

# Replacement Waste Local Plan

## Non-Technical Summary: Pre-Submission Draft

March 2016



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## 1 Introduction

**1.1** Essex County Council (ECC) and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (SBC) are Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) and as such are required to prepare a Waste Local Plan to replace the existing joint Plan that was adopted in 2001. ECC and SBC are working jointly to produce a Replacement Waste Local Plan (RWLP) to cover both administrative areas (hereafter referred to as the “Plan area”). Once adopted, the RWLP will provide the framework for determining planning applications for new waste facilities and changes to existing waste facilities.

**1.2** Once the Replacement Waste Local Plan is adopted it will ensure the provision of essential new waste infrastructure across the County, to support planned sustainable economic growth, ensure protection of the environment up until 2032 (‘The Plan period’). The final Plan must address not only Local Authority Collected Waste, which forms a relatively small portion of the overall waste volumes generated in Essex, but also Commercial and Industrial Waste, Construction & Demolition Waste, Hazardous and radioactive waste. The aim is to prioritise waste prevention, re-use and recycling ahead of other types of recovery and finally disposal. The allocation of sites for future waste use is important as it provides communities and the waste industry with certainty about where waste development can take place.

**1.3** Following public consultation on the Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan – Revised Preferred Approach during June and July 2015, work has been ongoing to prepare the next version of the Plan. Representations received in relation to both the methodology and specific sites have been used to inform a review of the overall assessment of sites. Additionally, a review of the waste capacity requirements has been carried out, culminating in the preparation of a Topic Paper setting out updated waste capacity needs in the Plan area. Together these two elements have been used to inform the selection of a final list of sites for allocation in the Plan.

**1.4** Before submitting the Replacement Waste Local Plan to the Government for examination, the Authorities have published it to allow for representations to be made, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The period for making representations is 6 weeks from 3 March to 14 April 2016.

**1.5** This consultation/engagement provides the final opportunity for public consultation on the Replacement Waste Local Plan and supporting documentation before it is submitted for an Examination in Public by a Planning Inspector. The focus of this engagement is different to past consultations; at this stage of the process the Planning Inspector is only able, by law, to consider representations on matters of soundness and legal compliance.

## 2 How to Get Involved

**2.1** In line with e-government policy we would encourage you to respond to the consultation online via <http://consult.essexcc.gov.uk>. Responding online is the fastest and most cost effective method of response; it also allows responses to be processed quickly so to be ready for viewing on the consultation homepage. Other ways to submit your representation are listed on the back cover of this document.

**2.2** A form is provided for making representations, which respondents are encouraged to use in order that all necessary information is provided. This asks for details of the section of the document to which the representation relates, and how the representation relates to tests of soundness and/or legal compliance. Guidance on these tests is provided, together with the form, available to download from: <http://www.essex.gov.uk/wlp>.

**2.3** Please be aware that for your response to be accepted for further consideration, it must include your name and full postal address. All responses will be made publicly available in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and will be made available to view online. Personal information such as the respondent's email, phone number and address will not be published.

### 3 The Challenge

**3.1** All households, businesses and industries in Essex and Southend-on-Sea produce waste. In the past, most waste has simply been buried in landfill sites. A relatively small proportion of waste arising in Essex and Southend-on-Sea, likely to be less than 20% of total waste, is from households. The majority of waste arising in Essex and Southend-on-Sea arises from commercial sources such as restaurants, shops, construction, agriculture and industry, with the largest source of this waste being the construction, demolition and excavation industries. There are also other smaller waste streams that need to be considered by the Plan, such as hazardous, healthcare, and radioactive wastes. The Waste Local Plan must make provision for all these waste types.

**3.2** Much is already being done to reduce the amount of waste being disposed of at landfill within the Plan area through re-use, recycling, and other beneficial uses. There is already an extensive existing network of permitted waste facilities in Essex and Southend-on-Sea. The continuing challenge is to continue to support better and more sustainable ways of dealing with waste to further reduce the dependence on landfill.

### 4 The Strategy

**4.1** The proposed vision, strategic objectives and spatial strategy within the Plan aim to support sustainable waste management in Essex and Southend-on-Sea. The key elements of the vision include:

- Net self-sufficiency for all waste streams, where practicable<sup>(1)</sup>;
- Sufficient waste management infrastructure to meet needs, including a reducing proportion of waste from London;
- Well designed, located and operated facilities;
- Flexibility to respond to changing needs, whilst respecting site allocations and Areas of Search;
- Waste development that respects the spatial context of Essex and Southend-on-Sea including transportation issues, climate change, flooding etc.; and
- Supporting the provisions of the Waste Hierarchy.

### 5 Future Waste Capacity Requirements

**5.1** Through this Plan, the Waste Planning Authorities of Essex and Southend-on-Sea must ensure that adequate waste management capacity is delivered to meet future needs for the waste that is produced. There is insufficient capacity at existing waste management facilities

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1 The Plan sets out that the principle of net self-sufficiency will not apply to reactive hazardous waste or low-level radioactive waste as it is not considered practical to provide for such specialist facilities within the local context of the Plan area.

in Essex and Southend-on-Sea, to secure the maximum recovery of waste through such means as recycling and composting. A number of new facilities will be needed to enable a more sustainable approach to waste management across the Plan period to 2032.

**5.2** Although landfill has traditionally been a significant form of waste management within the Plan area, capacity is reducing and there needs to be a move away from landfill and up the Waste Hierarchy. These new private waste facilities will be essential to a more sustainable approach to dealing with waste in the Plan area, and to enable a move away from reliance on landfill in future.

**5.3** The Plan sets out the following waste capacity needs, based on the detailed and robust assessment which can be found in the Waste Capacity Topic Paper 2015 which builds on the analysis originally presented in the Capacity Gap Report 2014:

- Up to 217,000 tonnes per annum by 2031/32 of biological treatment for non-hazardous organic waste;
- Up to 1.5 million tonnes per annum by 2031/32 for the management of inert waste;
- Up to 200,000 tonnes per annum by 2031/32 for the treatment of other waste; and
- Up to 50,250 tonnes per annum by 2031/32 for the management of hazardous waste.

## 6 Meeting the Needs of Essex & Southend

**6.1** It is important that the Replacement Waste Local Plan is both deliverable and flexible. Areas of Search and the Locational Criteria policies are included to afford the Plan greater flexibility than a reliance on allocated sites only.

**6.2** Sites for strategic waste management allocation take sequential preference over the Areas of Search, which themselves take preference over unallocated sites that would be subject to assessment against the other policies in the Plan, including locational criteria. Unallocated sites are therefore sequentially the least favoured locations for waste management facilities in the Plan area.

**6.3** The Authorities have worked with independent planning consultants to develop a robust methodology to be used in the selection of strategic waste management sites for allocation. Through this process a total of 54 sites, put forward by landowners and/or operators or other interested parties, were tested against various criteria.

**6.4** The Plan identifies 18 strategic waste management site allocations. These sites represent the locations for the management of waste and are required to meet the identified waste needs of Essex and Southend-on-Sea. A number of sites are considered to be suitable for multiple uses, resulting in the allocation of 18 sites for 22 waste management uses- see Table overleaf.

**6.5** Development proposed on these sites will still require a full planning application containing precise details of the proposed operations. However, in principle waste uses would be supported by the Authorities, in line with the National Planning Policy Frameworks principle of 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' unless material considerations indicate otherwise at the point of application.

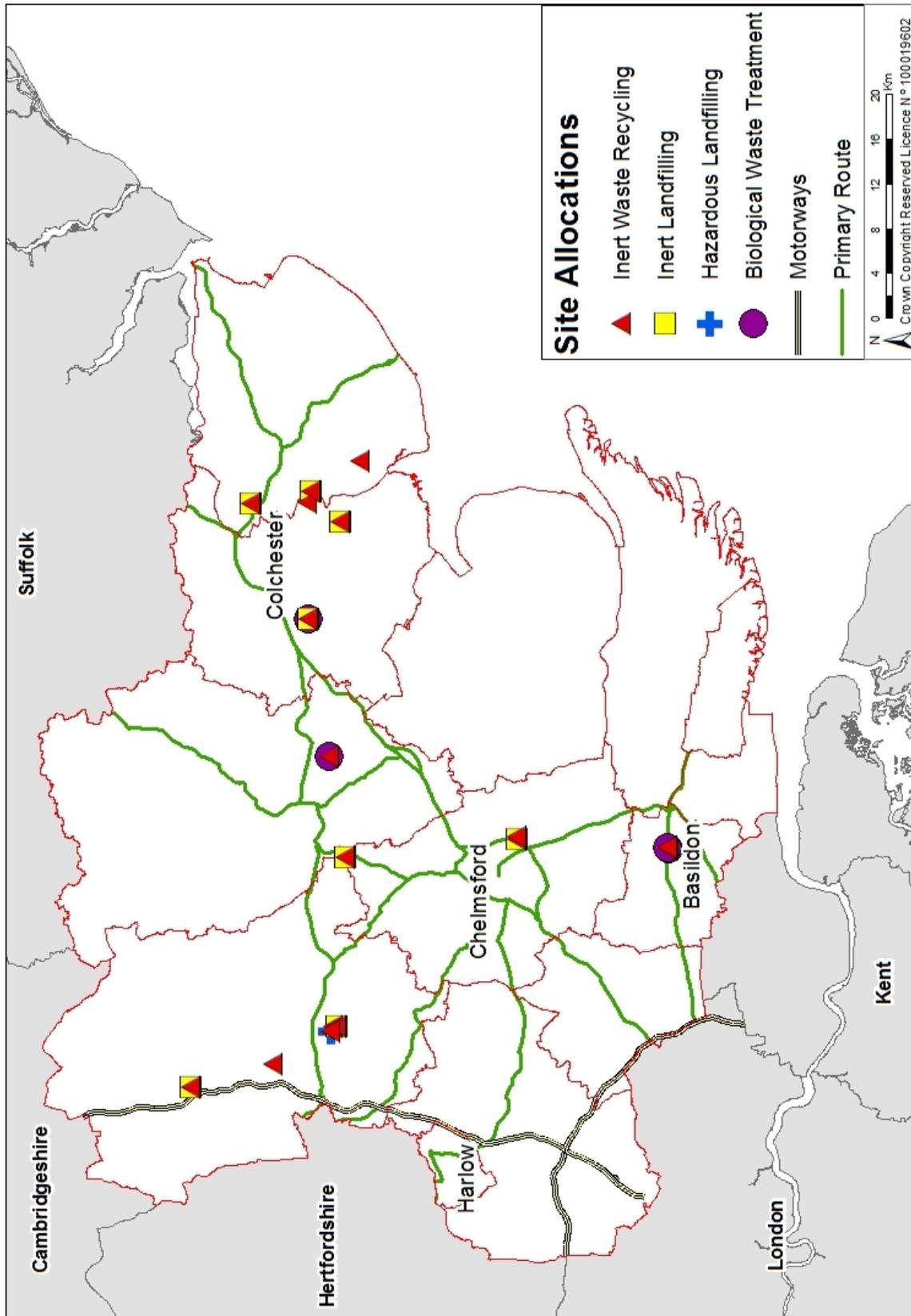
**6.6** The network of existing waste facilities for the management of household waste is sufficient at present. These have been safeguarded through the Plan.

- 6.7** At present, there is expected to be sufficient existing landfill facilities in Essex for the disposal of non-hazardous wastes until the end of the plan period (2032) but there is a need for additional hazardous waste disposal capacity.
- 6.8** The strategic waste management site allocations are set out in the table and maps below:

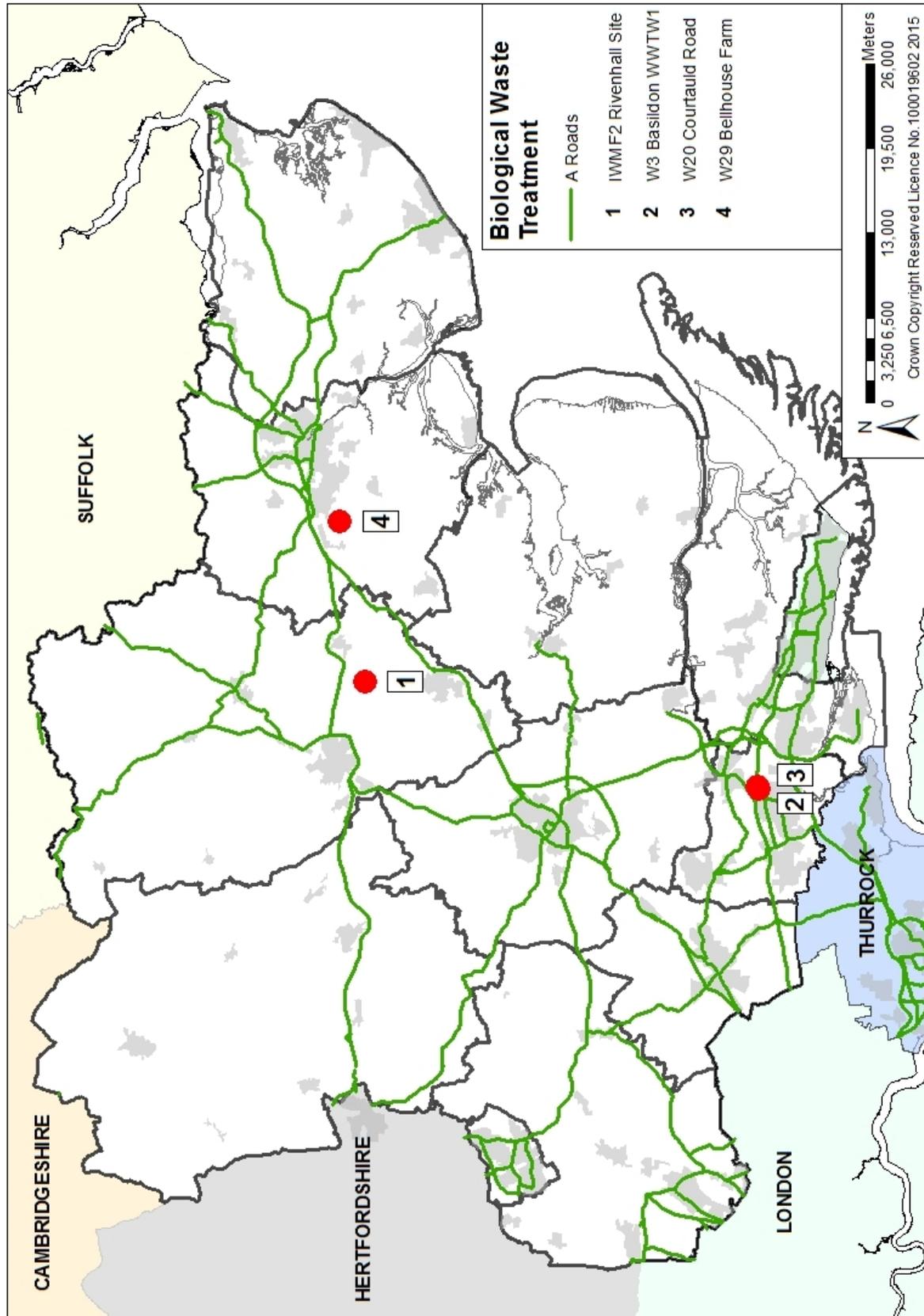
**Table 1**

Suitable for allocation for biological waste treatment	Suitable for allocation for inert waste recycling	Suitable for allocation for inert landfilling	Suitable for allocation for hazardous landfilling	Sites suitable for allocation for management of other wastes
W29 - Bellhouse Landfill Site, Colchester	W32 - Crumps Farm, Gt and Lt Canfield, Uttlesford	L(n)7R - Little Bullocks Farm Site A22, Gt and Lt Canfield, Uttlesford	L(n)8R - Little Bullocks Farm Site A23, Gt and Lt Canfield, Uttlesford	IWMF2 - Rivenhall, Braintree
W3 - Basildon WWTW, Basildon	W8 - Eisenham, Uttlesford	L(n)1R - Slough Farm, Ardleigh, Tendring		
W20 - Courtauld Road, Basildon	W7 - Sandon East, Chelmsford	L(i)10R - Blackley Quarry, Gt Leighs, Chelmsford		
IWMF2 - Rivenhall, Braintree	L(n)1R - Slough Farm, Ardleigh, Tendring	L(i)6 - Sandon, Chelmsford		
	L(i)10R - Blackley Quarry, Gt Leighs, Chelmsford	L(i)5 - Sunnymead, Elmstead & Heath Farms, Tendring		
	W13 - Wivenhoe Quarry Plant Area, Tendring	L(i)17R - Newport Quarry, Uttlesford		
	W31 - Morses Lane - Brightlingsea, Tendring	L(n)5 - Bellhouse Landfill Site, Colchester		
	L(i)17R - Newport Quarry, Uttlesford	L(i)15 - Fingringhoe Quarry, Colchester		

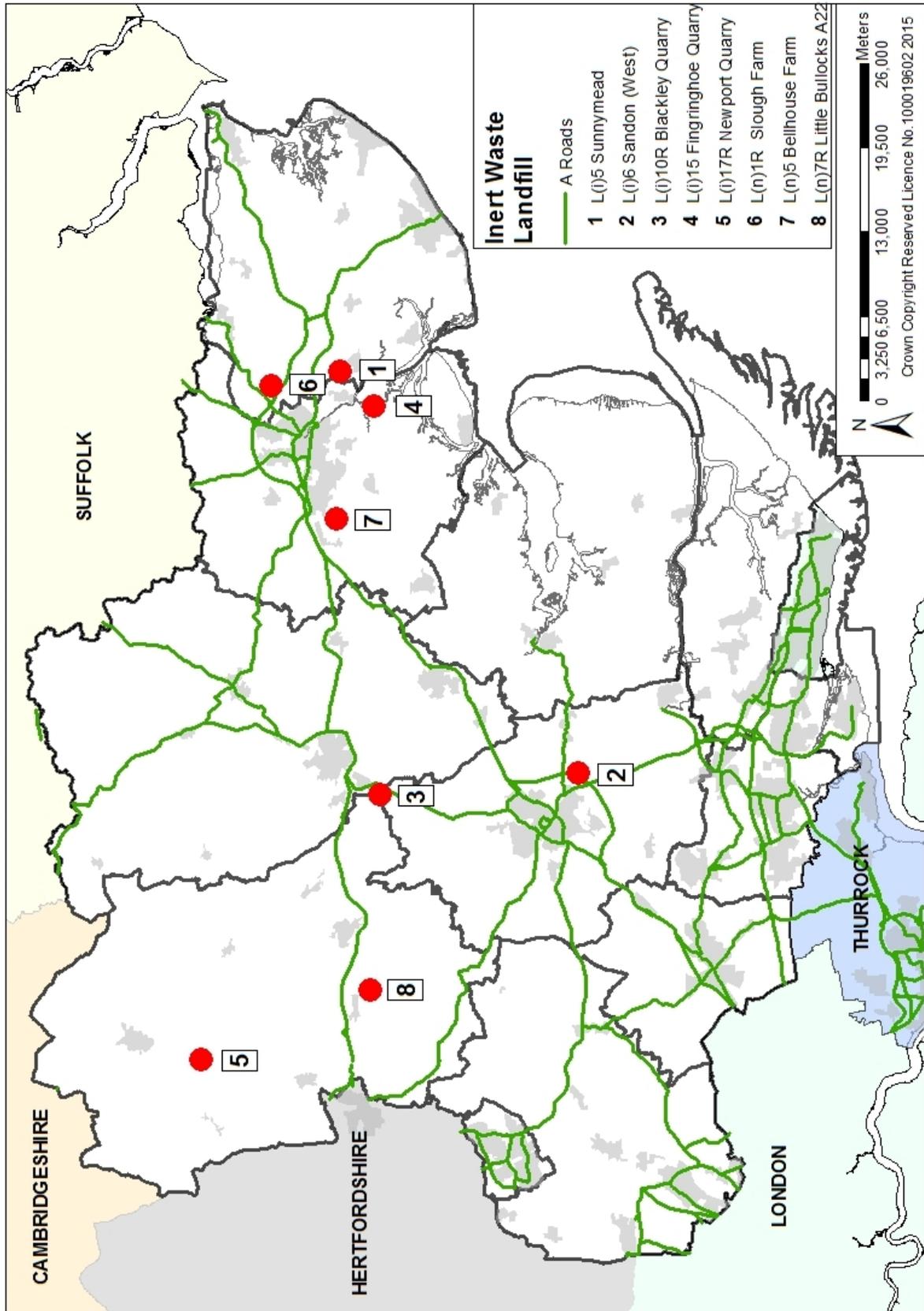
Picture 1 Strategic Site Allocations



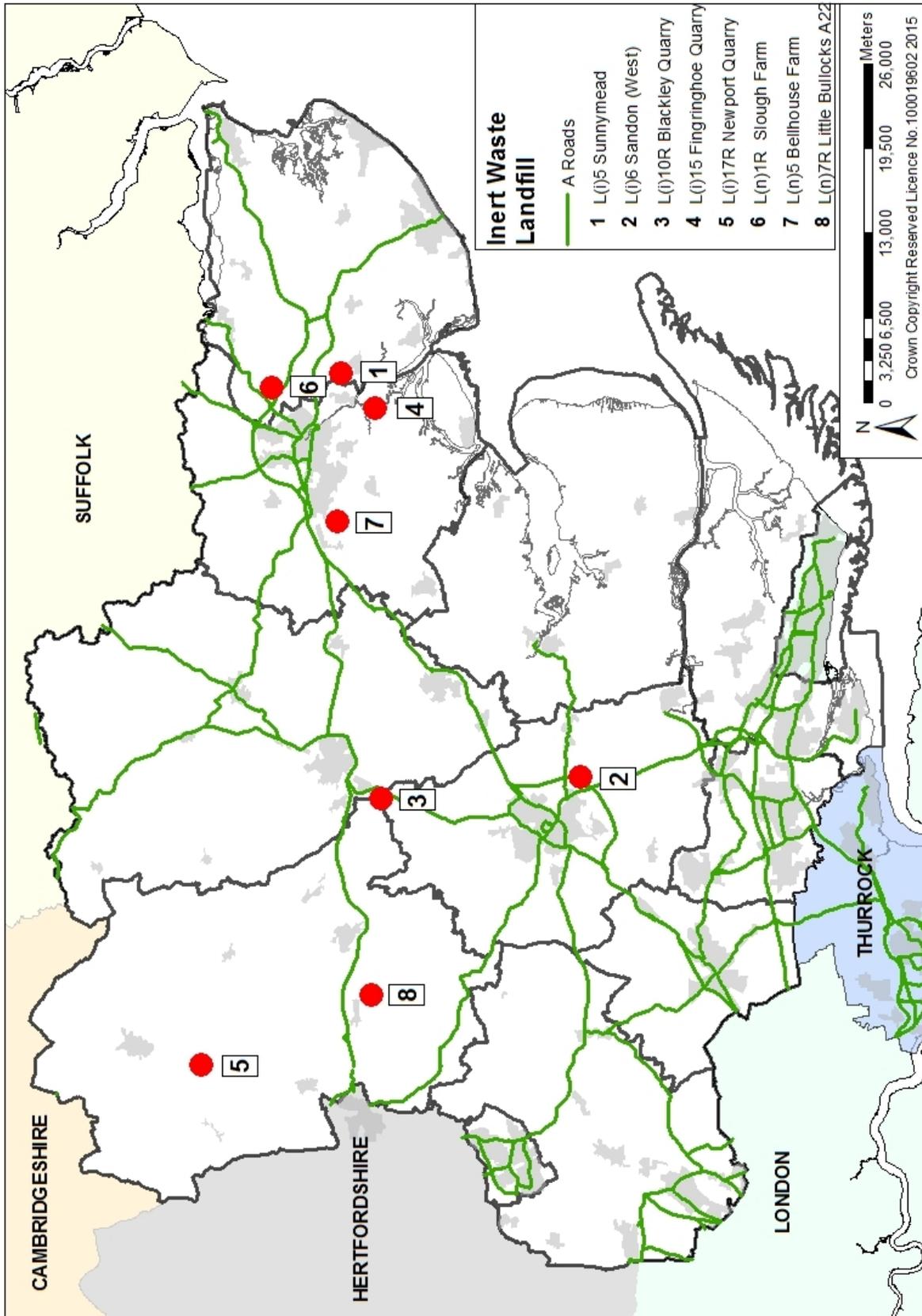
Picture 2 Sites Allocated for Biological Waste Treatment



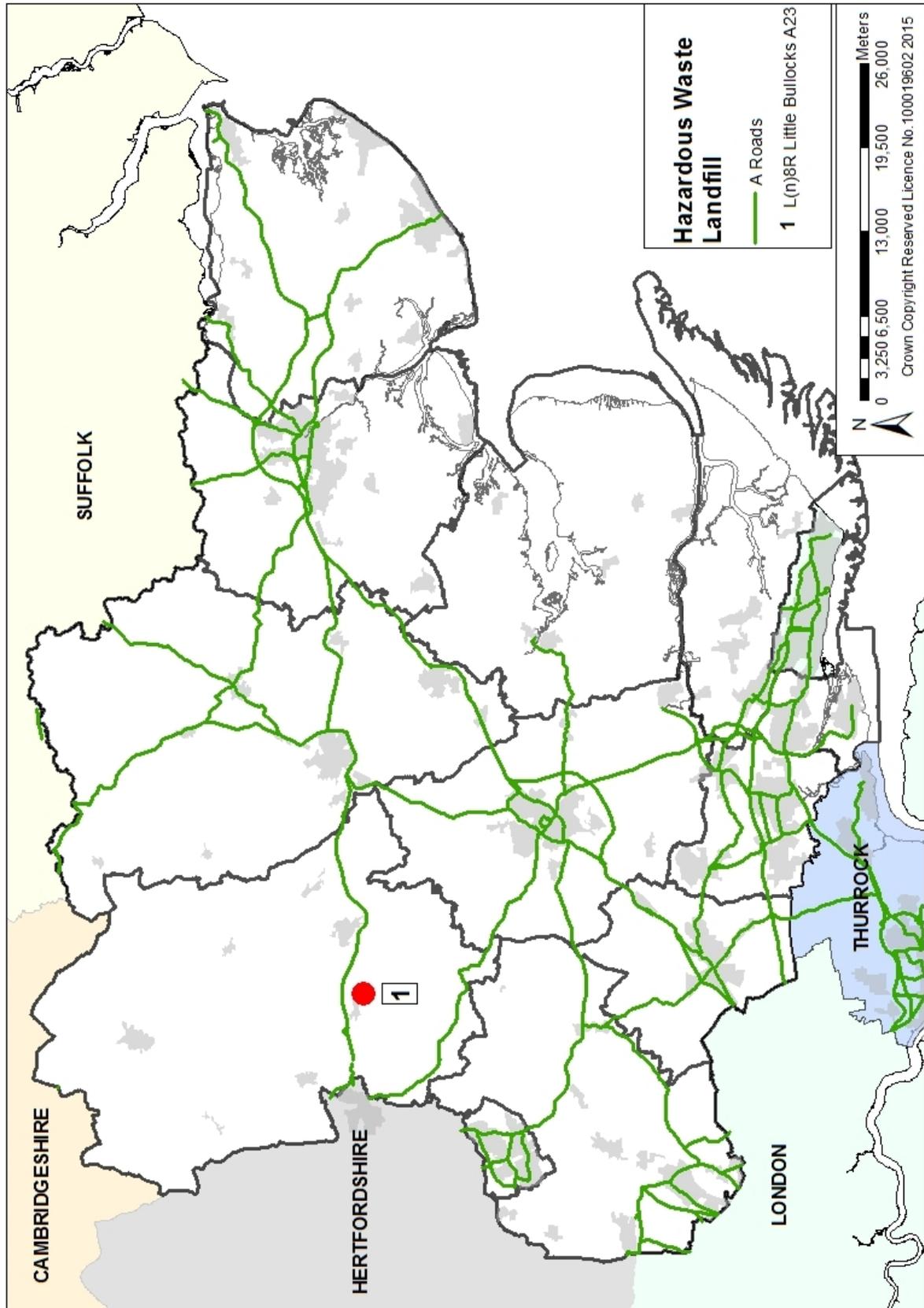
Picture 3 Sites Allocated for Inert Waste Recycling



Picture 4 Sites Allocated for Inert Landfilling



Picture 5 Sites Allocated for Hazardous Landfilling



**6.9** An 'Area of Search' encompasses a particular area within which a suitable waste management facility could be delivered, as opposed to a site allocation that represents the exact outline of where a facility is considered to be suitable. The process of identifying Areas of Search has been focused on employment land within industrial estates across the Plan area.

**6.10** The Authorities have worked with independent planning consultants to develop a robust methodology to be used in the selection of Areas of Search.

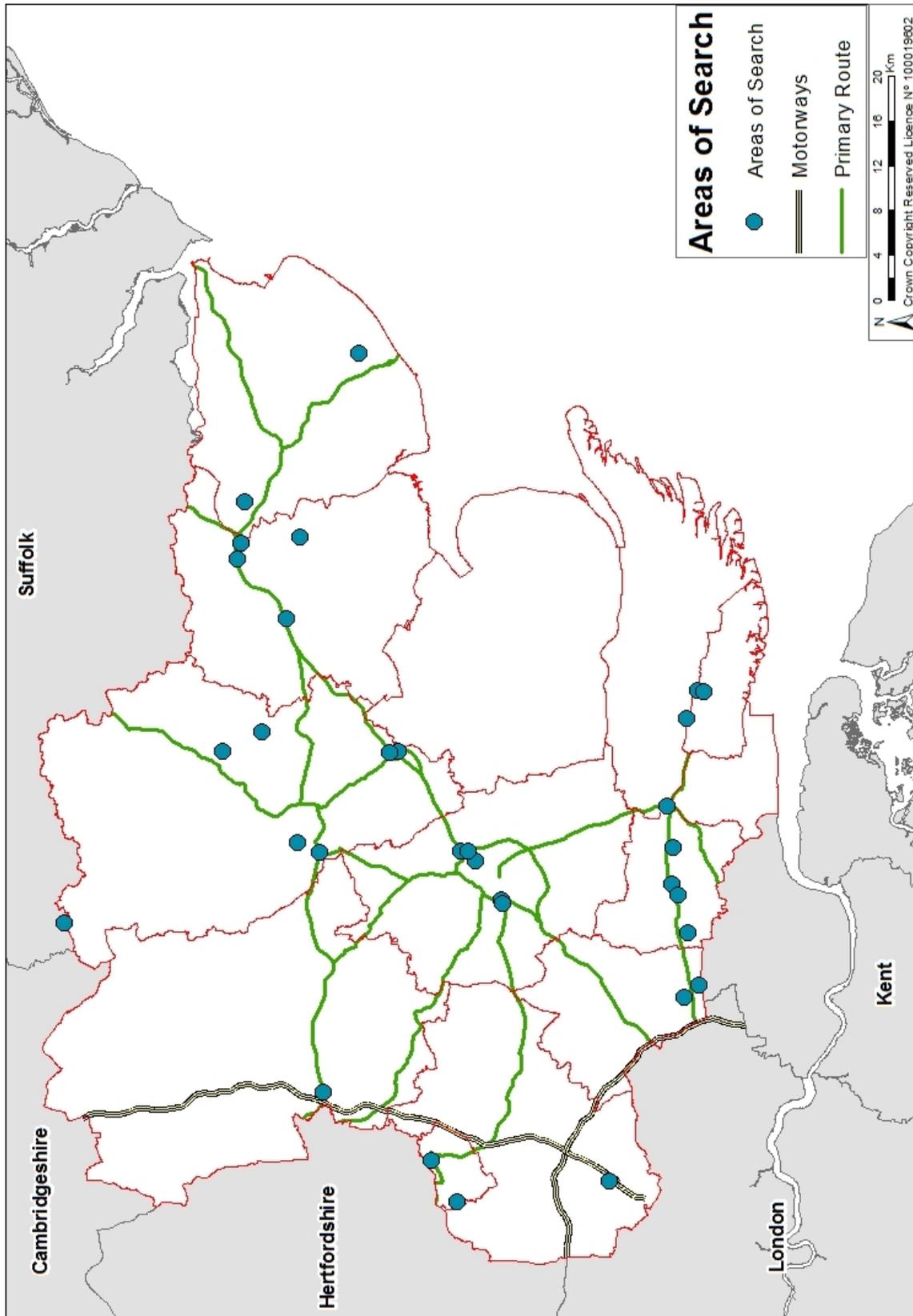
**6.11** The intention is for these Areas of Search is to act as a guide for waste operators seeking to develop a site within the Plan area, should waste development on the site allocations not come forward. Applications made within these Areas of Search will still require a full planning application which would need to contain precise details of the proposals.

**6.12** It should be noted that no employment areas in Castle Point or Maldon have been assessed as being suitable for identification as an Area of Search.

**Table 2 Areas of Search**

Preferred Area of Search	District	Preferred Area of Search	District
Burnt Mills Central	Basildon	Westways	Chelmsford
Festival Business Park	Basildon	Widford Industrial Estate	Chelmsford
Pipps Hill	Basildon	Land off Axial Way, Myland	Colchester
Southfield Business Park	Basildon	Severalls Industry Park	Colchester
Bluebridge Industrial Estate	Braintree	Tollgate, Stanway	Colchester
Earls Colne Airfield	Braintree	Whitehall Road Industrial Estate	Colchester
Eastways-Crittall Road, Waterside Park	Braintree	Langston Road/Oakland Hill, Loughton	Epping Forest
Freebournes Industrial Estate	Braintree	Pinnacles and Roydenbury Industrial Estate	Harlow
Skyline 120	Braintree	Temple Fields	Harlow
Springwood Industrial Estate	Braintree	Rochford Business Park	Rochford
Sturmer Industrial Estate Area 1	Braintree	Michelins Farm	Rochford
Childerditch Industrial Estate	Brentwood	Stock Road	Southend-on-Sea
West Horndon	Brentwood	Temple Farm	Southend-on-Sea
Drovers Way	Chelmsford	Martell's Farm Industrial Area	Tending
Dukes Park Industrial Estate	Chelmsford	Oakwood and Crusader Business Park	Tending
Springfield Business Park	Chelmsford	Start Hill, Great Hallingbury	Uttlesford

Picture 6 Areas of Search



**6.13** Locational criteria establish guiding principles for locating new waste development outside allocated sites or designated Areas of Search outlined in this Plan. As with the Areas of Search, locational criteria seek to provide greater flexibility to the waste industry to react to change and meet demand. They support the Plan-led approach to providing sustainable waste management opportunities to meet the identified future capacity needs in the Plan area.

**6.14** There is a strong preference for waste development to be delivered on site allocations and Areas of Search before alternative (unallocated) locations are considered, thereby helping achieve the Plan's Vision and Spatial Strategy. In contrast to allocated sites or Areas of Search, proposals for waste management development on unallocated or non-designated sites would need to evidence:

- That the proposal would deliver the capacity to provide for Essex and Southend-on-Sea's waste management needs;
- That the site allocations and Areas of Search are not appropriate sites for the delivery and operation of the proposed facility, and/or are unavailable.

**6.15** Locational criteria outlines the preferential land uses and/or locations considered appropriate for the range of waste facilities across the Waste Hierarchy that need to be provided across the Plan area. Proposals for waste development on unallocated sites would need to justify:

- A need for that site in the Plan area on the basis of net self-sufficiency; and,
- Why the sites allocated, through direct site allocations and Areas of Search, are not suitable for the delivery of the proposed facility.

**6.16** Locational Criteria policies are included in the Plan to guide the following types of waste management facilities:

- Open;
- Enclosed;
- Intermediate Low and Very Low Level Radioactive Waste (from nuclear and non-nuclear sources); and
- Landfill.

## 7 Development Management

**7.1** Development proposed on strategic site allocations and Areas of Search will still require a full planning application containing precise details of the proposed operations.

**7.2** The Plan includes consideration of waste development management issues, through the inclusion of a number of policies. The policies will aim to ensure that there would be no unacceptable harm to amenity, character and the environment or to other material considerations from waste development proposals.

**7.3** Development Management policies covering the following are included in the Plan:

- General considerations;
- Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change;
- Transportation of Waste;

- Landraising; and
- Landfill mining and Reclamation.

## 8 Monitoring & Implementation

**8.1** The Plan includes a monitoring and implementation framework. This includes indicators, trends and targets proposed to be used to monitor the various policies throughout the document.

**8.2** It is worth noting that the policies and site allocations included in the Replacement Waste Local Plan, once prepared, will mainly be implemented through the planning application process. However, some of the policies will be implemented through on-going dialogue with the district, borough and city councils within the County, which takes place through established work practises.

**8.3** Implementation of the Waste Local Plan will be monitored and captured in the Authorities' Annual Monitoring Reports, unless otherwise indicated. If the monitoring identifies any significant divergence from a trend or target required, some intervention by the Authorities will be required.

**8.4** The targets and trigger points for further consideration/action are set out within the table in the Implementation, Monitoring and Review section of the RWLP. Monitoring will seek to establish the reason(s) for the divergence from the target and, as a consequence, an intervention may be required. Intervention could include a review of the evidence base, a specific policy, or the Plan as whole and will be reported in the Annual Monitoring Report.



**This information is issued by**

Essex County Council, Minerals and Waste Planning as part of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework

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