

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening for the draft Supplementary Planning Documents

Oil and Gas Development & Minerals and Waste Safeguarding



Version 1

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Non-technical summary

This is the Non-Technical Summary of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening of the emerging Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) on Oil and Gas Development and Minerals and Waste Safeguarding which are being prepared to facilitate the implementation of the adopted Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013).

Introduction

Hampshire County Council (HCC), Portsmouth City Council (PCC), Southampton City Council (SCC), the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) jointly prepared the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'HMWP' or the 'Plan'). The Plan was adopted in 2013 and covers the geographic areas covered by the Authorities, providing a framework for future minerals and waste development in Hampshire.

Following the adoption of the Plan, SPDs are being prepared to sit alongside the HMWP and provide guidance on the implementation of the policies contained within the HMWP. The SPDs cover:

- Minerals and Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire; and
- Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire.

The SPDs will cover the areas administered by HCC, PCC, SCC and the NFNPA. They will not cover the area of Hampshire covered by the SDNPA.

Purpose of the Supplementary Planning Documents

The SPDs will support the implementation of the adopted HMWP.

Since the adoption of the Plan, the issue of oil and gas development and the potential for hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') has shown itself to be an issue of interest to Hampshire communities. The intention to prepare a SPD also follows the Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire event, which took place in June 2014. The SPD will set out the local expectations for conventional and unconventional oil and gas planning applications submitted in Hampshire.

Minerals and waste safeguarding is also an issue which requires further implementation guidance now that the HMWP has been adopted. The HMWP includes clear policies on the safeguarding of mineral resources, minerals infrastructure, waste infrastructure and potential wharves and rail depots.

Further guidance is required to ensure that Hampshire's District and Borough Councils consult the relevant minerals and waste planning authority effectively when non-minerals-or-waste proposals impact the mineral resources and minerals and waste infrastructure safeguarded by the Plan. In addition, to ensure that developers (for non-minerals-or-waste developments) consider safeguarding issues at the earliest stages of preparation of planning applications, further guidance is needed.

The SPD will set out an agreed approach between the County Council and its partners and Hampshire's District and Borough Councils on the consideration of safeguarding issues when non-minerals-or-waste developments are proposed. It will also provide further guidance to potential developers of non minerals and waste developments about the consideration of these issues when preparing masterplans and planning applications.

Why is Habitats Regulation Assessment required?

The Habitats Regulations¹ contain a number of requirements that planning authorities (i.e. competent authorities) must comply with. Regulation 102 applies to land use plans and states:

"(1) Where a land use plan—

*(a) is likely to have a **significant effect** on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives".

As with most land use plans, the HMWP and these subsequent SPDs do not meet (b) above, there is a requirement for the SPD to undergo assessment under the requirements of the regulations to test the likely significance of the SPD as per (a) above.

The procedure for satisfying this requirement is known as a *Habitats Regulations Assessment* (HRA). This report sets out the HRA screening of the SPDs. The preparation of the HMWP was subject to a full HRA. This has been used as a basis for the preparation of the HRA for the SPDs.

HRA includes three main stages which are as follows:

- **The screening stage (Stage 1):** This requires sufficient information to decide if a significant effect is likely;
- **Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2):** If necessary, the Appropriate Assessment stage will then go into more detail to test whether those effects could result in an adverse effect on a European site; and
- **If Appropriate Assessment is unable to conclude the plan will not have an adverse effect (Stage 3):** If necessary, consider alternative solutions or compensation or identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'.

The HRA is an iterative process undertaken alongside the preparation of plan documents.

1.Habitats Regulations: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/contents/made

A HRA methodology and baseline report was prepared for the HMWP and has been used as basis for the screening.

Results of the Screening

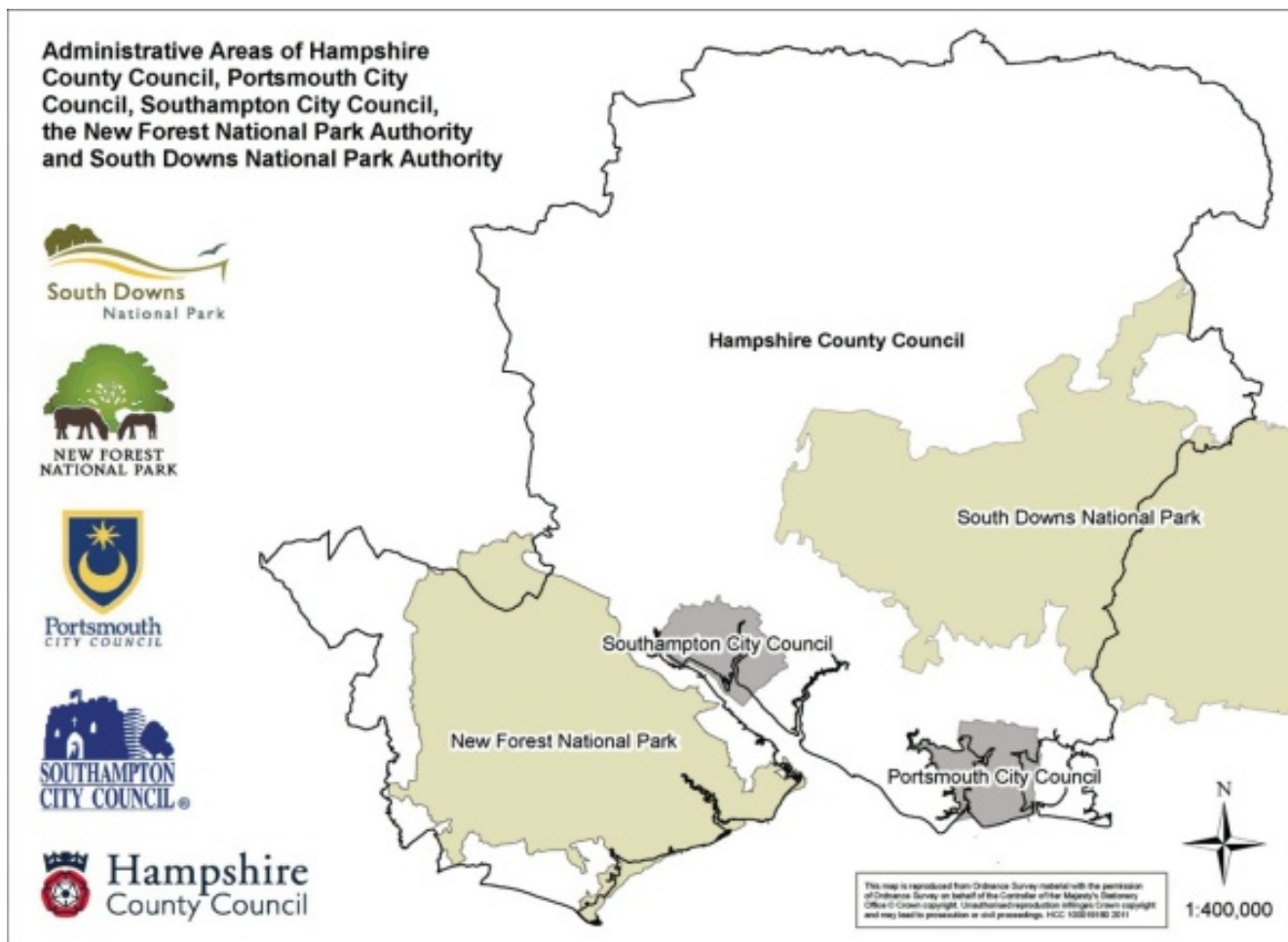
The screening matrices have enabled all elements of the SPD to be assessed for the likelihood of significant effects. The screening has shown that **NO** elements of the emerging SPD consultation documents have been categorised as having uncertain, likely or in combination effects on the integrity of the European sites scoped into this HRA. Therefore no further assessment under the Habitats Regulations is required.

This assessment will be reviewed in line with the interactive nature of the SPD development following consultation with Natural England and the public consultation of the draft SPDs.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Hampshire County Council (HCC), Portsmouth City Council (PCC), Southampton City Council (SCC), the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) and the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) jointly prepared the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'HMWP' or the Plan)² and accompanying documents as required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004³. The HMWP was adopted in 2013 and covers the geographic areas covered by the minerals and waste authorities as demonstrated in the following map.

Figure 1: Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan



- 1.2 The HMWP provides a framework for future minerals and waste development in Hampshire. The HMWP covers the period up to 2030 and aims to protect Hampshire's environment, maintain its communities and support the local economy through the provision of sustainable minerals and waste development. The HMWP comprises overarching strategic policies as well as strategic site allocations for minerals and waste. It includes policies relating to the following areas:

- Sustainable minerals and waste development;

2. Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (2013): <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/mineralsandwaste/HampshireMineralsWastePlanADOPTED.pdf>

3. Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents

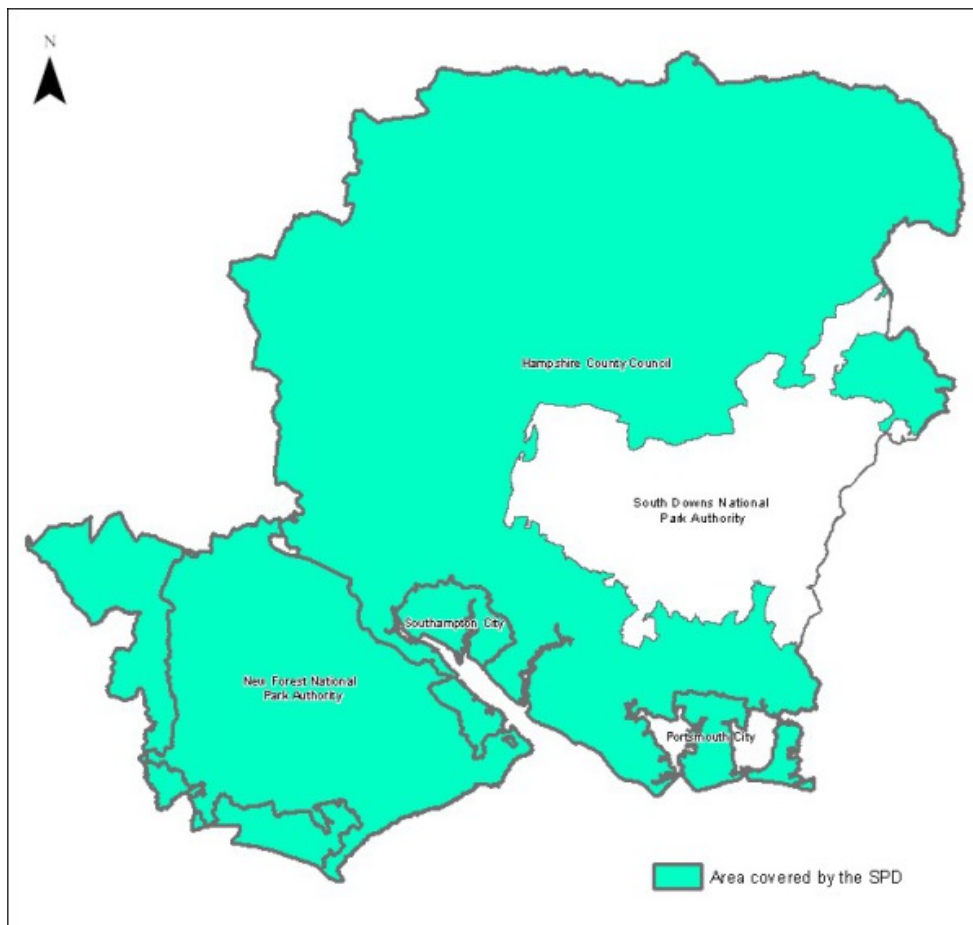
- Protecting Hampshire's environment (habitats and species, designated landscapes, countryside, Green Belt, historic environment, soils and restoration);
- Maintaining Hampshire's communities (public health, safety and amenity, flood risk, traffic, design and community benefits); and
- Supporting Hampshire's economy (safeguarding, total aggregate supply (marine-won, recycled and secondary aggregate, imports and land-won), silica sand, brick-making clay, chalk, oil and gas, sustainable waste management, waste capacity, energy recovery, locations of waste sites, construction, demolition and excavation waste, liquid waste and waste water management, non hazardous waste landfill, hazardous and low level radioactive waste and safeguarding potential wharves and rail depots).

1.3 Following the adoption of the HMWP, a new partnership has been formed between HCC, PCC, SCC and the NFNPA (hereafter known as the Hampshire Authorities) to monitor and implement the HMWP. The Hampshire Authorities are producing SPDs on Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire and Minerals and Waste Safeguarding to support the implementation of the adopted HMWP.

Purpose of the SPDs

- 1.4 The SPDs do not include further policies for oil and gas as the Plan already includes robust policies which any proposal for oil and gas would be judged against.
- 1.5 This SPDs cover the administrative areas of HCC, SCC, PCC and the NFNPA only. The SPD does not cover the administrative areas of the SDNPA which falls within Hampshire.
- 1.6 The SPDs cover the area highlighted in the following map.

Figure 2: Area covered by the SPDs



Source: Hampshire Authorities, 2015

Oil and gas development

1.7 Since the adoption of the Plan, the issue of oil and gas development and the potential for hydraulic fracturing ('fracking') has shown itself to be an issue of interest and concern to Hampshire communities. The HMWP contains a policy specifically on oil and gas development (*Policy 24*). Policies 1-14 of the Plan will also be relevant to determining oil and gas proposals. Due to the interest in this subject, the Hampshire Authorities consider that the development of a SPD on this issue would provide greater clarity and certainty to Hampshire's communities and interested parties on issues and local expectations associated with oil and gas development. The intention to prepare a SPD also follows the Oil and Gas Development in Hampshire event, which took place in June 2014.

1.8 The SPD:

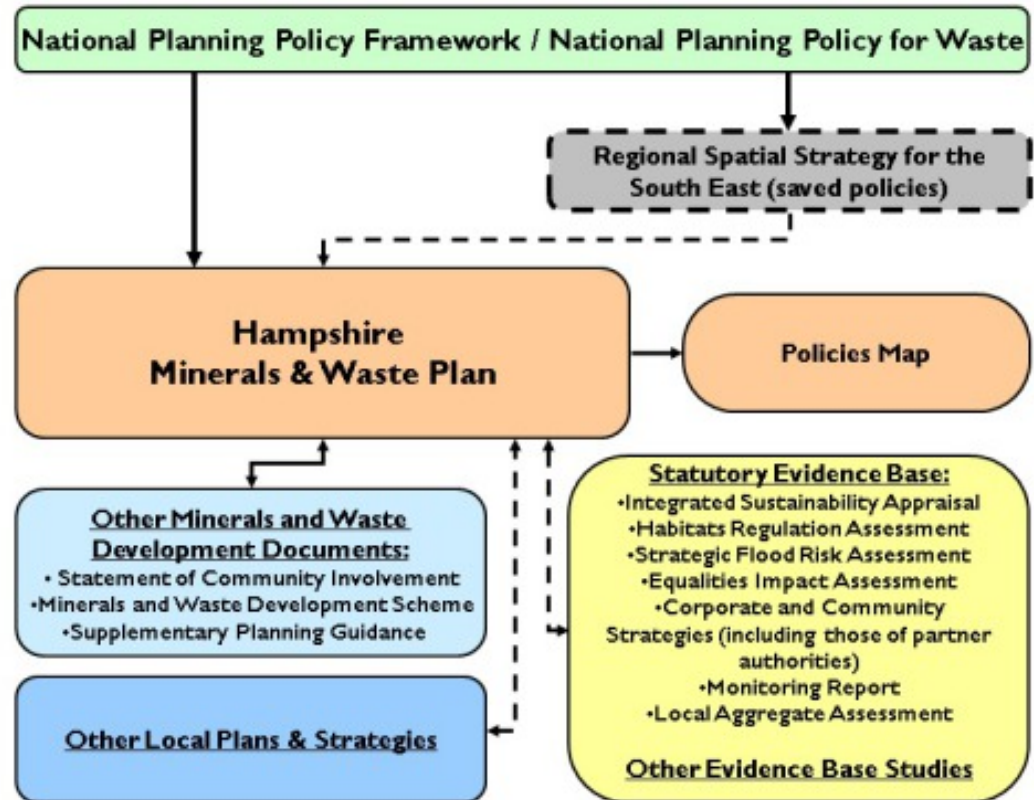
- outlines planning policy guidance for oil and gas development in Hampshire and the implementation of the policies of the Plan; and
- provides further guidance on oil and gas issues and the implementation of the relevant policies of the HWMP within the Plan area.

Minerals and waste safeguarding

- 1.9 Minerals and waste safeguarding is also an issue which requires further implementation guidance now that the HMWP has been adopted. The HMWP includes clear policies on the safeguarding of mineral resources (Policy 15), minerals infrastructure (Policy 16), waste infrastructure (Policy 26), and potential wharves and rail depots (Policy 34).
- 1.10 Further guidance is required to ensure that Hampshire's District and Borough Councils consult the relevant minerals and waste planning authority effectively when non-minerals-or-waste proposals impact the mineral resources and minerals and waste infrastructure safeguarded by the Plan. In addition, to ensure that developers (for non-minerals-or-waste developments) consider safeguarding issues at the earliest stages of preparation of planning applications, further guidance is needed.
- 1.11 The SPD will set out an agreed approach between the Hampshire Authorities and Hampshire's District and Borough Councils on the consideration of safeguarding issues when non-minerals-or-waste developments are proposed. It will also provide further guidance to potential developers of non minerals and waste developments about the consideration of these issues when preparing masterplans and planning applications. The SPD does not include further policies on minerals and waste safeguarding as the Plan already includes robust policies on these issues.
- 1.12 The timescales for the completion of the SPDs are set out in the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Development Scheme which came into affect in September 2014⁴. The SPDs will form part of a suite of documents prepared to support minerals and waste planning decision-making in Hampshire. This includes the adopted HMWP as well as national planning policy as highlighted in the following diagram.

4.Hampshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (2014): www.hants.gov.uk/development-scheme-3.htm

Figure 3: Linkages between the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan and other plans, programmes and documents



The purpose of this report

- 1.13 This report sets out the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the SPDs, primarily determining the impacts of the SPDs on the original HRA assessments undertaken for the HMWP. The preparation of the HMWP was subject to a full HRA. This has been used as a basis for the preparation of the HRA for the SPDs.
- 1.14 The HRA is an iterative process undertaken alongside the preparation of SPD documents. This document reports on a 'screening' process undertaken to assess the potential effects of the two SPDs on European sites.

The main objectives of this report are to:

1. describe how the planning authorities have screened the emerging SPDs to satisfy the procedural requirements of the Habitats Regulations;
2. document the screening findings relevant to the plan area to inform future assessment;
3. suggest the scope and method for undertaking an Appropriate Assessment of selected element of the SPDs (if required); and to
4. explain how the appropriate nature conservation bodies will be consulted.

1.15 The Habitats Regulations⁵ contain a number of requirements that planning authorities (i.e. competent authorities) must comply with. Regulation 102 applies to land use plans and states:

"(1) Where a land use plan—

*(a) is likely to have a **significant effect** on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives".

As with most land use plans, the HWMP and the subsequent SPDs do not meet (b) above, there is a requirement for the SPDs to undergo assessment under the requirements of the regulations to test the likely significance of the SPDs as per (a) above.

1.16 The procedure for satisfying this requirement is known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and includes three main stages which are as follows:

- **The screening stage (Stage 1):** This requires sufficient information to decide if a significant effect is likely;
- **Appropriate Assessment stage (Stage 2):** If necessary, the Appropriate Assessment stage will then go into more detail to test whether those effects could result in an adverse effect on a European site; and
- **If Appropriate Assessment is unable to conclude the plan will not have an adverse effect (Stage 3):** If necessary, consider alternative solutions, compensation or identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'.

A HRA methodology and baseline report was prepared for the HWMP and has been used as basis for the screening.

5. Habitats Regulations: www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/contents/made

1.17 As shown in the following table, authorities are required to prepare a **screening report** to demonstrate compliance with **Stage 1**. This report, and the HRA methodology and baseline report, satisfy the requirements of **Stage 1**.

Table 1: Compliance Table

Assessment Type	Tasks	Outcome
Stage 1: Screening for a likely significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of the draft SPD Identification of potential effects on European sites An initial evaluation of a plan's effects on European sites. 	Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect report'. Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, prepare screening report and proceed to Stage 2.
Stage 2: 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information (plan and European sites) Impact prediction Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives Where necessary define how adverse effects will be avoided through, firstly, avoidance, and secondly, mitigation including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures 	Report evaluating the impacts and considering whether changes to the SPD are needed to ensure that it will not have an adverse effect on European site(s). make a report available for consultation. If effects remain after mitigation measures have been considered proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3: If AA is unable to conclude the plan will not have an adverse effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider alternative solutions and demonstrate the SPD is the least damaging way of meeting the need Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) Identify and agree potential compensation measures for the adverse effect that the policy will have Notify Secretary of State (SoS) prior to adoption - SoS will decide whether to give effect to the plan 	<i>This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.</i>

The 'likely significant effect' test

1.18 As shown in the table above, the first stage of assessment under the Habitats Regulations is a broad filter or 'likely significant effect' test, which determines whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect. A common definition of what constitutes a significant effect is as follows: '*...any effect that may reasonably be predicted as a consequence of a plan or project that may affect the conservation objectives of the features for which the site was designated, but excluding trivial or inconsequential effects*'⁶⁷.

6. English Nature (1999) Habitats Regulations Guidance Note 3: The Determination of Likely Significant Effect under The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994 http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical_guidance/HRGN3.pdf

7.

To determine if the proposals are likely to have any significant effects on designated sites the following issues are considered:

- could the proposals affect the qualifying interest of the European site (is the site sensitive to the effect);
- what is the probability of the effect happening;
- what are the likely consequences for the site's Conservation Objectives (as defined by Natural England) if the effect occurred; and
- what will be the magnitude, duration and reversibility of the effect.

- 1.19 The decision-making process under the Habitats Directive⁸ is underpinned by the precautionary principle, whereby the Competent Authority acts to avoid potential harm in the face of scientific uncertainty. If it is not possible in a 'likely significant effect' test to rule out a risk of significant effect on a European site on the basis of available evidence, then it should be assumed a risk may exist and needs to be dealt with at the next stage of HRA. This precautionary approach should be taken at all stages of the assessment where faced with scientific uncertainty.
- 1.20 If elements of the SPD identified through the screening process as having likely significant effects which cannot be avoided or mitigated by taking account of the measures described above OR through application of the precautionary principle need to be assessed against the conservation objectives of European sites to demonstrate as to whether the element of the SPD would not adversely effect the *integrity* of European sites. This would be addressed through the further stages of the HRA known as **Appropriate Assessment**.

The structure of this report

- 1.21 The remaining part of this report is structured in the following way:
- Section 2: [Screening for likely significant effect \[See page 9\]](#) - This section represents an assessment of SPDs against the requirement of Stage 1 of the HRA based on the structure and content of the SPDs and the HMWP policies which they support.
 - Section 3: [Findings and next steps \[See page 13\]](#) - This section summarises the findings from the screening exercise reported in Section 2, and explains how this information will be taken forward to inform ongoing assessment of the SPDs under the Habitats Regulations. It sets out the conclusion from this screening stage.

8.Habitats Directive: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/legislation/habitatsdirective/index_en.htm

2. Screening for likely significant effect

Methodology

- 2.1 To undertake the screening process, a Screening Matrix to assess if elements of the SPD alter the findings of the screening undertaken for the HMWP has been undertaken.
- 2.2 Each suggested element of the SPD has been categorised as to its likely effects on each interest feature of each European site identified in the evidence base.

There are four categories of potential effects as follows:

1. would have no negative effect on a European site at all;
2. could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European site either alone or in-combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects;
3. could or would be likely to have a significant effect alone and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted;
4. would be likely to have a significant effect in-combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects and will require the plan to be subject to an appropriate assessment before the plan may be adopted.

- 2.3 Categories A, C and D are subdivided into specific reasons, so that it is more directly related to the ways in which the plan may affect the European site, shown in the following tables.

Table 2: Potential effects of components of the emerging SPDs: Category A and B (No negative effect/significant effects)

Category A1	Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
Category A2	Category Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
Category A3	Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site (e.g. restoration).
Category A4	Category Options / policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
Category A5	Options / policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and associated sensitive areas.
Category B	Options / policies could have an effect but the effect would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on a European sites (i.e. trivial or 'de minimis' effect).

Table 3: Potential effects of components of the emerging SPDs: Category C (Likely significant effect alone)

Category C1	The option, policy or proposal could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.
Category C2	The option, policy or proposal could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressures.
Category C3	Proposals for a magnitude of development that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European sites.
Category C4	An option, or policy that makes provision for a quantity / type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations), but the effects are uncertain because the detailed location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options in a later, more specific plan.
Category C5	Options, policies or proposals for developments or infrastructure projects that could block options or alternatives for the provision of other development projects in the future, which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
Category C6	Options, policies or proposals which depend on how the policies etc are implemented in due course, for example, through the development management process. There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on a European site.
Category C7	Any other options, policies or proposals that would be vulnerable to fail the assessment under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage.
Category C8	Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the plan provides the imperative reasons of overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.

Table 4: Potential effects of components of the emerging SPDs: Category D (Likely significant effect in-combination)

Category D1	The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for by the plan the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.
Category D2	Options, policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans or projects, the combined effects would be likely to be significant.
Category D3	Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a programme or sequence of development delivered over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on European sites, but which would dictate the nature, scale, duration, location, timing of the whole project, the later stages of which could have an adverse effect on such sites

- 2.4 Each element has been checked for the likelihood (see [Findings and next steps \[See page 13\]](#)) of it leading to a significant effect on a European site alone, then, if not alone, in-combination with other plans or projects.

Justification for attributing a category

- 2.5 In order to categorise components falling into categories B, C and D, each component of the SPDs that may fall into one of these categories has been assessed against all European sites to identify any likely significant effect. The process of identifying significant effect is outlined within the methodology and baseline report for the HMWP.
- 2.6 To support the categorisation suggested in the screening matrices:
- a justification has been provided in the 3rd column which summarises the types of impact considered to potentially arise as a result of implementation of the policy;
 - the relevant European site(s) which may be affected; and
 - consideration of issues such as the magnitude, location or pathway of effects in relation to the impacts identified.
- 2.7 This summarises information which has been drawn upon from the following sources:
- Baseline information about the conditions required to maintain the integrity of the European sites. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) - mapping proposed development and European sites and assessing proximity and potential for connectivity;
 - Survey information already gathered about European sites about e.g bird behaviour;
 - Experiences with other similar minerals and waste development in the vicinity/within Hampshire;
 - Studies prepared for parts of Hampshire to inform Local Plan preparation/project HRAs;
 - Local knowledge from ecological specialists; and
 - Established impacts from types of minerals and waste development.
- 2.8 As explained previously, a methodology and baseline report was been prepared for the HMWP. This will be updated as information becomes available. The report contains information on all the European sites relevant to Hampshire, including the site vulnerabilities and sensitivities, any management issues, and so on. This detailed information is more likely to be referred to directly in support of any subsequent appropriate assessment, particularly the information about the conservation objectives of the European sites.

Identifying requirements for Appropriate Assessment

- 2.9 The final column used in the screening matrices states whether or not at this stage in the SPDs development is likely to require an **Appropriate Assessment**.
- 2.10 If Appropriate Assessment is considered to be required, this process may also identify a requirement for such counter-acting measures. Examples include:
1. elimination of the likelihood of any effects on the European site (e.g. deletion of text);
 2. cancelling out potentially adverse effects on the European site before their effects are felt (e.g. modifying the supporting text); and
 3. reducing likely significant effects, perhaps to a level that is insignificant or in a way that makes them unlikely to occur.

Previous Assessment

- 2.11 All policies included in the HMWP were assessed in the HRA of the full HMWP⁹.
- 2.12 The following policies in the HMWP are considered to be relevant to the Oil and Gas Development SPD:
- Policy 1: Sustainable minerals and waste development;
 - Policy 2: Climate change - mitigation and adaptation;
 - Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species;
 - Policy 4: Protection of the designated landscape;
 - Policy 5: Protection of the countryside;
 - Policy 6: South West Hampshire Green Belt;
 - Policy 7: Conserving the historic environment and heritage assets;
 - Policy 8: Protection of soils;
 - Policy 9: Restoration of minerals and waste developments;
 - Policy 10: Protecting public health, safety and amenity;
 - Policy 11: Flood risk and prevention;
 - Policy 12: Managing traffic;
 - Policy 13: High-quality design of minerals and waste development;
 - Policy 14: Community benefits; and
 - Policy 24: Oil and gas development.
- 2.13 The following policies in the HMWP are considered to be relevant to the Minerals and Waste Safeguarding SPD:
- Policy 15 (Safeguarding - mineral resources);
 - Policy 16 (Safeguarding - minerals infrastructure);
 - Policy 26 (Safeguarding - waste infrastructure); and
 - Policy 34 (Safeguarding potential minerals and waste wharf and rail depot infrastructure).
- 2.14 All policies relevant to the emerging SPDs are set out in [Appendix 1: Relevant HMWP Policies \[See page 18\]](#).
- 2.15 The screening of the policies are set out in [Appendix 2: Relevant Safeguarding HMWP Policies - Screening Matrices \[See page 30\]](#) and [Appendix 3: Relevant Oil & Gas HMWP Policies - Screening Matrices \[See page 40\]](#). The tables have been updated to accurately reflect the correct policy number and title in the adopted Plan.

⁹. Habitats Regulation Assessment Work for the HMWP: <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/planning-strategic/HMWPHRARRecordFINALSept2013.pdf> / <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/planning-strategic/HMWPHRARRecordofDeterminationSept2013.pdf> / <http://documents.hants.gov.uk/planning-strategic/HMWPHRARRecordAppendicesFINALSept2013.pdf>

3. Findings and next steps

Results of the Screening

Directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of any European site?

- 3.1 An early test under regulation 102(1)(b)(1) is whether the plan or programme is directly connected with or necessary to the nature conservation management of any European site. Such plans or programmes are exempt from Appropriate Assessment under this test.
- 3.2 Like with most land use plans, the SPDs do not meet this test and the consultation documents are therefore not exempt.

Screening matrices

- 3.3 The following tables set out the screening of the two SPDs.

Table 5: Screening matrices for Minerals & Waste Safeguarding in Hampshire SPD

Reference	Assessment Category	Justification	Potential changes to the SPD that may eliminate or mitigate impact	Is a full Appropriate Assessment required?
Foreword	A1	Contextual and background information only	N/A	No
Have Your Say on this draft SPD	A1	Contextual information for the consultation	N/A	No
Introduction and purpose	A1	Contextual and background information only	N/A	No
Minerals and waste safeguarding in Hampshire	A1	Technical information on minerals and waste safeguarding and the associated HMWP policies. Background to legal and national planning policy requirements for minerals and waste safeguarding	N/A	No
Preparation of planning applications for non-mineral-or-waste uses	A1	Technical information on minerals and waste safeguarding and the associated HMWP policies	N/A	No
Minerals and waste safeguarding procedures	A1	Technical procedures on minerals and waste safeguarding and the implementation of associated HMWP policies	N/A	No
Glossary and acronyms	N/A	Contextual and background information only	N/A	No
Appendix 1: Consultation with the MWPA on Local Plan work	A1	Technical procedures on minerals and waste safeguarding and the implementation of associated HMWP policies	N/A	No
Appendix 2: Consultation with the MWPA on non-minerals-or-waste planning applications	A1	Technical procedures on minerals and waste safeguarding and the implementation of associated HMWP policies	N/A	No

Table 6: Screening matrices for Oil & Gas Development in Hampshire SPD

Reference	Assessment Category	Justification	Potential changes to the SPD that may eliminate or mitigate impact	Is a full Appropriate Assessment required?
Foreword	A1	Section provides contextual and background information only	N/A	No
Have Your Say on this draft SPD	A1	Section provides contextual information for the consultation	N/A	No
Introduction and purpose	A1	Section provides contextual and background information on oil and gas and the purpose of the SPD only	N/A	No
Oil and gas licencing in Hampshire	A1	Section provides a background to national licencing system for oil and gas only	N/A	No
Permitted oil and gas development	A1	Section provides a background to legal and national planning policy which relates to permitted development	N/A	No
Phases of oil and gas development	A1	Section provides contextual and background information on the different phases of oil and gas development	N/A	No
Planning Performance Agreements	A1	Section provides a background to legal and national planning policy which relates to Planning Performance Agreements	N/A	No
Preparing a planning application for oil or gas development	B	Section strengthens the rigorous environmental assessments required to accompany planning applications for oil and gas development, but mainly provides a technical background of how the planning process and oil and gas development integrates. The sections makes specific reference to compliance with national and local planning policy (policies of the adopted HMWP) and provides additional guidance on the implementation of the plan policies which are relevant to the HRA process.	N/A	No
How will decision making take place for oil or gas development?	A1	Section mainly provides a technical background of how oil and gas developments will be determined.	N/A	No
What conditions are likely to be attached to planning permissions?	A1	Section mainly provides background information of how oil and gas developments will be determined and what associated conditions may be attached to oil and gas developments.	N/A	No
Planning obligations	A1	Section mainly provides background information on the types of planning obligations which may be relevant to oil and gas developments.	N/A	No

Monitoring and enforcement of oil and gas developments	A1	Section mainly provides background information on the types of the monitoring and enforcement duties of the Hampshire Authorities	N/A	No
Community benefits	A1	Section mainly provides background information on community benefits which may be related to oil and gas developments	N/A	No
Glossary and acronyms	N/A	Contextual and background information only	N/A	No
Appendix 1: Oil and gas licences in Hampshire	A1	Appendix provides a background to national licencing system for oil and gas only	N/A	No
Appendix 2: Current permitted oil and gas developments in Hampshire	A1	Appendix provide background information on the latest oil and gas activities in Hampshire. Thought in part geographically specifically (e.g. existing sites), there is no policy steer.	N/A	No
Appendix 3: Establishing whether a proposed oil or gas development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A1	Appendix provide background information on the EIA process. The appendix strengthens the rigorous environmental assessments required to accompany planning applications for oil and gas development, but mainly provides technical information on the EIA process.	N/A	No

In-combination assessment

- 3.4 An 'in-combination' assessment should be undertaken as part of the screening exercise. Each section of the SPD requires to be checked for the likelihood of it leading to a significant effect on a European site, firstly alone, then, if not alone, in-combination with the other policy approaches, or other plans or projects.
- 3.5 As indicated by section [Screening for likely significant effect \[See page 9\]](#), the categorisation methodology used for this screening assessment suggests 'D categories' to identify likely significant effects in-combination.
- 3.6 Category D1 describes those policies/ policy elements which alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for by the plan the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.

- 3.7 The preceding screening matrices indicate that the majority sections of the SPD have been categorised as A category (i.e. approaches which alone would not be likely to have significant effects). In principle, these policy approaches should be subject to in-combination assessment. The majority of the SPD sections have been categorised as A1, A3 or A4, because they will not themselves lead to development, typically because they provide technical background to the oil and gas and minerals and waste safeguarding and the policy framework in which it sits. There is a very low risk that these A category elements could have significant effects if combined with other plans and projects, and thus no further in-combination assessment is required for these.
- 3.8 One section of the Oil & Gas SPD has been assigned a B category because it is considered, in part, to potentially have an effect but the effect is not considered to be significant (i.e. minimal or 'de minimis' effects). This is also based on the HMWP appraisal of Policy 24. Further in-combination assessment may be required for these policy approaches at a later stage.
- 3.9 Finally, the screening matrices above already identify no policy/ policy elements where there could be in-combination effects (categories D1 and D2).

Analysis of findings from Screening and conclusions

- 3.10 The screening matrices have enabled all elements of the SPD to be assessed for the likelihood of significant effects.
- All sections of the Safeguarding SPD have been categorised solely as category A (No negative effect/ significant effects);
 - All sections of the Oil and Gas SPD have been categorised solely or partly under the A and B categories (No negative effect/ significant effects); and
 - No sections of the SPDs have been categorised under the C categories (uncertain and/ or likely significant effect alone) and under the D category (Likely significant effect in-combination).

As a result of the conclusions above, it can be confirmed that NO elements of the emerging SPD consultation document have been categorised as having uncertain, likely or in-combination effects on the integrity of the European sites scoped into this HRA.

- 3.11 It is therefore concluded that no further assessment under the Habitat Regulations is required.
- 3.12 This assessment will be reviewed in line with the interactive nature of the SPD development following consultation with Natural England and the public consultation of the draft SPDs.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Relevant HMWP Policies

HMWP policies relevant to the Oil and gas development SPD

Sustainable minerals and waste development

Policy 1: Sustainable minerals and waste development

The Hampshire Authorities will take a positive approach to minerals and waste development that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Minerals and waste development that accord with policies in this Plan will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the proposal or the relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision, the Hampshire Authorities will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether:

- Any adverse impacts of granting planning permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or
- Specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.

Protecting Hampshire's Environment

Policy 2: Climate change - mitigation and adaptation

Minerals and waste development should minimise their impact on the causes of climate change. Where applicable, minerals and waste development should reduce vulnerability and provide resilience to impacts of climate change by:

- a. being located and designed to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the more sustainable use of resources; or
- b. developing energy recovery facilities and to facilitate low carbon technologies; and
- c. avoiding areas of vulnerability to climate change and flood risk or otherwise incorporate adaptation measures.

Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species

Mineral and waste development should not have a significant adverse effect on, and where possible, should enhance, restore or create designated or important habitats and species.

The following sites, habitats and species will be protected in accordance with the level of their relative importance:

- a. internationally designated sites including Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, any sites identified to counteract adverse effects on internationally designated sites, and European Protected Species;**
- b. nationally designated sites including Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves, nationally protected species and Ancient Woodland;**
- c. local interest sites including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, and Local Nature Reserves;**
- d. habitats and species of principal importance in England;**
- e. habitats and species identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan or Hampshire Authorities' Biodiversity Action Plans.**

Development which is likely to have a significant adverse impact upon such sites, habitats and species will only be permitted where it is judged, in proportion to their relative importance, that the merits of the development outweigh any likely environmental damage. Appropriate mitigation and compensation measures will be required where development would cause harm to biodiversity interests.

Policy 4: Protection of the designated landscape

Major minerals and waste development will not be permitted in the New Forest or South Downs National Parks, or in the North Wessex Downs, the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs, and Chichester Harbour Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), except in exceptional circumstances. In this respect, consideration will be given to:

- a) the need for the development, including in terms of any national considerations;**
- b) the impact of permitting, or refusing the development upon the local economy;**
- c) the cost and scope for meeting the need outside the designated area, or meeting the need in some other way; and**
- d) whether any detrimental effects on the environment, landscape and / or recreational opportunities can be satisfactorily mitigated.**

Minerals and waste development should reflect and where appropriate enhance the character of the surrounding landscape and natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the designated area.

Minerals and waste development should also be subject to a requirement that it is restored in the event it is no longer needed for minerals and waste uses.

Small-scale waste management facilities for local needs should not be precluded from the National Parks and AONBs, provided they can be accommodated without undermining the objectives of the designation.

Policy 5: Protection of the countryside

Minerals and waste development in the open countryside, outside the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, will not be permitted unless:

- a) it is a time-limited mineral extraction or related development; or**
- b) the nature of the development is related to countryside activities, meets local needs or requires a countryside or isolated location; or**
- c) the development provides a suitable reuse of previously developed land, including redundant farm or forestry buildings and their curtilages or hard standings.**

Where appropriate and applicable, development in the countryside will be expected to meet the highest standards of design, operation and restoration.

Minerals and waste development in the open countryside should be subject to a requirement that it is restored in the event it is no longer required for minerals and waste use.

Policy 6: South West Hampshire Green Belt

Within the South West Hampshire Green Belt, minerals and waste developments will be approved provided that they are not inappropriate or that very special circumstances exist.

As far as possible, minerals and waste developments should enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt.

The highest standards of development, operation and restoration of minerals and waste development will be required.

Policy 7: Conserving the historic environment and heritage assets

Minerals and waste development should protect and, wherever possible, enhance Hampshire's historic environment and heritage assets, both designated and non-designated, including the settings of these sites.

The following assets will be protected in accordance with their relative importance:

- a) scheduled ancient monuments;
- b) listed buildings;
- c) conservation areas;
- d) registered parks and gardens;
- e) registered battlefields;
- f) sites of archaeological importance; and
- g) other locally recognised assets.

Minerals and waste development should preserve or enhance the character or appearance of historical assets unless it is demonstrated that the need for and benefits of the development decisively outweigh these interests.

Policy 8: Protection of soils

Minerals and waste development should protect and, wherever possible, enhance soils and should not result in the net loss of best and most versatile agricultural land.

Minerals and waste development should ensure the protection of soils during construction and, when appropriate, recover and enhance soil resources.

Policy 9: Restoration of minerals and waste developments

Temporary minerals and waste developments should be restored to beneficial after-uses consistent with the development plan.

Restoration of minerals and waste developments should be in keeping with the character and setting of the local area, and should contribute to the delivery of local objectives for habitats, biodiversity or community use where these are consistent with the development plan.

The restoration of mineral extraction and landfill sites should be phased throughout the life of the development.

Protecting Hampshire's Communities

Policy 10: Protecting public health, safety and amenity

Minerals and waste development should not cause adverse public health and safety impacts, and unacceptable adverse amenity impacts.

Minerals and waste development should not:

- a) release emissions to the atmosphere, land or water (above appropriate standards);**
- b) have an unacceptable impact on human health;**
- c) cause unacceptable noise, dust, lighting, vibration or odour;**
- d) have an unacceptable visual impact;**
- e) potentially endanger aircraft from bird strike and structures;**
- f) cause an unacceptable impact on public safety safeguarding zones;**
- g) cause an unacceptable impact on;**
- i) tip and quarry slope stability, or**
- ii) differential settlement of quarry backfill and landfill, or**
- iii) subsidence and migration of contaminants;**
- h) cause an unacceptable impact on coastal, surface or groundwaters;**
- i) cause an unacceptable impact on public strategic infrastructure;**
- j) cause an unacceptable cumulative impact arising from the interactions between mineral and waste developments, and between mineral, waste and other forms of development.**

The potential cumulative impacts of minerals and waste development and the way they relate to existing developments must be addressed to an acceptable standard.

Policy 11: Flood risk and prevention

Minerals and waste development in areas at risk of flooding should:

- a) not result in an increase flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall;**
- b) incorporate flood protection, flood resilience and resistance measures appropriate to the character and biodiversity of the area and the specific requirements of the site;**
- c) have site drainage systems designed to take account of events which exceed the normal design standard;**
- d) not increase net surface water run off; and**
- e) if appropriate, incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems to manage surface water drainage, with whole-life management and maintenance arrangements.**

Policy 12: Managing traffic

Minerals and waste development should have a safe and suitable access to the highway network and where possible minimise the impact of its generated traffic through the use of alternative methods of transportation such as sea, rail, inland waterways, conveyors, pipelines and the use of reverse logistics. Furthermore, highway improvements will be required to mitigate any significant adverse effects on:

- a. highway safety;**
- b. pedestrian safety;**
- c. highway capacity; and**
- d. environment and amenity.**

Policy 13: High-quality design of minerals and waste development

Minerals and waste development should not cause unacceptable adverse visual impact and should maintain and enhance the distinctive character of the landscape and townscape.

The design of appropriate built facilities for minerals and waste development should be of a high-quality and contribute to achieving sustainable development.

Policy 14: Community benefits

Hampshire Authorities encourage negotiated agreements between relevant minerals and waste developers / operators and a community as a source of funding for local benefits.

Supporting Hampshire's Economy**Policy 24: Oil and gas development**

Oil and gas development will be supported subject to environmental and amenity considerations.

1. Exploration and appraisal of oil and gas will be supported, provided the site and equipment:

- a. is not located within the New Forest National Park or South Downs National Park except in exceptional circumstances, where the reasons for the designation are not compromised and where the need for the development can be demonstrated; and**
- b. is sited at a location where it can be demonstrated that it will only have an acceptable environmental impact; and**
- c. the proposal provides for the restoration and subsequent aftercare of the site, whether or not oil or gas is found.**

2. The commercial production of oil and gas will be supported, provided the site and equipment:

- a. is not located within the New Forest National Park or South Downs National Park except in exceptional circumstances, where the reasons for the designation are not compromised and where the need for the development can be demonstrated; and**
- b. a full appraisal programme for the oil and gas field has been completed; and**
- c. the proposed location is the most suitable, taking into account environmental, geological and technical factors.**

HMWP policies relevant to the Minerals and Waste Safeguarding SPD

Policy 15: Safeguarding - mineral resources

Hampshire's sand and gravel (sharp sand and gravel and soft sand), silica sand and brick-making clay resources are safeguarded against needless sterilisation by non-minerals development, unless 'prior extraction' takes place.

Safeguarded mineral resources are defined by a Mineral Safeguarding Area illustrated on the Policies Map.

Development without the prior extraction of mineral resources in the Mineral Safeguarding Area may be permitted if:

- a. it can be demonstrated that the sterilisation of mineral resources will not occur; or
- b. it would be inappropriate to extract mineral resources at that location, with regards to the other policies in the Plan; or
- c. the development would not pose a serious hindrance to mineral development in the vicinity; or
- d. the merits of the development outweigh the safeguarding of the mineral.

The soft sand / potential silica sand resources at Whitehill & Bordon (Inset Map 5), further illustrated on the Policies Map are included within the MSA and are specifically identified for safeguarding under this policy.

Policy 16: Safeguarding - minerals infrastructure

Infrastructure that supports the supply of minerals in Hampshire is safeguarded against development that would unnecessarily sterilise the infrastructure or prejudice or jeopardise its use by creating incompatible land uses nearby.

Minerals sites with temporary permissions for minerals supply activities are safeguarded for the life of the permission.

The Hampshire Authorities will object to incompatible development unless it can be demonstrated that:

**a. the merits of the development clearly outweigh the need for safeguarding;
or**

b. the infrastructure is no longer needed; or

c. the capacity of the infrastructure can be relocated or provided elsewhere. In such instances, alternative capacity should:

**i. meet the provisions of the Plan, that this alternative capacity is deliverable;
and**

ii. be appropriately and sustainably located; and

iii. conform to the relevant environmental and community protection policies in this Plan; or

d. the proposed development is part of a wider programme of reinvestment in the delivery of enhanced capacity for minerals supply.

The infrastructure safeguarded by this policy is illustrated on the Policies Map and identified in Appendix B - List of safeguarded minerals and waste sites.

Policy 26: Safeguarding - waste infrastructure

Waste management infrastructure that provides strategic capacity is safeguarded against redevelopment and inappropriate encroachment unless:

- a. the merits of the development clearly outweigh the need for safeguarding; or**
- b. the waste management infrastructure is no longer needed; or**
- c. the waste management capacity can be relocated or provided elsewhere and delivered; or**
- d. the proposed development is part of a wider programme of reinvestment in the delivery of enhanced waste management facilities.**

The infrastructure safeguarded by this policy is illustrated on the Policies Map and identified in Appendix B - List of safeguarded minerals and waste sites.

Policy 34: Safeguarding potential minerals and waste wharf and rail depot infrastructure

The following areas are safeguarded, so that their appropriateness for use as a minerals or waste wharf or rail depot can be considered, if they become available or are released from their current uses:

- i. land located to the north west of Hythe identified in the Port of Southampton Master Plan; and**
- ii. land identified in the Southampton Core Strategy as operational port land; and**
- iii. Marchwood Military Port (also known as Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre); and**
- iv. land at HM Naval Base and commercial port as identified in the Portsmouth Core Strategy for port and employment uses; and**
- v. existing and former railway siding and other land that could be rail linked.**

The locations identified for safeguarding are shown on the Policies Map.

Appendix 2: Relevant Safeguarding HMWP Policies - Screening Matrices

The following table sets out the HRA Screening of HMWP policies relating to minerals and waste safeguarding. Please note that the policy numbers and titles have been updated to reflect those in the adopted HMWP.

Reference	Assessment Category	Justification	Potential changes to the policy to reduce effect, or does another policy in the Plan help to avoid the effect?	Is a full Appropriate Assessment required?
Policy 15: Safeguarding - mineral reserves	A1/A5	<p>A1 - The policy will not itself lead directly to development, only where prior extraction takes place, in which case the development would need to adhere to other plan policies (e.g. Policy 3)</p> <p>Unlikely to apply to European site management projects (unlikely to be considered as incompatible development). Also, sites identified or required as compensatory measures for European sites are provided specific protection under Policy 3 Safeguarding the whole of the available supply, it allows options on sites being available into the future, minimising the risk of sites coming forward that would have significant impacts to European sites.</p> <p>The major concern would be whereby there is, as part of the Whitehill/Bordon development, provision of SANG is required which (under this policy) could be considered needless sterilisation, and prior extraction is required. However, as Policy 3 clearly states that sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effect on European sites will be protected, it is unlikely that this element of the policy could refer to land that is required for SANG.</p> <p>Safeguarding reserves does not change the baseline, but adding a buffer around these sites creates an additional environmental constraint, possibly putting more pressure on other sites for e.g. housing development by blocking alternatives. However, Local Development Frameworks already have strict policies regarding the protection of European sites, and though Districts may have some alternatives blocked, European site integrity will not be effected by this policy.</p>	The districts will need to conform with their policies and show safeguarding areas on their proposal maps.	No

Policy 15: Safeguarding - mineral reserves (part)	A1/A5	<p>This proposal does not propose development, but could however block options for the Eco-town in terms of locating housing, infrastructure and SANGs (which would all be considered incompatible development). This could exacerbate or create impacts arising from the Eco-town development, linked to prior extraction at this site. However, it is unlikely that permission would be granted where these effects would impact European sites, as it is worded that development without prior extraction would be permitted where it would be inappropriate to extract material - in combination with Policy setting out how 'merits of the development' gets weighed up against the importance of European sites.</p> <p>The major concern would be because the provision of SANG is considered needless sterilisation, and prior extraction is required. However, as Policy 3 clearly states that sites identified or required as compensatory measures for adverse effect on European sites will be protected, it is unlikely that this element of the policy could refer to land that is required for SANG.</p>	N/A	No
Policy 16: Safeguarding - mineral infrastructure (part: aggregate wharves)	A1/A5	<p>Unlikely to apply to European site management projects OR those sites required as SANG land (unlikely to be considered as incompatible development). Also, sites identified or required as compensatory measures for European sites are provided specific protection under Policy 3 helps ensure new capacity is not required elsewhere in Hampshire (or Policy 3 and 13 ensures that the quality of the design is high, and ensures that avoidance of impacts to European sites is the primary objective, with mitigation of impacts only occurring where avoidance cannot be implemented, and will not effect the integrity of European sites indeed other parts of the country). This may help to positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</p> <p>A5: No development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through other policies in the plan, the effects of the policy will depend on how it is implemented i.e. where any wharves are relocated to. See Policy 34 Long term safeguarding.</p> <p>The safeguarding primarily resists development that if implemented may give rise to impacts such as noise disturbance to residential properties. Any potential impacts arising from the existing minerals and waste development are already adequately controlled, and therefore can be screened out</p>	<p>Policy 3 <i>Protection of habitats and species</i> should ensure that where wharf capacity needs to be replaced by provision elsewhere, any effects on sensitive European sites will be adequately considered, avoided and/or mitigated at the planning application stage.</p> <p>Policy 3 and 13 ensures that the quality of the design is high, and ensures that avoidance of impacts to European</p>	No

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA - discharge and abstraction consents and adherence to industry standards for operations • Planning conditions - control and monitor noise, access etc • Legislative control through Env. Act (EHO, EA and Minerals Authority) <p>Adding a buffer around these sites creates an additional environmental constraint, and may thus put more pressure on other sites for e.g. housing development (indirect effect by blocking alternatives).</p> <p>However, as most other local development frameworks have similar considerations, and strict protection of the integrity of European Sites, locally planned development would not be significantly 'squeezed' by this policy.</p> <p>The only element that may be of concern is where c) results in relocating wharves to areas that may have impacts on European sites. Relocated sites could in theory be located anywhere within the coastal region and therefore all coastal European sites - Solent and Southampton SPA/ Ramsar; Portsmouth Harbour SPA/ Ramsar; Chichester and Langstone Harbour SPA/ Ramsar; Solent Maritime SAC could have direct and indirect effects arising from construction, pollution, and disturbance are relevant. New development would need planning permission and would have to adhere to other plan policies.</p> <p>Also, it should be noted that the policy is worded 'unless it can be demonstrated that the capacity CAN be relocated' with the supporting text ensuring that this element is controlled by all the environmental and community policies of the plan, which will look not only at the protection of European sites, but transport issues and noise, lighting and dust impacts. Therefore this policy ensures that safeguarding existing sites is paramount, and only those opportunities that will not have impacts to the environment will result in new development.</p> <p>Note: Marine dredging operations themselves cannot be assessed as licensing already subject to the HRA regulatory regime.</p>	<p>sites is the primary objective, with mitigation of impacts only occurring where avoidance cannot be implemented, and will not effect the integrity of European sites.</p>	
<p>Policy 16: Safeguarding - minerals infrastructure (part: aggregate rail depots)</p>	<p>A4/A5</p>	<p>Unlikely to apply to European site management projects OR those sites required as SANG land (unlikely to be considered as incompatible development). Also, sites identified or required as compensatory measures for European sites are provided specific protection under Policy 3.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

A4: Safeguarding existing rail depot capacity helps ensure new capacity is not required elsewhere in Hampshire (or indeed other parts of the country). This may help to positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.

A5: No development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through other policies in the plan, the effects of the policy will depend on how it is implemented i.e. where any wharves are relocated to. See Policy 34 Long term safeguarding.

Adding a buffer around these sites creates an additional environmental constraint, and may thus put more pressure on other sites for e.g. housing development (indirect effect by blocking alternatives). However, as most other local development frameworks have similar considerations, and strict protection of the integrity of European Sites, locally planned development would not be significantly 'squeezed' by this policy.

The safeguarding primarily resists development that if implemented may give rise to impacts such as noise disturbance to residential properties. Any potential impacts arising from the existing minerals and waste development are already adequately controlled, and therefore can be screened out

- EA - discharge and abstraction consents and adherence to industry standards for operations
- Planning conditions - control and monitor noise, access etc
- Legislative control through Env. Act (EHO, EA and Minerals Authority)

The only element that may be of concern is where c) results in relocating depots to areas that may have impacts on European sites.

Two alternative sites for the north of the county (based on 'Hampshire Mineral and waste Wharves and Rail Depot Needs assessment' are considered to be the best and most sustainable locations (assessed within table 2.5 of this screening assessment), Therefore the most 'risk' arising from relocation of depot sites will be in the south of the county where alternatives have not been identified and therefore we cannot plan on where relocation may occur.

		<p>New depot infrastructure would include sidings and space alongside rail track for material storage. The footprint is generally small, but may give rise to impacts such as noise and vibration disturbance. New development would need planning permission and would have to adhere to other plan policies. However, it should be noted that the policy is worded 'unless it can be demonstrated that the capacity CAN be relocated' with the supporting text ensuring that this element is controlled by all the environmental and community policies of the plan, which will look not only at the protection of European sites, but transport issues and noise, lighting and dust impacts. Therefore this policy ensures that safeguarding existing sites is paramount, and only those opportunities that will not have impacts to the environment will result in new development.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy 3 provides clear guidance for the minerals planning authority on decisions potentially effecting European sites, and if a 'land grabbing' proposal promoting such a relocation cannot demonstrate that a depot would be moved without causing harm then the planning authority would object.</p>		
Policy 16: Safeguarding - minerals infrastructure (oil and gas)	B	<p>Unlikely to apply to European site management projects OR those sites required as SANG land (unlikely to be considered as incompatible development). Also, sites identified or required as compensatory measures for European sites are provided specific protection under Policy 3 Safeguarding existing wharf capacity helps ensure new capacity is not required elsewhere in Hampshire (or indeed other parts of the country). This may help to positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</p> <p>The existing oil and gas sites are in locations where pressure for development sites (to avoid sensitive habitats) is likely to be less because these areas are not as constrained in terms of European sites.</p> <p>Additionally, the magnitude and potential short-term nature of these types of development means that the area that this policy safeguard is relatively minor, and therefore unlikely to trigger 'significance'.</p>	No	No
Policy 16: Safeguarding - minerals infrastructure (part: concrete batching, aggregate)	A4/A5	<p>Unlikely to apply to European site management projects OR those sites required as SANG land (unlikely to be considered as incompatible development). Also, sites identified or required as compensatory measures for</p>	No	No

<p>recycling, existing other clay, existing chalk extraction)</p>		<p>European sites are provided specific protection under Policy 3.</p> <p>A4: Safeguarding existing capacity helps ensure new capacity is not required elsewhere in Hampshire (or indeed other parts of the country). This may help to positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</p> <p>A5: No development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through other policies in the plan, the effects of the policy will depend on how it is implemented i.e. where any wharves are relocated to. See Policy 34 Long term safeguarding.</p> <p>Adding a buffer around these sites creates an additional environmental constraint, and may thus put more pressure on other sites for e.g. housing development (indirect effect by blocking alternatives). However, as most other local development frameworks have similar considerations, and strict protection of the integrity of European Sites, locally planned development would not be significantly 'squeezed' by this policy.</p> <p>The safeguarding primarily resists development that if implemented may give rise to impacts such as noise disturbance to residential properties. Any potential impacts arising from the existing minerals and waste development are already adequately controlled, and therefore can be screened out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA - discharge and abstraction consents and adherence to industry standards for operations • Planning conditions - control and monitor noise, access etc • EHO emissions permitting for specific processes such as concrete batching and concrete crushing <p>The effects of the policy will depend on how elements of it are implemented. The only element that may be of concern is where c) results in relocating operations to areas that may have impacts on European sites. It should be noted that the policy is worded 'unless it can be demonstrated that the capacity CAN be relocated' with the supporting text ensuring that this element is controlled by all the environmental and community policies of the plan, which will look not only at the protection of European sites, but transport issues and noise, lighting and dust impacts.</p>		
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		<p>A5: No development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through other policies in the plan, the effects of the policy will element is controlled by all the environmental and community policies of the plan, which will look not only at the protection of European sites, but transport issues and noise, lighting and dust impacts. Therefore this policy ensures that safeguarding existing sites is paramount, and only those opportunities that will not have impacts to the environment will result in new development.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy 3 provides clear guidance for the minerals planning authority on decisions potentially effecting European sites, and if a 'land grabbing' proposal promoting such a relocation cannot demonstrate that a depot would be moved without causing harm then the planning authority would object.</p>		
<p>Policy 16: Safeguarding - minerals infrastructure (proposed sites within the Plan)</p>	<p>A4/A5</p>	<p>Unlikely to apply to European site management projects OR those sites required as SANG land (unlikely to be considered as incompatible development). Also, sites identified or required as compensatory measures for European sites are provided specific protection under Policy 3.</p> <p>This policy safeguards the infrastructure of minerals and waste development that is permitted through and controlled by other policies set out within the Plan. The effects of the policy will depend on how elements of it are implemented. The only element that may be of concern is where c) results in subsequently relocating operations to areas that may have impacts on European sites. It should be noted that the policy is worded 'unless it can be demonstrated that the capacity CAN be relocated' with the supporting text ensuring that this element is controlled by all the environmental and community policies of the plan, which will look not only at the protection of European sites, but transport issues and noise, lighting and dust impacts.</p> <p>Therefore this policy ensures that safeguarding existing sites is paramount, and only those opportunities that will not have impacts to the environment will result in new development.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy 3 provides clear guidance for the minerals planning authority on decisions potentially effecting European sites, and if a 'land grabbing' proposal promoting such a relocation cannot demonstrate that an operation would be moved without causing harm then the planning authority would object.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>Policy 26: Safeguarding - waste infrastructure</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>A1 - Policy would not itself lead to development as it seeks to safeguard existing operations and sites. 'inappropriate encroachment is considered (from wording within the supporting text) to be resisting development (previous WAS 8) within 250m of Landfill, and 50m of other waste operations. This prevents issues such as disturbance to dwellings if built too close to such facilities.</p> <p>Any potential impacts arising from the existing minerals and waste development are already adequately controlled, and therefore can be screened out (additionally, recent transfer of 'consents' to 'permitting' by EA has result in all dated permission being reassessed under the powers provided to the EA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA - discharge and extraction permitting, design specifications of structures, landfill gas and leachate structure and emissions to air. • HCC - Permitted Environmental Management Schemes (within permission or condition) controlling (for e.g.) noise, dust, odour, elements of design and vermin - monitored regularly • EHO - elements of noise and dust control <p>Land use implications may arise where 'incompatible' development is resisted, thus in theory potentially blocking options or alternatives for the provision of this other type of development. In principle this may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided. However, as most other local development frameworks have similar considerations, and strict protection of the integrity of European Sites, locally planned development would not be significantly 'squeezed' by this policy.</p> <p>The element of this policy that provides the most scope for potential impacts is the potential relocation of such facilities if other development 'grabs land'. Due to the large number of existing waste sites in Hampshire it is not feasible to assess locations where such impacts may occur in any meaningful way. It is also not possible at the plan-making stage to speculate on future development proposals which may be resisted under this policy.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No</p>
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		<p>It should be noted that the policy is worded 'unless it can be demonstrated that the waste management activity CAN be relocated' with the supporting text ensuring that this element is controlled by all the environmental and community policies of the plan, which will look not only at the protection of European sites, but transport issues and noise, lighting and dust impacts. Therefore this policy ensures that safeguarding existing activity is paramount, and only those opportunities that will not have impacts to the environment will result in new development.</p> <p>Furthermore, Policy 3 provides clear guidance for the minerals planning authority on decisions potentially effecting European sites, and if a 'land grabbing' proposal promoting such a relocation cannot demonstrate that a depot would be moved without causing harm then the planning authority would object.</p>		
<p>Policy 34: Safeguarding potential minerals and waste wharf and rail depot infrastructure</p>	A1/A5	<p>The Policy helps to secure suitable alternative facilities, should they be needed to maintain a flexible and adequate of supply of minerals, in locations that are currently used for port related purposes and have some shore side facilities, including access, rather than needing to exploit new, stand alone facilities (Needs Assessment for Wharves and Rail Depots).</p> <p>A1 - This does not promote any form of development, though may in the future result in some indefinable in-combination impacts that will be controlled by the framework of plan policies</p> <p>Nb. Marine dredging operations themselves cannot be assessed as licensing already subject to the HRA regulatory regime. BUT in-combination assessment may be necessary to understand the relationship between this industry and provision of wharves.</p>	N/A	No

Appendix 3: Relevant Oil & Gas HMWP Policies - Screening Matrices

3.13 The following table sets out the HRA Screening of HMWP policies which are relevant to oil and gas development. Please note that the policy numbers and titles have been updated to reflect those in the adopted HMWP.

Reference	Assessment Category	Justification	Potential changes to the policy to reduce effect, or does another policy in the Plan help to avoid the effect?	Is a full Appropriate Assessment required?
Policy 1: Sustainable minerals and waste development	N/A	[Please note that Policy 1 is a new policy that was introduced during the examination and therefore, was not included in the initial screening of the policies. However, parts of the former 'Planning Obligations' policies are now incorporated into Policy 1] - CHECK	N/A	N/A
Policy 2: Climate change - mitigation and adaptation	A1/A2/A5	<p>A1: The approach will not itself lead directly to development The implementation plan for this policy also relates to qualitative criteria for development including design criteria that should help to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>A2: it provides criteria to protect the natural environment by minimising the environmental impacts of minerals and waste developments and the associated emissions, and by maximising the potential benefits of restoration schemes in terms of opportunities for climate change adaptation (in conjunction with policy 9).</p> <p>Maximising climate change mitigation and adaptation and ensuring that climate change is a consideration of enhancement schemes (in conjunction with Policy 9 and Policy 3) minimises likelihood of proposals having in combination effects with the underlying trend of climate effects on European sites. A5: no development will occur through the policy itself, climate mitigation and adaptation schemes will most probably be considered through restoration schemes (Policy 9:restoration of quarries and waste developments), or through assessment of impacts (Policy 3) arising from development proposals/ decision making.</p>	N/A	No
Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species	A2	The policy, supporting statement, implementation plan and text within the development considerations (Appendix E of the HMWP) all work together to ensure that not only are European sites sufficiently protected and enhanced, but all proposals consider them in proportionate detail.	Policy, supporting text and implementation plan are secured within the plan. Supported by other Policies within the plan - Policy 2, Policy 8, Policy 9, Policy 10 (provision of buffers and control of lighting), Policy 13, Policy 1.	No

		<p>Such levels of reporting will maximise studies that will be carried out across Hampshire into how development can affect and enhance European sites, leading to a better understanding of such effects and providing a sound mechanism for implementing consistent and landscape level mitigation.</p> <p>As clearly explained within the implementation plan for this policy, it is the key mechanism for the securing of mitigation as proposals come forward for potential effects on European sites arising from other proposals in the HMWP, with further security arising from Policies 9, 10, 13 and 1.</p> <p>A number of other policies will specifically rely upon this policy to ensure development cannot proceed if there would be adverse effects on integrity of a European site(s). This applies to those policies where there is uncertainty about the location and scale of development, and those that suggest that development need may outweigh environmental impact.</p>	<p>Amendment to wording of policy <i>'...outweigh any likely damage and provided that appropriate mitigation and compensation measures are required where development...'</i></p> <p>This would ensure that therequirement for compensation/ mitigation is a key part of the policy wording, rather than being added on as a separate sentence at the end of the policy, after it has been stated that damage will in some cases be permitted. Define what is meant by 'merits' within the policy or supporting text.</p>	
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Policy 4: Protection of the designated landscapes	A1/A4	<p>A1: This policy will not lead directly to development but sets out criteria for locating development.</p> <p>A4: This policy will steer the majority of development away from sensitive protected landscapes (which also include a number of the European nature conservation sites, such as the New Forest SAC/SPA), which may help to mitigate potential adverse effects.</p> <p>This policy reduces the 'area of search' for new facilities (by applying a 'blanket buffer' across a large proportion of the county), potentially limiting the options for new development to avoid impacts on European sites by relocating elsewhere in Hampshire.</p> <p>The effects of this policy will depend on how it is implemented at the planning application stage i.e. whether adverse impacts on the natural environment are allowed to occur as a result of particular need for minerals and waste development, and whether any such effects will affect the integrity of European sites. This will be countered by the requirements of Policies 3, (which is very clear about the way that the 'merits of development' apply to European sites), 9, 13 and 1.</p>	<p>Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species should provide sufficient safeguard to ensure that where any minerals and waste development is proposed within areas with important landscape features, any effects on sensitive European sites will be adequately considered, avoided and/or mitigated at the planning application stage, and clearly sets out the way that the importance of the site influences decisions against the merits of development. Supported by other Policies within the plan - Policy 2, Policy 8, Policy 9, Policy 10 (provision of buffers and control of lighting), Policy 13, Policy 1.</p>	No
Policy 5: Protection of the countryside	A1/A2	<p>A1: This policy does not lead directly to development and sets out qualitative criteria for the location of sites.</p> <p>A2: This policy carefully protects the open countryside from poor quality or permanent development.</p> <p>A2: Steering development away from greenfield sites will give a measure of protection to direct impacts to European sites.</p> <p>A2: Steering development onto brownfield sites along with the requirement for restoration may provide opportunities to improve wider biodiversity /linkage. It is noted that the land-use, traffic etc. changes are not likely to be significantly different to the existing situation as a result of this policy (e.g. redundant agricultural buildings, local traffic etc).</p>	N/A	No

Policy 6: South West Hampshire Green Belt	A1/A2	A1: This policy does not lead directly to development and sets out qualitative criteria for the location of sites. A2: Policy is designed to protect the Countryside, and to further the objectives of Green Belt (PPG2 1.6). This will also support similar policies of Local development frameworks.	N/A	No
Policy 7: Conserving the historic environment and heritage assets	A1/A2	A1: This policy does not lead directly to development and sets out qualitative criteria for the location of sites. A2: This policy aims to conserve the historic environment, therefore it is not expected to have an effect on European sites in Hampshire. Policy 2 will ensure that any proposed restoration/enhancement of such assets must be compatible with the objectives and integrity of the European sites.	N/A	No
Policy 8: Protection of soils	A2	The policy requires that no net degradation of soil quality will result from minerals and waste development. This will protect the environment from the impact arising from soil degradation, and ensure that suitable management will be adopted to prevent their effects arising from soil erosion etc.	N/A	No
Policy 9: Restoration of minerals and waste developments	A2/A5	A2 - This policy will result in a net improvement in biodiversity, by having a strong emphasis on biodiversity aims and the focus on European Site objectives. The policy no longer makes the requirement for a restoration scheme to include at least 2 aims which could lead in some circumstances to significant effects. Therefore the current wording provides flexibility to provide single-use restoration where it is the only way to not contravene the legislation. A5 - Poor design of restoration can create additional impacts. For example, poor drainage can lead to planting inappropriate plant species can lead to invasion of non-native species or attraction of predators, as well as more direct impacts from lighting, public access, landfill leachate. However, the wording within the implementation plan for this policy and Policy 13 and supporting text (and implementation plan) makes a requirement for high quality design, and prior consultation which will eliminate any potential impact.	Policy 3: Protection of habitats and species should provide sufficient safeguard to ensure that any effects on sensitive European sites arising from restoration will be adequately considered, avoided and/or mitigated at the planning application stage. Supported by other Policies within the plan - Policy 2, Policy 8, Policy 10 (provision of buffers, management systems and control of lighting), Policy 13, Policy 1.	Ensure that all mineral extraction sites identified in the Plan, and their associated proposals for restoration, are scrutinised in light of the considerations identified within the assessment.

Large areas of open water may be incompatible with European site conservation objectives e.g. those that support heathland. Water bodies may attract predators (or competitors) or sterilise habitats (permanent habitat loss) and may also be a draw for recreation (many European sites are vulnerable to recreation and access impacts). Water storage also leads to flooding, and hydrological changes to rainwater or groundwater fed European sites (i.e. Emer Bog, Shortheath Common, The New Forest SACs, riverine and marine sites) - some areas may not be suitable for this (changes in hydrological gradients). Long term management and afteruse use of open water bodies will be relevant to the permanence, significance and extent of potential impacts. Agriculture, public access flood water storage, forestry, all have risks of impacts. Avoidance of creating these in the most sensitive areas is preferable due to lack of control beyond the after-care phase. Policy states that biodiversity objectives will be considered when allocating afteruse (and supporting text clarifies that European site objectives will be considered principally), and that restoration, aftercare and afteruse is carried out to a high standard, and that long-term management is required where necessary, ensuring the success of the mitigation. However, Policy 9 refers directly to the need for long-term management for some restoration schemes. Policy 1 provides a requirement for long-term management plans to be made subject to legal agreements.

Improving public amenity could potentially have positive or a negative effects on European sites

- Positive - Such provision could provide alternative access for users of more sensitive sites, easing the existing pressures that are causing impacts
- Negative - such provision could provide more access where such pressures already exist, exacerbating the impacts (non-physical disturbance to birds reptiles/fish etc, erosion, introduction of species). Certainly some forms of nature conservation restoration would conflict with providing public access, and this would need to be managed carefully to ensure that

		<p>the perceived outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>Additionally, encouraging public access may result in permanence of disturbance and trampling impacts that may prove to be significant. Text within the implementation plan states that where nearby European sites are sensitive to pressure from public access, improving public access through restoration should be carefully considered as while it may produce a benefit for people, it could have a significant effect on the European sites. However, text within the implementation plan specifies where the aims of the restoration scheme SHOULD be made compatible to European site objectives, ensures that public access does not prejudice European site objectives and examples of specific opportunities for enhancement. (as well as being in keeping with local objectives for biodiversity which will help for beneficial ecological networks that will improve the wider biodiversity)</p> <p>Restoration and afteruse can prevent impacts. Re-enforced within the specific development considerations for each of the site allocations set out in Policies 19, 20, and 22 and cross referenced with the other policies in the plan (specifically Policy 3 & Policy 8) there are strict Development Management strategies to ensure that the best and most suitable restoration scheme for all development will result from the plan, avoiding or mitigating those impacts caused by minerals and waste development from being permanent or even long-term which therefore affects the significance of the effects (especially habitat loss and damage and non-physical disturbance).</p>		
Policy 10: Protecting public health, safety and amenity	A1/A2	<p>A1 - This policy will not itself lead directly to development, as it relates to qualitative criteria for development.</p> <p>A2 - In addition, it seeks to protect people/ environment from potential impacts to water resources, visual (including lighting), and from emissions by such measures as buffer zones, operational controls and appropriate management systems. This policy should thus indirectly help to protect European sites from these effects.</p> <p>Public safety safeguarding zones (13km from boundary of airports) could lead to areas around major airports being constrained by: Restoration types/ operations such as settlement lagoons - not to attract flocks of wildfowl or gulls/ corvids, or by restricting the types of landfill.</p>	N/A	No

		<p>These restrictions can in some cases be allowed if adequately mitigated by measures such as appropriate design or bird management systems.</p> <p>Restrictions would be primarily in place around the flight Airports, effecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Heaths SAC • Dorset Heathlands SPA • Solent and Southampton water SPA/Ramsar • Solent Maritime SAC • River Itchen SAC <p>This policy potentially limits the options available to locate minerals and waste activities - effects would depend if the alternative to development in such locations would be nearer to European sites. However, given the location of the Airports, and the restrictions already imposed by Policy 3 and Policy 9, it is unlikely that this will be significant.</p> <p>Measures to restrict bird strike may have implications on which restoration schemes could be proposed, however only open water would be restricted and this is unlikely to have significant implications on the conservation objectives of any European sites due to the type and objectives of the European sites surrounding the existing airports.</p> <p>Measures to restrict bird strike may increased predators as a result of vermin control measures. However, this would be dealt with by appropriate assessments of land-use and location by development management.</p>		
Policy 11: Flood risk and prevention	A1/A3	<p>A1 - This policy will not itself lead directly to development, as it relates to qualitative criteria for development.</p> <p>A3: The policy will protect the natural environment from the impacts caused by flooding (e.g. Erosion and siltation) not just that arising from development, but also increasing overall resilience in the wider area, in a way that is appropriate (controlled by other Policies within the plan - Policy 2, Policy 3, Policy 8, Policy 9, Policy 13) to the biodiversity of the area.</p>	N/A	No
Policy 12: Managing traffic	A1/A5	<p>A1 - This policy will not itself lead directly to development, as it relates to qualitative criteria for development. The policy is intended to limit the impacts of minerals and waste transport on communities, the highway network and the environment.</p>	N/A	No

		<p>However, some of these measures have their own potential impacts. Air pollution, disturbance from noise and vibration from minerals and waste traffic - will be most significant where European sites are within 200m of the roads down which minerals and waste traffic passes.</p> <p>Other technology to reduce reliance on roads would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conveyors - used outside extraction sites may go through natural areas (creating impacts such as fragmentation, severance/barrier and edge effects as well as non-physical disturbance) <p>The effects of the policy will depend on how it is implemented e.g using conveyors may lead to impacts to coastal SPAs but would be subject assessment of each location Some of the effects identified may be relatively localised, and temporary.</p> <p>The strengthening of the policy to implicitly include environmental impacts arising from transport and by the rewording of Policy 10, ensuring that measures to prevent impacts such as noise and dust are embedded within the policy framework.</p>		
Policy 13: High-quality design of minerals and waste development	A1	<p>A1 - This policy will not itself lead directly to development, as it relates to qualitative criteria for development. Provides a framework for potential mitigation (aimed at managing noise, odour and visual impacts). Also includes criteria relating to the design of minerals and waste developments.</p> <p>Supported by other Policies within the plan - Policy 2, Policy 8, Policy 9 (supporting text specifically cross refers to this policy), Policy 10 (provision of buffers and control of lighting), Policy 13, Policy 1 Habitat protection and incorporation of biodiversity interests (thus embedding the concept of avoidance rather than mitigation) into the design of the development is included within Policy 3 (Habitats and species protection) and Policy 9 (restoration).</p>	N/A Supported by other Policies within the plan - Policy 2, Policy 8, Policy 9 (supporting text specifically cross refers to this policy), Policy 10 (provision of buffers and control of lighting), Policy 13, Policy 1.	No
Policy 14: Community benefits	A1	The policy will not itself lead directly to development, rather it encourages community involvement (and thus local knowledge) in development proposals.	N/A	No
Policy 24: Oil and gas development	B	The approach could indirectly affect a European site because these operations can be located in a range of possible locations across the Plan area (which may be connected to a European site).	N/A	No

	<p>The highest risks originate from waste streams (produced water, drilling and cutting fluids, spills and leaks) which can impact soils and water quality and contamination, sedimentation/smothering, as well as catastrophic events. Risk of spillage and discharge to water bodies/ escape of gas emissions etc cannot be discounted. However, these are controlled very strictly by industry controls and licensing/permitting, and high quality design in mind of this is required by policy 12 and parts of policy 9.</p> <p>The first part of the wording of the policy could require mitigation/compensation measures where it is demonstrated that any environmental impacts is outweighed by the benefits of the development in question. However, Policy 3 clearly sets out that the merits of development are set against the hierarchy of importance nature conservation designations, and as such it is unlikely that Oil and gas development would be permitted where it would require compensation to ensure that no impacts would result from a development. As with all development, mitigation can be a satisfactory alternative to avoidance, but avoidance of impact is clearly stated as the preferred stance within Policy 3.</p> <p>Additionally, these operations do have limited land-take, and with appropriate environmental controls, and the restrictions imposed by part vi) of the policy and Policy 3, such impacts should be <i>de minimis</i>.</p> <p>Pipelines have potential for creating fragmentation across large areas of the landscape, as require large (20m approx) working widths, and extend for large distances in order to connect with existing gas/oil infrastructure - this would be an issue within or adjacent to European sites, However, such pipelines within Hampshire are rare, and only are associated with developments in close proximity to existing main pipelines (only 2 exist, the SA Midline, from Fawley north towards London, and from Fawley west to Wytch Farm near Poole). Transportation of oil is mainly by lorry tanker, (air pollution) but the average lorry movements for those in operation in Hampshire are so low (av <10/week across Hampshire(10)) the effects are likely to be <i>de minimis</i>. There are also av 5 rail movements between Holybourne Rail export terminal (Alton) and Fawley.</p>		
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Glossary and Acronyms

Development Scheme: A project plan for the development of statutory and other planning documents. Separate Development Schemes for minerals and waste have been agreed, although the timetables within them are consistent.

Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA): Statutory requirement for Planning Authorities to assess the potential effects of land-use plans on designated European Sites in Great Britain. The Habitats Regulations Assessment is intended to assess the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European Sites (collectively termed 'Natura 2000' sites). The Natura 2000 sites comprise Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC; Birds Directive) for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).

Hampshire Authorities: The Hampshire Authorities comprises Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council, Portsmouth City Council and the New Forest National Park Authority who have worked in partnership to produce the SPDs.

Hampshire County Council (HCC): The county council that governs the county of Hampshire in England.

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan (HMWP): Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (HMWP): The Hampshire Authorities adopted the Hampshire Minerals & Waste Plan (HMWP) on 15 October 2013. This Plan contains planning policy for minerals and waste development in Hampshire. It replaces the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and the saved policies of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1998.

Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)

Minerals and Waste Planning Authorities: The local planning authorities (County and Unitary Councils) responsible for minerals and waste planning. In Hampshire, Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils, the New Forest National Park Authority and South Downs National Park Authority are minerals and waste planning authorities.

New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA): The New Forest National Park Authority took up its full powers in April 2006, its purposes are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the park, to promote opportunity for understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities and to seek to foster the social and economic well-being of local communities within the park.

Portsmouth City Council (PCC): The city of Portsmouth is administered by Portsmouth City Council, a unitary authority.

Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance): Sites of international importance for waterfowl protected under the Ramsar Convention of the Conservation of Wetlands of International Importance, ratified by the UK Government in 1976.

Restoration: Process of returning a sites to its former use, or restoring it to a condition that will support an agreed after-use such as agriculture or forestry.

Safeguarding: The method of protecting needed facilities or mineral resources and of preventing inappropriate development from affecting it. Usually, where sites are threatened, the course of action would be to object to the proposal or negotiate an acceptable resolution.

Secretary of State (SoS)

Southampton City Council (SCC): The city of Southampton is administered by Southampton City Council, a unitary authority.

South Downs National Park: The National park was formerly established on 1 April 2011 and includes areas in the Hampshire County Council boundary.

South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA): From 1 April 2011, the South Downs National Park Authority has been responsible for all planning in the South Downs National Park.

Sterilisation: When a change of use, or the development, of land prevents possible mineral exploitation in the foreseeable future.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): A system of incorporating environmental considerations into policies, plans, programmes and part of European Union Policy. It is sometimes referred to as strategic environmental impact assessment. SEA is intended to highlight environmental issues during decision-making about strategic documents such as plans, programmes and strategies. The SEA identifies the significant environmental effects that are likely to result from implementing the plan or alternative approaches to the plan.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Any document of a description referred to in regulation 5 (except an adopted policies map or a statement of community involvement) which is not a local plan. SPD also 'add further detail to the policies in the Local Plan. They can be used to provide further guidance for development on specific sites, or on particular issues, such as design. Supplementary planning documents are capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions but are not part of the development plan.

This document can be made available in large print, on audio media, in Braille or in some other languages.

For further information, please contact Minerals and Waste Planning Policy in the Strategic Planning group:

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