



5

2.5

0

5 Kilometres

Norfolk County Council

18. Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

18.1 Sustainability Appraisal is central to the planning system. The purpose of Sustainability appraisal, which is required under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, is to promote sustainable development through integration of social, environmental and economic considerations into the preparation of Local Plans. The Sustainability Appraisal process helps to make sure that the proposals in the plan are the most appropriate given the reasonable alternatives, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have.

18.2 Sustainability Appraisals incorporate the requirements of the 'Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes 2004' (commonly referred to as the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans on the environment. Sustainability appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and environmental issues.

18.3 Sustainability Appraisal is an integral element of the preparation of the Silica Sand Review, informing in a comprehensive way of the likely impacts of proposed Specific Sites/Preferred Areas and/or Areas of Search policies as appropriate. The Sustainability Appraisal will form part of the evidence base for the development of the Silica Sand Review.

19. Habitats Regulations Assessment

19.1 A Habitats Regulations Appraisal will be carried out on the Silica Sand Review in accordance with the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010*. If the Silica Sand Review is likely to have significant effects on European habitats or species, located within, or in the vicinity of Norfolk, then a full Habitats Regulations Assessment will be undertaken.

19.2 A Habitats Regulations Assessment is undertaken to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of European-designated nature conservation sites (SPAs, SACs and also Ramsar sites) and to ascertain where the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site, and if so how to amend the plan to avoid any potentially damaging effects. The Habitats Regulations Assessment will form part of the evidence base for the development of the Silica Sand Review.