waste streams. The targets applied reflect ambitious (but realistic) goals for moving waste up the hierarchy and seek to ensure that the maximum quantity of non-hazardous waste is diverted from landfill⁷¹.

6.3.7 The London Plan 2021 expects net self-sufficiency in the management of waste to be achieved by 2026. Due to its proximity and constraints within London, it is reasonable to assume that some non-hazardous residual waste arising in London may be transported to Kent for management.

Policy CSW 4

Strategy for Waste Management Capacity

The strategy for waste management capacity in Kent is to provide sufficient waste management capacity to manage at least the equivalent of the waste arising in Kent plus an amount of residual non-hazardous waste from London that takes account of

⁷¹ For further details please see the Waste Needs Assessments November 2022

London Plan targets for net self sufficiency. As a minimum it is to achieve the targets set out below for recycling and composting (minima) and landfill limits (maxima) with the difference managed by other forms of recovery and with the management of waste proximate to where it is generated⁷².

Local Authority Collected Waste	2020/21	2025/26	2030/31	2035/36	2040/41
Recycling/Composting minima ⁷³	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%
Landfill maxima	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Remainder to Other Recovery maxima	45%	43%	38%	33%	28%
Commercial and Industrial Waste					
Recycling/Composting minima ⁷⁴	50%	55%	60%	65%	70%
Landfill maxima	15%	12.5%	10%	8.5%	5%
Remainder to Other Recovery maxima	35%	32.5%	30%	26.5%	25%

Component	Management Method	2020/21	2025/26	2030/31	2035/36	2040/41
Inert CDEW ⁷⁵ Arisings	Proportion of Projected Arisings taken to be Inert*	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
	Inert waste recycling minima (as proportion of inert arisings)	60%	65%	70%	75	80
	Permanent deposit of inert waste other than for disposal to landfill** (as proportion of inert arisings)	25%	25%	25%	20	17.5
	Landfill maxima (as proportion of inert arisings)***	15%	10%	5%	5%	2.5%
	Total (inert CDEW arisings)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Non-Inert CDEW Arisings	Proportion of Projected Arisings taken to be Non-Inert*	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
	Non-hazardous waste recycling minima (as proportion of non-inert	60%	65%	70%	75%	80%

⁷² It is recognised that different waste streams may have different catchments.

⁷³ This is taken to include organic waste (including green and kitchen waste) treatment by Anaerobic Digestion.

⁷⁴ This is taken to include organic waste (including green and kitchen waste) treatment by Anaerobic Digestion.

⁷⁵ Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste.

	arising)					
	Non-hazardous residual waste treatment maxima (as proportion of non-inert arising)	30%	30%	25%	22.5%	20%
	Landfill maxima (as proportion of non-inert arising)***	10%	5%	5%	2.5%	0%
	Total (non-inert CDEW arising)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

It is assumed that 20% of the CDEW stream comprises non-inert materials. The subsequent targets are proportions of the inert or non-inert elements of the CDEW stream.

**This includes the use of inert waste in backfilling of mineral workings & operational development such as noise bund construction and flood defence works.

***These percentages are limits rather than targets.

6.4 Policy CSW 5: Not in use - This Policy its supporting text and associated Figure 19 were deleted as part of the changes made resulting from the full review which were adopted in 2025.

6.5 Policy CSW 6: Location of Built Waste Management Facilities

6.5.1 The preference identified in response to earlier consultations during the formulation of the Plan was for a mix of new small and large sites for waste management. This mix gives flexibility and assists in balancing the benefits of proximity to waste arisings while enabling developers of large facilities to exploit economies of scale. National policy recognises that new facilities will need to serve catchment areas large enough to secure economic viability and this is particularly relevant when considering the possible sizing and location of facilities required to satisfy any emerging need indicated by monitoring e.g. in the relevant AMR.

6.5.2 The location of waste sites in appropriate industrial estates was also the preference identified from the consultation. This has the benefit of using previously developed land and enabling waste uses to be located proximate to waste arisings. Employment land availability is monitored by KCC and the district and borough councils. It should be appreciated that all industrial estate locations may not be suitable for some types of waste uses, because of their limited size or close proximity to sensitive receptors or high land and rent costs.

6.5.3 Certain types of waste or waste management facilities, such as Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste (CDEW) recycling facilities are often co-located on mineral sites for aggregates or landfills, which are usually found in rural areas. Also, in rural areas where either the non-processed waste arisings or the processed product can be of benefit to agricultural land (as is the case with compost and anaerobic digestion), the most proximate location for the waste management facility will likely be within the rural area.

6.5.4 The development of waste management facilities on previously developed land will be given preference over the development of greenfield sites. In particular, the redevelopment of derelict or land that is contaminated may involve treatment of soil to facilitate the redevelopment. Also, redundant agricultural or forestry buildings may be suitable for waste uses where such uses are to be located within the rural areas of the county. Waste management facilities located in the Green Belt are generally regarded as inappropriate development. Developers proposing a waste management facility within the Green Belt shall demonstrate the proposed use complies with Green Belt policy (See Policy DM 4).

6.5.5 The development of built waste management facilities on greenfield sites is not precluded. This is because the goal of achieving sustainable development will lead to new development which may incorporate facilities to recycle or process the waste produced on the site, or to generate energy for use on the site.

6.5.6 Existing mineral and waste management sites may offer good locations for siting certain waste management facilities and for expansion to deliver further capacity to that which exists because of their infrastructure and location. In such cases, the developer will need to demonstrate the benefits of co-location such as connectivity with the existing use of the site while also demonstrating that any cumulative impact is acceptable. For example, the co-location of CDEW recycling (i.e. aggregate recycling) at an aggregate quarry that can enable the blending of recycled and virgin aggregates to increase the marketability of the product or the

addition of a facility that will move waste further up the hierarchy at an existing EfW site.

6.5.7 Proposals for new waste management facilities (including changes to capacity at existing sites) should consider potential impacts on the water environment at the earliest stage of planning having regard to this policy and the requirements of Policy DM 10: Water Environment, so that the full implications of the location for waste resources and flood risk are fully assessed and satisfied.

6.5.8 Policy CSW 6 applies to all proposals for built waste management facilities.

Policy CSW 6

Location of Built Waste Management Facilities

Planning permission will be granted for proposals that:

1. do not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts upon national and international designated sites, including National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Ramsar sites, and heritage assets. (See Figures 4, 5 & 6).
2. do not give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts upon Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), Local Nature Reserves (LNR), Ancient Woodland, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and groundwater resources. (See Figures 7, 8, 10 & 15)
3. are well located in relation to the Strategic Road Network, and/or railheads and wharves avoiding proposals which would give rise to unacceptable adverse impacts on strategic and local roads and/or villages.
4. do not represent inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
5. avoid Groundwater Source Protection Zone.
6. avoid Flood Risk Zone 3b⁷⁶.
7. avoid sites on or in proximity to land where alternative development exists/has planning permission or is identified in an adopted Local Plan for alternate uses that may prove to be incompatible with the proposed waste management uses on the site.
8. for energy producing facilities - sites are in proximity to existing or planned heat users.

⁷⁶ Land that has a 3.3% or greater annual probability of flooding.

9. for facilities that may involve prominent structures (including chimney stacks) the ability of the landscape to accommodate the structure (including any associated emission plume) after mitigation.
10. for facilities involving operations that may give rise to bioaerosols (e.g. composting) to locate at least 250m away from any potentially sensitive receptors.

Where it is demonstrated that waste will be dealt with further up the hierarchy, or it is replacing capacity lost at existing sites, facilities that satisfy the relevant criteria above on land in the following locations will be granted consent, providing there is no unacceptable adverse impact on the environment and communities and where such uses are compatible with the development plan:

1. within or adjacent to an existing mineral development or waste management use
2. forming part of a new major development for B8 employment or mixed uses
3. within existing industrial estates
4. other previously developed, contaminated or derelict land not allocated for another use
5. redundant agricultural and forestry buildings and their curtilages
6. within farm units where the proposal is for composting or anaerobic digestion and the compost / digestate is to be used within that unit.

Proposals on greenfield land will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that there are no suitable locations identifiable from categories 1 to 6 above within the intended catchment area of waste arisings. Particular regard will be given to whether the nature of the proposed waste management activity requires an isolated location.

6.6 Identifying Sites for Household Waste Recycling Centres

6.6.1 The county has an existing well-established network of facilities for receiving household waste delivered by residents of Kent. These Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) play an important role in meeting waste recovery and landfill diversion targets. The intention for the Plan period is to ensure facilities are provided to meet local population needs accounting for economic and projected housing growth. During the lifetime of the Plan, the need for HWRCs and other household waste management infrastructure will be reviewed by the WDA. Proposals for Household Waste Recycling Centres will be considered against Policy CSW 6: Location of Built Waste Management Facilities and relevant Development Management Policies.

6.7 Policy CSW 7: Waste Management for Non-hazardous Waste

6.7.1 Policy CSW 7 provides a strategy for the provision of new waste management capacity for non-hazardous waste. The policy will allow the provision of new waste management capacity recognising the need to drive waste up the hierarchy.

6.7.2 The term non-hazardous waste is regarded, for purposes of the Plan, as being synonymous with LACW and C&I⁷⁷ waste and the non-inert, non-hazardous, component of CDEW.

6.7.3 There is no intention to restrict the amount of new capacity for waste management for recycling or preparation of waste for reuse or recycling⁷⁸, or for the provision of additional capacity for green and/or kitchen waste treatment since the sooner it is delivered, the greater the impact will be on reducing organic waste going to landfill, the most significant source of methane production.

6.7.4 Implementing Policy CSW 7 will result in reducing the amount of Kent's non-hazardous waste going for disposal to landfill and by doing so conserve existing non-hazardous landfill capacity in Kent for any non-hazardous waste that cannot be reused, recycled, composted or recovered.

Policy CSW 7

Waste Management for Non-hazardous Waste

Waste management capacity for non-hazardous waste that assists Kent in continuing to be net self-sufficient while providing for a reducing quantity of London's waste, will be granted planning permission provided that:

1. it moves waste up the hierarchy,
2. recovery of by-products and residues is maximised
3. energy recovery is maximised (utilising both heat and power); and
4. any residues produced can be managed or disposed of in accordance with the objectives of Policy CSW 2.

6.8 Policy CSW 8: Other Recovery Facilities for Non-hazardous Waste

6.8.1 One of the fundamental aims of the Plan is to reduce the amount of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) waste being sent to non-hazardous landfill. Other recovery capacity, such as Energy from Waste, is that which diverts residual waste from landfill by means lower down the waste hierarchy than recycling and composting.

⁷⁷ C&I is Commercial and Industrial waste.

⁷⁸ A definition of recycling is included in the glossary. Recycling includes composting

6.8.2 Given that the Waste Hierarchy is to be applied in priority order i.e. from the top down, waste that could be practicably managed by a means higher up the waste hierarchy should not be managed by other recovery (see Policy CSW 2). Therefore, proposals for other recovery need to be accompanied by a 'Waste Hierarchy Statement'. Waste Hierarchy Statements must set out the arrangements that will be put in place to ensure that only unavoidable residual waste is managed by other recovery. This must include listings of the types of waste that would be subject to recovery and the reason why they cannot be managed further up the hierarchy. To this end, the Waste Hierarchy Statement must include the following details:

- a. the type of information that will be collected and retained on the sources of the residual waste after recyclable and reusable waste has been removed;
- b. the arrangements to be put in place to ensure that as much reusable and recyclable waste as is reasonably possible is removed from waste to be managed by other recovery at the consented development, including contractual measures to encourage as much reusable and recyclable waste as possible to be removed prior to its use as a fuel/feedstock;
- c. the arrangements to be put in place to ensure that suppliers of residual waste work to a written environmental management system which includes establishing a baseline for recyclable and reusable waste removed from residual waste and setting and working to specific targets for continuously improving and reporting on the percentage of such reusable and recyclable waste removed;
- d. the arrangements to be put in place for suspending and/or discontinuing supply arrangements from suppliers who fail to work to and report on compliance with any environmental management systems relating to waste reporting;
- e. the provision of an annual waste composition analysis of the fuel/feedstock taken at the point of management by the operator, with the findings submitted to Kent County Council within one month of sampling being undertaken; and,
- f. the form of records to be kept for the purpose of demonstrating compliance with 'a' to 'e' above and the arrangements in place for provision of data Kent County Council and inspection of such records by Kent County Council.

6.8.3 Other recovery capacity generally takes the form of energy from waste facilities (EfW plants) which involve the combustion of waste to produce energy in the form of heat and electricity. Whilst emissions of carbon usually result from this process, where waste with a low fossil fuel derived content (e.g. organic waste with plastics removed ('biogenic' waste) is managed, this can be considered a form of renewable energy production. To ensure maximum utilisation of the energy value of waste managed at such facilities, proposals for additional other recovery capacity need to be designed to harness the maximum practicable quantity of energy produced. This can only be achieved where the 'surplus' heat produced by the facility is utilised. This requires such facilities to be developed in locations where a demand for the heat already exists or it is known will exist in the near future. This type of facility is known as combined heat and power or 'CHP'. Proposals for developments designed only to be 'CHP ready', with no obvious use of the heat identified, will not be permitted.

6.8.4 Where some element of the waste stream comprises non-organic material, non-biogenic carbon emissions will result and so consideration must be given to the

capture, utilisation and storage of these emissions. The waste management industry has a stated intention for all new EfW plants to be built with Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) fitted or developed to be 'CCUS-ready' from 2025 onwards⁷⁹. This is consistent with the Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget recommendations to Government that all EfW facilities will need to have CCUS in place by 2040. Given the lead in time for the construction of such facilities it is expected that provision for CCUS be included in any proposals for additional EfW capacity in Kent.

6.8.5 Such other recovery capacity might be developed in conjunction with waste processing facilities on the same site, or as standalone plants where the waste is processed to produce a fuel off-site. In order to avoid the risk of under provision by double counting both fuel preparation capacity and fuel use capacity, only one of the two facility contributions will be counted towards meeting any emerging need identified by annual monitoring in future. Where fuel preparation takes place as a stand-alone activity, e.g. Mechanical Biological Treatment, the recovery contribution will only be counted as the difference between the input quantity and the output quantity unless the output fuel has a proven market. Where that is the case, if the output fuel is to be used in a combustion plant beyond Kent, then this contribution will also be counted⁸⁰.

Policy CSW 8

Other Recovery Facilities for Non-hazardous Waste

Facilities using waste as a fuel will only be permitted if:

1. they qualify as recovery operations as defined by the revised Waste Framework Directive⁸¹.
2. the waste used to fuel the facility is that which cannot practically be reused, recycled or composted i.e. is unavoidable residual waste. This shall be demonstrated in the Waste Hierarchy Statement.**;
3. solid residues arising from the process will be utilised as a raw material;
4. the maximum amount of energy from the process will be utilised including the requirement for the use of any surplus heat; and,
5. the facility is designed to ensure that non-biogenic gaseous carbon emissions are minimised, and those produced are captured and

⁷⁹ Applicable to biogenic and non-biogenic waste materials.

⁸⁰ For example, if 100 tonnes is fed into the plant: 20 tonnes are lost as moisture; 30 tonnes are diverted as recyclate; 50 tonnes of waste is converted into material that may be suited for use as a fuel. Unless that fuel has a proven market then the contribution counted will be 50 tonnes as the remaining material may end up going to landfill. If the 50 tonnes of fuel goes to a plant built within Kent the recovery contribution will be counted at the combustion plant rather than the fuel preparation plant. If the 50 tonnes of fuel is exported beyond the county then the recovery contribution will be counted at the fuel preparation plant.

⁸¹ As defined in the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 or any subsequent amendment.

utilised, or, if utilisation is not possible, stored.

** This also applies to facilities that use waste to produce a fuel i.e. RDF

6.9 Policy CSW 9: Non-Inert Waste Landfill in Kent

6.9.1 The fact that there have been no applications for new non-inert landfill sites in Kent since 2005 is indicative of a lack of demand by the waste industry to develop non-hazardous landfill. Nevertheless, a proposed development might come forward during the plan period and if so it will be granted permission providing it complies with both Policy CSW 9 and the DM policies in this Plan. In addition, proposed additional capacity for hazardous waste landfill will be assessed against this policy.

6.9.2 Following the completion of a non-inert waste landfill site, the site will need to be restored and there will be a considerable period of aftercare during which such sites need to be managed in order to prevent unacceptable adverse impacts to the environment. Aftercare management can require new development in order to either prepare the site for re-use or to manage the landfill gas or leachate production. Policy DM 19 sets out the Plan's provisions with regard to restoration, aftercare and after-use.

6.9.3 Additional landfill capacity will only be considered acceptable if it is demonstrated that suitable alternative management capacity is not available. This is intended to ensure that the availability of such capacity is kept to a minimum to discourage the management of waste by a means that sits at the bottom of the waste hierarchy.

6.9.4 As detailed in section 6.8 above, a Waste Hierarchy Statement will also need to be submitted with any application to demonstrate that the waste to be received at the non-inert landfill could not be practically managed by a means further up the waste hierarchy.

Policy CSW 9

Non-Inert Waste Landfill in Kent

Planning permission will only be granted for non-inert⁸² waste landfill if:

1. it can be demonstrated, in a Waste Hierarchy Statement, that the waste stream that needs to be landfilled cannot be managed in accordance with

⁸² Non inert waste landfill includes non hazardous waste landfill, separate cells within a non hazardous waste landfill provided to accept stable hazardous waste and dedicated hazardous waste landfill.

the objectives of Policy CSW 2 and no alternative suitable capacity for its management exists; and

2. environmental or other benefits will result from the development; and
3. the site and any associated land are to be restored to a high quality standard and an appropriate after-use that accords with the local landscape character as required by Policy DM 19; and
4. at least 85% of any landfill gas produced will be captured and utilised using best practice techniques.

6.10 Policy CSW 10: Development at Closed Landfill Sites

6.10.1 Following the completion of a landfill there needs to be a considerable period of aftercare during which the site needs to be managed in order to prevent unacceptable adverse impacts to the environment and to bring the site into use. A 5-year aftercare programme following site restoration is normally required as part of the planning permission for the development of a landfill site. However, potential problems can occur after the 5-year aftercare period, such as differential settlement, which can have an adverse effect upon land drainage. In particular, any landfill sites that contain biodegradable wastes need to be managed in order to prevent unacceptable adverse impacts to the environment from leachate or gas for a period considerably longer than five years. While the management of closed landfill sites is regulated by the Environment Agency (EA), there may be a need for new development at the site to ensure that the protection of the environment is continued. Policy CSW 10: Development at Closed Landfill Sites should be read in conjunction with Policy CSW 11: Permanent Deposit of Inert Waste, and any development at a closed landfill that includes the bringing of additional waste on to the site will need to demonstrate that the amount of waste being used is kept to a minimum. Any new development at a closed landfill site should ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts (e.g. on local amenity or emissions to air) from the development, or any other impacts that are not outweighed by the need for the non-waste development.

6.10.2 As landfill gas is a potent greenhouse gas its maximum capture must be sought. The maximum use (e.g. by power production or compression for use as a vehicle fuel) of the energy potential of captured landfill gas should also be sought to achieve optimum displacement of fossil fuels.

Policy CSW 10

Development at Closed Landfill Sites

Planning permission will be granted for development for any of the following purposes:

1. the improvement or restoration for an identified after use for the site;
2. the reduction of emissions of gases or leachate to the environment;
3. making maximum use of gases being emitted and reducing the emission of gases to the environment.

6.11 Policy CSW 11: Permanent Deposit of Inert Waste

6.11.1 The most recent capacity assessment shows that there is currently permitted capacity at permanent Construction and Demolition (CD) recycling sites of over 2 mtpa where recycled aggregate is produced. It is considered more sustainable to use recycled aggregates than to extract primary aggregates. The criteria for assessing further site proposals for such sites can be read in Policy CSM 8: Secondary and Recycled Aggregates in Chapter 5.

6.11.2 The most recent capacity assessment shows consented capacity for the permanent deposit of inert waste in Kent may only be sufficient to meet Kent's need for the plan period. While sites in Kent currently receives a lot of inert waste originating out of the county, particularly from London, the continuation of this waste import throughout the plan period would likely require development of additional capacity to accommodate this waste. In light of this Policy CSW 11 provides support to operations involving the permanent deposit of inert waste.

6.11.3 Another important issue is that without the import of inert waste the ability to restore existing permitted mineral workings would take a lot longer. Policy CSW 11: Permanent Deposit of Inert Waste seeks to ensure that a high priority is given to using inert waste that cannot be recycled in the restoration of existing permitted mineral workings, in preference to uses where inert waste is deposited on land (e.g. bund formation or raising land to improve drainage etc).

Policy CSW 11

Permanent Deposit of Inert Waste

Planning permission for the permanent deposit of inert waste will be granted where:

1. the inert waste is being deposited for a beneficial use such as the restoration of landfill sites and mineral workings and not as part of a disposal operation;
2. the waste is to be used in an engineering operation, other than the restoration of landfill sites and mineral workings, where it is demonstrated that there is no local Kent demand for its use in such restoration operations; and,
3. The development involves the minimum quantity of waste necessary to achieve the benefit sought.

6.12 Policy CSW 12: Hazardous Waste Management

6.12.1 Hazardous waste arising in Kent is one of the smaller streams of waste. The management of hazardous waste is typically characterised by the following: Hazardous waste is often produced in small quantities and hazardous waste management facilities are often highly specialised with regional or even national catchment areas involving movement of hazardous waste with both waste originating in Kent going outside the county for management and hazardous waste coming into the county for management.

6.12.2 Net self-sufficiency in hazardous waste is not a practical aspiration however when viewed as a whole, net self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management is achieved in Kent. Pressures in the need for additional hazardous waste capacity in Kent might arise in future if changes in the production and management profile of hazardous waste occur as follows:

1. demand for disposal capacity for flue residues from Allington EfW facility
2. any increase in hazardous residues from air pollution control from additional EfW capacity requiring management
3. if the existing asbestos landfill closes then a significant amount of asbestos based hazardous waste will cease to be imported into the county.

6.12.3 The need for additional hazardous waste management capacity can be addressed through Policy CSW 12 should it be required.

6.12.4 Any proposals for future provision for landfill capacity for asbestos and/or hazardous residues from air pollution control will be considered against other policies of this Plan including Policy CSW 9.

Policy CSW 12

Hazardous Waste Management

Development proposals for built hazardous waste management facilities will be granted planning permission in locations consistent with Policy CSW 6 and for landfill sites in accordance with Policy CSW 9, regardless of whether their catchment areas for waste extend beyond Kent.

6.13 Policy CSW 13: Remediation of Brownfield Land

6.13.1 The environment permitting regime has enabled soil decontamination and the subsequent reuse in the redevelopment of the decontaminated soil within a site. Policy CSW 13 seeks to ensure that land that is contaminated is treated in situ or in combination with other land that is contaminated when those sites are to be

redeveloped.

Policy CSW 13

Remediation of Brownfield Land

Planning permission will be granted for a temporary period for waste related developments on brownfield land that facilitate its redevelopment by reducing or removing contamination from previous development, where:

1. the site is identified in a local plan for redevelopment or has planning permission for redevelopment, or
2. the site is part of a network of brownfield sites that are identified in a local plan or local plans for redevelopment or that have planning permission for redevelopment and is to receive waste for treatment from those sites as well as treating the land within the site.

6.14 Policy CSW 14: Disposal of Dredgings

6.14.1 Retaining the navigable channels within the estuaries within Kent is the statutory duty of the Port of London Authority (PLA) and the Medway Ports Authority. When the dredged materials do not consist of aggregates or cannot be accommodated within projects to enhance the biodiversity of the estuaries, then landfill is the only option currently available⁸³. The PLA completed a review of its 'Vision for the Tidal Thames (The Thames Vision)' in 2022 which sets out future priorities for the Tidal Thames around three themes 'Trading', 'Destination' and 'Natural' Thames. Any sites that would require planning permission for the disposal of dredged materials to land will be considered against the policies of the Plan as a whole. Specifically, Policy CSW 14 should ensure that such waste development would be the most sustainable option for the management of this material and that it affords increased opportunities for enhanced biodiversity in the Kent estuaries.

6.14.2 Currently the Plan makes no allocation for a site for the disposal of marine dredgings. This situation will be kept under review should the need for a specific site with river access arise.

⁸³ Please note that dredging spoils consisting of soil and plant matter can be deposited and used under the conditions of the D1, U1, U10 and U11 waste exemptions. Please see guidance: D1 waste exemption: depositing waste from dredging inland waters - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), U1 waste exemption: use of waste in construction - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), U10 waste exemption: spreading waste to benefit agricultural land - creating a better place for people and wildlife GOV.UK (www.gov.uk), U11 waste exemption: spreading waste on non-agricultural land - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Policy CSW 14

Disposal of Dredgings

Planning permission will be granted for new sites for the disposal of dredging materials where it can be demonstrated that:

1. the re-use of the material to be disposed of is not practicable
2. there are no opportunities to use the material to enhance the biodiversity of the Kent estuaries.

6.15 Policy CSW 15: Wastewater Development

6.15.1 Water treatment undertakers have a range of rights to carry out development without the need to obtain planning permission under the *Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995* (GPDO). However, new proposals for wastewater treatment works, sludge treatment and disposal facilities as well as extensions and some modifications to existing facilities will invariably require planning permission.

6.15.2 The means of ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens and provides certainty that the whole of the scheme is deliverable in line with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Advice regarding nutrient neutrality is likely to change throughout the plan period. Up to date guidance is available from Natural England, who should be consulted in understanding the current approach to nutrient neutrality. Such proposals may also need an Environmental Permit and developers are advised to contact the Environment Agency about this matter at the earliest opportunity.

Policy CSW 15

Wastewater Development

Wastewater treatment works and sewage sludge treatment facilities (including extensions) will be granted planning permission, subject to:

1. there being a proven need for the proposed facility; and
2. biogas resulting from any anaerobic digestion of sewage sludge, being recovered effectively for use as an energy source using best practice techniques⁸⁴.
3. Works undertaken in water catchment areas⁸⁵ that are sensitive to nitrite and

⁸⁴ As set out by the Environment Agency and industry standards.

⁸⁵ The DEFRA Magic map service demarks the areas required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality.

phosphate concentration will be required to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality.

6.16 Policy CSW 16: Safeguarding of Existing Waste Management Facilities

6.16.1 The current stock of waste management facilities are important to maintaining net self-sufficiency. The loss of annual capacity at an existing permitted waste site could have an adverse effect upon delivering the waste strategy and so the protection of the existing stock of sites with permanent waste permission is as important to achieving the aims of the Plan as identifying new sites. Existing permitted sites with permanent permission for waste facilities can be protected through refusing permission for the redevelopment of these sites to non-waste uses. A list of waste sites is updated and published each year in the Kent MWLP AMR⁸⁶ Policy DM 8 identifies situations where development at, or in proximity to safeguarded waste management facilities would be acceptable.

Policy CSW 16

Safeguarding of Existing Waste Management Facilities

Capacity at sites with permanent planning permission for waste management is safeguarded from being developed for non-waste management uses⁸⁷

Capacity at sites with temporary planning permissions tied to the life of the mineral working will be similarly safeguarded for no longer than the duration of that permission.

Where other development is proposed at, or within 250m of, sites hosting safeguarded waste management capacity Local Planning Authorities will consult the Waste Planning Authority and take account of its views on how the safeguarded capacity may be affected before making a planning decision (in terms of both a planning application and an allocation in a local plan).

6.17 Radioactive Waste Management

6.17.1 The subject of radioactive waste is complex as it covers waste arisings from nuclear power stations as well as small quantities of radioactive waste that arise from hospitals and other medical activities and research establishments. Details of national policy on this subject, as well as the details of Kent arisings and current management routes are given in the evidence base topic paper on radioactive

⁸⁶ Available online from: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/minerals-and-waste-planning-policy#null>.

⁸⁷ A list of sites hosting safeguarded capacity is maintained in the AMR.

wastes⁸⁸. The following paragraphs define the various types of radioactive waste.

6.17.2 High Level Wastes (HLW) are defined as wastes in which the temperature may rise significantly as a result of their radioactivity, so that this factor has to be taken into account in designing storage or disposal facilities⁸⁹.

6.17.3 Intermediate Level Wastes (ILW) are wastes with radioactivity levels exceeding the upper boundaries for low level wastes, but which do not require heating to be taken into account in the design of storage or disposal facilities⁹⁰. ILW is retrieved and processed to make it passively safe and then stored pending the availability of the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

6.17.4 Low Level Wastes (LLW) are radioactive wastes, other than those suitable for disposal with ordinary refuse, but not exceeding 4 gigabecquerels per tonne of alpha activity, or 12 gigabecquerels per tonne of beta or gamma activity⁹¹. LLW does not normally require shielding during handling or transport. LLW consists largely of paper, plastics and scrap metal items that have been used in hospitals, research establishments and the nuclear industry. Across the UK, large volumes of soil, concrete and steel will need to be managed as nuclear power plants are decommissioned. LLW makes up more than 90% by volume of UK radioactive wastes (but contains less than 0.1% of the radioactivity)⁹². Historically most of LLW from the nuclear industry was transferred to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) in Cumbria. In recent years it has been recognised that the capacity of the LLWR is limited and that most types of LLW do not require the level of protection offered by such a highly engineered facility. Not all LLW needs to be transferred to the LLWR for subsequent disposal there. Some types of solid LLW arising from nuclear power stations can be disposed of at suitably licensed landfill sites⁹³, or can be incinerated⁹⁴. The Waste Hierarchy has to be considered in order to deal with LLW in the most effective way, so minimising the use of the capacity at the LLWR in order to extend its life. Some LLW arisings are incinerated and some metals are recycled, so there are a number of routes that these waste streams take.

6.17.5 Very Low Level Waste (VLLW) is a subcategory of LLW that contains limited

⁸⁸ KCC Radioactive Waste Topic Paper, January 2024

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/165009/EB03-Radioactive-Waste-Topic-Paper-KMWLP-2024-39-January-2024-a.pdf.

⁸⁹ Defra, BERR and the Devolved Administrations for Wales and Northern Ireland (June 2008) Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A framework for Implementing Geological Disposal. HLW is largely a by-product from the reprocessing of spent fuel.

⁹⁰ Defra, BERR and the Devolved Administrations for Wales and Northern Ireland (June 2008). Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A framework for Implementing Geological Disposal.

⁹¹ A becquerel is the unit of radioactivity, representing one disintegration per second. A gigabecquerel is 1000 million becquerels.

⁹² DECC, the Welsh Government, DOE and the Scottish Government (12 March 2012). Strategy for the management of solid low level radioactive waste from the non nuclear industry in the UK. Part1 - Anthropogenic radionuclide.

⁹³ There are no radioactive waste landfills in Kent at the time of plan update.

⁹⁴ Source: Note from the EA (October 2012) attached to KCC (January 2013) Update Note to Dungeness Site Stakeholder Group on the Kent Minerals and Waste Plan.

amounts of solid radioactive waste that can be disposed of conveniently and without causing unacceptable environmental impacts, provided that it is mixed with large quantities of non-radioactive wastes which are themselves being disposed of⁹⁵.

6.17.6 The term higher activity waste embraces ILW and any LLW that requires disposal to a GDF. This waste stream has no disposal routes at the time of writing the Plan. Legacy waste refers to all of the radioactive waste streams that arise from the nuclear power stations across the UK.

6.18 Policy CSW 17: Waste Management at the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites

6.18.1 Kent has two nuclear power stations sites (Dungeness A and B) located on the Dungeness Peninsula (Figure 20 shows their location). Dungeness A (a twin reactor Nuclear Restoration Services power station) operated from 1965 to the end of 2006 and is undergoing decommissioning that will continue until around 2097. Dungeness B (an Advanced Gas Cooled twin reactor) started operation in 1983 and formally ended power generation in 2021 and is currently defueling prior to the commencement of decommissioning activities. The decommissioning of Dungeness B is likely to take up until 2111. The decommissioning of Dungeness A is managed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and Nuclear Restoration Services. Dungeness B is currently the responsibility of EDF Energy but will transfer to NDA/Nuclear Restoration Services upon obtainment of fuel free verification and licence transfer.

6.18.2 Both stations lie within an environmentally sensitive area adjacent to sites of international and national importance designated for their geology and biodiversity interests. Dungeness is the largest shingle structure (buried and exposed ridged cusped foreland) in Europe comprising approximately 2000 hectares of vegetated shingle, approximately half the English shingle habitat resource. The extent and compositions of shingle ridge 'desert' habitats found at Dungeness is unique in the UK and rare in northwest Europe. Designated Habitat Sites which form part of the 'National Site Network' as defined by the Changes to the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, cover large parts of the Dungeness Peninsula. To enable the competent authority under the Habitats Regulations to: i) Determine the need for appropriate assessment of applications for waste management and disposal at the Dungeness nuclear sites; and ii) undertake such assessment where it is deemed necessary, sufficient relevant information will be required to accompany each planning application, including baseline data and monitoring of, where relevant, vehicle movements, air quality and bird populations.

6.18.3 There are currently no plans to build another nuclear power station at Dungeness. If a nuclear power station were ever proposed, it would be considered

⁹⁵ NIEA, SEPA and EA. (September 2011) The Radioactive Substances Act 1993. The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2011. VLLW Guidance Version 1.0.

as a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (NSIP) and so its suitability would be considered by the Secretary of State.

6.18.4 The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is required to produce a strategy for decommissioning nuclear legacy sites in the UK every five years. The 2016 Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Strategy⁹⁶ (which was subject to prior public consultation) included a commitment to prepare a single radioactive waste strategy for the NDA which was published in 2019 ("The Integrated Waste Management Radioactive Waste Strategy"). Each Nuclear Restoration Services site may have its own ILW store and be 'self-sufficient' but the best options for consideration in the future may be for movements of waste between sites for consolidation and storage. Options include co-locating waste from both Dungeness power stations (A and B) on one of those sites. The nuclear power operators are required to make best use of processing facilities nationwide to minimise the overall impact of radioactive waste processing and disposal subject to due process and Best Available Techniques (BAT) assessment. Policy CSW 17 does not foreclose possible future solutions for consolidation and waste movements between all Nuclear Restoration Services sites (for treatment and/or storage). However, at present the NDA and Nuclear Restoration Services do not anticipate any import of radioactive waste for disposal at Dungeness (though movement between Dungeness A and B may occur).

6.18.5 On-site disposal related to the decommissioning of nuclear sites can take a number of forms, but chiefly concerns leaving sub-surface radioactively contaminated (mainly concrete) structures in place indefinitely and filling unwanted below-ground voids with site-derived radioactively contaminated demolition arisings (mainly concrete and masonry), under a radioactive substances regulation (RSR) environmental permit granted by the Environment Agency in accordance with the requirements of the 'Guidance on the Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation' (known as the GRR)⁹⁷. A permit would only be issued if it can be demonstrated that any on site disposal management option, when considered in combination with the management options for all other radioactive wastes and radioactive contamination at the site, ensures overall exposures of people are 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable' (ALARA). Also, where any disposal option has been demonstrated to be optimal, the Operator must consider how the design, construction and implementation of that disposal ensures exposures are ALARA.

6.18.6 The GRR advises that operators must prepare and maintain a Waste Management Plan (WMP) and 'Site Wide Environmental Safety Case' (SWESC). The WMP is required to manage the programme of disposals of radioactive waste until work involving radioactive substances is completed and to demonstrate how

⁹⁶ The latest Nuclear Decommissioning Authority Strategy was published in March 2021

⁹⁷ Management of radioactive waste from decommissioning of nuclear sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation, July 2018. Published by the UK environment agencies. See also 'Near-Surface Disposal Facilities on Land for Solid Radioactive Waste Guidance on Requirements for Authorisation', February 2009 and 'UK Policy Framework for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear De-Commissioning', May 2024.

waste management has been optimised. The SWESC is required to demonstrate that the health of members of the public and the integrity of the environment will be adequately protected, both during and after radioactive substances regulation. The WMP and SWESC are closely aligned and a WMP and SWESC may need to be in place before any application for on-site disposal at site as it is a specific permit requirement to produce these documents by the dates outlined in the RSR permit.

6.18.7 The Government has published UK Policy Framework for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear De-Commissioning (May 2024) and is currently preparing Planning Guidance for on-site disposal of suitable 'low level' and 'very low level' radioactive waste on nuclear and decommissioned sites.

6.18.8 In 2012, Shepway District Council (now Folkestone and Hythe District Council) considered whether to submit an expression of interest to host a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in the district. As part of this consideration, Shepway District Council held a public referendum and on 19th September 2012 decided to recommend not to submit an expression of interest for hosting the GDF. There are currently no plans to build a GDF at Dungeness and if one were ever proposed, it would be considered as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and a decision would be made taking account of the National Policy Statement for Geological Disposal Infrastructure. Policy CSW 17 and other policies of this Plan would be taken into account in any decision on a proposal to develop a GDF at Dungeness.

Policy CSW 17

Waste Management at the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites

Part A: General Requirements

Facilities for the management (including storage, treatment or disposal (subject to Part B of this policy)) of radioactive waste will be acceptable within the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites where:

1. this is consistent with the national strategy⁹⁸ for managing radioactive waste and discharges; and
2. the outcome of environmental assessments justify it being managed on Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites.

Part B: Disposal of Waste at the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites

The only wastes that will be acceptable for disposal within the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites are low-level and very low-level radioactive wastes, or other inert (non-radioactive) wastes. The types of disposal of such wastes that would be acceptable are:

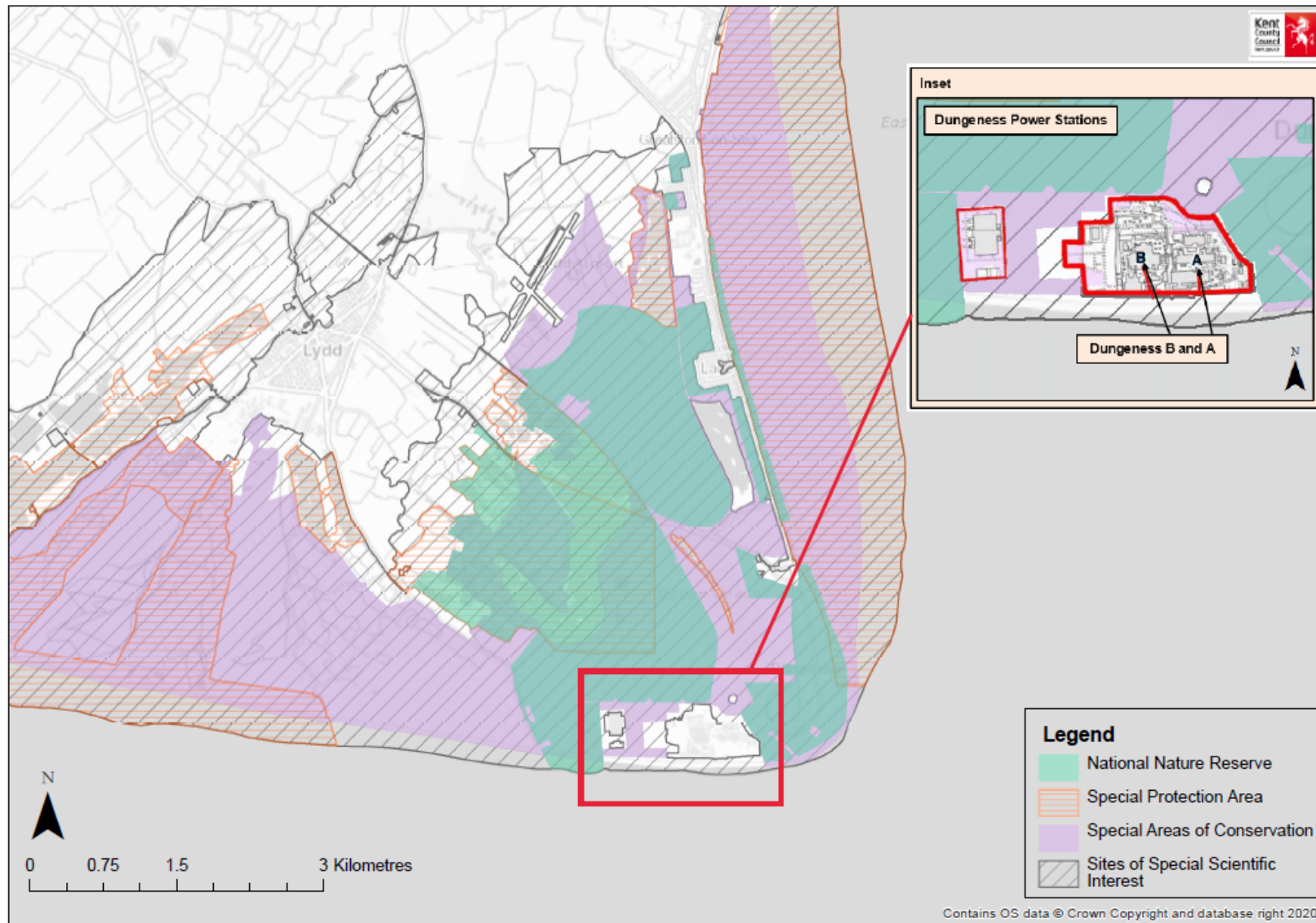
⁹⁸ National strategy for radioactive wastes is the NDA Strategy at the time of any application

1. In situ disposal of inground structures and foundations (including contaminated below-ground structures, foundations and redundant drains);
2. The back-filling of voids within the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites using wastes generated by the demolition of existing buildings and structures; and
3. Purpose built landfill or land raise activities within the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites using wastes generated by the demolition of existing buildings and structures.

Planning permission for the disposal of waste arisings as described above on the Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites will be granted only if it can be demonstrated that:

1. the development is the optimum waste management approach for the radioactive waste concerned;
2. impacts on the sustainability, including environment, of the area can be mitigated to an acceptable level as demonstrated with reference to baseline data; and,
3. for the disposal of imported low-level and very low-level radioactive demolition waste from other nuclear sites:
 - a. there is an on-site land engineering need that can be met using these imported wastes, e.g. the in-filling of voids; and
 - b. there is insufficient suitable radioactive waste and/or non-radioactive material that would be generated from the demolition of buildings and structures on the Dungeness sites themselves available on the required timescales that would meet the engineering need; and
 - c. if importation of radioactive demolition wastes from other nuclear sites were not to be carried out then an approximately equivalent quantity of other materials would still be required to be imported to meet the identified engineering need; and
 - d. the type and number of vehicle movements associated with the disposal of imported low-level and very low-level radioactive demolition waste to meet the identified engineering need, would be equivalent to, or would have a lesser impact than, those which would be associated with any import of engineering material that would be used to meet the identified engineering need.

Figure 20: Dungeness Power Stations & Romney Marsh Nature Designations



6.19 Policy CSW 18: Non-nuclear Radioactive Low Level Waste (LLW) Management Facilities

6.19.1 There may also be a need for new facilities for the storage and/or treatment of non-nuclear sources of LLW (including VLLW) from institutions such as research establishments, universities and hospitals. At the time of plan preparation, there is no data on these waste arisings in Kent. They are likely to be in low volumes. However, to address the requirements of Government guidance on the EU WFD 2008/98/EC⁹⁹, an enabling policy for sites that will manage this waste stream is required.

Policy CSW 18

Non-nuclear Industry Radioactive Low Level Waste Management

Planning permission will be granted for facilities that manage non-nuclear industry low level waste and very low-level waste arisings where they meet the requirements of all relevant development plan policies, in the following circumstances:

1. where there is a proven need for the facility, and
2. the source material to be managed arises from within Kent and from areas outside that would be consistent with the principle of proximity in terms of the management of non-nuclear industry low level waste and very low-level waste.

⁹⁹ DLUHC (December 2012) Guidance on the EU Waste Framework Directive.

7. Development Management Policies

7.0.1 The Development Management (DM) policies in this chapter address a range of subjects relevant to minerals and waste developments in Kent. Together with the minerals and waste delivery strategy policies, and the Mineral Sites Plan, the policies form a robust DM framework for the determination of minerals and waste applications. These policies should also be considered in the context of the relevant local plan for the district or borough where the proposal is situated.

7.0.2 The DM policies in the Plan avoid duplication with other regulatory functions, such as the environmental permitting regime carried out by the Environment Agency (EA).

7.1 Policy DM 1: Sustainable Design

7.1.1 It is important that all minerals and waste developments are designed to minimise the impact upon the environment and Kent's communities. There is a need to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of emissions, minimise energy and water consumption, reduce waste production and reuse or recycle materials. Emissions arising from construction include those embedded in the materials used in the development, and low carbon materials should therefore be used.

7.1.2 Sustainable design initiatives can be achieved by a variety of means such as the incorporation of renewable energy, energy management systems, grey water recycling systems, sustainable drainage systems, solar panels, electric vehicle charging points, energy efficient appliances and the use of recycled and recyclable building materials. Policy DM 1 supports some of the key priorities in the County Council's environmental strategy¹⁰⁰.

7.1.3 Proposals for development above a certain size¹⁰¹ will be expected to demonstrate, within a 'Circular Economy Statement', how the development will achieve a BREEAM 'Very Good' rating or equivalent standard.

7.1.4 The importance placed on the biodiversity within soils, as well as its potential to store carbon, has significantly increased. Both waste and minerals development can result in a large amount of soil disturbance. Planning applications should therefore include details of how soil disturbance is to be minimised. Best practice examples are set out in the Defra publication 'Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites' 2009.

¹⁰⁰ KCC (March 2016) Kent Environment Strategy

¹⁰¹ Development requiring a Circular Economy Statement will have a total floor space of greater than 1000 square metres and/or comprise greater than 10no. units of housing and/or where the site is 1 hectare or more.

Policy DM 1

Sustainable Design

Proposals for minerals and waste development will be required to demonstrate that they have been designed in accordance with best practice to:

1. minimise greenhouse gas emissions which may arise from the construction and operation of the development;
2. minimise other emissions of pollutants which may arise from construction and operation;
3. minimise energy and water consumption during their construction and operation and incorporate measures for water recycling and utilisation of low carbon renewable energy;
4. minimise waste and maximise the re-use or recycling of materials during their construction and operation;
5. incorporate climate change adaptation measures including sustainable urban drainage systems, suitable shading of pedestrian routes and open spaces and drought resistant landscaping unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;
6. protect and enhance the character and quality of the site's setting or mitigate and if necessary compensate for any predicted loss;
7. maximise opportunities to contribute to green and blue infrastructure, to include benefits to communities (including Public Rights of Way), and to contribute to biodiversity net gain;
8. minimise the loss of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land and protect soils more generally;
9. achieve a BREEAM 'Very Good' standard or equivalent where appropriate; and
10. where possible, utilise existing buildings and achieve an efficient re-use of land.

7.2 Policy DM 2: Environmental and Landscape Sites of International, National and Local Importance and Policy DM 3: Ecological Impact Assessment

7.2.1 Minerals and waste developments can have adverse impacts on sites of international, national and local importance. Kent has a wide range of landscapes and habitats that play an important role in supporting a variety of flora and fauna.

7.2.2 Significant weight in planning terms is given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty of National Landscapes (formerly known as AONBs) in which the conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations. Development within the setting of National Landscapes should also be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise impacts on the designated areas. Policy DM 2 recognises that some sites are designated due to their importance in terms of geodiversity.

7.2.3 Locally important sites are also designated in recognition of their significance at the local level¹⁰², but do not normally carry the same level of protection as international or nationally designated sites. These sites include Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), priority habitat identified in the Kent BAP, Local Geological Sites, Locally Listed Heritage Assets, Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), Country Parks, and aged or veteran trees, waterbodies and other green infrastructure features. Alongside other nature designations, these sites will play an important role in the success of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

7.2.4 Policy DM 2 relates to these sites of international, national, and local environmental and landscape importance. The policy aims to ensure that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on these important assets and sets out the circumstances where impacts upon them would be acceptable. In the case of a demonstrated overriding need for the development, any impacts would be required to be mitigated or compensated for in order to provide a net gain or improvement to their condition. Buffers¹⁰³ have a role to play in mitigation.

7.2.5 In addition to Policy DM 2, Policy DM 3 seeks to protect Kent's important biodiversity assets, ensure that minerals and waste applications are supported by appropriate ecological assessments, and ensure that biodiversity net gain is maximised. While a statutory target of at least 10% biodiversity net gain for all development has been introduced, the Kent Nature Partnership expects at least 20% to be achieved. The restoration of mineral sites frequently provides excellent opportunities for the development of habitat and the expectation is that they should be maximised such that, where practicable, greater than 20% biodiversity net gain will be achieved. Separate guidance on the application of the biodiversity net gain requirements to minerals and waste developments as set out in Policy DM 3 will be published.

7.2.6 In terms of selecting and screening the suitability of sites for identification in any Minerals and Waste Sites Plans, the following criteria will be taken into account:

- The requirements set out in Policy CSM 2: Supply of Land-won Minerals, Policy CSW 6: Location of Built Waste Management Facilities and Policy CSW 7: Waste management for Non-hazardous Waste
- all policies set out in Chapter 7: Development Management Policies

¹⁰² As contained in the Kent State of the Environment Report 2015 and the Kent Environment Strategy 2016.

¹⁰³ A buffer is a piece of land that separates or manages incompatible land uses.

- relevant policies in district local plans
- strategic environmental information, including landscape assessment and HRA as appropriate.

The scope of the above information to be considered will be appropriate for a Strategic site selection process. More detailed information will be required for consideration at the planning applications stage.

Policy DM 2

Environmental and Landscape Sites of International, National and Local Importance

Proposals for minerals and/or waste development will be required to ensure that they are not likely to cause significant harm to the integrity, character, appearance and function, biodiversity and geodiversity interests of sites of international, national and local importance, such that these proposals accord with the avoid, mitigate, compensate hierarchy. Proposals in coastal locations that are considered likely to cause significant harm to Marine Conservation Zones should also accord with the avoid, mitigate and compensate hierarchy.

1. International Sites

Minerals and/or waste proposals (for planning permission, or allocation within the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan), that are considered to have a 'likely significant effect' (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on international designated sites, including Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation ('National Site Network' as defined by the Changes to the Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and 'Habitat Sites' as defined by the NPPF), will need to be evaluated as part of an 'appropriate assessment' and be in accordance with established management objectives for the national sites network ('network objectives'¹⁰⁴). Where an 'adverse effect on integrity' of an international designated site cannot be ruled out as a result of a proposal, it will need to be demonstrated that:

- a. there are no alternatives;
- b. there is a robust case established as to why there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest; and
- c. there is sufficient provision for adequate timely compensation before permission can be granted, or the allocation can be included within the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan.

2. National Sites

¹⁰⁴ As defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Designated National Landscapes have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. When exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect land, in a National Landscape, relevant authorities must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape. For the purposes of this policy, such functions include the determination of planning applications and the allocation of sites in a development plan.

Planning permission for major minerals and waste development in a designated National Landscape will be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that it is in the public interest. In relation to other minerals or waste proposals in a National Landscape, great weight will be given to conserving and enhancing its landscape and scenic beauty. Proposals within the setting of a National Landscape should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.

Consideration of such applications will assess;

- a. the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations and the impact of granting, or refusing, the proposal upon the local economy;
- b. the cost of, and scope for developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need in some other way; and
- c. any detrimental impact on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which the impact could be moderated taking account of the relevant AONB Management Plan.

Sites put forward for allocation for minerals or waste development in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan or any Waste Sites Plan will be considered having regard to the above tests. Those that the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority considers unlikely to meet the relevant test(s) will not be allocated.

Proposals for minerals and/or waste developments within or outside of designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserves, that are considered likely to have an adverse impact on a Site of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserve, will not be granted planning permission or identified in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan except in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that impacts cannot be avoided in the first instance (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), or adequately mitigated, unless there is an overriding need for the development and any impacts can be compensated for, and:

- a. the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh any impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest; and
- b. the benefits of the development outweigh any impacts that it is likely to

have on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Minerals and/or waste proposals located within or considered likely to cause loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitat such as Ancient Woodland and ancient or veteran trees will not be granted planning permission or identified in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan unless the need for, and the benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh any loss, justified by wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy is in place.

3. Local Sites

Minerals and/or waste proposals within, or likely to have an unacceptable adverse impact on, the Local Sites listed below will not be granted planning permission, or identified in updates to the Minerals Sites Plan and any Waste Sites Plan, unless it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for the development and any impacts can be mitigated or compensated for, such that there is a net planning benefit:

- a. Local Wildlife Sites;
- b. Local Nature Reserves;
- c. Priority Habitats and Species;
- d. land that is of regional or local importance as a wildlife corridor or for the conservation and enhancement of geodiversity and biodiversity;
- e. habitats and species identified in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045;
- f. Local Geological Sites;
- g. Country Parks, common land and village greens and other important areas of open space or green areas within built-up areas.

Policy DM 3

Ecological Impact Assessment

Proposals that are likely to have unacceptable adverse impacts upon important geodiversity and biodiversity assets (as defined in Policy DM 2) will need to demonstrate that an adequate level of ecological assessment has been undertaken and should provide a positive contribution to the protection, enhancement, creation and management of biodiversity. Such proposals will only be granted planning permission following:

1. an ecological assessment of the site, including preliminary ecological appraisal and, where likely presence is identified, specific protected species surveys;
2. consideration of the exceptional circumstances that clearly demonstrate the need for, and benefits of, the development and the reasons for locating the development in its proposed location, that clearly outweigh its impacts;
3. where impacts cannot be avoided, then measures required to mitigate any adverse impacts (direct, indirect and cumulative) should be identified and appropriately secured; and,
4. finally, only as a last resort, where adverse impacts cannot be avoided or mitigated for, then compensatory measures should be identified and secured.

All development¹⁰⁵ shall achieve a net gain in biodiversity value in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF. All major development shall deliver at least a 10% net gain in biodiversity value with an expectation that the maximum practicable net gain is achieved. All planning applications should be supported by a draft Biodiversity Gain Plan and relevant supporting reports that demonstrate net gain can be achieved, implemented, managed and maintained.

Restoration of mineral extraction sites for end uses that limit options to maximise biodiversity gain, may still be acceptable, provided the restoration achieves the minimum requirements and it can be demonstrated that the benefits of the restoration proposed would help achieve other objectives within the Development Plan that can be balanced against the need to maximise biodiversity net gain.

7.3 Policy DM 4: Green Belt

7.3.1 The western area of Kent is situated within the Green Belt around London (see Figure 6 in Chapter 2.2). The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

7.3.2 Proposals for minerals and waste development within the Green Belt will be considered in light of their potential impacts, national policy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

7.3.3 There is a presumption against inappropriate development within the Green Belt. Inappropriate development is, by definition harmful to the Green Belt and

¹⁰⁵ An application to vary a condition of a planning permission pursuant to section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act is exempt from BNG requirements where the original permission which the section 73 application relates to was either granted before 12 February 2024 or the application for the original permission was made before 12 February 2024.

should not be approved except in very special circumstances. When considering any planning application, the planning authority will ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green Belt. 'Very special circumstances' will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

7.3.4 The National Planning Policy Framework provides guidance on the purposes of the Green Belt and what constitutes inappropriate development. It states that minerals extraction, engineering operations and the re-use of buildings provided that the buildings are of permanent and substantial construction are not inappropriate development in the Green Belt provided that they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and proposals do not conflict with the purpose of including land in the Green Belt. Processing plants, although commonly associated with mineral extraction, are unlikely to preserve openness, owing to their size, height and industrial appearance and would therefore be inappropriate development. Elements of many renewable energy projects will also comprise inappropriate developments. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed. Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources.

7.3.5 Within the Green Belt, the planning authority will plan positively to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity; or to improve damaged and derelict land.

Policy DM 4

Green Belt

Proposals for minerals and waste development within the Green Belt shall comply with national policy.

7.4 Policy DM 5: Heritage Assets and Policy DM 6: Historic Environment Assessment

7.4.1 Kent's historic environment requires protection for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. The historic environment covers all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged as well as landscaped and planted or managed flora¹⁰⁶. The NPPF identifies the conservation of such heritage assets as one of the core land-use

¹⁰⁶ As defined by National Planning Policy Framework ([December 2023](#)).

planning principles that underpin both plan-making and decision-taking; it states that heritage assets should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life by today's and future generations¹⁰⁷.

7.4.2 The 'Historic England (2015) Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes 1 to 3' provide information on the implementation of historic environment policy, and emphasises that all information requirements and assessment work, in support of heritage protection, needs to be proportionate to the significance of the heritage assets affected and the impact on the significance of those heritage assets. The Historic England Advice Note 13 on Mineral Extraction and Archaeology also provides advice about archaeology as part of mineral development.

7.4.3 Consideration should be given to the NPPG and NPPF on the Historic Environment in that applications should describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by development, including any contribution made by their setting and should include analysis of the significance of the asset and its setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of any development on its significance.

Policy DM 5

Heritage Assets

Proposals for minerals and waste developments will be required to ensure that Kent's heritage assets and their settings, including non-designated heritage assets, registered historic parks and gardens, Listed Buildings, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, archaeological sites and features and defined heritage coastline¹⁰⁸, are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance.

Proposals should result in no unacceptable adverse impact on Kent's historic environment and, wherever possible, opportunities should be sought to enhance historic assets affected by the proposals. Minerals and/or waste proposals that would harm the significance of a heritage asset will not be granted planning permission unless it can be demonstrated that there is an overriding need for development and any impacts can be mitigated or compensated for, such that there is a net planning benefit, as set out in national policy for the historic environment.

Policy DM 6

Historic Environment Assessment

¹⁰⁷ As defined by National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), Chapter 16.

¹⁰⁸ Currently two sites in Kent: (1.) South Foreland and (2.) Dover – Folkestone.

Proposals for minerals and waste development that are likely to affect important heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets will only be granted planning permission following:

1. preliminary historic environment assessment, including field archaeological investigation and assessment of contribution towards setting where appropriate, to determine the nature and significance of the heritage assets
2. appropriate provision has been secured for preservation in situ, and/or archaeological excavation and recording and/or other historic environment recording as appropriate, including post-excavation analysis and reporting, archive deposition and access, and interpretation of the results for the local community, in accordance with the significance of the finds
3. agreement of mitigation of the impacts on the significance of the heritage assets, including their fabric, their setting, their amenity value and arrangements for reinstatement.

7.5 Policy DM 7: Safeguarding Mineral Resources

7.5.1 As set out in section 5.5, it is important that certain mineral resources in Kent are safeguarded for potential use by future generations. However, from time to time, proposals to develop areas overlying safeguarded minerals resources for non-minerals purposes will come forward where for genuine planning reasons it would not be practicable to extract the otherwise economic underlying reserves before surface development is carried out.

7.5.2 In such circumstances, when determining proposals, a judgement will be required which weighs up the need for such development against the need to avoid sterilisation of the underlying mineral taking account of the objectives and policies of the development plans as a whole.

7.5.3 Policy DM 7 sets out the circumstances when non-minerals development maybe acceptable at a location within a Minerals Safeguarding Area. This policy recognises that the aim of safeguarding is to avoid unnecessary sterilisation of resources and encourage prior extraction of the mineral where practicable and viable before non-mineral development occurs.

7.5.4 The process of Local Plan formulation, including consultation, independent examination and subsequent adoption provides the opportunity to take account of, and address, the need for the safeguarding of mineral resources. In doing so, it can make a clear judgement that where land is allocated in a Local Plan for surface development, such as housing, the presence of a mineral resource, and the need for its safeguarding, has been factored into the consideration of whether the allocation is appropriate. For sites allocated for non-mineral development it will therefore

usually be the case that an assessment of the relevant considerations (criteria 1 to 6 in Policy DM 7) has already taken place. In some cases, the assessment will conclude that an allocated site should be exempt from mineral safeguarding. The approach to be taken to mineral assessment during the plan-making stage is set out in the Safeguarding SPD¹⁰⁹.

7.5.5 However, applications for non-mineral development located in MSAs, which are promoted as a 'windfall site' (sites not allocated in a development plan) or which are being promoted on allocated sites that have not been the subject of a 'Minerals Assessment', will usually need to be accompanied by such an assessment. This assessment will be prepared by the promoter and will include information concerning the availability of the mineral, its scarcity, the timescale for the development, the practicability and the viability of the prior extraction of the mineral. Guidance on undertaking Minerals Assessments is included in the British Geological Society's (BGS) Good Practice Advice on Safeguarding

7.5.6 In certain cases, it is possible that the need for a particular type of development in a particular location is so important that it overrides the need to avoid sterilisation of the safeguarded mineral resource. Such cases will be exceptional, and it will be necessary to demonstrate, amongst other things, why the identified need cannot practically be met elsewhere.

7.5.7 Criterion 7 of Policy DM 7 recognises that the allocation of land in adopted Local Plans for non-mineral development, such as housing, should have considered the presence of an economic mineral resource and the need for its safeguarding at this time, and, where that is shown to be the case to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority, there is no need to revisit mineral safeguarding considerations at the planning application stage. The Mineral Planning Authority and the district/borough planning authority will consider mineral safeguarding during the preparation of Local Plans including during preparation of Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessments.

7.5.8 Where proposals are determined by a district/borough planning authority, the Mineral Planning Authority will work with the relevant authority and/or the promoter to assess the viability and practicability of prior extraction of the minerals resource. As necessary the Minerals Planning Authority will provide information that helps determine the economic viability of the resource.

7.5.9 In the case of the Sandstone-Sandgate Formation and the Limestone Hythe Formation (Kentish Ragstone) the low probability of utility of the Sandgate Beds and the significant available reserves (in 2019) of the Kentish Ragstone, it is anticipated that any future allocations in local plans for non-mineral development that are coincident with these safeguarded minerals will be unlikely to be found to be in conflict with the presumption to safeguard these minerals. This will need to be

¹⁰⁹ The Supplementary Planning Document or associated guidance will be maintained by the County Council and updated as required.

evidenced by a Minerals Assessment prepared to a proportionate level of detail. Further guidance is available in the Safeguarding SPD¹¹⁰.

Policy DM 7

Safeguarding Mineral Resources

Planning permission will only be granted for non-mineral development that is incompatible with minerals safeguarding where it is demonstrated that either:

1. the mineral is not of economic value or does not exist; or
2. that extraction of the mineral would not be viable or practicable; or
3. the mineral can be extracted satisfactorily, having regard to Policy DM 9, prior to the non-minerals development taking place without adversely affecting the viability or deliverability of the non-minerals development; or
4. the incompatible development is of a temporary nature that can be completed, and the site returned to a condition that does not prevent mineral extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed; or
5. material considerations indicate that the need for the development overrides the presumption for mineral safeguarding such that sterilisation of the mineral can be permitted following the exploration of opportunities for prior extraction; or
6. it constitutes development that is exempt from mineral safeguarding policy, namely householder applications, infill development of a minor nature in existing built-up areas, advertisement applications, reserved matters applications, minor extensions and changes of use of buildings, minor works, non-material amendments to current planning permissions; or
7. it constitutes development on a site allocated in the adopted development plan where consideration of the above factors (1-6) concluded that mineral resources will not be needlessly sterilised.

Further guidance on the application of this policy is included in the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan Safeguarding Supplementary Planning Document (March 2021).

7.6 Policy DM 8: Safeguarding Minerals Management, Transportation, Production & Waste Management Facilities

7.6.1 It is essential to the delivery of this Plan's minerals and waste strategy that existing facilities¹¹¹ used for the management of minerals (including wharves and rail depots) and waste are safeguarded for the future, in order to enable them to continue to be used to produce and transport the minerals needed by society and manage its waste. Policy DM 8 sets out the circumstances when safeguarded

¹¹⁰ The Supplementary Planning Document or associated guidance will be maintained by the County Council and updated as required.

¹¹¹ 'Existing facilities' are taken as those that have permanent planning permission for minerals and waste uses.

minerals and waste development may be replaced by non-waste and minerals uses. This includes ensuring that any replacement facility is at least equivalent to that which it is replacing and it specifies how this should be assessed.

7.6.2 In the case of mineral wharves the factors to be considered include the depths of water at the berth, accessibility of the wharf at various states of the tide, length of the berth, the size and suitability of adjacent land for processing plant, weighbridges and stockpiles, and existing, planned or proposed development that may constrain operations at the replacement site at the required capacity.

7.6.3 There also are circumstances when development proposals in the vicinity of safeguarded facilities will come forward. The need for such development will be weighed against the need to retain the facility and the objectives and policies of the development plan as a whole will need to be considered when determining proposals. Policy DM 8 sets out the circumstances when development may be acceptable in a location proximate to such facilities. The policy recognises that the aim of safeguarding is to avoid both the unnecessary direct loss of facilities due to development and from those which may impair the effectiveness and acceptability of the infrastructure, given the probable irreplaceability of such facilities.

7.6.4 Certain types of development which require a high quality amenity environment (e.g. residential) may not always be compatible with minerals production or waste management activities which are industrial in nature. Policy DM 8 therefore expects the presence of waste and minerals infrastructure to be taken into account in decisions on proposals for non-waste and minerals development (known as ‘agents of change’) made in the vicinity of such infrastructure.

7.6.5 Criterion 2 of Policy DM 8 recognises that the allocation of land in adopted Local Plans for development, such as housing, should have considered the presence of waste management and minerals supply infrastructure and the need for its safeguarding at that time, and, where this has been shown to be the case to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority, there is no need to revisit the safeguarding considerations at planning application stage.

7.6.6 It should be recognised that early engagement with the mineral planning authority regarding development that may potentially pose a safeguarding risk to safeguarded facilities is advantageous in ensuring that development can occur without compromising the presumption to safeguard. Further guidance on the implementation of this policy is included in a Supplementary Planning Document and any of its future revisions.

Policy DM 8

Safeguarding Minerals Management, Transportation Production & Waste Management Facilities

Planning permission will only be granted for development that is incompatible with safeguarded minerals management, transportation or waste management facilities,

where it is demonstrated that either:

1. it constitutes development of the following nature: advertisement applications; reserved matters applications; minor extensions and changes of use and buildings; minor works; and non-material amendments to current planning permissions; or
2. it constitutes development on the site that has been allocated in the adopted development plan where consideration of the other criteria (1, 3-7) can be demonstrated to have taken place in formulation of the plan and allocation of the site which concluded that the safeguarding of minerals management, transportation, production and waste management facilities has been fully considered and it was concluded that certain types non-mineral and waste development in those locations would be acceptable; or
3. replacement capacity, of the similar type, is available at a suitable alternative site, which is at least equivalent or better than to that offered by the facility that it is replacing; or
4. it is for a temporary period and will not compromise its potential in the future for minerals transportation; or
5. the facility is not viable or capable of being made viable; or
6. material considerations indicate that the need for development overrides the presumption for safeguarding; or
7. It has been demonstrated that the capacity of the facility to be lost is not required.

Replacement capacity must be at least equivalent in terms of tonnage, accessibility, location in relation to the market, suitability, availability of land for processing and stockpiling of waste (and materials/residues resulting from waste management processes) and minerals, and:

- in the case of wharves, the size of the berth for dredgers, barges or ships
- in the case of waste facilities, replacement capacity must be at least at an equivalent level of the waste hierarchy and capacity may be less if the development is at a higher level of the hierarchy

There must also be no existing, planning or proposed developments that could constrain the operation of the replacement site at the required capacity.

Planning application for development within 250m of safeguarded facilities need to demonstrate that impacts, e.g. noise, dust, light and air emissions, that may legitimately arise from the activities taking place at the safeguarded sites would not be experienced to an unacceptable level by occupants of the proposed

development and that vehicle access to and from the facility would not be constrained by the development proposed.

Further guidance on the application of this policy will be included in a Supplementary Planning document.

7.7 Policy DM 9: Prior Extraction of Minerals in Advance of Surface Development

7.7.1 When development is proposed within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), promoters will be encouraged to extract the mineral in advance of the main development. Policy DM 9 aims to manage situations where built development located on a safeguarded mineral resource is to be permitted, so as to avoid the needless sterilisation of economic mineral resources (in accordance with Policy DM 7).

Policy DM 9

Prior Extraction of Minerals in Advance of Surface Development

Planning permission for, or incorporating, mineral extraction in advance of development will be granted where the resources would otherwise be permanently sterilised provided that:

the mineral extraction operations are only for a temporary period linked to the timing of the associated surface development; and, the proposal will not cause unacceptable adverse impacts to the environment or communities

Where planning permission is granted for the prior extraction of minerals, conditions will be imposed, and if appropriate, legal agreements will be entered into to ensure that the site can be adequately restored to a satisfactory after-use should the main development be delayed or not implemented.

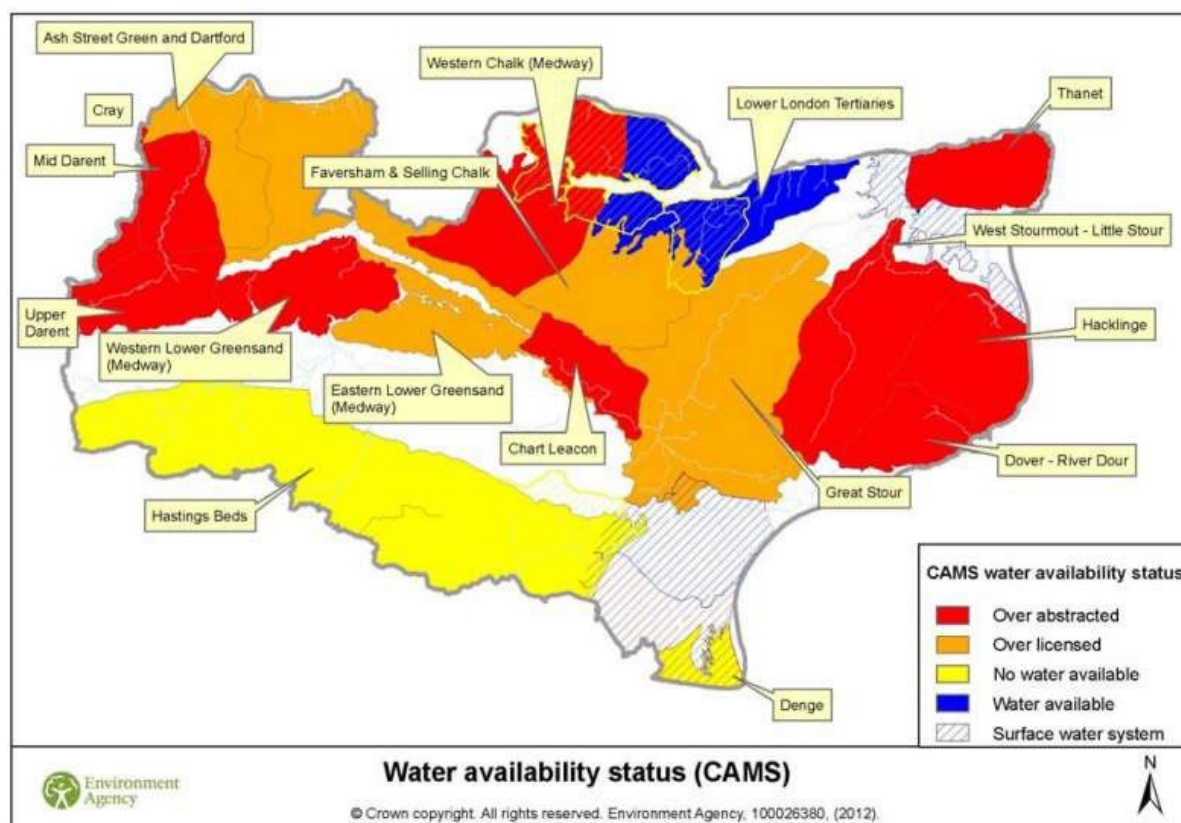
7.8 Policy DM 10: Water Environment

7.8.1 Minerals and waste development can have significant impacts on flooding and water quantity and water quality. In Kent there are many catchments where there is little or no water available for abstraction during dry periods. Pressures are particularly notable in Kent as it is one of the driest parts of England and Wales, coupled with high population density and household water use (see Figure 21). Areas of mineral can often provide opportunities for water storage at times of flood and therefore

mitigate against the effects of flooding. There are five sources of flooding that are considered in the SFRA¹¹²:

1. flooding from rivers
2. flooding from the sea
3. flooding from rainfall
4. flooding from groundwater
5. flooding from sewers

Figure 21 Water Availability Status (Source: Environment Agency, State of Water in Kent, 2012)



7.8.1 Flood zones are used to determine the probability of land experiencing flooding from a river or the sea. The aim of national flood policy is to steer development towards areas with the lowest probability of flooding. The Environment Agency (EA) has identified four flood zones:

- **Flood Zone 1:** Land within this zone has been assessed as having a low probability of experiencing flooding from the rivers and sea (less than a 1 in 1000 annual probability of river or sea flooding (<0.1%). Any land-use is appropriate in this zone. Flood Zone 1 is normally shown as unshaded on flood maps

¹¹² Barton Willmore (June 2013) Mineral and Waste Plan 2013-2030 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (on Behalf of KCC).

- **Flood Zone 2:** Land within this flood zone has been assessed as having a medium probability of experiencing flooding from rivers and the sea (i.e. having between a 1 in 100 and 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding (1%-0.1%), or between a 1 in 200 and 1 in 1,000 annual probability of sea flooding (0.5%-0.1%) in any year). Sand and gravel workings, wharves, mineral workings and processing, waste treatment and landfill sites are appropriate developments for land within this floodzone.
- **Flood Zone 3:** Land within this zone has been assessed as having a high probability of experiencing flooding from rivers and the sea (between a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%), or between a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of sea flooding (>0.5%) in any year). Development within this flood zone should seek opportunities to reduce the overall level of flood risk through layout and form and appropriate use of sustainable drainage systems, relocating existing development to land in zones with lower risks of flooding and creating space for flooding to occur by restoring functional floodplain and flood flow pathways and by identifying and safeguarding open space for flood storage. Sand and gravel workings, wharves, mineral workings and the processing and treatment of waste (except landfill and hazardous waste facilities) are considered suitable for land-use in this zone.
- **Flood Zone 3b (The Functional Floodplain):** Land within this zone has been assessed as land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. Development within this zone should seek opportunities to reduce the overall level of flood risk in the area through the layout and form of the development and the appropriate application of sustainable drainage systems, or to relocate existing development to land with a lower probability of flooding. Sand and gravel workings and wharves are considered appropriate land-uses within this zone.

7.8.2 Both flood water and groundwater may become contaminated if it comes into contact with certain types of wastes. It is therefore necessary for waste sites to be managed to ensure that the risk of water contamination from waste is minimised. Planning applications for sites located in areas prone to flooding must be accompanied by a suitable Flood Risk Assessment which demonstrates the flood risk of the site can be safely managed without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

7.8.3 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) for Kent are set out in Figure 15. Groundwater accounts for over 70% of public water supply in Kent. This reliance on groundwater resources makes it important that mineral and waste developments do not adversely affect groundwater supplies in any way.

1. **SPZ 1** is the inner zone which is within the 50-day travel time from any point below the water table to the source. This zone around the groundwater supply abstraction point has a minimum radius of 50 metres.
2. **SPZ 2** is the outer protection zone and refers to the 400-day travel time from a point below the water table.
3. **SPZ 3** is the Source Protection Catchment Zone and refers to the area

around a source within which all groundwater recharge is presumed to be discharged at the source.

4. **SPZ 4** is a surface water catchment which drains into the aquifer feeding groundwater supply

7.8.4 To ensure compliance with the Water FD¹¹³ minerals and waste developments must not cause any unacceptable adverse impact on local water bodies. Waste operations are not usually considered compatible within SPZ1. Confirmation from the Operator of the SPZ (the local water company) that the proposed measures adequately mitigate any risks should be sought.

7.8.5 The County Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority and statutory consultee, has prepared a Drainage and Planning Policy Statement. This statement sets out the drainage strategies and surface water management provisions that are required in association with applications for major development.

7.8.6 Policy DM 10 embraces issues of flood, groundwater, SPZs and the protection of waterbodies.

Policy DM 10

Water Environment

Planning permission will be granted for minerals or waste development where it does not:

1. result in the deterioration of physical state, water quality or ecological status of any water resource and waterbody, including aquifers, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds;
2. have an unacceptable impact on groundwater Source Protection Zones (as shown in Figure 15) or threaten the development of future groundwater abstraction and associated source protection zones overlying principal or secondary aquifers; and
3. exacerbate flood risk, both now and in the future (taking account of climate change recommended uplifts). Measures to reduce flood risk where possible are encouraged.

All minerals and waste proposals must include measures to ensure the achievement of both no deterioration and improved ecological status of all waterbodies within the site and/or hydrologically or hydrogeologically connected to the site. Applications for minerals and waste proposals within Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and Groundwater Vulnerability and Aquifer Designation areas must be accompanied by a

¹¹³ EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and equivalent legislation following exit from the European Union.

hydrogeological and/or hydrological assessment(s) that investigate the potential present and future risks of unacceptable adverse impacts on the water environment associated with the proposed development and how these will be adequately mitigated to prevent such impacts. In all other cases, hydrogeological and/or hydrological assessment(s) may be required to demonstrate the effects of the proposed development on the water environment and how these may be mitigated to an acceptable level.

For sites within areas at risk of flooding, a Flood Risk Assessment will be required to demonstrate flood risks to the site can be safely managed, without increasing flood risk elsewhere.

7.9 Policy DM 11: Health and Amenity

7.9.1 Minerals and waste development can have unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment and local communities. The use of machinery and lighting can result in noise, light and air pollution and also affect the amenity of nearby communities and businesses and other land uses such as sport, recreation or tourism. It is important that the minerals and waste industry in Kent does not result in unacceptable adverse impacts upon the health and amenity of surrounding environment and communities, and where appropriate suitable mitigation measures are used to reduce the risk of unacceptable adverse impacts occurring.

7.9.2 This may include production of an air quality assessment of the impact of the proposed development and its associated traffic movements and necessary mitigation measures required through planning condition and/or planning obligation. This will be a particular requirement where a proposal might adversely affect the air quality in an AQMA (See Figure 15). It may also include the preparation of a Health Impact Assessment¹¹⁴(HIA). The need for a HIA to accompany a planning application will take into account the likelihood of emissions occurring due to the operation of the site, the proximity to sensitive land uses and the scale of risk to health.

Policy DM 11

Health and Amenity

Minerals and waste development will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the development is unlikely to generate unacceptable adverse impacts from noise, dust, litter, vermin, vibration (including vibration from blasting), odour, emissions (including emissions from vehicle movements associated with the development), bioaerosols, external lighting, visual intrusion, traffic or associated

¹¹⁴ Guidance on Health Impact Assessments has been issued by Public Health England <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-impact-assessment-in-spatial-planning>.

risks to quality of life, the health and wellbeing of local communities and the environment.

Proposals for minerals and waste development will also be required to ensure that there is no unacceptable adverse impact on other permitted land uses on surrounding land (including waterbodies).

7.10 Policy DM 12: Cumulative Impact

7.10.1 Impacts from one development in any particular area may give rise to impacts that, when controlled by mitigation are acceptable and do not give rise to any unacceptable adverse impacts. However, two or more developments of a similar nature within close proximity to each other may act together to cause impacts that are not acceptable, even with mitigation incorporated into the design for each development.

7.10.2 Proposals likely to have a significant effect on internationally important interest features or internationally important wildlife sites, will need to be assessed through consideration of the possible effects of any other plans and projects, as well as the minerals and/or waste development proposed.

7.10.3 The following policy requires cumulative impacts to be considered when two or more developments are potentially capable of causing significant effects on the environment (including climate change), biodiversity interests or on the amenity of the local community. This includes cumulative impacts by way of vehicle movements and associated emissions, particularly if the development is within or near to an AQMA. It is also relevant where a new development may affect communities or the environment cumulatively with existing developments.

Policy DM 12

Cumulative Impact

Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it does not result in an unacceptable adverse, cumulative impact on the environment or communities. This is in relation to the collective effect of different impacts of an individual proposal, or in relation to the effects of a number of developments occurring concurrently and/or successively.

7.11 Policy DM 13: Transportation of Minerals and Waste

7.11.1 It is recognised that some 12% of harmful particulates in the atmosphere are as a result of road transportation (Clean Air Strategy, 2019). One of the roles of the Kent MWLP is to encourage the use of sustainable transportation methods

including rail and water. However, in view of the limited opportunities that are available within the county to increase the use of sustainable transportation methods, it is acknowledged that most minerals and waste movements across Kent will continue to be made by road.

7.11.2 The Plan recognises the importance of reducing vehicle movements and facilitating more sustainable technologies (such as electric vehicles) in achieving the objectives of sustainable development. This has benefits in terms of reducing greenhouse emissions and improving air quality.

7.11.3 Any minerals or waste developments that are likely to result in an increase of more than 200 Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDVs)/day¹¹⁵ (400 movements) on any road that lies within 200m of a designated Habitat Site will need to be subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) screening to evaluate air quality impacts. It will be necessary for the applicant to demonstrate that either:

1. the increased traffic either alone or in combination with other existing and committed projects, will not lead to an increase in nitrogen or acid deposition that constitutes more than 1% of the critical load for the designated features within the site, or
2. If the increase in deposition will be greater than 1% of the critical load it be demonstrated that no adverse effect on the interest features and integrity of the Habitat Site will result

7.11.4 The aim of Policy DM 13 is to minimise road miles and harmful emissions in relation to the transportation of minerals and waste across Kent. Road miles may also be reduced by providing a network of facilities including sites such as transfer stations where waste can be bulked up for onward transport.

Policy DM 13

Transportation of Minerals and Waste

Minerals and waste development will be required to demonstrate that emissions (including carbon) associated with road transport movements are minimised as far as practicable and by preference being given to non-road modes of transport.

Where development

requires road transport, proposals will be required to demonstrate that:

- 1 the proposed access arrangements are safe and appropriate to the scale and nature of movements associated with the proposed development such that the impact of traffic generated is not detrimental to road safety;

¹¹⁵ Department for Transport (May 2007) The design manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1; regarding air quality Environmental Impact Assessment from roads indicates that if the increase in traffic will amount to less than 200 HDVs per day the development can be scoped out of further assessment. A Heavy Goods Vehicle is a vehicle with over 3.5 tonnes maximum permissible gross weight (mgw).

- 2 the highway network is able to safely accommodate the traffic flows that would be generated, as demonstrated through a transport assessment, and the impact of traffic generated does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment or local community; and
- 3 emission control and reduction measures, such as deployment of low emission vehicles and environmentally sustainable vehicle technologies, installation of electric vehicle charging points (where appropriate) and vehicle scheduling to avoid movements in peak hours. Particular emphasis will be given to such measures where development is proposed within an AQMA or in a location where impacts on an AQMA will result. (Figure 15).

7.12 Policy DM 14: Public Rights of Way

7.12.1 Green Infrastructure, including Public Rights of Way (PROW) play an important role in enabling access to the countryside and can benefit the County socially, environmentally and economically and where possible development should improve the PROW network¹¹⁶. Minerals and waste sites can often be located close to a PROW or a PROW may cross an area of mineral bearing land. It is important that PROWs remain accessible to users throughout the lifetime of the minerals and waste operations and that users' safety is not compromised by any activity on site. New sites or extended sites should not have an adverse impact on the network of PROWs. In some circumstances it will be necessary for a PROW to be diverted during operations. Temporary diversions will only be acceptable if the restoration scheme provides routes to the same standard of surface level as the original PROW. If this is not possible, it may be preferable to divert the route permanently.

Policy DM 14

Public Rights of Way

Planning permission will only be granted for minerals and waste development that adversely affect a Public Right of Way, if:

1. satisfactory prior provisions, by means of relevant legal event, for its diversion or stopping up are made which are both convenient and safe for users of the Public Rights of Way
2. provision is created for an acceptable alternative route both during operations and following restoration of the site
3. opportunities are taken wherever possible to secure appropriate, improved access into and within the countryside in accordance with the Rights of Way

¹¹⁶ In line with the County Council's Right of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028.

Improvement Plan 2018-28.

7.13 Policy DM 15: Safeguarding of Transportation Infrastructure

7.13.1 Non-hazardous landfill and water-filled mineral operations attract birds which may give rise to the possibility of increased hazard to air traffic due to bird strike. EfW plants can cause air turbulence in the vicinity of the site which together with the physical structures necessary for these operations can cause obstruction to air safety, in particular to light aircraft. Local planning authorities are required to consult local aerodromes before granting planning permission for development that might endanger the safety of aircraft. Such developments include buildings and structures that exceed certain heights and development that is likely to attract birds within the relevant radius of aerodromes as identified on safeguarding maps provided by the Civil Aviation Authority or Ministry of Defence.

7.13.2 The Port of London Authority has a network of navigational equipment that needs to be maintained to ensure the continued safety of vessels navigating on the River Thames, in addition to the existing, varied operations that currently take place. It is important that this network of equipment is not compromised by other developments.

7.13.3 If, following consultation with relevant organisations, the nature of the mineral extraction or waste management development is considered to give rise to new or increased risks to aerodromes and their associated uses, or increased hazards to rail, river, sea, waterways or road transport then planning permission will not be granted.

Policy DM 15

Safeguarding of Transport Infrastructure

Minerals and waste proposals will be granted planning permission where development would not give rise to unacceptable impacts on aviation, rail, river, sea, other waterways or road transport or where these impacts are mitigated.

7.14 Policy DM 16: Information Required in Support of an Application

7.14.1 The minerals and waste planning authority is entitled to request appropriate information from applicants when the required information is a material consideration in the determination of the planning application. If the additional information is not supplied, the application may be refused planning permission on the grounds of insufficient information.

7.14.2 The planning authority carefully considers all aspects of a planning application to establish whether planning permission should be granted. It involves using the available information to consider the merits of proposals against any potential impacts; a judgement is made regarding the need for the development weighed against any residual impacts after mitigation is taken into consideration. A system of planning controls can be established through the imposition of conditions or planning obligations to further ensure that the development proposals do not have an unacceptable adverse impact on local communities or the environment.

7.14.3 The details of the information required within a planning application can be determined through pre-application discussions and meetings with the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority, which applicants are strongly encouraged to undertake. Applications that are not supported by suitable, sufficient material information will invariably take longer to determine and are at risk of being refused.

7.14.4 Certain types of minerals and waste developments may require an Environmental Statement (ES) to accompany the planning application¹¹⁷. The information contained within the ES will be taken into account in determining the application. If applicants consider that their proposals are likely to require an ES, they should seek guidance at an early stage on the need for and scope of the ES. All submitted applications will be screened and applicants advised if an ES is required, if one has not already been submitted.

7.14.5 Habitat Sites (including SPAs, Ramsar sites, SACs and SSSIs that are sensitive to air quality) are protected by legislation. Habitat Regulations Assessments (HRAs) are required to be carried out where proposals may have a significant impact upon the Habitat Site. To assess whether a proposal will have likely significant effects upon a designated site, the criteria in the following paragraphs 7.14.6 - 7.14.8 are used to determine when a HRA will be required for a development project.

7.14.6 Any proposal for an EfW facility should undertake HRA screening with regard to all Habitat Sites within 10 km. It will be necessary for the applicant to demonstrate that either:

1. increases in nitrogen or acid deposition from the proposed development along and in combination with other projects within all Habitat Sites that lie within 10 km constitute less than 1% of the critical load for the most sensitive habitat within the site or
2. if the increase in deposition will be greater than 1% of the critical load, it can be demonstrated that no adverse effect on the designated interest features and integrity of the Habitat Site will result.

7.14.7 Any minerals or waste development that is likely to result in an increase of HDVs on any road that lies within 200m of a Habitat Site should also be subject to

¹¹⁷ Required under the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 (as amended)*.

HRA screening in order to evaluate air quality impacts within the context of the critical load, and the 1% criterion cited above, in any air quality assessment.

Table 2 Indicative screening distances for considering whether a Habitat Regulations Assessment is required for a development.

Pathway	Screening Distance from a Habitat Site¹¹⁸
Air Quality - Energy from Waste	10 km
Air Quality - Landfill Gas Flares	1 km
Air Quality - Biopathogens	1 km
Air Quality - Dust	500 m
Air Quality - Vehicle Exhaust Emissions	200 m
Water Quality and Flow	No standard distance (use source/pathway/receptor approach)
Disturbance (noise/visual)	1 km from a Habitat Site supporting disturbance sensitive species/populations
Gull/Corvid (rooks and crows) predation	5 km from a Habitat site supporting sensitive ground nesting breeding species
Coastal Squeeze	No standard distance - evaluate on a case-by-case basis

7.14.8 Table 2 identifies the screening distances from Habitat Sites associated with particular impact pathways. Development projects that will lead to the pathways and fall within these zones will require HRA. The table does not preclude HRA being required in other circumstances.

Policy DM 16

Information Required In Support of an Application

Planning applications for minerals or waste management development must be supported by sufficient, relevant drawings, plans and information, including the

¹¹⁸ International Designated Sites, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites.

information specified in the County Council's guidance notes for minerals and waste applications¹¹⁹.

7.15 Policy DM 17: Planning Obligations

7.15.1 Where the use of planning conditions is not possible, in some circumstances, development proposals could be considered to be acceptable if planning obligations are used. These can either take the form of legal agreements entered into by planning authorities or a unilateral undertaking made by the developer and any person with an interest in the development and the relevant land. The types of matters that may need to be covered in planning obligations are listed in Policy DM 17, which is neither exhaustive nor are the listed matters relevant to every development.

Policy DM 17

Planning Obligations

Planning obligations will be sought where appropriate, to achieve suitable control over, and to mitigate and/or compensate for, the effects of minerals and waste development where such objectives cannot be achieved by planning conditions. Matters to be covered by such planning obligations may include those listed below as appropriate to the proposed development:

1. revocation and consolidation of planning permissions
2. highways and access improvements
3. traffic management measures including the regulation of lorry traffic
4. provision and management of off-site or advance tree planting and screening
5. extraction in advance of future development
6. environmental enhancement and the delivery of targets in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045 and the Local Nature Recovery Strategies, as well as securing the implementation and long-term management of biodiversity net gain
7. protection and enhancement of internationally, nationally and locally important sites
8. landscape enhancement

¹¹⁹ Applicants should refer to Kent County Council's website for the most recent guidance on local information requirements for validation of applications.

9. protection, conservation and enhancement of notable and protected species, and habitats
10. long term management and monitoring of mitigation or compensation sites and their protection from further development
11. provision and long term maintenance of an alternative water supply should existing supplies be affected
12. archaeological investigation, analysis, reporting, publication and archive deposition
13. establishment of a liaison committee
14. long-term site management provision to establish and/or maintain beneficial after-use
15. Improvement to the public rights of way network in accordance with Actions identified within the KCC Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028
16. financial guarantees to ensure restoration and long term maintenance is undertaken
17. measures for environmental, recreational, economic and community gain in mitigation or compensation for the effects of minerals and waste development
18. codes of construction practice for large waste developments with a capacity of over 100,000 tpa that incorporate the requirement for the majority of the construction workforce to be recruited locally. Opportunities for modern apprenticeships to be made available for a proportion of the construction workforce
19. the majority of the operational staff at large waste developments to be sourced from the local area and opportunities for modern apprenticeships and other nationally recognised training schemes to be available for a proportion of the workforce.
20. measures to reduce flood risk where practicable
21. measures to protect and enhance other heritage assets and avoidance of light pollution
22. measures to encourage use of non-road modes of transport where practicable
23. measures to protect and improve water quality and levels

7.16 Policy DM 18: Land Stability

7.16.1 Land instability can be an issue resulting from both minerals and waste development leading to landslides, subsidence and ground heave. Such situations can be a result of unsafe ground conditions caused by water movement including changes in groundwater levels through dewatering. Proposals should demonstrate measures to ensure that quarry faces and slopes are stable and will not result in landslip, either within the site or on adjoining land, both during and after the lifetime of the development and during restoration and aftercare. All minerals and waste proposals that could give rise to land instability, especially quarries and landfill, must include a stability report and measures to ensure land stability.

7.16.2 Land instability needs to be considered and satisfactorily addressed when planning applications are determined. Where there is the possibility of land instability, applications for minerals and waste development should be accompanied by a stability report to ensure that adequate and environmentally acceptable mitigation measures are identified. Such a report should assess the physical capability of the land, possible adverse impacts of any instability, possible adverse impacts on adjacent land, possible impacts on local amenity and conservation interests and any proposed remedial or precautionary measures.

7.16.3 The aim of Policy DM 18 is to ensure that land stability is properly addressed during the operational phase(s) of minerals and waste development. Policy DM 19 addresses the issue in so far as it relates to restoration, aftercare and after-use.

Policy DM 18

Land Stability

Planning permission will be granted for minerals or waste development where it is demonstrated that it will not result in land instability.

7.17 Policy DM 19: Restoration, Aftercare and After-use

7.17.1 The nature of restoration activity depends on the choice of after-use, which is influenced by a variety of factors including the aspirations of the landowner(s) and the local community, the present characteristics of the site and its environs, any strategies for the area (e.g. biodiversity priorities), the nature, scale and duration of the proposed development and the availability and quality of soil resources. Where the proposal is to restore the site to agricultural use at existing ground levels, ensuring the availability of clean inert fill material is important to the deliverability of the scheme as is the availability of suitable topsoil (Policy CSW 10: Development at Closed Landfill Sites seeks to address this). Quarries have been restored through importation of non-hazardous and/or hazardous waste and the acceptability of this in principle would be considered against Policy CSW 9: Non Inert Landfill in Kent. It may be appropriate to retain some industrial archaeological features, geological

exposures or landscapes within a quarry.

7.17.2 Where new development is proposed, restoration, aftercare and after-use will usually seek to assure that the land is restored back to a quality that is at least equivalent to that which it was prior to development commencing and wherever possible provide for the enhancement of the quality of the landscape, local environment, biodiversity or the setting of historic assets to the benefit of the local or wider community. Restoration plans should have regard to priorities for landscape enhancements identified in the Landscape Characterisation Assessments and for green space in the Kent Growth and Infrastructure Strategy. Restoration of mineral sites to a water body may be appropriate and provide opportunity for biodiversity and habitat enhancement or recreational uses. Notwithstanding the statutory requirement for all development to achieve biodiversity net gain, there is an expectation that all proposals for restoration, aftercare and after-use shall demonstrate how the maximum on site practicable biodiversity net gain can be achieved by the development. In developing restoration plans, regard shall be had to Kent County Council's Plan Bee Pollinator Action Plan July 2021. This seeks to assist in the recovery of pollinator populations which will support biodiversity and the agricultural needs of the county. Where appropriate, provision shall be made for additional tree cover to support climate change and biodiversity objectives in accordance with the Government's England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 (May 2021) and the County Council's emerging Plan Tree - Kent County Council's Tree Establishment Strategy 2022-2032¹²⁰.

7.17.3 Restoration of mineral extraction sites for end uses that limit options to maximise biodiversity gain, may still be acceptable, provided the restoration achieves the minimum requirements and it is demonstrated that the benefits of the restoration proposed would help achieve other objectives within the Development Plan that can be balanced against the need to maximise biodiversity net gain.

7.17.4 To achieve high-quality restoration to an agricultural use or certain leisure uses (e.g. to parkland), a supply of suitable soils is normally required. In such cases all soil resources should be retained and managed on site for use in restoration. The way that soils are handled is also a key element for successful restoration to these uses. Details of the management and storage of soils, including timing and means of soil movements and types of machinery to be used will be required.

7.17.5 In cases where insufficient soils exist on site the applicant will need to make provision for the supply of soils or soil making materials within an agreed timescale to ensure the timely restoration of the site. Planning consent will only be granted for the importation and processing of such materials (where soil making materials require prior processing) if proven necessary to ensure timely restoration. Stockpiles will need to be controlled such that soil quality is not adversely affected and there are no unintended adverse impacts resulting from, for example, visual appearance and drainage. No subsequent export of material will be allowed.

¹²⁰ Adopted October 2022

7.17.6 For the initial years following restoration (usually a 5-year period but this may be extended e.g. when restoration is to a particular wildlife habitat) site aftercare measures are required to ensure that the reinstatement of soils and the planting or seeding carried out to meet restoration requirements is being managed so that the site will return to its intended after-use in a timely manner. These measures involve improving the structure, stability and nutrient value of soils, ensuring adequate drainage is available and securing the establishment and management of the grass sward, crop or planting areas, together with any other maintenance as may be required. The aftercare scheme normally requires two levels of details to be provided, these are:

1. the outline strategy for the whole of the aftercare period
2. a detailed strategy for the forthcoming year

7.17.7 Restoration involving infilling may impact groundwater, both in terms of its quality, levels and flow paths. Restoration and aftercare plans should therefore carefully consider the local groundwater regime to avoid unacceptable impacts on its quantity, quality and on flood risk.

7.17.8 Restoration and aftercare plans should take into consideration community needs and aspirations. Local interest groups and community representatives should be consulted and their viewpoints incorporated into the proposals wherever possible and appropriate. Restoration and aftercare plans for mineral development need to be reviewed and updated periodically, in accordance with legislation¹²¹ Policy DM 19 identifies the issues that need to be addressed in relation to the restoration, aftercare and after-use of minerals extraction and temporary waste management development.

Policy DM 19

Restoration, Aftercare and After-use

Planning permission for minerals extraction and temporary waste management development will be granted where satisfactory provision has been made for the highest possible standard of restoration and aftercare such that the intended after-use of the site is achieved in a timely manner, including where necessary for its long-term management.

Restoration plans should be submitted with the planning application which reflect the proposed after-use, be carried out to a standard that reflects best practice and provides for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity, Restoration

¹²¹ The Environment Act (1995) introduced a requirement for an initial review and updating of all old mineral planning permissions (known as the 'Review of Mineral Permissions' or 'ROMP' process). There is no fixed period when periodic reviews should take place so long as the first review is no earlier than 15 years after planning permission is granted or, in the case of an old permission, 15 years of the date of the initial review. Any further reviews should be at least 15 years after the date of the last review.

proposals must deliver sustainable afteruses that benefit the Kent community, economically, socially or environmentally. All development should achieve at least 10% biodiversity net gain and demonstrate how maximum practicable on site biodiversity net gain shall result from the development.

Restoration of mineral extraction sites for end uses that do not maximise biodiversity gain, but still achieve the mandatory minimum, may be acceptable if it is demonstrated that the benefits of the restoration would help achieve other objectives of the Development Plan that in the view of the planning authority outweigh the achievement of maximum biodiversity net gain.

Where appropriate, restoration plans should address the following issues in relation to the restoration, aftercare and after-use of minerals extraction and temporary waste management development:

1. a site-based landscape strategy for the restoration scheme;
2. the key landscape and biodiversity opportunities and constraints ensuring connectivity with surrounding landscape and habitats;
3. the geological, archaeological and historic heritage and landscape features and their settings;
4. the site boundaries and areas identified for soil and overburden storage;
5. an assessment of soil resources and their removal, handling and storage;
6. an assessment of the overburden to be removed and stored;
7. the type and depth of workings and information relating to the water table;
8. storage locations and quantities of waste/fill materials and quantities and types of waste/fill involved;
9. proposed infilling operations, sources and types of fill material;
10. the arrangements for monitoring and the control and management of landfill gas;
11. consideration of land stability after restoration;
12. directions and phasing of working and restoration and how they are integrated into the working scheme;
13. the need for and provision of additional screening taking account of degrees of visual exposure;
14. details of the proposed final landform including pre and post settlement levels

15. types, quantities and source of soils or soil making materials to be used;
16. a methodology for management of soils to ensure that the pre-development soil quality is maintained;
17. proposals for meeting and where relevant exceeding, biodiversity net gain targets, including those outlined in the Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020-45, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, National Landscapes (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) Management Plans and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy;
18. removal of all buildings, plant, structures, accesses and hardstanding not required for long term management of the site;
19. planting of new native woodlands;
20. installation of drainage to enable high quality restoration and after-use;
21. measures to incorporate flood risk mitigation opportunities and avoid unacceptable impacts on groundwater;
22. details of the seeding of grass or other crops and planting of trees, shrubs and hedges;
23. a programme for the long-term management and aftercare of the restored sites to include details of vegetation establishment, vegetation management, biodiversity habitat management, field drainage, irrigation and watering facilities;
24. the restoration of the majority of the site back to agriculture, if the site consists of the best and most versatile agricultural land;
25. the potential for financial guarantees such as bonds in exceptional circumstances where their use can be justified to secure restoration objectives.

Aftercare schemes concerned with Biodiversity Net Gain should be for at least 30 years. Schemes related to other forms of aftercare should incorporate an aftercare period of at least five years. Where appropriate, voluntary longer periods for certain uses will be sought through agreement between the applicant and minerals planning authority.

7.18 Policy DM 20: Ancillary Development

7.18.1 Policy DM 20 seeks to provide certainty that proposals for ancillary development within or close to minerals and waste development will be permitted, even when there may be an adverse environmental impact, so long as it is possible

to demonstrate that there are environmental benefits in providing the close link with the existing site that outweighs the likely environmental impacts.

Policy DM 20

Ancillary Development

Proposals for ancillary development¹²² within or in close proximity to mineral and waste development will be granted planning permission provided that:

1. the proposal is necessary to enable the main development to proceed or operate successfully;
2. it has been demonstrated that there are environmental benefits in providing a close link between the ancillary development and the existing permitted uses at the site that outweigh any environmental and community impacts from the proposed development.

Where permission is granted, the operation and retention of the ancillary development will be limited to the life of the main mineral or waste facility and shall be removed to enable the agreed site restoration.

7.19 Policy DM 21: Incidental Mineral Extraction

7.19.1 Policy DM 21 seeks to provide certainty that proposals for incidental mineral extraction will be permitted provided that operations do not cause unacceptable adverse impacts to the environment or communities. Such proposals will typically be a matter for District and Borough Council's to determine.

Policy DM 21

Incidental Mineral Extraction

Planning permission for mineral extraction that forms a subordinate and ancillary element of other development will be granted provided that operations are only for a temporary period. Where planning permission is granted, conditions will be imposed to ensure that the site can be restored to an alternative after-use in accordance with Policy DM 19 should the main development be delayed or not implemented.

¹²² As defined in s. 90 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In relation to minerals and waste developments "Ancillary Development" is defined in the Town and Country Planning Act S90. In relation to minerals and waste developments "ancillary development" only includes development that is directly related to the minerals or waste development proposed.

7.20 Policy DM 22: Enforcement

7.20.1 The Plan seeks to promote sustainable development within Kent. Positive and balanced policies have been designed to help support and encourage this principle. Hand-in-hand with this objective is the need to ensure a general upholding of planning law. Within this context, informal and negotiated solutions to planning control problems are sought, acting with discretion and in a proportionate way. However, there will be occasions when determined planning breaches cause significant environmental and amenity issues and may threaten the integrity of the planning system. To fully meet such challenges requires the actions of a local control and management regime and the support of a recognised policy base and working with other stakeholders including the Environment Agency.

Policy DM 22

Enforcement

The County Council will carry out its planning enforcement functions within the terms of its own Enforcement Plan/Protocols (and any subsequent variations) and specifically for waste-related matters, in light of the European Union policies subsumed into UK law.

8. Managing and Monitoring the Delivery of the Strategy

8.0.1 Monitoring is an important part of evidence-based policy making. The NPPF states that local planning authorities should ensure that the local plan is based on adequate, up-to-date and relevant evidence¹²³. The Kent MWLP therefore includes a monitoring schedule to ensure it remains based on up-to-date evidence and to measure the effectiveness of its vision and objectives.

8.0.2 The monitoring and implementation framework set out in this section shows how the Strategic Objectives of the Kent MWLP will be achieved by monitoring data indicators relevant to each of the Plan's policies. The framework includes targets against which the performance of the policies can be monitored, plus associated 'trigger points' to indicate when corrective action may be required. The monitoring of each indicator will be carried out as part of the production of the Kent Annual Monitoring Report. Policies may be subject to review if annual monitoring indicates that significant, adverse trends are likely to continue.

8.0.3 It is the responsibility of each local authority to decide what to include in its monitoring reports, while satisfying the information requirements of relevant UK and retained EU legislation. KCC still attaches importance to the former core national output indicators, used as the basis for monitoring in previous years, and will continue to report on these indicators. These are:

1. production of primary land-won aggregates
2. production of secondary and recycled aggregates
3. capacity of waste management facilities by type
4. amount of municipal waste arising and managed, by management type and the percentage each management type represents of the total waste managed.

8.0.4 In addition, KCC also monitors local output indicators as follows:

1. new mineral reserves granted permission
2. construction aggregate landbanks
3. other minerals landbanks
4. safeguarding of wharves and rail depots
5. sales of construction aggregates at wharves and rail depots
6. waste growth rate
7. exports and imports of waste
8. capacity for managing waste in Kent

8.0.5 Data for many of the mineral related indicators is supplied by the South East England Aggregate Working Party (SEEAWP). KCC intends to include these local output indicators in the AMR and/or the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) for as long as the data remains available. In accordance with the agreements with industry and their trade

¹²³ National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023), para. 158

associations, this information is only available in a collated form, so individual site information cannot be easily identified. This can cause problems for planning for minerals, especially where there is a limited number of suppliers of particular types of mineral such as brickearth or crushed rock. The SEEA WP reports also provide a limited amount of information on secondary and recycled aggregates. The potential problem with this source of material is that some operators are reluctant to provide survey returns and so the values obtained are considered likely to be an under-representation of the actual amount of secondary and recycled aggregates produced in Kent in any one year.

8.0.6 The National Planning Policy for Waste¹²⁴ also refers to specific parameters being monitored to inform the determination of planning applications. In particular:

1. take-up in allocated sites and areas;
2. existing stock and changes in the stock of waste management facilities, and their capacity (including changes to capacity); and
3. the amounts of waste recycled, recovered or going for disposal.

8.0.7 The supporting Planning Practice Guidance¹²⁵ also refers to the need to monitor annual arisings to allow for review of the forecasts that underpin the strategy.

8.0.8 Data on Local Authority Collected Waste is readily available and reported to central Government on an annual basis. Data on C&I waste arisings is less readily available. The following local output indicators are also used to monitor the effectiveness of the Kent MWLP policies regarding C&I and hazardous waste management:

1. C&I waste generated in Kent that is landfilled within Kent and outside Kent
2. hazardous waste arising in Kent that is managed within Kent and outside Kent

8.0.9 The following monitoring schedule considers how each of the Plan's Strategic Objectives will be implemented through the Plan's policies and how their achievement will be monitored.

¹²⁴ National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014), para.9.

¹²⁵ National Planning Policy Framework Planning Practice Guidance on Waste (October 2014), para. 054.

Monitoring Schedule: Sustainable Development Policies

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSM 1 & CSW 1: Sustainable Development	1. Mineral and waste applications granted contrary to national policy and guidance.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	No application granted planning permission contrary to national policy and guidance	One application permitted contrary to national policy and guidance	SO1; SO2
	2. Minerals and waste applications determined within 13 / 16 weeks. ¹²⁶	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% within the target/ agreed timescale	One application determined beyond the agreed timescale	SO1; SO2
DM 1: Sustainable Design	1. Minerals and waste applications granted that accord with the Kent Design Guide and/or KCC's environmental strategy.	KCC District authorities	District authority local plan adoption	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of major applications granted planning permission	One application permitted contrary to the cited guidance	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO5; SO10; SO11
	2. Adoption of the Kent Design Guide by district authorities	KCC District authorities	District authority local plan adoption	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% adoption as supplementary planning guidance	One authority without the adopted supplementary guidance	

¹²⁶ For applications without an extension of time agreed with the applicant. 16 weeks for applications accompanied by an Environmental Statement

Monitoring Schedule: Delivery Strategy for Minerals

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSM 2: Supply of Land-won Minerals in Kent	Reserve data for sharp sand and gravel	KCC Minerals operators	Aggregates Monitoring Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Maintain supply equal to at least a 7 year landbank as set out in the LAA while resources allow	Permitted reserves equivalent to 10% above supply target	SO5;
	Reserve data for soft sand	KCC Minerals operators	Aggregates Monitoring Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Maintain a rolling landbank of at least 7 years supply as set out in the LAA	Permitted reserves equivalent to 10% above landbank target	SO5;
	Reserve data for crushed rock (confidential) ¹²⁷	KCC Minerals operators	Aggregates Monitoring Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Maintain a rolling landbank of at least 10 years supply as set out in the LAA	Permitted reserves equivalent to 10% above landbank target	SO5;
	Reserve data for brickearth and clay for brick and tile manufacture	KCC Minerals operators	KCC Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Stock of permitted reserves of at least 25 years for brickearth Maintenance of sufficient reserves of clay based on past sales and market demand	Permitted reserves equivalent to less than three years above the minimum stock of permitted reserves target	SO5;

¹²⁷ The sales and reserves of land-won crushed rock are not published as there are only two sites currently producing crushed rock in Kent; the total sales data from three or more sites are required in order to protect commercial confidentiality

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
	Reserve data for silica sand	KCC Minerals operators	KCC Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Stock of permitted reserves for individual sites of at least 10 years and 15 years for sites where significant new capital is required	Permitted reserves equivalent to less than three years above the minimum stock of permitted reserves target	SO5;
	Reserve data for chalk for agricultural and engineering purposes	KCC Minerals operators	KCC Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Maintenance of sufficient reserves to meet supply requirements for the plan period	Permitted reserves equivalent to less than three years of reserves at current (annual) rates	SO5;
	Reserve data for clay engineering purposes	KCC Minerals operators	KCC Survey	Annual data collection from the previous calendar year	Maintenance of sufficient reserves to meet supply requirements for the plan period	Permitted reserves equivalent to less than three years of reserves at current (annual) rates	SO5;

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSM 4: Non-identified Land-won Mineral Sites	Planning applications granted for mineral extraction at alternative sites outside allocated sites	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO5;
CSM 8: Secondary and Recycled Aggregates	Identification of secondary and recycled aggregate capacity in the Minerals Sites Plan.	KCC Secondary and recycled aggregate operators	Mineral Sites Plan	Adoption of the Mineral Sites Plan On-going (annual monitoring)	To maintain at least 2.7mtpa (or the productive capacity value in the latest LAA) of processing capacity throughout the plan period	Processing capacity falls by the equivalent to 10% below the target capacity	SO2; SO6;
	Planning applications granted for secondary and recycled aggregate production.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSM 9: Building Stone in Kent	Planning applications granted for building stone extraction.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO5; SO8;
CSM 10: Oil, Gas and Unconventional Hydrocarbons	Planning applications granted associated with the exploration, appraisal and development of oil, gas and unconventional hydrocarbons.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO9
CSM 11: Prospecting for Carboniferous Limestone	Planning applications granted for underground limestone prospecting.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO5;
CSM 12: Sustainable Transport of Minerals	Planning applications granted for the sustainable transport of minerals (e.g.water or rail).	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO5; SO7; SO11; SO13;

Monitoring Schedule: Delivery Strategy for Waste

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSW 2: Waste Hierarchy	Existing waste capacity by facility type and Waste Hierarchy category.	KCCEA	EA waste management facility data DM information	On-going (annual monitoring, when data is made public)	Increasing the proportions of waste management capacity further up the waste hierarchy	Relative and total fall in the proportion of waste capacity provided further up the waste hierarchy	SO2; SO3; SO10; SO11; SO12
	Planning applications for waste management to include information on how the proposal will help drive waste to ascend the Waste Hierarchy wherever possible and practicable	KCC Waste operators	DM decisions and information	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of proposals granted planning permission providing the required information where relevant	One application permitted without the required information	

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSW 3: Waste Reduction	All development applications ¹²⁸ submitted with details of the compliance to policy CSW 3 as applicable	KCC District authorities	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications granted planning permission providing the required information where relevant	One application permitted without the required information	SO2; SO3; SO6; SO10; SO12
CSW 3: Waste Reduction	Annual waste arisings	KCC	EA waste management data	On-going (annual monitoring)	Declining trend year on year	Increasing trend	SO2; SO3; SO6; SO10; SO12
CSW 4: Strategy for Waste Management Capacity	Annual capacity of waste management facilities.	KCC EA	Planning permission data Data on flows to and from permitted waste management facilities of waste arising from Kent	On-going (annual monitoring)	LACW: Recycling/ composting rates: at least 50% by 2020/21, 55% by 2025/26, 60% by 2030/31, 65% by 2035/36, and 70% by 2040/41; Landfilling no more than 2% by 2020/21, 2% in 2025/26, 2% in 2030/31, 2% in 2035/36, and 2% in 2040/41 C&I Waste: Recycling/ composting rates at least	Capacity fallen to 10% above the target capacity beyond the years stated	SO1; SO6; SO10; SO12

¹²⁸ Except householder applications.

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
					<p>55% by 2025/26 60% by 2030/31, 65% by 2035/36, and 70% by 3040/41;</p> <p>Landfilling no more than 12.5% in 2025/26 10% in 2030/31, 8.5% in 2035/36, and 5% in 2040/41</p> <p>C&D Waste(Non-inert):</p> <p>Recycling rates at least 65% by 2025/26 70% by 2030/31, 75% by 2035/36 and 80% by 2040/41.</p> <p>Landfilling no more than 15% in 2025/26 5% in 2030/31, 5% in 2035/36 and 2.5 in 2040/41.</p> <p>C&D waste (inert):</p> <p>Inert waste recycling minima (as proportion of inert arisings): 65% by 2025/26, 70% by 2030/31, 75% by 2035/36, 80% by 2040/41</p> <p>Permanent deposit of inert waste other than for disposal of landfill (as proportion of inert risings): 25% by 2025/26, 25% by 2030/31, 20% by 2035/36, 17.5% by</p>		

					2040/41 Landfill maxima (as proportion of inert arisings) 10% by 2025/26, 5% by 2030/31, 5% by 2035/36, 2.5% by 2040/41		
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Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
	Net self-sufficiency	KCC EA	Data on flows to and from permitted waste management facilities in Kent	On-going (annual monitoring)	Tonnages of waste arisings from Kent equivalent to the tonnages of waste managed within Kent Capacity for residual waste from London	More than -10% difference in the annual levels of imports and exports Spare consented capacity falls below forecast need for Kent by 10%	
CSW 6: Location of Built Waste Management Facilities	Planning applications granted for built waste management facilities.	KCC	DM decisions and conditions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting criteria a to j and 1 to 6 (as appropriate) granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO2; SO3; SO11; SO12; SO13

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSW 7: Waste Management for Non-Hazardous Waste	Planning applications granted for non-hazardous waste developments	KCC	DM Decisions and conditions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO2; SO3; SO10; SO12; SO13
CSW 8: Recovery Facilities for Non-hazardous Waste	Percentage of waste managed in Kent diverted from landfill.	KCC WMU KCCEA	EA waste management facility data National survey data	On-going (annual monitoring-when national data is made public)	Landfilling of no more than-2% of LACW by 2030/31	Within 10% of the target maximum for the Local Authority Collection Waste landfill diversion target at or beyond the dates stated in Policy CSW 4	SO2; SO3; SO10 SO11; SO12; SO13
	Remaining capacity of non-hazardous landfill. Planning applications granted for EfW Facilities and their capacity.	KCC WMU KCCEA	EA waste management facility data DM information and decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	Maintain sufficient void space for residual waste to the end of the plan period	Sufficient capacity for net self-sufficiency (import and export levels) for non-inert management capacity plus 10% Insufficient capacity for non-hazardous landfill to manage predicted level of non-hazardous waste	

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
					100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	requiring final disposal plus 10% at end of the plan period One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	
CSW 9: Non-Inert Waste Landfill in Kent	Planning decisions resulting in non-inert waste landfilling	KCC District authorities	KCC & District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO3; SO10; SO13; SO14
CSW 10: Development at Closed Landfill Sites	Planning applications granted on closed Biodegradable Landfill Sites for the developments listed in Policy CSW 10	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO2; SO3; SO10; SO14

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSW 11: Permanent Deposit of Inert Waste	Annual volume of CDEW arisings.	KCC	National survey data DM decisions and information	On-going (annual monitoring -when national data available)	Timely restoration of landfills and mineral working where their restoration requires fill material	Delay in restoration timetable of landfills and mineral workings due to lack of available suitable fill material Delay in development of mineral extraction sites where phasing requires progressive restoration.	SO3 SO10; SO13; SO14
	Annual CDEW recycling capacity.	KCC	National survey data DM decisions and information	On-going (annual monitoring -when national data available)	Minimum capacities maintained to enable recycling rates stated in CSW 4 throughout the Plan period	More than 10% deficit in the actual capacity provided at or beyond the dates stated in CSW 4	
	Planning applications granted for permanent deposit of inert waste.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSW 12: Identifying Sites for Hazardous Waste	Capacity of hazardous waste management facilities.	KCCEA	DM information EA data on hazardous waste movements	On-going (annual monitoring)	Annual net self-sufficiency in hazardous waste	Capacity fallen to 90% of capacity for net self sufficiency	SO3; SO13;
	Planning decisions resulting in permitted built hazardous waste management facilities	KCC District authorities	KCC & District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all relevant policy criteria in CSW 6, and for landfill sites in accordance with Policy CSW 9, granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	
CSW 13: Remediation of Brownfield Land	Temporary waste related planning applications granted on brownfield land that facilitate its redevelopment	KCC District authorities	DM decisions Sites identified in an adopted district local plan	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO2; SO3; SO4; SO13; SO14
CSW 14: Disposal of Dredgings	Planning applications granted for the disposal of dredgings.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO3; SO13

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
CSW 15: Wastewater Development	Wastewater treatment works, sewage sludge treatment and disposal facilities granted planning permission.	KCC	Sites identified in the Waste Sites Plan	Adoption of the Waste Sites Plan	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO1; SO3; SO11; SO13;
CSW 17: Nuclear Waste Treatment and Storage at Dungeness	Planning applications granted for storage and/or management of radioactive waste in the licensed area at Dungeness.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO2; SO3; SO11; SO13;
CSW 18: Non-nuclear Industry Radioactive Low Level (LLW) Waste Management	Planning applications granted for facilities managing non-nuclear LLW and VLLW waste.	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria	SO3; SO11; SO13;
	Monitoring of waste material source.	KCC	Planning application information	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications granted planning permission providing the required information	One application permitted without the required information	

Monitoring Schedule: Minerals and Waste Safeguarding Strategy

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Relevant Strategic Objective
CSM 5: Land-won Mineral Safeguarding	Decisions resulting in non-mineral development permitted within Kent MSAs.	KCC District authorities	District/ Borough Council DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% refusal for applications with an objection from the County Council	One application permitted with an objection from the County Council	SO3; SO5
	Decisions resulting in non-mineral development permitted within the separate MCA adjacent to the Strategic Site for Minerals at Medway Works, Holborough.	KCC District authorities	District/ Borough Council DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% refusal for applications with an objection from the County Council	One application permitted with an objection from the County Council	
	Decisions resulting in non-mineral development permitted on sites for mineral working within the Plan period identified in the AMR and/or LAA, and in the Minerals Sites Plan.	KCC District authorities	District/ Borough Council DM decisions Mineral Sites Plan	On-going (annual monitoring) Adoption of the Mineral Sites Plan	100% refusal for applications with an objection from the County Council	One application permitted with an objection from the County Council	
	Review of Minerals Safeguarding Areas (MSAs)	KCC	KCC	On-going (annual monitoring)	The need to revise the boundaries of the MSAs has been reviewed at least once each year	MSAs not reviewed in any one year	

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Relevant Strategic Objective
CSM 6: Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Depots	Decisions resulting in non-mineral development permitted within 250m of safeguarded minerals transportation facilities listed in Policy CSM 6 ¹²⁹ and allocated sites in the Mineral Sites Plan (other than the developments listed in Policy DM 8 criteria 1)	KCC District authorities	District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring) Adoption of the Minerals Sites Plan	100% refusal for applications with an objection from the County Council	One application permitted with an objection from the County Council	SO1; SO2; SO7
CSM 7: Safeguarding Other Mineral Plant Infrastructure	Decisions resulting in other development permitted on, or within 250m of, sites safeguarding for other mineral plant infrastructure	KCC District authorities	KCC & District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% refusal for proposals with an objection from the County Council	One application permitted with an objection from the County Council	SO1; SO2; SO6; SO7
CSW 16: Safeguarding of Existing Waste Facilities	Decisions resulting in non-waste management uses permitted on, or within 250m of, sites with permanent planning permission for waste management uses and sites allocated in the Waste Sites Plan	KCC District authorities	District DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring) Adoption of the Waste Sites Plan	100% refusal for applications with an objection from the County Council	One application permitted with an objection from the County Council	SO1; SO4; SO12

¹²⁹ Boundaries of the safeguarding facilities are shown in Chapter 9.1 Adopted Policies Maps - Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Importation Depot.

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Relevant Strategic Objective
DM 7: Safeguarding Mineral Resources	Decisions resulting in incompatible non-mineral development permitted in mineral safeguarded areas (as defined in Policy CSM5).	District authorities KCC	District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria with an objection from the County Council	SO3; SO5
	Adoption of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) or associated guidance setting out further information about the approach to Minerals Safeguarding	KCC	KCC	2015 - 2017	SPD adopted by of end of 2016	Failure to adopt SPD by of end 2016	SO3; SO5
	Allocations in adopted Local Plans for development incompatible with the presumption to safeguard minerals within mineral safeguarded areas (as defined by CSM 5).	District Authorities and KCC	District authority planning policy decisions	No Change	100% of local plan allocations meeting all policy criteria (except criterion 7)	An allocation in a local Plan that does not meet all policy criteria (except criterion 7) with an objection from the County Council	SO3

Policy	Indicator(s)	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Relevant Strategic Objective
DM 8: Safeguarding Minerals Management, Transportation & Waste Management Facilities	Decisions resulting in incompatible non-minerals or waste development permitted within, or in the vicinity of, existing safeguarded minerals management, transportation or waste management facilities.	District authorities KCC	District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria with an objection from the County Council	SO1; SO2; SO4; SO7; SO11
	Allocations in adopted Local Plans considered incompatible with the presumption to safeguard minerals and waste facilities from direct loss and/or within 250m of a safeguarded facility where there will be the high probability of incompatibility that may lead to the lawful operation of the safeguarded facility to cease or be compromised such that will affect its lawful operational viability	District Authorities and KCC	District Authority planning policy decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of local plan allocations meeting all policy criteria (except criterion 2)	An allocation in a local Plan that does not meet all policy criteria (except criterion 2) with an objection from the County Council	SO1; SO2; SO4; SO7; SO11
DM 9: Prior Extraction of Minerals in Advance of Surface Development	Planning applications granted / decisions resulting in, or incorporating, mineral extraction in advance of built development where the resources would otherwise be permanently sterilised.	KCC District authorities	KCC and/or District authority DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of applications meeting all policy criteria granted planning permission	One application permitted that does not meet all policy criteria (with an objection from the County Council in the case of District decisions)	SO3; SO5

Approach to the Monitoring of Development Management Policies

8.0.10 The Plan's Development Management policies will be monitored using the relevant planning applications data as an indicator. The performance of each policy will be monitored on an annual basis and recorded in the AMR in accordance with the following strategy:

1. **Target:** 100% of applications meeting all applicable policy criteria granted planning permission. To include the submission of the required information where relevant.
2. **Trigger:** One application permitted that does not meet all relevant policy criteria and requirements, unless clearly justified.

8.0.11 Policy DM 2 applies to both proposals for minerals and waste development and the identification of sites in any Kent Minerals and Waste Sites Plans:

1. **Target:** 100% of applications/ proposed site allocations meeting all applicable policy criteria granted planning permission / allocated in any Minerals or Waste Sites Plan. To include the submission of the required policy information where relevant.
2. **Trigger:** One application permitted / adopted site allocation that does not meet all policy criteria, unless clearly justified.

Policy	Who?	How?	Link to Strategic Objective
DM 2: Environmental and Landscape Sites of International, National and Local Importance	KCC	DM decisions Adoption of Mineral and Waste Sites Plans	SO2; SO3; SO9; SO14
DM 3: Ecological Impact Assessment	KCC	DM decisions	SO2; SO3; SO9; SO14
DM 4: Green Belt	KCC	DM decisions	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO9; SO14
DM 5: Heritage Assets	KCC	DM decisions	SO3;

DM 6: Historic Environment Assessment	KCC	DM decisions	SO3;
DM 10: Water Environment	KCC	DM decisions	SO2; SO3;
DM 11: Health and Amenity	KCC	DM decisions	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO4; SO9; SO14
DM 12: Cumulative Impact	KCC	DM decisions	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO11; SO13
DM 13: Transportation of Minerals and Waste	KCC	DM decisions	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO6; SO7; SO11; SO13
DM 14: Public Rights of Way	KCC Minerals/ waste operators	DM decisions	SO3; SO9; SO14
DM 15: Safeguarding of Transport Infrastructure	KCC	DM decisions	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO7;
DM 16: Information Required In Support of an Application	KCC Minerals/ waste operators	DM decisions	SO2; SO3; SO4; SO9; SO10; SO12; SO14
DM 18: Land Stability	KCC Minerals/ waste operators	DM decisions	SO3;
DM 19: Restoration, Aftercare and After-use	KCC Minerals/ waste operators	DM decisions	SO2; SO3; SO4; SO9; SO14
DM 20: Ancillary Development	KCC	DM decisions	SO1; SO2; SO3; SO6; SO9; SO10; SO11; SO14

DM 21: Incidental Mineral Extraction	KCC District authorities	KCC and district authority DM decisions	SO3; SO4; SO5; SO9
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8.0.12 The performance of Development Management policies DM 17 and DM 22 will be monitored as follows:

Policy	Who?	How?	When?	Target	Trigger	Link to Strategic Objective
DM 17: Planning Obligations	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual Monitoring)	100% of Planning Obligations agreed and implemented on a case by case basis	One unimplemented legal agreement within 3 years of consent being implemented	SO2; SO3; SO4
DM 22: Enforcement	KCC	DM decisions	On-going (annual monitoring)	100% of cases reported to the Regulation Committee on a quarterly basis	Any alleged breaches being resolved within 6 months of detection	SO2; SO3; SO4

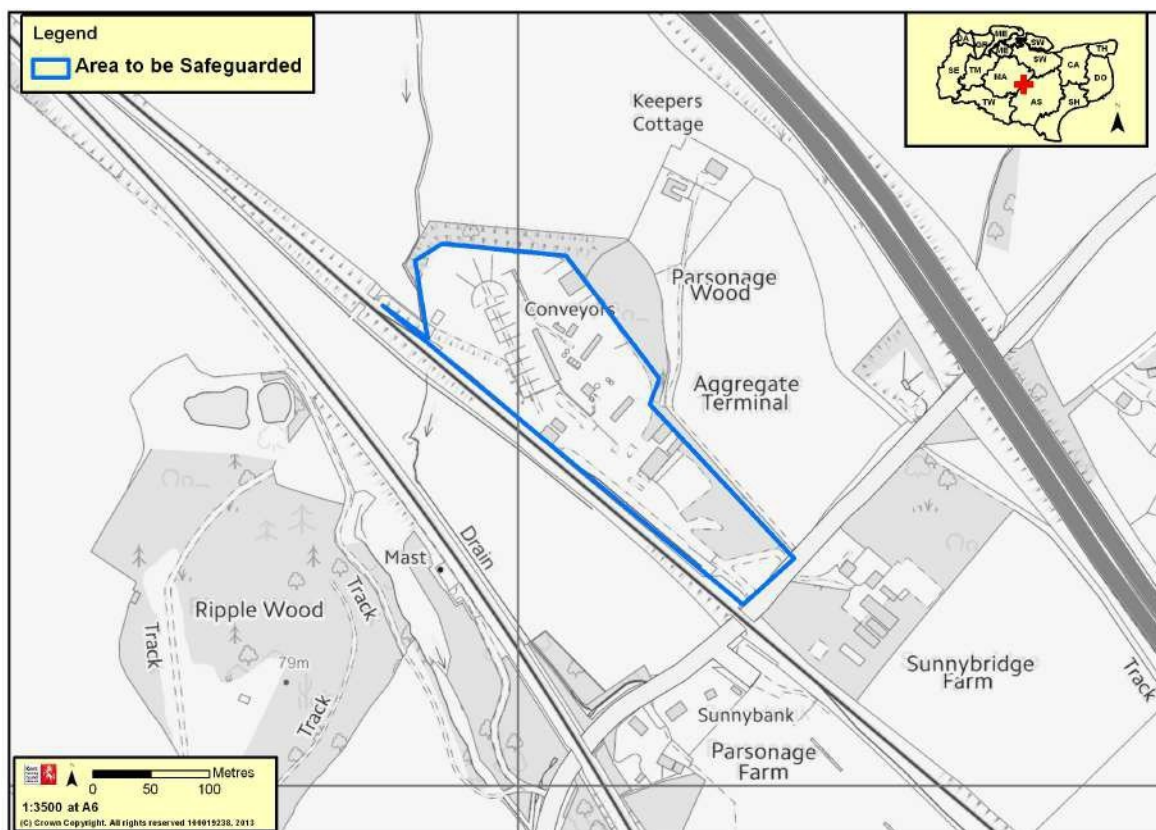
9. Adopted Policies Maps

9.1 Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Transportation Depots

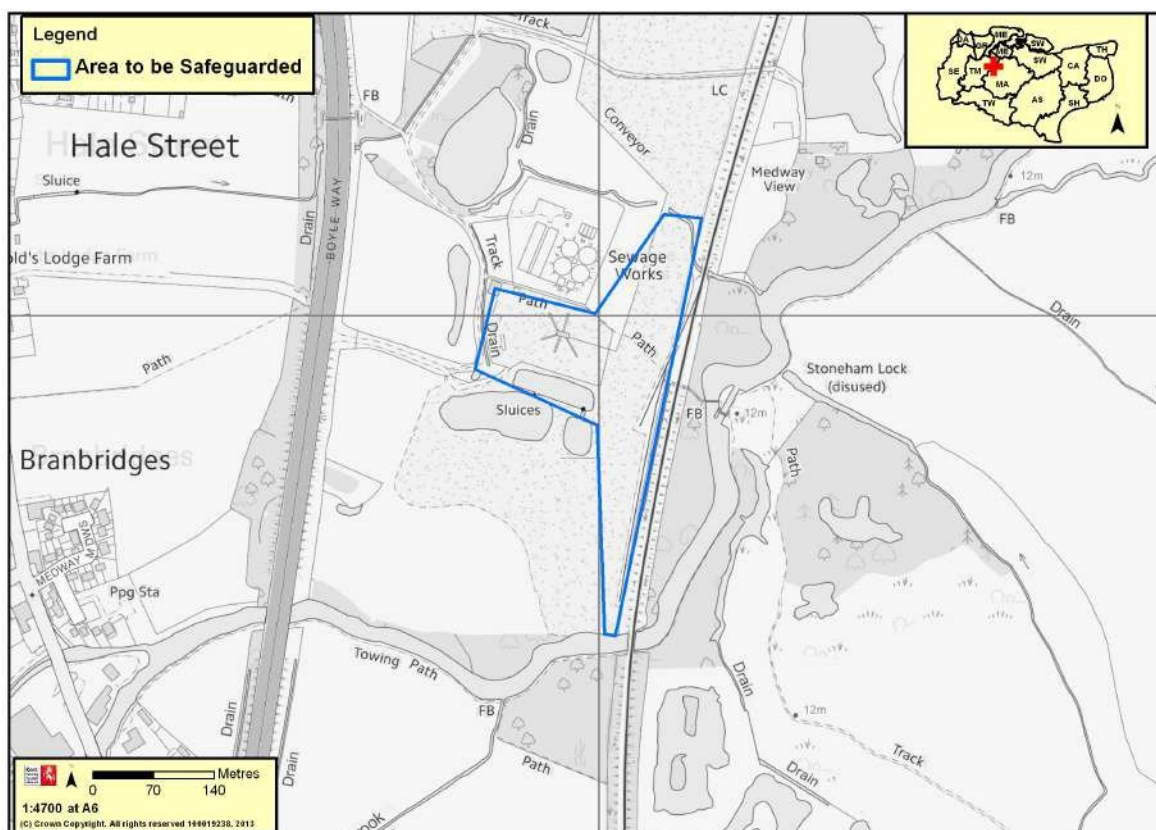
Safeguarded Wharves and Rail Transportation Adopted Policies Maps

Site Name	Operator	Site Code
Allington Rail Depot	Hanson	A
Sevington Rail Depot	Brett	B
Hothfield Works Rail Depot	Tarmac	C
East Peckham Rail Depot	Clubb	D
Ridham Dock	Brett & Tarmac	E
Johnsons Wharf	Tarmac	F
Robin's Wharf, Northfleet	Aggregate Industries & Brett	G
Clubbs Marine Terminal	Clubb	H
East Quay, Whitstable	Brett	J
Red Lion Wharf	Stema Shipping Ltd	K
Ramsgate Port	Brett	L
Dunkirk Jetty, Dover Western Docks	Brett	M
Wharf 42, Northfleet (including Northfleet Cement Wharf)	Tarmac	N
Sheerness	Aggregate Industries	O
Northfleet Wharf	Cemex	P
Old Sun Wharf	Fleetmix Ltd	Q

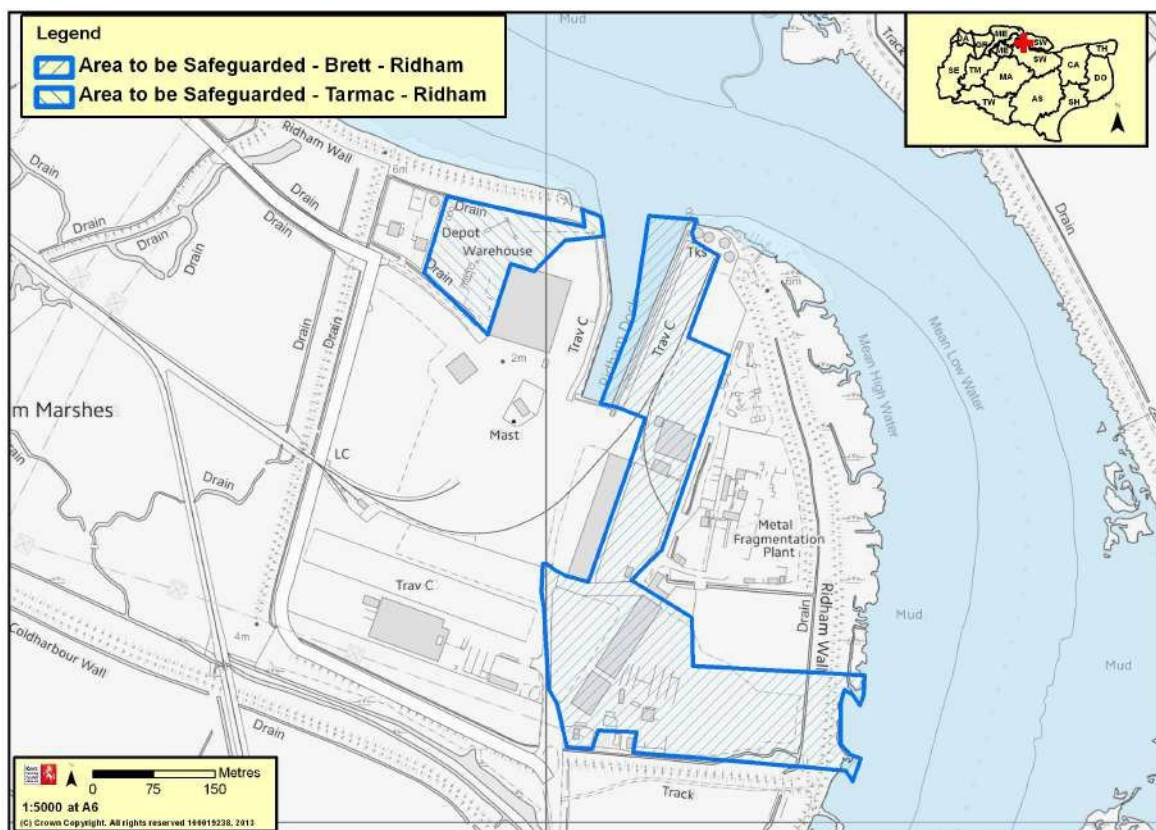
Site C: Hothfield Works



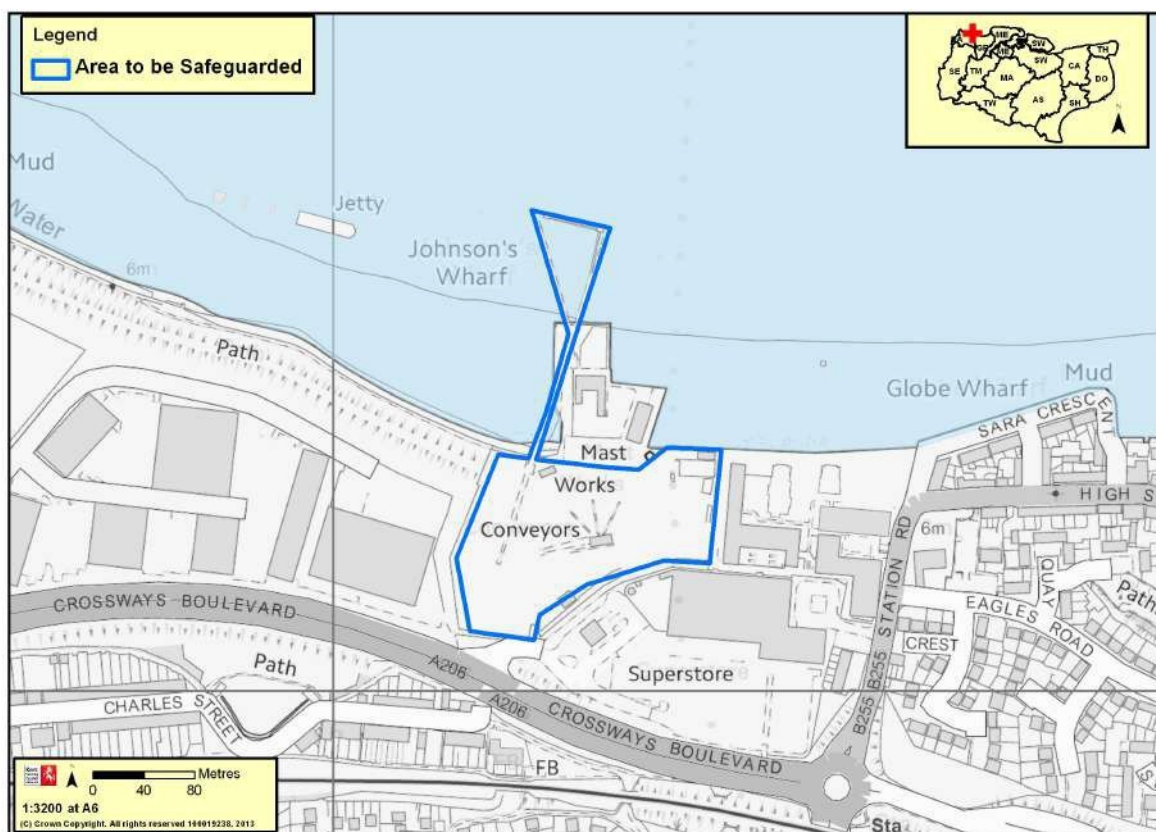
Site D: East Peckham



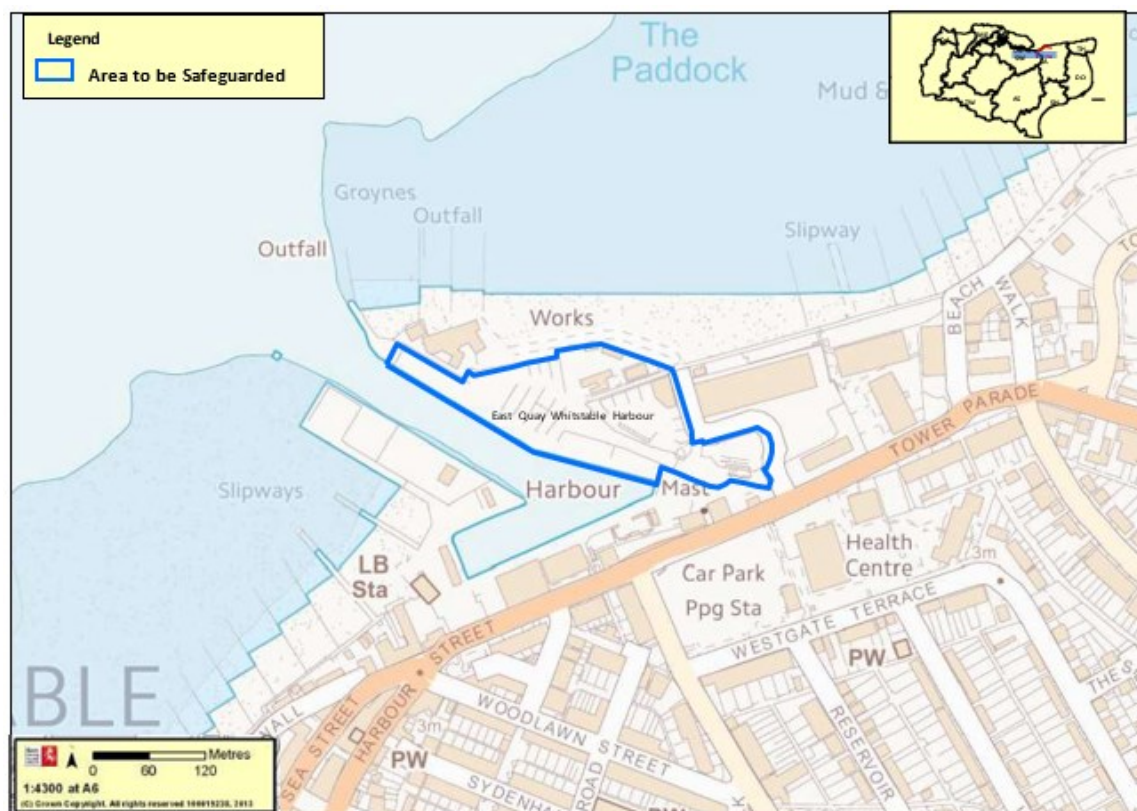
Site E: Ridham Dock



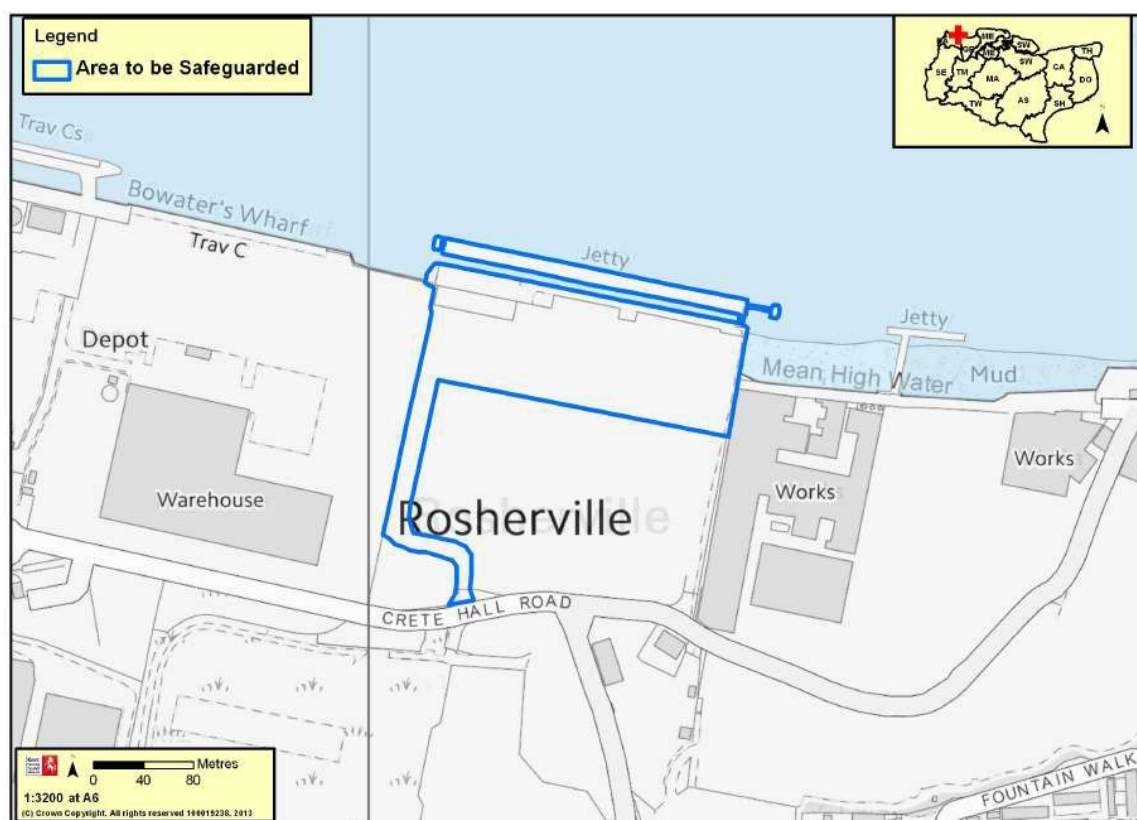
Site F: Johnsons Wharf



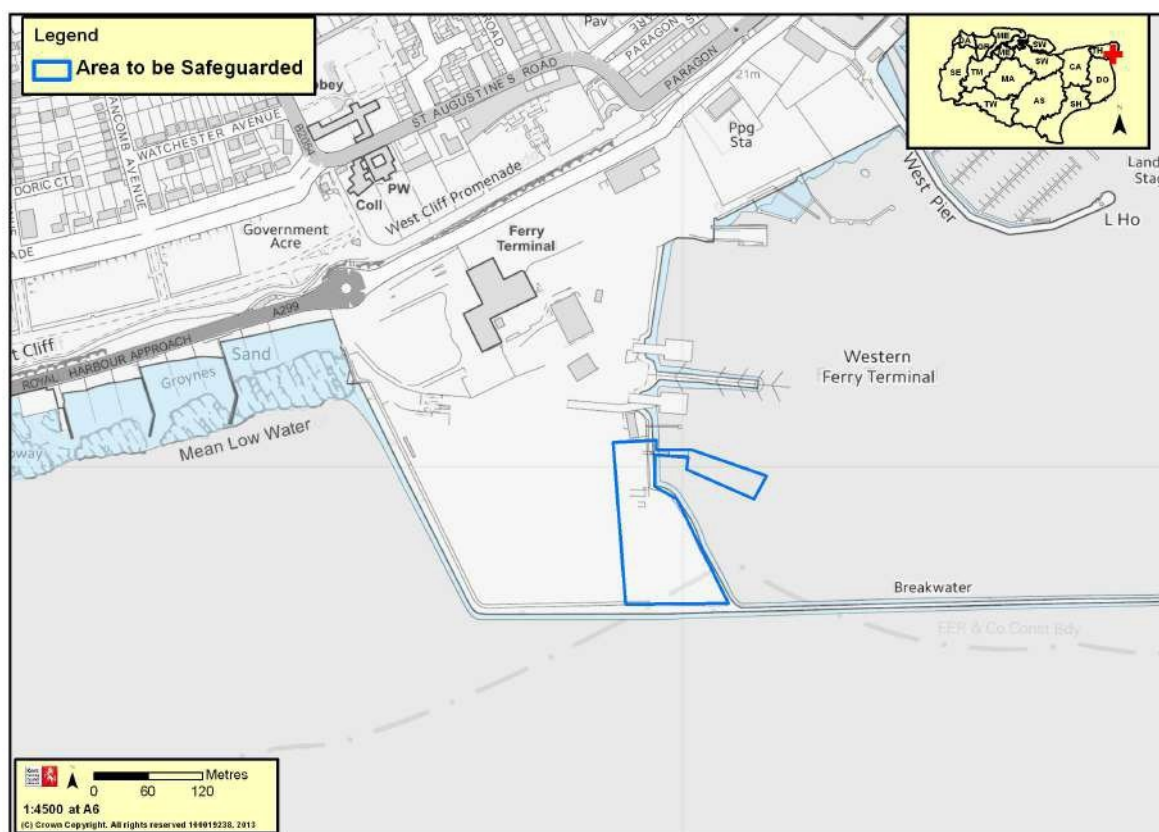
Site J: East Quay, Whitstable



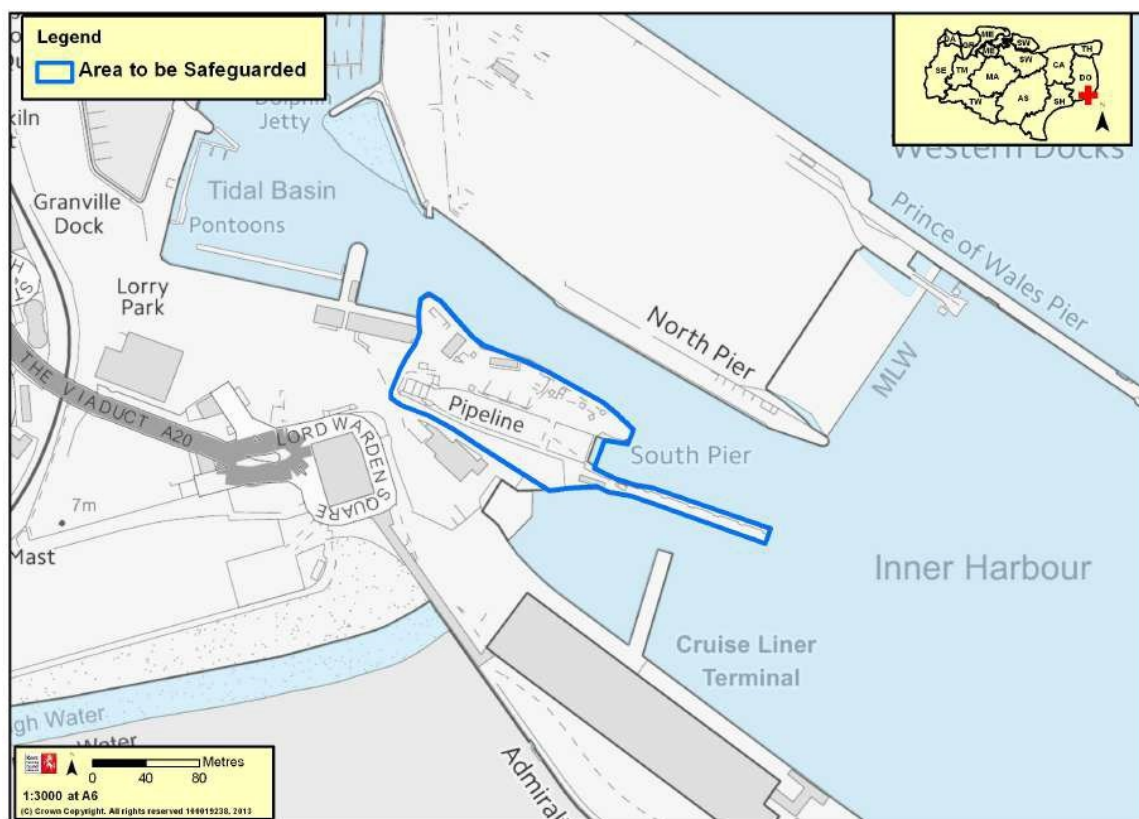
Site K: Red Lion Wharf



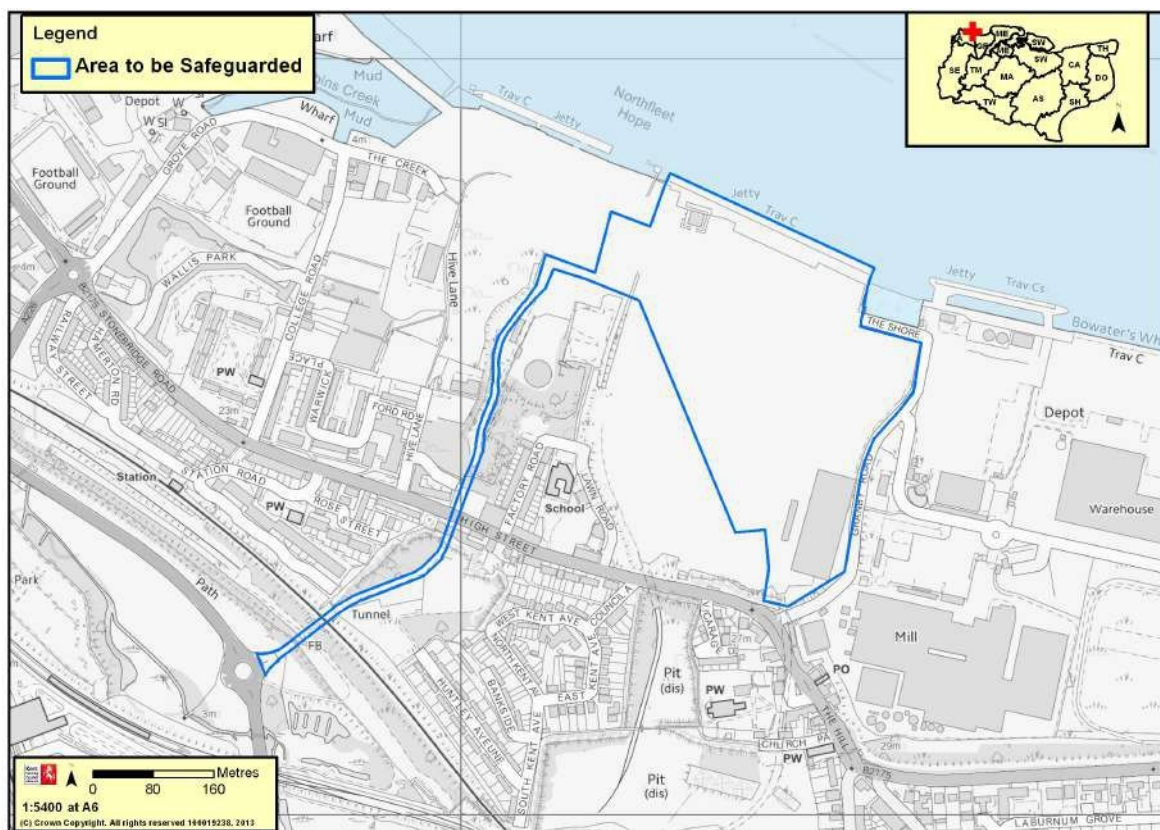
Site L: Ramsgate Port



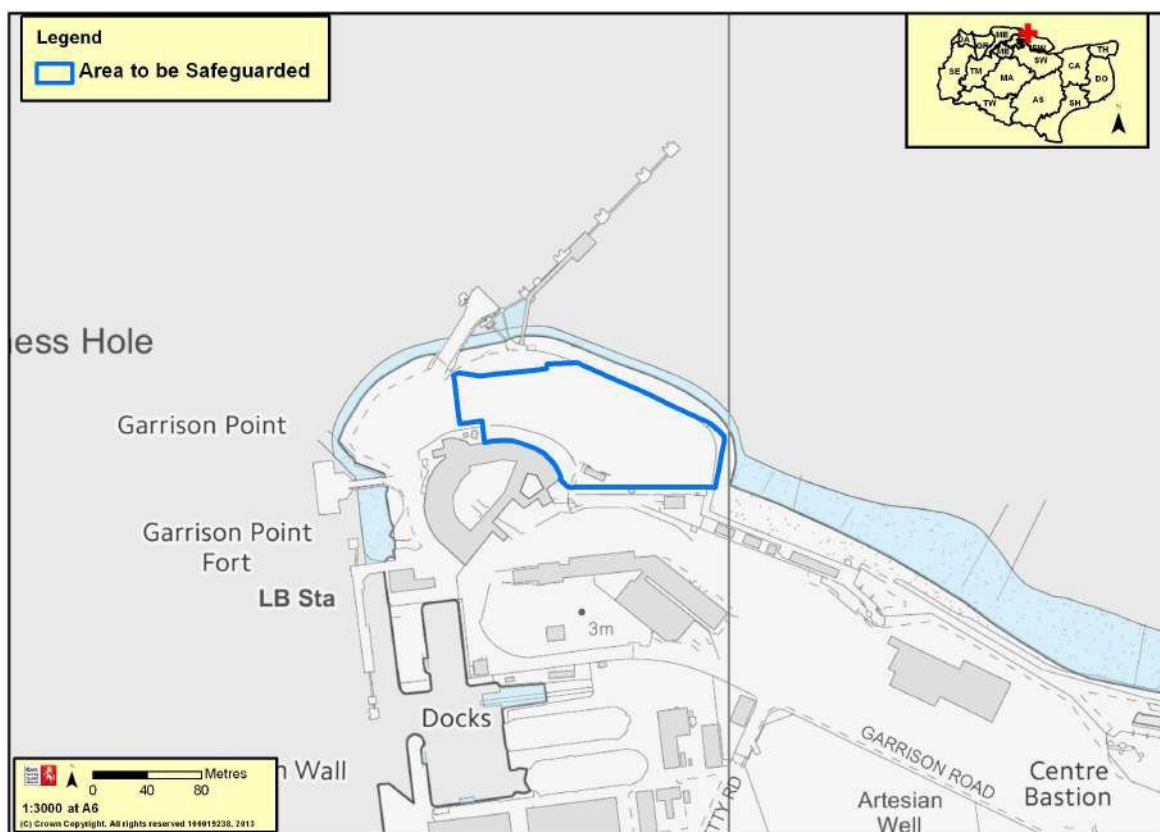
Site M: Dunkirk Jetty, Dover Western Docks



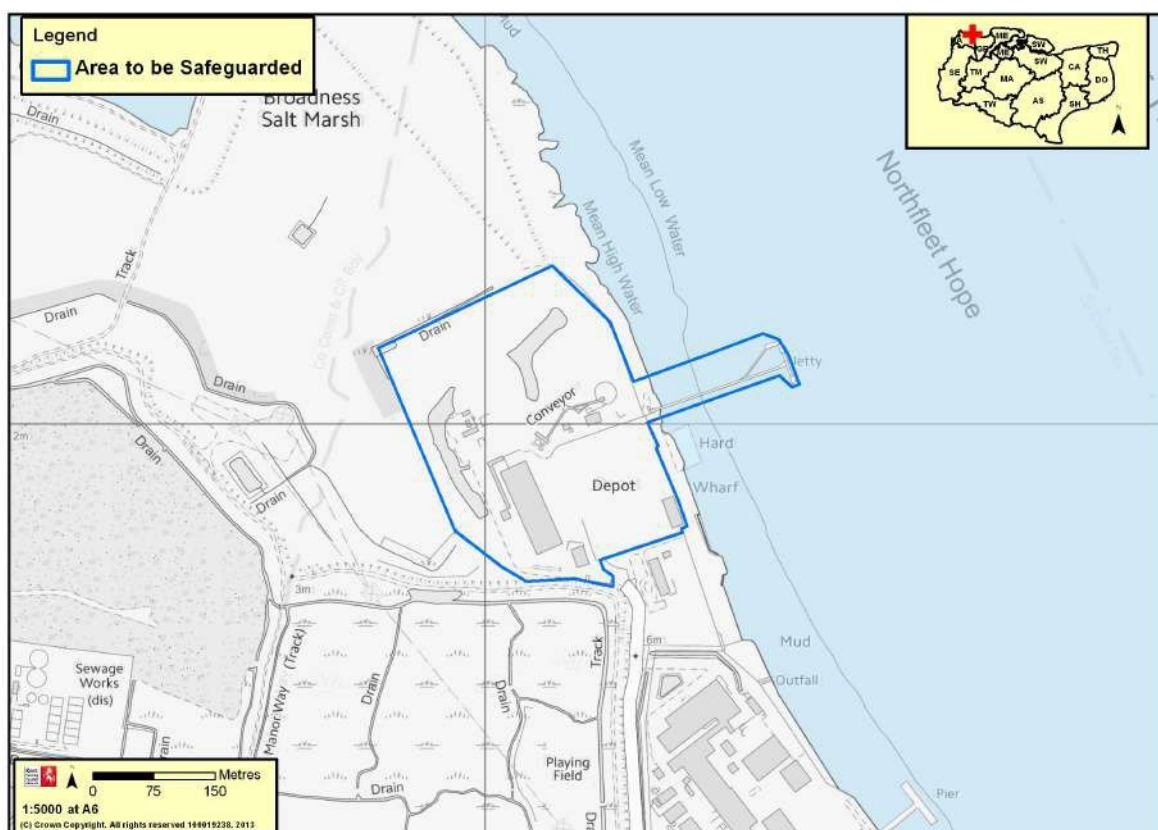
Site N: Wharf 42, Northfleet



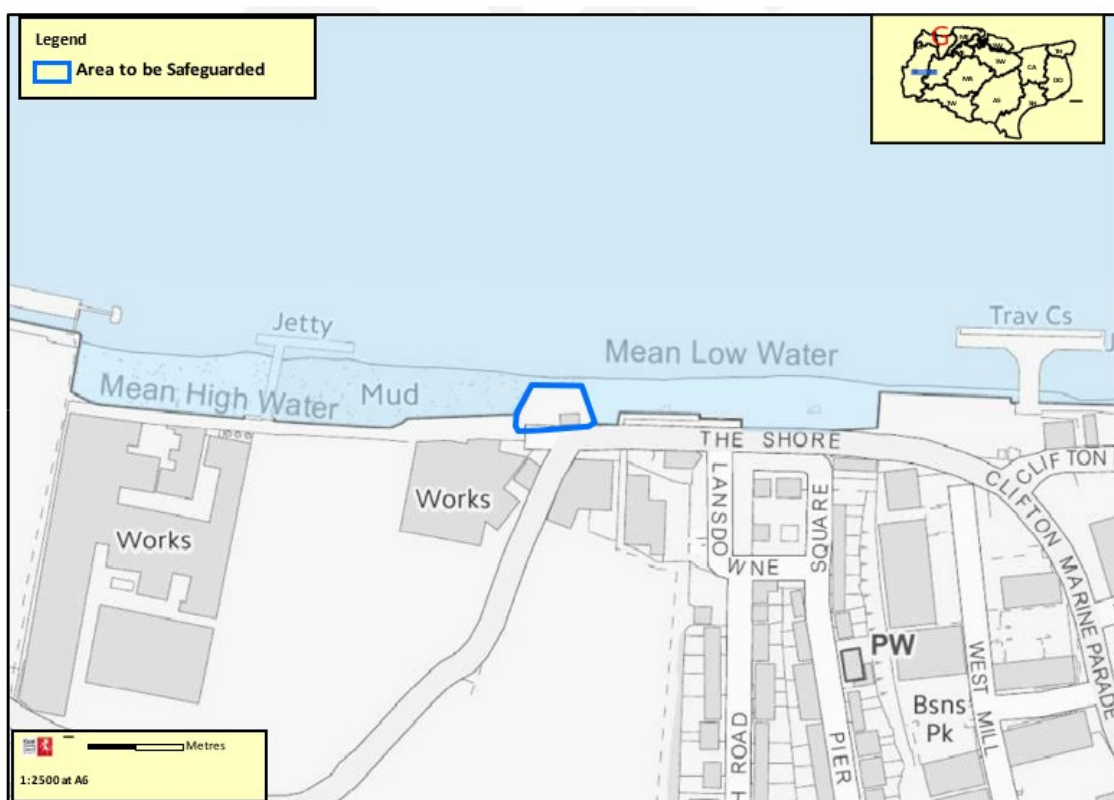
Site O: Sheerness



Site P: Northfleet Wharf



Site Q: Old Sun Wharf

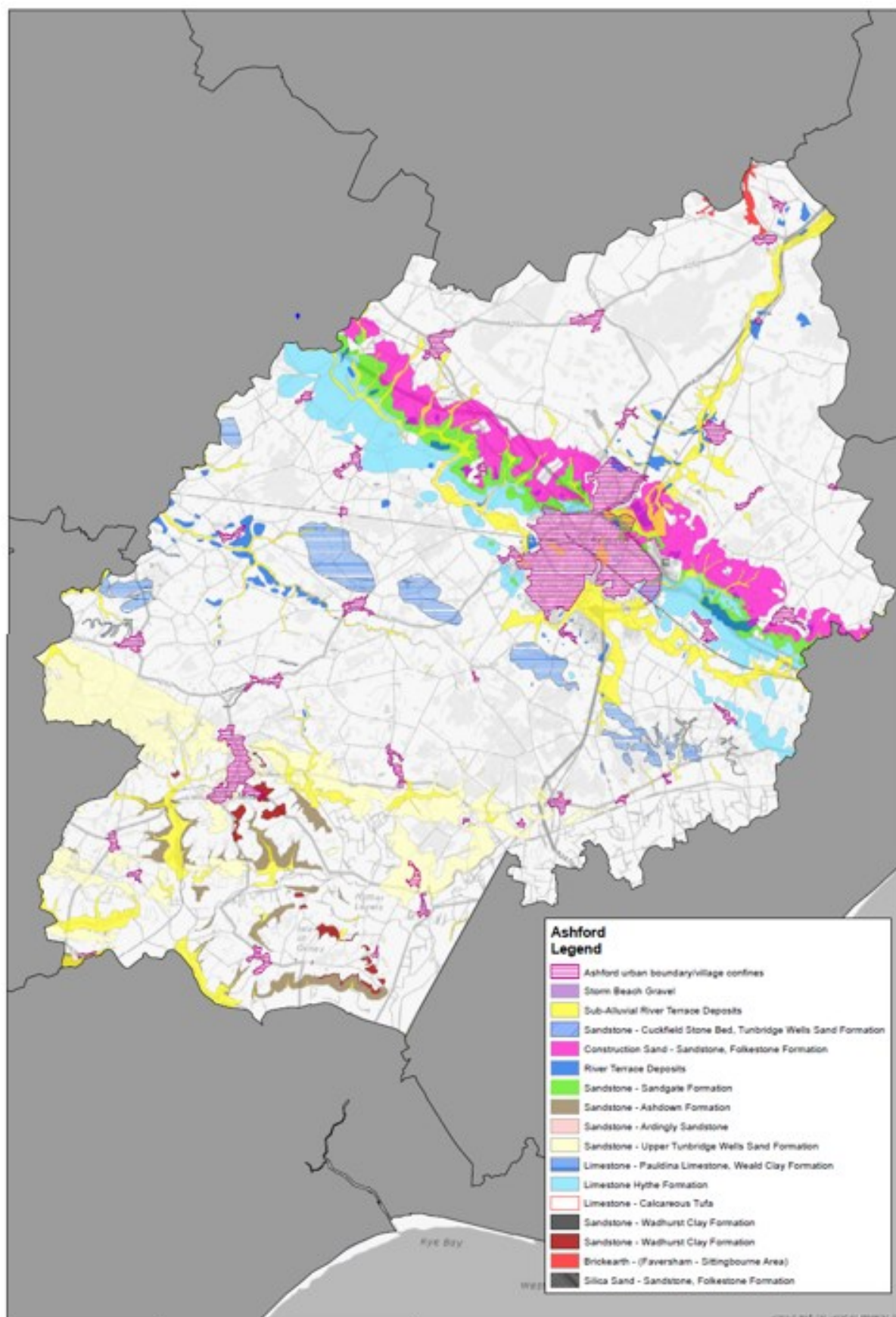


9.2 Mineral Safeguarding Areas

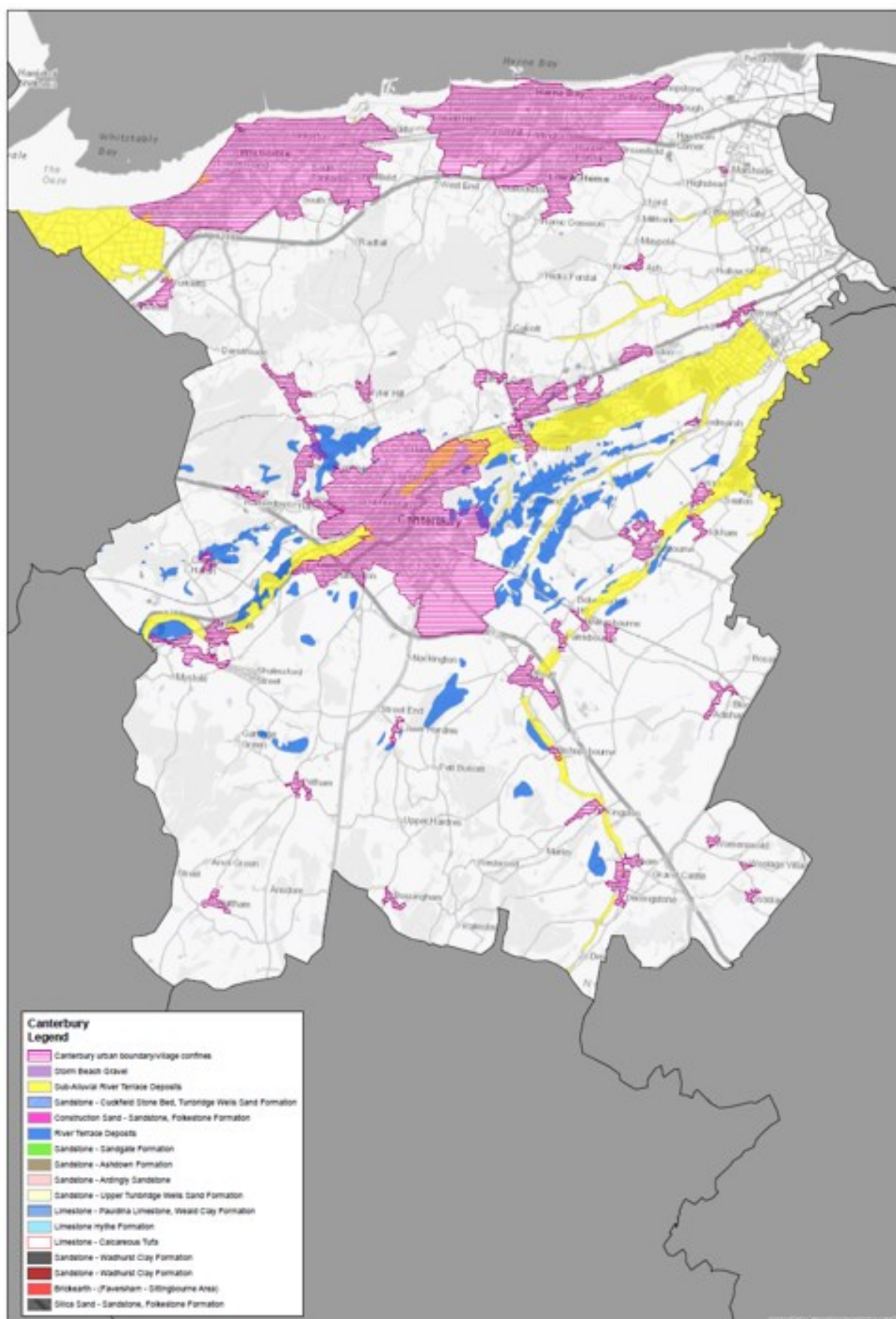
9.2.1 The following Policies Maps display the Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs) in Kent. The MSAs within Kent cover the same areas as the Mineral Consultation Areas (MCAs). The maps cover the following authority's areas in Kent:

1. Ashford Borough Council
2. Canterbury City Council
3. Dartford Borough Council
4. Dover District Council
5. Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
6. Gravesham Borough Council
7. Maidstone Borough Council
8. Sevenoaks District Council
9. Shepway District Council (now Folkstone and Hythe District Council)
10. Swale Borough Council
11. Thanet District Council
12. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
13. Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

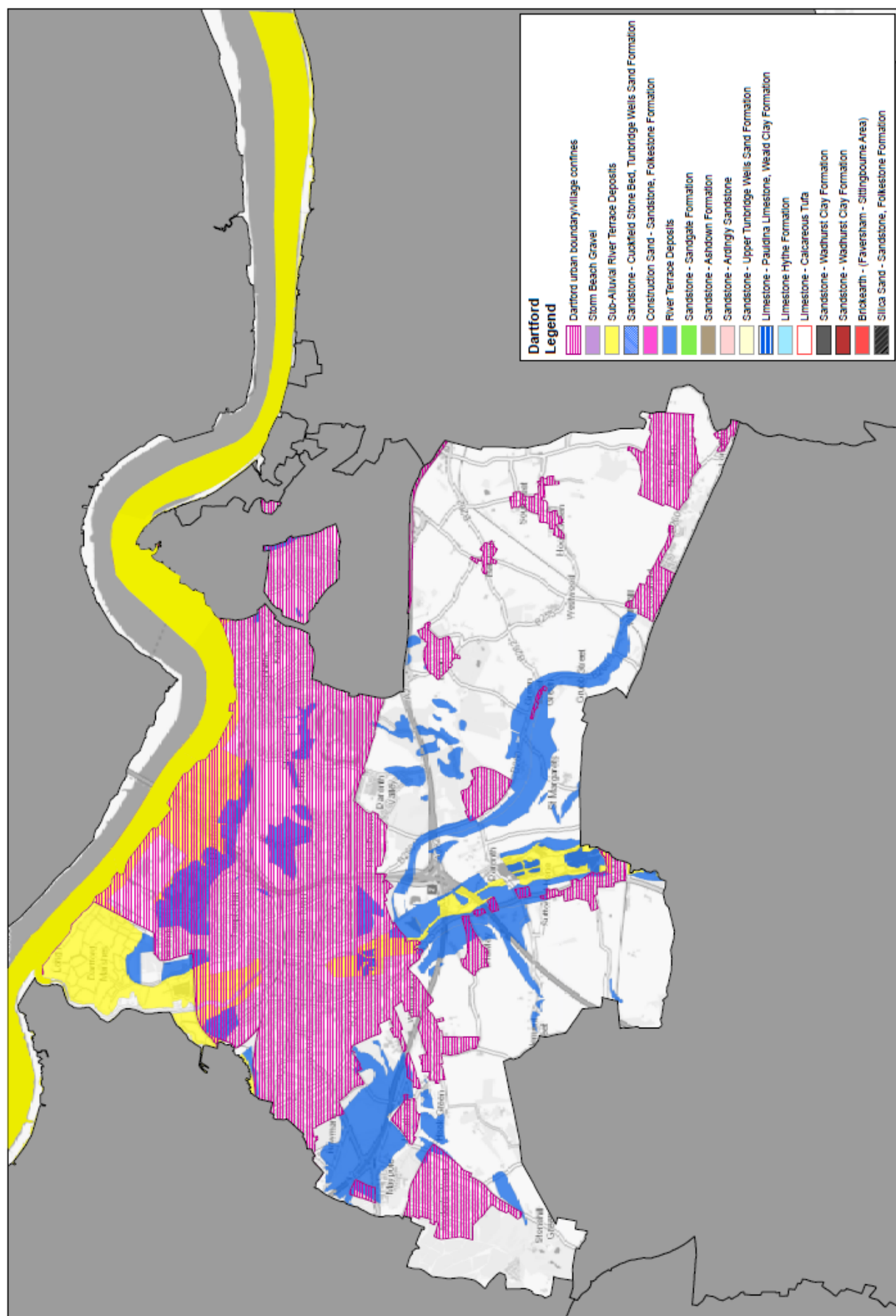
Ashford Mineral Safeguarding Areas



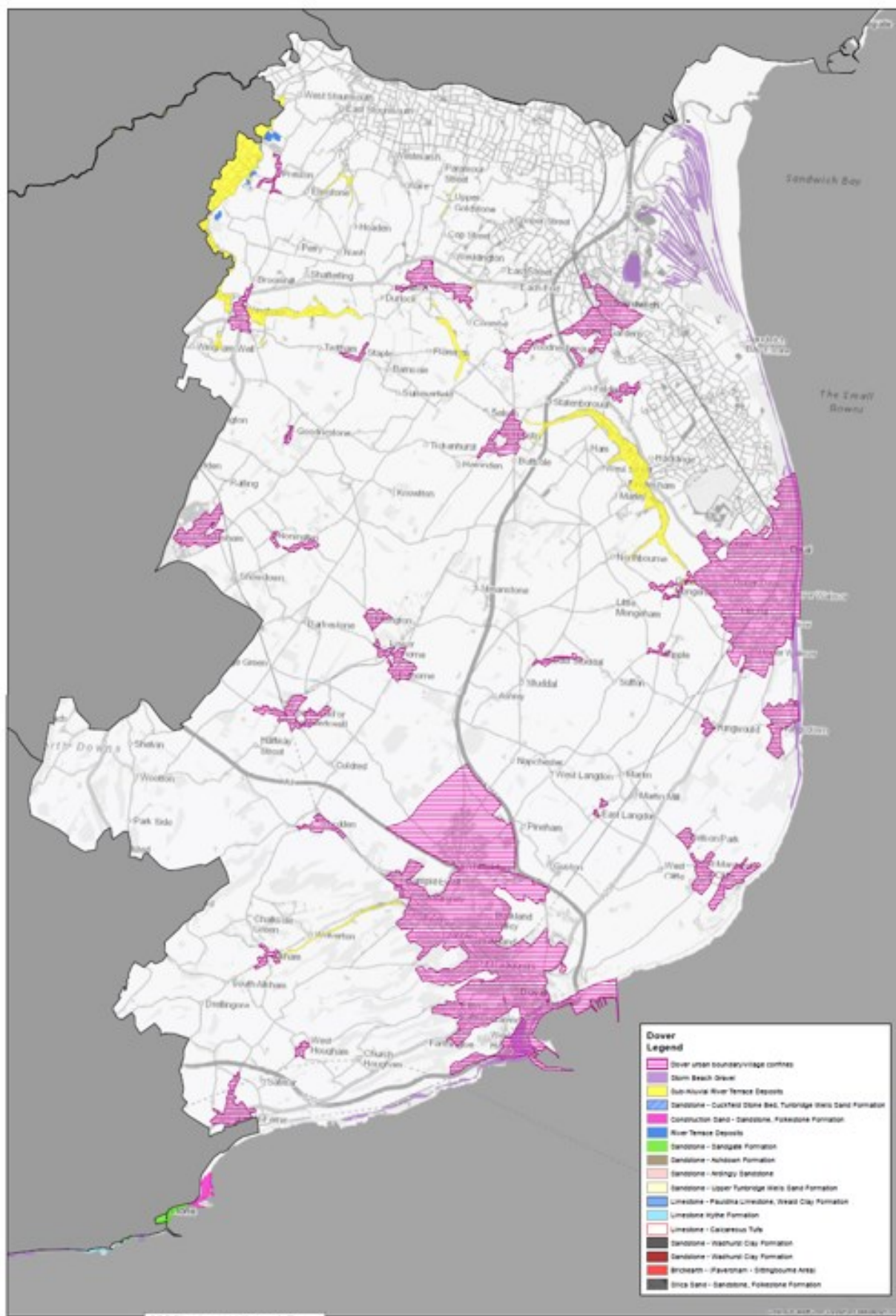
Canterbury Mineral Safeguarding Areas



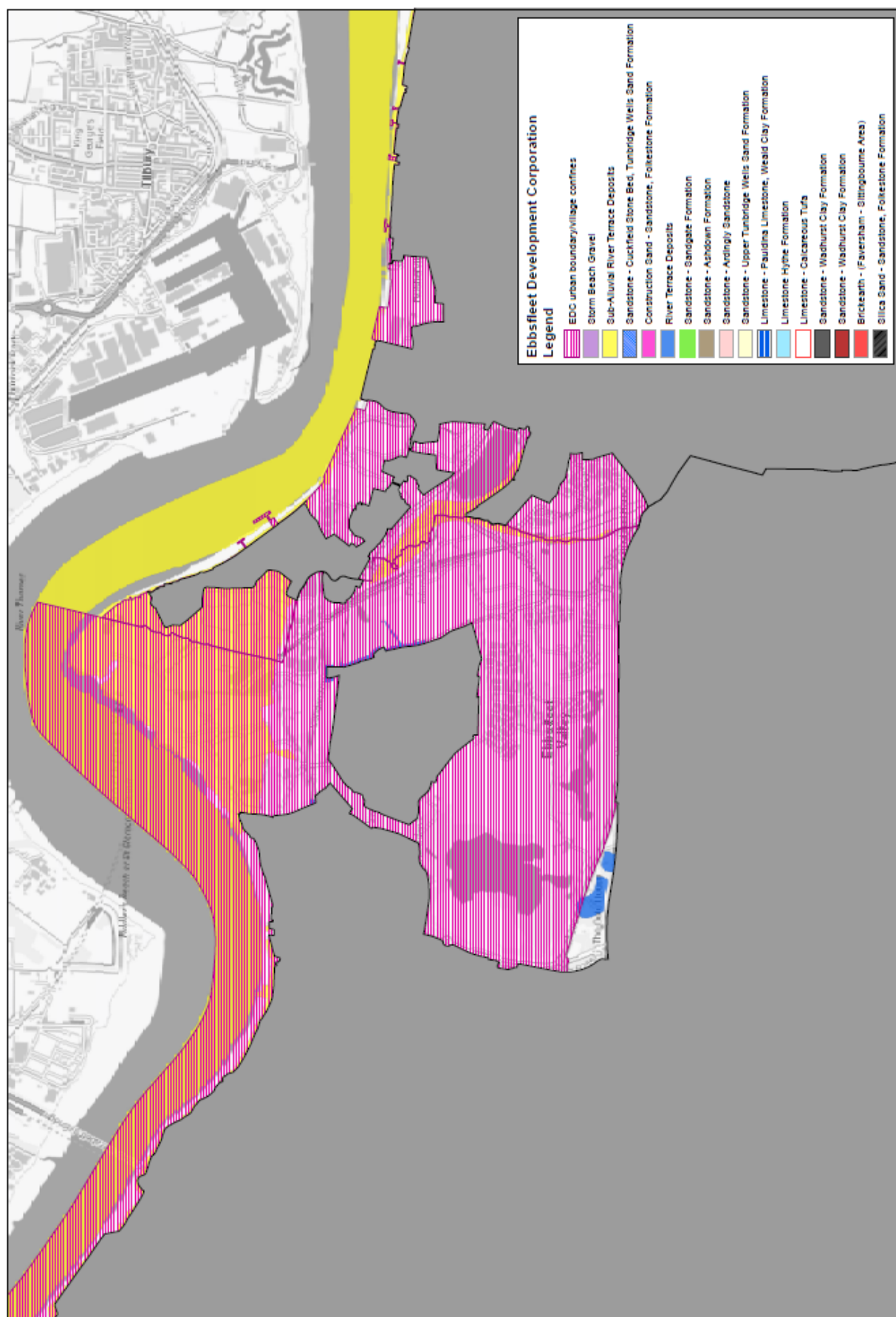
Dartford Mineral Safeguarding Areas



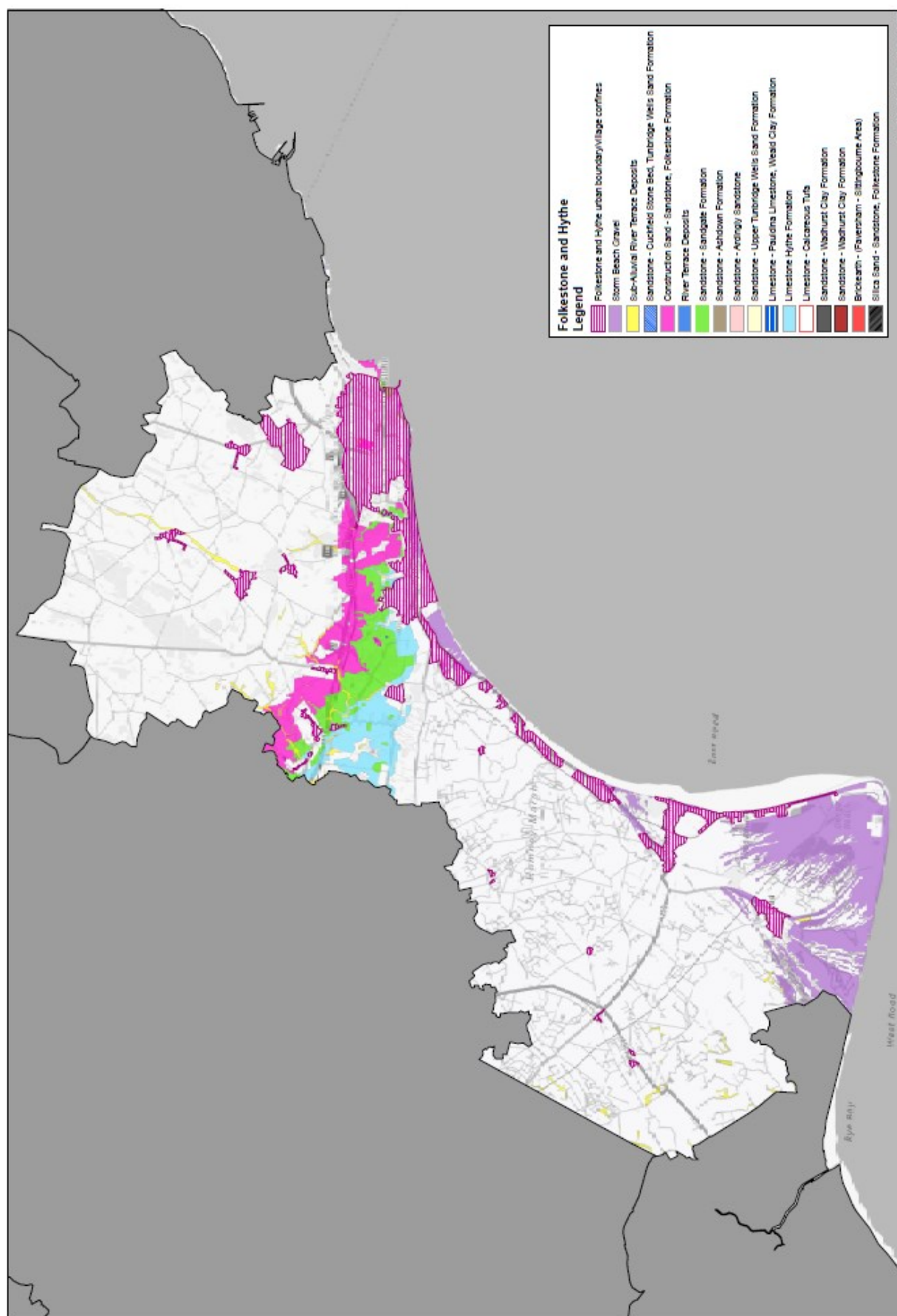
Dover Mineral Safeguarding Areas



Ebbfleet Development Corporation Mineral Safeguarding Areas

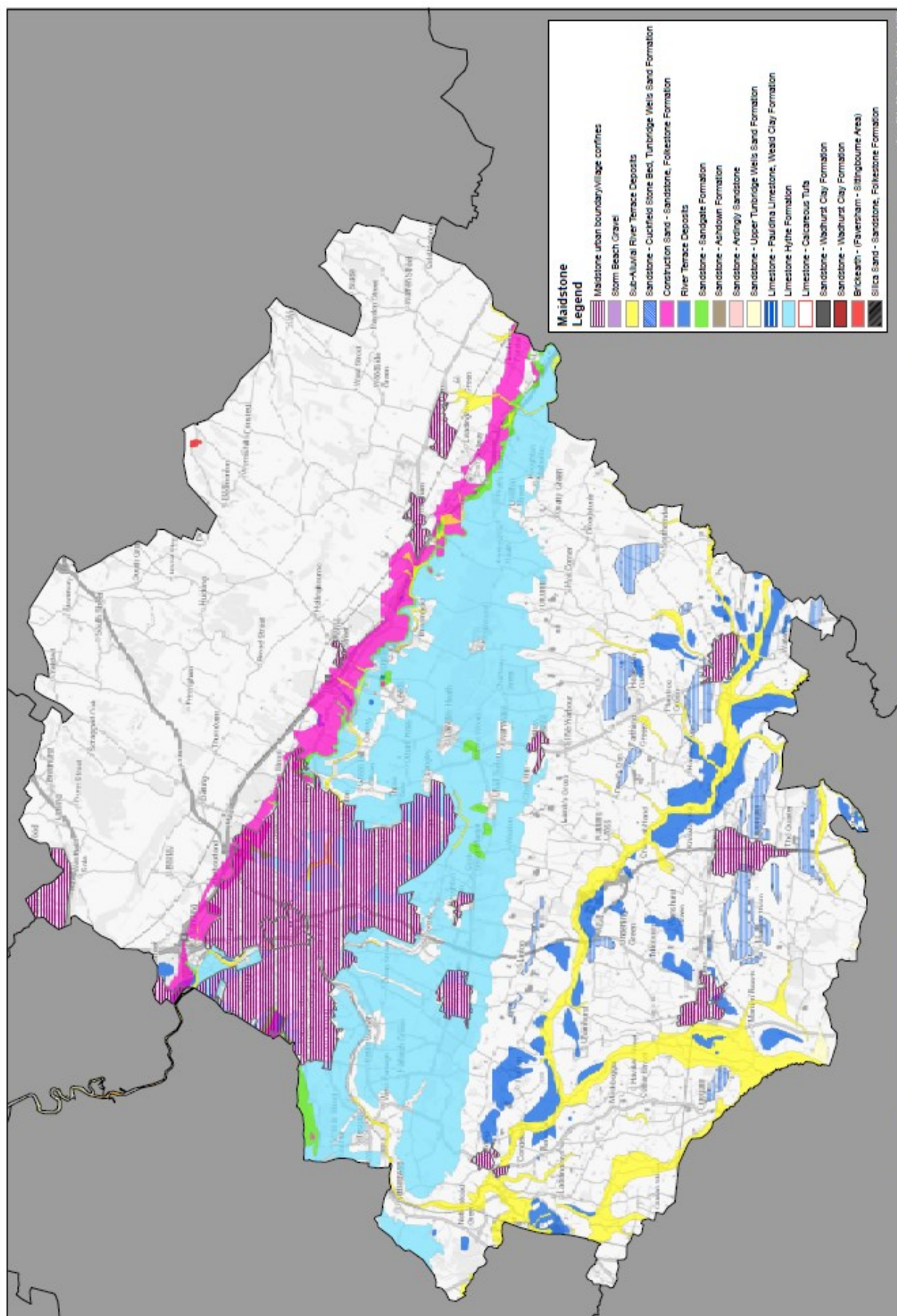


Folkestone and Hythe Mineral Safeguarding Areas

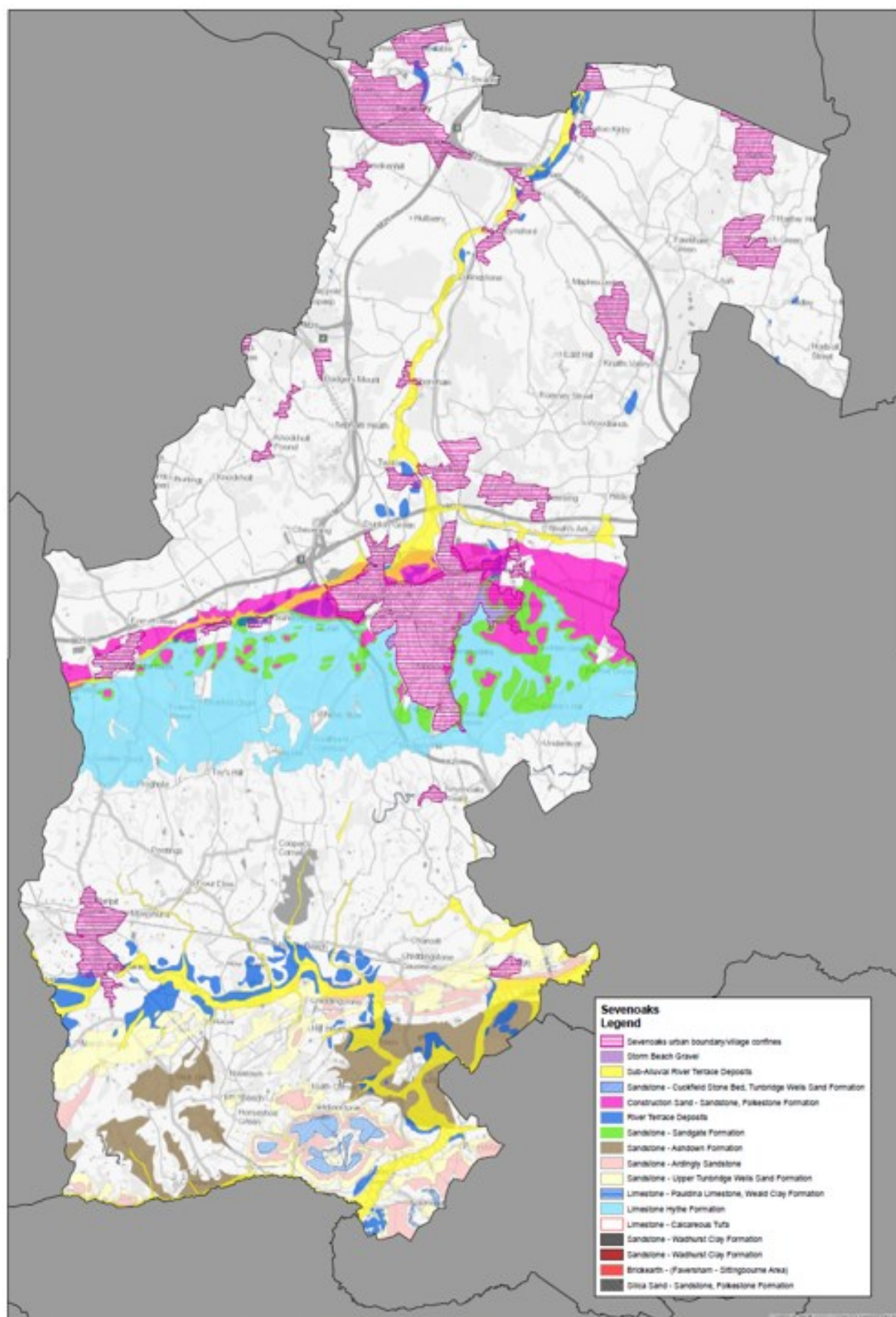




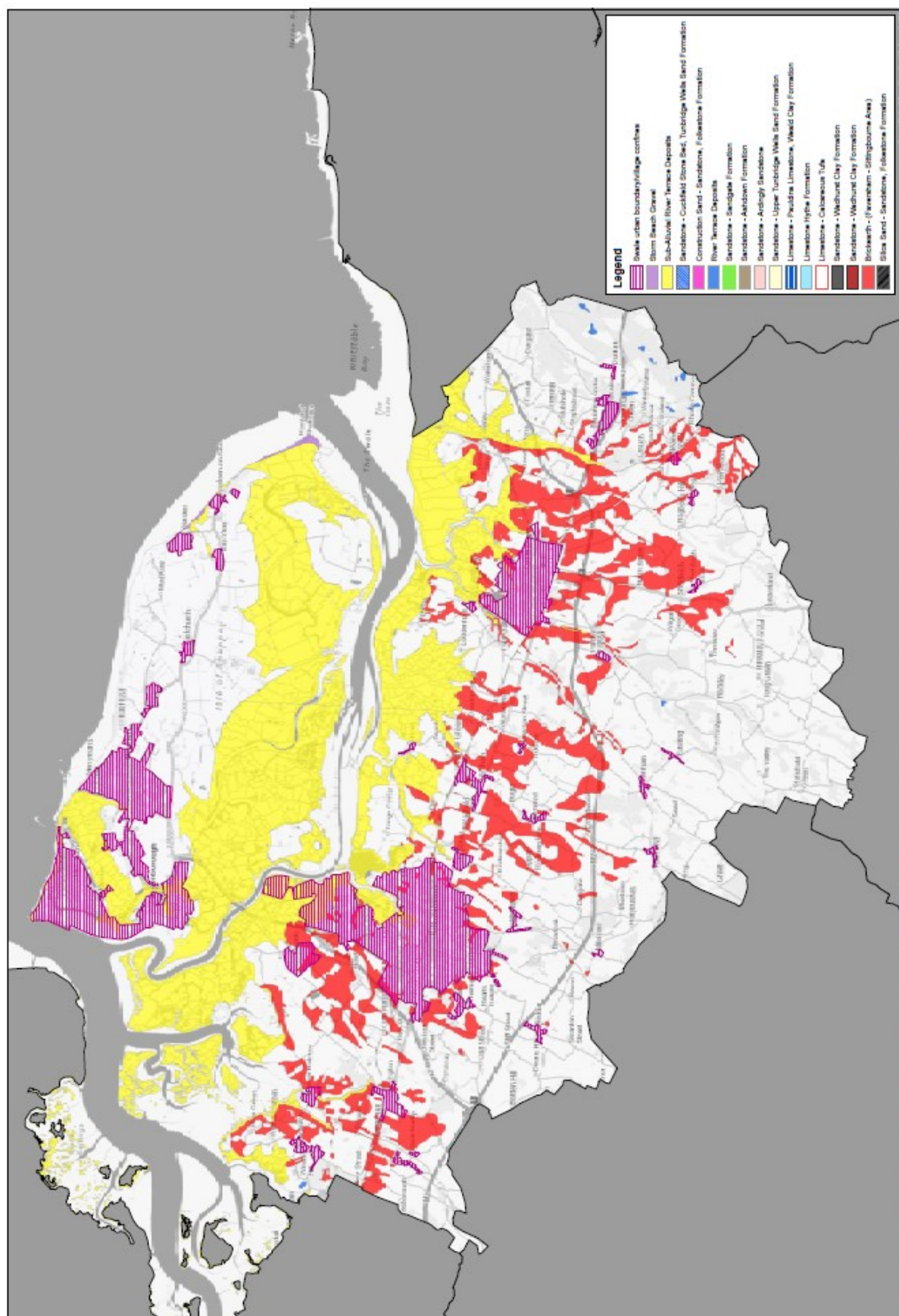
Maidstone Mineral Safeguarding Areas



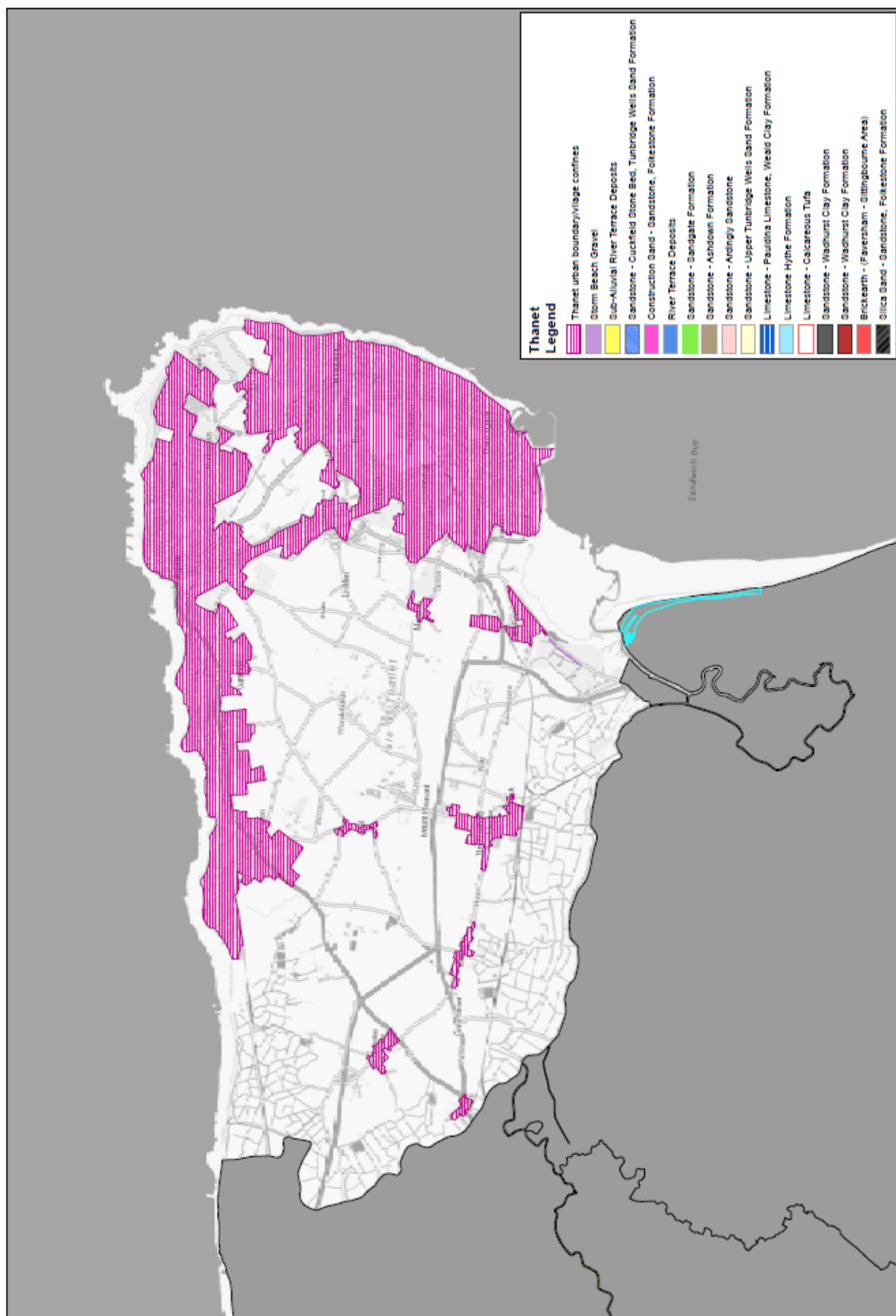
Sevenoaks Mineral Safeguarding Areas



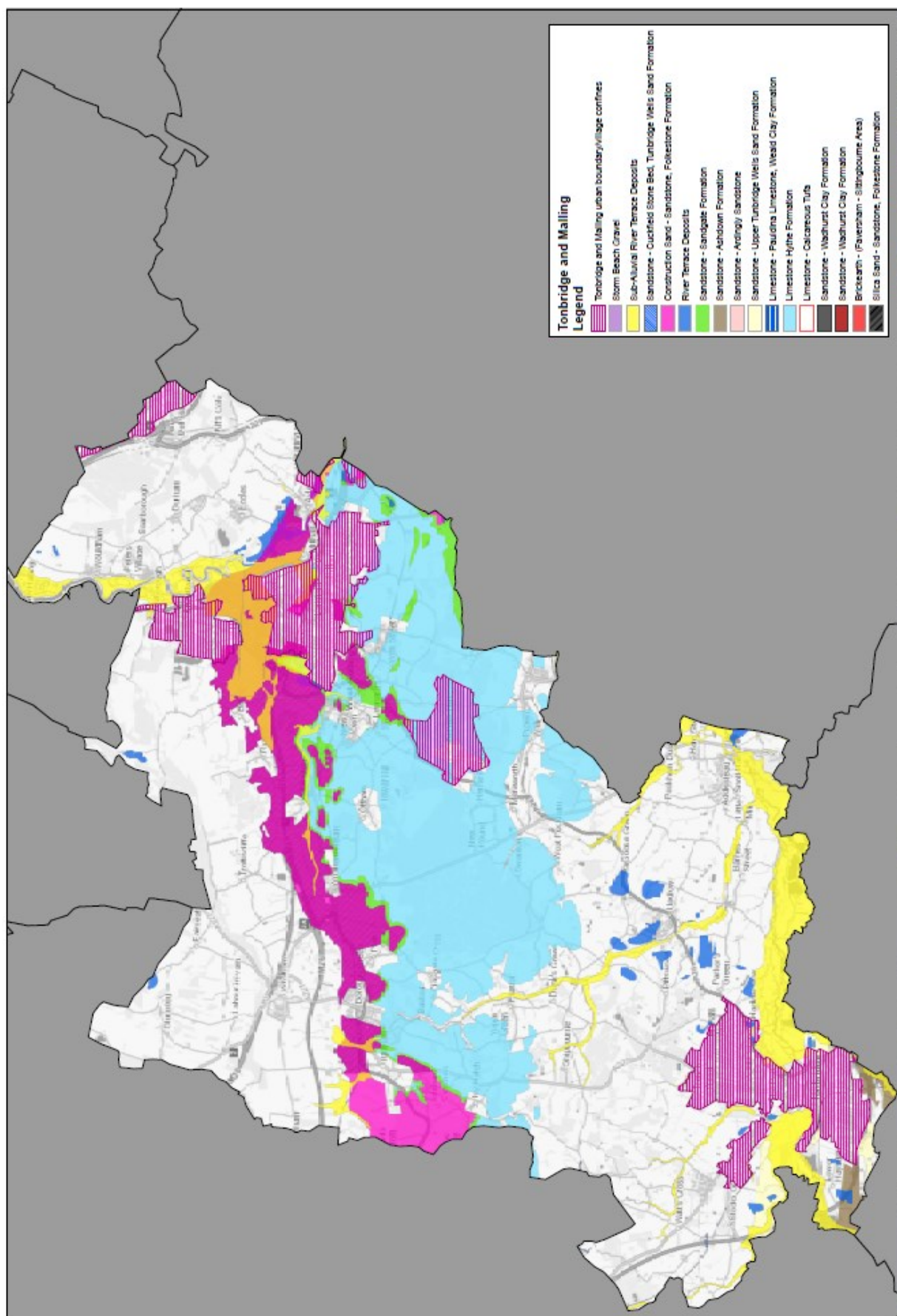
Swale Mineral Safeguarding Areas



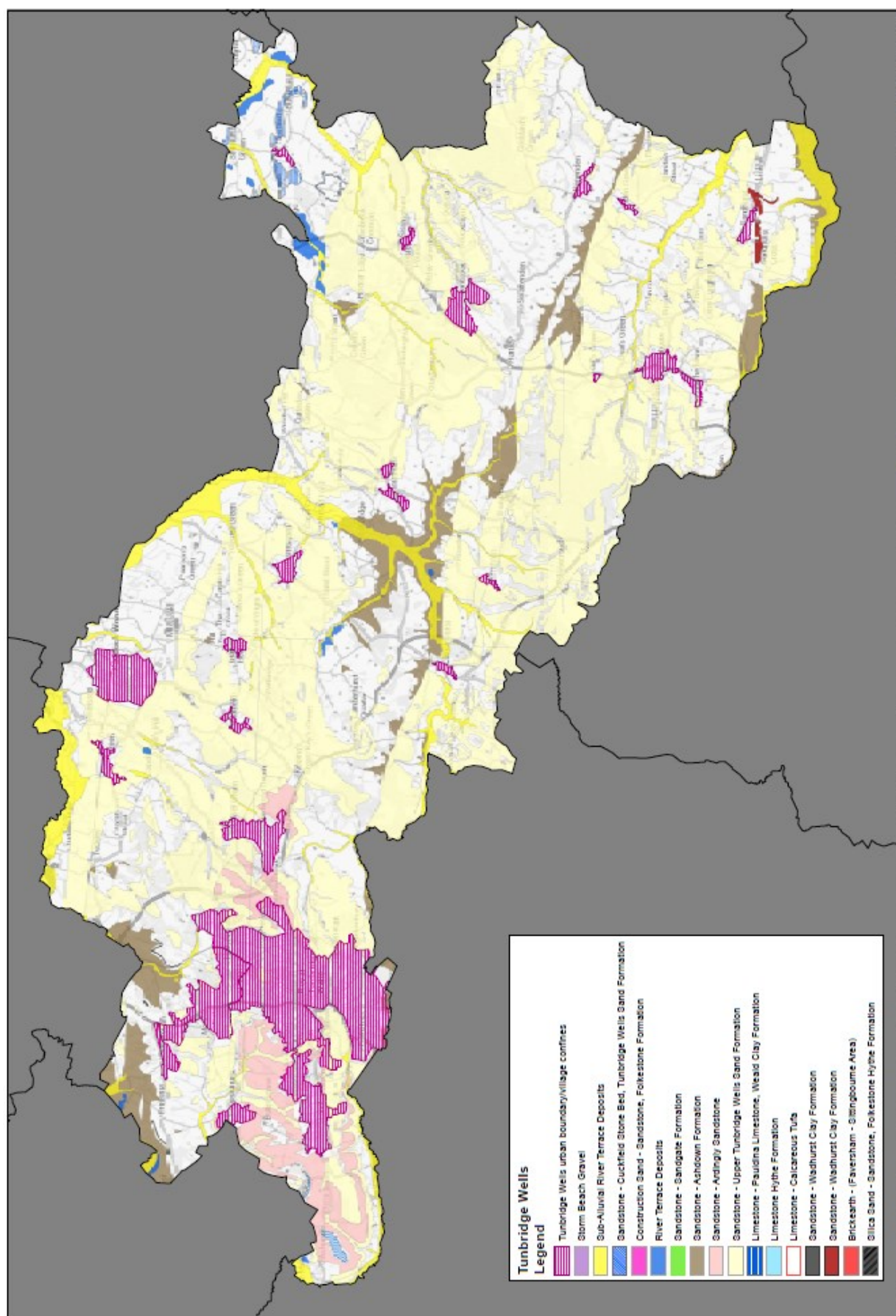
Thanet Mineral Safeguarding Areas



Tonbridge & Malling Mineral Safeguarding Areas



Tunbridge Wells Mineral Safeguarding Areas



Appendix A: Glossary

A	
Aftercare	Measures to bring land up to the required standard following restoration which enables it to be used for the intended after-use. The aftercare period normally extends for 5 years following compliance with restoration conditions but may be extended where agreed between the applicant and the minerals planning authority.
After-use	The use to which a quarry or landfill site is put following its restoration, such as forestry, agriculture, recreation or biodiversity.
Agent of change	A developer proposing new development within an area that is of such a nature that it might be impacted by existing development or impact on that development (e.g. housing proposed within an industrial area). The 'agent of change principle' sets out a position that a person or business (i.e. the 'agent of change') introducing a new land use is responsible for managing the impact of that change, in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF.
Aggregate	Inert particulate matter that is suitable for use (on its own or with the addition of cement or bituminous material) in construction as concrete, mortar, finishes, road stone, asphalt, or drainage course, or for use as constructional fill or railway ballast.
Aggregate Monitoring Survey	An annual survey undertaken by the MPAs in England to gather data on aggregate sales and reserves on behalf of the regional aggregate working parties. Each regional aggregate working party prepares an annual report which includes the results of the aggregate monitoring survey and which is submitted to the Government. The data from the aggregate monitoring survey is also used by the MPAs in their AMRs and their LAAs.
Aggregates and soils recycling	Rubble, hardcore and soil from construction and demolition projects can often be re-used on-site. Alternatively, it can be taken to purpose-built facilities for crushing, screening and re-sale. There are also temporary facilities at some quarries and landfill sites where material can be recovered for re-sale or use on-site.
Agricultural waste	This mostly covers animal slurry/by products and organic waste, but also scrap metals, plastics, batteries, oils, tyres, etc. The regulations for this waste stream have been altered meaning farmers can no longer manage all of their own waste within the farm. The agricultural waste regulations affect whether or not waste can be burnt, buried, stored, used on the farm or sent elsewhere.

Amenity	Amenity is a broad concept and is not specifically defined in Planning legislation. It is a matter of interpretation by the local planning authority and is usually understood to be the pleasant or normally satisfactory aspects of a location which contribute to its overall character and the enjoyment of residents, business users and visitors. A land-use that is not productive agriculture, forestry or industrial development. This can include formal and informal recreation and nature conservation.
Anaerobic Digestion (AD)	A natural process comprising the breakdown of organic material in the absence of air. It is carried out in an enclosed vessel and produces methane that powers an engine used to produce electricity. The useful outcomes of AD are electricity, heat, and the solid material left over called the digestate. Both the heat and the electricity can be sold if there is a market and the digestate can either be sold or used for agricultural purposes (land spread). Its use is currently small-scale and it can only be used for part of the waste stream e.g. sewage sludge, agricultural waste and some organic municipal and industrial waste.
Ancient Woodland	An area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS).
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	The AMR documents progress in meeting the milestones of the adopted Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and will monitor the impact of policies when the plans are adopted. The AMR is formally known in legislation as the 'Authority Monitoring Report'.
Appraisal of hydrocarbon extraction	This phase follows exploration when the existence of oil or gas has been proven, and the operator needs further information about the extent of the deposit or its production characteristics to establish whether it can be economically exploited.
Areas at risk of flooding	Areas at risk of flooding are defined as land within <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in flood zones 2, 3 or 3b - within flood zone 1 with a site area of 1 hectare or more - in areas with critical drainage problems - within flood zone 1 where the LPA's strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) shows it will be at increased risk of flooding during its lifetime that increases the vulnerability classification and may be subject to sources of flooding other than rivers or sea. Such sites will require a Flood Risk Assessment to accompany a planning application
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	An area with statutory national landscape designation, the statutory purpose of which is to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Together with National Parks, AONB represent the nation's finest landscapes and are afforded the same protection in national policy. On 22 November 2023, all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales were renamed 'National Landscapes' (NLs).

Area of Search (AoS)	Broad areas where certainty of knowledge of mineral resources may be less than in other types of site allocations. Within these areas, planning permissions could be granted to meet any shortfall in mineral supply, if suitable applications are made. AoS are no longer being used in strategic planning in Kent.
B	
Becquerel	A Becquerel is a unit of radioactivity, representing one disintegration per second.
Biodegradable waste	Any waste that is capable of undergoing natural decomposition, such as food and garden waste, paper and cardboard.
Biodiversity	The variety of all life on earth (mammals, birds, fish, invertebrates, plants, etc).
Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)	A plan that sets objectives and actions for the conservation of biodiversity, with measurable targets.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Biodiversity net gain is an approach to development, and/or land management, that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.
Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)	The BOAs show where the greatest gains can be made from habitat enhancement, restoration and recreation, as these areas offer the best opportunities for establishing or contributing to large habitat areas and/or networks of wildlife habitats.
Blue Infrastructure	Urban water infrastructure such as ponds, lakes, streams, rivers and storm water provision.
Brownfield site	Site previously used for or affected by development. It may be abandoned or in a derelict condition.
Building sand or soft sand	A naturally formed deposit where the sand grains are rounded in shape. The individual grains tend towards being equidimensional and the particle size variation is low. When soft sands are mixed with cement the mixture (called mortar) can be easily smoothed by hand to facilitate brick and block laying in construction.
C	
Call for sites	The call for sites is an early opportunity for individuals and organisations to suggest sites within the administrative area of a local planning authority which could be identified for development in a local plan. The call for sites exercise does not in itself determine whether a site should be allocated for development. This is determined by the local planning authority and the sites promoted in the call for sites exercise have no status until they are identified in an adopted local plan.

Certificate of Lawful Use	<p>This is also known as a Lawful Development Certificate. These certificates exist in two forms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a determination by a local planning authority as to whether an unauthorised development or use has become lawful through the passage of time, and can be continued without the need for planning permission 2. a determination by a local planning authority as to whether a proposed use or building can occur or be built without the need for planning permission
Circular Economy	The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. In this way, the lifecycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. In a circular economy, when a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible. These can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value.
Combined Heat and Power	A technology producing power (electricity) while capturing the usable heat produced in the process.
Commercial waste	Waste from premises used mainly for trade, business, sport, recreation or entertainment, as defined under Section 5.75(7) of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1990</i> . For example, it is likely to include timber, metal, paints, textiles, chemicals, oils and food waste, as well as paper, card, plastic and glass.
Composting	The breakdown of plant matter by the action of micro-organisms and other organisms into usable end-products. It is an important method of processing organic waste because it reduces the amount of potentially polluting waste going to landfill or incineration.
Conformity	In conformity means being in compliance.
Construction, demolition and excavation waste (CDEW)	Unwanted material arising from construction and demolition projects. It includes vegetation and soils from land clearance and excavation, discarded materials and off-cuts from building sites, road schemes and landscaping projects. It is mostly made up of inert materials such as stone, concrete, rubble and soils but may include timber, metal and glass.
Critical load or level	Critical load or level as the threshold below which emissions from a facility or changes in road emissions can be considered to be sufficiently small as to be essentially trivial whether alone or in combination with other projects and plans.
D	
Degradable or putrescible waste	This is also called non-hazardous waste. This is a waste that will biodegrade or decompose, releasing environmental pollutants. For example this includes wood and wood products, paper, plasterboard, cardboard, vegetable matter, food processing wastes and vegetation.
Development Plan	The Kent MWLP forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Kent together with the adopted local plans prepared

	by the Kent district planning authorities. The development plan has statutory status as the starting point for decision making. Section 38(6) of the <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</i> and Section 70(2) of the TCPA 1990 require that planning applications should be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
E	
Energy from Waste (EfW)	The use of waste to generate energy (power and/or heat) or produce a gas that can be used as a fuel including the processing of waste to produce a fuel suitable for use in such plants.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process by which the impact on the environment of a proposed development can be assessed. Certain types and scale of waste proposals will require an Environmental Statement (ES) to be prepared. <i>The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011</i> (as amended) and the <i>Planning Practice Guidance</i> on Environmental Impact Assessment set out the circumstances when planning applications will be required to be accompanied by an EIA. The information contained in the EIA will be taken into account when local planning authorities determine such proposals.
Examination in Public	The process in which all local plans are subject to an independent examination by a planning inspector before they can be adopted.
Exempt sites	Sites of small-scale waste management activities that do not require a licence or permit from the Environment Agency. They still require planning permission before they can operate and are subject to general rules (e.g. types and quantities of waste).
Exploratory phase of hydrocarbon extraction	The exploratory phase seeks to acquire geological data to establish whether hydrocarbons are present. It may involve seismic surveys, exploratory drilling and in the case of shale gas, (possibly) hydraulic fracturing.
F	
Flood Risk Zone 3b	Land that has a 3.3% or greater annual probability of flooding.
G	
Gasification	A technology that converts carbon containing material into gas (mostly methane). The gas can either be used as a substitute for natural gas or used to power electricity generation.
Geodiversity	The variety of rocks, minerals, fossils, soils and landforms, together with the natural processes that shape the landscape.
Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)	This is a secure facility which the Government is working towards finding a location for and which will be used for either the long-term storage or disposal of higher-activity radioactive wastes. Site selection is a process to determine sites where the geological conditions are suitable to contain the wastes and to find a site where the local community are in agreement with the development of a GDF.

Geomorphological	The scientific study of landforms and the processes that shape them.
Gigabecquerel	A becquerel is a unit of radioactivity, representing one disintegration per second. A gigabecquerel is 1,000 becquerels.
Green Infrastructure	Green infrastructure assets include open spaces such as parks and gardens, allotments, woodlands, fields, hedges, lakes, ponds, playing fields, coastal habitats, as well as footpaths, cycleways or rivers.
Greenhouse gas	Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane which when their atmospheric concentrations exceed certain levels can contribute to climate change by forming a barrier in the earth's atmosphere that traps the sun's heat.
Gross Value Added (GVA)	A measure of output i.e. the value of the goods and services produced in the economy. It is primarily used to monitor the performance of the national economy and is now the measure preferred by the Office for National Statistics to measure the overall economic wellbeing of an area. While the Gross Domestic Product and the GVA are both measures of value, the GVA excludes taxes and subsidies.
Groundwater	Water contained within underground strata (aquifers) of various types across the country. Groundwater is usually of high quality and often requires little treatment prior to use. It is however vulnerable to contamination from pollutants. Aquifer remediation is difficult, prolonged and expensive and therefore the prevention of pollution is important.
H	
Habitats Site	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.
Hazardous waste	Controlled waste that is dangerous or difficult to treat, keep, store or dispose of, so that special provision is required for dealing with it. Hazardous wastes are the more dangerous wastes and include toxic wastes, acids, alkaline solutions, asbestos, fluorescent tubes, batteries, oil, fly ash (flue ash), industrial solvents, oily sludges, pesticides, pharmaceutical compounds, photographic chemicals, waste oils, wood preservatives. If improperly handled, treated or disposed of, a waste that, by virtue of its composition, carries the risk of death, injury or impairment of health, to humans or animals, the pollution of waters, or could have an unacceptable environmental impact. It should be used only to describe wastes that contain sufficient of these materials to render the waste as a whole hazardous within the definition given above.
Heritage assets	A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

Heritage Coast	Areas of undeveloped coastline that are managed to conserve their natural beauty and, where appropriate, to improve accessibility for visitors.
High Level Wastes (HLW)	One of four broad categories of radioactive waste, HLW are wastes in which the temperature may rise significantly as a result of their radioactivity, so that this factor has to be considered in designing storage and disposal facilities.
Household waste	This falls within the category of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). This is a waste from a domestic property, caravan, residential home or from premises forming part of a university or school or other educational establishment and premises forming part of a hospital or nursing home. Household waste collected by a local authority is known as 'Local Authority Collected Waste'.
I	
Impact pathways	In carrying out a Habitat Regulations Assessment it is important to determine the various ways in which land-use plans can impact on Habitat Sites by following the pathways along which development can be connected with Habitat Sites. Impact pathways are routes by which a change in activity associated with a development can lead to an effect upon a Habitat Site.
Imported minerals	Minerals imported through wharves and rail depots. In Kent this includes Marine Dredged Aggregates, crushed rock, sand and gravel, secondary aggregates and cement.
Industrial waste	Waste from any of the following premises: factory, provision of transport services (land, water and air), provision of connection of the supply of gas, water, electricity, provision of sewerage services, provision of postal or telecommunication services.
Inert waste	Waste that will not biodegrade or decompose (or will only do so at a very slow rate). Types of materials include uncontaminated topsoil, subsoil, clay, sand, brickwork, stone, silica and glass.
Intermediate Level Wastes (ILW)	One of four broad categories of radioactive waste, ILW are wastes with radioactivity levels exceeding the upper boundaries of LLW that are retrieved and processed to make them passively safe and then stored pending the availability of the GDF.
L	
Landbank	A stock of mineral reserves with planning permission for their winning and working.
Landfill	The deposition of waste onto hollow or void space in the land, usually below the level of the surrounding land or original ground level in such a way that pollution or harm to the environment is prevented. Former mineral workings have historically been used for this purpose.
Landfill gas	A by-product from the digestion by anaerobic bacteria (rotting) of biodegradable matter present in waste deposited on landfilled sites. The gas is predominantly methane together with carbon dioxide and trace concentrations of a range of other vapours and gases.
Land-won minerals	Mineral extracted from a quarry situated on the mainland, as

	opposed to off-shore mineral supplies such as MDAs.
Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)	A methodology for assessing environmental impacts associated with all the stages of the life cycle of a commercial product, process, or service.
Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA)	A public report prepared annually by MPAs to gather together up-to-date information on aggregate sales and reserves from land-won sources together with data on secondary and recycled aggregates and mineral imports.
Local Development Scheme	The timetable for the preparation of the local plans.
Local Geological Sites	Any geological or geomorphological sites, excluding SSSIs, that are considered worthy of protection for their educational, research, historical or aesthetic importance. They are broadly analogous to non-statutory wildlife sites and are often referred to locally by the same name. They can include important teaching sites, wildlife trust reserves, LNRs and a wide range of other sites. They are not regarded as inferior to SSSIs but as sites of regional importance in their own right.
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) are a requirement of the Environment Act and are expected to supersede Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs). They will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. At the time of writing (August 2022), the secondary legislation and statutory guidance relating to LNRS that will provide the detail and instruct the commencement of their development is awaited.
Local Plan	A Local Plan is a Development Plan Document that includes planning policies for a local area. A Local Plan forms part of the Development Plan for an Area.
Low-carbon Economy (LCE) or low-fossil-fuel economy	An economy that has a minimal output of greenhouse gas emissions into the biosphere, but specifically refers to the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.
Low Level Radioactive Waste (LLW)	One of four broad categories of radioactive waste that reflect the degree of radioactivity and hazard. LLW does not normally require shielding during handling or transport. It consists largely of paper, plastics and scrap metal items that have been used in hospitals, research establishments and the nuclear industry.
M	
Major development	The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 defines minerals and waste development as "major development". Specifically, it includes the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits, as well as waste development.
Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ)	Marine Conservation Zones are areas that protect a range of nationally important, rare or threatened habitats and species.
Marine Dredged	Aggregates excavated from the seabed, as opposed to aggregate minerals extracted from the earth on the mainland.

Aggregates (MDA)	
Materials Recovery Facility	A facility where waste can be taken in bulk for separation, recycling or recovery of waste materials. This is usually Municipal Solid Waste, but some sites take Commercial & Industrial waste. Some may also take Construction and Demolition waste to be crushed and screened.
Methane	A colourless, odourless, flammable gas, formed during the decomposition of biodegradable waste.
Mineral Consultation Area (MCA)	An area identified in order to ensure consultation between the relevant local planning authority and the MPA before certain non-mineral planning applications made within the area are determined.
Mineral resources	Natural concentrations of minerals or bodies of rock that are, or may become, of potential economic interest due to their inherent properties.
Mineral Safeguarded Area (MSA)	Known areas of mineral resources that are of sufficient economic value to warrant protection for generations to come. There is no presumption that any areas within an MSA will ultimately be environmentally acceptable for mineral extraction. The purpose of MSAs is not to automatically preclude other forms of development, but to make sure that mineral reserves are considered in land-use planning decisions.
Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	Waste collected and disposed of by or on behalf of a local authority. It will generally consist of household waste, some commercial waste, and waste taken to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) by the general public. In addition, it may include road and pavement sweepings, gully emptying wastes, and some construction and demolition waste arising from local authority activities. It is typically made up of card, paper, plastic, glass, kitchen and garden waste. In this Plan the term Municipal Solid Waste has largely been replaced by the term Local Authority Collected Waste.

N	
National Landscape (NL)	A designated landscape area formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. On 22 November 2023, all designated Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales were renamed 'National Landscapes' (NLs). Their legal designation and policy status remain the same.
Natura 2000 Sites	All EU member states are required to create a network of protected wildlife areas, known as Natura 2000 Sites, consisting of SACs and SPAs, established to protect wild birds under the European Birds Directive. These sites are part of a range of measures aimed at conserving important or threatened habitats and species. In the UK SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network.
Natural Improvement Areas (NIAs)	Areas designated for creating more and better-connected habitats, recreational opportunities, flood protection, cleaner water and carbon storage as well as uniting local stakeholders.
Net planning benefit	The genuine improvement of a site or area, for example, because adverse effects are limited in scope and scale, and the development includes measures to improve the physical state or management of landscapes or habitats, or new landscape features or habitats, which are better than they are at present.
Non-hazardous Waste (Non-inert Waste)	This is also called non-inert waste. This is a waste that will biodegrade or decompose, releasing environmental pollutants. Examples include wood and wood products, paper and cardboard, vegetation and vegetable matter, leather, rubber and food processing wastes.
O	
Operation Stack	The process used to park lorries on a part of the M20 when cross channel services from the Port of Dover or through the Channel Tunnel are disrupted.
Other Recovery	Recovery of value (materials or energy) from waste by means other than reuse, recycling and composting, and often by Energy from Waste. 'Other recovery' sits above disposal but below recycling and composting in the waste hierarchy.
P	
Permitted reserves	Saleable minerals in the ground with planning permission for winning and working. Usually expressed in million tonnes.

Planning conditions	Conditions attached to a planning permission for the purpose of regulating and controlling the development.
Primary aggregates	Naturally occurring sand, gravel and crushed rock used for construction purposes, which have either been extracted from the sea bed or the earth's crust.
Production phase of Hydrocarbon Extraction	This normally involves the drilling of a number of wells. This may be wells used at the sites at the exploratory and/or appraisal phases of hydrocarbon development, or from a new site. Associated equipment such as pipelines, processing facilities and temporary storage tanks are also likely to be required.
Prospecting	Prospecting is the first stage of the geological analysis of a territory or area. It includes the physical search for minerals, fossils, precious metals or mineral specimens. Prospecting can be a small-scale form of mineral exploration that can extend to an organised, large scale effort undertaken by commercial mineral companies to find economically viable materials such as ores, gas, oil, coal and aggregates.
Protected Groundwater Source Areas	Any land at a depth of less than 1,200 metres beneath a relevant surface area. I.e. and land at the surface that is within 50 metres of a point at the surface at which water is abstracted from underground strata and is used to supply water for domestic or food production purposes, or within or above a zone defined by a 50-day travel time for groundwater to reach a groundwater abstraction point that is used to supply water for domestic or food production purposes.
Public Right of Way (PROW)	The generic term for Public Footpaths, Public Bridleways, Restricted Byways, and Byways open to all traffic.
Putrescible waste	Waste readily able to be decomposed by bacterial action. Landfill gas and leachate can occur as by-products of decomposition.
Pyrolysis and Gasification	Both systems involve heating the waste in varying amounts of oxygen to produce a gas. The gas could either be used as a substitute for natural gas or used to power electricity generation.
R	
Ramsar sites	Sites of international importance to birds that inhabit wetlands. Ramsar is the name of the place where the Wetlands Convention was signed.
Reclamation of mineral workings	The combined processes of restoration and aftercare following completion of mineral working.
Recovery	The collection, reclamation and separation of materials from the waste stream.

Recovery facilities	A facility that recovers value, such as resources and energy, from waste prior to disposal, includes recycling, thermal treatment, biological treatment and composting facilities.
Recycled aggregates	Aggregates produced from recycled CD waste such as crushed concrete and planings from road surfacing.
Recycling	The collection and separation of materials from waste and subsequent processing to produce new marketable products.
Reduction	The use of technology requiring less waste generation from production, or the production of longer lasting products with lower pollution potential, or the removal of material from the waste stream, e.g. paper being taken straight from a waste producer to a paper re-processing facility, avoiding it being handled at any waste management operation.
Reserve	The remaining concentration or occurrence of workable material of intrinsic economic interest. Generally used for those economic mineral deposits that have the benefit of planning permission.
Resource	A concentration or occurrence of material of intrinsic economic interest in or on the Earth's crust in such a form, quality and quantity that they are reasonable prospects for eventual economic extraction.
Residual waste	The elements of the waste streams that remain following recovery, recycling or composting operations.
Resource recovery	The extraction of useful materials or energy from solid waste.
Restoration	Operations designed to return an area to an acceptable environmental state, whether for the resumption of the former land-use or for a new use following mineral working. Involves the reinstatement of land by contouring, the spreading of soils or soil making materials, etc.
Reuse	Reuse of waste is encouraged by the Government's national waste policy requirements. Typically it involves re-using materials so that they can be used again without further processing.
S	
Safeguarding	The process of protecting sites and areas that have potential for relevant development (minerals and waste) from other forms of development.
Saved policies	Retaining a local plan (or policies from it) until replacement by a new local plan. Normally lasts for three years only, but extended saving can occur if policies need to stay in place for a longer period.
Scheduled Ancient Monument	Nationally important monuments and archaeological areas that are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Secondary aggregates	Construction materials that are produced as by-products of other processes and used instead of primary aggregates. Secondary aggregates include boiler ashes, colliery shale, burned clay, pulverised fuel ash, chalk and shale.
Self-sufficiency	A key aim of sustainable waste management is self-sufficiency in waste disposal, i.e. the waste generated within the region can be disposed or managed within the same region.
Sensitive receptors	Habitable residential accommodation including, but not limited to, hospitals, schools, childcare facilities, elderly housing, churches and convalescent facilities.
Shale gas	Mostly methane (CH ₄) and is found in the pore spaces of shale, a fine grained sedimentary rock, that contains hydrocarbon materials. Methane, often referred to as natural gas has an occurrence that is geologically variable in that it can be found in a reservoir as well as held within the source rock such as shale. It is combustible and is used to generate electricity and for domestic heating and cooking. Shale gas is often referred to as an unconventional hydrocarbon as it is extracted using technologies developed since the 1940s that has enabled gas to be recovered from shale (a fine grained sedimentary rock mainly of marine origin) that were previously considered to be unsuitable or uneconomic for the extraction of natural gas. One process, hydraulic fracturing (often called fracking) is a technique where water (and additives) is pumped under pressure into productive shale rocks via a drilled bore to open up pore spaces and allow the shale gas to be pumped to the surface for collection ¹³⁰ .
Sharp sand and gravel	A naturally occurring mineral deposit found in Kent and elsewhere. When extracted it is mainly used in the production of concrete products.
Silica sand or industrial sand	A naturally occurring mineral deposit that is extracted and used in industrial processes including glass manufacture and the production of foundry castings. It is also used in horticulture and for sports surfaces including horse menages and golf course bunker sand. It is also known as industrial sand. It is a mineral of national importance.
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	These sites are notified under Section 28 of the <i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i> by English Nature (now Natural England) whose responsibility is to protect these areas. These are important areas for nature conservation i.e. valuable flora, fauna or geological strata. Natural England needs to be notified of planning proposals in or adjacent to the designated areas.

¹³⁰ Information on unconventional hydrocarbon extraction is on the following DECC website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/about-shale-gas-and-hydraulic-fracturing-fracking>

	National Nature Reserves, terrestrial Ramsar sites, SPAs and SACs are also SSSIs under national legislation.
Soft sand	See Building sand.
Source Protection Zone (SPZ)	Indicate those areas where groundwater supplies are at risk from potentially polluting activities and accidental releases of pollutants. SPZs are primarily a policy tool used to control activities close to water supplies intended for human consumption. SPZs are not statutory and are mainly for guidance but they do relate to distances and zones defined in legislation where certain activities are restricted.
Statement of Community Involvement	A document setting out how a local authority is to ensure that suitable sufficient consultation occurs for different elements of the planning process. This is a requirement as amended under the <i>Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</i> .
Sterilisation	When a change of use or the development of land on or near a minerals or waste facility prevents possible mineral extraction or continued use of a wharf, rail depot or other facility in the foreseeable future.
Strategic Environmental Assessment	An evaluation process for assessing the environmental impacts of plans and programmes. This is a statutory requirement of the Kent MWLP system.
Submission	A stage of the plan preparation process where the document is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by a planning inspector. The document is published for public consultation prior to submission.
Surrounding environment	Aspects of the surrounding environment include such features as water resources including surface water, groundwater and rivers and their settings, heritage interests including listed buildings, conservation areas and their settings, and World Heritage Sites, nature reserves, local sites designated for biodiversity and geodiversity, species and habitats of importance for conservation and biodiversity, nationally designated areas including SSSIs and National Landscapes (formerly AONBs) and their setting, internationally designated sites including SPAs, SACs, Ramsar sites, Heritage Coast and NIAs. The surrounding environment also includes those areas that are non designated but contribute to the whole environment.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	An evaluation process for assessing the environmental, social, economic and other sustainability effects of plans and programmes from the outset of the preparation process. This is a statutory requirement.
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The definition also encompasses the efficient use of natural resources.

T	
Transfer stations	Facilities that receive waste (normally from a local area), where the waste is bulked up and transported further afield in larger lorries for disposal or recovery. Some transfer stations sort out the recoverable wastes, such as CD waste and scrap metal prior to onward transportation for disposal or processing.
V	
Very Low Level Radioactive Waste(VLLW)	One of four broad categories of radioactive waste that reflect the degree of radioactivity and hazard. The radioactive concentration of VLLW is similar to the natural activity of soils and is well within the normal range of natural radioactivity in the Earth's crust.
Void space	A hole created by mineral working or nature that may have potential for landfilling with waste.
W	
Waste	The TCPA 1990 has been amended so there is no dispute over whether waste, in terms of the planning regime, is defined in accordance with European law. It states that: Waste includes anything that is waste for the purposes of Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on waste, and that is not excluded from the scope of that Directive by Article 2(1) of that Directive. Waste is therefore defined as any substance or object that the holder or the possessor either discards or intends or is required to discard ¹³¹ .
Waste arisings	The amount of waste generated in a given locality over a given period of time.
Waste Collection Authority (WCA)	A local authority with a statutory responsibility to provide a waste collection service to each household in its area, and on request, to local businesses.
Waste Disposal Authority	A local authority that is legally responsible for the safe disposal of household waste collected by the WCAs. Long-term contracts are let to private sector companies who provide the facilities to handle this waste. These contracts are awarded on the basis of detailed cost and environmental criteria as well specific targets for recycling and reducing landfill.

¹³¹ This definition is inserted into s.336(1) of the TCPA 1990, as part of the consequential amendments made by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 SI 2007/3528 (theEPR 2007), as from 6 April 2008. See Schedule 21, para 19 of the EPR 2007 (and its commencement- see reg.1)

Waste electrical and electronic equipment	Discarded electrical or electronic equipment, including all components, sub-assemblies and consumables that are part of the product at the time of discarding.
Waste hierarchy	A concept devised by EUWFD (2008/98/EC) conveying waste management options in order of preference; waste prevention (most preferred) followed by reduction, recycling, recovery and disposal (least preferred). Figure 18 shows the Waste Hierarchy in Chapter 6.
Waste Hierarchy Statement	A statement to be submitted with a planning application for other recovery and waste disposal activity that demonstrates how only unavoidable residual waste will be managed at such facilities.
Waste management permit	A permit granted by the Environment Agency (EA) authorising treatment, keeping or disposal of any specified description of controlled waste in or on specified land by means of specified plant.
Waste Management Unit (WMU)	A KCC department that manages all aspects of LACW (household waste) arisings in Kent.
Waste minimisation	The reduction of unwanted outputs from the manufacturing and construction processes that are likely to result in less waste being produced.
Waste Planning Authority (WPA)	A local authority with responsibility for waste planning, including the determination of waste related planning applications. In areas with two tiers of local government (counties and districts), the county councils are the WPAs. National Parks are also WPAs. Unitary authorities, such as Medway Council, deal with waste planning and all other planning issues within their areas.
Waste reduction	To make waste production and waste management practices more sustainable. Key national objectives are to reduce the amount of waste that is produced, make the best use of waste produced and choose practices which minimise the risks of pollution and harm to human health. Waste reduction is concerned with reducing the quantity of solid waste that is produced and reducing the degree of hazard represented by such waste.
Wastewater	Water emanating from the internal drainage of dwellings and business that is discharged to the sewers in addition to surface water run off. This raw wastewater is collected in sewers and transferred to wastewater treatment works where it is treated in such a way that it produces largely reusable sewage sludge and effluent that is discharged to watercourses.

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Sustainability Appraisal Report Non-Technical Summary of the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024- 2039

**Report for Kent County Council to support the adoption
of the Plan – February 2025**

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1. Non-Technical Summary

1.1. Background

Amey is commissioned to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the preparation of updates to the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan (KMWLP) following a Five Year Review. The SA report presents the outcome of this process and takes account of the Main Modifications to the Plan which were identified as necessary during the Examination in Public. SA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of a draft plan, and alternatives, with a view to avoiding and mitigating adverse effects and maximising positives.

This is the sixth iteration of the SA of updates to the KMWLP, which is an update of the fifth draft SA (published in October 2024). The purpose of the report is to provide information to Kent County Council about the sustainability of the KMWLP as proposed and its likely impacts when adopted.

1.2. What is the plan seeking to achieve?

The KMWLP was originally adopted in July 2016 and sets out the vision and objectives for Kent's minerals supply and waste management capacity from 2013 to 2030. Following its adoption, the Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan was subject to an 'Early Partial Review' and changes resulting from this review were adopted by the Council in September 2020. Also in September 2020, the Council adopted a Minerals Sites Plan which allocates three areas of land suitable for development associated with the extraction of sand and gravel.

The KMWLP as proposed to be amended is a high-level document planning from 2024 to 2039 which:

- sets out the vision and strategy for mineral provision and waste management in Kent;
- contains a number of development management policies for evaluating minerals and waste planning applications;
- considers strategic site provision for all minerals and waste management facilities but does not identify any specific locations where key strategic development should take place.

The National Planning Policy Framework (2023) (NPPF) and legislation require that Local Plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years. Having been adopted in 2016, the KMWLP has been reviewed to assess whether updates to it are required. The review needs to consider whether the Vision, Strategic Objectives and policies of the Plan are still consistent with national policy and local context and whether the policies have been effective in achieving the intended outcomes relating to the use of land for minerals and waste development in Kent.

The updates resulting from the Five Year Review make amendments to certain policies and supporting text of the KMWLP and these were first consulted on between December 2021 and February 2022. A second series of updates were consulted on in December 2022. A third round of focussed amendments ('Further Proposed Changes') represented the third Regulation 18 consultation on the draft updated KMWLP and took place alongside a separate, but related, Regulation 18 consultation on an updated Mineral Sites Plan.

Following the third Regulation 18 consultation, a series of further minor amendments were proposed to be made to the draft KMWLP to take account of comments received in that consultation in preparation for publishing the Regulation 19 version ('Pre-Submission Draft') of the draft KMWLP.

In September 2024, an Examination in Public of the updated KMWLP as proposed was held in front of an Inspector. Following the Examination, the Inspector required a number of Main Modifications to be made to the draft KMWLP as submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by KCC. These were required to ensure the updated KMWLP is sound and legally compliant. In addition, some minor modifications (known as 'Additional Modifications') were recommended by consultees and identified by the Council to the Regulation 19 Consultation. These include changes required to correct some typos and other minor errors. An SA report was published in October 2024 for consultation alongside the consultation on the Main Modifications which sets out the results of the SA of the updated KMWLP as amended by the modifications.

The October 2024 SA Report has now been updated to present those same results to Kent County Council to inform the decision-making of the County Council on adoption of the KMWLP. This is the Non-Technical Summary of that SA Report.

The review and modification of the Vision, Strategic Objectives, policies and supporting text mentioned above will ensure the development plan for Kent is relevant and effective, reflecting changes in policy and other circumstances

1.3. What's the situation now and how would it change without the plan (sustainability 'baseline')?

The following is a summary of the sustainability baseline characteristics in Kent.

1.1.1 Environmental baseline

- The amount of residual waste collected per household in Kent has generally fallen in recent years, to 554kg in 2021/22. Total arisings of household waste fell again in 2022/23 by 2.4% to just under 679,000 tonnes. 39% of household waste was reused, recycled or composted. Less than 0.2% is landfilled and most of the remainder is incinerated with energy recovery.

- Some 4.9 million tonnes of waste of all kinds (the majority being construction and demolition waste) was produced in Kent in 2022. Around 1.5 million tonnes of Kent waste was managed outside the county. However, this export is more than offset by imports so, taking a simple balance, Kent remains net self-sufficient. Of the imports, just over 700,000 tonnes came from London, of which 40,000 tonnes were managed by Energy from Waste and around 190,000 tonnes to non-inert landfill. 177,000 tonnes were managed at/by inert landfill/permanent deposit to land.
- Construction aggregates (sand, gravel and ragstone (a type of hard rock)) are the main types of economically important minerals extracted in Kent at this time, although brickearth (for stock brick manufacture), clay (for tile manufacture and engineering clay) and chalk (for engineering and agricultural lime applications) is also extracted. This is supplemented with imports and recycled aggregates.
- Kent is considered to be one the UK's most wildlife-rich counties. This is a result of its varied geology, long coastline, landscape history and southerly location / proximity to mainland Europe.
- Natura 2000 habitat is concentrated around the coast, particularly around the Thames Gateway (much within Medway Unitary Authority), the Isle of Thanet, the Stour Estuary and Dungeness. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) cover 8.5% of the county. The county contains c.10% of England's ancient woodland.
- The Thames Gateway is also acknowledged for its national importance due to 'brownfield' biodiversity.
- The last century has seen major losses and declines of species within Kent. Amongst the most important drivers of biodiversity loss in Kent are: the direct loss of land of value to wildlife to built-development or intensive farming, which has reduced and fragmented populations; and the effects of climate change.
- Kent is considered to be the most at risk local flood authority in England. Flooding has a significant impact on residents and the economy, with such effects predicted to worsen due to climate change.
- Since 2006 there has been a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, to 4.2 tonnes per capita in 2022. This is slightly lower than national emission levels.
- In 2017 it is estimated that 922 early deaths occurred as a result of PM2.5 air pollution across Kent & Medway.

- Kent has the highest number of listed buildings in the South East, which is second only to the South West for numbers at regional level.
- The Kent Downs National Landscape covers nearly a quarter of the County, whilst the High Weald National Landscape is shared with East Sussex.
- Green Belt comprises the majority of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Gravesham Districts, as well as a proportion of Tunbridge Wells and Dartford Boroughs and a small part of Maidstone Borough.
- There are relatively extensive areas of high quality (grade one) agricultural land in Kent. This land tends to be concentrated in the north of the county, running in a band from Gillingham in the west through to Deal in the east. A pocket of high quality agricultural land can also be found in the area surrounding New Romney.
- Road traffic has grown fairly steadily over the decade from 2011, apart from 2020 and 2021 when COVID-19 particularly affected car traffic. The effect of COVID-19 on LGVs and HGVs was less marked, although still showed a decrease. Kent is a major gateway for the movement of international freight through the Channel Tunnel, the ports of Dover, Ramsgate and Sheerness. Road haulage is the dominant means of transport in this sector.
- In Kent there are many catchments where there is little or no water available for abstraction during dry periods. Pressures are particularly notable in Kent as it is one of the driest parts of England and Wales, coupled with high population density and household water use. Over the next few decades, there will be increasing pressures from the rising population and associated development. Looking further ahead, climate change could have a major impact on the water that will be available for consumption.

1.1.2 Social baseline

- Kent had an estimated population of 1,619,251 in mid-2023. By 2032, the population of Kent is projected to increase to 1,724,263, an increase of c. 6.5%.
- Although Kent is ranked within the least deprived 50% of upper-tier local authorities in England for 4 out of 5 summary measures of the IMD2019, significant areas within Kent are amongst England's most deprived 20% and levels of deprivation have increased in nine out of 12 local authorities in Kent.
- Life expectancy is 9 years lower for men and 6 years lower for women in the most deprived populations in Kent compared to the least deprived populations.

- While historically the people of Kent have enjoyed increasing life expectancy year on year as well as well as a significantly higher life expectancy than the England average, this is no longer the case. Life expectancy has indeed fallen slightly over the last ten years or so and in recent years, the England average has been catching up to the level in Kent such that Kent life expectancy is no longer significantly higher than the England average.
- The biggest killers in Kent remain cancer and cardiovascular diseases. People in Kent are suffering from poorer mental health, with a decline at a rate exceeding that seen nationally and adult obesity is increasing faster than national rates.
- Climate change projections highlight an increase in risk to people from flooding and hotter, drier summers leading to public health risks.

1.1.3 Economic baseline

- In 2021, the gross disposable household income in Kent was £22,978 per resident, 3.4% above the national average.
- Between 2010 and 2023, the number of active enterprises grew by 28.9%, to 64,230, slightly below the national average of 30.4% growth.
- The overall employment rate in Kent has risen since the KMWLP was adopted, from 73.8% in 2016 to 78.9% in 2023.
- Apart from a slight decline in 2008-2009, GVA per head in Kent and Medway has risen steadily in the 21st century. In 2022 it was £27,602 per head, a rise of 8.5% on the previous year. However, per capita GVA is 77% of that for the South East as a whole.
- The largest sector for employment in 2022 was wholesale and retail trade at 17%, followed by human health and social work at 13%, then education at 10% and administrative and support services also at 10%. The distribution sector generated the highest gross value added in Kent, a fifth of the total in 2022.

1.4. How would the baseline change without the updated KMWLP?

There is a degree of uncertainty about how the baseline might change without the adoption of the updated KMWLP. Developments will still be required to comply with the development management policies of the KMWLP. This includes policies on the protection and enhancement of: biodiversity value, landscape, Green Belt, heritage assets, the water environment, health and amenity (including air quality) and transportation. Long term trends in environmental quality are likely to continue. However, fewer biodiversity benefits would be secured without the requirement for a net gain in biodiversity and without inclusion of National Nature Reserves in the development

management policy on biodiversity. There would also be weaker emphasis on the creation of green and blue infrastructure, with fewer sites likely to be delivered with fewer benefits for biodiversity, wellbeing and landscape. There are likely to be higher emissions of greenhouse gases from waste facilities without the stronger emphasis on carbon reduction in the updated KMWLP from other recovery, landfill and wastewater treatment. Without this, it could increase climate change effects including flooding with risks for communities, wildlife and habitats. Other climate change pressures may be increased with effects on biodiversity and communities, including increased temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events. There may be more adverse impacts on groundwater quality without the stronger protection proposed in the updated KMWLP.

Current trends in waste generation and management are likely to continue, although without the updated KMWLP there will be less strong emphasis on implementing the waste hierarchy and circular economy principles will not be promoted, resulting in less reuse and recycling than with the updated KMWLP. Some radioactive wastes from Dungeness Nuclear Licensed Sites would need to be managed elsewhere other than onsite. Air pollution control residues may be imported from outside Kent for landfill.

Without the updated KMWLP an undersupply of crushed rock from within Kent is more likely to emerge, with insufficient reserves currently identified in the adopted KMWLP. This would result in minerals being transported from outside the county which will have adverse effects on transport networks, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and cost. Alternatively, increased quantities may need to be secured from secondary and recycled aggregates and/or marine dredged aggregates. If sufficient minerals of the right type cannot be found, construction and industrial growth may be checked. This could lead to insufficient homes and infrastructure being provided with adverse effects on people and communities. Minerals in Kent would not provide sufficient material to support economic growth and industrial activity, in which case employment levels could reduce and GDP and household incomes may fall. There could be adverse impacts on communities in the vicinity of mineral sites if blasting were to take place without proper assessment of the impacts.

1.5. Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected

The SEA Directive requires that the appraisal describes the characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected by the updated KMWLP. In deciding which areas are likely to be significantly affected, the SA has considered whether there is a spatial element to the proposed policy changes and therefore whether some parts of the county will be particularly affected. With the proposed deletion of policies CSM 3 and CSW 5, there is now only one policy with a spatial element, CSW 17 relating to the Dungeness Nuclear Estate. The appraisal of this policy has not identified any significant effects arising. It is therefore concluded that there are no areas likely to be significantly

affected.

1.6. Areas of Particular Environmental Importance

In the KWMLP, there is one policy which identifies a specific site which is close to two of these internationally important nature conservation sites:

- CSW 17 (Dungeness): adjacent to Dungeness, Romney Marsh and Rye Bay SPA and Ramsar, and Dungeness Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

The importance of each of these nature conservation sites is described in Section 3.8 of the main SA Report.

1.7. SA Framework and Sustainability Objectives

Various environmental, social and economic issues have been identified through reviewing a wide variety of plans and strategies, collecting baseline information and identifying sustainability issues and problems. These issues have informed the development of the sustainability appraisal framework, which consists of a set of sustainable development policy objectives (sustainability objectives) as set out in Table 1. The framework was published for consultation in the SA Scoping Report in December 2021. The table below incorporates some additional detailed criteria following comments received on the Scoping Report and on the Scoping Report for the SA of the updated MSP published in December 2022.

Table 1 SA Framework

Sustainability Objectives		Detail
1	Biodiversity	<p>Ensure that development will not impact on important elements of the biodiversity resource and where possible contributes to the achievement of the Kent Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and other strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Add to the biodiversity baseline by creating opportunities for targeted habitat creation (which, ideally, contributes to local or landscape scale habitat networks). – Avoid hindering plans for biodiversity conservation or enhancement. – Support increased access to biodiversity. – Provide a net gain in biodiversity value.
2	Climate change	<p>Address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote sustainable design and construction of facilities and support wider efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of minerals and waste operations. – Promote climate change adaptation

3	Community and well-being	<p>Support efforts to create and sustain sustainable communities, particularly the improvement of health and well-being; and support the delivery of housing targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Help to redress spatial inequalities highlighted by the Index of Multiple deprivation. – Help to tackle more hidden forms of deprivation and exclusion, such as that which is experienced in urban and coastal areas and particular socio-economic groups within communities. – Ensure that the necessary aggregates are available for building, and that the necessary waste infrastructure is in place to support housing and economic growth – Ensure that minerals and waste development does not contribute to poor air quality with particular reference to PM2.5 and NOx – Protect and enhance public rights of way and access – Protect local green space – Avoid loss of tranquillity
4	Sustainable economic growth	<p>Support economic growth and diversification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Support the development of a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in innovation with higher value, lower impact activities – Stimulate economic revival and targeted employment generation in deprived areas
5	Flood risk	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure that development does not lead to increased flood risk on or off site – Seek to mitigate or reduce flood risk through developments that are able to slow water flow and promote groundwater recharge
6	Land	<p>Make efficient use of land and avoid sensitive locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Make best use of previously developed land – Avoid locations with sensitive geomorphology – Seek to safeguard the best and most versatile agricultural land and recognise its economic and other benefits - Prevent inappropriate development in the Green Belt

7	Landscape and the historic environment	<p>Protect and enhance Kent's countryside and historic environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protect the integrity of the National Landscapes and their setting and other particularly valued or sensitive landscapes – Take account of the constraints, opportunities and priorities demonstrated through landscape characterisation assessments and other studies at the landscape scale. – Avoid light pollution – Protect important heritage assets and their settings, as well as take account of the value of the character of the wider historic environment
8	Transport	<p>Reduce and minimise unsustainable transport patterns and facilitate the transport of minerals and waste by the most sustainable modes possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minimise minerals and waste transport movements and journey lengths; and encourage transport by rail and water. – Ensure that minerals and waste transport does not impact on sensitive locations, including locations already experiencing congestion and locations where planned growth or regeneration is reliant on good transport networks.
9	Water	<p>Maintain and improve the water quality of Kent's rivers, ground waters and coasts, and achieve sustainable water resources management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure that minerals and waste development seeks to promote the conservation of water resources wherever possible with particular reference to abstraction. – Avoid pollution of ground or surface waters, particularly in areas identified as being at risk or sensitive
10	Waste	<p>Ensure the sustainable management of waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy – Prevent adverse effects from waste on human health and the environment – Ensure waste is managed as near as possible to its place of production

1.8. Likely Significant Effects of the Updated KMWLP

The SA has appraised each of the strategic objectives and policies as amended by the Five Year Review. The methodology and assumptions used in undertaking the appraisal are set out in Section 5 of the main SA Report.

The detailed findings of the SA of the amended policies are set out in Appendix B of the main SA Report and summarised below. The SA of the strategic objectives and recommendations arising are set out in section 6 of the main SA Report.

The KMWLP has several policies promoting minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions and energy and water consumption, helping to reduce the likely impacts of climate change, for example by promoting the waste hierarchy and energy recovery, minimising emissions from transport, requiring greenhouse gas capture and promoting use of low carbon energy sources. It also requires developments to build in climate change adaptation measures where these are appropriate. Greenhouse gas emissions may nevertheless still rise as requirements for waste management and minerals production increase above existing levels.

The KMWLP seeks to avoid unacceptable adverse impacts of a development on the community and surrounding land uses, through reducing noise, odour, emissions and light, as well as visual intrusion and traffic. It requires that air quality impacts are mitigated, particularly in areas of poor air quality and makes provision for the preparation of a Health Impact Assessment. Measures to maintain mineral supply will provide materials for construction of housing and infrastructure to sustain communities and support economic/industrial activity.

The KMWLP contains several development management policies that require protection, enhancement, management and creation of biodiversity value. Maximum biodiversity net gain is required where practicable. Other policies contain provisions that would indirectly benefit biodiversity including protection and improvement of water quality and preventing unacceptable adverse impacts from noise, light, dust, vibration, odour and emissions.

Restricting increases in greenhouse gas emissions and avoiding increased flood risk will benefit communities and biodiversity by avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, while protecting biodiversity, landscape, historic assets and Green Belt and ensuring access to public rights of way will benefit communities.

By promoting climate change adaptation measures, including sustainable drainage systems, and requiring no increase in flood risk in areas prone to flooding, the KMWLP will help to minimise the impact of development on flood risk and is likely to help to alleviate flood risk in the local area. Protection of green spaces may also help to alleviate flood risk.

The KMWLP requires high standards of restoration and aftercare of sites. If restored to agricultural use, the best and most versatile agricultural land should be protected in the long term. Removal of all buildings, plant and structures not necessary for the management of the site will restore long-term openness on Green Belt land, if applicable to the site. Maintaining capacity for secondary

and recycled aggregates will help to avoid adverse impacts on land that could occur from primary extraction, although the significance and likelihood of these impacts are unknown.

Likely impacts on landscape and the historic environment are strongly dependent on sensitivities at particular development sites, the locations of which are largely unknown at this stage. However, development policies aim to preserve and enhance landscapes and the historic environment and require developments to mitigate their impacts on assets, therefore significant adverse impacts are unlikely and benefits are possible. The KMWLP requires landscape opportunities and heritage and landscape features to be addressed in site restoration plans. Facilitating development for the extraction of building stone will help to support the sympathetic restoration of older buildings and use of traditional materials.

Likely impacts on transport are uncertain as the location of most development is unknown. However, policy seeks to minimise transport and promote the most sustainable modes possible, although in practice opportunities are likely to be limited. Other measures seek to minimise the impacts of transport, such as safeguarding transport infrastructure, ensuring the network can accommodate the traffic that would be generated and taking particular measures in areas of poor air quality. Nevertheless, waste transport may increase although this is dependent on the degree to which new capacity replaces existing capacity and how well-located they are to the source of arisings.

The KMWLP prevents the deterioration of water bodies and requires improvement in their ecological status. Positive impacts on the water environment are therefore likely. Development management policy requires the minimisation of water consumption and emission of pollutants which will help to safeguard the quantity and quality of water and promote sustainable water resource management.

The updated KMWLP gives strong support to sustainable waste management, promoting the waste hierarchy and the circular economy, avoiding adverse impacts on human health and the environment, and promoting recovery of energy and carbon capture and minimising waste transport. This will help to ensure the provision of waste infrastructure to support economic activity.

1.9. Recommendations for Mitigating Adverse Effects

The SA has considered whether there is scope for making recommendations for measures to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects of the updated KMWLP. A series of recommendations are made for amendments to strategic objectives, policies and supporting text. These are set out in detail in Section 6 and Appendix B of the main SA Report.

1.10. Reasons for Selecting Alternatives Dealt With

The SA is required to appraise reasonable alternatives to the updated KMWLP as proposed. The reasonable alternatives that have been identified largely derive from a 'do nothing' option, in other words, not to make the changes proposed in the updated KMWLP, and from comments received in response to earlier consultations. The following have been identified as reasonable alternatives to the updated KMWLP as proposed, here referred to as 'options'.

Option A

- To allocate land for waste facilities as envisaged in the KMWLP adopted in 2016.

Option A would be to produce a Waste Sites Plan as originally envisaged in the KMWLP. It would be possible for Kent County Council to identify and allocate sites as suitable for waste-related development, even though no capacity gap has been identified, and therefore this has been appraised as a reasonable alternative.

In respect of a 'do nothing' option, each proposed amendment to the policies has been considered in turn to identify whether a 'do nothing' option is reasonable. In the case where an amendment is required to make the KMWLP consistent with policy elsewhere, a 'do nothing' option is not considered reasonable. Where there are other reasons for making the amendment, each has been considered on its merits. The conclusions of this review are set out in Appendix C of the main SA Report. Two policies have been identified as having a reasonable 'do nothing' alternative to the policy amendment proposed. These have been identified as option B and option C:

- Option B: Do not strengthen groundwater protection in policy DM 10 Water Environment;
- Option C: Retain policy CSW 5 Strategic Site for Waste;

Each of the alternatives identified above have been appraised against the SA framework and an assessment made of the likely impacts on sustainability objectives. The detailed results are set out in Appendix D and summarised in Section 6.2 of the main SA Report.

1.11. Methodology

The SA has appraised each of the strategic objectives and policies as proposed to be amended, as well as the alternatives described in the previous section. The appraisal was done by assessing each policy amendment and each alternative against the appraisal objectives in turn and making a largely qualitative assessment, with reference also to the baseline data from the Scoping Report.

In reporting the results of the appraisal, the following symbols have been used to indicate the broad nature of the predicted effect:

Table 2 Effect Symbols

Nature of effect	Symbol
Significant positive effect	++
Some positive effect	+
No effect	0
Some negative effect	-
Significant negative effect	--
Uncertain effect	?

Further details on the methodology, including assumptions made, are given in Section 5 of the main SA Report. Information on the difficulties encountered is provided in Section 4 of the main SA Report. These relate to the lack of available data in some instances, lack of quantification and uncertainties about the scale and nature of some impacts.

1.12. Monitoring Recommendations

The sustainability appraisal has developed a set of recommendations for monitoring the predicted and unforeseen impacts of implementation of the updated KMWLP as proposed. These are set out as a series of indicators related to the sustainability appraisal framework based on the likely and possible impacts of the updated KMWLP. The recommended indicators should be incorporated into the Annual Monitoring Report for the KMWLP and are set out in Section 7 of the main SA Report.