



**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN
UPDATE
INSPECTOR'S DRAFT MATTERS AND ISSUES**

**MATTER 2 – Does the Plan make appropriate provision for the steady
and adequate supply of aggregates?**

Natural England Further Written Statement to Address the Inspector's Questions

10 November 2016

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Issue 3: Could Site Allocation M6: Passenham Extension East within in Policy 4 be delivered without causing unacceptable adverse harm to the Historic Environment, the Natural Environment or Flood Risk?

We would like to re-iterate the advice we provided in our previous consultation response (dated 20 July 2016) regarding the policy relating to M6 Passenham Extension East. We advised that the policy could be strengthened by including more specific detail requiring the development to avoid impacts on the nearby Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and for restoration to enhance the biodiversity and improve the ecological linkages to the LWS. This would then reflect the findings of the detailed Site Assessment. The policy should also require any planning application submitted to address potential water quality impacts on the River Ouse, as detailed in the Site Assessment.

Our reasoning for requiring a change to this policy wording is that any significant impacts to the natural environment identified as part of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) should be considered as part of the plan making process from the outset (as detailed in para 165 of the NPPF). This is to ensure that where possible, significant impacts are avoided, and where this is not possible any such impacts are mitigated for (as required under paras 118, 152 of the NPPF). The level of detail of any mitigation measure should also match the level of detail undertaken in the SA. Also once a specific site is allocated in a plan and environmental impacts have been identified, it is important for the policy to recognise any mitigation measures to ensure the policy is deliverable. Our view is therefore that it is completely reasonable for the policy to reflect the high level mitigation measures required, which will be supplemented by more detailed requirements as part of the planning application stage.