
Silica sand review

Norfolk County Council has a duty to produce and maintain an up-to-date Minerals Plan which forms the basis for determining any planning applications that are lodged with the authority.

The Pre-Submission representations period on the Single Issue Silica Sand Review will take place from 9am on 16 May to 5pm on 27 June 2016 (<https://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>)

The Minerals Site Specific Allocations DPD (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/minerals-and-waste-planning/adopted-policy-documents>) contains a requirement for a Silica Sand Review of the Plan to be completed by 2016.

The purpose of the Silica Sand Review is to address the predicted shortfall in the quantity of silica sand extraction sites allocated in the Plan, by designating specific sites and areas of search which would be suitable to meet this shortfall.

It is predicted that around 750,000 tonnes of silica sand will be extracted from Norfolk per year and that no more than 1 or 2 additional specific sites will need to be allocated over the plan period (to 2026) to meet the shortfall.

The Silica Sand resource in Norfolk is found entirely within the administrative boundary of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council. A map showing the area of the silica sand resource is available here (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/a-map-showing-the-area-of-the-silica-sand-review-is-available-here.pdf?la=en>).

The review takes place in stages;

- Initial consultation (March – April 2015)
- Call for sites (June 2015)
- Preferred options consultation (November – December 2015)
- Pre-Submission representations stage (May-June 2016)
- Submission to the Secretary of State
- Examination

- Adoption

Current representations period

Pre-Submission representations stage

Norfolk County Council agreed, at the full Council meeting on 11 April 2016, to publish the Pre-Submission version of the Minerals Site Specific Allocations DPD – Single Issue Silica Sand Review. The Silica Sand Review has been published to allow representations on the soundness and legal compliance of the document to be made, over a six week period, between 9am on 16 May and 5pm on 27 June 2016 (inclusive).

The Silica Sand Review has been through the following stages: an Initial Consultation during March and April 2015, a 'call for sites' in June 2015, and a Preferred Options Consultation during November and December 2015.

The Pre-Submission version of the Silica Sand Review allocates one specific site for silica sand extraction and six Areas of Search (AoS) which have been defined by planning officers. Areas of search are large areas within which permission for silica sand extraction may be granted on a smaller area of land. Developers wanting to extract mineral from specific sites or land within an area of search allocated in the Silica Sand Review will still need to apply for and be granted planning permission before mineral extraction can take place.

The areas of search and site allocated in the Silica Sand Review Pre-Submission document are located in the following parishes: Bawsey, Dersingham, East Winch, Ingoldisthorpe, Marham, Pentney, Runcton Holme, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Snettisham, Stow Bardolph, Tottenhill, Wormegay.

The Pre-Submission document is available to view here (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/pre-submission-document-march-2016.pdf?la=en>)

In addition to the Pre-Submission document, the following documents which provide information to support the policies in the Silica Sand Review have also been published:

- Revised Policies Map (illustrates the policies contained in the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan)
- Sustainability Appraisal Report (Parts A and B) (shows social, environmental and economic impacts of the Silica Sand Review)
- Sustainability Appraisal non-technical summary (summary of above)

- Habitats Regulations Assessment (of impacts on European-designated nature conservation sites)
- Pre-Submission Statement of Consultation (details consultees and their responses)
- Equality Impact Assessment (how different people will be affected by the Silica Sand Review process and policies)
- Flood Risk Sequential Test (demonstrates compliance with the requirements of paragraphs 100-101 of the National Planning Policy Framework)

All of the above documents can be viewed here from 16 May 2016 (<https://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>), when the representations period starts.

Click here for an interactive version of the Silica Sand Review Pre-submission Revised Policies map (<http://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/mapping/map.php?mapid=281>)

These documents will be available for public inspection, free of charge, within normal opening hours from 16 May until 27 June 2016, at all public libraries in Norfolk, and at:

- Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH
- Breckland District Council, Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke, East Dereham, NR19 1EE
- Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Town Hall, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF
- Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1EX
- North Norfolk District Council, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EL
- Norwich City Council, City Hall, Bethel Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH
- South Norfolk Council, South Norfolk House, Swan Lane, Long Stratton, NR15 2XE
- The Broads Authority, Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, NR1 1RY

Where possible the County Council would prefer representations to be made directly to <https://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/> (<https://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>) however responses by post, fax (01603 223219 – marked for the attention of Planning Services) and email (LDF@norfolk.gov.uk (<mailto:LDF@norfolk.gov.uk>)) will also be accepted.

A downloadable and printable representation form is available here (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/printable-representation-form.pdf?la=en>) and includes the Statement of Representations procedure.

All representations, using whatever method, must be made by 5pm on 27 June 2016.

Following the end of the representations period, the Pre-Submission version of the Silica Sand Review, relevant background documents and the representations received will be submitted to the Secretary of State later in 2016, for public examination by a Planning Inspector.

Previous consultation stages

Initial consultation

The first stage in the Silica Sand Review process was to consult with stakeholders, including parish councils and the public.

The Initial Consultation document contained a number of questions regarding the approach that the County Council proposed to take in the assessment of specific sites and, if necessary, in the designation of preferred areas/areas of search for future silica sand extraction.

The Initial Consultation document and the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/sustainability-appraisal-scoping-report.pdf?la=en>) were published for a 6 week consultation period, which took place between 9 March to 20 April 2015.

Responses which were made to this consultation are available here. (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/responses-which-were-made-to-this-consultation-are-available-here.docx?la=en>)

A Feedback Report

(<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/feedback-report.pdf?la=en>) containing all the comments received in response to the Initial Consultation, a Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report and Norfolk County Council's officer responses to them has been produced.

(<http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/view/NCC163401>)The Initial Consultation document is also available to view below and is split into chapters due to the size of the maps in the document:

- Contents page and sections 1 to 7 (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and->

- [strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/contents-page-and-sections-1-to-7.pdf?la=en](https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/contents-page-and-sections-1-to-7.pdf?la=en))
- Section 8.1 (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/section-81.pdf?la=en>)
 - Sections 8.2 and 8.3 (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/sections-82-and-83.pdf?la=en>)
 - Sections 9 and 10 (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/sections-9-and-10.pdf?la=en>)
 - Sections 11 and 12 (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/sections-11-and-12.pdf?la=en>)
 - Sections 13 to 16 (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/sections-13-to-16.pdf?la=en>)
 - Sections 17, 18, 19 and Glossary (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/sections-17-18-19-and-glossary.pdf?la=en>)

Call for sites

The 'call for sites' for the Single Issue Silica Sand Review of the Norfolk Minerals Site Specific Allocations Plan took place during June 2015.

The purpose of the 'call for sites' was to encourage proposals for potential specific site allocations for silica sand extraction, up to 2026, to be submitted. Only one site was proposed, which has been assessed by Norfolk County Council officers and has been subject to public consultation.

The form that was used for the 'call for sites' is available to view here (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/the-form-that-was-used-for-the-call-for-sites-is-available-to-view-here.pdf?la=en>).

Preferred options consultation

Following the Initial Consultation on the Silica Sand Review, the next stage in the process was the Preferred Options Consultation, which took place for 6 weeks between 6 November and 21 December 2015.

The Preferred Options consultation document contains one specific site for silica sand extraction and 10 areas of search which have been defined by planning officers.

Areas of search are large areas within which permission for silica sand extraction may be granted on a smaller area of land.

The Preferred Options document contains an explanation of how the 10 areas of search have been defined and an assessment of the specific site and each of the areas of search.

- Responses to the preferred options consultation (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/responses-to-the-preferred-options-consultation.docx?la=en>)
- (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/responses-to-the-preferred-options-consultation.docx?la=en>) Feedback Report containing all the comments received in response to the Preferred Options Consultation, and Norfolk County Council's officer responses to them (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk:443/-/media/norfolk/downloads/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/policy-performance-and-partnerships/policies-and-strategies/recycling-minerals-and-waste-planning/silica-sand-review/feedback-report-containing-all-the-comments-received-in-response-to-the-preferred-options.pdf?la=en>)
- An overview map of the locations of all ten areas of search (<https://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>)

The Preferred Options Consultation document, was published, together with 3 supporting documents: an Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (Parts A and B) and a Habitats Regulations Assessment - Test of Likely Significant Effects.

These previous consultation documents can be viewed on our e-consultation website. (<https://norfolk.jdi-consult.net/localplan/>)

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