WILKINSON ASSOCIATES
Environmental Consultants

Cavenham Quarry: Soils Washing Plant

PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Prepared for: PDE Consulting Limited
On behalf of: Allen Newport Limited
Report Date: December 2023
Author: Jan Wilkinson MCIEEM
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CAVENHAM QUARRY SOILS WASHING PLANT: PRELIMINARY ECOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

REPORT PREPARED FOR:

PDE Consulting Limited, on behalf of Allen Newport Limited

SITE LOCATION:

Cavenham Quarry
Marston's Pit
Cavenham Heath
Cavenham
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP28 6SE

National Grid Reference (NGR): TL75897164

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and terms of reference

1.1.1 Wilkinson Associates was commissioned by PDE Consulting Limited, on behalf of Allen Newport Limited (the Applicant), to undertake a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) in connection with a proposal for the installation and use of a washing plant for the recycling of inert materials together with associated access onto the highway (the Proposed Development) on land at Cavenham Quarry, Cavenham Road, Tuddenham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6SE (the Site). This report presents the findings of the PEA.

1.1.2 The purpose of the PEA is to identify any likely ecological constraints associated with the proposed development and to identify any requirements for further surveys, assessment, mitigation and biodiversity enhancement to ensure compliance with relevant legislation, biodiversity policy and best practice guidelines/advice.

1.1.3 The PEA has been undertaken by Jan Wilkinson BSC (Hons) MCIEEM, who has extensive experience of undertaking ecological surveys and assessments including PEAs and Ecological Impact Assessments (EcIAs). She also has particular experience of carrying out surveys and ecological assessments at Cavenham Quarry over an eight year period.

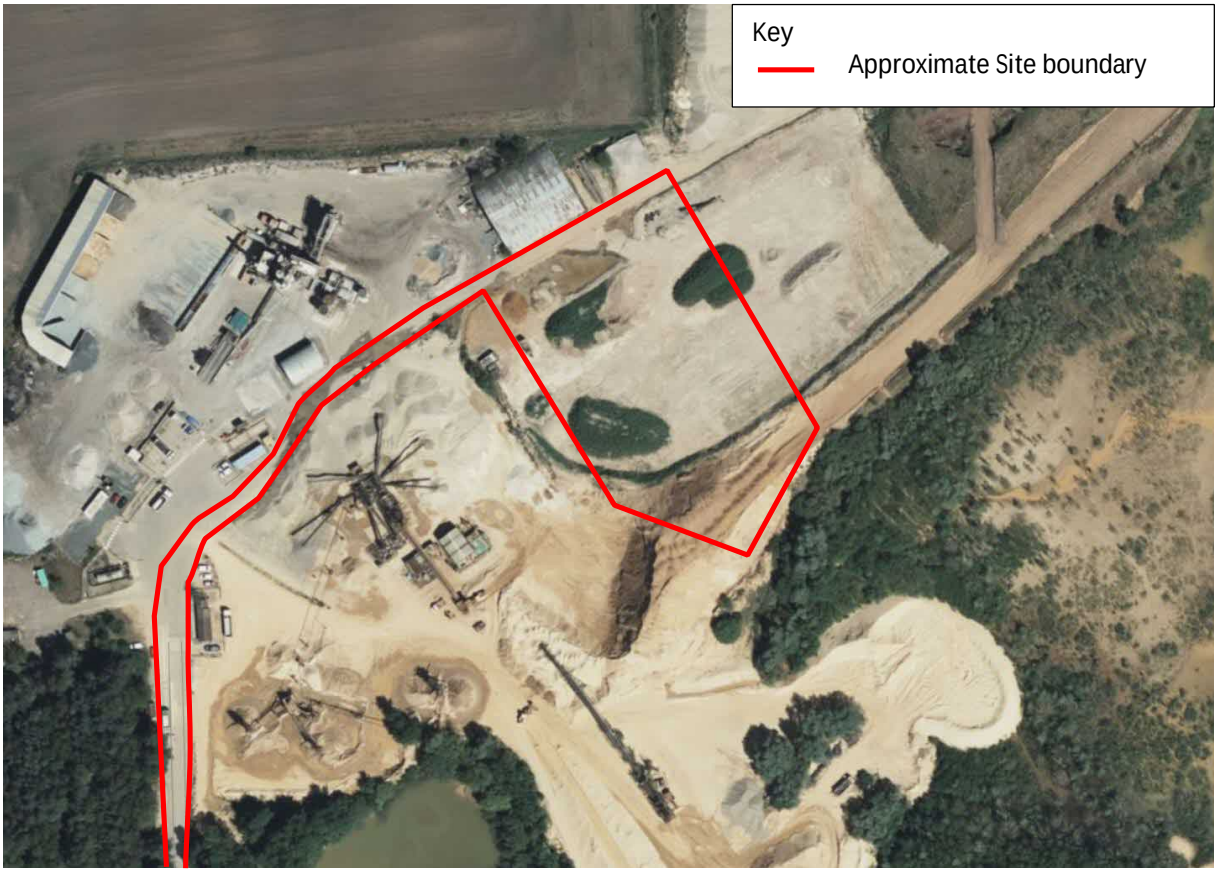
1.2 Site description

1.2.1 The location of the Site is shown outlined red on Drawing Reference KD.CAV.4.D.001. It extends to approximately 1.92 hectares (ha) and comprises the access road and the 0.84 ha Development Area.

1.2.2 The Site comprises part of a wider quarry which is known as Cavenham Quarry / Marston's Pit (the Quarry). The current situation is shown on Drawing Reference KD.CAV.4.D.002.

1.2.3 The National Grid Reference (NGR) for the approximate centre of the Site is TL75897164. Figure 1 (overleaf) shows the approximate boundary of the Development Area and the northern end of the access road overlaid onto an aerial photograph. This shows that the Development Area is located within the existing recycling area which currently comprises a mix of existing stockpiles and open processing areas. The access comprises the existing tarmac surfaced quarry access road. As such, there are no semi-natural habitats or areas of vegetation within the Site.

Figure 1: Aerial photograph showing Development Area



1.3 Ecological context

1.3.1 Cavenham Quarry is located within and adjacent to sensitive areas of Breckland habitats designated for their national and international nature conservation importance. Most of the existing Quarry lies within Breckland Farmland Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is a component of the Breckland Special Protection for Birds (SPA). Land immediately to the north of the Quarry lies within Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI and Cavenham Heath National Nature Reserve (NNR). Previous restoration of mineral extraction workings at the Quarry has embraced the importance of these habitats and statutory designations and has significantly contributed to the size and quality of Breckland heath habitats in the locality.

1.3.2 The current Site, including both the access road and the Development Area, is excluded from Breckland Farmland SSSI/Breckland SPA. The Development Area is located within the existing recycling site and is surrounded by stockpiles, buildings, plant and hardstanding areas. Existing settlement lagoons lie to the south-east and south-west of the Development Area. The northern part of the access road is bordered by existing mineral extraction operations to the west and by restored land to the east, then it

passes the existing plant site before entering the recycling area. The southern part of the access road is bordered by arable farmland.

1.4 Outline of development proposals

1.4.1 The Proposed Development is described fully in Section 3 of the Planning Application and Supporting Statement prepared by PDE Consulting Limited, which also contains a set of drawings showing the site location, existing situation and the proposals. A brief summary is provided here in order to set the context for the PEA.

1.4.2 The Proposed Development will complement the Applicant's existing operations within the wider Quarry by ensuring that a substantial proportion of any incoming inert material can be recycled. In brief, the recycling process involves the following:

Inert materials will enter the Site via HGV using the existing access road and will stop on the weighbridge where they will be weighted. The HGVs will then enter the recycling area and will either deposit their load into a designated stockpile or proceed into the Quarry if they are carrying materials to be used for restoration.

The inert material is washed and then sorted into saleable products by the processing plant, which screens the materials by size and transfers them into different stockpiles.

Water used to wash the waste will be sourced from the existing quarry's lagoon system. The process of soil washing is a sustainable use of water, as once the water has run through the plant it will be re-circulated back through to be used again, ensuring that the minimum of water is lost through the washing process.

Once separated, the recycled aggregates are removed by loading shovel to other stockpiles from which they are ultimately sold and transported from Site by HGV.

2 PLANNING POLICY AND LEGISLATION

2.1 National planning policy

2.1.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in September 2023 provides the policy context for the assessment of ecological effects by setting out national planning policies, including those relating to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, habitats and biodiversity.

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

2.1.2 Paragraph 174 sets out the ways in which planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, including by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value and by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity. The latter includes establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

Habitats and biodiversity

2.1.3 Paragraph 180 states that when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

a) If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;

b) Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and;

c) Development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.

2.2 Local planning policy

2.2.1 The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (SMWLP, Adopted July 2020) provides the policy framework for the determination of minerals planning applications in the County. Policy GP4 requires minerals and waste development to adequately assess any potentially significant adverse impacts upon biodiversity including Natura 2000 sites, ancient woodlands and trees.

2.2.2 Policy CS2 of the Forest Heath Core Strategy (FHCS) states that areas of biodiversity interest within the District will be protected from harm and their restoration, enhancement and expansion will be encouraged and sought through a variety of measures.

2.2.3 Policy DM10 of the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan (FHSTLP) states that when considering development proposals which may have an adverse impact on nature conservation sites or interests, the local planning authority will have regard to the expert nature conservation advice provided by Natural England, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other specialist sources.

2.3 Legislative framework

2.3.1 The ecological assessment process is underpinned by a legislative framework which provides statutory protection for certain designated sites and protected species and also provides the legal basis for the consideration of biodiversity, habitats and species. Many sites and species have multiple designations/levels of protection under more than one piece of legislation. In the brief outline that follows, sites and species relevant to the current proposal are listed under their highest level of relevant legislation; more information is given in Section 4 (Baseline Conditions).

2.3.2 Key legislation which the proposed development must ensure compliance with is highlighted in the following paragraphs, together with an indication of any sites and species which have been identified as requiring particular consideration in the current assessment.

European legislation

2.3.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (known as "the 2017 Regulations") provide statutory protection for habitats and species which are considered to be of importance at an international level. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs) and European Protected Species (EPS), which include all native bats, great crested newts, dormice, otters and certain reptiles. Ramsar sites are afforded the same protection at a policy level as SPAs.

2.3.4 Following the UK's exit from the EU, changes were made to the 2017 Regulations under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (known as "the 2019 Regulations"). Most of the changes involve transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing UK Government guidance is still relevant. The obligations regarding protection of European sites and species have not changed. SACs and SPAs no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network, as they have been incorporated into a national site network under the 2019 Regulations.

2.3.5 European Sites that require detailed consideration in this assessment include the following:

Breckland SPA; and
Breckland SAC.

2.3.6 There are no EPS requiring particular consideration in this PEA.

UK designated sites and protected species legislation

2.3.7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) provides the statutory basis for the designation and protection of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs). It also provides legal protection for UK protected species; these can receive differing levels of protection depending on which Schedules of the Act they are listed under. UK legally protected sites and species that require particular consideration in this PEA include the following:

Breckland Farmland SSSI;
Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI; and
Birds, especially Schedule 1 species which receive special protection at all times - these include stone-curlew and woodlark.

2.3.8 Certain invasive non-native species (INNS) are listed under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

2.3.9 The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 provides specific legal protection to badgers and their setts.

Biodiversity legislation and policy

2.3.10 Habitats and species which are considered to be priorities for conservation at a UK level were originally identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). The UK BAP was replaced by the UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (JNCC and DEFRA, 2012), under which the focus changed to listing priority species and habitats at a country level. The England Biodiversity Strategy was later replaced by Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011). However, the UK BAP lists remain a valuable reference source and UK BAP habitats and species are still frequently referred to in local planning policies and local BAPs.

2.3.11 Habitats and species which are considered to be priorities for conservation in England are listed as habitats and species of principal importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 ("NERC Act"). There are 56 habitats and 943 species of principal importance on the S41 list; these are known as Priority habitats and species and all local authorities must have particular regard to this list when carrying out their functions, including when determining planning

applications. The NERC Act also places a duty on public bodies to conserve biodiversity and to consider its enhancement in all of their actions.

2.3.12 The Environment Bill received Royal Assent on 9 November 2021 and became the Environment Act 2021. The Act includes a target to halt the decline of nature by 2030, and mandates Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for developments. Mandatory BNG is scheduled to become law in January 2024 via an amendment to the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Scope of the assessment

3.1.1 As described in Section 1.2, the Site comprises a small part of the wider Cavenham Quarry and the Development Area sits within the existing recycling area. As there are no semi-natural habitats or areas of vegetation within the Site the potential for ecological impacts connected with the proposed development are very limited. The scope of the assessment reflects this, and focuses on the following potential issues:

Any potential for indirect effects on the nearby designated sites, particularly Breckland Farmland SSSI, Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI, Breckland SPA and Breckland SAC.

Any potential for disturbance or other impacts to affect protected and priority species, particularly (but not restricted to) stone-curlew.

Any potential for indirect effects on other habitats and species within the wider Quarry, such as those relating to noise or dust impacts.

3.1.2 The Planning Application and Supporting Statement prepared by PDE Consulting Limited provides a description of the proposed development and outlines the environmental issues which have been considered, including noise and dust.

3.1.3 The Zone of Influence (ZoI) for the assessment (study area) is 2 km, which is considered to be proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposals as described above.

3.2 Desk study

3.2.1 A desk study was carried out to identify designated sites and protected or biodiversity priority habitats and species which could potentially be affected by the proposals.

3.2.2 The primary sources of information for the desk study were the following:

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC)[1] website was searched for records of designated sites and other relevant ecological features within the ZoI.

A data search carried out by Suffolk Biological Records Centre (SBRC) in 2021 was used to provide background information on protected/notable species and designated sites the ZoI. This data search was carried out in connection with an application for a western extension to Cavenham Quarry, and it covers a larger ZoI

[1] www.magic.gov.uk

than has been identified for the current application. Whilst it is just over two years since the data search was carried out, it is considered that in the context of the current small scale application the information is still relevant.

Information was also obtained from previous ecological reports prepared for Cavenham Quarry, in particular EcIA reports prepared by Wilkinson Associates in 2016, 2020 and 2021 in connection with previous and proposed extensions to the Quarry (Wilkinson Associates, April 2016, July 2020, September 2020, March 2021 and November 2021).

3.3 Ecological survey

3.3.1 As there are no semi-natural habitats within the Site and no potential for protected or priority species to be present, specific ecological surveys were not carried out as part of this PEA. However, the findings of multiple previous surveys and site visits carried out by the report author were used to inform the assessment, particularly those carried out in 2020 and 2021.

3.3.2 In order to confirm that no substantive changes had occurred within the Site since the previous site visits were carried out, a series of updated photographs of the plant site area were provided by PDE Consulting Ltd. The photographs were taken on 6th November 2023.

3.3.3 A Habitat Map has not been prepared as no semi-natural habitats are present.

4 BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS

4.1 Designated sites

4.1.1 The information underpinning this section of the report was obtained from SBRC and from the MAGIC website, with additional information and citations on Natural England and JNCC websites as appropriate. The locations of designated sites within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) are shown in Appendix 1.

Sites of International and National importance

Breckland SPA / Breckland Farmland SSSI

4.1.2 The majority of Cavenham Quarry lies within Breckland SPA and Breckland Farmland SSSI. The arable land in the wider area and much of the previously restored quarry land also lie within the SSSI/SPA. However, the Site, including the access road and the Development Area, is excluded from the SSSI/SPA together with the remainder of the recycling area.

4.1.3 Breckland SPA is a very large site, covering the vast majority of land within the ZoI and the wider locality and encompassing all or parts of 28 SSSIs including Breckland Farmland SSSI. The SPA covers approximately 39,433 ha in discontinuous parcels of land around Thetford and extending from the A14 in the south to the A47 at Swaffham in the north.

4.1.4 The SPA was designated in 2006 for its breeding populations of [redacted] on cultivated land with plenty of bare ground and very short vegetation, and other habitats such as grassland are used for foraging. Woodlark and nightjar breed in forestry clear-fell and open heath areas. Please see Section 4.3 for further discussion of the SPA qualifying species.

4.1.5 Breckland Farmland SSSI is a large site covering a total area of 13,336 ha. It was designated in 2000 for its internationally important populations of stone-curlew. The predominant land use within the SSSI is arable.

4.1.6 Records of the three SPA qualifying species (stone-curlew, nightjar and woodlark) were obtained from the RSPB in connection with the 2021 application for an extension to Cavenham Quarry (Wilkinson Associates, November 2021). Updated records were also obtained in 2023 covering the 2021-2022 period.

4.1.7 There were no relevant nightjar records, but the records for stone-curlew and woodlark have been reviewed in the context of the current application.

4.1.8 

4.1.9 The exact locations of breeding sites cannot be reproduced here for nest protection purposes but the data show that there are no stone-curlew breeding or roosting records within the operational areas of the Quarry, including the current Development Area.

4.1.10 Woodlark (Lullula arborea) also receives special protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981 (Schedule 1) and is a UK Priority and UKBAP species. The woodlark is a rare breeding bird in the UK and is associated with heathland and forest clearings where it nests on the ground but also needs scattered trees and woodland edges as song or lookout posts. No confirmed woodlark breeding locations have been provided, but there is no habitat suitable for woodlark within the Site.

Breckland SAC / Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths SSSI / Cavenham NNR

4.1.11 Land lying to the north of the Quarry (see Appendix 1) is covered by four designations:

Breckland SAC;
Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths SSSI;
Cavenham Heath National Nature Reserve (NNR); and
Breckland SPA (described above).

4.1.12 These designated areas lie approximately 440m to the north of the Site boundary at the closest point, which is an area of birch woodland known as Sheepskin Plantation.

4.1.13 Breckland SAC covers an area of 7548 ha and encompasses 19 component SSSIs. The primary reason for selection of this site is the presence of four Annex 1 habitats that are characteristic of the Breckland area: inland dunes, natural eutrophic lakes, European dry heaths and dry grassland/scrub on calcareous substrates. Alluvial forests are also present as a qualifying feature but are not a primary reason for selection. Great crested newt Triturus cristatus is present as a qualifying Annex II species but is not a primary reason for selection.

4.1.14 The part of Breckland SAC which lies to the north of the Site is underpinned by Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths SSSI, which covers 418.76 ha of land to the north and north west of Cavenham Quarry. This SSSI is designated for its large-scale mosaic of

heath, grassland, woodland and fen which straddles the floodplain of the River Lark. It is also included in Breckland Farmland SPA.

4.1.15 Part of Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths SSSI is also designated as a National Nature Reserve, including the areas lying approximately 440m to the north of the Site. Cavenham Heath NNR was designated in 1952 and covers an area of 204 ha. Part of the NNR is also a County GeoSite, including the area to the north of the Site.

Other sites of International and National importance

4.1.16 There are no other sites of International or National importance within the 2 km ZoI.

Sites of County and Local importance

4.1.17 There are five County Wildlife Sites (CWS) which lie wholly or partially within the 2 km ZoI (see plan in Appendix 1). These are listed below, together with the approximate distance and direction to the Development Area of the Site:

Icklingham Playing Fields CWS (1.7 km NE);
Mitchell's Farm Meadow CWS (1.67 km E);
Tuddenham Pit CWS (1.7 km SW);
Cavenham Field Edge CWS (950m S); and
Cavenham Heath Edge CWS (750m SE).

4.1.18 The closest of these are Cavenham Heath Edge CWS and Cavenham Field Edge CWS which lie adjacent to each other and a minimum of 750m to the south east of the Site. Cavenham Heath Edge is located on the edge of Cavenham Quarry and it supports mainly rank grassland with smaller areas of Breck grassland and remnant heath. Cavenham Field Edge consists of a narrow, linear area of Breck grassland adjacent to the Cavenham-Icklingham road.

4.1.19 Two Roadside Nature Reserves (RNR 2 and 150) also occur within 2 km of the Site. These are listed below, together with the approximate distance and direction to the Site:

RNR 2 (950m SE); and
RNR 150 (1.8 km N).

4.1.20 The closest of these is RNR 2 which lies alongside Cavenham Heath Edge CWS and Cavenham Field Edge CWS and approximately 550m SE of the Site boundary. The other RNR is almost 2 km from the Site.

4.1.21 No pathways for direct or indirect impacts on any of these Local sites have been identified and these features are therefore scoped out of the assessment.

4.2 Habitats and flora

Site description and habitats

4.2.1 As can be seen on the aerial photograph in Figure 1, the Site lies within the existing recycling area and it currently comprises a mix of existing stockpiles and open processing areas. No semi-natural habitats or vegetation are present. A photograph of the existing recycling area is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Photograph of Development Area

4.2.2 The access road is an existing tarmac road used as the main Quarry access. A photograph of the existing access road is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Photograph of existing access road

Non-native invasive species

4.2.3 No potentially invasive non-native species (INNS) have been recorded within the Site.

4.3 Fauna

4.3.1 No fauna species have been recorded within the Site and no habitats or features likely to support protected or priority species are present.

4.3.2 The SBRC data included a number of records of protected and conservation priority species from within the ZoI, including records of bats, badgers, birds, amphibians and reptiles. A detailed assessment of the desk study records was carried out as part of an EcIA prepared in 2021 (Wilkinson Associates, November 2021), and this confirms that none of the records were from within or close to the current Site. Therefore, and in view of the absence of habitats or features likely to support protected or priority species, no further analysis of the SBRC data search records has been carried out.

4.4 Ecological Evaluation

4.4.1 The Site comprises existing processing areas and stockpiles and does not support any habitats or species of ecological importance.

4.4.2 The Site does not contain any habitats or features likely to support protected or priority species.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The baseline ecological data have been used to identify any significant ecological constraints which are likely to arise in connection with the proposed development. This comprises a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal rather than a full Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA), but given the absence of any valued ecological features on the Site no further surveys or assessments are considered to be necessary and a full EcIA is not required.

5.2 Designated sites

5.2.1 As discussed in Section 4.1, Cavenham Quarry is located within and adjacent to several nationally and internationally important designated sites including Breckland Farmland SSSI, Breckland SPA, Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI, Breckland SAC and Cavenham Heath NNR. However, the current Site is not located within any of these designations.

5.2.2 The Proposed Development will not give rise to any direct impacts on designated sites, as the Operational Area is located entirely within the existing recycling area and there are no proposals to change either the physical structure or the level of use of the access road.

5.2.3 The potential for indirect effects on designated sites has been considered, in particular:

Effects of dust emissions on designated sites, particularly Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI, Breckland SAC and Cavenham Heath NNR.

Effects of noise or visual disturbance from Site operations on sensitive species within the designated sites, particularly stone-curlew within the SPA.

Dust

5.2.4 The potential for dust emissions to affect sensitive vegetation types within Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI, Breckland SAC and Cavenham Heath NNR has been considered. These designated areas are located approximately 440m to the north of the Site boundary at the closest point. The closest part of the designated sites is an area of birch woodland known as Sheepskin Plantation. This is located immediately to the north of the existing Quarry. Birch woodland is not a highly dust-sensitive habitat type, and it provides a buffer between the Quarry and the heathland habitats within the designated sites.

5.2.5 The processing of inert material through the washing plant is a wet process and is therefore not anticipated to give rise to any unacceptable impacts with regard to dust. Extant planning permission allows for the processing and recycling of inert materials

by way of crushing and dry screening and given that no increase in the throughput of inert materials at the Site is proposed it can be concluded that there will be no change from the current situation.

5.2.6 With the existing dust mitigation measures and good working practices remaining in place, the impact of dust from the Proposed Development will be negligible, and is predicted to be imperceptible at the designated site boundary some 440m to the north of the Development Area.

Disturbance impacts

5.2.7 [redacted]

5.2.8 The application is supported by a Noise Assessment (WBM, November 2023), which included consideration of ecological receptors. Calculated noise levels at all the ecological receptors, including Breckland Farmland SSSI and Breckland SPA, will be equal to or significantly below the existing permitted site noise limit for Cavenham Heath NNR. No impacts on stone-curlew arising from noise emissions from the Quarry have been reported to date, and it can therefore be concluded that the proposal for a replacement minerals wash will not give rise to any new noise impacts on stone-curlew within any of the designated sites.

5.2.9 In terms of potential visual disturbance, the washing plant will be located within the existing recycling area which already contains large stockpiles and other processing plant. The new plant will be of a similar scale to other existing infrastructure within the area and will be well screened by stockpiles. In terms of height, the washing plant will be just over 7m tall and the silt press approximately 13m in height. The Proposed Development is therefore not expected to cause any interruption to stone-curlew flight lines. There is also some screening from existing buildings, bunds and other site infrastructure.

5.2.10 No other changes to working methods or human/vehicle movements which could potentially result in disturbance impacts to stone-curlew are proposed.

5.2.11 It can therefore be concluded that the proposals will not give rise to any adverse effects on designated sites, including Breckland Farmland SSSI, Breckland SPA, Cavenham and Icklingham Heaths SSSI, Breckland SAC and Cavenham Heath NNR.

5.3 Habitats and flora

5.3.1 The Proposed Development will not affect any habitats or flora of ecological importance. There will be no changes to the overall scale and type of operational activities which could give rise to indirect impacts on habitats or flora outside the Site.

5.3.2 No invasive non-native plant species such as Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed or Himalayan balsam have been identified on the Site.

5.4 Fauna

5.4.1 No fauna species have been recorded within the Site, which does not support habitat suitable for any protected or notable fauna. No impacts on fauna are therefore anticipated.

5.5 Mitigation and enhancement measures

5.5.1 As no adverse impacts on ecological interests have been identified, no mitigation measures are required.

5.5.2 However, the Construction Environmental Management Plan for Biodiversity (CEMP Biodiversity) prepared for the Minor Western Extension and Revised Restoration Scheme (Wilkinson Associates, November 2021) contains biodiversity protection measures for adjacent habitats, stone-curlew, other birds, badgers and reptiles and these will continue to apply to the wider operational area including the land within the Site.

5.5.3 Eventually, the Site will be restored in line with the approved restoration scheme for the wider Quarry. The majority of the recycling area will be restored to Breckland heath/acid grassland, with the aim of providing part of a much larger area of habitat suitable for stone-curlew. A small part will be part of a screening woodland block. It is not feasible to provide enhancement measures within the Site in advance of final restoration, as the Development Area lies within the current recycling area and will remain operational until the wider Quarry is restored.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) has been carried out in connection with a proposal for the installation and use of a washing plant for the recycling of inert materials together with associated access onto the highway (the Proposed Development) on land at Cavenham Quarry, Suffolk (the Site). The key findings of the PEA are as follows:

The Site does not lie within any designated sites.

No direct or indirect impacts on designated sites in the wider area have been identified, including disturbance effects on stone-curlew.

The Proposed Development will not affect any habitats or flora of ecological importance.

No invasive non-native plant species have been identified on the Site.

No legally protected/Priority or other species of ecological importance will be affected by the Proposed Development.

No further surveys for protected species or other wildlife groups are considered necessary.

No mitigation measures are considered necessary other than the ongoing biodiversity protection measures identified within the 2021 Construction Environmental Management Plan for Biodiversity.

On final restoration of the Quarry, the Site will mostly be restored to Breckland heath/acid grassland, with the aim of providing part of a much larger area of habitat suitable for stone-curlew.

6.2 In conclusion, the Proposed Development will not have any significant adverse impacts on valued ecological resources.

7 REFERENCES

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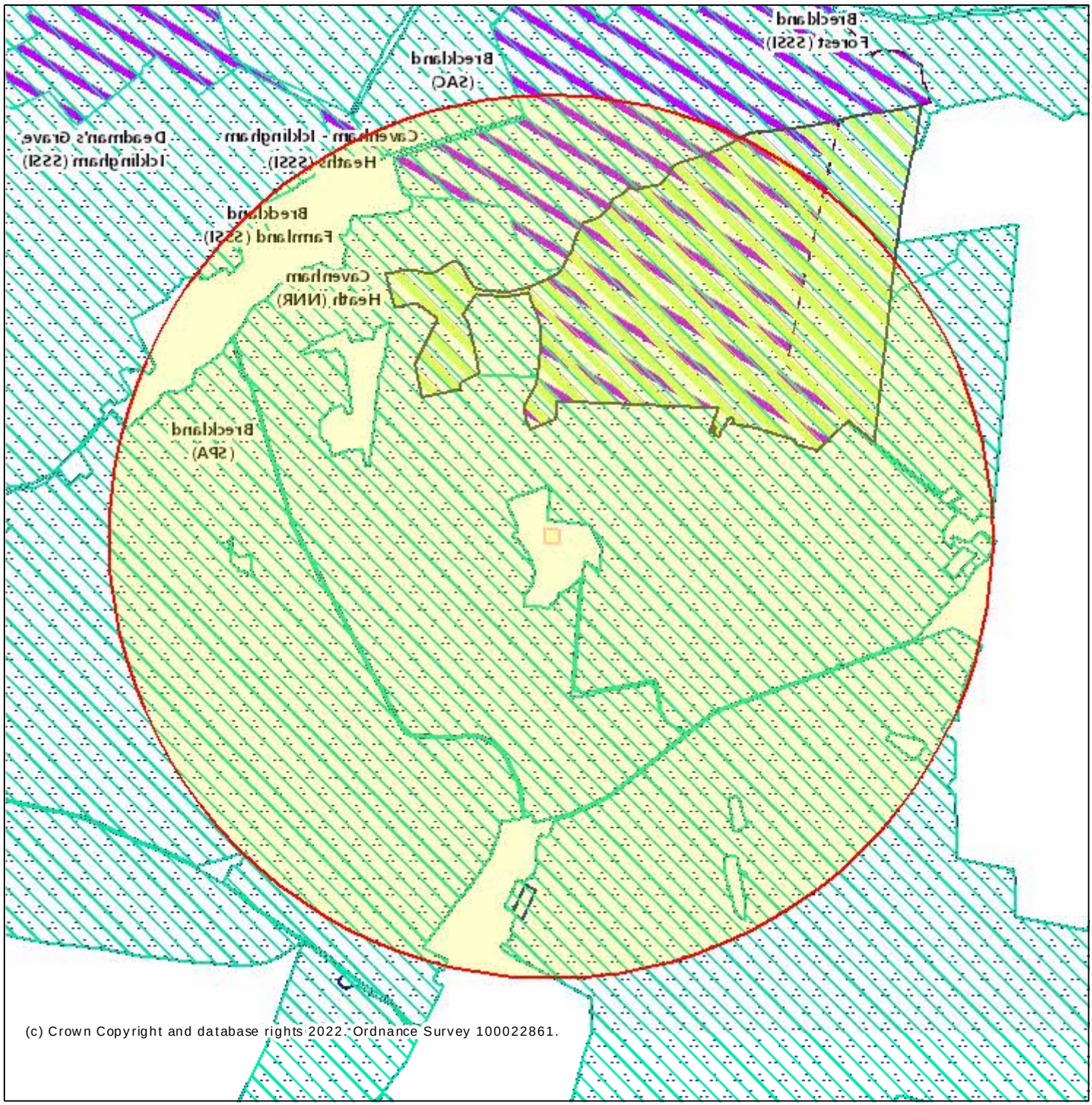
APPENDIX 1

Selected desk study data

SWP Designated Sites



Legend

- National Nature Reserves (England)
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

0 0.75 1.5
km

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 566300
ymin = 266900
xmax = 585500
ymax = 276300