



Little Braxted Parish Council

You are hereby summoned to attend the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Little Braxted Parish Council to be held at the Braxted Bakery, Witham Road, on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

Gordon Mussett
Parish Clerk
8th February 2024

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
To receive apologies for absence
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
For Members to declare any interests in matters on the agenda
- 3. To Consider any requests from Members for Dispensations**
To consider any requests from Members with pecuniary interests for dispensations to enable them to participate on the item in which they have a pecuniary interest
- 4. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 16th January 2024**
To agree and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024 as a true record
- 5. To Invite Members of the Public to speak on Matters Regarding and Affecting the Parish**
- 6. To Receive a Financial Report as of 31st January 2024 – to follow**
To receive a Financial Report as of 31st January 2024
- 7. To Consider Whether to Comment on the Draft Mineral Plan 2025-2040 - attached**
To consider whether to comment on the Draft Mineral Plan 2025-2040
- 8. To Note and Agree Payments Made Between Meetings**
To note and agree the following payments made between meetings

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£
844	Community Action Suffolk	-gov.uk website and email	£168.00

9. Approve the Following Payments

To approve following payments

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£
845	H Bendall	Litterpicking February	£67.53
846	GN Mussett	Clerk's Salary February	£161.21
847	Maldon District Council	Speedchecks	£72.96

10. Clerk's Report for Information

- a. Receipt of Grant from Essex Community Foundation to cover funding through to 2027

11. Closure

ITEM 7

To Consider Whether to Comment on the Draft Mineral Plan 2025-2040

The County Council is consulting on the Draft Mineral Plan to cover the period 2025-2040. The first stage of the process has been to invite landowners and others to put forward extraction sites for consideration; at this stage of the review the Parish Councils with sites in or adjacent to their Parish are being asked to comment. Each site has been provisionally assessed against 16 criteria (the RAG – red, amber, green assessments) and Parish Councils are invited to contribute any further local issues which may affect those assessments.

There has been one site put forward which is partly in Little Braxted (the majority being in Great Braxted) and three which are in Rivenhall/Great Braxted. These are sites 49-52 in the consultation document ([Assessment of candidate and gravel sites \(essex.gov.uk\)](https://www.essex.gov.uk))

The proposals and comments from the assessment are shown below. Members are asked to consider the likely impact of these sites on the Parish, its residents and the environment and to suggest appropriate responses to reduce any impact should any of these sites be selected for inclusion in the final plan.

Candidate Site Reference	Candidate Site Name	District	Existing use	Site Area (ha)	Potential Yield (million tonnes)
A49	Colemans Farm - Hill Broad Farm Full Site	Maldon	Agricultural	40.74	2

The Site is promoted as an extension to an existing mineral Site (Colemans Farm Quarry) and is located to the south east of Colemans Farm Quarry. The Site area is approximately 40.74 ha and is proposed for approximately 2 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction which would be transported internally to an existing plant site at Colemans Farm Quarry, where it will be washed, graded, and stocked prior to export off Site. It is proposed that once granted consent mineral extraction would follow on from the consented extraction activities at Colemans Farm Quarry and, subject to allocation, could be operated alongside Site A50. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields, woodland, Colemans reservoir and residential and commercial buildings. The hamlet of Rivenhall is located 800m north of the Site. Access to the Site is through the access arrangements for the existing workings at Colemans Farm Quarry. See Appendix J for a detailed map of the Site.

Summary of RAG Assessment

The results of the technical and desktop RAG assessment are detailed below.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Biodiversity	Historic Buildings	Archaeology	Flooding	Transport	Access	Public Rights of Way	Geo-Environmental	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Services & Utilities	Health & Amenity	Green Belt	Airport Safeguarding Zones
Red Amber	Amber	Red Amber	Amber	Amber	Red Amber	Green	Red Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Red Amber	Red	Green	Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Site is very characteristic of the Blackwater/Brain/Lower Chelmer (C6) Landscape Character Area (LCA). Located on the edge of the River Blackwater, the western parcel of the Site comprises linear willow and poplar plantation which is a strong local feature of the landscape. The remainder of the Site comprises arable fields separated by established hedgerows, also located on the valley sides. With open views of the river, appropriate consideration is required to protect the characteristic features of the LCA, particularly on the setting of the River Blackwater valley floor, and mitigate the impacts on the landscape.
- Elm Springs Priority Habitat (Deciduous Woodland) defines the western site boundary, and Stowling & Crierswood Ancient Woodland is located 0.3km to

the south of the Site. The River Blackwater valley is located on the immediate boundary to the west, with strong intervisibility between the Site and the river. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the physical impacts on Elm Springs with a suitable buffer. Mineral extraction within this location would significantly alter the setting of the River Blackwater valley, where a substantial buffer would be required.

- The River Blackwater follows the length of the western boundary and there is another watercourse within the Site which feeds into the River which is likely to be removed. These create a potential pollution pathway for water quality between the proposed mineral Site and a number of statutory wildlife sites. The potential for Likely Significant Effects, particularly to the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation will need to be considered through a plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- The Site is situated on low-lying land and comprises several arable fields; an area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat is located within the Site, to the west of the River Blackwater.
- The Site is graded Amber because ecological impacts could be moderate and are likely to require medium levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable. The Site's groundwater may be affected, which in turn could affect the hydrology of on-site and off-site habitats. The proposals are also just over 100 metres from Braxted Park Local Wildlife Site. Substantial buffers are likely to be required near to the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat, River Blackwater and other watercourses and their water quality must not be affected by the proposals. Affected Hedgerows and watercourses should be adequately and appropriately compensated.
- The allocation of The Site would have a major detrimental impact on the setting of the following Grade II listed buildings:
 - Appleford Bridge (List UID: 1111108)
 - Appleford Bridge Cottage (List UID: 1317172)
 - 1 and 2 School House (List UID: 1400105)
- The change to the setting of the listed buildings would amount to a mid-level of less than substantial harm to their significance.
- There would be a moderate impact on the significance of the Grade II listed Garden Wall of Little Braxted Hall (List UID: 1111073), resulting in a low level of less than substantial harm.
- There would be a minor impact on the setting of the group of three designated heritage assets at Great Braxted Hall resulting in the lowest level of less than substantial harm.
- The group of heritage assets at Little Braxted are unlikely to be affected, other than through minor environmental impacts.

- The Site lies within an area of archaeological features as identified through aerial photographic evidence. In the northern area of the Site a circular enclosure is interpreted as being of prehistoric date and possibly a ritual monument
- A series of linear features may represent possibly prehistoric or later land division along the river valley.
- A scheduled monument lies within 1km of the Site.
- Palaeolithic archaeological remains and Pleistocene faunal remains have been recovered from river gravels within the vicinity of the Site.
- The Site is assessed as having a 'high' potential for surface water flood risk as identified within the SFRA.
- The Site has been identified as having a 'high' groundwater flood risk.
- The Site is predominantly within Flood Risk Zone 1 however parts of the Site within FRZ2 and FRZ3 associated with the River Blackwater are prone to fluvial flooding.
- Any potential changes to the porosity of the ground following works and its effects on groundwater levels will need to be mitigated.
- Restoration of the Site following operational closure should consider the inclusion of flood reduction measures such as NFM and/or tree planting to reduce risks across the wider catchment.
- Access proposed via an existing access from Little Braxted Lane which is classified as a local route (other) in Essex County Council's Development Management Route Hierarchy. This accords with (i) in the methodology (see Appendix G Transport for full methodology):

Access to a suitable existing junction with the main road network, via a suitable section of an existing road, as short as possible, without causing a detrimental impact upon the safety and efficiency of the network.

- 1 Public Right of Way crosses the Site. 1 Public Right of Way is within 100m of the Site. Appropriate consideration would be needed to mitigate potential impacts on these Public Rights of Way and high levels of mitigation may be required which is likely to include diversion especially with regard to the Public Right of Way crossing the Site.
- The Site has unproductive/low/medium to low groundwater vulnerability. The Site is within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water) and is within Drinking Water Protection Areas (Surface Water). A watercourse (River Blackwater) is within the Site boundary and is 20m west and 30m north east,

another watercourse is 5m south west and an additional watercourse is 80m south. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate potential impacts on hydrology, hydrogeology, and drainage.

- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural land) and Grade 3 quality soil (good to moderate quality land), which is BMV land. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the impacts on soil quality and agricultural land – this is likely to include removal of soils for stockpiling prior to reuse, potentially in site restoration.
- The Site contains 11kV overhead and underground electricity lines within the Site boundary. The Site is within 100m of a high pressure gas mains (Cadent Gas). Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine appropriate mitigation measures to avoid impacts on the gas main to make the Site acceptable which may include diversion and/or protection.
- One residential building is present within the Site. Two residential buildings are outside the Site boundary less than or equal to 20m from the Site. One residential building is more than 20m but less than or equal to 50m from the Site. Nine residential buildings are more than 50m but less than or equal to 250m from the Site. Given the proximity of sensitive receptors, mitigation would be required, however, the levels of mitigation required to ensure that there are no serious impacts on health and amenity would likely be difficult to achieve.

Candidate Site Reference	Candidate Site Name	District	Existing use	Site Area (ha)	Potential Yield (million tonnes)
A50	Colemans Farm - Eastern extension (Appleford Farm)	Braintree	Agricultural	24.25	0.93

The Site is promoted as an extension to an existing mineral Site (Colemans Farm Quarry) and is located to the east of Colemans Farm Quarry. The Site area is approximately 24.25 ha and is proposed for 0.93 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction which would be transported to an existing plant Site at Colemans Farm Quarry, where it will be washed, graded, and stocked prior to export off Site. It is proposed that once granted consent mineral extraction would follow on from the consented extraction activities at Colemans Farm Quarry. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields, woodland, Colemans reservoir, residential, farm and commercial buildings. The hamlet of Riverhall is located 300m north and north east. Access to the Site is through the existing access into Appleford Farm. See Appendix J for a detailed map of the Site.

Summary of RAG Assessment

The results of the technical and desktop RAG assessment are detailed below.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Biodiversity	Historic Buildings	Archaeology	Flooding	Transport	Access	Public Rights of Way	Geo-Environmental	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Services & Utilities	Health & Amenity	Green Belt	Airport Safeguarding Zones
Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Amber	Red Amber	Red Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Red	Red Amber	Green	Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Site is significantly characteristic of the Blackwater/Brain/Lower Chelmer (C6) Landscape Character Area (LCA). Located close to the River Blackwater, the Site is lined by linear willow and poplar trees which are a strong local feature of the landscape. The remainder of the Site comprises arable fields with open views of the river. Appropriate consideration is required to protect the characteristic features of the LCA, particularly on the setting of the River Blackwater valley floor, and mitigate the impacts on the landscape.
- The River Blackwater valley is located close to the boundary to the east with strong intervisibility between the Site and the river. A number of Priority

Habitats (Deciduous Woodland) are located close to the eastern boundary of the Site, largely along the river edge. Mineral extraction within this location would significantly alter the setting of the River Blackwater valley, where a substantial buffer would be required.

- The River Blackwater follows one boundary and its tributaries follow two other boundaries. There are potential pollution pathways – e.g. water quality - between the proposed mineral Site and international wildlife sites that would need to be considered further through the plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment and any subsequent planning application.
- The Site is situated on low-lying land and comprises two arable fields; an area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat is located in the centre of one of these fields. The woodland would be lost by these proposals.
- The Site is graded Amber because ecological impacts could be moderate and are likely to require medium levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable. The Site's groundwater may be affected, which in turn could affect on-site and off-site habitats. Substantial buffers are likely to be required near to the River Blackwater, other watercourses and central Woodland and their water quality must not be affected by the proposals.
- The Site is approximately 75 metres to the north of the Grade II listed Appleford Bridge (List UID: 1111108). In terms of visual impact, there would be a low level of harm (Amber) to the Grade II Listed Appleford Bridge resulting from the visual impact of the scheme. There would be an environmental impact on the bridge and its setting, resulting from dust, noise, illumination at night and the movement of traffic.
- The use of the 250-year-old bridge by heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) travelling to and from the Site would potentially have a damaging impact on its fabric, along with the higher probability of vehicle strikes. The bridge is currently in frequent use by heavy goods vehicles day-to-day. Therefore, a Structural Survey of the bridge carried out by a Heritage Accredited Structural Engineer, would be required to inform a decision as to the extent of any possible harm resulting from its increased use by HGVs.
- The impact of noise, dust, and movement of HGVs, will have a low-level of adverse environmental impact on the settings of Appleford Bridge Cottage (List UID: 1317172); Grade II Listed Witham Lodge and Entrance Gates (List Entry Number: 1337342); Grade II listed brick-built boundary wall of Braxted Park (List Entry Number: 1111073). With controls over the routes and frequency of HGVs travelling to and from the Site, this could be effectively mitigated.
- A Scheduled Monument lies within 200m of the Site. Historic England should be consulted at the earliest opportunity to assess the impact on the setting of the Scheduled Monument.

- Archaeological evaluation has been completed across part of the Site which has identified concentrations of archaeological remains.

The Site lies within an area of archaeological features as identified through aerial photographic evidence and archaeological investigation. The Site contains concentrations of multi-period archaeological features. The Site also has potential to contain Palaeolithic archaeological remains and Pleistocene faunal and palaeoenvironmental remains.

- The Site is assessed as having a 'medium' potential for surface water flood risk as identified within the SFRA.
- The Site has been identified as having a 'high' groundwater flood risk.
- The Site is predominantly within Flood Risk Zone 1, however 18% is within FRZ2&3 associated with the River Blackwater.
- Access is proposed via a modified access serving Appleford Farm onto Braxted Road which is a Secondary Distributor in Essex County Council's Development Management Route Hierarchy. This corresponds to (iii) in the methodology (see Appendix G Transport for full methodology):

Where access to the main road network in accordance with (i) and (ii) above is not feasible, road access via a suitable existing road prior to gaining access onto the main road network will exceptionally be permitted, having regard to the scale of the development, the capacity and form of the road and an assessment of the impact on road safety

- From a highway viewpoint Braxted Road, Oak Road and Henry Dixon Road and associated connections to the Main/Strategic Road Network via the A12 Trunk Road are not suitable in their current form.
- A Transport Statement scoping report supporting site A50 indicatively shows a modified access arrangement on drawing 15057-26B of the existing access serving Appleford Farm. This does not currently show that simultaneous access for two HGVs can be achieved satisfactorily but indicates that appropriate visibility splays are likely to be achievable at this location to accord with surveyed vehicle speeds.
- Interaction of modified access to Appleford Farm with Braxted Bridge and existing minerals access serving Colemans Farm required.
- Principle of access not agreed.
- The Site has medium to low groundwater vulnerability. The Site is within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water) and is within Drinking Water Protection Areas (Surface Water). A watercourse (River Blackwater) is 30m south, and 10m and 70m south east of the Site and another watercourse is and 5m north. There is a small water body present within the Site boundary.

Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate potential impacts on hydrology, hydrogeology, and drainage.

- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural land) and Grade 3 quality soil (good to moderate quality land), which is BMV land. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the impacts on soil quality and agricultural land – this is likely to include removal of soils for stockpiling prior to reuse, potentially in site restoration.
- The Site contains 11kV overhead electricity lines within the Site boundary. An overhead Openreach BT power line is present within the Site. The Site contains high pressure gas mains (Cadent Gas) within the Site boundary. Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine appropriate mitigation measures to make the Site acceptable which would likely include diversion and/or protection. Diversion and/or protection may not be possible and/or may be cost prohibitive.
- Three residential buildings, three commercial buildings and a farm building (Appleford Farm) are outside the Site boundary less than or equal to 20m from the Site. Three residential buildings are more than 50m but less than or equal to 250m from the Site. Given the proximity of sensitive receptors, high levels of mitigation are likely to be required to make the Site acceptable in terms of impacts on health and amenity e.g. high level noise screening and extensive dust suppression measures.

Candidate Site Reference	Candidate Site Name	District	Existing use	Site Area (ha)	Potential Yield (million tonnes)
A51	Colemans Farm - North extension (Hill Broad Farm)	Maldon	Agricultural	19.77	0.8

The Site is promoted as an extension to an existing mineral Site (Colemans Farm Quarry) and is located to the south west of Colemans Farm Quarry. The Site area is approximately 19.77 ha and is proposed for approximately 0.6 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction which would be transported internally to the existing plant Site at Colemans Farm Quarry, where it will be washed, graded, and stocked prior to export off Site. It is proposed that once granted consent mineral extraction would follow on from the consented extraction activities at Colemans Farm Quarry and, subject to allocation, could be operated alongside Site A50. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields, woodland, Colemans reservoir and residential and commercial buildings. The hamlet of Rivenhall is located 800m north of the Site. Access to the Site is through the access arrangements for the existing workings at Colemans Farm Quarry. See Appendix J for a detailed map of the Site.

Summary of RAG Assessment

The results of the technical and desktop RAG assessment are detailed below.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Biodiversity	Historic Buildings	Archaeology	Flooding	Transport	Access	Public Rights of Way	Geo-Environmental	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Services & Utilities	Health & Amenity	Green Belt	Airport Safeguarding Zones
Amber	Amber	Red Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Red Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Red Amber	Red Amber	Green	Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Site is significantly characteristic of the Blackwater/Brain/Lower Chelmer (C8) Landscape Character Area (LCA). Located on the river edge of the River Blackwater, the Site comprises linear willow and poplar plantation which is a strong local feature of the landscape which increases the complexity of the Site. The remainder of the Site comprises arable fields separated by established hedgerows, also located on the valley sides. With open views of the river, appropriate consideration is required to protect the characteristic features of the LCA, particularly on the setting of the River Blackwater valley floor, and mitigate the impacts on the landscape.

- The River Blackwater valley is located on the immediate boundary to the west, with strong intervisibility between the Site and the river. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the physical impacts on Elm Springs with a suitable buffer. Mineral extraction within this location would significantly alter the setting of the River Blackwater valley, where a substantial buffer would be required.
- The River Blackwater follows the length of the western boundary and there is another watercourse within the Site which feeds into the River which is likely to be removed. These create a potential pollution pathway for water quality between the proposed mineral Site and a number of statutory wildlife sites. The potential for Likely Significant Effects, particularly to the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation will need to be considered through a plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- The Site is situated on low-lying land and comprises two arable fields; an area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat is located within the Site, to the west of the River Blackwater.
- The Site is graded Amber because ecological impacts could be moderate and are likely to require medium levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable. The Site's groundwater may be affected, which in turn could affect the hydrology of on-site and off-site habitats. Substantial buffers are likely to be required near to the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat, River Blackwater and other watercourses and their water quality must not be affected by the proposals. Affected Hedgerows and watercourses should be adequately and appropriately compensated.
- The northern tip of the Site is adjacent to the Grade II Listed Appleford Bridge (List UID: 1111108). There is a high degree of visibility between the Site to the south and the heritage asset. The Site is an important part of the asset's setting and is currently pastoral in character and undeveloped. There is likely to be a considerable visual impact on this agrarian character from the quarrying of the Site. The allocation of the Site would have a negative impact on the setting of the bridge, resulting in a mid-level of less than substantial harm.
- The north-east boundary of the Site also abuts the curtilage boundary of the Grade II Listed Appleford Bridge Cottage (List UID: 1317172). The excavation of the Site would result in a mid-level of less than substantial harm, due to the visual intrusion of the quarrying works on the bridge's setting.
- Mitigation in the form of landscaping or screens of vegetation is unlikely to significantly reduce the visual impact on both the bridge and cottage. The mid-level of harm resulting from the visual impact could not be effectively mitigated.
- The structural impact of heavy vehicle use on the Grade II Listed Appleford bridge would need to be assessed by a heritage structural engineer in order

for the impact of its use in conjunction with the Site to be understood. At present, the impact is unknown. Once a structural survey report has been submitted it would then be possible to assess the level of harm to the bridge resulting from the scheme. Should any impacts be found to result from the bridge's use by HGVs in conjunction with the Site activity, mitigation in the form of the prohibition of use of the bridge by HGVs would reduce any direct physical impacts on the bridge.

- The impact on other nearby heritage assets would be limited to environmental impacts of dust, noise and traffic and would be low.
- The Site lies within an area of archaeological features as identified through aerial photographic evidence.
- In the northern area of the Site a circular enclosure is interpreted as being of prehistoric date and possibly a ritual monument.
- A series of linear features may represent possibly prehistoric or later land division along the river valley.
- A Scheduled Monument lies within 1km of the Site.
- Palaeolithic archaeological remains and Pleistocene faunal remains have been recovered from river gravels within the vicinity of the Site.
- The Site is assessed as having a 'high' potential for surface water flood risk as identified within the SFRA.
- The Site has been identified as having a 'medium' groundwater flood risk.
- The Site is predominantly within FRZ1, although 43% of the Site is within FRZ3 and FRZ2.
- The implementation of sediment and erosion control measures, e.g., silt fences, sediment basins, and vegetative cover, to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation in water bodies will help reduce the risk of flooding by maintaining proper stormwater management and preventing sediment build-up in waterways.
- 1 Public Right of Way crosses the Site. 1 Public Right of Way is within 100m of the Site. Appropriate consideration would be needed to mitigate potential impacts on these Public Rights of Way and high levels of mitigation may be required which is likely to include diversion especially with regard to the Public Right of Way crossing the Site.
- The Site has unproductive/medium to low groundwater vulnerability. The Site is within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water) and is within Drinking Water Protection Areas (Surface Water). A watercourse (River Blackwater) is within the Site boundary and is 20m west and 30m north east, another watercourse is 5m south west, a watercourse is 80m south and an

additional watercourse is 80m south. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate potential impacts on hydrology, hydrogeology, and drainage.

- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural land) and Grade 3 quality soil (good to moderate quality land), which is BMV land. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the impacts on soil quality and agricultural land – this is likely to include removal of soils for stockpiling prior to reuse, potentially in site restoration.
- The Site contains 11kV overhead and underground electricity lines within the Site boundary. The Site is within 100m of a high pressure gas mains (Cadent Gas). Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine appropriate mitigation measures to avoid impact on the gas main to make the Site acceptable which may include diversion and/or protection.
- Two residential buildings are outside the Site boundary less than or equal to 20m from the Site. One residential building is more than 50m but less than or equal to 250m from the Site. Given the proximity of sensitive receptors, high levels of mitigation are likely to be required to make the Site acceptable in terms of impacts on health and amenity e.g. high level noise screening and extensive dust suppression measures.

Candidate Site Reference	Candidate Site Name	District	Existing use	Site Area (ha)	Potential Yield (million tonnes)
A52	Colemans Farm - Southern extension	Braintree	Agricultural	4.13	0.11

The Site is promoted as an extension to an existing mineral Site (Colemans Farm Quarry) and is located to the south of Colemans Farm Quarry. The Site area is approximately 4.13 ha and is proposed for 0.11 million tonnes of sand and gravel extraction which would be transported to the existing Colemans Farm Quarry plant Site, where it will be washed, graded, and stocked prior to export off Site. It is proposed that once granted consent mineral extraction would follow on from the consented extraction activities at Colemans Farm Quarry. The adjoining uses include agricultural fields and woodland. The town of Witham is located to the west of the Site. Access to the Site is proposed through the existing Little Braxted Lane access into, and internal haul roads through, Coleman's Quarry. However, should A12 improvements be constructed, then access could potentially be via the proposed Braxted Road access. See Appendix J for a detailed map of the Site.

Summary of RAG Assessment

The results of the technical and desktop RAG assessment are detailed below.

Landscape and Visual Sensitivity	Biodiversity	Historic Buildings	Archaeology	Flooding	Transport	Access	Public Rights of Way	Geo-Environmental	Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage	Air Quality	Soil Quality	Services & Utilities	Health & Amenity	Green Belt	Appointed Safeguarding Zones
Amber	Amber	Amber/Green	Amber	Red/Amber	Green	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Green

Key findings of the assessment are as follows:

- The Site is located within the River Blackwater valley floor and is therefore very characteristic of the Blackwater/Braun/Lower Chelmer (C6) Landscape Character Area (LCA). The east, south and west boundaries are defined by the linear poplar and willow plantations that line the banks of the River Blackwater that runs close to the boundary of the Site. The Site itself is very flat and comprises grassland which makes up the valley floor landscape character. Mineral extraction of the Site will significantly alter the setting of the River Blackwater and surrounding character.
- Elm Springs Priority Habitat (Deciduous Woodland) is located 0.1km to the east of the Site, and Stowling & Crierswood Ancient Woodland is located 0.4km to the south-east of the Site. The River Blackwater valley defines the

southern boundary and is a prominent feature within the immediate landscape. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the physical impacts on The River Blackwater with a suitable buffer.

- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are not located immediately adjacent to the Site; however, a footpath runs to the south of the River Blackwater (Footpath 1) and a bridleway to the north (Bridleway 29). The PRoWs provide open views of the Site in the context of the River Blackwater and linear plantations which acts as a prominent feature in the foreground/background, respectively.
- The River Blackwater is close to the Site's eastern boundary creating a potential pollution pathway for water quality between the proposed mineral Site and a number of statutory wildlife sites. The potential for Likely Significant Effects, particularly to the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area and Ramsar site and the Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation will need to be considered through a plan-level Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- The Site is situated on low-lying land and comprises an arable field; an area of Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat is located immediately south of the Site.
- The Site is graded Amber because ecological impacts could be moderate and are likely to require medium levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable. The Site's groundwater may be affected, which in turn could affect the hydrology of on-site and off-site habitats. Substantial buffers are likely to be required near to the Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland Priority habitat and River Blackwater and water quality must not be affected by the proposals. The affected hedgerows should be compensated.
- To the southwest of the Site is a group of designated heritage assets, which are as follows:
 - Little Braxted Mill, Grade II Listed (List UID: 1308828)
 - Kitchen/Dovecote north of Little Braxted Hall, Grade II* listed (List UID: 1146757)
 - Summer House at Little Braxted Hall, Grade II listed (List UID: 1146764)
 - Garden Wall of Little Braxted Hall, Grade II Listed (List UID: 1111065).
 - Little Braxted Hall and Railings, Grade II Listed (List UID: 1111063).
 - Church of St Nicholas, Grade I Listed (List UID: 1111066).
 - Monument in St Nicholas Churchyard, Grade II Listed (List UID: 1146792)
- Due to the spatial separation of these heritage assets from the Site, the impacts of quarrying at the Site are likely to be minor, amounting to the lowest level of less than substantial harm, and may require low levels of mitigation to make the Site acceptable.
- Any application should be accompanied by a heritage statement that assesses the impact on the listed buildings, along with an assessment of the significance of the unlisted farmhouse and barn at Coleman's Farm, both of which have been much altered but are of some antiquity.

- Mitigation to keep buildings and structures a sufficient distance from the heritage assets, or screening options, along with traffic management plans, could provide effective mitigation.
- The Site lies within an area of recorded multi-period archaeological activity as revealed by aerial photographic evidence and archaeological investigations in the surrounding fields.
- There are recorded alluvial deposits within the Site which have high potential for preservation of waterlogged deposits and palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- Palaeolithic archaeological remains and Pleistocene faunal remains have been recovered from river gravels within the vicinity of the Site.
- The Site is assessed as having a 'high' potential for surface water flood risk as identified within the SFRA.
- The Site has been identified as having a 'high' groundwater flood risk.
- The Site is predominantly (95%) within FRZ3 and is therefore at risk from fluvial flooding.
- The Site has medium to low groundwater vulnerability. The Site is within a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (Surface Water) and is within Drinking Water Protection Areas (Surface Water). A watercourse (River Blackwater) is 5m south east, and 20m east and another watercourse is and 60m south east. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate potential impacts on hydrology, hydrogeology, and drainage.
- The Site contains Grade 2 quality soil (very good quality agricultural land) and Grade 3 quality soil (good to moderate quality land), which is BMV land. Appropriate consideration would be required to mitigate the impacts on soil quality and agricultural land – this is likely to include removal of soils for stockpiling prior to reuse, potentially in site restoration.
- The Site is within 250m of high pressure gas mains (Cadent Gas). Further investigation and consultation would be needed to determine whether mitigation measures are needed to avoid any impact on gas mains. Such mitigation may include diversion and/or protection.

A49 - Colemans Farm



A50 - Colemans Farm



A51 - Colemans Farm



A52 - Colemans Farm

