



Minerals Development Document:

Preferred Approach - Summary

December 2010



Essex County Council

MDD Preferred Approach Summary

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Foreword

The 'Preferred Approach' represents the next important stage in the preparation of the Essex Mineral Development Document. This new document sets out the hard choices that we need to make, in order to ensure adequate mineral supplies for the County over the next fifteen years.

In arriving at these stated preferences, the Mineral Planning Authority has drawn upon a substantial body of factual evidence, considerable professional expertise, and in excess of 3000 consultation responses received since preparation of the document began in 2005.



We are extremely grateful for all of your contributions so far. The Government places great emphasis on community involvement in policy making and significant efforts have been made to ensure all those likely to be affected by the plan have had a chance to be involved.

The Preferred Approach stage is a particularly important time to continue this involvement since it provides the main opportunity to influence the future direction of minerals policy and the selection of future sites.

The previous two formal 'Calls for Sites' saw 46 suggested mineral extraction sites put forward by the minerals industry and local landowners. In addition to the overall strategy and the need to explore alternatives to primary extraction, we are now in a position to set out our assessment of these extraction sites. The main Preferred Approach document clearly explains the way these choices have been made.

It is imperative to continue to plan for minerals in Essex. We are currently working to the Minerals Local Plan (1996) which was developed under very different legislation. Our sand and gravel land-bank (that is the quantity of mineral with planning permission for extraction) currently stands at 8.6 years - nearing the 7 year minimum set down by national policy. If allowed to fall below 7 years, our plan-led approach will give way to a flurry of planning application-led development. This would create uncertainty for the mineral companies with preferred sites, construction industry and considerable worry for the communities living in the mineral-rich parts of the County.

It is very important the MDD be put in place in order to ensure sufficient mineral for the future, at the right location and with the least adverse environmental effects. We believe the vision, strategies, policies and sites set out in this Preferred Approach sets us well on the way towards meeting this objective.

I would encourage you to take time to study the Preferred Approach document and continue to provide us with your views.

Councillor John Jowers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Jowers', written in a cursive style.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Planning

1 Background

1.1 Essex County Council is the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) for the whole of Essex (excluding the unitary authorities of Thurrock and Southend). As such, it is required to produce a Development Plan Document for Minerals (MDD) setting out how the County will meet the demand for minerals for the plan period which is from the **1 Jan 2009 – to 31 Dec 2028**.

1.2 The process for producing and adopting the MDD is set out in the Town and Country Planning Act (2004) legislation and Government regulations and policy in the form of Planning Policy Statements (e.g. PPS12) and supported by guidance from the Planning Advisory Service (PAS). Central to the approach is to ensure that all those potentially affected by the MDD are consulted from the earliest stages of development and therefore have an opportunity to contribute to the way their local area is developed.

1.3 The MDD will be submitted for independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate to ensure it is sound before it can be adopted by the MPA. Once adopted the MDD will provide the framework for future development and determining Planning Applications for, and changes to, minerals development. Mineral development includes extraction, processing, aggregate recycling and transshipment.

1.4 This Preferred Approach paper uses the evidence gathered through previous (Issue and Option) consultations in 2005, 2006 and 2009 to set out the preferred approach to the Core Strategy and development management policies and to identify the Strategic Sites necessary to deliver the plan.

1.5 The information received from stakeholders during this consultation (along with any update from the Sustainability Appraisal) will inform the development of the Submission Document. At this time there will be a further consultation period in winter 2011 prior to it being submitted to the Secretary of State (SoS) for public examination.

Purpose of the MDD: Preferred Approach

1.6 The “Preferred Approach” stage of the MDD is our most important consultation stage yet.

The purpose of the MDD Preferred Approach paper is to:

- Set out for the first time how we are proposing that minerals planning is going to occur in the County and where mineral development will occur;
- Enable stakeholders to contribute to the formulation of the Vision, Objective, Strategy and Policies before preparation of the submission document.

1.7 Essex is required to produce the MDD with Core Strategy, Development Management Policies and Site Allocations. All three of these elements are covered in this Preferred Approach paper.

- The Core Strategy sets out our Vision, Objectives, Core Spatial Strategy and Core Strategy Themes.

- Development Management policies and themes will be used to assess planning applications and make sure all developments are in line with the core strategy;
- Site allocations showing which land has been set aside for quarries and transshipment facilities.

1.8 When the MDD is tested for ‘soundness’ at its examination we must be able to demonstrate that our process for decision making has been robust. For this reason we have set out the evidence we have relied upon. The document highlights how national policy, technical evidence and consultation responses have all been taken into account. We have also had specific regard to:

- The findings of the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA). Sustainable development is central to the reformed planning system. Our policy themes and topics have been subject to this formal SA/SEA process by specialists within ECC. The results are published alongside this document.
- The accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. These were prepared by independent consultants.
- What you have told us in previous consultations. In the Issues and Options views were sought on a range of issues and on suggested sites for minerals provision in Essex. Almost 3,000 written representations have been received to date.

We would like your views again on the proposals we have put forward as well as any reasonable alternatives and why these have not been carried forward. Do you think we have set the right approach? If not what should we change? We have set out how you can respond at the end of this document.

2 Planning for Mineral Supply

2.1 Planning for minerals supply is undertaken within the longstanding arrangements for mineral planning under the Managed Aggregate Supply system (MAS). MAS provides the national and regional guidelines for aggregate provision based on forecast demand, taking into account trend data (sales and permitted reserves); movement and econometric growth forecasting.

2.2 In 2009 the Government released updated national and regional guidelines for aggregates provision in England 2005-2020. These guidelines reduced the amounts that the East of England had to plan for.

2.3 The Aggregate Working Party (AWP), the members of which comprise the Minerals Planning Authorities, Industry, Central Government and amenity groups, agreed to base the revised figures for each County in the East of England on proportionate sales contribution over the last 10 years.

2.4 In July 2010 the East of England Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which previously set out, among other matters, the mineral sub-regional apportionment for sand and gravel was revoked by the Secretary of State. In spite of this the Mineral Planning Authorities were

specifically advised to continue planning for minerals supply within the existing arrangements. This means preparation of the MDD is to continue being guided by the technical advice from the AWP.

2.5 Through the MDD we need to identify sufficient mineral extraction sites to meet the above mineral needs of the County to the year 2028. Given the Government Guidelines update and work of the AWP our apportionment drops from 4.41mtpa to 4.31mtpa. In addition to the existing quarry sites which will continue into the plan period, there is need to find enough new extraction sites (including extensions to existing sites), to supply 42.225 million tonnes of sand and gravel reserves. This represents the best source of evidence available to us at the current time on what our relevant mineral supply needs are.

2.6 The revoking of the RSS may also result in other indirect changes to the associated demand for aggregate use. Housing targets for individual districts may change but overall growth should still occur in line with the underlying evidence. Planning Authorities were advised to have regard to the 'Option 1' target for housing. For the East of England this is the level of provision based on the draft RSS submitted to the SoS for the period 2011- 2031.

2.7 Aggregate for new housing represents only a fraction of the total demand for aggregates used in the construction industry which also include schools, hospitals, offices, factories, roads, bridges, flood defences and other infrastructure. Development growth is subdued during the recession, however, there are always maintenance and infrastructure improvements e.g., top coating roads with asphalt, pipe work support and railway ballast.

2.8 Based on national guidance there is also a need to provide for other mineral resources. In particular, Mineral Policy Guidance 15 and Mineral Policy Statement 1 suggest we need 10 and 25 year landbanks at individual facilities for the production of silica sand and brick clay respectively. There is need to find enough new extraction sites to supply 0.237mt of silica sand reserves at Martells Quarry and 30,000 tonnes of brickclay reserves at Bulmer Brickworks.

3 Essex at a Glance

3.1 The Preferred Approach should be based on what is locally distinctive about Essex. The context for mineral planning within Essex is based on the following aspects.

ESSEX AT A GLANCE

Population and Economy

- Total population is 1,376,400 (and growing);
 - There are 3 growth areas - Haven Gateway, M11 corridor and Thames Gateway;
 - While mineral production represents a small proportion of our economic output (quarrying provides several hundred jobs) it underpins our construction and manufacturing industries.

Transport Infrastructure

- Strategic transport network and resulting 'wheel and spoke' pattern reflect the significance of London with highways based on a route hierarchy;
- Trunk roads and rail routes all suffer from congestion and capacity limitations.

Environment

- 70% of our 369,394ha land area is farmland- half the soil being high grade;
- Much of our long (180mile) coastline is adjacent to sites of international / national habitat importance and subject to development pressures;
- 29 species and 15 habitats are classed as vulnerable / need protection / promotion;
- For a County our size we have a typical number of Listed Buildings (14,000), Scheduled Monuments (296), registered Historic Parks and Gardens (37) and recorded archaeological sites (21,000);
- This region is expected to face severe climate changes including floods, droughts and sea level rises.

Geology

- Extensive deposits of sand and gravel - particularly in the north;
- More localised workable deposits of silica sand, chalk, brick earth and clay;
- Aggregate marine dredging occurs off the coast and lands in London and Thurrock (Thames River);
- There are no hard rock deposits / extraction so it must be imported by rail.

Mineral Infrastructure

- We are the largest producer and consumer of sand and gravel in the East of England;
- There are 24 active sand and gravel sites, 2 brick clay and 1 chalk site (2008);
- There are 4 wharves and 4 rail depots capable of handling aggregate;
- Aggregate is also recycled from around 30 active dedicated sites (2009).

4 Our Vision

4.1 The Spatial Vision is a portrait of how we would like mineral development to evolve in Essex during the plan period. All subsequent policies and preferences are intended to be informed by and translate our vision. Our vision, set out in Chapter 3 of the main document, must reflect the unique characteristics of Essex (such as those factors set out in the above box).

4.2 By 2028 we will have achieved the following:

- Sustainable construction / efficient mineral use and reuse;
- High levels of Construction and Demolition Waste Reuse and Recycling;
- Minerals Reuse and Recycling integral to all major construction project specifications;
- Minimise the loss of mineral resources from needless sterilisation;
- Effective safeguarding of permitted mineral reserves and preferred sites;
- Effective safeguarding of mineral facilities;
- Appropriate Primary Mineral provision causing least environmental harm;
- Improved restoration and after-use with greater emphasis on wider environmental enhancement;
- Climate change mitigation and adaption from Minerals use.

We are seeking your views on whether the Vision is clear and if it recognises all the major changes that can reasonably be foreseen at this time.

5 Our Objectives

5.1 A number of strategic objectives are proposed in Chapter 3 of the main document as mechanisms for the delivery of the vision. The vision and strategic objectives need to be both aspirational and deliverable. They are to encompass your views, and as such, will evolve as the MDD is produced. A summary of the Proposed Key Objectives are summarised below:

- To encourage the more efficient use of minerals, greater use of recycled aggregates and reduce the amount of wastage;
- To identify and safeguard minerals resources of economic or conservation value, railhead and wharf facilities and safeguard strategic minerals infrastructure;
- To identify primary minerals sites for a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet the agreed sub-regional apportionment;
- To protect designated sites of landscape, wildlife, geodiversity, cultural and heritage importance from mineral operators;
- To secure the high quality restoration of extraction sites at the earliest opportunity;
- To secure sustainable enhancements for communities and mitigate adverse environmental impacts including that on local landscape character and biodiversity.

We need to set clear and measurable objectives to achieve the vision and therefore need to know if our Proposed Strategic Objectives would deliver the plan and if they are achievable.

6 Core Spatial Strategy

6.1 The Core Spatial Strategy, in Chapter 4, provides the overarching framework and a steer to where minerals development will be focused through the plan period. The Core Spatial Strategy, as presented below, is presented in order of the Minerals Supply Hierarchy:

Reducing Minerals Use and Minimising Waste

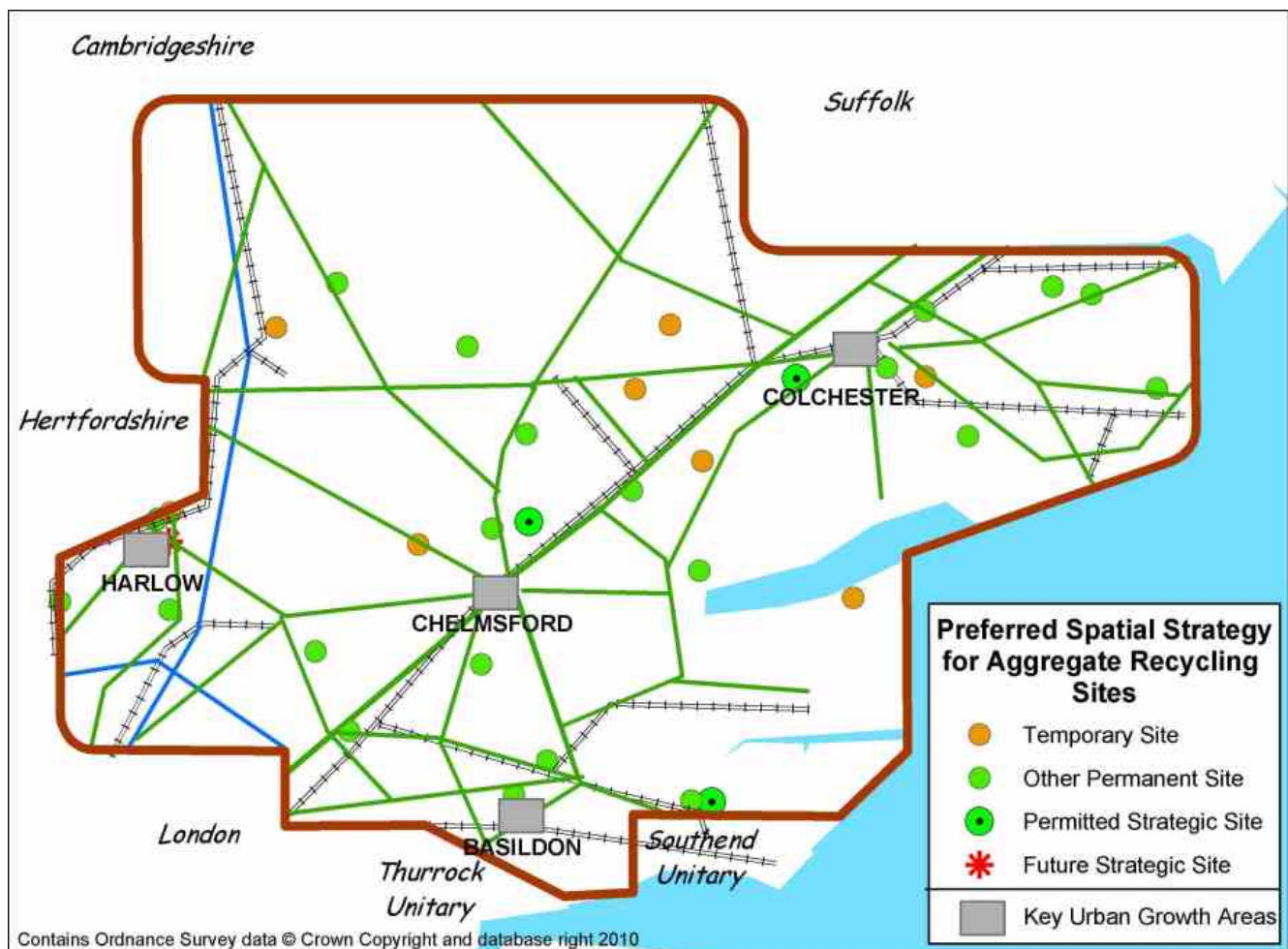
6.2 The strategy aims to firstly reduce demand for minerals in construction and to minimise waste. The preferred approach is to promote sustainable construction practices by bringing a range of measures to bear including; appropriate procurement practices, partnership working and public sector co-ordination.

6.3 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7 (main document): reference Policy CS1 and Policy DM1.

Aggregate Recycling Spatial Approach

6.4 This strategy aims to promote a network of permanent and long term temporary aggregate recycling facilities as strategic sites alongside our existing countywide sites. These 'strategic sites' (permitted and future) would be in the vicinity of key urban areas, as shown on Map 1, of a size to provide economies of scale and have facilities on site to raise the quality of recycled products.

Map 1 Preferred Spatial Strategy for Aggregate Recycling Sites

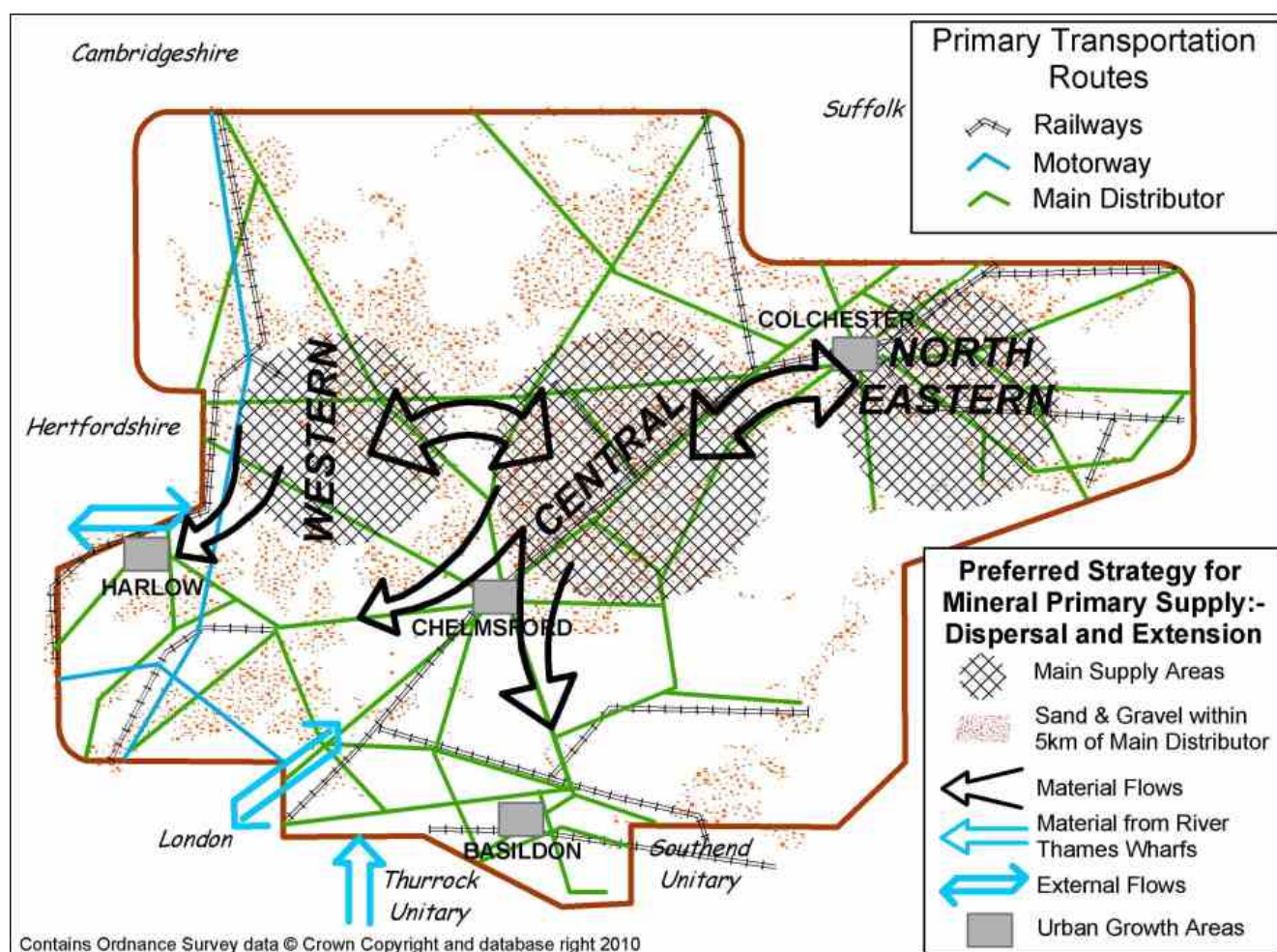


6.5 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy CS2 and Policy CS10.

Primary Spatial Options

6.6 In Essex there are extensive deposits of land won sand and gravel. The strategy aims to meet the apportionment requirement in full for the plan period while reducing transportation distances and mineral miles. This involves optimising the location of sites to serve the local Essex market and having regard to, firstly, the location of potential major infrastructure proposals and, secondly, the main mineral infrastructure e.g., transshipment sites.

Map 2 Preferred Spatial Strategy for Sand & Gravel



6.7 The Preferred spatial strategy that has emerged to meet these requirements is a hybrid of dispersal and extensions. Map 2 shows the three main supply areas for extraction in the west, centre and north-east. As discussed further in the Preferred Mineral Extraction Sites chapter there is a need for new sites in the south and west of the county. These 'new' sites may have a greater local impact than sites in more established quarrying locations, but are essential to the achievement of the spatial strategy.

6.8 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy CS6, CS10 and Policy DM10.

7 Core Strategy Themes

7.1 A number of topic areas are proposed to form the MDD's Core Strategy Themes within Chapter 5. The themes address our key values and challenges and have been identified as being central to the delivery of the MDD.

County Target for Aggregate Recycling

7.2 In addition to promoting strategic aggregate recycling facilities the Preferred Approach also seeks to retain and enhance our overall aggregate recycling capacity in the County. This is to be achieved through the setting of a County wide aggregate recycling capacity target.

7.3 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy CS3.

Safeguarding for Mineral Deposits, Transshipment Sites and Secondary Processing Facilities

7.4 The value of mineral resources and associated investment in mineral development infrastructure by the industry can be considerable. Our aim is to ensure their potential use is protected during the life of this Plan and beyond.

7.5 The Preferred Approach proposes the safeguarding of all minerals of economic resource potential from non-mineral development - including sands and gravels where the non-mineral development' is over a scale of 5ha. This is not to preclude other development over 5ha from taking place, but rather that the potential for prior extraction is considered so as to avoid any needless waste of mineral resources.

7.6 In addition, we are also seeking to oppose incompatible development within 250m of permitted mineral allocations and transshipment sites on principle.

7.7 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy CS4, Policy DM6, Policy DM7 and Policy DM12.

Landbank

7.8 The Preferred Approach is to manage and maintain a single County-wide landbank of at least 7 years for sand and gravel. It is sought to work to our apportionment of 4.31mtpa which reflects the best forecast available of mineral demand over the plan period.

7.9 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy CS7, Policy CS8, Policy CS9 and Policy DM9.

Biodiversity and Mineral Site After-Use

7.10 The preferred approach aims to address the after-use of mineral extraction sites that come forward during the plan period once extraction ceases and the site is restored.

7.11 It is recognised that it is not always possible to prescribe what each site should become. Due to so many sites being located on versatile soils many developers are understandably proposing agricultural uses. However, some degree of multi-functionality is desirable in after-use schemes. In particular, given the current pressures on the biodiversity values within Essex, a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitat creation target is proposed.

7.12 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy CS11.

Your views are sought as to whether the approaches we have taken in the Core Strategy are the most appropriate to achieve the vision and objectives or if there are any that we have not considered.

8 Generic Development Management Approaches

8.1 In addition to existing policy frameworks and pollution control regimes, a range of policies for development management are needed. These are addressed in Chapter 6. These manage and control both the effects of new mineral development and that of other development which might potentially impact on mineral resources or facilities. The Preferred Approach outlines the following development management themes, and suggests policy options and criteria to manage and control these.

Non-Preferred Sites / Windfalls

8.2 A plan led approach to primary mineral supply is assumed in the MDD and it must be clear how non-preferred sites are to be addressed when they are put forward by applicants.

8.3 The preferred approach is for a general presumption against the granting of windfall sites. An important exception is where it is necessary to avoid sterilisation of a mineral resource when other development is to take place.

8.4 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy DM8.

Access and Transportation

8.5 Heavy Goods Vehicles entering or leaving mineral sites can cause safety, efficiency and amenity issues both for highway authorities and local communities.

8.6 If rail or boats are not practical modes of transportation then the Preferred Approach expects aggregate transportation to make best use of the functional route hierarchy for highway access.

8.7 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy DM11.

Health and Environmental Protection

8.8 Mineral extraction and processing is by its very nature an environmentally intrusive activity. However, if environmental considerations are integrated into the mineral operation the impacts can, in many instances, be made acceptable.

8.9 The expectation within the preferred approach is for local amenity, landscape, historic and archaeology, water, versatile soils and nature conservation sites to be protected.

8.10 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy DM2, Policy DM3, Policy DM17, Policy DM18, Policy DM19 and Policy DM20.

Efficient Use of Resources

8.11 The aim of the preferred approach is to 'get the best' out of our remaining land-won mineral resources. Primary processing will be undertaken at all quarries, non-indigenous aggregate importation at mineral sites will be minimised and water efficiency measures encouraged where possible.

8.12 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy DM4 and Policy DM5.

Mineral Working and Restoration

8.13 The aim is to phase the commencement of preferred sites across the County and plan period. It also aims to phase working and progressively restore individual sites. Releasing sites in a co-ordinated manner across the County during the plan period will help ensure a steady supply of aggregate. Mineral extraction, by its nature, is a temporary use of land and it is expected that progressive restoration will limit the impacts of working e.g., on local communities.

8.14 The policy principles are developed further in Chapter 7: reference Policy DM13, Policy DM14, Policy DM15 and Policy DM16.

Your views are sought as to whether the approaches we have taken in the Development Management section are the most appropriate or if there are any that we have not considered.

9 Policies

9.1 The submission version of the MDD will need clear policies for the Core Spatial Strategy, Core Strategy Themes and Development Management sections. It is necessary to develop the principle of these policies at this preferred approach stage based upon the themes within this document.

9.2 The principles and emphasis of suggested policy wording is set out in Chapter 7 of the main document with links back to the preferred approaches in the earlier Chapters.

9.3 Whilst it is important that the MDD does not repeat existing national policy, local circumstances specific to Essex may require a more detailed or locally-specific policies to interpret existing national policy and regional evidence.

10 Preferred Mineral Extraction Sites

10.1 There is a need to identify Preferred Sites for future extraction to meet the preferred core strategy and spatial strategy of dispersal and extensions.

10.2 Following the 'Call for Sites' in 2005 and 2009, forty-three potential sand and gravel extraction sites were suggested to the Minerals Planning Authority. These, in total, could supply approximately 118 million tonnes of sand and gravel. To identify and realise these preferred

sites to meet the strategy we have assessed the 43 sites which came forward from the call for sites and earlier Issues and Options consultation. A key issue in Chapter 9 is to comment upon the site selection methodology. The site selection methodology has comprised six stages:

10.3 STAGE 1: Assessment of each site against four 'Essential' criteria (geology, transport connection, workability within the plan period, environmental acceptability);

10.4 STAGE 2: Assessment of each site against a wide range of other Site Selection Criteria;

- Mineral resource and timetable
- Planning history
- Landscape
- Ecology and Designations
- Historic Environment
- Agriculture
- Proximity to Sensitive Uses
- Water / Hydrology
- Traffic and Transportation
- Recreation
- Amenity and Pollution
- Restoration and After-use

10.5 STAGE 3: Cross-checking and moderation of all site assessments / scores;

10.6 STAGE 4: Ranking of sites to identify the higher scoring sites which could provide a dispersed spread across the county;

10.7 STAGE 5: Assessment of the cumulative impacts of these higher scoring dispersed sites;

10.8 STAGE 6: Following Sustainability Appraisal, confirmation of the 'Preferred Sites' for inclusion in this document.

10.9 The following table and map set out our preferred sites to deliver the Core Strategy. Sites in the west have been weighted to ensure the Core Spatial Strategy for dispersal can be realised. We are not only asking for your opinion on the merits or otherwise of these 'preferred sites' but also those sites which have not been selected at this time. It is possible that the preferred sites list may need to be amended e.g., as the result of the outcome of this consultation. This may necessitate the selection of sites which are currently not our preference so as to make up the apportionment as the MDD progresses towards its adoption.

Table 1 Preferred Mineral Extraction Sites

Ref no.	Site Name	Ext / New	NE / Central / western site
A2	Bradwell Quarry, Rivenhall Airfield	Ext	Central
A3	Bradwell Quarry, Rivenhall Airfield	Ext	Central
A13	Fiveways Fruit Farm, Colchester Quarry	Ext	NE

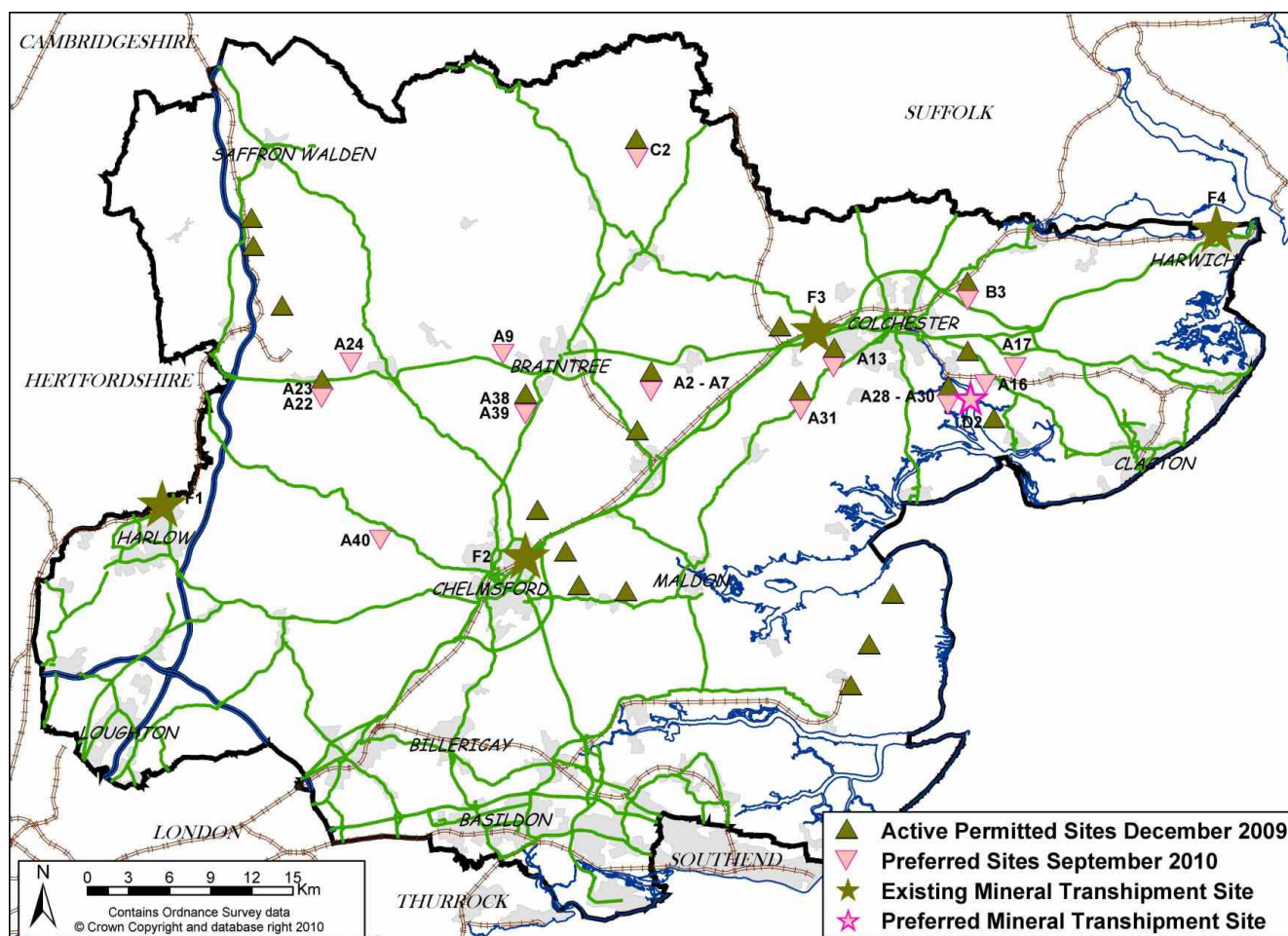
Ref no.	Site Name	Ext / New	NE / Central / western site
A22	Little Bullocks Farm, Gt Canfield – Area A	Ext	Western
A28	Tower field, Ballast Quay, Fingringhoe Quarry	Ext	NE
B3	Park Farm, Ardleigh (sand and gravel component)	Ext	NE
A23	Little Bullocks Farm, Gt Canfield – Area B	Ext	Western
A38	Blackleys Quarry, Gate Farm Site 1	Ext	Central
A4	Bradwell Quarry, Rivenhall Airfield	Ext	Central
A39	Blackleys Quarry, Gate Farm Site 2	Ext	Central
A16	Church Farm, Alresford	Ext	NE
A31	Maldon Road, Birch	Ext	NE
A14	Fingringhoe Quarry	Ext	NE
A40	Shellow Cross, Roxwell / Willingale	New	Western
A24	Easton Park, Great Dunmow	New	Western
A9	Broadfield Farm, Rayne	New	Central
A17	Frating Hall Farm. Frating	New	NE
A5	Bradwell Quarry, Rivenhall Airfield	Ext	Central
A6	Bradwell Quarry, Rivenhall Airfield	Ext	Central
A7	Bradwell Quarry, Rivenhall Airfield	Ext	Central

10.10 Three potential silica sand extraction sites also came forward, one of which has subsequently secured full planning permission. Either of the remaining two sites would be capable of supplying the 750,000 tonnes of silica sand needed.

10.11 One small brickclay extraction site at Bulmer brickworks was also submitted. This single site could supply around 30,000 tonnes of brickclay, sufficient for 25 years worth of production at the brickworks.

Table 2 Preferred Non-Aggregate Mineral Sites

Ref no.	Site Name	Ext / New
B3	Park Farm, Ardleigh	Ext
C2	Bulmer Brickfields	Ext

Map 3 Locations of Preferred Extraction Sites and Safeguarded Transhipment Sites

11 Safeguarded Mineral Transhipment Sites

11.1 In response to the original 'Call for Sites' for mineral transhipment in 2005 three suggested mineral transhipment sites were put forward. Table 3 below sets out our preference.

Table 3 Preferred Transhipment Sites

Ref no.	Site Name	Depot	Key Notes
D2	Ballast Quay, Fingringhoe	Wharf	For life of quarry operation only.

11.2 Existing safeguarded transhipment sites at Harlow Mill Station, Chelmsford Station, Marks Tey Rail Siding and Port of Harwich (as set out in the Mineral Local Plan) will continue to be safeguarded.

Your views are sought as to whether the site assessment process carried out reflects the best methodology and whether the Preferred Sites and safeguarded transhipment sites are appropriate to deliver our spatial strategy and meet our apportionment needs?

12 Delivering and Monitoring

12.1 The MDD must be deliverable and flexible to change. Once the MDD has been adopted, it is important that it is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, to ensure that it continues to be effective and can be successfully delivered. This is explored in Chapter 10 of the main document which sets out:

- The targets that should be used to show whether or not the policies are being successful; and
- The organisations that will help us meet those targets.

12.2 In particular, it is recognised that much of the MDD will be delivered through the determination of individual planning applications for mineral development facilities. Essex will need to work closely with stakeholders, including the mineral industry, to ensure that new sites come on line in a timely fashion to provide a steady supply of minerals throughout the plan period.

It is essential that delivery and monitoring of the MDD is effective so we would like your views as to the best methods, in addition to requirements set out in national guidelines.

13 How to contribute to the consultation

13.1 The MDD: Preferred Approach consultation runs for ten weeks from **9 December 2010** to **17 February 2011**. We are asking for your opinions on the preferred approaches. Your comments will help us shape the submission version of the Minerals Development Document which will have the specific wording on policies and proposals that will affect those living, working in or visiting the County over the Plan period - so please get involved at this stage and have your say.

13.2 The MDD Preferred Approach consultation documents can be accessed via the Internet at <http://consult.essexcc.gov.uk>. This provides an interactive service through which you can review and comment on the documents.

13.3 The consultation documents will also be published on the Council's website, where they can be viewed online or printed as required.

- For the Essex County Council website go to: www.essex.gov.uk/MDD-consultation

13.4 A number of independent high level assessments addressing sustainability issues will also be published here.

13.5 Hard copies of consultation documents will also be made available for inspection at libraries across Essex, at District and Borough Council offices and at County Hall in Chelmsford.

13.6 The MDD: Preferred Approach document asks a range of questions about future mineral supply in Essex, on which we need your views.

13.7 The Council would prefer responses to be made online, in line with the Government's approach to providing services electronically.

13.8 However, there are a number of other ways to respond, and we would ask that you use the standard response form available on the website for this purpose. The form should be used to respond to all questions; any responses that do not fit in the space provided should be clearly marked on a separate page and attached to the form. The response form can be found on the Essex County Council Website

Completed response forms should be returned within the 10 week consultation period using one of the following methods :

- Email to: mineralsandwastepolicy@essex.gov.uk
- Fax to: 01245 437 213
- Post to:
The Minerals and Waste Planning Policy Team,
Freepost CL3636
Essex County Council
E3 County Hall
Chelmsford CM1 1QH

13.9 Please be aware that all responses will be publicly available and will be made available to view online.

Exhibitions / Drop-In Sessions

13.10 Minerals and Waste Planning staff will be available at venues across Essex during the consultation period. This will include venues located near Preferred Sites. The timetable for these events is available on our website.

Workshops

13.11 A series of facilitated workshops will also be held during the consultation period. This will provide an opportunity for discussion and debate on key aspects of the MDD: Preferred Approach document. Details of the dates and locations for these workshops are available on our website. Please register to book a place.

13.12 In line with the commitments made in the Statement of Community Involvement, staff may also attend parish and public meetings where these are formally requested.

This document is published by Essex County Council Minerals and Waste Planning, and forms part of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework suite of documents

You can contact us in the following ways:

Helpline: 01245 435 555 (during office hours, Monday to Friday)

Contact Essex: 0845 603 7624
(8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday; 9 am to 12 noon, Saturday)

Minicom: 0845 758 5592

By fax: 01245 437 213

By post:
Minerals and Waste Planning
Environment, Sustainability and Highways
Essex County Council Freepost CL 3636
E3 County Hall
CHELMSFORD CM1 1QH

By email:
mineralsandwastepolicy@essex.gov.uk

This document is available electronically at
www.essex.gov.uk/MDD-consultation

The information contained in this document can be translated and/ or made available in alternative formats, on request.

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