Oxfordshire County Council

Updated Site Assessment Methodology

Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan:

Part 2 – Site Allocations

2020-2031

January 2021

Contents

1. Introduction

The plan-making and SA process

1.1 The Oxfordshire MWLP: Part 1 – Core Strategy (hereafter called the Core Strategy) provides the planning strategies and policies for the development that will be needed for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire over the period to the end of 2031. It sets out policies to guide minerals and waste development over this plan period and common core policies which address development management issues relevant to both minerals and waste. The Core Strategy was adopted in September 2017 and has a plan period up to the end of 2031.

1.2 Planning authorities are required to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) alongside the plan-making process. The process of undertaking SA assists planning authorities to fulfil the objective of integrating sustainable development principles into the plan making process. The SA objectives and framework were developed as part of the Core Strategy plan-making process. For further detail on this process please refer to Oxfordshire MWLP: Part 1 – Core Strategy, SA Report Update (February 2017).

1.3 The Oxfordshire MWLP: Part 2 – Site Allocations Document (hereafter called the Sites Plan) will identify site-specific allocations for minerals development and site-specific allocations and/or broad locations for waste development within the policy parameters set by the Core Strategy, to provide for the development needs established in the Core Strategy for the period to 2031. It will also include any further development management policies that are necessary in relation to the allocated sites.

1.4 An initial request for site nominations (for minerals and waste development) was undertaken in January 2018. This was followed by a further request for sites during the Sites Plan Issues and Options (I&O) consultation in August 2018. The SA Scoping Report and Proposed Site Assessment Methodology were also published at this time, alongside the I&O consultation document. The preferred site options were identified in the Draft Sites Plan (Regulation 18) consultation document[1] which was published in January 2020, alongside the Preliminary Draft SA of Sites Report, Initial Site Assessments and other supporting evidence. Additional sites that had been identified after the Draft Plan consultation document had been prepared were also consulted upon at this stage within the Additional Site Consultation (Regulation 18) (January 2020) document.

1.5 In light of information received in response to the Draft Plan consultation the Council has decided that additional work is required to ensure that the best available information has been utilised to inform the plan-making process in order to provide a robust and sound evidence. This includes reconfirmation with site nominators that their site is available and considered deliverable, reviewing the site assessments, as well as further work on the SA, Habitats

[1] Herein referred to as the Draft Plan.

Regulation Assessment (HRA), and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).

1.6 It is intended to consult on the Revised Draft Plan (including site assessments) and the Draft SA Report of the Revised Draft Plan and other supporting documents in August 2021. Prior to this occurring it is necessary to update the Site Assessment Methodology. An Interim SA Report has also been developed alongside the Updated Site Assessment Methodology with the purpose of appraising the approach to site delivery; this in turn will act to inform preparation of the Revised Draft Plan and site assessments.

1.7 All documents published to support preparation of the Core Strategy and Sites Plan are available on the Council's website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Consultation on the Site Assessment Methodology

1.8 Public consultation on the Proposed Site Assessment Methodology and other associated Plan and SA documents occurred January – March 2020 and included the required Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Consultation Bodies and other appropriate parties. Representations received were given due consideration. It was determined that further evidence was required to ensure that the Plan is based on a sound evidence base. In addition, the Councils position on planning permissions and resolutions to grant planning permissions has been updated, this was considered to have implications on the selection of preferred site options and require a review of the evidence on which such decisions were made.

1.9 Consultation on the Updated Site Assessment Methodology is currently being undertaken (alongside consultation on the Interim Draft SA Report) and has been focused on the required SEA Consultation Bodies and other appropriate parties. Consultation commences 20 January 2021 for a period of eight weeks. The closing date for feedback is 17 March 2021, all responses must be received before 5:00pm on this date. Other stakeholders and the public can also make comments during this time. Responses received will be given due consideration in finalising the methodology to be applied in assessing site options for the Sites Plan.

Core Strategy – future needs

Provision of aggregates

1.10 The Core Strategy identifies the requirement for aggregate minerals for which provision needs to be made from land-won sources in Oxfordshire over the plan period to 2031.

1.11 Since the adoption of the Core Strategy, there has been an update to the Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA), the most recent being in November 2019 (LAA 2019[2]), which is for 2018. The annual LAA sets out the sales, remaining permitted reserves, and new mineral permissions for the year and reviews the LAA rate. This information allows the Council to set out the

[2] The LAA is available on the Councils website: Oxfordshire County Council LAA Documents

current mineral requirements for the plan period. The Council awaits the figures for the MHCLG survey for 2019.

1.12 The Core Strategy (Policy M3) also seeks to re-balance extraction within the County, applying a split for sharp sand and gravel between northern and southern Oxfordshire of 25% and 75% respectively.

1.13 The method for calculating the remaining requirement for minerals for the Plan Period is summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1: Aggregate provision to be met over the plan period

		Sharp sand and gravel	**Soft sand**	**Limestone (crushed rock)**
Core Strategy provision	**Total over plan period (A)**	18.270 million tonnes (Mt)	3.402 Mt	10.512 Mt
	Annual rate	1.015 Mt per annum (Mtpa)	0.189 Mtpa	0.584 Mtpa
Landbanks at end of 2018		12.7 years	12.72 years	9.9 years
Remaining permitted reserves as of January 2019 (Bi)		12.925 Mt	3.091 Mt	7.781 Mt
Recently permitted reserves 2019 & 2020 (Bii)*		0.225 Mt	0.590 Mt	1.34 Mt
Remaining requirement A-(Bi+Bii)		5.120 Mt	Surplus of 0.279	1.391 Mt
Re-balancing provision	**North (25%)**	1.280 Mt		
	South (75%)	3.840 Mt		

*Note: Recent permitted reserves include the following sites -

Shellingford Quarry Western Extension Quarry (MW.0104/18 - approved 24/09/2020). Permitted reserves of 1.8 Mt of limestone (crushed rock) and 1 Mt of soft sand over a 22-year period up to 2041 with an average production rate of 0.127 Mtpa. Proportionately, that would equate to approximately 0.082 Mtpa of limestone and 0.045 Mtpa of soft sand; totaling approximately 0.82 Mt and 0.46 Mt respectively up to 2031.

Hatford Quarry (MW.0066/19 - resolution to grant permission). This would provide 0.52 Mt of limestone (crushed rock), 0.13 Mt of soft sand, and 0.225 Mt of sharp sand over a 5-year period.

1.14 Calculations also took account of sales over the period 2014 to 2018 and the permitted mineral reserves that are not expected to be worked until after the plan period (after 2031). The calculations indicated that there is a need to identify sites to provide for sharp sand and gravel, soft sand, and crushed rock to meet the mineral requirements over the plan period in order to maintain supply and ensure flexibility.

1.15 The Sites Plan needs to ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals throughout the plan period.

Recycled and secondary aggregates

1.16 The Core Strategy has also identified that provision will need to be made for 0.926 Mt of recycled and secondary aggregates per annum (Policy M1); it should be noted that the specified level is a minimum.

Consideration of identification of a contingency

1.17 Previous stages of the plan-making process for the Sites Plan have included consideration of the identification of a contingency allowance above the aggregate provision rates set out in the adopted Core Strategy. The reasoning for this was to give flexibility in case sites cannot be brought forward or prove to not be able to deliver the expected yield. Consultation on this matter through the I&O document (August 2018) suggested an even division between those who supported contingency and those who opposed it. The contingency allowance was also included within the Draft Plan consultation (January 2020) with responses indicating that around 23% of respondents support a contingency and 37% do not; the remainder did not express support or object either way.

1.18 The review of the preferred sites will therefore not apply a contingency and will rely on the adopted Core Strategy provision rates. The addition of a contingency allowance is considered to be beyond the scope of the Sites Plan. The Core Strategy is scheduled for review in 2022, and the addition of a contingency allowance will be considered as part of that review.

1.19 The Core Strategy already provides for sufficient flexibility to respond to market drivers through Policy M5. This policy allows unallocated sites to come forward where the requirement to maintain a steady and adequate supply of aggregate in accordance with Policy M2 cannot be met from within those sites, and provided that the proposal is in accordance with the spatial strategy (Policy M3) and other relevant Local Plan policies (Policies C1-C12). As such the inclusion of a contingency is not considered to be necessary and may prove premature in light of the scheduled review process for the Core Strategy.

Waste management capacity

1.20 The Core Strategy identifies a future need for waste management facilities to provide capacity that allows for Oxfordshire to be net self-sufficient (Policy W1). For waste management, this means we need to provide the following for non-hazardous waste recycling (Policy W3) capacity over the plan period:

- By 2021 at least 0.145 Mtpa,
- By 2026 at least 0.203 Mtpa, and
- By 2031 at least 0.327 Mtpa.

1.21 The Sites Plan will need to allocate sufficient sites that are able to meet these requirements over the plan period to the end of 2031. No cap has been set on the amount of provision to be made for additional waste management capacity for non-hazardous or inert waste. Therefore, sites that provide additional capacity for preparation for re-use, recycling, composting of waste, or treatment of food waste may also be allocated in the Sites Plan over and above the identified requirement.

1.22 Provision for non-hazardous residual waste treatment will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the development would not impede the movement of waste up the waste hierarchy, that it would enable waste to be recovered at one of the nearest appropriate installations, and provided that the proposal is located in accordance with the Core Strategy requirements as set out in Policies W4, W5 & C1-C12. No sites therefore are intended to be allocated for residual waste treatment as no need has been identified.

1.23 The Core Strategy states that further provision for non-hazardous landfill will not be made; sufficient voidspace for non-hazardous landfill exists at permitted sites. The Core Strategy allows inert waste landfill sites to be allocated in the Sites Plan, however it is not intended to allocate inert landfill sites. This is because the Core Strategy, through Policy W6, prioritises the use of inert waste for use at permitted mineral extraction sites to facilitate restoration. There is acknowledged to be a shortage of such material and so the allocation of an inert landfill site that is not linked to the restoration of a permitted mineral extraction site would not comply with the Core Strategy.

Site Assessment Methodology

1.24 The identification of site-specific allocations for minerals development and site-specific allocations and/or broad locations for waste development to be taken forward through the plan-making process should be based upon a robust and credible assessment of the suitability of the land and surrounding environment to accommodate the proposed development, as well as the potential contribution towards sustainable development.

1.25 The SA process considers the sustainability effects of implementing a land-use plan at a strategic level. In order to ascertain potential impacts arising from implementation of minerals and waste development – and subsequently identify those sites and/or locations that are appropriate to take forward to facilitate delivery of aggregates or waste management capacity and contribute towards the development of sustainable communities – a more focused site assessment method is needed. This will also contribute towards the development of sustainable communities. The site assessment process forms part of both the SA and plan-making process. The SA objectives form the foundation of the Site Assessment Methodology, with the criteria refined to: capture site-specific effects; capture operational factors; take account of the policy framework set out through the adopted Core Strategy other relevant policies; and ensure that the assessment requirements set out through the methodology are appropriate, practicable, and at a level that is proportionate to the plan-making process. The SA objectives formed the base for the development of the assessment criteria.

1.26 The purpose of the Site Assessment Methodology is to ensure consistency, maintain transparency and provide a sound basis for site assessment and the selection of the preferred options, or potential allocations and designations. The findings of the SA and site assessment process coupled with consultation throughout the plan-making process will assist in identifying sites that are appropriate to take forward as allocations/designations.

1.27 The site assessment process is not intended to provide an exhaustive listing of decision-making criteria, or to replace the planning application decision process. Rather, it seeks to identify those factors that will enable meaningful comparison of site suitability, sensitivity, and potential impacts. The cumulative impact of development on the well-being of the community is also taken into consideration, including any significant adverse economic, social, and environmental impacts. In this manner the Site Assessment Methodology fulfils the SA requirements and assists in identifying those sites considered to be consistent with the SA objectives and sustainable development.

1.28 All of the site options will be assessed against the updated Site Assessment Methodology with the results fed back into the SA and decision-making process.

Previous stages in the site assessment process

1.29 Stages 1a and 1b of the Site Assessment Methodology were undertaken alongside the initial plan-making stages and involved the initial call for sites and identification of a long list of sites.

1.30 Stage 2 involved consultation on the long list of sites through the I&O consultation document (August 2018). The long list of sites included: 46 sites nominated for potential mineral extraction (27 sand and gravel, 8 soft sand and crushed rock, 3 soft sand, and 8 crushed rock); and 44 sites nominated for potential waste management uses.

1.31 All of the sites included on the long list were subject to the Stage 3a initial screening assessment to rule out any sites that have overriding constraints such that they would not be suitable for inclusion in the Sites Plan. This was a desktop exercise, using data primarily available on the Councils Geographic Information System (GIS) or provided by site nominees. The screening criteria included key policy considerations. Several minerals (10) and waste (7) sites originally nominated were not assessed and did not proceed to the Stage 3a initial screening assessment as the site was either withdrawn, granted planning permission, the Plan did not identify a requirement for the resource, or was an existing strategic waste management site that is already safeguarded under the Core Strategy.

1.32 As a result of the Stage 3a initial screening assessment the following number of sites were taken forward for further assessment (Stage 3b detailed assessment):

- 31 mineral sites, which included -
  - 16 sharp sand and gravel sites, of these six were not considered suitable to be allocated, reasoning included that the allocation would not contribute towards the provision of aggregate during the plan period, sites were not within the strategic resource areas (Core Strategy Policy M3), or the potential adverse impacts and constraints identified made the site less suitable than other available options.
  - 15 soft sand and crushed rock sites (2 soft sand, 5 crushed rock, and 8 sites with both soft sand and crushed rock) of these two were not suitable as the allocation would not contribute towards the provision of aggregate during the plan period.

- 25 waste management sites.

1.33 The remaining sites, 23 mineral sites (10 sand and gravel, 13 crushed rock and soft sand) and 25 waste sites, were then further checked to see whether there were any reasons why they should not be considered reasonable alternatives, with the reasoning set out in the Draft Plan (Preferred Options consultation) (January 2020). This refined the reasonable alternatives down to the preferred sites, of which there were 4 mineral sites (2 sharp sand and gravel, and 2 soft sand and crushed rock), and 9 waste management sites.

1.34 The preferred sites were identified in the Draft Plan (Preferred Options consultation) (January 2020), this formed Stage 4 of the Proposed Site Assessment Methodology (August 2018). The consultation on the Draft Plan (Preferred Options) was very successful and resulted in a large number of consultation responses. Among the responses, the issue of the deliverability of the mineral requirement was raised. It was therefore decided to look again at the reasonable alternatives, investigate any new evidence that was submitted as part of the consultation process, confirm the availability of sites, and look at any new sites nominated.

1.35 It is important to note that both the Stage 3a and 3b assessment methodologies were modified from that published in the Proposed Site Assessment Methodology (August 2018) during the assessment process. Changes were made as it was found that the level of detail set out was not practicable for the assessment level, it was necessary to reflect the qualitative nature of the assessments, and to reflect the risk associated with making finer judgements (particularly relating to the previous amber-green, amber, red-amber range). The planning history of each site was also recorded to assist to provide the background to each site. Although these changes were broadly discussed within the Minerals and Waste Sites Assessment, Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adams Henry) (January 2020), they were not consolidated into an updated methodology document.

1.36 For further detail on the previous stages and the methodology applied please refer to the Proposed Site Assessment Methodology (August 2018) and Minerals and Waste Sites Assessment, Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adams Henry) (January 2020). It should be noted that two additional nominations were brought forward at Sutton Wick and High Cogges, these sites were previously nominated, but the site boundaries were amended. Both sites will be subject to full assessment.

Moving forward – Review of the site assessments

1.37 In preparation for review of the site assessments, a further survey was undertaken during the period October – November 2020 of all operators and their agents whose sites were identified as reasonable alternatives to confirm that the sites are still available, refer Appendix 2. In total seven sites were withdrawn or found to no longer be deliverable or available. No new sites were brought forward.

1.38 It is proposed to undertake a review of the site assessments, the scope of this review is set out below with the method detailed in the following section. However, it is not intended to fully repeat Stages 1a, 1b, 2 & 3a of the Site

Assessment Methodology as a complete review is not warranted, i.e. there has been no significant changes to available data or local circumstances such that would warrant a complete review. The site assessments previously undertaken are fit-for-purpose and therefore do not require a complete review but it may be prudent to undertake a rapid analysis for the purpose of ensuring consistency.

1.39 A rapid analysis for the purposes of ensuring consistency with the newly nominated sites, is proposed to be undertaken on the Stage 3a initial screening assessments (of sites that are confirmed to be reasonably available). This will also help to ensure that the information is up-to-date. The outcome of which will be published alongside the Revised Draft Plan and associated SA Report with amendments shown in 'tracked changes' format (the correction of any typographical errors will not be shown).

1.40 Sites that were subject to Stage 3b (that are confirmed to be reasonably available), will be re-assessed as per this Updated Site Assessment Methodology in order to inform the Sites Plan preferred options. The assessments for individual sites will be published alongside the Revised Draft Plan and associated SA Report.

1.41 Any new sites brought forward, or any amendment to sites, including Sutton Wick and High Cogges, will be subject to assessment as per the Updated Site Assessment Methodology (i.e. Stage 3a and 3b where applicable) and will also be published alongside the Revised Draft Plan and associated SA Report.

1.42 As it is proposed to undertake a rapid review of the Stage 3a initial assessments the methodology for which is set out in this Updated Site Assessment Methodology document. Doing so also provides clarity on how any new sites will be assessed. Note that the Stage 3a methodology has not been changed from that applied in practice to previous site assessments, however, does vary from that published in the Proposed Site Assessment Methodology August 2018 for the reasons stated in paragraph 1.35 above. As such this Updated Site Assessment Methodology captures the changes made in practice through previous site assessments insofar as they relate to Stage 3a.

1.43 In relation to the Stage 3b detailed assessments, although the overall principle of the methodology remains the same (as the Proposed Site Assessment Methodology August 2018), it has been necessary, in addition to the reasons stated in paragraph 1.35 above, to further update the Stage 3b methodology to: reflect the availability of data; ensure that the process is practicable; ensure that the level of assessment is proportionate to the plan-making process; and appropriately reflect national policy and guidance.

1.44 Further details on Stage 3a initial screening and Stage 3b detailed assessment methodology that is to be applied herein (applied to new and revised sites), is set out in the following sections.

1.45 The site assessment process previously undertaken, and the review process to be applied herein, is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

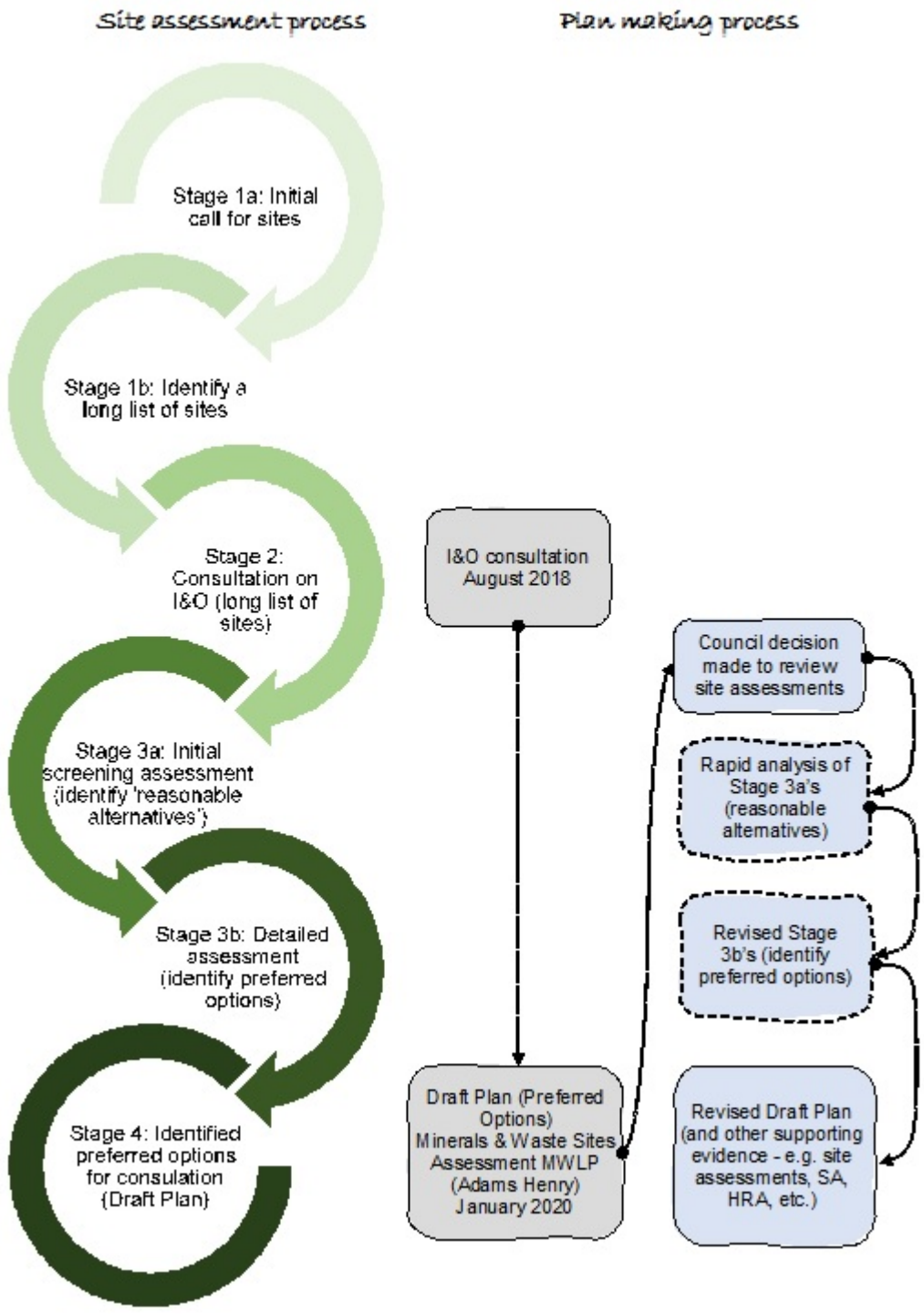

Figure 1: Site assessment and plan-making process

2. Stage 3a: Initial screening

2.1 Stage 3a involves the screening of sites in order to determine compliance with the initial screening criteria which includes key policy considerations. The initial screening acts as a first sieve in order to rule out any sites that have overriding constraints such that they would not be deliverable. The purpose of Stage 3a is to identify the reasonable alternatives.

2.2 The initial screening criteria includes:

- The minerals and waste spatial strategies (Core Strategy policies M1, M3 & W4);
- Adopted District Local Plan allocations or safeguarded sites (where the use is incompatible with or cannot practicably be implemented with the proposed minerals/waste development);
- Natural capital, including – biodiversity and geodiversity, landscape and visual impact, water resources, flood risk, air quality, soil resources, historic environment, transport and access, Public Rights of Way (PRoW), health and amenity, Green Belt, and Airport Safeguarding Zones; and
- Proximity of each site to other existing or nominated operations (minerals and waste) to assist in identifying potential for cumulative impacts.

2.3 The initial screening will use a traffic-light system of assessment based on a Traffic Light – Red, Amber, Green (RAG) sensitivity score methodology to indicate, whether, based on that criterion a site could be acceptable for the proposed development, refer Table 2 below. Consideration of specific mitigation measures will not be taken into account at this stage. An overall RAG score will be given for each site to provide an indication of the sites suitability to be taken forward through the plan-making process. If all the criteria are green, then the site is likely to be acceptable (an overall 'green' score). If a site has any amber scores consideration will need to be given as to whether adverse impacts could be successfully mitigated (an overall 'amber' score). Where a site has any red scores, this is likely to mean that the constraints present are too severe, and the site is unlikely to be deliverable (an overall 'red' score). Sites with an overall 'green' or 'amber' rating will progress to the next stage of assessment (Stage 3b), as a 'reasonable alternative'.

Table 2: Traffic light RAG sensitivity score methodology – Stage 3a Initial screening

Sensitivity score	Description
Red	There is potential for a substantial to very substantial adverse effect(s) that is unlikely to be mitigated.
Amber	There is potential for a slight to moderate adverse effect(s) that is likely to be adequately mitigated.
Green	There are no effects or issues of significance that require mitigation.

Note: The terms 'substantial', 'moderate' and 'slight' to describe effects derived from Special Report – The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (IEMA, 2011) – Figure 6.3.

2.4 Stage 3a initial screening assessments were previously produced (refer Minerals and Waste Sites Assessment, Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adams Henry) (January 2020), and much of this work is fit-for-purpose. A rapid analysis for the purposes of ensuring consistency and updating any information will be undertaken as part of the review of site assessments. This will involve a desktop exercise focused on fact checking the assessment outcomes for each of the criteria (and updating of information where necessary), and Quality Assurance checks to ensure consistency. The outcome of which will be published alongside the Revised Draft Plan and associated SA Report with amendments shown in 'tracked changes' format (the correction of any typographical errors will not be shown).

2.5 Where new evidence was provided through the draft sites plan consultation (January – March 2020), updated information has become available, or as a result of the recent survey to confirm site nominations, the site assessment will be reviewed in light of the new evidence. If that review indicates that a site(s) previously not taken forward to Stage 3b should be reconsidered for further consideration (i.e. should be identified as a reasonable alternative), or vice versa, this will be documented in the assessment report.

2.6 Examples of the application of the RAG sensitivity score methodology against the Stage 3a initial screening criteria and the assessment template are set out in Appendix 1.

2.7 The ability of a site to contribute to enhancement measures (e.g. biodiversity gain, improved flood storage, etc.) and cumulative impacts will be considered more fully in the subsequent Stage 3b detailed assessment.

3. Stage 3b: Detailed assessment

3.1 The reasonable alternatives identified from Stage 3a will be assessed in detail against a set of site assessment criteria derived from the relevant site selection criteria set out through the SA framework and the Core Strategy. This will involve a desktop assessment of existing datasets and information sources against the assessment criteria in order to provide an overview of features, constraints, potential impacts, and capacity for avoidance and/or mitigation measures. This stage will also involve site visits for the purpose of ground-truthing. The purpose of Stage 3b is to identify the preferred options.

3.2 An additional sieve to assess the proposed sites compliance with key policy considerations will be introduced to the Stage 3b assessment process, to address:

- For mineral sites – i) maintaining a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and contribution towards the provision of aggregates during the plan period; ii) rebalancing of the sources of supply of sand and gravel between the northern and southern halves of the County; and iii) that the extraction of minerals should be the primary purpose for the site nomination.
- For waste sites – i) driving waste up the waste hierarchy; and ii) ensuring that the proposed use does not prejudice the restoration of mineral extraction sites.

3.3 Any sites that do not comply with these key policy considerations will be discounted from further consideration at this point and will not proceed further in the Stage 3b assessment process.

3.4 The Council will prepare projections of aggregate supply over the plan period based on the estimated future annual sales for remaining permitted reserves of existing sites and sites that were recently granted planning permissions (where implementation is considered likely), in order to inform the assessment process. This will also allow for the identification of any shortfall in the annual provision rate over the plan period to be identified, which will assist in

informing the selection of the preferred options[3]. This approach seeks to balance need with provision. It should be noted that information for individual sites is confidential and so projections including this detail cannot be made publicly available.

3.5 Where available, the updated Waste Needs Assessment (WNA) will also be taken into consideration through the assessment process. In particular, calculations of the existing capacity may be used to inform future capacity needs.

3.6 As with the initial screening (Stage 3a), a Traffic Light RAG sensitivity score methodology will be applied for the detailed assessment stage with potential for a site to provide enhancements to be reflected by use of a deep green RAG scoring, refer Table 3 below. At this stage, RAG scorings for individual criterion may alter from the initial screening as further technical work reveals or clarifies the impacts of a site. The implementation of avoidance and/or mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse impacts to acceptable levels will be taken into account at this stage, as will the potential for cumulative impacts. The RAG scoring is not quantitative, meaning that sites will not be given an overall numerical score by which to determine the highest scoring sites. The need for the proposed use, potential impacts resulting from operations, and interaction with (and parameters of) the receiving environment are complex and should be considered on a merits basis. The purpose of this process is to assist in determining sites for inclusion in the Revised Draft Plan as a preferred option. Only those sites that are considered to be environmentally feasible should be taken forward.

3.7 With regards to mineral sites, there is likely to be more sites than are necessary to make up the remaining required provision. Consideration of the projections of aggregate supply over the plan period and the distribution of mineral extraction sites (i.e. one large site couple with one or two smaller supplementary sites[4]), coupled with consideration of the potential adverse impacts and constraints, and comparison with the other reasonable alternative sites will assist in further refining the reasonable alternatives down to the preferred options.

3.8 Sufficient capacity should be identified to meet the future waste management capacity requirements set out in the Core Strategy. As no cap has been set on the amount of provision to be made for additional waste management capacity for non-hazardous or inert waste, sites that provide additional capacity for preparation for re-use, recycling, composting of waste, or treatment of food waste may also be identified as preferred options (where considered environmentally feasible).

Table 3: Traffic light RAG sensitivity score methodology – Stage 3b Detailed assessment

Sensitivity score	Description	Likelihood of successful mitigation

[3] Determined to be the preferred approach to delivering the Core Strategy provision through the Sites Plan – refer to the Interim SA Report.

[4] Determined to be the preferred approach to site delivery – refer to the Interim SA Report.

Red	There is potential for a substantial to very substantial adverse effect(s) that is unlikely to be mitigated.	Low – It is unlikely that mitigation measures would be able to reduce potential adverse impacts to acceptable levels. Harm is unlikely to be avoided.
Amber	There is potential for a slight to moderate adverse effect(s) that is likely to be adequately mitigated.	Medium – Mitigation measures would be able to reduce potential adverse impacts to acceptable levels.
Green	There are no effects or issues of significance that require mitigation.	High – Negligible or no mitigation required in order to ensure impacts are acceptable.
Deep green	The proposal will result in enhancements or positive effects on the site.	Net positive effect.

Note: The terms 'substantial', 'moderate' and 'slight' to describe effects derived from Special Report – The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (IEMA, 2011) – Figure 6.

3.9 Examples of the application of the RAG system against the Stage 3b detailed assessment criteria and the assessment template are set out in Appendix 1.

3.10 The scope of the detailed assessment stage will include consultation with, and provision of advice, from Councils specialist advisors on matters such as archaeology, ecology, landscape, flood, and highways.

3.11 It should be noted that where it is necessary to assess broad industrial or employment land locations the criteria will be applied at a landscape (broader) level as it may not be practical to assess larger general areas in the same amount of detail as individual sites.

Detailed assessment criteria

3.12 The detailed assessment criteria are derived from the relevant site selection criteria set out through the SA framework and the Core Strategy, with related topics grouped.

3.13 The assessment criteria against which the sites will be assessed, and links to the Core Strategy and SA objectives, are detailed in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Detailed assessment criteria and links to Core Strategy policies and SA objectives

Assessment topic and criterion	Link to …	
	Core Strategy	SA objective
Key policy considerations – Minerals		
KM1 – Maintaining a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and contribution towards the provision of aggregates during the plan period	Policy M2	12 & 13
KM2 – Rebalancing of the sources of supply of sand and gravel between the northern and southern halves of the County	Policy M3	12 & 13
KM3 – Extraction of minerals is the primary purpose	Policy M5	12
Key policy considerations – Waste		
KW1 – Driving waste up the waste hierarchy in line with the identified needs	Policy W2 & W3	11 & 12
KW2 – The proposed use does not prejudice the restoration of mineral extraction sites	Policy M10	10
Minerals		
M1 – Preferred distribution of mineral extraction sites: one large site couple with one or two smaller supplementary sites	Policy M2	12 & 13
M2 – Priority for site extensions	Policy M4	12
M3 – Relationship to large towns and growth or market areas	Policy M4	8 & 13
M4 – Assessment of mineral resource	Policy M4	12
Waste		
W1 – Contribution towards identified future needs for waste management capacity (net self-sufficiency)	Policy W3	6, 11 & 12
W2 – Provision of additional waste management capacity for non-hazardous or inert waste (e.g. preparation for re-use, recycling, composting of waste, or treatment of food waste)	Policy W3	6, 11 & 12
Biodiversity and geodiversity		
B1 – Impact on national and international designations, protected species and habitats	Policy C7	1
B2 – Impact on local assets, important species and/or habitats	Policy C7	1
Landscape and visual impact		
L1 – Impact on designated landscapes, including Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs)	Policy C8	2
L2 – Impacts on local landscape character (including historic landscape character) and settlement character. Landscape capacity to accommodate proposed development	Policy M4, C8 & C9	2
Green Belt		
GB1 – Green Belt	Policy C12	9
Water resources (including flooding)		
WR1 – Potential to impact Source Protection Zones (SPZ), principal and secondary aquifers, and surface water bodies	Policy C4	4

Assessment topic and criterion	Link to …	
	Core Strategy	SA objective
WR2 – Flood risk	Policy C3	7
Air Quality		
A1 – Potential to impact Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and air quality	Policy C5 & 8	5
Soil Resources		
S1 – Potential to impact on soil resources including Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural land, land contamination (waste), and land instability (waste)	Policy C6	10
Historic Environment		
H1 – Potential to impact on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting (or non-designated assets of equal significance to a Scheduled Ancient Monument)	Policy C9	3
Transport and access		
T1 – Potential to impact on the local and strategic road network (including the Oxfordshire lorry route network) and suitability of access arrangements	Policy M4 & C10	8
T2 – Opportunities for sustainable/alternative transport modes (e.g. rail/water)	Policy M4 & C10	6 & 8
Public Rights of Way		
PR1 – Impacts on the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network and national trails	Policy C11	9
Health and amenity		
HA1 – Proximity to sensitive receptors and potential to impact on health and amenity from including visual impacts, light, dust, noise, vibration, odours, and bioaerosols	Policy C5	9
HA2 – Compatibility of surrounding land uses	Policy C5	9
Restoration		
R1 – Potential for restoration and after-use to deliver enhancement opportunities and a net gain in biodiversity	Policy M10 & C7	1, 2, 3, 7, 9 & 10
Airport Safeguarding Zones		
AS1 – Nature of proposed development and potential to impact on Airport Safeguarding Zone	Policy M10	9
Cumulative impacts		
C1 – Proximity to other existing operations and potential for cumulative impacts	Policy M4	1-10

Other related assessments

3.14 As part of the plan-making process, various other assessments are required to be undertaken to gather evidence for the Sites Plan, and that will inform the assessment of sites and plan-making process, including: SA (of which the site assessments form a part of), HRA, WNA, LAA, and SFRA. The Sequential Test will be applied to sites as part of the Stage 3b detailed assessment process, acting to inform the plan-making and SA processes. This will form the extent of further work undertaken on the SFRA for the MWLP.

4. Stage 4: Identification of, and consultation on, the Preferred Options

4.1 The preferred options, i.e. those sites that are considered to best meet the identified requirements for minerals provision and waste management (as set out in the Core Strategy) will be identified as a result of the Stage 3b detailed assessments, and consulted on, in the Revised Draft Plan (Regulation 18) document.

4.2 In the event that insufficient sites are identified to provide for the identified aggregate provision requirements and waste management capacity needs, sites that were determined to not be acceptable will not be taken forward to fill any gap. The Core Strategy includes policies that enable proposals for minerals and waste development on unallocated sites to come forward, this mechanism when combined with the spatial strategies is considered to provide adequate flexibility to respond to market interests and demands over the plan period.

Appendix 1: Application of the Traffic Light RAG sensitivity score methodology

Examples of the application of the Traffic Light RAG sensitivity score methodology against the initial screening (Stage 3a) and detailed assessment (Stage 3b) criteria is set out below in Tables A1.1 and A1.2.

It should be noted that the terms 'very substantial', 'substantial', 'moderate' and 'slight' used to describe effects are derived from Special Report – The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK (IEMA, 2011) – Figure 6.3. This terminology has been used, except where other terminology particular to certain matters applies. Effects on the Amber-Red spectrum are assumed to be negative. The methodology for determining the RAG sensitivity scores are set out in Tables A1.3 to A1.5, and aligns with the IEMA 2011 – Figure 6.3.

Assessment templates for the Stage 3a initial screening and Stage 3b detailed assessment are set out below in Tables A1.6 and A1.7

Information sources include site promoter records, Council records, Core Strategy polices (and Policies Map layers), SFRAs, Local and Neighbourhood Plans, British Geological Survey (BGS), AONB Conservation boards and management plans, Highways England, Natural England, Environment Agency, Historic England, DEFRA, District Councils, Environmental Records Centre, Historic Environment Records, water companies, and other available GIS datasets/report as determined to be relevant to the assessment criterion (e.g. data.gov.uk).

Table A1.1: Examples of application of the RAG methodology against the 3a Initial screening criteria

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green
Minerals spatial strategy: - strategic resources area and/or is an extension to existing sites - viability of resource (quality and quantity) - adopted District Local Plan or neighbourhood plan allocation Core Strategy (CS) Policy M2, M3 & M8	Not within a Strategic Resource Area and is not an extension to an existing site. Allocated for development in an adopted local plan or neighbourhood plan.	Within a Strategic Resource Area or is an extension to an existing site. Fair to moderate resource quality / quantity of resource. Would contribute to additional requirement.	Within a Strategic Resource Area or is an extension to an existing site. Good resource quality / quantity of resource. Would contribute significantly to additional requirement.
Waste spatial strategy: - strategic and non-strategic waste management facilities align with the main, large and small towns identified	Strategic or non-strategic facility does not align with identified towns and does not have	Strategic or non-strategic facility does not align with identified towns but is likely to have	Strategic or non-strategic facility aligns with identified towns.

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green
- adopted District Local Plan or neighbourhood plan allocation - suitability of access arrangements (access to the Oxfordshire lorry route network) CS Policy W4 & W11	access to the Oxfordshire lorry route network. Allocated for development in an adopted local plan or neighbourhood plan.	appropriate access to the Oxfordshire lorry route network.	
Biodiversity and geodiversity: Potential for impact on national, international, and local designations and irreplaceable habitats	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4
Impact on designated Landscapes – AONBs	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4
Water resources (including flooding): SPZs, principal and secondary aquifers, and flood zone	Refer to Table A1.4 Flood zone 2-3 and proposal is for more vulnerable to highly vulnerable development	Refer to Table A1.4 Flood zone 2-3 and proposal is for water compatible or less vulnerable development	Refer to Table A1.4 Flood zone 1
Air quality (includes AQMAs)	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4
Soil resources: BMV agricultural land (Agricultural Land Classification, ALC, Grades 1-4)	Refer to Table A1.4 >20ha of BMV land	Refer to Table A1.4 < 20ha BMV land	Refer to Table A1.4 Does not affect BMV land
Historic environment: Potential for impact on designated heritage assets, or non- designated assets of equal significance to scheduled monuments.	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4
Transport and access: Potential for impact on and access to strategic road network (SRN)	Access to SNR not available	Access to SRN available in local area / likely to be possible	Access to SRN available
PRoW: Impacts on the PRoW network and users	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4
Health and amenity: - proximity to sensitive receptors	Refer to Table A1.4 Sensitive receptors located within/directly adjacent to the site	Refer to Table A1.4 Sensitive receptors in close proximity to the site	Refer to Table A1.4 Sensitive receptors >400m from site

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green
- potential for adverse impacts (e.g. visual impacts, light, dust, noise, vibration, odours, and bioaerosols)			
Green Belt	Inappropriate development (no very special circumstances exist)	Not inappropriate development, or inappropriate development (very special circumstances exist)	Not located within Green Belt
Airport Safeguarding Zone	Within an Airport Safeguarding Zone and would attract birds (increasing risk of bird-strike for aircraft)	Within an Airport Safeguarding Zone and unlikely to attract birds (increasing risk of bird-strike for aircraft) / would attract birds but mitigation possible	Not within an Airport Safeguarding Zone or the nature of the site is unlikely to attract birds.

Note: Threshold for BMV land derived from Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure Order) 2012, Schedule 5

Table A1.2: Examples of application of the RAG methodology against the Stage 3b Detailed assessment criteria

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green	Deep Green
KM1 – Maintaining a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and contribution towards the provision of aggregates during the plan period	Anticipated timing and/or annual extraction rate from site does not address identified annual shortfalls	Anticipated timing and/or annual extraction rate from site addresses identified annual shortfalls in part	Anticipated timing and/or annual extraction rate from site addresses identified annual shortfalls	Not applicable (NA)
KM2 – Rebalancing of the sources of supply of sand and gravel between the northern and southern halves of the County	Provides limited support to delivery of the north-south split	Supports delivery of the north-south split in part (significance level 5%)	Supports delivery of the north-south split	NA
KM3 – Extraction of minerals is the primary purpose	Other land use forms the primary purpose of the site nomination	NA	Mineral extraction forms the primary purpose of the site nomination	NA
KW1 – Driving waste up the waste hierarchy in line with the identified needs CS Policy W3	Proposed use is for disposal, i.e. landfill/landraise or incineration without energy recovery	Proposed use is for non-hazardous residual waste treatment and does not impede movement up the hierarchy	Proposed use is for non-hazardous preparing for re-use and recycling	NA
KW2 – The proposed use does not prejudice the restoration of mineral extraction sites	The proposed use would prejudice/hinder the restoration of a mineral extraction site(s)	NA	No impact on restoration of mineral site(s)	NA
M1 – Preferred distribution of mineral extraction sites: one large site couple with one or two smaller supplementary sites	Provides limited support to the preferred distribution	Supports the preferred distribution in part	Supports the preferred distribution	NA
M2 – Priority for site extensions	Not an extension to an existing site	Forms a satellite site to an existing site (i.e. a smaller site that would utilise infrastructure and	Extension to an existing site	NA

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green	Deep Green
		plant of the existing site)		
M3 – Relationship to large towns and growth or market areas	Site is removed from large towns and/or growth or market areas and does not have good links to the SRN	Site is likely to service large towns and/or growth or market areas (>10 miles) and has good links to the SRN	Site is well-related (<10 miles) to large towns and/or growth or market areas	NA
M4 – Assessment of mineral resource	Evidence suggests that the resource is not economically viable or of poor quality	Limited site-specific evidence available however BGS data suggests good resource, or Evidence suggests that the resource is of lower quality but still economically viable (e.g. lower grade use)	Site-specific evidence suggests that the resource is of good quality and is economically viable	NA
W1 – Contribution towards identified future needs for waste management capacity (net self-sufficiency) CS Policy W3	Provides limited support to delivery of future needs, or additional needs	Potential to support delivery of future needs (e.g. facility type not identified but location appropriate for siting relevant facility(ies))	Supports delivery of future needs	NA
W2 – Provision of additional waste management capacity for non-hazardous or inert waste (e.g. preparation for re-use, recycling, composting of waste, or treatment of food waste) CS Policy W3	Provides limited support to delivery of future needs, or additional needs	Potential to support delivery of additional needs (e.g. facility type not identified but location appropriate for siting relevant facility(ies))	Supports delivery of additional needs	NA
B1 – Impact on national and international designations, protected species and habitats	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green	Deep Green
B2 – Impact on local assets, important species and/or habitats	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
L1 – Impact on designated landscapes, AONBs	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
L2 – Impacts on local landscape character (including historic landscape character) and settlement character. Landscape capacity to accommodate proposed development	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
GB1 – Green Belt	Inappropriate development (no very special circumstances exist)	Not inappropriate development, or inappropriate development (very special circumstances exist)	Not located within Green Belt	NA
WR1 – Potential to impact SPZ, principal and secondary aquifers, and surface water bodies	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
WR2 – Flood risk	Exception Test required and Development should not be permitted (NPPG table 3: Flood risk vulnerability[5])	Sequential test passed	Flood zone 1 and sequential test passed	NA
A1 – Potential to impact AQMAs and air quality	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
S1 – Potential to impact on soil resources including BMV Agricultural land, land contamination (waste), and land instability (waste)	Refer to Table A1.4 >20ha of BMV land	Refer to Table A1.4 < 20ha BMV land	Refer to Table A1.4 Does not affect BMV land	NA

[5] NPPG table 3: Flood risk vulnerability https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/575184/Table_3_-_Flood_risk_vulnerability_and_flood_zone__compatibility_.pdf

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green	Deep Green
H1 – Potential to impact on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting (or non-designated assets of equal significance to a Scheduled Ancient Monument)	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
T1 – Potential to impact on the local and strategic road network (including the Oxfordshire lorry route network) and suitability of access arrangements	Refer to Table A1.4 Access to SNR not available	Refer to Table A1.4 Access to SRN available in local area / likely to be possible	Refer to Table A1.4 Access to SRN available	NA
T2 – Opportunities for sustainable/alternative transport modes (e.g. rail/water)	No opportunities available	Potential for sustainable/alternative transport modes as located near to rail/water	Includes sustainable/alternative transport modes	NA
PR1 – Impacts on the PRoW network and national trails	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	Refer to Table A1.4	NA
HA1 – Proximity to sensitive receptors and potential to impact on health and amenity from including visual impacts, light, dust, noise, vibration, odours, and bioaerosols	Refer to Table A1.4 Sensitive receptors located within/directly adjacent to the site	Refer to Table A1.4 Sensitive receptors in close proximity to the site	Refer to Table A1.4 Sensitive receptors >400m from site	NA
HA2 – Compatibility of surrounding land uses	Refer to Table A1.4 and A1.6 Incompatible development is in close proximity to site (medium to high level sensitivity)	Refer to Table A1.4 and A1.6 Incompatible development is located >400m from site (medium to high level sensitivity)	Refer to Table A1.4 and A1.6 Adjacent/surrounding land use is compatible (low level sensitivity)	NA
R1 – Potential for restoration and after-use to deliver enhancement opportunities and a net gain in biodiversity	Limited enhancement opportunities or biodiversity net gain included in proposed restoration	Proposed restoration not identified but there is potential for delivery of enhancement opportunities or biodiversity net gain to	Proposed restoration includes enhancement opportunities and/or biodiversity net gain included in proposed restoration	The site would provide for strategic or significant enhancement opportunities and biodiversity net gain

Assessment criterion	Red	Amber	Green	Deep Green
		be included based on local land use context		
AS1 – Nature of proposed development and potential to impact on Airport Safeguarding Zone	Within an Airport Safeguarding Zone and would attract birds (increasing risk of bird-strike for aircraft)	Within an Airport Safeguarding Zone and unlikely to attract birds (increasing risk of bird-strike for aircraft) / would attract birds but mitigation possible	Not within an Airport Safeguarding Zone or the nature of the site is unlikely to attract birds.	NA
C1 – Proximity to other existing operations and potential for cumulative impacts	Other unrelated sites located in close proximity or adjacent the site and it is unlikely that mitigation would reduce potential for cumulative adverse impacts	Other sites located within the local area however mitigation (including potential to phase operations) would reduce potential for cumulative adverse impacts	No other sites within the local area, or the site is an extension to an existing site that would be phased to avoid cumulative adverse impacts	NA

Table A1.3: Sensitivity score

	Nature of effect			
Receptor	**Negligible**	**Low**	**Medium**	**Major**
International	Not significant	Moderate	Substantial	Very substantial / Likely significant effect
National	Not significant	Slight	Moderate	Substantial
Local / non-designated	Not significant	Slight / Not significant	Slight	Moderate

Note: Non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered at the 'national' level for the purpose of the impact risk rating (NPPF paragraph 194(b) & 197).

Table A1.4: Definition of nature of effect

Nature of effect	Definition
Negligible	So small or unimportant that it may safely be neglected or disregarded.
Low	Slight adverse impact highly likely to be ameliorated by mitigation measures with remaining residual impacts being negligible (or within acceptable limits). Identified constraints are acceptable.
Medium	Adverse impact resulting in harm (unmitigated). It is possible that implementation of avoidance and/or mitigation measures will reduce impacts to an acceptable level. Identified constraints are significant.
Major	Adverse impact resulting in significant harm. The implementation of avoidance and/or mitigation measures is unlikely to reduce impacts to an acceptable level. Identified constraints are unlikely to be overcome.

Table A1.5: Examples of incompatible development

	Sensitivity level		
	Low	**Medium**	**High**
Examples of land uses	Farms, industry, and outdoor storage	Residential areas, schools, food retailers, glasshouses and nurseries, horticultural land, and offices	Hospitals and clinics, retirement homes, hi-tech industry, painting and furnishing, and food processing

Table A1.6: Example site assessment template for Stage 3a Initial screening assessment

Site Information		**Site plan**
Site location		
Grid reference		
Administrative area		
Parish		
Site nominee(s) or Agent		
Proposed development (type of mineral / waste facility)		
Site area		
Minerals: Estimated total yield Estimated annual extraction rate Resource to overburden ratio Implementation timeframe Life of operations		
Waste: Annual throughput/capacity Waste stream Implementation timeframe Temporary/permanent		
Existing land use		
Proposed restoration (for temporary uses only)		
Access		

Current levels and types of traffic			
Initial screening assessment criterion		**Notes**	**RAG sensitivity score**
Minerals spatial strategy Core Strategy (CS) Policy M2, M3 & M8		Strategic resources area and/or is an extension to existing sites:	
		Viability of resource (quality and quantity):	
		Adopted District Local Plan or neighbourhood plan allocation:	
Waste spatial strategy CS Policy W4 & W11		Strategic and non-strategic waste management facilities align with the main, large and small towns identified:	
		Adopted District Local Plan or neighbourhood plan allocation:	
		Suitability of access arrangements (access to the Oxfordshire lorry route network):	
Biodiversity and geodiversity: Potential for impact on national, international, and local designations and irreplaceable habitats			
Impact on designated Landscapes – AONBs			
Water resources (including flooding): SPZs, principal and secondary aquifers, and flood zone			
Air quality (includes AQMAs)			
Soil resources: BMV agricultural land (Agricultural Land Classification, ALC, Grades 1-4)			
Historic environment: Potential for impact on designated heritage assets, or non- designated assets of equal significance to scheduled monuments.			
Transport and access: Potential for impact on and access to strategic road network (SRN)			
PRoW: Impacts on the PRoW network and users			
Health and amenity:			

- proximity to sensitive receptors - potential for adverse impacts (e.g. visual impacts, light, dust, noise, vibration, odours, and bioaerosols)		
Green Belt		
Airport Safeguarding Zone		
Proximity of the site to other existing or nominated operations (minerals and waste)		
Overall assessment outcome	Assessment summary: Site acceptable to be taken forward as reasonable alternative:	

Table A1.7: Example site assessment template for Stage 3b Detailed assessment

Site Information		**Site plan**
Site location		
Grid reference		
Administrative area		
Parish		
Site nominee(s) or Agent		
Proposed development (type of mineral / waste facility)		
Site area		
Minerals: Estimated total yield Estimated annual extraction rate Resource to overburden ratio Implementation timeframe Life of operations		
Waste: Annual throughput/capacity Waste stream Implementation timeframe Temporary/permanent		
Existing land use		
Proposed restoration (for temporary uses only)		
Access		

Estimated traffic movements	

Key policy considerations	Notes	RAG sensitivity score
KM1 – Maintaining a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and contribution towards the provision of aggregates during the plan period		
KM2 – Rebalancing of the sources of supply of sand and gravel between the northern and southern halves of the County		
KM3 – Extraction of minerals is the primary purpose		
KW1 – Driving waste up the waste hierarchy in line with the identified needs		
KW2 – The proposed use does not prejudice the restoration of mineral extraction sites		
Key policy assessment outcome		
Detailed assessment criterion		
M1 – Preferred distribution of mineral extraction sites: one large site couple with one or two smaller supplementary sites		
M2 – Priority for site extensions		
M3 – Relationship to large towns and growth or market areas		
M4 – Assessment of mineral resource		

Key policy considerations	Notes	RAG sensitivity score
W1 – Contribution towards identified future needs for waste management capacity (net self-sufficiency)		
W2 – Provision of additional waste management capacity for non-hazardous or inert waste		
B1 – Impact on national and international designations, protected species and habitats		
B2 – Impact on local assets, important species and/or habitats		
L1 – Impact on designated landscapes, AONBs		
L2 – Impacts on local landscape character (including historic landscape character) and settlement character. Landscape capacity to accommodate proposed development		
GB1 – Green Belt		
WR1 – Potential to impact SPZ, principal and secondary aquifers, and surface water bodies		
WR2 – Flood risk		
A1 – Potential to impact AQMAs and air quality		
S1 – Potential to impact on soil resources including BMV Agricultural land, land contamination (waste), and land instability (waste)		

Key policy considerations	Notes	RAG sensitivity score
H1 – Potential to impact on designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting (or non-designated assets of equal significance to a Scheduled Ancient Monument)		
T1 – Potential to impact on the local and strategic road network (including the Oxfordshire lorry route network) and suitability of access arrangements		
T2 – Opportunities for sustainable/alternative transport modes (e.g. rail/water)		
PR1 – Impacts on the PRoW network and national trails		
HA1 – Proximity to sensitive receptors and potential to impact on health and amenity from including visual impacts, light, dust, noise, vibration, odours, and bioaerosols		
HA2 – Compatibility of surrounding land uses		
R1 – Potential for restoration and after-use to deliver enhancement opportunities and a net gain in biodiversity		
AS1 – Nature of proposed development and potential to impact on Airport Safeguarding Zone		

Key policy considerations	Notes	RAG sensitivity score
C1 – Proximity to other existing operations and potential for cumulative impacts		
Overall assessment outcome	Assessment summary: Site acceptable to be taken forward as preferred option:	

Appendix 2: Survey of nominated sites

Site	Confirmed as reasonably available?	Notes
10 - Sutton Courtenay Landfill, Sutton Courtenay/Appleford	Yes	
103 - Lakeside Industrial Estate, Standlake	No	Unable to contact operator/agent – cannot be confirmed as reasonably available.
11 - Finmere Quarry, Finmere	Yes	Unable to contact operator/agent – cannot be confirmed, however there is a planning application for the site awaiting determination indicating active industry support.
18 - Holloway Farm, Waterstock/Milton Common	Yes	
2 – Prospect Farm, Chilton	Yes	
224 - Ambrose Quarry, Ewelme	Yes	
229 - Shellingford Quarry, Shellingford/Staford in the Vale	Yes	
236 - Sheehan Recycled Aggregates Plant, Dix Pit Complex, Stanton Harcourt	Yes	
245 - Challow Marsh Farm, West Challow	No	Unable to contact operator/agent – cannot be confirmed as reasonably available.
249B - High Cogges Farm, Witney	Yes	
261 - The Marshes, Knightsbridge Farm, Yarnton	Yes	
274 - Moor End Lane Farm, Moor End Lane, Thame	Yes	
276 - Oday Hill, Sutton Wick	Yes	
278 - Land off the B4100, Baynards Green, Ardley / Fritwell	No	Company no longer operational – cannot be confirmed as reasonably available.
279 - Rear of Ford Dealership, Rycote Lane, Thame	No	Company no longer operational – cannot be confirmed as reasonably available.
28 - Whitehill Quarry, Burford	Yes	
283 - Hatford Quarry Stanford Extension, Stanford in the Vale	Yes	

Site	Confirmed as reasonably available?	Notes
285 - (Magnox) Harwell Site, Harwell Campus, Harwell	Yes	
287 - Ardley Fields	Yes	
289 - Overthorpe Industrial Estate	Yes	
290 - Culham Science Centre, Culham	Yes	
3 - Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt	Yes	
8 - New Wintles Farm, Eynsham	No	Unable to contact operator/agent – cannot be confirmed as reasonably available.
9 - Worton Farm Areas C & D, Yarnton	Yes	
CR-07 - Adjacent to Whitehill Quarry	Yes	
CR-10 - Burford Quarry SW extension	Yes	
CR-13 - Dewars Farm Quarry East extension	Yes	
CR-15 - Land off the B4100, Baynards Green	Yes	
CR-19 - Dewars Farm Quarry south extension	Yes	
SG-08 - Lower Road, Church Hanborough	Yes	
SG-09 and SG-59 - Land north of Drayton St Leonard and Berinsfield and land at Stadhampton	Yes	
SG-11 and SG-65 - Land north east of Sonning Eye (Caversham phases D & E)	Yes	
SG-17 - Land at Culham	Yes	
SG-18 - Land near Standlake	Yes	
SG-20 - Land between Eynsham & Cassington	Yes	
SG-20a - Wharf Farm	Yes	
SG-20b - Land at Eynsham	Yes	
SG-23 - Windrush North, Gill Mill	Yes	
SG-27 - Vicarage Pit, Cogges Lane	Yes	
SG-29 - Sutton Farm, Sutton	Yes	
SG-42 - Nuneham Courtenay	Yes	
SG-60 - Cross Farm	Yes	
SG-62 – Appleford	No	Unable to contact operator/agent – cannot be confirmed as reasonably available.
SG-63 - Finmere Quarry	Yes	Unable to contact operator/agent – cannot be confirmed, however there is a planning application

Site	Confirmed as reasonably available?	Notes
		for the site awaiting determination indicating active industry support.
SG-67 - Sutton Wick Quarry	Yes	
SS-03 and CR-17 - Hatford Quarry South extension	Yes	
SS-04 - Land at Pinewoods Road	Yes	
SS-05 - Land at Kingston Bagpuize	Yes	
SS-07 and CR-24 - Home Farm	Yes	
SS-12 and CR-12 - Land at Chinham Farm (Chinham Hill)	Yes	
SS-15 and CR-11 - Hatford Quarry North extension	Yes	
SS-16 and CR-21 - Hatford Quarry Stanford Extension	Yes	
SS-18 and CR-22 - Hatford Quarry West extension	Yes	
SS-19 and CR-23 - Home Farm	No	