

# Suffolk Waste Annual Monitoring Report



**Suffolk County Council**

**2024**

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## 1 Introduction

The Suffolk Minerals & Waste Local Plan was adopted in July 2020. The Plan contains a Vision explaining how the County will meet its statutory obligation for the supply of aggregates and the sustainable management of waste. It contains policies for determining planning applications for minerals and waste development and identifies sites for future development for these uses.

It is important to understand whether the policies in the Plan are being delivered as intended and the extent to which the waste arisings and movements that were forecast are correct. Because of the nature of waste data, such forecasts will never be exact, but trends can be identified, and broad conclusions reached.

The Plan identifies sites that are suitable for the management of waste and this Monitoring Report will examine whether such sites have been taken forward for this use, or whether the policies should be amended in a future Plan.

The Local Plan contains a Policy Monitoring Framework, which identifies the Performance Indicators that will be used to monitor the Plan which are the number of times that the relevant policies are triggered in the decision-making process.

Suffolk County Council also has a Development Management Local Monitoring and Enforcement Plan, updated in 2022 (source :[DMLMEP](#)) . This sets out how the Council deals with the monitoring of developments as they are delivered including site visits to ensure that planning conditions are being carried out as intended.

This report looks at the effectiveness of the waste policies in delivering the policy outcomes in the Plan. In particular it examines whether Suffolk is net self-sufficient in the management of the waste arising with the Plan Area or whether additional waste management facilities are required to achieve this through a review of the plan.

## 2 Methodology

The [Waste Data Interrogator 2021](#) and [2022](#) that has been produced by the Environment Agency is the primary data source for the report, together with other data Defra published as part of the Waste Management Statistics and information from the Waste Data Flow system, which can be found under [ENV18 - Local Authority Collected Waste](#). Additionally, [Remaining Landfill Capacity 2021 and 2022](#) reported by the Environment Agency is also used.

### 3 Waste Managed in Suffolk

The total amount of Local Authority Collected Waste in Suffolk (LACW) has reduced in the year 2020-21 and then increased in the year 2021 – 2022 to just below the figures shown in 2019-2020 as shown in Figure 3.1. This waste stream is formed of predominantly household waste and includes waste from civil amenity sites, non-hazardous and other non-household sources collected by the Local Authority.

This initial continuing downward trend is slightly surprising in the context of the Covid 19 pandemic which required the majority of people to work from home. However, it is noted that the period 2021-2022 shows a 4% uplift on the previous year.

It is possible that for a number of factors such as covid and nationwide economic downturn may have resulted in a fall in consumption overall, however with the 4% uplift in 2021-2022 the long terms trends show a relatively stable levels of waste collected.



Figure 3.1: Source: ENV18 - Local Authority Collected Waste

Household (total waste) arising continued to reduce slowly to the year end 2020-2021 and then increased by 4% for year end 2021 – 2022. This represents a similar flat trend over time as the total authority waste collected.

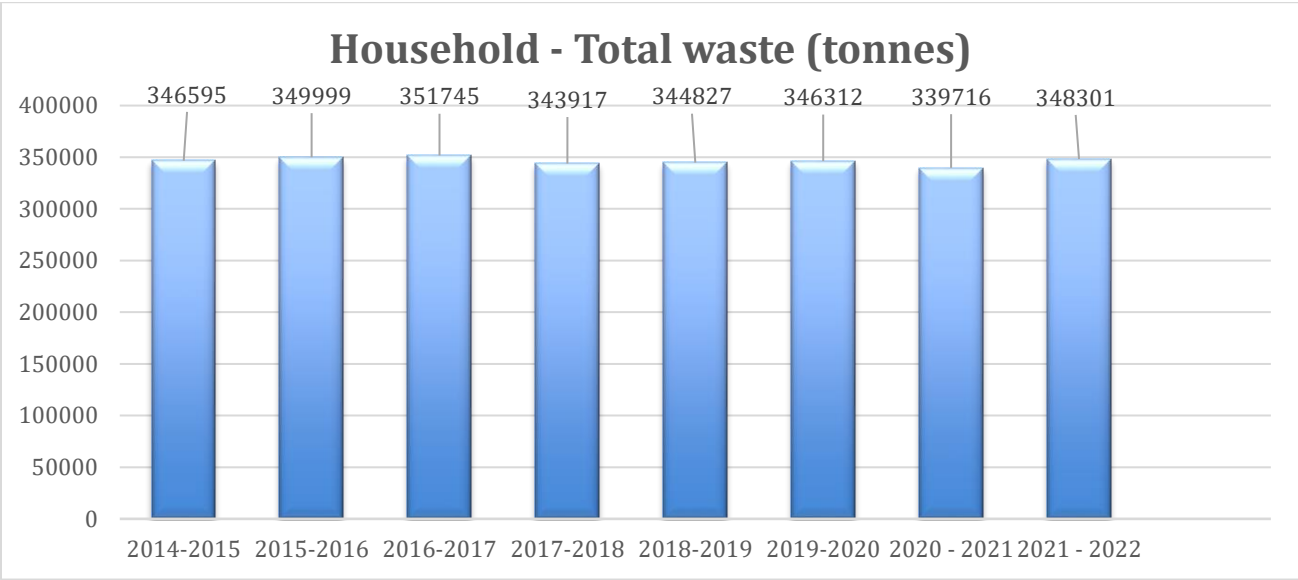


Figure 3.2: Source: ENV18 - Local Authority Collected Waste

### 3.1 Recycling Rates

The amount of LACW sent for recycling has steadily decreased since 2014 until the end of year 2020 – 2021, 2021-2022 shows a slight increase in waste sent for recycling, as shown in Figure 3.3.

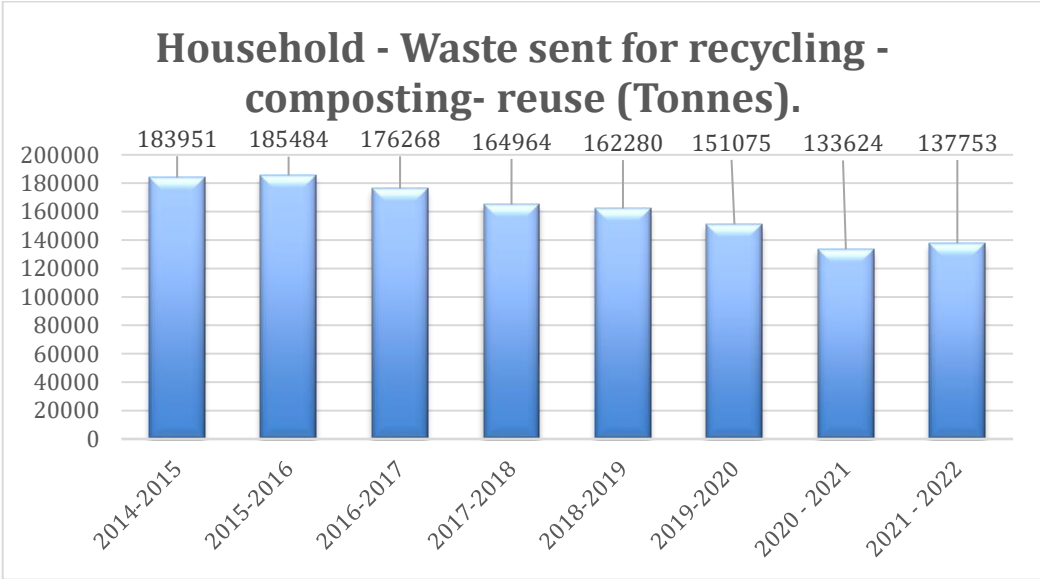


Figure 3.3: Source: ENV18 - Local Authority Collected Waste

Historically, Suffolk had one of the highest recycling rates in England, but recycling has reduced in all the Suffolk Districts over the past eight years both in terms of overall weight and by % sent to recycling, as shown in Figures 3.3 and 3.4.

This decline in the weight of household recycling could be due to a number of factors:

In 2017/2018 there was a charge introduced for the collection of green waste (leaving Ipswich the only authority in Suffolk not to charge for the collection of green waste). This led to a year-on-

year decline in the number of green bin collections and, in turn, a drop in green waste sent for recycling.

In 2019, there was a classification of “wood” whereby wood items sent to Mixed recycling facilities are no longer classified as recycling.

Covid 19 and the years following had an impact on some recycling facilities resulting in a reduced service for limited periods of time, this had an effect on the overall weight of recycling being collected a processed in this period.

<b>Financial year</b>	<b>% waste sent for recycling (Suffolk)</b>	<b>(total Tonnage)</b>
2014 - 2015	51.7 %	183951
2015 - 2016	51.7 %	158484
2016 - 2017	48.1 %	176268
2017 - 2018	46.1 %	164964
2018 - 2019	45.3 %	162280
2019 - 2020	42.1 %	151078
2020 - 2021	38.3 %	133624
2021 - 2022	37.9 %	137753

Figure 3.4: Source: [ENV18 - Local Authority Collected Waste](#)

The LACW recycling rate is shown in Figure 3.5 for each of the Suffolk Districts. These have been subject to some reorganisation in recent years and so the graphs below show the rates for the combined councils before each merger and the current district.

From 2020 Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council merged to become East Suffolk Council, and Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council merged to become “West Suffolk Council”. Their figures have been aggregated into their respective Councils.

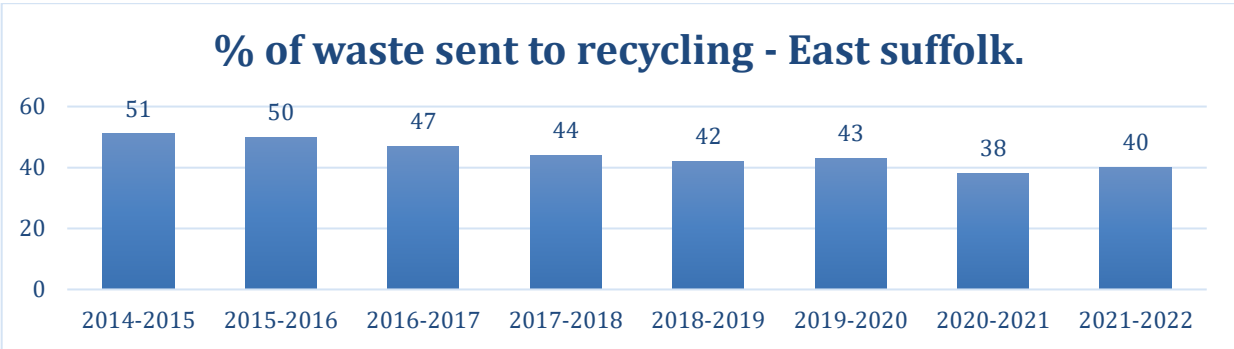
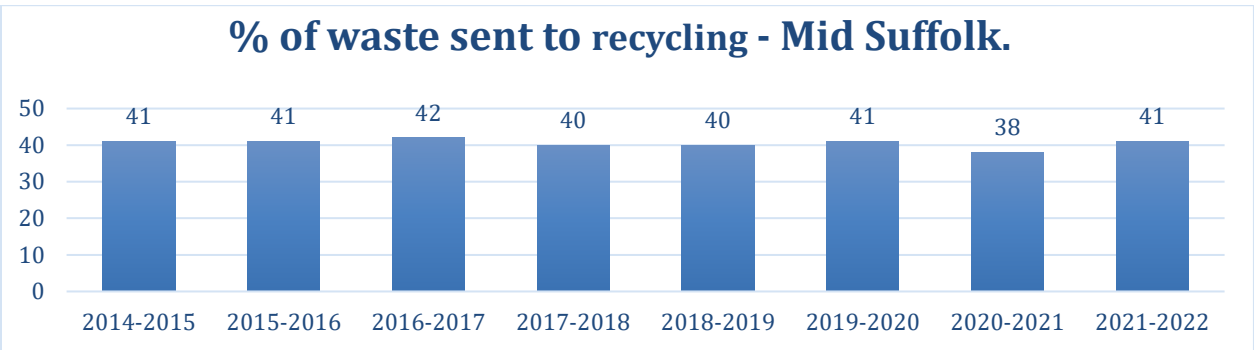
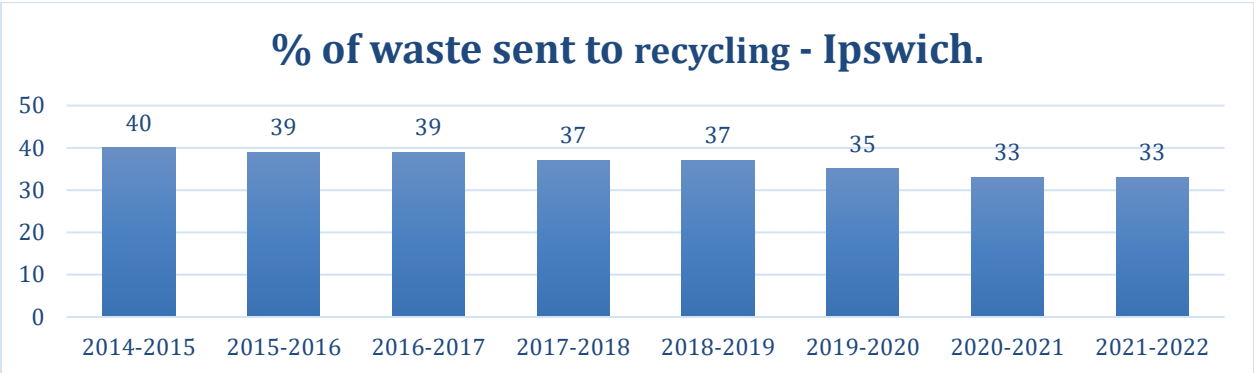
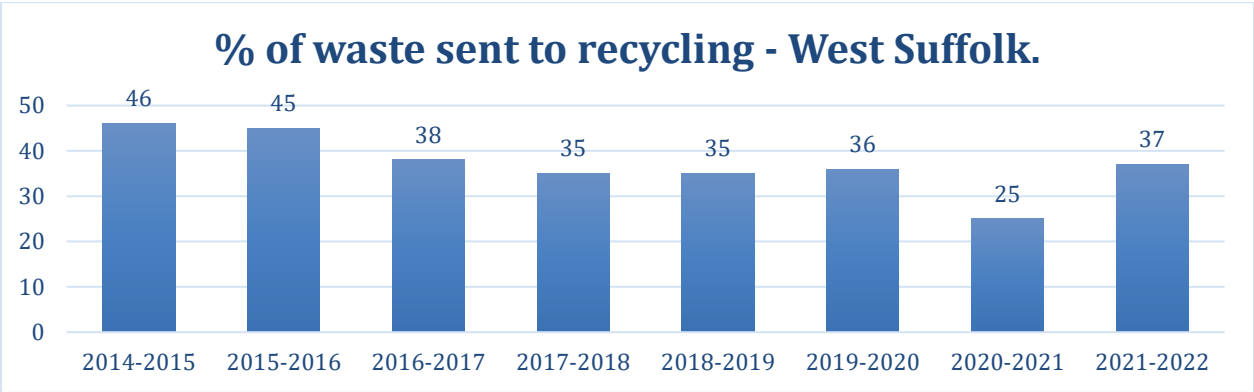


Figure 3.5: Source: ENV18 - Local Authority Collected Waste

## 4 Waste Capacity

### 4.1 Waste Treatment

The capacity of waste management infrastructure has been calculated using the throughput of the facilities in Suffolk as recorded in the Waste Data Interrogator. The amount of waste managed in all facilities in Suffolk increased between 2021 to 2022 and, in particular, the amount of waste managed at the Energy from Waste facility at Great Blakenham increased (following the grant of planning permission) from 269,000 to 295,000 tonnes per annum.

<b>Waste treated in facilities in Suffolk in 2019 - 2022</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Incineration	328,245	428,929	422,705	402,418
MRS (Monitored Retrievable Storage)	143,655	120,825	145,303	117,401
On/In Land	213,274	452,482	342,948	255,937
Transfer	522,783	532,193	488,177	473,030
Treatment	1,415,707	1,503,292	1,629,778	1,617,661
<b>Total waste treated in Suffolk</b>	<b>2,766,348</b>	<b>3,155,969</b>	<b>3,028,911</b>	<b>2,866,477</b>

Figure 4.1: Source: Waste Data Interrogator 2019 - 2022

\*Previous reports have included figures for 'Mobile Plants' sites (including concrete crushing). The EA have removed geographical descriptors for this Category, so it can no longer be reported below National Level.

## 4.2 Waste to Landfill and inert facilities.

Figure 4.2 shows active Landfill sites. There is only one active landfill site receiving non-hazardous waste in Suffolk and this is Masons Landfill site which is operated by Viridor.

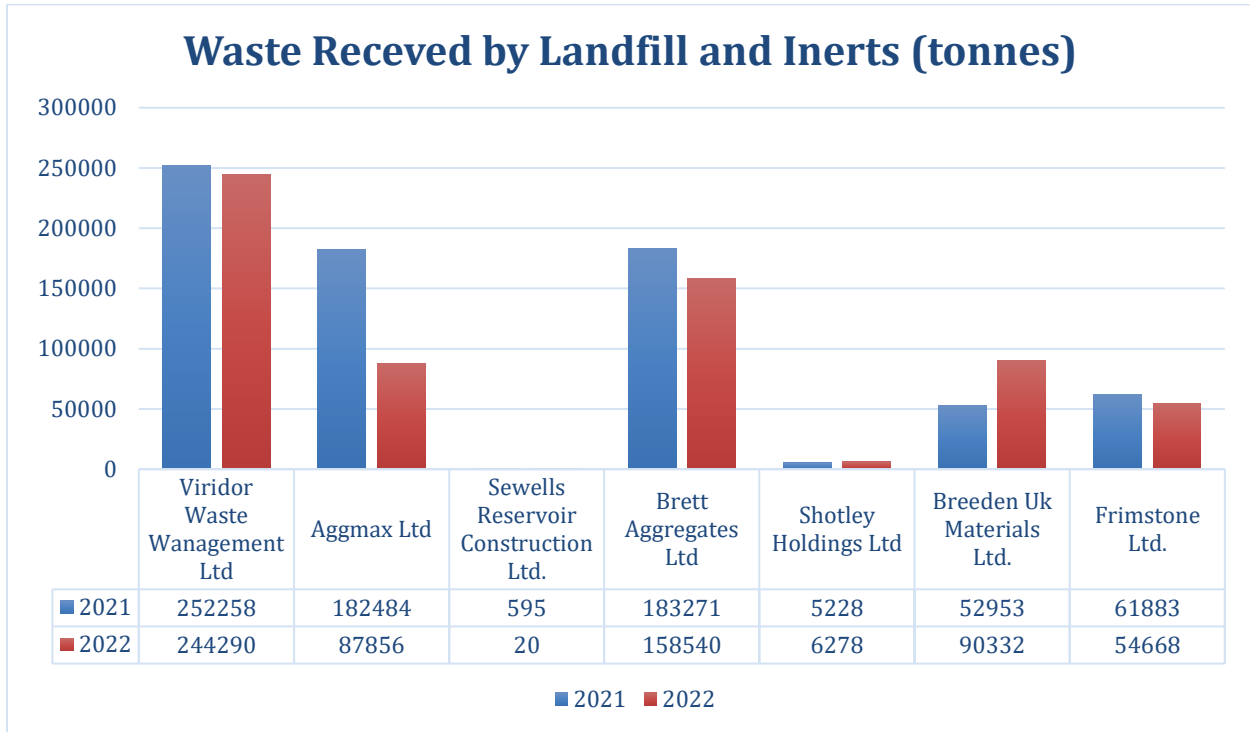


Figure 4.2: Waste received to landfills 2021 and 2022

## 4.3 Remaining landfill capacity

Permitted landfill operators have a condition in their permits to report the remaining landfill void (capacity) of their sites at the end of the calendar year. Operators can claim commercial confidentiality.



Figure 4.3: Source: Remaining Landfill Capacity 2019 – 2022

Remaining landfill capacity reported in Suffolk (Cubic Metres)						
Operator	Facility	Site Type	2019	2020	2021	2022
Viridor Waste Management Ltd	Masons Landfill	L02 - Non Hazardous Landfill With SNRHW cell	2,460,000	2,839,864	2,604,173	2,360,429
Aggmax Limited	Lawn Farm Quarry	L05 – Inert Landfill	1,330,000	1,300,000	1,330,000	2,107,812
Sewells Reservoir Construction Limited	Barton Mills Chalk Quarry	L05 - Inert Landfill	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000	1,050,000
Brett Aggregates Limited	Shrublands Quarry	L05 - Inert Landfill	771,500	634,934	532,650	398,872
Shotley Holdings Limited	Folly Farm Landfill	L02 - Non Hazardous Landfill with SNRHW cell	575,639	561,222	474,946	512,913
Breeden UK Materials Limited	Cartwrights Covert Landfill	L05 - Inert Landfill	178,000	178,000	178,000	152,000
Lafarge Aggregates Ltd	Darmsden Hall Landfill	L05 - Inert Landfill	0	0	0	0
Brett Aggregates Ltd	Waldringfield Landfill	L05 - Inert Landfill	0	0	0	0
Brett Aggregates Limited	Layham Quarry Landfill	L05 - Inert Landfill	0	0	0	0
Buffalo Crow Limited	Hadleigh Quarry	L05 - Inert Landfill	0	0	0	0
Viridor Waste Management Ltd	Wangford Landfill	L02 - Non Hazardous Landfill with SNRHW cell	0	0	0	0
Viridor Waste Management Limited	Foxhall Landfill Site	L04 - Non Hazardous	0	0	0	0
Biffa Waste Services Ltd	Bramford Landfill Site	L04 - Non Hazardous	0	0	0	0

In Figure 4.4 Landfill capacity change is shown between 2021 and 2022, for sites where there is capacity.

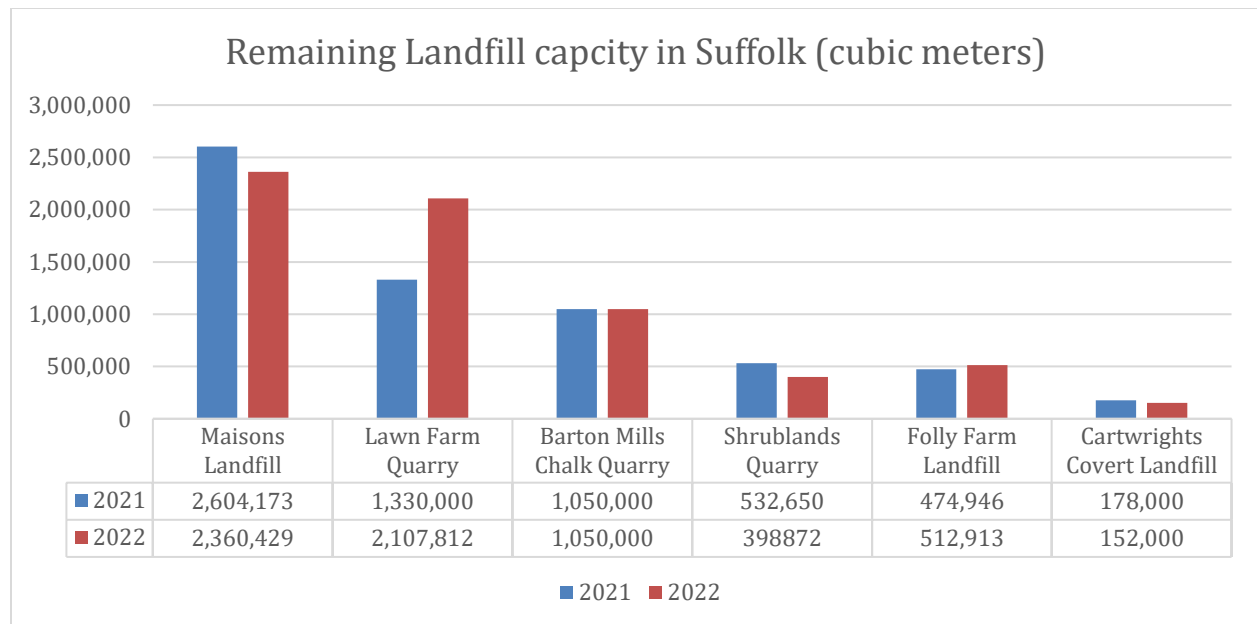


Figure 4.4: Source: *Remaining Landfill Capacity 2021 and 2022*

The landfill capacity for Suffolk for 2022 is 6,582,026 cubic meters, this is up from 5,278,329 cubic meter. This is a result of 1,303,697 additional capacity being created at Lawn Farm Quarry (777,812 cubic meters) and Folly Farm (37,054 cubic meters).

Landfill capacity can be assessed in terms of inert landfill (waste deposited at an inert landfill) and ‘non-inert landfill’ (which includes hazardous and non-hazardous waste is deposited at ‘non-hazardous landfill with SNRHW Cell’)

**Inert Landfill:** Based on a 3 year average for inert waste sent to landfill of 268,056t per annum and an overall capacity at inert landfill sites in 2022 of 3,708,684 cubic meters Suffolk maintains 13.8 years of inert landfill capacity.

**Non inert landfill:** Based on a 3 year average for non-inert waste sent to landfill of 338,792t per annum and an overall capacity at inert landfill sites in 2022 of 2,873,342 cubic meters Suffolk maintains 8.4 years of non-inert landfill capacity.

**Note:** The above is based on the calculation that one cubic metric ton of waste material is equal to one meter cubed of waste in situ when landfilled.

## 5 Waste Movements

Suffolk does not always achieve its goal of net self-sufficiency in the management of the waste arising within its area. This is demonstrated by the fact that there was a net flow of waste from Suffolk to other authority areas of **172,421 tonnes** in 2019 and a net flow **90,544 tonnes** in 2020, this spiked in 2021 with a net flow of **306,639 tonnes** dropping to **40,646 tonnes** in 2022

This includes non-hazardous and inert wastes. The net flow is calculated by taking the “Total waste managed origin outside Suffolk” in Figure 5.1, and subtracting the “Sent from Suffolk total” in Table 5.3

<b>All waste managed in Suffolk (tonnes)</b>				
<b>Origin WPA</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Suffolk	2,364,359	2,457,668	2,737,551	2,576,815
Norfolk	612,900	274,238	355,742	348,419
Essex	184,380	242,289	288,778	271,584
Other	408,623	223,225	209,304	225,190
Cambridgeshire	87,527	200,187	140,731	94,000
Peterborough	2,544	2,392	2,032	2,284
<b>Total waste managed origin outside Suffolk</b>	<b>899,974</b>	<b>942,333</b>	<b>996,593</b>	<b>941,477</b>
<b>Total waste managed in Suffolk</b>	<b>3,264,333</b>	<b>3,400,001</b>	<b>3,734,144</b>	<b>3,518,292</b>

Figure 5.1: Source: Waste Data Interrogator 2019 - 2022

<b>Waste sent to landfill in Suffolk (Tonnes)</b>				
<b>Origin WPA</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Suffolk	257,482	333,376	527,918	463,442
Essex	37,736	88,094	121,344	119,981
Norfolk	33,210	40,438	48,907	54,690
Other	169,004	5,902	4,190	9,923
Cambridgeshire	531	0	81	2,259
<b>Landfill total in Suffolk</b>	<b>497,963</b>	<b>361,619</b>	<b>702,440</b>	<b>650,296</b>

Figure 5.2: Source: Waste Data Interrogator 2019 - 2022

It is noted that for 2019 “other” includes “uncoded waste” originating from the East of England, which could include Suffolk.

The total amount of waste sent **from** Suffolk to other waste planning authority areas is relatively modest as shown in the table below:

<b>Waste sent to other authorities from Suffolk (tonnes)</b>				
<b>Facility WPA</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Norfolk	502,092	406,114	719,857	339,318
Other	168,883	384,864	335,276	386,742
Essex	82,845	135,386	115,988	127,838
Cambridgeshire	126,927	92,979	119,199	117,201
Peterborough	4,579	13,534	12,912	11,291
<b>Sent from Suffolk total</b>	<b>1,072,395</b>	<b>1,032,877</b>	<b>1,303,232</b>	<b>982,390</b>

Figure 5.3: Source: Waste Data Interrogator 2019 – 2022

## 5.1 Waste Water Treatment

Of the tonnages sent from Suffolk to Norfolk, a large proportion comprised sludge which was sent to facilities managed by Anglian Water, as highlighted in Table 5.4.

<b>Waste sent to Norfolk from Suffolk (tonnes), highlighting Anglian Water</b>					
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Operator</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Thetford Sludge Treatment Centre	Anglian Water Services Limited	264,131	117,968	103,620	116,159
Thetford Power Station - EPR/PP3235LP	EPR Thetford Limited	38,930	118,602	390,381	17,833
Whitlingham Sludge Treatment Centre	Anglian Water Services Ltd	35,212	30,689	32,345	38,553
Crossways Farm - EPR/FP3332MF/V006	M. GAZE & CO. LIMITED	25,413	16,557	5,950	1,501
King's Lynn Sludge Treatment Centre	Anglian Water Services Ltd	23,903	15,392	11,563	19,315

Figure 5.4: Source: Waste Data Interrogator 2019 - 2022

In 2019, 323,246 tonnes of sludges were sent to Whitlingham Sludge Treatment Centre, Thetford Sludge Treatment Centre, and King's Lynn Sludge Treatment Centre in Norfolk by Anglian Water. In 2020, 164,050 tonnes of sludges were sent to these facilities.

In 2020 the total nearly halved, and remained low for 2021 (153,468t) and 2022 (174,027t). While reducing this implies that there is still a shortage of waste water treatment capacity in Suffolk and ongoing discussions with the Anglian Water are still required to identify their needs to enable Suffolk to become more self-sufficient in managing this waste stream.

## 6 Performance of the Waste Policies and Conclusions

The outcome of the waste planning process in Suffolk has been to deliver broadly sufficient capacity of waste management facilities to manage the waste arising within the County. This includes a wide variety of treatment facilities to manage different types of materials, an energy from waste facility to manage residual waste from household, commercial and industrial sources, and sufficient landfill to dispose of the remainder.

Efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle waste will continue, particularly in the context of the implementation of the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy which was published in 2018 and the Waste management plan for England published in 2021.

This proposes more separate collection of food waste, and the separate collection of other easily recyclable materials and so consideration will need to be given to the delivery of bulking and transfer stations that may be associated with this.

Consideration may need to be given to the development of additional waste water treatment capacity, given the significant movements of sludges out of the Plan Area.

## 7 Appendix

Waste planning applications determined by Suffolk County council 2021 – 2022

Applications submitted:

Application submitted: 21/01/2021

Application number: SCC/0003/21MS/VOC

Description: - Variation of condition – Debtrac Center – Ipswich IP6 8DJ

Outcome: Application Approved 23/06/2021

Application submitted: 19/02/2021

Application number: SCC/0016/21MS

Description: - Full application – Bolton Brothers – Great Blakenham IP6 OSL

Outcome: Application Approved 23/06/2021

Application submitted: 17/03/2021

Application number: SCC/0024/21MS/VOC

Description: - Variation of condition – Masons Landfill – Suffolk IP66 OJX

Outcome: Application Approved 23/06/2021

Application submitted: 31/03/2021

Application number: SCC/0014/20SE/VOC

Description: - Variation of condition – Indigo Waste – Barnham IP24 2SY

Outcome: Application Approved 23/06/2021

Application submitted: 07/05/2021

Application number: SCC/0040/21SE/VOC

Description: - Full application – Haverhill Waste Transfer Station - Haverhill CB9 8QP

Outcome: Application Approved 23/06/2021

Application submitted: 02/02/2022

Application number: SCC/0003/22C

Description: - Full Application – erection of Kiosk (control equipment) – Southwold ip18 6BA

Outcome: Application Approved 13/04/2022

Application submitted: 06/05/2022

Application number: SCC/0044/22MS/CLEUD

Description: - Full Application CLEUD – replacement plant equipment – Ipswich IP6 OJB

Outcome: Application determined Permitted development – 29/06/2022

Application submitted: 16/08/2022

Application number: SCC/0083/22MS

Description: - Full application – Solar PV farm – Ipswich IP6 OJX

Outcome: Application Approved 26/03/2024

Application submitted: 05/09/2022  
Application number: SCC/0095/22B  
Description: - Full application – sewage pumping station – Belstead IP8 3LS  
Outcome: Application Approved 26/05/2023

Application submitted: 15/09/2022  
Application number: SCC/0094/22B  
Description: - Full application – Sewage pumping station – Belstead IP83LZ  
Outcome: Application Approved 26/05/2023

Application submitted: 07/11/2022  
Application number: SCC/0124/22W  
Description: - Full application – Anaerobic Digestion plant – Beccles – NR34 7TL  
Outcome: Application refused 25/04/2024

Application submitted: 25/11/2022  
Application number: SCC/0063/22W  
Description: - Full application – Energy recovery facility – Beccles NR34 7TQ  
Outcome: Application Approved 27/04/2023

Application submitted: 16/12/2022  
Application number: SCC/0144/22MS  
Description: - full application – boundary fencing / wall – Great Blakenham IP6 0JB  
Outcome: Application Approved 26/04/2023



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