

OAK RIDGES MORAINE CONSERVATION PLAN

Technical Paper Series

8 - Preparation of Natural Heritage Evaluations for All Key Natural Heritage Features

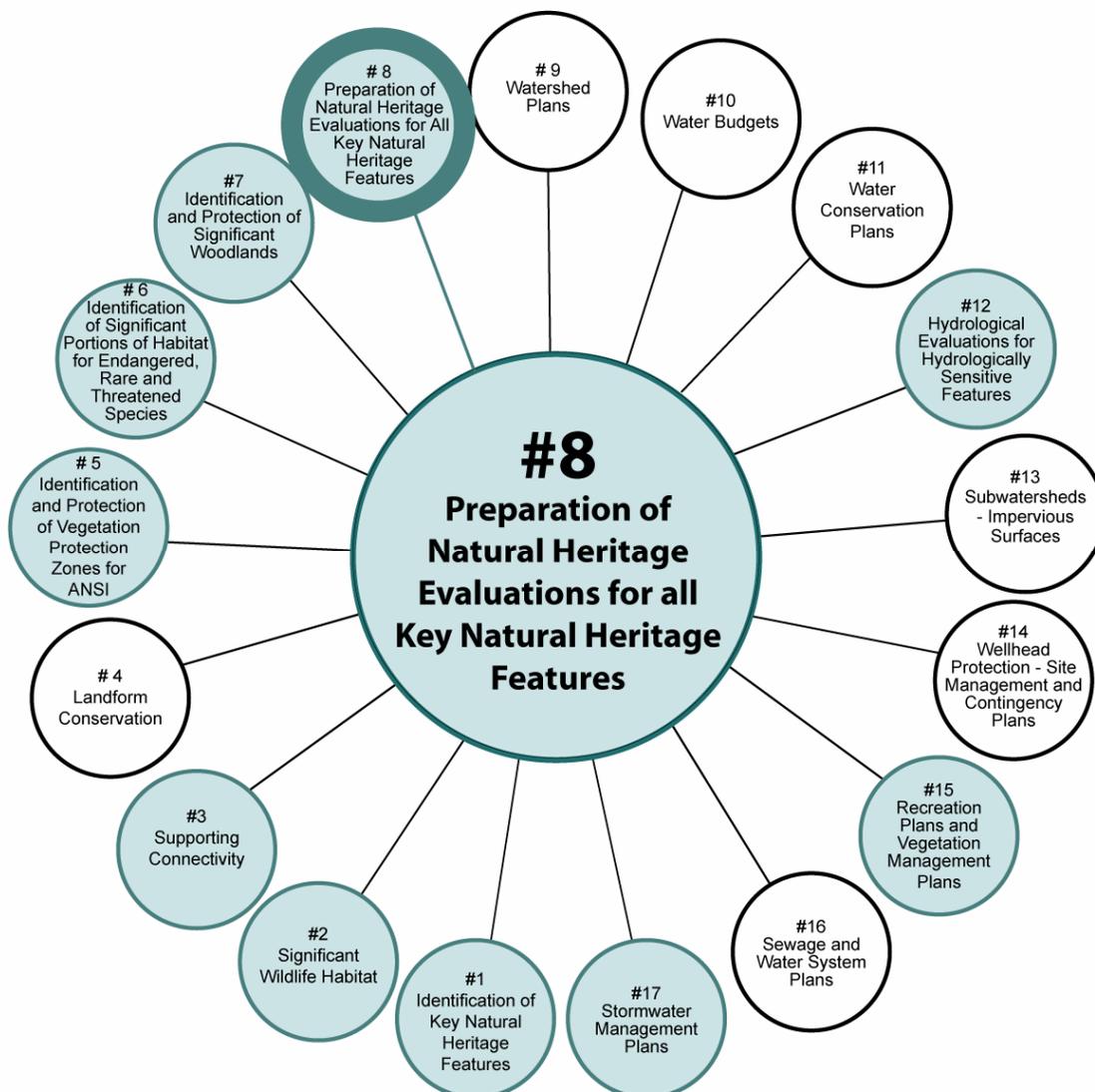
1 Purpose

To provide guidance for assessing the impact of development and site alteration on key natural heritage features (KNHF), and demonstrating how the requirements of Section 23 of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) can be met.

2 Related Considerations

It is suggested that the reader also review the associated topic areas as discussed in the ORMCP, shown highlighted in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1 ORMCP Topic Areas and Linkages with Technical Paper 8 - Preparation of Natural Heritage Evaluations for All Key Natural Heritage Features



3 Background

The ORMCP provides land-use and resource management planning direction on how to protect the ecological and hydrological features and functions on the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM).

Protecting and managing the health, diversity, size and connectivity of KNHFs is critical to the ecological and hydrological integrity of the ORM.

Section 22(1) of ORMCP identifies KNHFs as:

- 1) *Wetlands.*
- 2) *Significant portions of the habitat of endangered, rare and threatened species.*
- 3) *Fish habitat.*
- 4) *Areas of natural and scientific interest (life science).*
- 5) *Significant valleylands.*
- 6) *Significant woodlands.*
- 7) *Significant wildlife habitat.*
- 8) *Sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies.*

The table on Page 58 of the ORMCP identifies KNHFs, hydrologically sensitive features and areas of natural and scientific interest (Earth Science) including their associated minimum areas of influence and minimum vegetation protection zones. This table is provided in Appendix 1 of this technical paper.

Section 22(3) of ORMCP states that:

“An application for development or site alteration with respect to land within the minimum area of influence that relates to a key natural heritage feature, but outside the key natural heritage feature itself and the related minimum vegetation protection zone, shall be accompanied by a natural heritage evaluation under section 23.”

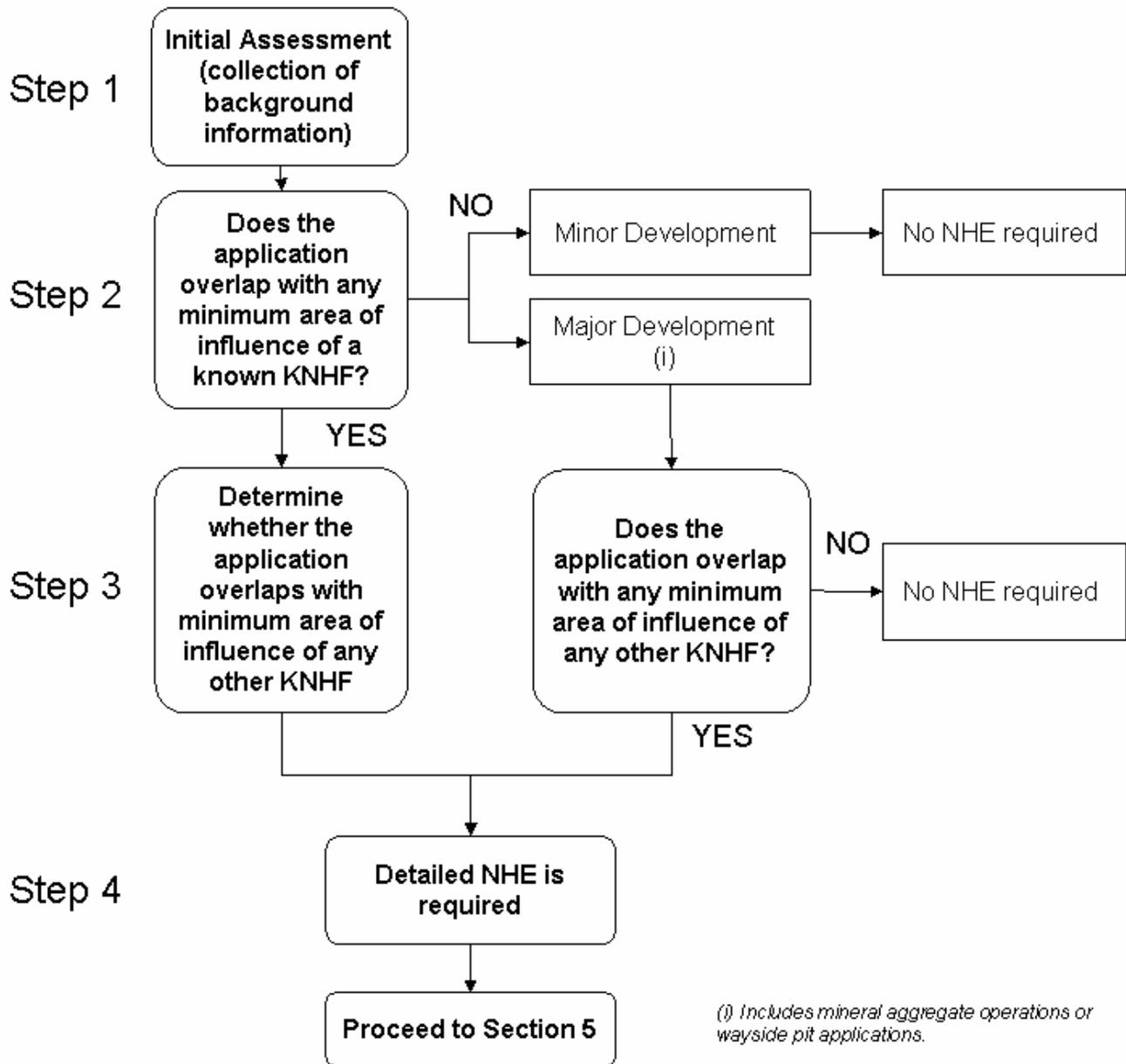
Section 23(1) of the ORMCP states that:

“A natural heritage evaluation shall,

- (a) demonstrate that the development or site alteration applied for will have no adverse effects on the key natural heritage feature or on the related ecological functions;
- (b) identify planning, design and construction practices that will maintain and, where possible, improve or restore the health, diversity and size of the key natural heritage feature and its connectivity with other key natural heritage features;
- (c) in the case of an application relating to land in a Natural Core Area, Natural Linkage Area or Countryside Area, demonstrate how connectivity within and between key natural heritage features will be maintained and, where possible, improved or restored before, during and after construction;
- (d) if the table to this part specifies the dimensions of a minimum vegetation protection zone, determine whether it is sufficient, and if it is not sufficient, specify the dimensions of the required minimum vegetation protection zone and provide for the maintenance and, where possible, improvement or restoration of natural self-sustaining vegetation within it;

- (e) if the table to this part does not specify the dimensions of a minimum vegetation protection zone, determine whether one is required, and if one is required, specify the dimensions of the required minimum vegetation protection zone and provide for the maintenance and, where possible, improvement or restoration of natural self-sustaining vegetation within it; and
- (f) in the case of a key natural heritage feature that is fish habitat, ensure compliance with the requirements of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada).”

Figure 2 Assessing the need for a Natural Heritage Evaluation



4 Assessing the need for a Natural Heritage Evaluation

This section provides a 4-step process for assessing the need for a natural heritage evaluation (NHE) as part of an application for development or site alteration (Figure 2 shows a flow chart of this process).

4.1 Step One - Initial Assessment Based on the Collection of Background Information

For all development and site alteration applications, it is recommended that the proponent provide the following information:

- an outline of the development or site alteration proposal;
- assessment of existing site conditions;
- assessment of relevant policy and legislative requirements as they pertain to the application;
- existing supporting background information for the study area. This information may be found in municipal studies, watershed plans, environmental assessment studies, environment impact studies, etc.;
- topographic mapping at minimum 1:5,000 scale with 2 metre contour intervals where available (or 1:10,000 scale with 5 metre contour intervals), on which are delineated the boundaries of the lands subject to the planning application, plus the adjacent lands within 120 metre of the application site;
- overlay mapping of land use designations with the above mapping; and
- overlay mapping of all known (i.e. previously mapped / identified) KNHFs including their associated minimum vegetation protection zones and areas of influence within 240 metres of the application site (for the purpose of connectivity – see ORMCP Technical Paper 3). MNR ORMCP Technical Paper 1 – Identification of KNHFs on the Oak Ridges Moraine, provides definitions and technical criteria for the identification of KNHFs.

4.2 Step Two - Determine Overlap with Minimum Area of Influence of any known Key Natural Heritage Feature

Based on the information collected in Step 1, determine whether the application for development or site alteration overlaps with the minimum area of influence of any known KNHF. Based on this review, determine which of the following scenarios apply:

(a) Minor Development* or Site Alteration Applications that do not overlap with minimum Area of Influence of any known Key Natural Heritage Feature

If the application for minor development or site alteration is located entirely outside of the minimum area of influence of any known KNHF, a NHE is not required. The approval authority can proceed without further regard to the requirements of Section (23) of the ORMCP.

- * *Minor development shall mean any development that is not defined in the ORMCP as major development or mineral aggregate operation or wayside pit.*

(b) Minor Development* or Site Alteration Applications that overlap with minimum area of influence of any known Key Natural Heritage Feature

If the application for minor development or site alteration overlaps with the minimum area of influence of one or more known KNHFs, then the proponent should proceed to Step Three for the preparation of an Ecological Land Classification (ELC) assessment of ecosites. ELC is used as a tool to assist in defining certain KNHF.

(c) Major Development, Mineral Aggregate Operations or Wayside Pit Applications

All applications for major development, mineral aggregate operations or wayside pits require an ELC assessment of ecosites, regardless of whether there is an overlap with the minimum area of influence of a known KNHF. The proponent should proceed to Step Three.

4.3 Step Three - Determine Overlap With Minimum Area of Influence of any other Key Natural Heritage Feature

Not all KNHFs have been mapped or identified using the criteria found in this series of technical guides. In southern Ontario, there is currently very little mapping of significant wildlife habitat, significant valleylands and the significant portions of the habitat of endangered, rare and threatened species. As more detailed assessment and data collection is carried out in support of watershed plans and individual development applications, additional features or occurrences may be mapped. These could include wetlands, woodlands, fish habitat and endangered, rare, and threatened species occurrences.

Step 3 involves an ELC assessment of ecosites and the identification of any other KNHFs, such as significant wildlife habitat, located on or adjacent to the application site.

The determination of the presence or absence of significant wildlife habitat as outlined in ORMCP Technical Paper 2 requires the identification and delineation of ELC ecosites within the lands subject to the application, and to the finest ELC level practical (e.g. community series) on the lands located within 120 metres of the subject lands.

In addition, the ELC assessment may assist with providing a determination of the significant portions of the habitat of endangered rare and threatened species, identification of wetlands and woodlands, and with the preparation of a detailed NHE.

Based on the results of the ELC assessment and the information contained in ORMCP Technical Paper 1, 2, 5, and 7, determine which of the following scenarios applies:

(a) Application overlaps with minimum area of influence of any other KNHF

If upon the completion of the ELC assessment and the determination of the presence or absence of any other KNHFs, there is no overlap between the subject property and the minimum area of influence of any other KNHFs, then no further evaluation per Section 23 (1) of the ORMCP is required.

(b) Application overlaps with minimum area of influence of known and/or any other KNHF

If it was determined in Step 2 that the application for development or site alteration overlaps with the minimum area of influence of a known KNHF, then the proponent is required to proceed to Step Four. If, upon the completion of the ELC assessment, it is determined that the application overlaps with minimum area of influence of any other KNHF, (e.g. significant wildlife habitat) then the proponent is also required to proceed to Step Four.

4.4 Step Four - Requirements for a Detailed Natural Heritage Evaluation

Based on the information collected in Steps 1- 3 and the nature of the development or site alteration application, the approval authority will determine which of the following scenarios are applicable:

(a) Development Applications with Predictable Impacts or Impacts that can be Mitigated

The approval authority may determine that a specific application will have predictable, low-level effects on the KNHF.

In these situations, the approval authority may determine that the KNHF can be protected through the identification of straightforward planning, design, and construction criteria, and therefore a detailed NHE is not required. The approval authority may, however, use its discretion to determine if further studies are required.

For example, specific plans, designs, and construction measures such as delineation of a building envelope and the identification of on-site erosion and sediment controls may be required.

In rare circumstances, where the area of development or site alteration is not located immediately adjacent to the KNHF or its associated minimum vegetation protection zone and the impacts can be easily mitigated, the approval authority may scope the requirements of a detailed NHE. Even in these situations however the approval authority should require the proponent to provide a full accounting of how these impacts will be mitigated.

Notwithstanding the above, the majority of development applications should be considered to have significant or unpredictable impacts that must be best addressed through the completion of a detailed NHE.

(b) Development Applications and Mineral Aggregates Operations and Wayside Pits Applications with the Potential for Significant or Unpredictable Impacts

The proponent will be required to undertake a detailed NHE, as described in section 5 of this Technical Paper, where the approval authority determines that additional information is required to:

- understand the nature, location, functions and sensitivity of a KNHF, or
- understand the nature and severity of the impacts of the proposed development or site alteration, or
- carry out a detailed review and description of potential mitigation measures to protect the KNHF.

5 Development of a Detailed Natural Heritage Evaluation

A NHE must meet all the criteria outlined in Section 23 of the ORMCP.

A NHE should include:

- current / existing attributes and site conditions;
- assessment of the need for additional site studies / investigations to confirm the nature or location of KNHFs located on the lands subject to the application, (or within 240 metres, for the purposes of connectivity) before the planning / site alteration application can be assessed;
- sufficient information to determine the potential impact of the proposed development or site alteration occurring on or within 120 metres of a KNHF;
- sufficient information to determine whether defined minimum vegetation protection zones for KNHFs and hydrologically sensitive features are adequate;
- the presence / identification of endangered, rare and threatened species, their habitat and VPZ (ORMCP Technical Paper 6);
- the need to maintain connectivity between KNHFs, Core and Linkage areas (ORMCP Technical Paper 3);
- sufficient information to establish a suitable minimum vegetation protection zone for an area of natural or scientific interest or significant wildlife habitat;
- sufficient information to determine the nature or adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures in ensuring no adverse effect on KNHFs; and
- sufficient information on proposed monitoring techniques.

The MNR's Natural Heritage Reference Manual provides additional detail on the preparation of NHEs.

Components of a Detailed Natural Heritage Evaluation for KNHFs

In the development of a detailed NHE for KNHFs, a proponent should include the following components in assessing the impacts of the proposal.

- Initial Assessment Evaluation
- Scoping
- Evaluation of the Application
 - Assessment potential impacts
 - Identification of mitigation techniques
 - Identification of monitoring needs

The approval authority will be responsible for determining whether the NHE meets the requirements of Section 23 of the ORMCP.

5.1 Initial Assessment Evaluation

An initial assessment evaluation should include:

- the identification of existing conditions including current land use;
- an outline of the development or site alteration proposal;
- assessment of relevant policy and legislative requirements as they pertain to the application; and
- supporting background information for the study area. This information may be found in municipal studies, watershed plans, Environmental Assessment studies, environment impact studies, etc.

5.2 Scoping

Scoping should include:

- identification of KNHFs and functions that maybe affected by development or site alteration;
- identification of ecological linkages, natural processes and study area boundaries;
- determination of timing and scope of studies required;
- determination of information needs and availability of information;
- determination of the nature and extent of additional information or studies that may be needed;
- determination of additional inventory work;
- application of the connectivity test as outlined in Section 20 of the ORMCP (ORMCP Technical Paper 3) that is a separate evaluation procedure which can be included herein when a NHE is required; and
- identification of occurrences or habitat of endangered, rare and threatened species (ORMCP Technical Paper 6).

The proponent should meet with the appropriate municipal planning authorities to confirm the scoping components that need to be included in the detailed NHE for each KNHF (Note: This may have already occurred during the gathering of background information).

Appendix 2 provides suggested scoping components for KNHFs and their related functions.

For scoping components specific to significant wildlife habitat, please refer to ORMCP Technical Paper 2 and contact the MNR for Significant Wildlife Habitat Decision Support System (DSS) information. Information in the DSS outlines the habitat needs of species or groups requiring similar wildlife habitat features. The DSS is intended to be used by planners as a guide to help understand the functions of the habitat, potential impacts, and strategies for mitigation.

5.3 Evaluation of the Application

(a) Assessment of Potential Impacts

The detailed evaluation should examine the potential effects/impacts of the proposed development and site alteration on the size, diversity, health, connectivity, functionality and resilience of the KNHF.

The impact assessment should examine potential adverse effects generated before, during, and after construction.

Although the assessments of impacts should be quantitative, there are some situations where this is not possible. Impacts may be direct and measurable (eg. removal of vegetation cover) or indirect (eg. increased use by people, impacts of light glare). All impacts should be duly assessed.

At a minimum, the following should be considered in an impact assessment:

- the spatial extent, magnitude, frequency and duration of the impacts;
- the extent and degree to which adjacent lands will be affected;
- whether the impacts are likely to result in cumulative impacts;
- potential impacts on specific features and their functions; and
- immediate and long-term impacts upon connectivity.

(Note: Data collected during the background information stage may assist with the detailed NHE.)

For development impacts specific to SWH, please refer to MNR ORMCP Technical Paper 2.

For all other KNHFs, please refer to MNR's Natural Heritage Reference Manual.

(b) Identification of Mitigation Techniques

A detailed NHE for a KNHF should identify mitigation techniques designed to maintain the health, form and function for which the KNHF was identified.

Mitigation involves implementing measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects on the KNHF. The implementation of mitigation measures is the responsibility of the proponent.

Mitigation techniques considered for implementation should be effective. Ideally, they should be low maintenance without any undue, long-term maintenance expense.

In accordance with the requirements of the ORMCP, mitigation techniques must ensure that:

- the KNHF and any related minimum vegetation protection zone is maintained or restored to a natural vegetative state except for uses permitted in Section 22(2) of the ORMCP.
- size, diversity, and health of the KNHF is maintained.
- connectivity is maintained (see ORMCP Technical Paper 3) .

For mitigation techniques specific to Significant Wildlife Habitat, please refer to ORMCP Technical Paper 2 and contact MNR for Significant Wildlife Habitat Decision Support System (DSS) information at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/pubs/wildlife/swhtg.html.

For all other KNHFs, please refer to MNR's Natural Heritage Reference Manual.

(c) Identification of Monitoring Needs

It is recommended that the approval authority identify monitoring needs to be considered as part of the approval authority's decision. There are two types of monitoring applicable to NHEs – compliance monitoring and effectiveness monitoring.

It is recommended that Monitoring Programs be established as a condition of approval. This provides planning authorities with an opportunity to review monitoring results before proceeding with subsequent phases of a development, in accordance with appropriate conditions of approval.

Planning authorities may undertake compliance monitoring to ensure that the proponent has implemented mitigation measures identified in the impact assessment and that the measures are performing as predicted. Monitoring may be undertaken before, during and after construction or site alteration.

The purpose of effectiveness monitoring is to determine the adequacy of the mitigation measures identified in the impact assessment, relative to avoiding adverse effects. Such monitoring may be appropriate where:

- there is uncertainty as to the effectiveness of established mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects; and
- new and untested mitigation measures are used.

5.4 Review of Natural Heritage Evaluation by Approval Authority

The applicant will submit the NHE (as a portion of a complete application) to the approval authority for review and approval.

The approval authority reviews the evaluation to determine if it is acceptable. In terms of this review, the approval authority may request that further information is provided or alternative mitigation and monitoring measures be considered. Other agencies may be consulted regarding technical aspects or the approval authority may have the NHE peer reviewed. The MNR may be consulted to address questions of a general technical nature or to confirm any changes or adjustments to the status or boundaries of areas of natural and scientific interest, wetlands (evaluated under the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System), or significant portions of the habitat of endangered, rare and threatened species. Public input to the document may also be integrated into the process.

5.5 Final Decision

In making its decision, the approval authority will consider the results of the review along with other planning related matters. The approval authority's decision can be contingent upon the revision of the development proposal and/or the attachment of conditions. For example, approval may be contingent upon the implementation of specific mitigation and/or monitoring measures. Alternatively, approval may be granted only after more extensive revisions to the planning application.

Ultimately, it will be the responsibility of the approval authority to ensure that the proposal and its related conditions meet the requirements of the ORMCP and are reasonable and possible to implement.

Several types of decisions may be made:

- approval of the development application in accordance with Section 23(1) ORMCP;
- revisions to the proposed development to avoid impacts that the approval authority deems contrary to the ORMCP;
- identification and attachment of conditions of approval to address agreed upon issues in more detail or to address new issues raised during the assessment process; or
- no approval, in situations where the tests of the ORMCP cannot be met.

Questions an approval authority should consider in reviewing a NHE for KNHF on the ORM.

1. Will the development result in adverse effects on a KNHF?
2. Will the development result in adverse effects on the ecological functions of a KNHF?
3. Has the NHE identified planning, design and construction practices that will maintain and, where possible, improve or restore the health, diversity and size of the KNHF and its connectivity with other KNHFs?
4. Does the NHE, in the case of an application relating to land in a Natural Core Area, Natural Linkage Area or Countryside Area, demonstrate how connectivity within and between KNHFs will be maintained and, where possible, improved or restored before, during and after construction?

5. Has the NHE determined that the dimensions of a minimum vegetation protection zone are sufficient, and if not sufficient, has it specified the dimensions of the required minimum vegetation protection zone and provided for the maintenance and, where possible, improvement or restoration of natural self-sustaining vegetation within it?
6. Has the NHE addressed the requirement to: determine dimensions of a minimum vegetation protection zone where none are provided within the table on Page 58 of the ORMCP; determine whether one is required, and if one is required, specify the dimensions of the required minimum vegetation protection zone and provide for the maintenance and, where possible, improvement or restoration of natural self-sustaining vegetation within it?

6 References

MMAH. 2002.

Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Toronto, Ont. 59 pp.

Lee, H., Bakowsky, J. Riley, J. Bowles, M. Puddister, P. Uhlig and S. McMurray, 1998. Ecological Land Classification for Southern Ontario: First Approximation and its Application. MNR, Southcentral Science Section, Science Development and Transfer Branch. SCSS Field Guide FG-02.

MNR 2002.

Significant Wildlife Habitat Decision Support System (Draft Version).

Appendix 1

Key Natural Heritage Features, Hydrologically Sensitive Features and Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest: Minimum Areas of Influence and Minimum Vegetation Protection Zones.

Item	Feature	Minimum Area of Influence ORMCP	Minimum Vegetation Protection Zone ORMCP [21, 23, 26 (4), 30 (12)]
1.	Wetlands	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	All lands within 30 metres of any part of feature, subject to clause 23 (d) if a NHE is required
2.	Significant portions of the habitat of endangered, rare and threatened species	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	As determined by a NHE carried out under Section 23
3.	Fish habitat	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	All lands within 30 metres of any part of feature, subject to clause 23 (1) (d) if a NHE is required
4.	Areas of natural and scientific interest (life science)	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	As determined by a NHE carried out under Section 23
5.	Areas of natural and scientific interest (earth science)	All lands within 50 metres of any part of feature	As determined by an earth science heritage evaluation carried out under Section 30 (12)
6.	Significant valleylands	All lands within 120 metres of stable top of bank	All lands within 30 metres of stable top of bank, subject to clause 23 (1) (d) if a NHE is required
7.	Significant woodlands	All lands within 120 metres any part of feature	All lands within 30 metres of the base of outermost tree trunks within the woodland, subject to clause 23 (1) (d) if a NHE is required
8.	Significant wildlife habitat	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	As determined by a NHE carried out under Section 23
9.	Sand barrens, savannahs and tallgrass prairies	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	All lands within 30 metres of any part of feature, subject to clause 23 (1) (d) if a NHE is required
10.	Kettle lakes	All lands within 120 metres of the surface catchment area	All lands within the surface catchment area or within 30 metres of any part of feature whichever is greater, subject to clause 26 (4) (c) if a hydrological evaluation is required
11.	Permanent and intermittent streams	All lands within 120 metres of meander belt	All lands within 30 metres of meander belt, subject to clause 26 (4) (c) and sub-section 26 (5) if a hydrological evaluation is required
12.	Seepage areas and springs	All lands within 120 metres of any part of feature	All lands within 30 metres of any part of feature, subject to clause 26 (4) (c) and subsection 26 (5) if a hydrological evaluation is required

Appendix 2

Suggested Scoping Components for Specific KNHFs and their Related Functions

Feature	Scoping Components
For all KNHFs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and more detailed mapping of boundaries and Minimum Vegetation Protection Zones (with the exception of ANSIs and Endangered, Rare and Threatened species) • More detailed investigation and mapping of features for which the KNHF has been identified • More detailed investigation of functions for which the KNHF has been identified • More detailed investigation and mapping of ecological linkages, both form and function, including studies relating to their potential disruption • Studies of disruption to movement patterns (where applicable), key life cycle patterns, adjacency effects and how these may effect features for which the area has been identified • An inventory of flora and fauna species conducted to identify occurrences of endangered, rare and threatened species • Determination of the nature and extent of additional information or studies that may be needed
Wetlands	<p>Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water cover, or proximity to the water table; hydric soils and hydrophytic or water tolerant vegetation communities; other features identified by MNR or any other person using procedures established by MNR <p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • primary production; watershed protection; preservation of bio-diversity; maintenance of three dimensional vegetation systems; maintenance of conditions essential for symbiosis; natural cycles (carbon, nitrogen, water); provision of species to support food chains; wildlife habitat; fish habitat
Fish Habitat	<p>Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all lands and waters within the meander belt of a permanent or intermittent stream, and kettle lakes <p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes
ANSI's (Life Science)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation protocols for individual ANSIs must be obtained from the MNR, including components requiring scoping (i.e. those features and functions for which the ANSI has been identified by MNR)
Significant Woodlands	<p>Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the woodland size and boundary (irrespective of ownership); shape and potential for forest interior habitat; linkages/connectivity to other KNHFs; proximity to other habitat types, interior vs. edge habitat, diversity including community types, soil types, species composition (e.g. overstory, understory, health/vigour), uncommon characteristics with respect to composition (e.g. uncommon species and uncommon ages), vegetation type, quality or condition, age/size classes, structures as represented by diameter classes as well as presence of older portions (>100yrs.) <p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of landscape cover, species composition and age/structure distribution, presence of sensitive forest species (e.g. species that tend to diminish with development), contribution to local and regional water quantity and quality, site productivity, amount of existing and potential riparian cover, percent forest cover in the municipality, potential for nutrient cycling and food web, amount and type of existing and potential wildlife habitat, local and regional social values and long term economic value and contribution (e.g. recreational values and use, aesthetic values of note, sound buffering, maple syrup production, past forest management, value to local forest industry, presence of active forest research plots)

Feature	Scoping Components
Sand Barrens, Tallgrass Prairies and Savannahs	<p>Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plant communities including percent tree vs. herbaceous cover, plant species listings, soil types and depths, moisture regime, nitrogen levels, faunal species <p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presence of sensitive wildlife species, nutrient cycling / food webs, potential impact of drainage to and from the feature, bio-mass production, wildlife habitat
Significant Valleylands	<p>Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> top of bank to top of bank, or other boundary limits such as area of land within the floodplain; land within the meander belt or land within the highest general level of seasonal inundation; conveyance of and provision for short-term storage of storm and melt waters; springs; seepage areas; fish and wildlife habitat; slopes; natural vegetation to top of bank <p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> flow and groundwater recharge and/or discharge; floodplain inundation; meandering of a watercourse; use as a wildlife corridor
Significant Wildlife Habitat	<p>Boundary Determination (see Technical Paper No. 2 as well as information in the Appendices)</p> <p>Features / Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More detailed investigation of the location and numbers of species that occupy a Confirmed significant wildlife habitat Where the study requires confirmation of the presence or absence of certain species, breeding activity, seasonal concentration, the proponent should confirm the timing, frequency and nature of the field work The eco-regional criteria and schedules that are contained in the Technical Paper No. 2 will provide additional guidance with respect to identifying and developing more specific studies for Confirmed significant wildlife habitat
Habitat of Rare, Threatened, Endangered Species	<p>Features / Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined by the specific requirements of the species being examined.