

<p>BDC Response to the Consultation on the Essex County Council & Southend on Sea Borough Council Waste Development Document : Preferred Approach November 2011.</p>	<p>Agenda No: 6</p>
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<p>Corporate Priority: The Environment is Clean and Green Report presented by: Susanne Ennos Report prepared by: Susanne Ennos</p>	
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<p>Background Papers: Waste Development Document Core Strategy - Issues and Options October 2010 Development Management Policies – Issues and Options October 2010 Site Allocations – Issues and Options October 2010 Preferred Approach November 2011</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Options: To agree to the recommendations as set out below To agree some of the recommendations as set out below To not agree the recommendations as set out below</p>	<p>Key Decision: NO</p>
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<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>Essex County Council have published the Essex County Council and Southend on Sea Borough Council Waste Development Document: Preferred Approach (WDD), which includes the County Council's and Southend on Sea Borough Council's approach to waste management and a choice of preferred waste sites. The list includes 4 sites within the Braintree District: Rivenhall Airfield which is identified as a safeguarded preferred site; Tile Kiln, Valley Farm, Sible Hedingham and Broadfield Farm, Rayne which are identified as non-selected inert landfill sites and Witham Wastewater Treatment Works, Perry Road, Witham which is identified as a non-selected waste management facility.</p>	
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<p>Decision:</p> <p>That the BDC response to the Essex County Council & Southend on Sea Borough Council Waste Development Document: Preferred Approach be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Object to the safeguarding of preferred sites as they have not been assessed against the site selection criteria, including the safeguarding of the site at Rivenhall Airfield as a preferred site. 2. Agree that Tile Kiln, Valley Farm, Sible Hedingham; Broadfield Farm, Rayne and Witham Wastewater Treatment Works should be non-selected sites. 3. Object to the site selection process as it was flawed by the fact that the sites were individually assessed against the selection criteria. They were not assessed 	

- cumulatively to take account of the combined impact of sites within each District.
- Object to the key issues set out in the Gap Capacity Report as there is a lack of evidence that some of the trends identified will continue and reliance on the three permitted Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMF) results in a centralised approach where a more flexible approach is required.

Purpose of Decision:

To agree a BDC response to the Essex County Council and Southend on Sea Borough Council consultation on the Waste Development Document: Preferred Approach.

Corporate implications

Financial:	None
Legal:	None
Equalities/Diversity	None
Customer Impact:	If the sites in the preferred approach are carried through, there is likely to be a significant impact on the local residents, particularly in those communities located near to the proposed sites.
Environment and Climate Change:	If the sites in the preferred approach are carried through there will be significant impacts on the local environment, particularly in those communities located near to the proposed sites.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Essex County Council and Southend on Sea Borough Council as Waste Planning Authorities are holding an 8 week public consultation on the document between the 24 th November 2011 and 19 th January 2012.
Risks:	BDC must put together a strong response to the consultation to ensure that the Council's views are known and are taken into account by the County Council.
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Background

- Essex County Council and Southend-on Sea Borough are the local Waste Planning Authorities (WPAs) for their respective areas. As such, they are required to produce a Development Plan Document for Waste setting out how the County will meet future waste management requirements in the area over the plan period, which is from 1 April 2010 to 31st March 2031 and continue to move waste management up the waste hierarchy and away from landfill.

2. The previous Issues and Options consultation in 2010 was the first consultation on the Waste Development Document (WDD); it covered all three aspects of the Waste Development Plan Documents – the Core Strategy, Development Management Policy Issues and Site Allocations. It also sets out a variety of issues and options relating to the types of waste management facilities which should be planned for in the plan area, where such facilities should be located and how any impacts from these facilities should be managed. The Council's response to this consultation raised the following points:
 - The strategy should be based on the expansion and co-location with existing facilities where they are close to the key urban centres of population and growth. This will ensure that there is the least possible impact on the wider landscape and that in line with government policy the waste will be dealt with as close as possible to the main waste generators. However it should be noted that co-location and expansion of existing facilities should only be considered where the necessary infrastructure, including importantly the road/transport network can adequately manage the additional traffic generation likely to occur without detriment or added congestion and that the impacts on the local community, landscape and amenity are acceptable.
 - In all cases the location will need to ensure that the surrounding road network is capable of handling the vehicle movements associated with such a development and that other development control issues such as noise, smell and amenity are adequately dealt with.
 - Sites should only be safeguarded where they not only are consistent with the strategic objectives of the WDD, but also with the Local Authorities LDF documents. Only sites which have specifically locational requirements should be safeguarded.

Capacity Gap Report

3. The Essex and Southend Waste Capacity Report 2011 provides the full details and evidence base for calculating the need for additional types of waste facilities required to manage and dispose of different types of waste according to their respective waste streams.
4. The Capacity Gap Report raises the following key Issues:
 - Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Commercial and Industrial Waste (C&I) arisings remain broadly constant.
 - A shift away from landfill for both MSW and C&I waste is crucial.
 - A network of transfer facilities is required.
 - There is likely to be a need for additional composting to treat MSW organic waste.
 - At least six average sized dedicated facilities would be needed by 2013.
 - There is a capacity gap specifically relating to Clinical Treatment Facilities.
 - The permitted Integrated Waste Management Facilities have a vital role.
 - There is a need to identify additional inert landfill void space.
 - By 2031, there is estimated to be between a surplus of 159 thousand m³ and a deficit of 782 thousand m³.
 - There is a need to identify additional hazardous landfill voidspace from 2014/15.
 - Provision for a Very Low Level of Low Level Radioactive Wastes is needed.
 - The WDD needs flexibility.
5. It is considered that the assumption the MSW and C&I waste remain essentially constant is not substantiated, as recent data shows significant falls in both and there is lack of evidence to show if that trend will continue or not.

6. One of the three permitted Integrated Waste Management facilities which are considered to be vital is located at Rivenhall Airfield. It is considered that reliance on the major sites results in a centralised approach where a more flexible approach is required. Furthermore, capacity figures show surpluses in the waste categories that these plants would deal out to 2030. These figures suggest that not all the major sites are necessary.

The Preferred Approach

7. The Preferred Approach document sets out Essex County Council's and Southend on Sea Borough Council's preferred approach to the Waste Development Document, which provides the key principles to guide the future management of waste in the Plan Area. It includes the spatial vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy, core policies, development management policies, preferred site allocations and monitoring frameworks.
8. Since the issues and options consultation, there has been a substantial shift away from the need for additional landfill. This is due to a mixture of reduced amounts of waste arisings, re-assessment of the existing capacity within the Plan Area and the diversion of waste away from landfills to the network of existing and permitted waste management facilities. On this basis, it is not intended to take any site allocations for landfill forward within the WDD at this stage. Instead, existing waste management facilities deemed to be strategic have been safeguarded and a small number of additional waste management facilities have been allocated.
9. When assessing the individual sites the County Council developed a site selection methodology which comprises of 5 stages:
 - Stage 1: Assessment of each site against seven 'exclusionary' criteria – site size/area, deliverability, highway, rail or water connection, flood risk, ground water acceptability, environmentally acceptable/designated site and land use compatibility.
 - Stage 2: A further more detailed assessment on the sites which successfully passed Stage 1, it examines other site selection criteria – planning background, proximity to sensitive uses, hydro-geology, landscape/townscape character, ecology and designations, historic environment, traffic and transport, proximity to key centres for growth, site size (for waste management facilities only).
 - Stage 3 – Cross-checking and moderation of all site assessments/scores to ensure consistency between assessors.
 - Stage 4 – Identification of sites which could meet the overarching spatial strategy.
 - Stage 5 – Sustainability Appraisal, confirmation of the 'Preferred Sites' for inclusion in the document.
10. The three Integrated Waste Management Facilities (IWMMF) in the plan area, including Rivenhall are given 'preferred sites' status on the basis that they are fundamental to the delivery of the overall strategy, therefore they have not been subject to the assessment process.
11. Below is a table showing the sites put forward for non-selected inert landfill and their scores (sites within the Braintree District are shown in bold). Whilst these sites are currently non – selected and not preferred sites, this could change as it is only when there is an adopted plan that complete certainty can be given. Therefore it is still necessary for the Council to provide comments on these sites.

WDD Site Ref	Other Plan Ref	Name / Location	District	Landfill Score	C&D Recycling Score (if applicable)	Potential Void Space
L ¹	A28	Towerfield, Fingringhoe Quarry	COL	9	N/A	0.05mcm
L ²	A14	Holmwood Farm, Fingringhoe Quarry	COL	6	N/A	0.3mcm
L³R	A11	Tile Kiln, Valley Farm, Sible Hedingham	BTE	8	- 1	0.15 – 0.2mcm
L ⁴ R	A40	Shellow Cross, Roxwell/Willingale	CHL	3	- 2	0.75mcm
L ⁵	A20	Sunnymead, Elmfarm, Wivenhoe	COL/ TEN	9	N/A	1.8mcm
L ⁶	Ln1.2	Sandon, Chelmsford	CHL	5	N/A	2mcm
L ⁷	A13	Fiveways Fruit Farm, Colchester Quarry, Stanway	COL	5	N/A	2-3mcm
L ⁹	A35	Tyndales, Danbury	CHL	3	N/A	1.5mcm
L ¹⁰ R	A38	Blackleys Quarry, Great Leighs	CHL	7	+1	0.67mcm
L ¹¹ R	A39	Blackleys Quarry, Great Leighs	CHL	9	+1	0.6mcm
L¹⁴R	A9	Broadfield Farm, Rayne	BTE	4	-1	0.75mcm

12. Below is a table showing the sites put forward for non-selected waste management facilities and their scores (sites within Braintree District are shown in bold).

WDD Site Ref	Other Plan Ref	Name / Location	District	Stage 2 Score
W1		Greenacres, Old Packards Lane, Wormingford	COL	2
W2		Hallsford Bridge, Ongar	BRW	6
W5		Colchester WwTW, Commerce Way	COL	10
W6		Witham WwTW, Perry Road, Witham	BTE	4
W13	A20	Wivenhoe Quarry	COL/TEN	12

Rivenhall Airfield (see appendix 1 for site map)

13. This site benefits from two planning permissions for Integrated Waste Management Facilities, on the same piece of land, neither of which has been implemented. This means that at this stage either application could be implemented.

14. Application ESS/38/06/BTE granted permission for a proposal which includes:

- Anaerobic digestion plant treating mixed organic waste, producing biogas converted to electricity through biogas generators;
- Materials Recovery Facility for mixed dry recyclable waste to recover materials e.g. paper, plastic, metals;

- Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility for the treatment of residual municipal and residual commercial and industrial wastes to produce a solid recovered fuel;
- Extraction of minerals to enable buildings to be partially sunken below ground level within the resulting void;
- Visitor/Education Centre;
- Extension to existing access road;
- Provision of offices and vehicle parking;
- Associated engineering works and storage tanks.

15. The details of the planning permission details can be summarised in the following table:

Broad Facility Type	Specific Facility Type	Capacity (tonnes p.a.)
Recycling	Materials Recycling System (MRF)	510,000
Treatment	Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility (MBT)	
Energy from Waste	Anaerobic Digestion	

16. Application ESS/37/08/BTE granted permission (at appeal) for a proposal which includes:

- Anaerobic digestion plant treating mixed organic waste, producing biogas converted to electricity through biogas generators;
- Materials Recovery Facility for mixed dry recyclable waste to recover materials e.g. paper, plastic, metals;
- Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility for the treatment of residual municipal and residual commercial and industrial wastes to produce a solid recovered fuel;
- De-inking and pulping paper recycling facility to reclaim paper;
- Combined Heat and Power Plant utilising solid recovered fuel to produce electricity, heat and steam;
- Extraction of minerals to enable buildings to be partially sunken below ground level within the resulting void;
- Visitor/Education Centre;
- Extension to existing access road;
- Provision of offices and vehicle parking;
- Associated engineering works and storage tanks.

17. The details of the planning permission details can be summarised in the following table:

Broad Facility Type	Specific Facility Type	Capacity (tonnes p.a.)
Recycling	Materials Recycling System (MRF)	100,000
Recycling	Materials Recycling System (MRF)	331,000
Treatment	Mechanical Biological Treatment Facility (MBT)	250,000
Energy from Waste	Anaerobic Digestion	85,000
Energy from Waster	Combined Heat and Power (CHP)	297,000

18. It is proposed that Rivenhall is identified as a 'preferred site' on the basis that it is fundamental to the delivery of the overall strategy. It has not been subject to the assessment criteria as it already has planning permission. It is considered that this site and the preferred sites should be assessed against the same criteria as

the other sites. Just because the site has planning permission it does not mean that it is the most suitable site.

19. There is an objection to this site being a preferred site as it is in the open Countryside, is not close to arisings or any key areas of growth and is reliant on road access from an already over-capacity single carriageway.

Tile Kiln, Valley Farm, Sible Hedingham (L(i)3R) (see Appendix 2 for site map)

20. This site covers 3.5 hectares and is proposed for construction and demolition recycling and inert landfill. It is proposed that it would have a recycling capacity of 10,000tpa and a void space of 0.15 – 0.2 mcm.
21. There is history of planning permission for gravel extraction and restoration granted on adjoining sites. The most recent extraction permission in this area was in 2003 (ESS/75/03/BTE). The site was also put forward as part of the Minerals Issues and Options consultation, at which stage the Council objected to the inclusion of this site. It was not selected as a site for the Minerals Preferred Approach Document.
22. It is agreed that this site should be a non-selected site as traffic to and from this site would have to travel a substantial distance on rural roads to reach the trunk road network and many of these roads are suitable for heavy vehicles.
23. The assessment of this site under Ecology and Designations has been given at score of Amber 1 (there is a minor impact/issue which may be acceptable, in most cases with mitigation). However, it also states that subject to the findings of any environment impact statements impacts are likely to be minor/moderate. It is considered that the assessment should reflect the worst case scenario until it can be proved otherwise and that this score should be Amber 2 (there is a moderate impact/issue which may be acceptable, in most cases with mitigation).

Broadfield Farm, Rayne (L(i)14R) (see Appendix 3 for site map)

24. This site covers 90 hectares and is proposed for construction and demolition recycling in the south west corner and inert landfill. It is proposed that it would have a recycling capacity of 100,000tpa and a void space of 0.74mcm.
25. This site was put forward in the Minerals Preferred Approach Document as a preferred site. The Council has objected to this on the basis that the site is located in the rural gateway to Braintree, in an area of open and flat land where views of the workings will be extensive; that there are two local wildlife sites in close proximity to the area and the likelihood of important and protected species and archaeological deposits.
26. It is agreed that this should be a non-selected site as it is not suitable for such a proposed use due to the impact on the character and appearance of the landscape and local resident's amenities.
27. However, the Council disagrees with the results of the site assessment of Landscape/Townscape Character and Visual Impact as Amber 3 (there is a major impact/issue which may be acceptable in most cases with substantial mitigation). This part of the District is very flat and there are long views of the site from Pods Lane to the east and it is also likely to be visible from the north and west. The site would therefore be extremely visible in the rural landscape. Pods Lane is a

Protected Lane which therefore has a particular historic and landscape value for the character of the countryside. In parts this lane is almost completely open to the west and there will therefore be uninterrupted views of the proposed site. It is considered that even if planting were put in place this would change the character of the historic lane.

28. Under the heading Ecology and Designations the Preferred Approach Document states that there are no designated wildlife sites within, or adjacent to the site. This is incorrect as the site is located approx. 100 metres from Rumley Wood which is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and approx. 300 metres from Blackbush Wood.

Witham Wastewater Treatment Works, Perry Road, Witham (W6) (see Appendix 4 for site map)

29. This site covers 1.2 hectares and is currently unused by AWG Holdings (the land owner), the proposal does not affect the existing Wastewater Treatment Works. It is proposed that the site be used waste management facility with the following processing capacities:

- Transfer 25,000tpa
- Materials Recovery Facility 25,000tpa
- In-vessel composting 10,000tpa
- Construction and Demolition Recycling 50,000tpa
- Anaerobic Digestion 25,000tpa

30. It is agreed that this should be a non-selected site as there is a planning application for 6 commercial units with associated car parking and landscaping which is subject to a S106 agreement and therefore there is a chance that it will be developed as an employment use, which would be the preferred use of the site.

31. Under the heading of Ecology and Designations in the assessment it states that there are no designated wildlife sites within or adjacent to the site. This is not correct as the Whet Mead Local Wildlife site adjoins the site.

32. The site assessment also states that a feasible access could be implemented subject to detailed design as per the planning application. It is considered that this may not necessarily be correct as there is likely to be a significant increase in the volume of traffic.

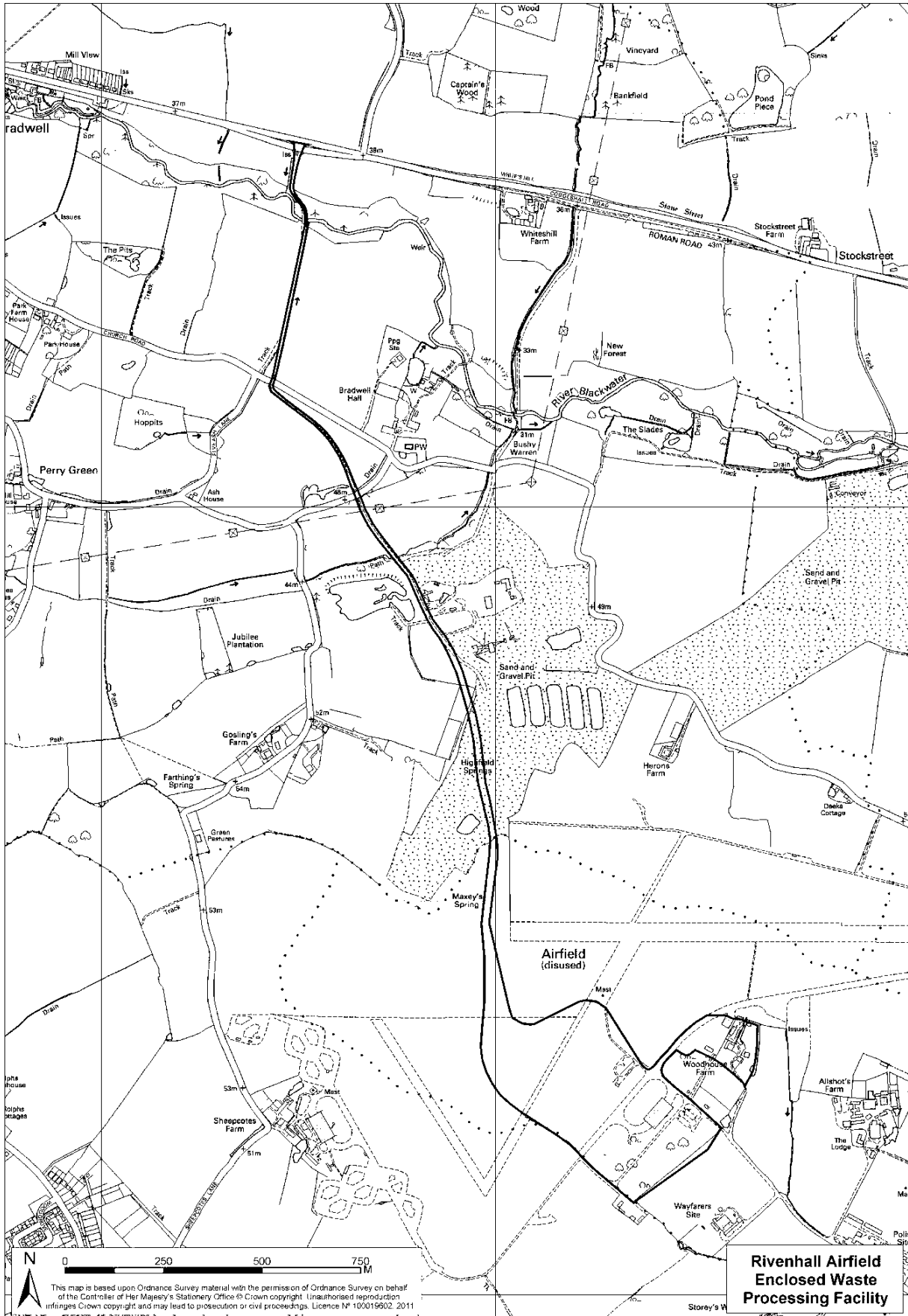
Conclusion

33. With the exception of Rivenhall Airfield all sites within the Braintree District at this stage are not selected. The Council agrees with this as none of the sites are considered to be suitable. But raises site specific issues with regard to the site assessments which have been undertaken.

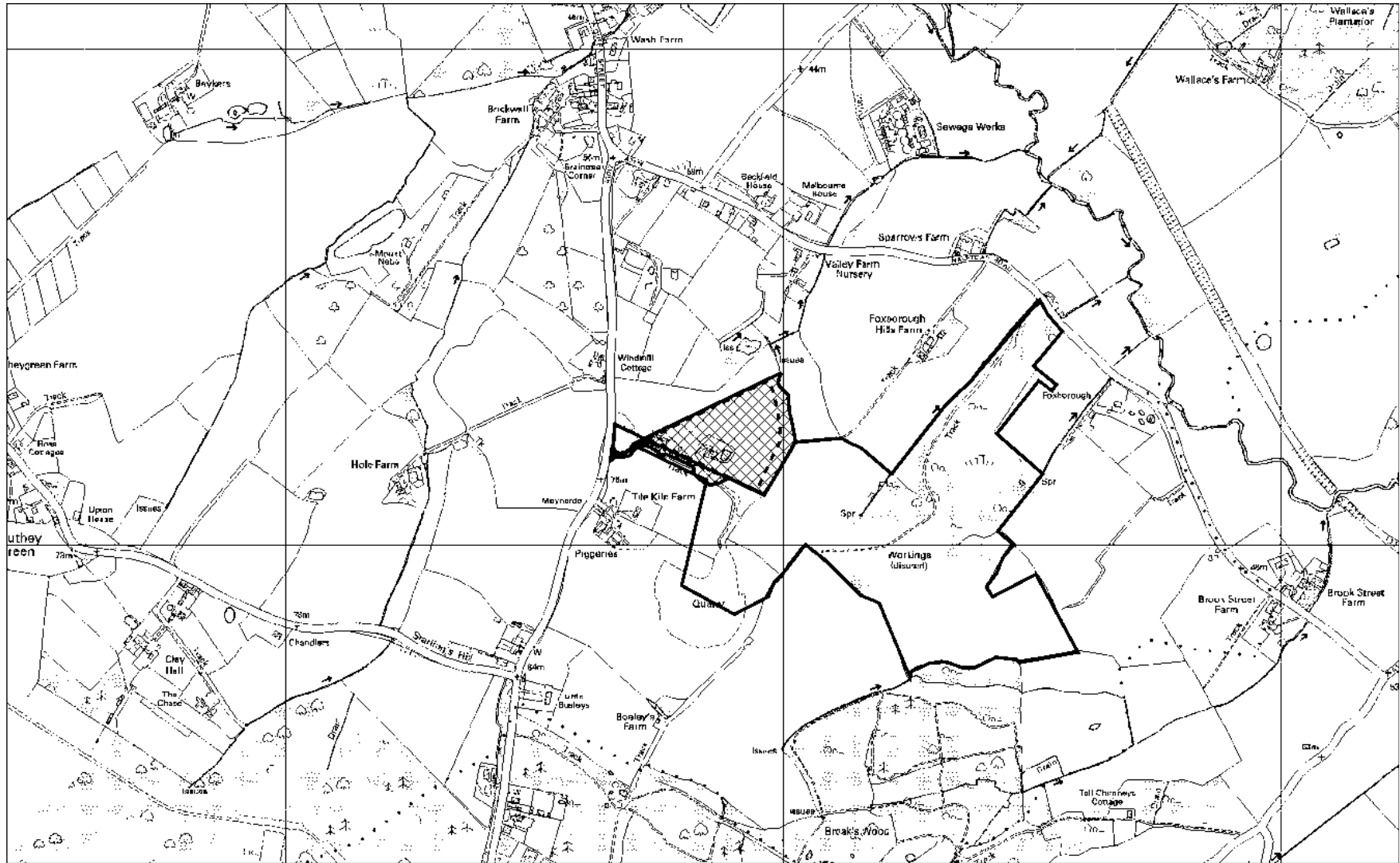
34. The Council objects to the approach of safeguarding three major sites. Firstly, it is considered that this approach is inflexible, adds to transportation distances and a less centralised approach which encourages more facilities of all types of sustainable management close to arisings is needed. Secondly, the preferred sites were not subject to the site assessment, as they already have planning permission. There has been no assessment to determine if these sites are the most suitable.

35. The Preferred Approach document fails to select sites in line with its own spatial strategy and the sites selection process was flawed by the fact that sites were individually assessed against the selection criteria. They were not assessed cumulatively to take account of the combined impact of sites within each District.

Appendix 1 – Rivenhall Airfield





Appendix 2 – Tile Kiln, Valley Farm, Sible Hedingham

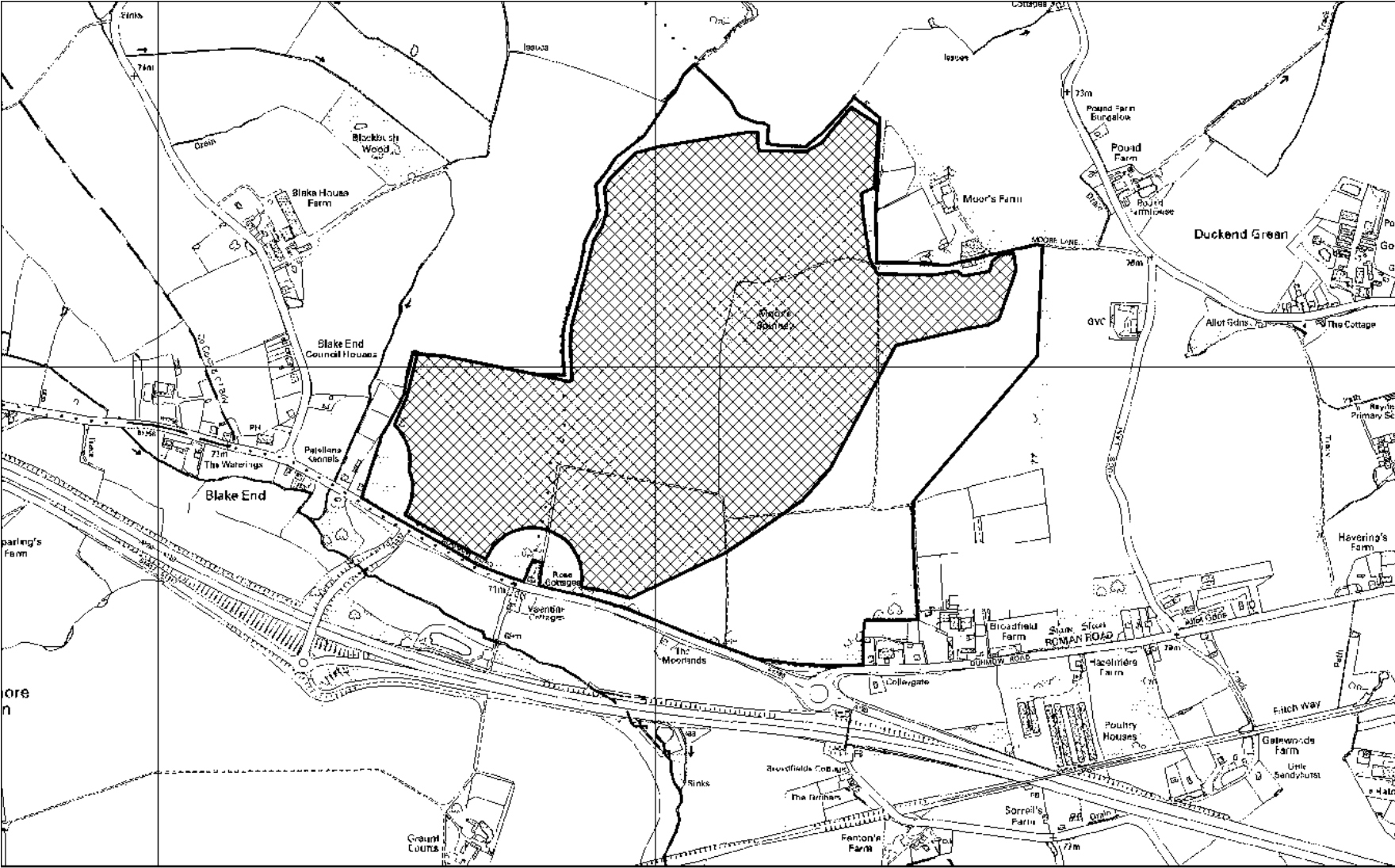


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L3R Tile Kiln, Sible Hedingham



 Area suggested for inclusion in WDD
 Area suggested in MDD

Appendix 3 – Broadfield Farm, Rayne

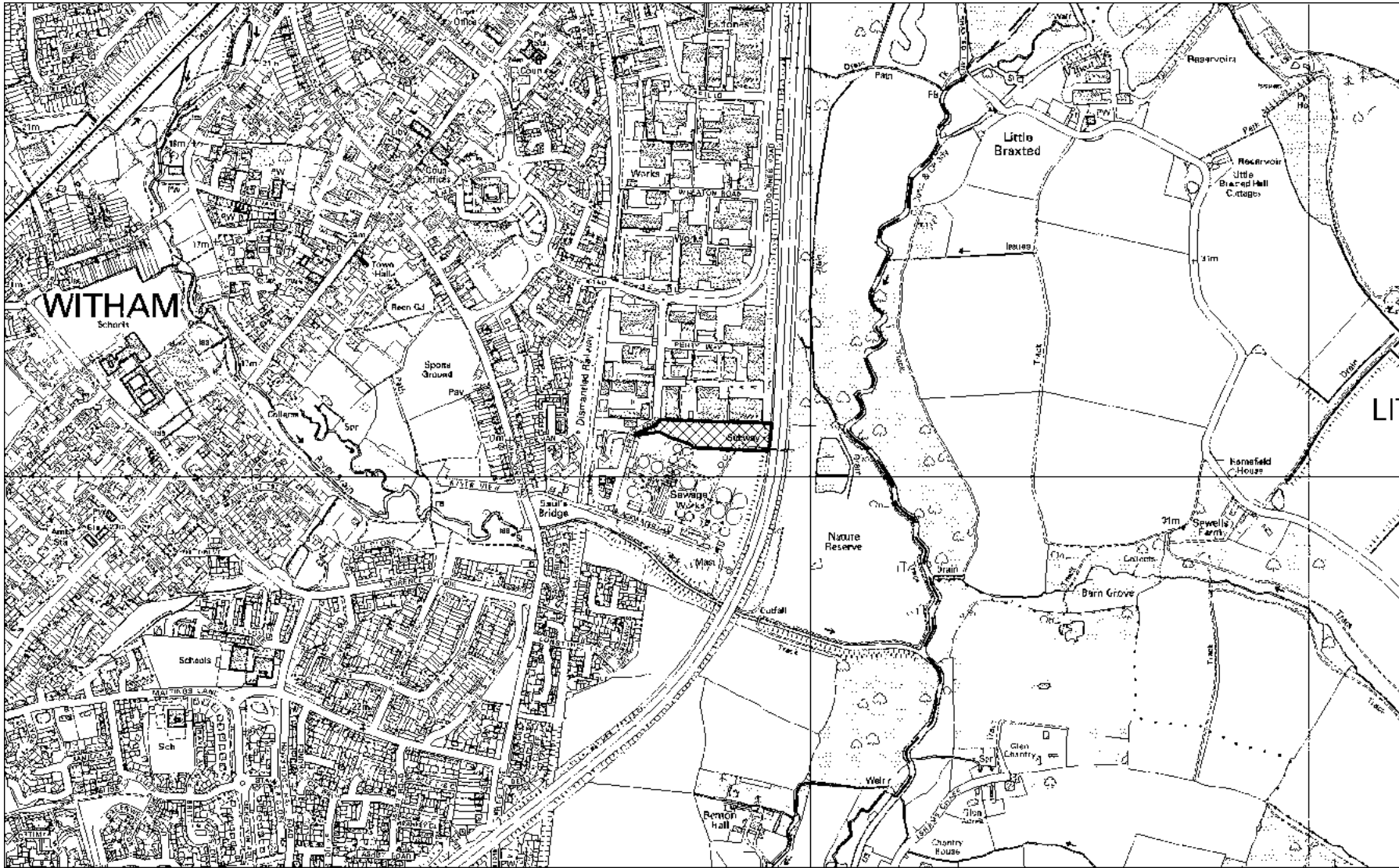


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L14R Broadfields Farm, Rayne


 Area suggested for inclusion in WDD
 Area suggested in MDD

Appendix 4 - Witham Wastewater Treatment Works, Perry Road, Witham



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W6 Witham WwTW

 Area suggested for inclusion in WDD