

8.2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

8.2.1 A number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) occur within the silica sand resource. Some of these sites are contiguous with the internationally designated sites discussed in the previous section. No specific enhanced evidence area has been suggested for SSSIs as they have been designated for a number of different reasons which may have differing sensitivities to the effects of mineral extraction and will need to be addressed on a case by case basis. Proposers of sites for silica sand extraction should consider the extent to which enhanced evidence will be required. For example, if the qualifying features of the SSSI are groundwater sensitive, assessment should be included as to the potential for effects on these features. Evidence should be proportionate and based on an assessment of likely effects.

8.2.2 Proposers of sites should note the wording of paragraph 118 of the NPPF: *“Proposed development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest likely to have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (either individually or in combination with other developments) should not normally be permitted. Where an adverse effect on the site’s notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;”*

8.2.3 The following maps show the location of the SSSIs within 2km of the silica sand resource, as detailed in the table below.

SSSI name	Interest	Other designations
Bawsey	Geological	
Blackborough End Pit	Geological	
Grimston Warren Pit	Geological	
Heacham Brick Pit	Geological	
Setchey	Geological	
Wretton	Geological	
Dersingham Bog	Geological & Biological	NNR, SAC, Ramsar
East Winch Common	Biological	
Hilgay Heronry	Biological	
Leziate, Sugar and Derby Fens	Biological	
Ouse Washes	Biological	SPA, SAC, Ramsar
River Nar	Biological	
Roydon Common	Biological	NNR, SAC, Ramsar
Snettisham Carstone Quarry	Biological	
The Wash	Biological	NNR, SPA, SAC, Ramsar

Question 4: Should enhanced evidence areas for SSSIs be based on the sensitivity of qualifying features to the effects of mineral extraction, or should different criteria be used?

In your answer, please provide information/evidence to support your view

Question 5: Do you have information on the minimum distances from SSSIs within which an enhanced level of evidence would be required to ensure that harm is not caused to the qualifying features of a SSSI?
In your answer, please provide information/evidence to support your view

Relevant chapter of the National Planning Policy Framework:

11. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment

13. Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals

Relevant Norfolk Minerals and Waste Core Strategy Policies:




CS14 – Environmental Protection

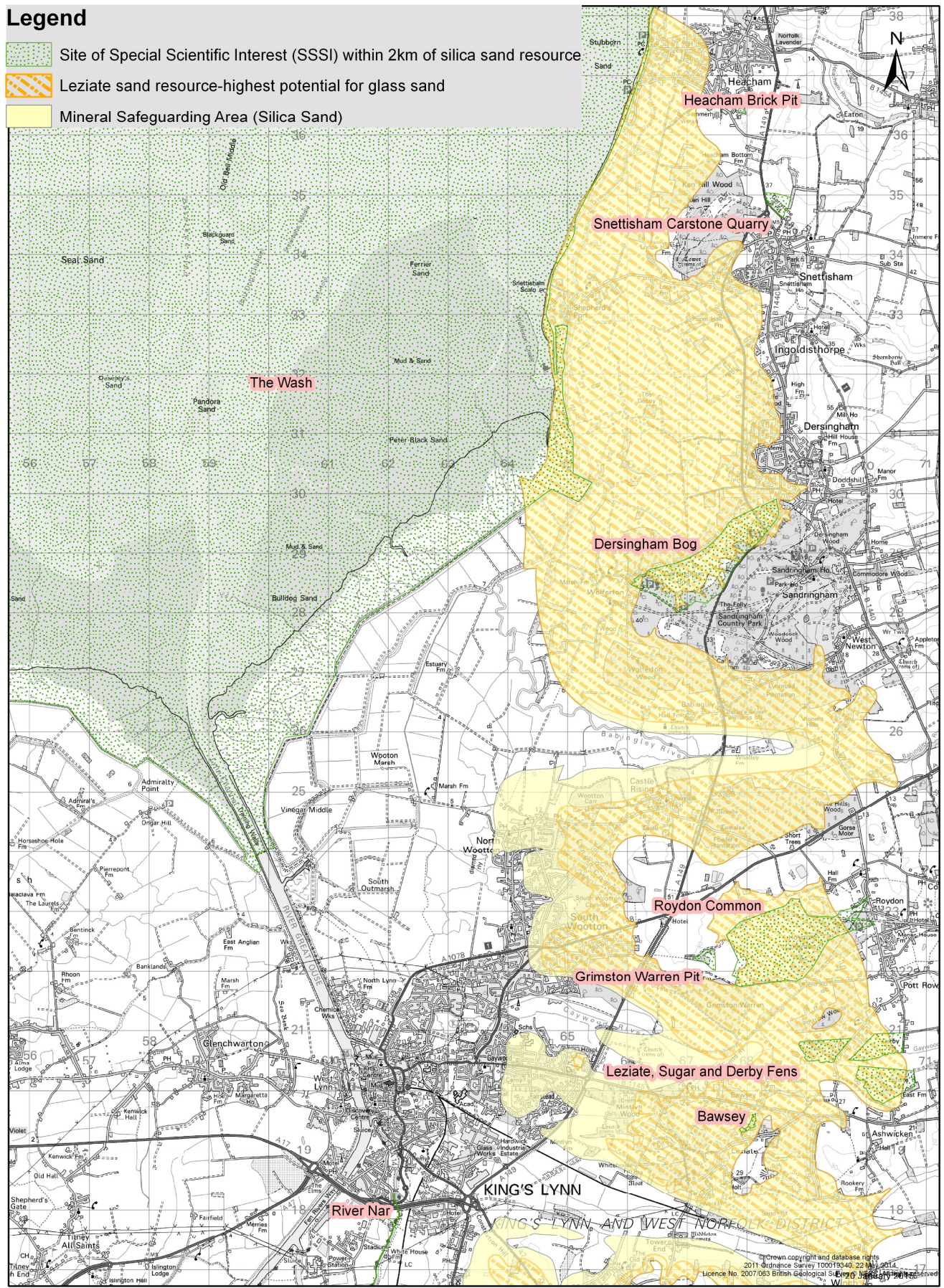
Relevant King's Lynn and West Norfolk Core Strategy Policies:

CS01 – Spatial strategy

CS12 – Environmental assets

Legend

-  Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 2km of silica sand resource.
-  Leziate sand resource-highest potential for glass sand
-  Mineral Safeguarding Area (Silica Sand)



2.5 1.25 0 2.5 Kilometres

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