



Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: 'Part 1'

Habitats Regulations Assessment including Appropriate Assessment

February 2023





About us

Place Services is a leading public sector provider of integrated environmental assessment, planning, design and management services. Our combination of specialist skills and experience means that we are uniquely qualified to help public organisations meet the requirements of the planning process, create practical design solutions and deliver environmental stewardship.

Our Natural Environment Team has expertise of arboriculture, biodiversity, countryside management and ecology. This multidisciplinary approach brings together a wide range of experience, whether it is for large complex briefs or small discrete projects. We aim to help our clients protect and improve the natural environment through their planning, regulatory or land management activities. This approach ensures that not only that our clients will fulfil their legal duties towards the natural environment, but they do so in a way that brings positive benefits to wildlife and people.

Address: County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH

Contact no: 0333 013 6840

Email: placeservicesecology@essex.gov.uk

Website: www.placeservices.gov.uk

VAT number: GB 104 2528 13



Report Checking and Version Control

Prepared by:

Hamish Jackson | Senior Ecological Consultant | hamish.jackson@essex.gov.uk

Sue Hooton | Principal Ecological Consultant | sue.hooton@essex.gov.uk

Report version control:

| Version | Date | Author | Description of changes |
|---------|------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1.1 | 18/10/2022 | Hamish Jackson | Drafted |
| 1.2 | 18/10/2022 | Sue Hooton | Reviewed |
| 1.3 | 20/10/2022 | Sue Hooton | Issued |
| 1.4 | 10/01/2023 | Hamish Jackson | Rev. 1 |
| 1.5 | 13/01/2023 | Hamish Jackson | Rev. 2 |
| 1.6 | 24/02/2023 | Hamish Jackson | Rev. 3 |

Copyright:

This report may contain material that is non-Place Services copyright. (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Historic England), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Place Services is able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences or permissions, but for which copyright itself is not transferable by Place Services. Users of this report remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

Disclaimer:

The material contained in this report was designed as an integral part of a report to an individual client and was prepared solely for the benefit of that client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by a third party. To the fullest extent permitted by law Place Services will not be liable by reason of breach of contract, negligence, or otherwise for any loss or damage (whether direct, indirect or consequential) occasioned to any person acting or omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the material contained in the report. Loss or damage as referred to above shall be deemed to include, but is not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated loss of profits damage to reputation or goodwill, loss of business, or anticipated loss of business, damages, costs, expense incurred or payable to any third party (in all cases whether direct, indirect or consequential) or any other direct, indirect or consequential loss or damage



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Summary | 8 |
| 1. Introduction | 10 |
| 1.1 The Purpose of This Report | 10 |
| 1.2 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan | 12 |
| 1.2 Main Modifications | 13 |
| 1.3 Habitats (European) Sites | 14 |
| 2. Method and Approach | 16 |
| 2.1 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects | 20 |
| 2.2 Identifying Habitats sites, their Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features | 21 |
| 2.3 Screening and Impact Pathways | 24 |
| Loss of Functionally Linked Land (Land outside the SPA and Ramsar Site) | 25 |
| Water Quality | 26 |
| Water Quantity | 27 |
| Air Quality | 28 |
| Disturbance | 33 |
| 2.4 Screening categorisation | 35 |
| 2.5 Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test | 36 |
| 3. Screening of Likely Significant Effects | 38 |
| 3.1 Screening Policies for Likely Significant Effect | 38 |
| 3.2 Policies carried forward to Appropriate Assessment Stage | 39 |
| 3.3 Habitat Sites Screened in for Appropriate Assessment | 40 |
| 3.4 HRA Screening Conclusion and Considering the Next Stage | 42 |
| 4. Appropriate Assessment and Considering Adverse Effects on Integrity of Habitats Sites | 43 |
| 4.1 Introduction and Outline Methodology | 43 |
| Policies / Allocations and Habitats Sites within Scope | 45 |
| 4.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report | 45 |
| CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17 | 45 |
| CJEU Holohan C- 461/17 | 46 |
| CJEU Joined Cases C-293/17 and C-294/17 Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment and Vereniging Leefmilieu | 47 |
| (R (on the Application of Preston) v Cumbria County Council [2019] EWCA 1362) | 48 |
| 4.3 Applying the Integrity Test | 49 |



| | |
|--|-----------|
| 4.4 In Combination Effects with other Plans and Projects | 49 |
| 4.5 Embedding Mitigation into the Local Plan | 50 |
| 4.6 Re-applying the Integrity Test | 50 |
| 4.7 Monitoring | 50 |
| 4.8 Consulting Natural England | 50 |
| 4.9 Water Quality | 51 |
| Policies / Allocations and Habitats Sites within Scope | 51 |
| Use of Mitigation Measures | 51 |
| Applying the Integrity Test | 52 |
| 4.10 Disturbance | 52 |
| Policies/Allocations and Habitats sites within scope | 52 |
| Use of Mitigation Measures | 53 |
| Applying the Integrity Test | 54 |
| 4.11 Recreational Disturbance | 54 |
| Policies/Allocations and Habitats sites within scope | 55 |
| Use of Mitigation Measures | 56 |
| Applying the Integrity Test | 57 |
| 4.12 Assessment of Impacts in Combination with Other Plans and Projects | 57 |
| 4.13 Re-applying the integrity test | 67 |
| 5. Conclusion | 69 |
| 6. References | 70 |
| 7. Appendix | 73 |



List of Tables

| | |
|--|----|
| Table 1. Description and Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites | 14 |
| Table 2. Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Process | 18 |
| Table 3. Habitats sites within 20 km for Babergh and Mid Suffolk | 21 |
| Table 4: Main sources and effects of air pollutants on Habitat Sites | 29 |
| Table 5. Zones of Influence for Recreational Disturbance | 35 |
| Table 6. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Categorisation | 35 |
| Table 7. Policies that have the Potential to Cause a Likely Significant Effect and their Impact Pathways | 39 |
| Table 8. Habitats sites, Impact Pathways and Examples of LSE Identified at Screening Stage | 40 |
| Table 9. Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects | 57 |

List of Figures

| | |
|--|----|
| Figure 1. Outline of the Four Stage Approach to the Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations | 17 |
|--|----|

List of Appendices

| | |
|--|-----|
| Appendix 1. Review of the Main Modifications of the Part 1 Plan | 73 |
| Appendix 2. HRA Screening of Individual Policies | 91 |
| Appendix 3. Results of embedding mitigation within the Appropriate Assessment | 105 |
| Appendix 4. Comparison of Habitats Regulations Assessments mitigation proposals | 106 |
| Appendix 5. Characteristics of Habitats sites | 127 |
| Appendix 6. Habitats sites within 20km of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts Boundaries | 150 |



Glossary of Acronyms

| | |
|------|--|
| AA | Appropriate Assessment |
| AEOI | Avoid Adverse Effect On site Integrity |
| BDC | Babergh District Council |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| DC | District Council |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EC | European Commission |
| EU | European Union |
| Ha | Hectare |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Assessment |
| IRZ | Impact Risk Zones (for SSSIs) |
| JLP | Joint Local Plan |
| Km | Kilometre |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority |
| MSDC | Mid Suffolk District Council |
| NE | Natural England |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| PRoW | Public Right of Way |
| RAMS | Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy |
| RIS | Ramsar Information Sheet |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SSSI | Site of Specific Scientific Interest |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| WRC | Water Recycling Centres |
| ZOI | Zone of Influence |



Summary

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been prepared by Place Services for the Joint Local Plan 'Part 1' to enable Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils to comply with Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

As the policies contained in the Local Plan cannot rule out Likely Significant Effects on Habitats (European) Sites identified at Stage 1 HRA Screening, there is a need for further assessment of impacts and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is therefore necessary.

This report includes the first stage of the HRA process: it aims to consider the elements of the Local Plan which need to be screened in as having the potential for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) and hence requiring further assessment of their potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of one or more Habitats (European) Sites.

There are a wide range of potential impacts upon Habitats sites which could arise as a result of components of the Local Plan; the following have been considered most likely to cause a Likely Significant Effect:

- Habitat loss and fragmentation / land take by development;
- Loss of functionally linked land (land outside the SPA and Ramsar site);
- Increase of any type of disturbance;
- Changes in water availability, or water quality;
- Changes in atmospheric pollution levels.

The following Habitats sites have been scoped in as it has been identified that they may be affected by impacts resulting from the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan 'Part 1'.

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site
- Deben Estuary SPA
- Deben Estuary Ramsar site
- Minsmere – Walberswick SPA
- Minsmere – Walberswick Ramsar site
- Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC
- Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site
- Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC

The Screening of Likely Significant Effects stage of the Plan has been included in Chapter 3 of this report, with the complete list of policies screened in for further assessment set out within



'Appendix 2. HRA Screening Policies'. This includes four policies proceeding to Appropriate Assessment stage.

The Appropriate Assessment stage of the Plan as set out in Chapter 4 of this report. This includes that mitigation has been adequately embedded into the Part 1 Plan. Therefore, an Adverse Effect on site Integrity upon the above Habitats sites has been ruled out and no further recommendations have been proposed (see Appendix 3 and Appendix 4). However, further considerations will be required as part of the preparation of the 'Part 2' Plan.



1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of This Report

- 1.1.1 This report is to provide a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Part 1 (strategic and non-strategic policies) in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This includes considerations of the main modifications, which have been completed following the Pre-Submission stage.
- 1.1.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) require the Competent Authority (in this instance Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils) to undertake a HRA before making a decision about permission for any plan or project that may result in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Habitats site¹ as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2021).
- 1.1.3 In line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C- 323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a HRA Screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats (Natura 2000) Site. As the policies relate to land within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) for a number of Habitats sites, it is not possible to rule out Likely Significant Effects, without mitigation in place.
- 1.1.4 The Court judgement (CJEU Holohan C- 461/17) imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage:
2. [...] an 'Appropriate Assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.
 3. [...] the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted

¹ Habitats site: Any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the purpose of those regulations and those listed in paragraph 181 of the NPPF (2021). This includes potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on Habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.



establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

4. [...] where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'Appropriate Assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

1.1.5 This report therefore provides an updated (plan level) Stage 1 HRA Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

1.1.6 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) are commonly known as the 'Habitats Regulations'. Requirements are set out within Regulations 63 and 64 of the Habitats Regulations, where a series of steps and tests are followed for plans or projects that could potentially affect Habitats sites. The steps and tests set out within Regulations 63 and 64 are commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' process. The Government has produced core guidance for competent authorities and developers to assist with the HRA process. This can be found on the Defra website².

1.1.7 It demonstrates how the Plan or Project is compatible with UK obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA and forms a plan level HRA as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

1.1.8 At HRA stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, plans and projects should only be permitted when it has been proven beyond scientific doubt that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats sites. The legal process can allow projects that may result in negative impacts on the integrity of a site if the competent authority is satisfied that, there are no alternative solutions, the plan or project must be carried out for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) (Regulation 64). However, this will require suitable compensation to ensure that the overall coherence of the series of such sites is retained.

1.1.9 The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authorities' - in this case Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils - and Place Services has been commissioned to complete this on behalf of the Councils. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body.

1.1.10 This HRA report aims to:

² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/habitats-review/implementation/process-guidance/guidance/sites/>



- Consider the elements of the Plan screened in as having potential for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) for further assessment of their potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the Habitats sites at stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.
- Assess the potential for effects from the Plan alone
- Assess the potential for in combination effects from other projects and plans in the area.
- Identify if there are any outstanding issues that need further investigation.

1.1.11 It is not considered that there are any serious limitations to this HRA.

1.2 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan

1.2.1 The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP) will provide the strategy for the growth of Babergh and Mid Suffolk. It sets out the strategy for development up to 2037. Following Examination, the JLP has been split into two parts 'Part 1' and 'Part 2'.

1.2.2 The JLP as proposed to be modified (now referred to as the Part 1 Plan) comprises a vision and a set of eight objectives covered by four priority areas: housing; economy; environment; and healthy communities and infrastructure. There are 10 strategic policies and 32 non-strategic development management policies. Most of these policies were included in the submitted JLP but have been revised and reworded to varying degrees. There are three new policies proposed for inclusion, one of which is strategic and the other two which are non-strategic:

- *Policy SP04 – Provision for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople³*
- *Policy LP05 – Rural Worker Dwellings*
- *Policy LP14 – Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming.*

1.2.3 The following policies contained within the submitted JLP are proposed to be deleted:

- *Policy SP04 – Housing Spatial Distribution*
- *Policy LP05 – Replacement Dwellings and Additional Dwellings on Sub Divided Plots Within Settlement Boundaries*
- *Policy LP06 – Mix and Type of Composition*
- *Policy LP10 – Moorings, Marinas and Houseboats*
- *Policy LP30 – Designated Open Spaces*
- *Policy LS01 – Hinterland and Hamlet Sites.*

³ The content of this policy has partly been carried through from the original version of Policy LP09 – Provision for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople contained within the submitted JLP, but which is proposed to be removed.



1.2.4 The Part 1 JLP will then be followed by the Part 2 JLP, which is likely to include the following matters below and will be supported by a further Habitats Regulations Assessment:

- Settlement hierarchy;
- A spatial distribution for any housing allocations insofar as are necessary to provide flexibility to ensure plan period housing requirements can be met;
- Consequent housing requirement figures for Neighbourhood Plan areas;
- Settlement boundaries;
- Open space designations;
- An assessment of Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople needs, and if necessary, allocations to provide for these needs;
- An assessment of Houseboat Dwellers needs, and a relevant development management policy for houseboat dwellers, moorings and marinas; and
- Other matters which are considered necessary by the Councils, dependent upon the monitoring of the Part 1 Plan and the circumstances at the time.

1.2.5 It is highlighted that Babergh and Mid Suffolk are predominantly rural districts covering the geographical centre of Suffolk, running from the boundary with Essex in the south to the boundary with Norfolk in the north. This covers a total area of approximately 565 square miles.

1.2.6 Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils work collectively to deliver shared priorities as set out in the Joint Corporate Plan (2019 – 2027). The main priority areas are the economy, environment, housing, wellbeing, communities and customers. The Plan provides the mechanism to enable the delivery of the spatial elements of vision and priorities.

1.2.7 The population of Babergh District is 87,740; Mid Suffolk population is 96,731 (Census, 2011). Across Babergh and Mid Suffolk more than half the population live in villages and rural areas. In combination both districts have six main centres; which include Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket in Mid Suffolk; Pinewood, Hadleigh and Sudbury in Babergh. The historic market towns are surrounded by a rural hinterland comprising 198 rural parishes.

1.2 Main Modifications

1.2.8 This assessment has reviewed the main modifications which have been undertaken as a result of the 'Part 1' Plan. A summary of this assessment has been included within Appendix 1, which outlines where further consideration is required within the updated Habitats Regulations Assessment. The assessment determined that only three Main Modifications contained additional proposals which will require further consideration within the Habitats Regulations Assessment. This includes MM19., MM20. which relate to promoting growth in the employment areas of Sproughton and Brantham, as part of an



amended strategic policy (SP05 – Employment Land). It also includes MM33., which includes the provision of a new policy for rural working dwellings (LP05 – Rural Workers Dwellings). As a result, these modifications will be considered within this Habitats Regulations Assessment.

- 1.2.9 An assessment of the additional modifications and policy maps has also been carried out as part of this assessment. However, no further considerations were considered necessary as part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.3 Habitats (European) Sites

- 1.3.1 Habitats sites is the term used in the NPPF (2021) to describe the UK network of sites of European designated nature protection areas. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. The sites were designated under the European Union (EU) Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) and the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).
- 1.3.2 The Birds Directive requires the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Habitats Directive similarly requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species, and for Habitats. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) are also part of the Habitats (sites) network. This is because all SPAs and SACs are comprised of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all Ramsar sites in England are SSSIs. Together, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites make up the Habitats sites in England. The following offers a description and explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.
- 1.3.3 The following table (Table 1) offers a description and explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.

Table 1. Description and Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within EU countries. Example: Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border and include extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches *Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).*



Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas designated to protect habitat types that are in danger of disappearance, have a small natural range, or are highly characteristic of the region; and to protect species that are endangered, vulnerable, rare, or endemic. Example: Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC has calcareous fens, Purple moor-grass meadows and Desmoulin`s Whorl Snail *Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)*.

Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance)

Ramsar Sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl Habitats. For example, Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh and which supports 7 species of nationally scare plants. Ramsar sites often overlap with SACs and SPAs and UK planning policy determines that they should be accorded the same importance when developments are proposed. *Legislation: Ramsar Convention (1971) – Wetlands of International Importance*.



2. Method and Approach

- 2.1.1 HRAs are a statutory requirement and should be undertaken by the competent authority to ensure that it plans and projects comply with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 2.1.2 HRA is the process by which the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) are implemented and ensures that plans or projects will not adversely affect Habitats sites.
- 2.1.3 The legal process does not require a fixed method, but case law has shaped the way it should be undertaken. The HRA is a sequential process and it is generally divided into four stages, which are set out below in Table 2.
- 2.1.4 Each of the stages contains a number of sequential steps, comprising the tests or procedures required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This report addresses Regulation 63 which covers the first stage, *i.e.* HRA Screening and stage 2, Appropriate Assessment.
- 2.1.5 Figure 1 below shows the recommended approach taken in the DTA Publications Handbook⁴. This has been used in the approach of this HRA, as shown in Table 2.

⁴ The DTA Publications Handbook can be found at www.dtapublications.co.uk. Place Services has a subscription to use this information.



Figure 1. Outline of the Four Stage Approach to the Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations

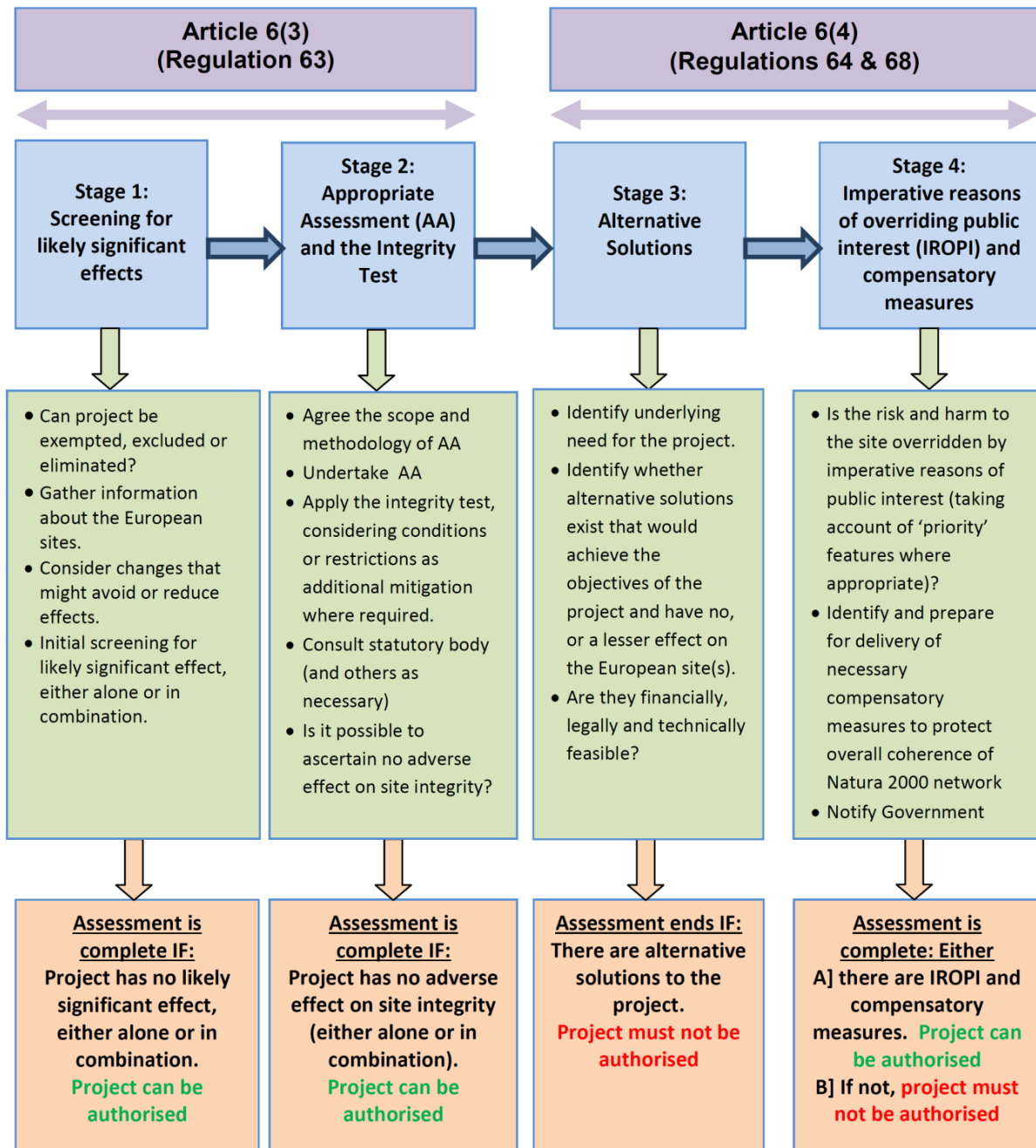




Table 2. Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

| Stage | Tasks | Outcome |
|---|--|--|
| Stage 1 HRA Screening (Regulation 63) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the policies and allocations. Identify potential effects to a Habitats site from the Local Plan. Assess if any significant effects on a Habitats site from the Plan, either alone or in combination, with other plans or projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where significant effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect' report and Local Plan can be adopted. Where significant effects are judged likely, either alone or in combination or there is a lack of information to prove otherwise, go to Stage 2. <p><i>People over Wind CJEU ruling (April 2018) means that it is not possible to consider mitigation measures when screening for impacts.</i></p> |
| Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (Regulation 63) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List policies and allocations within scope. List Habitats sites within scope. Set out methodology of the AA and agree with Natural England. Assess the implication of the policies and allocations against the designated features and species not listed but which could be using the habitat features. Apply the integrity test. Where there may be adverse effects on the ecological integrity of Habitats sites, in view of the Site's conservation objectives, consider mitigation measures. Ensure mitigation is embedded into the Local Plan. Assess in combination effects with other plans and projects. Apply the integrity test. Where there may be adverse effects on the ecological integrity of Habitats sites, in view of the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If no AEOL either alone or in combination, the Local Plan can be adopted. If it is not possible to ascertain no AEOL, go to Stage 3. <p><i>Holohan CJEU ruling (November 2018) imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage.</i></p> |



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Stage 3 Assessment of alternative solutions (Regulation 64)</p> | <p>Site's conservation objectives, consider mitigation measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult Natural England. • Identify whether alternative solutions exist that would achieve the objectives of the Local Plan and have no or a lesser effect on the integrity of a Habitats site(s). • If effects remain after alternative solutions been considered, consider whether the policies and/or projects should proceed with modification or the policies (and projects) be removed from the Local Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are alternative solutions to the Local Plan, it cannot be adopted without modification. • If no financially, legally or technically viable alternatives exist, go to Stage 4. |
| <p>Stage 4 IROPI (Regulation 64)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider if the risk and harm to the Habitats site is over-ridden by Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest. • Identify and prepare delivery of compensatory measures to protect the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network and notify Government. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are IROPI and compensatory measures, the Local Plan can be adopted • If there are no IROPI and the Local Plan cannot be adopted. |

2.1.6 Plans should not contain proposals that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage, as this would be regarded as 'faulty planning'.

2.1.7 'Significant effects' has been defined through case law. A significant effect is any effect that would undermine the conservation objectives for the qualifying features of Habitats sites potentially affected, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. There must be a causal connection or link between the Local Plan and the qualifying features of the site (s) which could result in possible significant effects on the site (s). Effects may be direct or indirect and a judgement must be taken on a case-by-case basis. The decision as to whether or not a potential impact is significant depends on factors such as: magnitude of impact, type, extent, duration, intensity, timing, probability, cumulative effects and the vulnerability of the habitats and species concerned. So, what may be significant in relation to one site may not be in relation to another.

2.1.8 An effect which is not significant can be described as 'insignificant', 'de minimis' or 'trivial'- i.e. it would not undermine the conservation objectives.



- 2.1.9 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle has been used in the assessment. A conclusion of 'no significant effect' was only reached where it was considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a proposal in the Local Plan would have a significant effect on the integrity of a Habitats site.
- 2.1.10 Key advice guidance and information has also come from the following sources:
- DTA Publications Handbook: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/>
 - Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)
 - HRAs of neighbouring authorities Local Plans
 - Extensive experience of producing other HRAs
 - Government information regarding Habitats sites and their 'zones of influence', e.g. www.magic.gov.uk

2.1 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

- 2.1.11 The screening stage identifies whether the Local Plan may result in a Likely Significant Effect to any Habitat Site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The screening process should identify all aspects of the Local Plan that are:
- Exempt from assessment
 - Excluded from assessment
 - Eliminated from further assessment
 - Have no Likely Significant Effects, alone or in combination with other plans or projects and therefore be screened out
 - Screened in as it is not possible to rule out Likely Significant Effects. In line with the 2018 Court judgment (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17) mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment. Consequently, any aspect of the Local Plan which cannot be ruled out as having Likely Significant Effects should continue to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.
- 2.1.12 Habitats sites which have been included for assessment are those which are within the ZOI for the underpinning Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) as identified on MAGIC www.magic.gov.uk.
- 2.1.13 It has been established that this Plan requires an HRA for the following reasons:
- Can the plan be exempt? - No, the Local Plan is not directly connected with or necessary to management of any Habitats sites.
 - Can the plan be excluded? - No, the Local Plan cannot be excluded as it falls within the definition of being a plan within the Habitats Regulations.



- Can the plan be eliminated? - No, the Local Plan as a whole cannot be eliminated as it proposes a number of policies which may have a Likely Significant Effect on one or more Habitats sites. However, individual policies can be eliminated.

2.2 Identifying Habitats sites, their Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features

2.2.1 The qualifying features and conservation objectives of the Habitats sites, together with current pressures on and potential threats, was drawn from the Standard Data Forms for SACs and SPAs and the Information Sheets for Ramsar Wetlands as well as Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIP) and the most recent conservation objectives. An understanding of the designated features of each Habitats site and the factors contributing to its integrity has informed the assessment of the potential Likely Significant Effects of the Local Plan.

2.2.2 Key sources of the Habitats sites information were found at:

- JNCC: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>
- Site Designation features and Conservation Objectives- Designated Sites View: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>
- Site Improvement Plans, e.g.: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6270737467834368>
- MAGIC (the Multi Agency Geographic Information website): www.magic.gov.uk
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites- The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/Provisions_Art_nov_2018_endocx.pdf

2.2.3 The list of Habitats sites, their qualifying features and conservation objectives can be found in Appendix 5 including web links to further information.

2.2.4 The list of key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity can be found in Appendix 5, including links to further information.

2.2.5 A distance of 20km was used to identify Habitats sites likely to be affected by impacts relating to Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan. There are 35 Habitat sites which lie within 20 km of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk district boundaries including some marine sites. However, the SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) can be reviewed on Magic.defra.gov.uk, which help identify whether a development is likely to impact upon a SSSI, which also underpin a Habitats site. Zones of Influence (ZOI) should also be reviewed, which are also listed on Magic.defra.gov.uk, as development (predominantly residential and / or tourism) within a Habitats sites ZOIs will likely result in adverse effects to site integrity. In addition,



impact pathways must be reviewed within the scoping assessment, irrespective of whether a site is within a SSSI IRZ or ZOI of a Habitats site.

- 2.2.6 The Habitats sites within 20km have been scoped out from further assessment if IRZs of the underpinning SSSI's of the Habitats sites do not fall within the district boundaries, or if Habitats sites ZOI do not fall within the district boundaries, unless there is a direct impact pathway which could potentially result in a Likely Significant Effect. The sites scoped in and out are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Habitats sites within 20 km of Babergh and Mid Suffolk

| Site | Location | Scoped in or out |
|---|--|--|
| Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar Site | Estuary in Suffolk located from Woodbridge to Felixstowe | Scoped in This Habitats site falls partly within Mid Suffolk District. Mid Suffolk District is also within the IRZ of the Deben Estuary SSSI and ZOI of the Habitats sites. In addition, there is possibility that there are potential hydrological and atmospheric impact pathways |
| Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar site | Heaths and marshes on the east coast of Suffolk | Scoped in Mid Suffolk District is within the underpinning SSSI IRZ of the Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes and ZOI of the Habitats sites as identified on MAGIC. |
| Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Fens located to the north of Mid Suffolk | Scoped in This Habitats site falls partly within Mid Suffolk District. Mid Suffolk District is also within the underpinning SSSI IRZ of the Habitats site, as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are potential hydrological and atmospheric impact pathways. |
| Stour & Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site | Two estuaries to the south of Suffolk. The Orwell Estuary is located from Ipswich to Shotley. The Stour Estuary is located from Manningtree to Shotley | Scoped in This Habitats site falls partly within both Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts. Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts are also within the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs, as well as the ZOI of the Habitats sites. In addition, there is possibility that there are potential hydrological and atmospheric impact pathways, as well potential impacts which would result in disturbance and loss of functionally linked land. |
| Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Fens located on the northern boundary of Mid Suffolk | Scoped in This Habitats site falls partly within Mid Suffolk District. Mid Suffolk District is also within the underpinning SSSI IRZ of the Habitats site, as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are potential hydrological and atmospheric impact pathways. |



| Site | Location | Scoped in or out |
|--|---|--|
| Alde-Ore (& Butley) Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar site | Estuary located on south-east Suffolk coast | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and ZOI of the Alde-Ore (& Butley) Estuary SAC, SPA & Ramsar site as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Benacre to Easton Barents SAC & SPA | Lagoons located on the north -east Suffolk coast | Scoped out Outside the ZOI of the Benacre to Easton Barents SAC & SPA as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA & Ramsar site | Estuary in Essex located from Maldon to Mersea Island | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of the Blackwater Estuary SPA & Ramsar site as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Broadlands & Broads SAC, SPA & Ramsar | Designated for a variety of Protected habitats and species and located to the north-east Suffolk coast. | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of Broadlands & Broads SAC, SPA & Ramsar as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Colne Estuary SPA & Ramsar site | Estuary located in north Essex, situated from Colchester to East Mersea. | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of the Colne Estuary SPA & Ramsar site as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Dew's Ponds SAC | A group of ponds situated near the east coast of Suffolk | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of the Dew's Ponds SAC as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Essex Estuaries SAC | Estuaries from Clacton on Sea to Southend | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of the Essex Estuaries SAC as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Hamford Water SAC, SPA & Ramsar site | Estuary situated to the north-east of Essex. | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of the Hamford Water SAC, SPA & Ramsar site as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |



| Site | Location | Scoped in or out |
|--|---|---|
| Norfolk Valley Fens SAC | Group of fens situated to the south-west of Norfolk | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to the Habitats site. |
| Orfordness Shingle-Street SAC | Shingle structure and Lagoons situated to the south-east of Suffolk | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to the Habitats site. |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Covers most marine areas near to Essex coast | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to these Habitats sites. |
| Rex Graham Reserve SAC | Dry grassland and conifer forest situated to the east of Mildenhall | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to the Habitats site. |
| Sandlings SPA | Heathland and commercial conifer forest situated to the south-east of Suffolk | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to the Habitats site. |
| Southern North Sea (cSAC) | Covers the entire coast of East Anglia | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSI's as identified on MAGIC. |
| Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC | Old acidophilous oak woods situated to the south-east of Suffolk. | Scoped out The districts fall outside the IRZ of the underpinning SSSIs and the ZOI of Staverton Park & The Thicks, Wantisden SAC as identified on MAGIC. In addition, there are no clear impact pathways to the Habitats site. |

2.2.7 A map of all 35 Habitats sites with the 20 km radius of Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts boundaries can be found in Appendix 6.

2.3 Screening and Impact Pathways

2.3.1 During the Screening stage each policy has been screened for Likely Significant Effects. Where it is not possible to rule out Likely Significant Effects we have moved straight to Appropriate Assessment.



2.3.2 There are a wide range of potential impacts and the following impacts summarised below, were considered most likely to cause a Likely Significant Effects:

- Loss of functionally linked land (land outside the Habitats sites). Impact on site features (species) which travel outside the protected sites may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Habitats sites, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- Increase of any type of disturbance, for example from recreational use resulting from new housing development and / or improved access due to transport infrastructure projects.
- Changes in water quality as a result of new development and greater pressure on water treatment services.
- Changes in water quantity as a result of increased surface runoff or increased groundwater extraction.
- Changes in atmospheric pollution levels due to increased traffic, waste management facilities etc. Pollution discharges from developments such as industrial developments, quarries and waste management facilities.

2.3.3 The ZOIs and IRZ for the underpinning SSSIs, which are provided on the MAGIC website www.magic.gov.uk, have been used as a starting point in determining Likely Significant Effect on Habitats sites and spatial data has been used to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the Habitats sites. There are many uncertainties associated with using trigger distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. Therefore, during the screening stage a number of assumptions based on professional judgement have been applied in relation to assessing impact pathways which may cause a Likely Significant Effects on Habitats sites as a result from the Local Plan, as described below.

Loss of Functionally Linked Land (Land outside the SPA and Ramsar Site)

2.3.4 Loss of land may have the potential to result in Likely Significant Effects to Habitats sites where the habitat affected contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which the Habitats sites is designated.

2.3.5 Mobile interest features listed in the relevant Habitats sites- *i.e.* the birds may use off-site habitat (*i.e.* land outside of the SPA and Ramsar site boundary) for feeding, roosting, foraging and loafing, especially large fields comprising arable and pastoral land uses and coastal habitats. Natural England has advised that their recognised foraging distance threshold for the majority of wetland bird species is 2km from a designated site.

2.3.6 Loss of functionally linked land is therefore within scope of the HRA screening.



Water Quality

- 2.3.7 An important determinant of the nature of wetland Habitats sites and the species that they support is the quality of the water that feeds them. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts.
- 2.3.8 High levels of toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life and have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including changes in wildlife behaviour and increased vulnerability to disease. Therefore, any discharge from construction sites into water sources which are functionally linked to designated sites could therefore result in a Likely Significant Effect if management plans or discharge consents from Environment Agency are not provided to support schemes.
- 2.3.9 Eutrophication, the enrichment of plant nutrients in water, increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient, so eutrophication is often associated with discharges containing available nitrogen. Algal blooms, which commonly occur due to eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, increasing the oxygen-depleting effects of eutrophication.
- 2.3.10 Sewage and industrial effluent discharges contribute to increased nutrients levels in Habitats sites, particularly to phosphate levels in watercourses leading into them. Some components of sewage effluent, pesticides, and industrial chemicals, are suspected to interfere with hormones, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life. Diffuse pollution, including that from urban run-off, is considered to be a major factor in the unfavourable condition of some Habitats sites. Tidal mudflats, on which many SPA bird species depend, are vulnerable to smothering by increased macroalgal growth due to treated effluent discharge and scouring by increased flow volumes.
- 2.3.11 It is highlighted that a recent court judgement (R (on the Application of Preston) v Cumbria County Council [2019] EWCA 1362) indicates that local authorities have to consider impacts from the construction of sewage outfalls for applications that will have a direct impact pathway to designated sites. Therefore, local authorities will need to exercise their own judgment on applications involving the operational impacts of sewage water drainage, albeit giving due weight to the views of a body such as the Environment Agency. Consequently, project level Habitats Regulations Assessment should be undertaken by the local authority to support such schemes prior to the permission of development. As a result, any policies which involve the provision of new sewage outfalls should be identified and screened in within Habitats Regulations Assessments.
- 2.3.12 Furthermore, greater pressure on water treatment services due to new development, especially housing, may increase the risk of effluent entering aquatic environments. This



is because the allocation of large numbers of new homes in certain locations may result in the capacity of existing available infrastructure being exceeded, a situation that could potentially cause service failures to water and wastewater customers. Wastewater treatment within the districts is currently handled by Anglian Water and they are aiming to produce a Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) in 2024 to ensure that a long-term strategy is in place for the safe disposal of wastewater. A Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) has been produced by Anglian Water in the intermediary period, which does not raise any issues for the 'Part 1' Plan.

- 2.3.13 A Water Cycle Study (July 2020), including an Addendum to Water Cycle Study (October 2020) has been drafted by JBA Consulting to allow the Joint Local Plan to have a sufficient evidence base in this aspect. This study assesses the potential issues relating to future development within Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts boundaries and the impacts on water supply, wastewater collection and treatment and water quality. Therefore, future pressures upon water treatment services can be predicted within the Joint Local Plan, including any Likely Significant Effects to the identified Habitats sites, which will be addressed further within the 'Part 2' Plan.
- 2.3.14 It is also indicated that water pollution, such as contaminated surface run-off, will not be capable of resulting in impacts outside of the districts boundary as there are no catchments outside the districts which will be able to be affected by surface water runoff. Therefore, Likely Significant Effects could only affect the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site and Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC.

Water Quantity

Surface Water Flooding

- 2.3.15 Development on green field locations can create impermeable surfaces which can increase surface drainage rates. This can cause changes in depth, duration, frequency, magnitude and timing of water supply or flow, which can have significant implications for some water birds in sensitive habitats. Such changes may affect the quality and suitability of habitats used by birds for drinking, preening, feeding or roosting.
- 2.3.16 As a result, it is important that new developments contain Strategic Flood Risk Assessments and incorporate appropriate surface water management measures into designs.
- 2.3.17 However, it is also highlighted that the Stour and Orwell estuaries are a dynamic natural system, regularly exposed to rapid changes of depth, duration, frequency, magnitude and timing of water supply or flow due to tidal changes. Therefore, impacts from changes in water quantity are considered highly unlikely upon this Habitats site, even with mitigation implemented into the Joint Local Plan.



Reduced Water Resources

- 2.3.18 Housing growth is likely to increase regional water abstraction rates, which can have serious negative impacts on Habitats sites. This is because over-abstraction can reduce water levels in rivers, causing reduced flow velocity. This can have wide ranging effects on river and wetland habitat parameters, including increased temperatures and nutrient concentrations and reduced oxygen concentrations. Such impacts can be significantly detrimental to rivers' floristic characteristics and to notable species.
- 2.3.19 Increased use of water sources by a Local Plan also has the potential to affect terrestrial habitats. Excessive abstraction from underlying aquifers could cause a lowering of the water table and affect the water quality of sensitive wetland habitats so this is restricted through Water Resources Management Plans for the two companies operating in Babergh & Mid Suffolk Districts.
- 2.3.20 Anglian Water 2022 Water Resources Management Plan indicates that there would be no significant negative effects predicted on water efficiency for the areas managed within Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts. However, the Anglian Water 2022 Water Resources Management Plan indicates that drought is currently an issue and is being addressed via a new Potable Water Transfer system.
- 2.3.21 Essex and Suffolk Water also have a Water Resources Management Plan (2019), as well as a Drought Plan (2022) in place, which provide measures to avoid impacts on Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site & Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC. This is because water levels have significantly dropped over time, which has impacted the qualifying features of both Habitats sites. Therefore, the Site Improvement Plans (SIPS) for Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC (Appendix 5) identifies that water quantity was a significant factor affecting site integrity.
- 2.3.22 As a result, the Wortham borehole (for potable supply) had to be located outside the impact risk zone for Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar and additional water needed for Category 1 demand is sourced from other boreholes. It is therefore considered that there will be no Likely Significant Effect on these Habitats sites from water abstraction.

Air Quality

- 2.3.23 There are number of atmospheric pollutants which can result in direct or indirect impacts to Habitats sites. These impacts are usually caused when the qualifying features are plants, soils and wetland habitats. However, some species may also be indirectly impacted from air pollution causing changes in habitat composition. The primary contributor to atmospheric pollution is transport related activities. Therefore, the main pollutants to atmospheric pollution are considered to be oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) or sulphur dioxide (SO₂) from traffic emissions. However, high intensities of agricultural practices are also considered to have a significant impact to air pollution. Potential impacts from pollutants and their sources have been highlighted within Table 4.

**Table 4: Main sources and effects of air pollutants on Habitat Sites**

| Pollutants | Source | Effects on habitats and species |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Acid Deposition | SO ₂ , NO _x and ammonia all contribute to acid deposition. Although future trends in sulphur emissions and subsequent deposition to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will continue to decline, it is likely that increased nitrogen emissions may cancel out any gains produced by reduced sulphur levels. | Can affect habitats and species from acid rain, as well as dry deposition. Some habitats will be more susceptible depending on soil type, geology, weathering rate and buffering capacity. |
| Ammonia (NH ₃) | Ammonia is released following decomposition and volition of animal wastes. It is naturally occurring trace gas, but levels have increased considerably within increased agricultural practices (primarily pig or poultry farming). Ammonia reacts with acid pollutants such as the products of SO ₂ and NO _x emissions to produce fine ammonium (NH ₄) containing aerosol which may be transferred much longer distances (can therefore be a significant trans-boundary issue). | Adverse effects are as a result of nitrogen deposition leading to eutrophication. As emissions mostly occur at ground level in the rural environment and NH ₃ is rapidly deposited, some of the most acute problems of NH ₃ are for small relict nature reserves located near to intensive agricultural landscapes. |
| Nitrogen oxides (NO _x) | Nitrogen oxides are mostly primarily produced in combustion processes, such as coal fire power stations. | Deposition of nitrogen compounds (Nitrates, nitrogen dioxide and nitrate acid), can lead to both soil and freshwater acidification. In addition, nitrogen compounds can cause eutrophication of soils and water. This alters the species composition of plant communities and can eliminate sensitive species. |
| Nitrogen deposition (N) | The pollutants that contribute to nitrogen deposition are derived mainly from NO _x and NH ₃ emissions. These pollutants cause acidification (see also acid deposition) as well as eutrophication. | Species-rich plant communities with relatively high proportions of slow growing perennial species and bryophytes are most at risk from Nitrogen eutrophication, due to its promotion of competitive and invasive species which can respond readily to elevated levels of N. N disposition can also increase the risk of damage from abiotic factors e.g. drought and frost. |



| Pollutants | Source | Effects on habitats and species |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Ozone (O ₃) | A secondary pollutant generated by photochemical reactions from NO _x and volatile organic compounds. These are mainly released by the combustion of fossil fuels in the UK has led to a large increase in background ozone concentration, leading to an increased number of days when levels across the region are above 40ppb. Reducing ozone pollution is believed to require action at international level to reduce levels of the precursors that form ozone. | Concentrations of O ₃ above 40 ppb can be toxic to humans and wildlife, and can affect buildings. Increased ozone concentrations may lead to a reduction in growth of agricultural crops decreased forest production and altered species composition in semi-natural plant communities. |
| Sulphur Dioxide (SO ₂) | Main sources of Sulphur Dioxide emission are electricity generation, industry and domestic fuel combustion. May also arise from shipping and increased atmospheric concentrations in busy ports. Total sulphur dioxide emissions have decreased substantially in the UK since the 1980's. | Wet and dry depositions of Sulphur Dioxide acidify soils and freshwater, and alters the species composition of plant and associated animal communities. The significance of impacts depends on levels of deposition and the buffering capacity of soils. |

2.3.24 Nitrogen deposition (i.e. primarily NO_x and NH₃ emissions) has been included as a key vulnerability/ factor affecting site integrity for the Site Improvement Plans for the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SPA, Deben Estuary SPA and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC because Nitrogen deposition exceeds relevant 'critical loads' for these sites. Critical Loads are defined as: "a quantitative estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge"⁵.

2.3.25 Therefore, where Nitrogen deposition exceeds relevant critical loads there is a possibility that eutrophication, acidification and changes to habitat type will be caused, which could affect qualifying features of a Habitat site. Critical loads for nitrogen deposition are in units

⁵ Air Pollution Information System. Critical Loads and Critical Levels - a guide to the data provided in APIS. Available from http://www.apis.ac.uk/critical-loads-and-critical-levels-guide-data-provided-apis#_Toc279788052 [Accessed October 2022].



of kilogrammes of nitrogen per hectare per year (kg N/ha/year) and vary with habitat sensitivity⁶.

- 2.3.26 The leading cause of increased Nitrogen deposition at these Habitats sites has been identified locally intensive agricultural practices, i.e., land spreading, outdoor pigs, high nutrient inputs on fields. This may result in protected habitats being altered, which may in turn, may impact the qualifying features (e.g., overwintering birds) which rely on these specific habitats.
- 2.3.27 In addition, the creation of new housing and infrastructure within the districts could result in increases of traffic on roads, which may result in increases in air pollution (NH₃, NO_x & SO₂) from traffic emissions upon Habitats sites, if increases of traffic are caused within 200m as referenced within the Highways Agency Design Manual for Road and Bridges (DMRB)⁷.
- 2.3.28 As a result, a summary of the potential impacts for each relevant Habitat site has been outlined below. This does not include Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SPA, as the Habitats site is also situated over 10km from the district boundaries of Babergh and Mid Suffolk and is unlikely to be impacted by any proposals within Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA:

- 2.3.29 Nitrogen levels exceed the relevant critical loads at the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA for ecosystem protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects. However, the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. The sensitive habitat features on site include intertidal mudflats, coastal saltmarsh and vegetated shingle.
- 2.3.30 Although the APIS database⁸ considers that mudflats are sensitive to nitrogen deposition, there are no comparable habitats with established critical load estimates available and therefore no critical loads for intertidal mudflats are listed. In addition, there is no habitat terminology which meets definition of vegetated shingle, however coastal dunes will exceed relevant critical loads at 10-20 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. In terms of saltmarsh, this habitat will exceed relevant critical loads if nitrogen deposition exceeds 20-30 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. Furthermore, it is highlighted that impacts upon vegetated shingle and saltmarsh both

⁶ IAQM (June 2019). Available from <https://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2019.pdf> [Accessed October 2022].

⁷ Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (2019). Sustainability & Environment Appraisal LA 105 Air quality. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/search/10191621-07df-44a3-892e-c1d5c7a28d90> [Accessed October 2022]

⁸ APIS. Available from <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [Accessed October 2022].



require professional judgement to identify and will be noticeable if there is a productivity increase in late successional species and graminoids.

- 2.3.31 In terms of the individual qualifying features of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, the APIS database indicates that only wintering Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) would be sensitive to increases in nitrogen deposition, if the relevant critical loads are exceeded for saltmarsh. However, it is uncertain how this species could be affected from increases of nitrogen deposition upon saltmarsh, as the species forages over open water during the wintering period. As a result, based on expert judgement, the only possible indirect link would be if nitrogen deposition upon saltmarsh changed fish stock levels in the estuary, which Great Crested Grebe feed upon during the winter period.
- 2.3.32 The APIS database provides indicates that the concentration and deposition values across the whole site the Stour and Orwell Estuary is 11.232 - 15.658 (kg N/ha/yr), which does not exceed the relevant critical loads upon saltmarsh. However, this data is measured from a desk study using 5km squares across the Stour and Orwell Estuary and is not specific enough to justify whether relevant critical loads is currently being exceeded within specific locations.
- 2.3.33 However, it is highlighted that the nitrogen concentration and deposition values across the whole site the Stour and Orwell Estuaries exceed the relevant critical loads for coastal dune habitats and the breeding terns it supports, as outlined in the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA 'Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity'. However, the only location of shingle dunes is located outside of the boundaries of the districts, as the habitat is present on the Stour Estuary within Tendring District, Essex⁹. In addition, breeding terns are not listed as a qualifying feature of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar, as well as the underpinning Sites of Special Scientific Interest and not listed within the Site Improvement Plans.

Deben Estuary SPA:

- 2.3.34 Nitrogen levels exceed the relevant critical loads at the Deben Estuary SPA, according to the Site Improvement Plans, which is likely being caused by in combination impacts from land spreading and land use practices with high nutrient inputs e.g. outdoor pig farms. The sensitive habitat features on site also include intertidal mudflats, coastal saltmarsh and vegetated shingle. Therefore, the habitats present have the same relevant critical load thresholds for nitrogen deposition as the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA.
- 2.3.35 In terms of the individual qualifying features of the Deben Estuary SPA, the APIS database indicates that breeding Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and Dark-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla bernicla*) would be sensitive to increases in nitrogen deposition, if

⁹ The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB (2018). The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-2023. Available from <https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SCH-AONB-Management-Plan-2018-23.pdf> [March 2021].



the relevant critical loads are exceeded for saltmarsh. Therefore, it is outlined that the APIS database indicates that the concentration and deposition values across the whole site the Deben Estuary SPA is 11.536 - 18.475 (kg N/ha/yr), which does not exceed the relevant critical loads upon saltmarsh. However, this data is measured from a desk study using 5km squares across the Deben Estuary and is not specific enough to justify whether relevant critical loads will be exceeded within specific locations.

Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC:

- 2.3.36 Nitrogen levels also exceed the relevant critical loads at the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC, according to the Site Improvement Plans, with impacts likely being caused from agricultural practices. The sensitive habitat features include H6410 Purple moor-grass meadows, H7210 Calcium-rich fen (dominated by great fen sedge).
- 2.3.37 Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Purple Moor Grass (*Molinia caerulea*) meadows will exceed the relevant critical loads at 15-25 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. This will cause the functional diversity of the grassland to be lost, as more common grass species dominate. The loss of forbs will have implications for pollinators and the aesthetic qualities of the ecosystem¹⁰.
- 2.3.38 Whereas Rich Fen habitats will exceed the relevant critical loads at 15-30 kg N ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. This will cause differentially impact upon the complex calcareous plant communities and potentially disrupt the balance between them.
- 2.3.39 In terms of the individual qualifying features of the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC, the APIS database indicates that only Desmoulin's Whorl Snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*) would potentially be affected by increases in nitrogen deposition. However, the species is associated with rivers and streams and the APIS database indicates that there is no comparable habitat with established critical load to impacts to be estimated for this species.
- 2.3.40 The APIS database provides indicates that the concentration and deposition values across the whole site the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC is 21.864 - 26.759 (kg N/ha/yr). Therefore, nitrogen levels are exceeding the relevant critical loads for both habitat types.

Disturbance

- 2.3.41 Disturbance concerns species, rather than habitats e.g. wetland birds. It may be limited in time (noise, source of light etc.). The intensity, duration and frequency of repetition of disturbance are therefore important parameters. The following factors can be regarded as significant disturbance.

¹⁰ Stevens, C.J.; Maskell, L.C. ; Smart, S.M.; Caporn, S.J.M. ; Dise, N.B.; Gowing, D.J. **2009** Identifying indicators of atmospheric nitrogen deposition impacts in acid grasslands Biological Conservation 142 2069-2075



2.3.42 Any event, activity or process contributing to the:

- The long-term decline of the population of the species on the site.
- The reduction, or to the risk of reduction, of the range of the species within the site.
- The reduction of the size of the available habitat of the species.

2.3.43 Factors such as noise, light, dust and vibration, litter are capable of causing significant disturbances for species, e.g. Wintering waterfowl populations.

2.3.44 *Managing Natura 2000 Sites* states that: "Disturbance of a species occurs on a site from events, activities or processes contributing, within the site, to a long-term decline in the population of the species, to a reduction or risk of reduction in its range, and to a reduction in its available habitat. This assessment is done according to the site's conservation objectives and its contribution to the coherence of the network."

2.3.45 Recreation can create increased pressure on the qualifying features of the Habitats sites scoped in. They all have bird interest and / or associated habitats which have the potential to be adversely affected by increased recreational pressure.

2.3.46 The Site Improvement Plans identify the following as potentially disturbing activities: visual and noise disturbance of bird populations by walkers, especially those with dogs; marine activities such as angling, jet skiing and kite surfing, bait digging, powerboating and recreational boating. Localised damage to vegetation and soils by frequent pedestrian traffic, mountain bikes and trail bikes could also result in adverse effects, particularly if there are qualifying habitats, and have been included as part of the consideration of recreational pressures.

2.3.47 Habitats Regulations Assessments for residential developments (and neighbourhood plans) in Babergh and Mid Suffolk have established that proposed housing developments may cause a Likely Significant Effect arising from recreational disturbance either alone, or in combination with other housing developments. The subsequent appropriate assessments and Natural England advice have resulted in the development and adoption of the Suffolk Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) to assess the potential impacts caused by development within an identified zone of influence in Suffolk and has involved extensive research, including visitor surveys. This is considered the most effective model to deliver mitigation to avoid Adverse Effects On site Integrity from the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1.

2.3.48 The Suffolk Coast RAMS has identified Zones of Influence (ZOI) for recreational disturbance, and those relevant to the Local Plan are set out in Table 5 below.

2.3.49 The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 will therefore need to secure appropriate mitigation to ensure that it is sound. This mitigation is considered in the appropriate assessment and so all housing allocation policies will be included for consideration in the 'Part 2' of the Joint Local Plan.



2.3.50 The Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational impacts Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS) does not, at the time of writing, include the cross-boundary Habitats sites of Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site or Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC as needing mitigation for recreational impacts. However, the Essex Coast RAMS includes the south side of the Stour estuary (another cross-boundary Habitats site) as requiring visitor management measures to avoid predicted adverse impacts from recreational disturbance in combination from the Local Plans of Essex authorities within the evidenced zone of influence.

Table 5. Zones of Influence for Recreational Disturbance

| European Designated Site | Underpinning SSSIs | Zone of Influence (km) |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Site | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SSSI | 13 |
| Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar Site | Deben Estuary SSSI | 13 |
| Minsmere - Walberswick SPA and Ramsar Site & Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC | Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SSSI | 13 |

2.4 Screening categorisation

2.4.1 Screening is set out in Chapter 3 of this report and Appendix 2 considers each policy in the Local Plan and the results of the screening exercise recorded, using the precautionary principle. Each policy and land allocation included in the Local Plan has been categorised. A 'traffic light' system has been used to record the potential for policies and allocated sites to have a Likely Significant Effect, using the system of colours in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Categorisation

| |
|---|
| <p>Category A: Significant effects not likely</p> <p>Category A identifies those policies that would not result in a Likely Significant Effect and are considered to have no adverse effect. These policies can be 'screened out' and no further assessment is required. This is because, if there are no adverse effects at all, there can be no adverse effect to contribute to in combination effects of other plans or projects.</p> |
| <p>Category B: Significant effects uncertain</p> <p>Category B identifies those policies which will have no significant adverse effect on the site. That is, there could be some effect but none which would undermine the conservation objectives, when the policy is considered on its own. Given that there may be some effect this now needs to be considered in</p> |



combination with other plans or projects. If these effects can be excluded in combination, the policy can be screened out and no further assessment required. However, if the possibility of a significant adverse effect in combination cannot be ruled out there will be a Likely Significant Effect in combination, and Appropriate Assessment will be required.

Category C: Likely Significant Effect

Category C identifies those policies which cannot be ruled out as having a Likely Significant Effect upon a Habitat Site, alone, that is the effect could undermine the conservation objectives. In this case an Appropriate Assessment is triggered without needing to consider in combination effects at screening stage, although they may need to be considered at Appropriate Assessment.

2.5 Appropriate Assessment and the Integrity Test

- 2.5.1 Where the Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts may cause Likely Significant Effects, the second stage is to undertake an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and establish whether there may be an Adverse Effect On site Integrity (AEOI) of any Habitats sites in view of their Conservation Objectives. The process undertaken for the Appropriate Assessment is set out in Chapter 4 of this report.
- 2.5.2 Some policies of the Local Plan can be used to mitigate some of the potential Likely Significant Effects which have been identified. These can be considered at Appropriate Assessment. This stage thus becomes an iterative process as avoidance and reduction measures can be incorporated in order to be able to ascertain that there is *no Adverse Effect on Integrity* on any Habitats site, before making a final assessment.
- 2.5.3 The Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken by the competent authority and should assess all aspects of the Local Plan which can by themselves, or in combination with other plans and projects, affect the sites' Conservation Objectives. The assessment must consider the implications for each qualifying feature of each potentially affected Habitats site. Key vulnerabilities are set out in Appendix 4 and the Site Improvement Plans were used to obtain this information. Site Improvement Plans have been developed for each Habitats site in England as part of the 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS)'. The plan provides a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. These can be found at:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5458594975711232>.



- 2.5.4 In order to identify potential in combination effects other plans and projects which may affect the Habitats sites need to be identified. The list of county and district level plans which provide for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts as well as Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) to be considered will be identified.
- 2.5.5 In accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, Natural England will be consulted on the Appropriate Assessment document.



3. Screening of Likely Significant Effects

3.1 Screening Policies for Likely Significant Effect

- 3.1.1. This chapter summarises the potential for Likely Significant Effects identified, based upon Chapter 2 and using Categories A, B and C above. It advises as to where Likely Significant Effects can be ruled out. The need for an 'Appropriate Assessment' is triggered where the HRA Screening stage identifies policies which may have a Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats sites.
- 3.1.2. A number of impact pathways have been identified in Chapter 2 above and these have been screened in below. Nine Habitats sites have been scoped in for HRA screening. Where this is likely to result in a significant effect, or where there is uncertainty, in line with the precautionary approach being applied in the HRA, until significant effects can be ruled out, they are treated as giving rise to Likely Significant Effects.
- 3.1.3. Policies are screened out where they would not result in development because they either set out criteria relating to development proposed under other policies are very general in nature or they seek to protect the natural environment.
- 3.1.4. A summary of the assessment is set out in Appendix 2. Conclusions take into account the potential effects of other plans and projects. Each policy was considered in the context of the policy Screening criteria above.
- 3.1.5. The Habitats sites whose ZOI or underpinning SSSI IRZ falls partly within Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan area have been scoped in and are listed below:
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA
 - Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site
 - Deben Estuary SPA
 - Deben Estuary Ramsar site
 - Minsmere – Walberswick SPA
 - Minsmere – Walberswick Ramsar site
 - Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC
 - Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site
 - Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC
- 3.1.6. An initial assessment has been undertaken to identify whether the Local Plan's policies have the potential to have any Likely Significant Effects on any Habitats sites. The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting a sites ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes and noteworthy features are not treated as qualifying features in the application of HRA tests. The assessment under the



provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria.

- 3.1.7. The table below Table 7 lists the policies that have the potential to cause a Likely Significant Effect, before taking mitigation into account and therefore require Appropriate Assessment. All policies are shown in the Screening Table in Appendix 2.

Table 7. Policies that have the Potential to Cause a Likely Significant Effect and their Impact Pathways

| Policy | Loss of Functionally Linked Land | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Potential for In Combination Effects |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Policy SP01 – Housing Needs | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Policy SP05 – Employment Land | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Policy SP08 – Strategic Infrastructure Provision | | | | | | ✓ |
| Policy LP05 – Rural Worker Dwellings | | ✓ | | | | ✓ |

3.2 Policies carried forward to Appropriate Assessment Stage

- 3.2.1. All policies are shown in the HRA Screening Table in Appendix 2 and those marked red or amber are screened in as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, before taking mitigation into account and therefore require Appropriate Assessment.



3.3 Habitat Sites Screened in for Appropriate Assessment

3.3.1 The potential impact pathways, between Habitats sites and Joint Local Plan Part 1 polices, identified at HRA Screening stage, are shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Habitats Sites, Impact Pathways and Examples of LSE Identified at Screening Stage

| Nature of potential impact | Which Habitats site(s) could the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan affect (alone or in combination with other plans and project)? | How the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site? | Likely to result in Significant Effect and therefore require further assessment? |
|--|---|---|--|
| Habitat loss / Land take by development | N/A | No allocations have been proposed within the Part 1 plan. As a result, a Likely Significant Effect from direct habitat loss can be ruled out. | No |
| Impact on features (protected species) outside the protected site boundary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Site | No allocations have been proposed within the Part 1 plan. New developments must comply with Policy LP16. As a result, a Likely Significant Effect from impacts upon functionally linked land can be ruled out. | No |
| Recreational and other disturbance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Site Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar Minsmere – Walberswick SPA & Ramsar site; Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site | Some polices contain reference to potential new residential development, which could be within the Zone of Influence of Habitats sites & policies may affect features outside the protected site boundary. As a result, a Likely Significant Effect from disturbance cannot be ruled out. | Yes |



| Nature of potential impact | Which Habitats site(s) could the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan affect (alone or in combination with other plans and project)? | How the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site? | Likely to result in Significant Effect and therefore require further assessment? |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | | |
| Water quantity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Site Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | No allocations have been proposed within the Part 1 plan. New developments must comply with Policy LP27. As a result, a Likely Significant Effect from water quantity can be ruled out. | No |
| Water quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Site | No allocations have been proposed within the Part 1 Plan. However, some employment growth areas are located immediately adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries. Therefore, impacts from adverse water quality cannot be ruled out. | Yes |
| Air Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar Site Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Mitigation has been embedded within Policy LP14 - Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming. As a result, a Likely Significant Effect from water quantity can be ruled out. | No |

3.3.2 Potential effects listed for the above Habitats sites cannot be ruled out from being likely to be significant and the pathways require further consideration. The Table summarises the main ways in which the Joint Local Plan Part 1 could cause Likely Significant Effects. Some of the potential Likely Significant Effects could be mitigated through the implementation of other proposals in the Joint Local Plan Part 1 itself.



- 3.3.3 It is also highlighted that the Site Improvement Plans for the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC identified that water quality was a significant factor affecting site integrity for the Habitats sites, albeit the primary cause of this adverse impact has been identified as being caused by nutrient enrichment from agricultural run-off particularly from nearby outdoor poultry and pig units.
- 3.3.4 However, no allocations have been included within the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: 'Part 1'. In addition, mitigation has been embedded within Policy LP14 - Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming (see MM47 & MM48, within Appendix 1) and no existing employment sites are present within a 5km radius. Therefore, it is considered rational to rule out a Likely Significant Effect from water quality impacts upon the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC at this stage. These measures would also apply for Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar as the site overlaps with Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC and contains similar qualifying features. It is considered appropriate that a precautionary approach for water quality should be undertaken for any housing allocations or employment sites in the 'Part 2' of the Joint Local Plan within the 5km ZOI of the Habitats site. This would include water quality mitigation measures during the construction and operation phases of a development to avoid impacts from development alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 3.3.5 Furthermore, it is indicated that the potential impacts in regard to SP05 – Employment Land and LP05 – Rural Workers Dwellings, which was highlighted in the 'Review of the Main Modifications of the Part 1 Plan - Appendix 1' have been screened in to Appropriate Assessment stage.

3.4 HRA Screening Conclusion and Considering the Next Stage

- 3.4.1 The range of potential impacts on Habitats sites has been considered and assessed. In line with the Court judgment (*CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17*), mitigation measures can no longer be taken into account when carrying out a HRA screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in Likely Significant Effects on a Habitats site. Consequently, HRA screening has concluded that it is not possible to rule out the potential for Likely Significant Effects without further assessment and possible mitigation for the indicated polices.
- 3.4.2 An Appropriate Assessment is therefore required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 may only be adopted after having ascertained that it will not result in adverse effect on integrity of the Habitats sites within scope of this assessment.
- 3.4.3 This stage is an iterative process as measures can be incorporated in order to be able to ascertain that there is no significant adverse effect on the integrity, before re-screening and making a final assessment.



4. Appropriate Assessment and Considering Adverse Effects on Integrity of Habitats Sites

4.1 Introduction and Outline Methodology

- 4.1.1 As some of its Joint Local Plan Part 1 policies have been screened in as having the potential to cause Likely Significant Effects without considering mitigation measures, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, as the competent authorities, need to undertake further assessment.
- 4.1.2 This should involve an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the Joint Local Plan Part 1, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, in order to establish whether there may be an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of any Habitats sites in view of their Conservation Objectives. This stage is to undertake objective scientific assessment of the implications of the Local Plan on the Qualifying Features of the listed Habitats sites using the best scientific knowledge in the field. It should apply the best available techniques and methods to assess the extent of the effects of the Local Plan on the integrity of the Habitat sites. The description of the site's integrity and the impact assessment should be based on the best possible indicators specific to the Habitat sites' qualifying features, which can also be useful in monitoring the impact of the Local Plan's implementation.
- 4.1.3 The Appropriate Assessment should assess all aspects of the Local Plan which can by themselves, or in combination with other plans and projects, affect the Conservation Objectives of one or more Habitats sites although these are not set for Ramsar sites. The assessment must consider the implications for each qualifying feature of each potentially affected Habitats site. The focus of the appropriate assessment is therefore on the species and / or the habitats for which the Habitats site is designated.
- 4.1.4 The best scientific knowledge¹¹ should be used when carrying out the Appropriate Assessment in order to enable the competent authority to conclude with certainty that there will be no Adverse Effect on the Integrity of any Habitats site. This will therefore support a conclusion that is "beyond scientific doubt".
- 4.1.5 It is important that the Appropriate Assessment provides a better understanding of potential effects and can therefore assist in the identification of mitigation measures where possible to avoid, reduce or cancel significant effects on Habitats sites which could be applied when undertaking the 'integrity test'. All mitigation measures built into the Local Plan can be taken into account. The Appropriate Assessment is an iterative process, re-assessing changes and new or different mitigation measures before making its final

¹¹ Waddenzee ruling (C-127/02 paragraphs 52-54, 59)



conclusion. It must be clear which mitigation measures are being relied upon in order to meet the integrity test.

- 4.1.6 The integrity test must apply the precautionary principle. However, plan assessments are less precise than project assessments, and so it is important for the assessment process to eliminate the prospect of adverse effects integrity insofar as it is possible, given the level of specificity of this Local Plan.
- 4.1.7 In order to fulfil the above requirements, this Appropriate Assessment will therefore use the following process, and will be structured by the potential impact pathways.
- 4.1.8 It is also highlighted that advice has been provided from the European Court of Justice regarding the 'tiering' of HRAs where there are multiple levels of plan-making, recognising that the purpose of a high-level plan is to set out broad policies and intentions without going into any detail. When the UK was first required to undertake HRA of plans, Advocate-General Kokott commented on the apparent tension between the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the intentionally vague nature of high-level strategic plans. She responded that to address this apparent tension 'It would ...hardly be proper to require a greater level of detail in preceding plans [rather than lower tier plans or planning applications] or the abolition of multi-stage planning and approval procedures so that the assessment of implications can be concentrated on one point in the procedure. Rather, adverse effects on areas of conservation must be assessed at every relevant stage of the procedure to the extent possible on the basis of the precision of the plan [emphasis added]. This assessment is to be updated with increasing specificity in subsequent stages of the procedure' [*i.e.* for planning applications or lower tier plans] (Opinion of Advocate-General Kokott, 2005).
- 4.1.9 Explicitly enshrining the requirement for project-level HRA in the plans – since it is not possible to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of many European sites due simply to the high-level nature of the plan policies, 'down-the-line' assessment becomes essential.
- 4.1.10 A monitoring and Iterative Plan Review (IPR) provision therefore needs to be embedded in the Local Plan. Monitoring is not mitigation; however, where there is a lack of detail over the precise effects of a plan (because, as in this case, the purpose of the plan is to set over-arching policy, not present specific proposals), an Iterative Plan Review process enables the delivery of development to be managed and the plan (and its HRA) to be updated in future reviews. It involves recognising the fact that development associated with policies in the plan will not be delivered all at once but piecemeal over the entire plan timetable. This process will involve a phased and iterative approach to plan-implementation which is linked to ongoing project developments and their associated monitoring work and with the findings from such project-level work feeding back into the next phases of plan-implementation. This is done so that results from monitoring data from consented projects and on-going research programmes can be fed into subsequent



developments in order for lessons to be learnt and evidence gaps filled, thus reducing potential impacts to Habitats sites.

Policies / Allocations and Habitats Sites within Scope

- 4.1.11 The Likely Significant Effects considered at screening stage have been carried forward for consideration at Appropriate Assessment. The policies and their potential to have adverse effects on any Habitats site through a variety of impact pathways are now considered in more detail, for example disturbance, direct and indirect effects; extent of the effects (habitat area, species numbers or areas of occurrence); importance and magnitude (e.g. considering the affected area or population in relation to the total area and population size).
- 4.1.12 The policies and allocations listed in Table 7 have the potential to cause a likely significant effect and the Table lists their impact pathways.
- 4.1.13 Table 8 lists the Habitats sites identified at screening stage and shows the potential impact pathways and key Likely Significant Effects identified.
- 4.1.14 Key vulnerabilities of each Habitats site are set out in Appendix 5 using the relevant Site Improvement Plans. Site Improvement Plans have been developed for each Habitats (Natura 2000) Site in England as part of the 'Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS)' but they do not include Ramsar sites. Each Site Improvement Plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features These can be found at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5458594975711232>.

4.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report

CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17

- 4.2.1 As previously mentioned, in line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats site. This HRA Appropriate Assessment therefore considers mitigation measures for the assessment of Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.
- 4.2.2 In accordance with this Judgement, all mitigation measures already built into the Local Plan can now be taken into account for the Appropriate Assessment. At this stage other policies of the Plan can be considered in order to mitigate some of the potential Likely Significant Effects which have been identified. This stage is an iterative process as



avoidance and reduction measures can be incorporated in order to be able to avoid the potential impacts identified in the Appropriate Assessment or reduce them to a level where they will no longer adversely affect the site's integrity.

- 4.2.3 An example may include a requirement for Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) for new housing and employment sites which can help to mitigate for surface water flooding and prevent water pollution.
- 4.2.4 Where there may still be adverse effects on the ecological integrity of Habitats sites, in view of the Site's conservation objectives, additional mitigation measures may also need to be proposed. Generic mitigation is used where possible. This should help to address water quality, air pollution, noise, and other (non-recreational) forms of disturbance. Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMP - Biodiversity) – often a condition of consent - can help to direct seasonal working, damping down of dust and measures to alleviate noise pollution.

CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

- 4.2.5 Court rulings include CJEU Holohan C-461/17 (7 November 2018) which now imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage:

1. [...] an 'Appropriate Assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

2. [...] the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

3. [...] where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'Appropriate Assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

- 4.2.6 It is therefore necessary to consider species likely to be present on the Habitats sites, but for which that site has not been listed – e.g. birds which are designated features of the underpinning SSSI – and to consider the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to



affect the conservation objectives of the site. Those species found outside the European designated site boundary are likely to be covered by the consideration of impacts on functionally linked land.

4.2.7 The designated features of the Stour Estuary SSSI have been assessed and it is not considered that there will be any additional impacts on the qualifying features that have not already been addressed within the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar.

4.2.8 However, the Orwell Estuary SSSI citation includes a number of breeding bird assemblages that are present during the summer. The breeding bird assemblages are concentrated in three main areas (Trimley Marshes, Shotley Marshes, and Loompit Lake, Levington) and contain the following species:

- Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*;
- Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*;
- Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*;
- Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*;
- Gadwall *Mareca strepera*;
- Garganey *Spatula querquedula*;
- Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*;
- Pochard *Aythya ferina*;
- Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*;
- Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*;
- Reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*;
- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*;
- Redshank *Tringa totanus*;
- Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (a nationally important population); and
- Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (an Inland nesting colony).

4.2.9 These summer breeding populations have not been considered within the assessment for the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar and therefore impacts on the above species must also be considered with this Habitats Regulations Assessment.

CJEU Joined Cases C-293/17 and C-294/17 Coöperatie Mobilisation for the Environment and Vereniging Leefmilieu

4.2.10 These Dutch cases concerned authorisations schemes for agricultural activities in Habitats sites which cause nitrogen deposition and where levels already exceeded the critical load. These are not directly connected with or necessary for the management of a Habitats site and “highlights” of the ruling include:

1. *Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that the grazing of cattle and the application of fertilisers on the surface of land or below its surface*



in the vicinity of Natura 2000 sites may be classified as a 'project' within the meaning of that provision, even if those activities, in so far as they are not a physical intervention in the natural surroundings, do not constitute a 'project' within the meaning of Article 1(2)(a) of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

2. *Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that a recurring activity, such as the application of fertilisers on the surface of land or below its surface, authorised under national law before the entry into force of that directive, may be regarded as one and the same project for the purposes of that provision, exempted from a new authorisation procedure, in so far as it constitutes a single operation characterised by a common purpose, continuity and, inter alia, the location and the conditions in which it is carried out being the same. If a single project was authorised before the system of protection laid down by that provision became applicable to the site in question, the carrying out of that project may nevertheless fall within the scope of Article 6(2) of that directive.*

...

6. *Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that an 'appropriate assessment' within the meaning of that provision may not take into account the existence of 'conservation measures' within the meaning of paragraph 1 of that article, 'preventive measures' within the meaning of paragraph 2 of that article, measures specifically adopted for a programme such as that at issue in the main proceedings or 'autonomous' measures, in so far as those measures are not part of that programme, if the expected benefits of those measures are not certain at the time of that assessment.*

7. *Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that measures introduced by national legislation, such as that at issue in the main proceedings, including procedures for the surveillance and monitoring of farms whose activities cause nitrogen deposition and the possibility of imposing penalties, up to and including the closure of those farms, are sufficient for the purposes of complying.*

4.2.11 This ruling is relevant to projects which trigger appropriate assessment before any consents are issued so should be considered when identifying other plans and projects for an in- combination assessment.

(R (on the Application of Preston) v Cumbria County Council [2019] EWCA 1362)

4.2.12 This case relates to a High Court verdict which quashed a County Council's decision to vary a planning permission for a water company to construct a sewage outfall on a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Therefore, planning authorities and other competent authorities cannot, in appropriate assessments, simply rely on the competence of other



regulators to avoid conducting their own assessments. They must instead themselves satisfy their own HRA duties. The judgement concluded:

Regulation 63(1) provides that the trigger for making an appropriate assessment is that the relevant plan or project 'is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

Regulation 63(3) envisages consultation with the appropriate nature conservation body taking place at the stage of the appropriate assessment and accordingly after the initial view that there is likely to be significant effect has been formed. The conclusion as to whether the integrity of the relevant site will be adversely affected is to be made 'in the light of the conclusions of the assessment'

(Regulation 63(5)) and it is at that stage that regard is to be had to the manner in which the project is to be carried out and to the conditions or restrictions which the authority is minded to impose.

(Regulation 63(6)) The effect of restrictions imposed by another regulatory body is seen as an aspect of the manner in which a project is to be carried out and so falling for consideration under Regulation 63(6) at the end of the assessment process rather than as removing the need for an appropriate assessment.

4.3 Applying the Integrity Test

- 4.3.1 Following the Appropriate Assessment and the consideration of all mitigation measures, the competent authority needs to make a judgement on whether any of the policies will have an Adverse Effect on Integrity on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. This will be set out in Chapter 4 and summarised in Appendix 3. This test incorporates the precautionary principle.

4.4 In Combination Effects with other Plans and Projects

- 4.4.1 The Appropriate Assessment also includes a comprehensive identification of all the potential effects of the Local Plan likely to be significant, taking into account the combination of the effects of the Local Plan with those of other plans or projects. An example is the implementation of the Suffolk Coast RAMS through Policy SP09 – (Cross-boundary mitigation of effects on Protected Habitats Sites) which will provide strategic mitigation measures for all new developments within the Zone of Influence for recreational disturbance, to avoid effects in combination with other plans and projects. This is necessary as it cannot be concluded that no new people will visit the Habitats sites so residual effects arising from the development cannot be scoped out.



4.5 Embedding Mitigation into the Local Plan

- 4.5.1 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, as the competent authorities, should consider the manner in which the Local Plan is to be implemented and any mitigation measures which could be relied upon when deciding whether it would have an Adverse Effect on Integrity, including when and how they can be embedded into the Local Plan. It needs to ensure that mitigation is embedded into the Plan through amendments to policies where necessary. It is not sufficient to rely on a general policy aimed at protecting Habitats sites. Instead, explicit caveats need to be included where there may be conflicts between a general policy to protect Habitats sites from development and another policy.
- 4.5.2 Each impact is assessed e.g. air quality, water quality, disturbance, and has a summary of the additional mitigation measures required to avoid Adverse Effect On site Integrity (AEOI) and the recommendations are set out to embed the mitigation into the Joint Local Plan Part 1.

4.6 Re-applying the Integrity Test

- 4.6.1 At this stage the integrity test should be re-applied. Where there may still be adverse effects on the ecological integrity of Habitats sites, in view of the Site's conservation objectives, additional mitigation measures should be considered.
- 4.6.2 This AA provides tables for each potential impact pathway where it considers individual policies, how they might be mitigated and whether embedded mitigation is sufficient to avoid Adverse Effect On site Integrity.

4.7 Monitoring

- 4.7.1 Recommendations for further monitoring have been recommended for Air Quality in section 4.14.

4.8 Consulting Natural England

- 4.8.1 Natural England will be consulted during the public consultation process.



4.9 Water Quality

- 4.9.1 This section of the report considers the potential for adverse effects to Habitats sites through changes in water quality as a result of development.
- 4.9.2 Contaminants may have a range of biological effects on different species within the supporting habitat, depending on the nature of the contaminant (**Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), 2004**), (**UK Technical Advisory Group on the Water Framework Directive (UKTAG), 2008**), (**Environment Agency, 2014**). This in turn can adversely affect the availability of bird breeding, rearing, feeding and roosting habitats, and potentially bird survival.

Policies / Allocations and Habitats Sites within Scope

- 4.9.3 At Screening stage, the following Habitats sites were listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of water quality issues:
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA
 - Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site
- 4.9.4 In addition, at Screening stage the following Policies were listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of water quality issues:
- Policy SP05 – Employment Land
- 4.9.5 This is because, whilst the Site Improvement Plans for the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site do not identify water quality as a significant factor affecting site integrity for the designated sites, policy SP05 references employment land which is either close to the coastal Habitats sites or is close to a water source which would provide a direct impact pathway to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, it is considered that without mitigation in place, an Adverse Effect On site Integrity could be caused to the referenced Habitats sites.

Use of Mitigation Measures

Policy SP05 – Employment Land

- 4.9.6 Any ongoing regeneration at the Brantham Industrial Estate and at the Former Sroughton Sugar Beet Factory will need to demonstrate it protects groundwater, surface water features and controls aquatic pollution, which could be implemented via a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP - Biodiversity) and Surface Water Management Plan. In addition, information may be required to demonstrate that the developer has consulted with the relevant authority regarding wastewater treatment and



that capacity within the foul sewerage network and receiving water recycling centre is available or can be made available in time to serve the development.

4.9.7 However, this mitigation is considered sufficiently embedded within the Joint Local Plan Part 1. As a result, any further regeneration schemes at these locations will also need to comply with the following Policies:

- Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment
- Policy LP15 - Environmental Protection and Conservation (i.e., sections 3 & 4)
- Policy LP16 - Biodiversity & Geodiversity (i.e., section 2a)
- Policy LP27 - Water resources and infrastructure

4.9.8 If a regeneration scheme at Brantham or the Former Sproughton Sugar Beet Factory is proposed, then a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment may be required to be secured, depending on the proposals of the scheme.

Applying the Integrity Test

4.9.9 With the measures embedded within the Joint Local Plan within the policies outlined above, we are satisfied that Policy SP05 – Employment Land will not result in any Adverse Effects On site Integrity to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

4.10 Disturbance

4.10.1 This section includes an increase of any type of physical disturbance, for example; improved access due to transport infrastructure projects or increased noise arising from construction work.

Policies/Allocations and Habitats sites within scope

4.10.2 At Screening stage, the following Habitats sites were listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of direct disturbances from construction or operational activities issues:

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site
- Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site
- Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC

4.10.3 At Screening stage, the following Policies were listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of direct disturbance issues:

- Policy SP05 - Employment Land
- Policy LP05 - Rural Worker Dwellings



- 4.10.4 This is because, whilst the Site Improvement Plans for the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site do not identify disturbance from construction or operational activities as a significant factor affecting site integrity for the designated sites, Policy SP05 references employment land which is immediately adjacent to the coastal Habitats sites. Furthermore, Policy LP05 - Rural Worker Dwellings could be located immediately adjacent to the Habitats sites and construction or operation impacts could result on disturbance upon the relevant qualifying features of
- 4.10.5 Therefore, it is considered that, without mitigation in place, an Adverse Effect On site Integrity could be caused to the referenced Habitats sites.

Use of Mitigation Measures

Policy SP05 – Employment Land

- 4.10.6 Any future regeneration at the Brantham Industrial Estate may cause direct disturbance of the qualifying features of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- 4.10.7 Disturbance will therefore be avoided via submission of precautionary mitigation strategies for dust, as well as noise, visual and light disturbance. This could be secured as a condition of any consent within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP - Biodiversity), an Operational Environment Management Plan and / or lighting design schemes.
- 4.10.8 In addition, depending on the proposed regeneration scheme, a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment – Appropriate Assessment will likely be required to be secured by Babergh District Council. This would likely involve the developer submitting evidence of the likely impacts upon qualifying features of the relevant Habitats sites as a result of the proposal, which should follow details contained within the Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects (Hemingway & Spencer)¹².
- 4.10.9 Consultation with Natural England on any project level Habitats Regulations Assessment – Appropriate Assessment will be required, for advice on the proposed mitigation, before Babergh District Council can reach a decision at application stage.
- 4.10.10 However, this mitigation is considered sufficiently embedded within the Joint Local Plan Part 1. As a result, any further regeneration schemes at the Brantham Industrial Estate will need to comply with the following Policies:
- Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment
 - Policy LP15 - Environmental Protection and Conservation (i.e., sections 3a)
 - Policy LP16 - Biodiversity & Geodiversity (i.e., section 2a)

¹² <http://bailey.persona-pi.com/Public-Inquiries/M4%20-%20Revised/11.3.67.pdf>



Policy LP05 - Rural Worker Dwellings

- 4.10.11 If rural worker dwellings are proposed, which are located immediately adjacent to the relevant Habitats sites, precautionary mitigation strategies may be required to demonstrate the no impacts will be caused. This could include timing of works and measures to demonstrate impacts from dust, as well as noise, visual and light disturbance. This may be necessary to inform, a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment – Appropriate Assessment which would be secured by Babergh or Mid Suffolk District Council.
- 4.10.12 Consultation with Natural England on any project level Habitats Regulations Assessment – Appropriate Assessment will be required, for advice on the proposed/ required mitigation, before an LPA can reach a decision at application stage.
- 4.10.13 However, this mitigation is considered sufficiently embedded within the Joint Local Plan. As a result, any further regeneration schemes at the Brantham Industrial Estate will need to comply with the following Policies:
- Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment
 - Policy LP15 - Environmental Protection and Conservation (i.e., sections 3a)
 - Policy LP16 - Biodiversity & Geodiversity (i.e., section 2a)

Applying the Integrity Test

- 4.10.14 With the measures embedded within the Joint Local Plan, we are satisfied that Policy SP05 – Employment Land should not result in any direct Adverse Effects On site Integrity to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar, Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site and Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC.

4.11 Recreational Disturbance

- 4.11.1 This section particularly considers the predicted impacts from recreational use of an area resulting from new development.
- 4.11.2 Given the location of the eastern part of Babergh and southern part of Mid Suffolk districts in relation to the coastal Habitats sites, without mitigation, the residential development facilitated as a result of the Joint Local Plan Part 1 is likely to result in a significant number of new residents visiting them for their daily recreational needs. Natural England advice reference 186522 (dated 25th May 2016) and the subsequent revised interim advice reference 218775 (22 June 2017) specifically applies to the recreational impacts that may occur on the bird interest features of the SPA. Access to high quality natural greenspace is therefore necessary to avoid adverse effect on site integrity of the Habitats sites within scope of this Appropriate Assessment from the Plan alone.



Policies/Allocations and Habitats sites within scope

- 4.11.3 At Screening stage, the following Habitats sites were listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of direct disturbance issues:
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA
 - Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site
 - Deben Estuary SPA
 - Deben Estuary Ramsar site
 - Minsmere – Walberswick SPA
 - Minsmere – Walberswick Ramsar site
 - Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC
- 4.11.4 At Screening stage, the following Policies were listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of disturbance from increased recreation issues from forthcoming developments:
- Policy SP01 – Housing Needs
 - Policy SP08 – Strategic Infrastructure Provision
- 4.11.5 Policy LP05 was also listed as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects as a result of increased recreational disturbance. This is because the policy outlines criteria where residential accommodation for rural workers will be supported outside of settlement boundaries, which could be located within Protected Habitats Mitigation Zones. However, it is considered unlikely that rural workers dwellings would result in AEOI, as the schemes are not likely to be over 50 units within the Protected Habitats Mitigation Zones. Furthermore, it is considered unlikely that rural workers dwellings will result in recreational impacts from the development alone, given the need for the accommodation to be located near to the agricultural business. Therefore, potential impacts from increased recreational disturbance at the coastal Habitats sites from rural workers dwellings are only expected in combination with other plans and projects and are not addressed further in this section.
- 4.11.6 Whilst none of the listed policies specifically relate to specific site allocations, Policy SP01 does outline the local housing needs of the districts, including the number of dwellings required per annum. This will include the provision of larger scale residential developments to reach these targets, which will likely occur within the 13km Zone of Influence of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site and the Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as well as possibly Minsmere – Walberswick SPA & Ramsar site and Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC.
- 4.11.7 Policy SP08 also outlines that development will need to comply with the requirements for Protected Habitats Mitigation Zones, but this does not include text which specifically relates to avoiding Adverse Effects On site Integrity from recreational disturbance (from the development alone) from individual larger scale residential development within the



districts. Nevertheless, the supporting text outlines measures to ensure that impacts from the development alone will be avoided for larger scale residential development within the Protected Habitats Mitigation Zones.

Use of Mitigation Measures

- 4.11.8 As per Natural England's advice letter, the Joint Local Plan Part 1 needs to consider the availability of on-site (*i.e.* within development boundaries) avoidance measures (such as the recommended Green Infrastructure within Annex I of Natural England's referenced strategic letter).
- 4.11.9 Annex I Natural England's recommendations for larger scale residential developments within the Suffolk Coast RAMS Zone of Influence (Zol) states that applications for 50 units + or equivalent, as a guide, should include provision of well-designed open space/green infrastructure, proportionate to its scale. Such provisions can help minimise any predicted increase in recreational pressure to the Habitats sites by containing the majority of recreation within and around the development site boundary away from Habitats sites. Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space (SANGS) guidance here can be helpful in designing this. As a minimum, Natural England advise that such provisions should include:
- High-quality, informal, semi-natural areas
 - Circular dog walking routes of 2.7 km within the site and/or with links to the surrounding public rights of way (PRoW)
 - Dedicated 'dogs-off-lead' areas
 - Signage/information leaflets to householders to promote these areas for recreation
 - Dog waste bins
 - A commitment to the long-term maintenance and management of these provisions
- 4.11.10 There is a prediction that population growth arising in the districts within the zone of influence (Zol) for the Suffolk Coast RAMS will have an Adverse Effect On site Integrity of Habitats sites through increased recreational pressure. Whilst on-site green infrastructure provision can offset some of this pressure and impacts from the development alone, the coast will nonetheless be a unique draw to visitors as it provides an environment which cannot be replicated elsewhere. It is therefore important that high quality greenspace is provided within walking distance of residential site allocations.
- 4.11.11 This text has now been included paragraph 12.16 - 12.19 of the Plan, as well as within Policy SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment (Modifications – MM24 & MM26). This will ensure that applications for 50 units + or equivalent will contain appropriate measures to avoid Adverse Effect On site Integrity of Habitats sites through increased recreational pressure. This includes any future allocations as part of the 'Part 2' Plan, as well as any windfall development.



Applying the Integrity Test

4.11.12 With the measures embedded within the Joint Local Plan Part 1, we are satisfied that Policy SP01 – Housing Needs and Policy SP08 – Strategic Infrastructure Provision should not result in any direct Adverse Effects On site Integrity to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site, Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar site, the Minsmere – Walberswick SPA & Ramsar site and the Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC.

4.12 Assessment of Impacts in Combination with Other Plans and Projects

4.12.1 A series of individually modest impacts may, in combination, produce a significant impact. Cumulative impacts may only occur over time, so plans or projects which are completed, approved but uncompleted, or proposed should all be considered. The assessment should not be restricted to similar types of plans and projects.

4.12.2 In the context of this AA, the relevant other plans to be considered in combination with Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 1 are listed in Table 9 below.

Table 9. Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects

| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Mid Suffolk District Council | Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) October 2007) | The HRA found no likely significant effects from the Plan on the Breckland SAC/SPA and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC. | It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted. |
| Babergh District Council | Habitats Regulations Assessment of Core Strategy 2011 | The Core Strategy aims to minimise impacts on the Orwell and Stour estuaries, a European-designated site which supports species that are susceptible to disturbance. The principal potential impact on the European | It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted. |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | sites as a result of development proposed under the Core Strategy relates to increased recreational pressure. The Strategy therefore sets out a series of measures to ensure that the policies will not have a significant effect on the European sites. | |
| Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan | Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan Reg 18: Habitat Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment (Place Services, 2019) | The HRA report including Appropriate Assessment indicates that the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan is not predicted to have any AEOI on any Habitats sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. | N/A |
| St Edmundsbury Borough Council (now known as West Suffolk Council). | Core Strategy HRA screening (2010) | The HRA found no potential for in combination effects as no other current plans or projects that are likely to lead to significant effects on the Breckland SAC/SPA or the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC have been identified, or where impacts have been identified they have been adequately mitigated. | It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted. |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|--|---|---|--|
| Suffolk Coastal District Council (now known as East Suffolk Council) | Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan at Final Draft Plan Stage (Dec 2018) | It is recommended that the Suffolk authorities should be mindful of the potential issue for impacts from air quality and plan for more detailed analysis of risks across the county, to inform the next plan reviews. This should include air quality modelling that incorporates a specific consideration of potential deposition rates within 200m of European sites. | Potential risk of traffic emissions to Habitats sites with features sensitive to air pollution. Recommendation that the Council commits to working with neighbouring authorities to gather more data to inform future Local Plan reviews. |
| Ipswich Council Borough | HRA of Ipswich Borough Local Plan at Final Draft Plan stage (Jan 2020) | The HRA screening has identified key themes and a number of site allocations for more detailed assessment at the AA stage. | Recreational disturbance from residential developments within the 13km Zone of influence. |
| Tendring Council District | Habitats Regulation Assessment of Tendring District Local Plan Publication Draft Section 2 (LUC, October 2018) | Tendring District Draft Publication Local Plan Section 2, has been updated to include the specific policy safeguards and commitments previously recommended, and providing that the additional mitigation measures and safeguards in relation to policies SAE5 and SAE6 are adopted and successfully implemented, it can be concluded that there will | Recreational disturbance from residential developments within the 13km Zone of influence. |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|----------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | <p>be no adverse effects on European sites either alone or in combination. Water Quality: Additional safeguards to water quality- by addressing water treatment capacity issues prior to specific developments.</p> | |
| Colchester Borough Council | HRA (AA) (June 2017, CBC Spatial Policy Team) | No adverse effect, once mitigation measures are in place. | None |
| Braintree Council | HRA for North Essex Authorities Shared Strategic Part 1 for Local Plans - Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) (LUC, May 2017) | <p>Providing that key recommendations and mitigation requirements are adopted and implemented the Shared Strategic Part 1 for Local Plans will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of European sites either alone or in-combination. This used the Essex Minerals LP, Essex Waste LP & Essex Local Transport Plan (and many others) in its assessment. Loss of off-site habitat: Wintering Bird surveys to ensure that parcels of land below the 1% threshold of significance; development phasing & mitigation.</p> | None. |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|--|--|---|--|
| | | <p>Water Quality: Additional safeguards to water quality- by addressing water treatment capacity issues prior to specific developments.</p> | |
| <p>Greater Norwich Development Partnership</p> | <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Greater Norwich Local Plan Draft Plan (Dec 2019)</p> | <p>Satisfactory completion of a Water Cycle Study; production of a Norfolk-wide GI and RAMS to deliver mitigation of recreational impacts; and clarification of Policy 6 noting the need for HRA for tourist accommodation.</p> | <p>There are three strands to providing satisfactory mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tariff-based payment taken from residential, and other relevant accommodation e.g. tourist accommodation, to fund a mixture of mitigation measures, most likely consisting of: soft and hard mitigation measures at the designated Habitats sites themselves to increase their resilience to greater visitor numbers. • the provision of suitable alternative natural green space (SANGs), which would be large enough to meet a range of needs and sufficiently well publicised for effective mitigation. The current Broadland District Council Development Management DPD policy EN3 may be considered as a precedent for housing growth in the emerging |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | <p>Greater Norwich Local Plan, although consideration will need to be given to new evidence emerging as part of plan production.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a wider programme of Green Infrastructure Improvements in accordance with current and emerging project plans so that residents of existing and proposed housing have an alternative to Habitats sites for daily activities such as dog walking. |
| Breckland Council | Breckland Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment at Main Modifications Stage (Feb 2019) | <p>The buffer zones for Stone Curlew are established and understood, and continue to be a key mitigation measure (refined in light of the new data).</p> <p>It recommends a review of current air quality monitoring and add roads within 200m of Habitats sites. This would inform a trigger for requesting air quality assessments as part of planning applications, to determine whether this adequately protects Habitats sites from air quality impacts.</p> | <p>Growth at Attleborough will need to be considered alongside the findings and further recommendations of the Water Cycle Study and should have particular regard for the isolated site of the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC located to the south west of Attleborough.</p> |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Babergh District Council | Orwell Food Enterprise Zone, Wherstead, HRA screening report (Sept 2016) | Natural England advice stated that taking into account the location & current state of the proposal site (buildings and hard standings separated from the estuary by a main road), impacts on functional habitat (<i>i.e.</i> habitat used by SPA bird species outside the SPA boundary for foraging etc.) appears unlikely. Also, taking into account the proposed uses (B1, B2 and B8) recreational disturbance impacts also appear unlikely (<i>i.e.</i> no residential uses proposed which would typically present more of a concern). Car parking will not be permitted with the exception of visitors parking and parking for the disabled” which eliminates another potential risk of attracting more visitors to that section of the estuary. Conditions for design and method of working will need to be secured for any applications under this LDO. | None if measures secured for residential developments are implemented in full. |
| Suffolk County Council | Suffolk Local Transport Plan Update Appropriate Assessment (2018) | There are six transport schemes and five enhancement schemes that, without mitigation, | There are potential impacts linked to water and air quality and disturbance to Annex 1 |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|--|---|--|--|
| | | <p>have potential for AEOI. As the transport and enhancement schemes listed in Table 3 have not yet reached the design stage, it is recommended that in order for the LTP Update to progress, project level assessment are prepared when sufficient information is available in order to avoid an adverse effect on the integrity of any Habitats sites.</p> | <p>birds; measures to avoid or mitigate these impacts need to be embedded into projects at the design stage to avoid AEOI.</p> |
| <p>Suffolk County Council</p> | <p>Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan HRA (Dec 2018)</p> | <p>Allocations for mineral extraction at Barnham, Cavenham, and Wangford were found to be likely to have a significant effect on European sites. However, an assessment of potential impacts found evidence to demonstrate that the Local Plan would have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site.</p> | <p>No other plans or projects have been identified which would have effects in combination with the Suffolk Minerals and Waste local Plan.</p> <p>However, air quality monitoring has been recommended by other HRAs with other authorities.</p> |
| <p>Neighbourhood Development Plans</p> | <p>Individual Plan level HRA reports</p> | <p>All residential development within the Zone of Influence has been or will be considered by the relevant District Council and will be mitigated through project level</p> | <p>None as strategic mitigation for in combination impacts from recreational disturbance will be delivered by the Suffolk Coast RAMS.</p> |



| Statutory Body | Title of HRA or Project | Findings of HRA or Project | Potential for in combination effects |
|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | | AAs or under the strategic Suffolk Coast RAMS. | |
| Natural England | England Coast Path Proposals - Harwich to Shotley Gate and Shotley Gate to Felixstowe Ferry stretches: Habitats Regulations Assessment of effects on Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site (Natural England 2020) | The Habitats Regulations Assessment aims to minimise impacts on the Orwell and Stour Estuaries SPA and Ramsar as a result of the England Coast Path. It can be ascertained, in view of site conservation objectives, that the access proposal (taking into account any incorporated avoidance and mitigation measures) will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. | Public access is already established at other shoreline locations within the parish and no significant increase in recreational use is expected as a result of the Plan. |

Recreational disturbance

4.12.3 In 2016, Natural England identified the Suffolk coast as a priority for strategic and proactive planning engagement and mitigation. This was due to the high numbers of dwellings that were likely to come forward for each Local Plan alone and also in combination within the relevant Local Plans by 2038 to meet projected housing needs. The concern was the potential recreational impacts that these new residents could have upon the Habitats sites.

4.12.4 Natural England proposed a strategic approach to LPAs and recommended identifying the scale of the disturbance and implementing measures to mitigate impacts through the



preparation of a joint Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

- 4.12.5 Based on existing evidence of visitor pressures, Natural England advised that the Councils should work together to prepare the Strategy. To reflect the differing Local Plan adoption dates of these authorities, Natural England advised that a Supplementary Planning Document should be the mechanism to secure developer contributions towards the mitigation measures identified as necessary by the Strategy.
- 4.12.6 Natural England's advice was that the Local Plans must have a clear policy commitment to producing a Mitigation Strategy, with a clear timeframe for its completion. This should be by the time the Local Plan is adopted to ensure any developments coming forward as part of the plan have certainty that there are mitigation measures which can be implemented as soon as the Local Plan is live.
- 4.12.7 The Suffolk Coast RAMS partner LPAs agreed that a strategic solution to mitigate the impacts of recreational disturbance from Local Plans was a sensible approach to take the support of Natural England. As a consequence, the Suffolk Coast RAMS Project prepared a strategic approach to support the Local Plans which has been adopted by both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and its implementation will deliver effective measures to avoid and mitigate for recreational disturbance from planned development.
- 4.12.8 It is therefore considered that relevant development in Babergh & Mid Suffolk districts requires mitigation to avoid Adverse Effects On site Integrity of the Habitats sites within scope through increased recreational pressure, when considered in combination with other plans and projects.
- 4.12.9 Formal advice issued to Babergh District Council by Natural England (August 2016) identified that, in combination with other plans and projects, all residential development within the zone of influence (Zol) for the Suffolk Coast RAMS would be likely to result in a significant effect on a number of Habitats sites.
- 4.12.10 Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils are two of the 4 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) which are partners who are responsible for the delivery of the Suffolk Coast RAMS. This has identified a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which are to be funded by developer contributions from development schemes.
- 4.12.11 As a result, this mitigation has been embedded into the Joint Local Plan Part 1 via the provision of Policy SP09 –Enhancement and Management of the Environment, which outlines that development will be required to make appropriate contributions through legal agreements towards management projects and/or monitoring of visitor pressure and urban effects on Habitats sites and be compliant with the Suffolk Coast RAMS. Therefore, this strategic approach addresses any in-combination impact of increased visitor pressure at the relevant costal Habitats sites.



4.12.12 Essex LPAs have also prepared and adopted the Essex Coast RAMS and its implementation will deliver effective measures to avoid and mitigate for recreational disturbance from planned development across greater Essex including the southern side of the Stour Estuary.

Air Quality Monitoring

4.12.13 Air quality has been identified as a relevant impact for Habitats sites in previous iterations of Joint Local Plan and the councils are committed to working with neighbouring authorities to gather data to inform future local plan reviews

4.12.14 Therefore, it is highlighted that baseline monitoring of air quality from traffic on roads within 200 metres of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site, Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site, and Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC. This has been undertaken to inform an Air Quality Monitoring Plan, which could also inform future iterations of the Plan.

4.12.15 This was agreed with Natural England for the collection of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Ammonia (NH₃) emissions over a 12-month period from September 2021. A caveat has been secured within Policy SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment, which indicates that the Councils will commit to an immediate review of the planning policies if the baseline monitoring identifies that Adverse Effects On site Integrity upon the relevant Habitats sites.

4.12.16 A Local Plan Review will provide an appropriate stage and timescale to update the monitoring undertaken and determine whether the Plan's policies are having an Avoid Adverse Effect On site Integrity of the relevant Habitats sites.

4.13 Re-applying the integrity test

4.13.1 Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils are committed to ensuring that new development and any associated recreational disturbance impacts on internationally designated sites is avoided and mitigated to demonstrate compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

4.13.2 As mitigation has been embedded within Policy SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment, it can be concluded that there will be no Adverse Effect On site Integrity upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site, Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar site, the Minsmere – Walberswick SPA & Ramsar site and the Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, as a result of a potential increase in recreational disturbance (in combination with other plans and projects) from Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan.

4.13.3 As mitigation has been embedded within Policy SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment, the Councils have demonstrated a commitment to ensure that no



Adverse Effect On site Integrity upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site, Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site, and Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC. By working with other LPAs in monitoring air quality on roads within 200m of Habitats sites for potential impacts from air pollution, these potential impacts can be assessed following further surveys carried out in subsequent Local Plan reviews.



5. Conclusion

- 5.1.1 This Habitats Regulation Assessment, including Appropriate Assessment, considers the impacts arising from the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan 'Part 1'.
- 5.1.2 In applying the HRA Test 2 –the integrity test at AA stage - based on the development type and proximity to Habitats (European) sites, the potential for in combination effects resulting from other plans or projects has also been assessed and avoidance and/or mitigation measures have been considered. Embedded mitigation measures for projects will need to be considered in project level HRA/AA reports and secured by way of any planning consent. Therefore, there will be no need for further assessment for this Local Plan.
- 5.1.3 Consequently, this HRA report including Appropriate Assessment indicates that the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Districts Joint Local Plan 'Part 1' is not predicted to have any Adverse Effect On site Integrity on any Habitats sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. A summary of policies after mitigation has been included is in Appendix 3.
- 5.1.4 In addition, a comparison of the mitigation measures proposed within the Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) Habitats Regulations Assessment and the measures implemented as part of the 'Part 1' has been outlined within Appendix 4. This highlights that the modifications provided as part of 'Part 1' Plan do not result in any significant changes, which will alter the conclusion of the previous assessment.



6. References

- Air Pollution Information System (2011) www.apis.ac.uk
- Anglian Water (March 2021) Drought Plan. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/draft-drought-plan-2022.pdf>
- Anglian Water (December 2022) Draft WRMP24 Main Document. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp/draft-wrmp24-main-report.pdf>
- Anglian Water (December 2022) Draft WRMP24 Non-technical Summary. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp/draft-wrmp24-non-technical-summary.pdf>
- Anglian Water (June 2022) Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft.pdf>
- Anglian Water (June 2022) Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (Technical Document). Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft-technical-document.pdf>
- Atkins (2011) Habitats Regulations Assessment for Babergh District Council Core Strategy
- Atkins (2010) St. Edmundsbury Borough Council Core Strategy HRA screening
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council (2020) Joint Local Plan: Pre-Submission (Regulation 19)
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (2019). Sustainability & Environment Appraisal LA 105 Air quality. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/search/10191621-07df-44a3-892e-c1d5c7a28d90>
- Essex and Suffolk Water (2022) Drought Plan 2022. Available at: <https://www.nwg.co.uk/droughtplan>
- Essex and Suffolk Water (2019) Water Resources Management Plan 2019. Available at: <https://www.nwg.co.uk/responsibility/environment/wrmp/current-wrmp-2015-2020/>
- Footprint Ecology (2018) Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan at Final Draft Plan Stage (Dec 2018)
- Gov.uk (May 2019) Pollution Prevention for Businesses. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>



- Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) for Mid Suffolk District Council Core Strategy (2007)
- IAQM (June 2019). Available from <https://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2019.pdf>
- Hemingway, K & Spencer, J (2013) Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects, Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull
- JBA Consulting (July 2020) Water Cycle Study for Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Reg 19.
- JBA Consulting (October 2020) Addendum to Water Cycle Study for Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Reg 19.
- Natural England (2014) Conservation objectives for European Sites. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6581547796791296>
- Natural England (March 2020) Advice on achieving nutrient neutrality for new development in the Solent Region v4. Available at: <https://www.push.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Advice-on-Achieving-Nutrient-Neutrality-for-New-Development-in-the-Solent-Region-March-2020.pdf>
- Natural England (2020) England Coast Path Proposals - Harwich to Shotley Gate Stretch: Habitats Regulations Assessment of effects on Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/850426/harwich-shotley-gate-habitats-regulations-assessment.PDF
- Natural England (2020) Assessment of England Coast Path Proposals between Shotley Gate and Felixstowe Ferry on Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/856037/shotley-gate-felixstowe-ferry-habitats-regulations-assessment.pdf
- [Place Services \(2018\) Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy \(RAMS\)](#)
- [Place Services \(2021\) Norfolk Green Infrastructure \(GI\) and Recreational impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy \(RAMS\)](#)
- Stevens, C.J.; Maskell, L.C. ; Smart, S.M.; Caporn, S.J.M. ; Dise, N.B.; Gowing, D.J. 2009 [Identifying indicators of atmospheric nitrogen deposition impacts in acid grasslands](#) Biological Conservation 142 2069-2075



- The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB (2018). The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-2023. Available from <https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SCH-AONB-Management-Plan-2018-23.pdf>
- Tydlesley, D., and Chapman, C. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, (Feb 2019) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited. Available at: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/>
- Visitor Access Patterns on European Sites surrounding Whitehill and Bordon, East Hampshire. UE Associates. Available at: <http://www.whitehillbordon.com>



7. Appendix

Appendix 1. Review of the Main Modifications of the Part 1 Plan

| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|----------------------------|---|--|
| MM1. | 5 | Chapter 01 01.01 -01.19 | Sets out the scope of the two Development Plan Documents. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM2. | 16 | 03.03 and Key Diagram | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM3. | 18 | 04.01 – 04.04 | Sets out the scope of the two Development Plan Documents. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM4. | 27 | Table 3 | Outlines the amended Residual Housing Need over the Plan Period. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM5. | 28 | Policy SP01 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. However, the policy itself must be screened in, as it includes reference to housing delivery. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|---|---|--|
| MM6. | 29 | 07.03 – 07.09, including Babergh AH mix table and Mid Suffolk AH mix table | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM7. | 31 | 07.11 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM8. | 32 | Policy SP02 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM9. | 33 | 08.02 – 08.04 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM10. | 34 | Policy SP03 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM11. | 35 | Table 2 | Table removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--|---|--|
| MM12. | 37 | Table 3 | Table removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM13. | 40 | Heading 09 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM14. | 40 | 09.02 – 09.12, Policy SP03, Table 04 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM15. | 40 | 09.01 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM16. | 40 | New sub heading, supporting text and policy to follow after 9.01 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM17. | 40 | New policy – SP04 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------|--|--|
| MM18. | 45 | 09.13 – 09.24 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM19. | 50 | 10.01 | Text added which references employment sites and the key regeneration sites for employment sites (Brantham & Sproughton). There are impact pathways from these key regeneration sites to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site. There is a possibility that Policy SP05 could result in impacts upon these Habitats sites, as a result further consideration is required. | Y |
| MM20. | 50 | SP05 | Text added which references employment sites and the key regeneration sites for employment sites (Brantham & Sproughton). There are impact pathways from these key regeneration sites to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site. There is a possibility that Policy SP05 could result in impacts upon these Habitats sites, as a result further consideration is required. | Y |
| MM21. | 50 | SP06 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|---------------------------|--|--|
| MM22. | 51 | SP07 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM23. | 53 | SP08 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM24. | 57 | 12.16 - 12.19 | Text provides further clarification on the content of Policy SP09. Revisions also include clarifications on the scope of 'Protected Habitats Mitigation Zones' and when mitigation will be required in line with the Suffolk Coast RAMS. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM25. | 57 | New paragraph after 12.20 | Text includes further revisions on when additional considerations will be required for development within or directly adjacent to Habitats sites. It also provides a caveat to implement mitigation measures to ensure that traffic emissions are retained at acceptable levels within 200m of Habitats sites within the districts, which may increase as a result of the Plan. This will be carried out as a result of the air quality monitoring, which was secured as part of the Pre-Submission stage. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------|---|--|
| MM26. | 57 | SP09 | Text includes further revisions which strengthens the Councils position on ensuring that AEIOI will be avoided upon relevant Habitats sites. Including impacts from development because of recreational pressure, as well as direct or in direct impacts during construction or operation phase of development. A commitment to immediately review the Plan is also secured if adverse air quality is identified from monitoring. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM27. | 59 | SP10 | Text added and removed from policy which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM28. | 62 | LP01 | Text added and removed from policy which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM29. | 63 | LP02 | Text added and removed from policy which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM30. | 64 | LP03 | Text added and removed from policy which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| MM31. | 66 | LP04 | Text added and removed from policy which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM32. | 67 | LP05 | Text removed from policy which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM33. | 67 | New Supporting Text and Policy | The new policy provides specific criteria for when rural workers dwellings would be acceptable. However, there is a possible risk that the provision of new workers dwellings could cause increase recreational disturbance at Coastal Habitats sites if dwellings are proposed within the Protected Habitats Sites Zones. | Y |
| MM34. | 70 | LP06 | Text removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM35. | 70 | New LP06 | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM36. | 70 | LP07 | Text removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| MM37. | 72 | Policy LP08 | Text added and removed for community-led housing schemes which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM38. | 73 | 13.43 – 13.51 | Text removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM39. | 77 | Policy LP09 | Text removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM40. | 78 | Policy LP10 and associated maps. | Text and figures removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM41. | 82 | LP11 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM42. | 84 | LP12 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|----------------------------|--|--|
| MM43. | 85 | LP13 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM44. | 86 | LP14 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM45. | 87 | LP15 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM46. | 88 | LP16 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM47. | 89 | New Policy supporting text | Text added in regard to a new policy on intensive livestock and poultry farming. This highlights that intensive livestock farming can affect sensitive habitats, including: ammonia; nutrients from manure; litter and slurry; effluent discharges; dust; odour; and noise. Therefore, the ecological issues with this infrastructure have been adequately outlined. | N |
| MM48. | 89 | New policy | The new policy outlines when intensive livestock and poultry farming will be supported. This requires consideration of sensitive environmental receptors | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------|---|--|
| | | | (including ecological sites and watercourses) to ensure that pollution prevention measures are in place, as well as consideration on the impact upon reduced water resources. It also secures emission modelling to ensure that sensitive environmental receptors are not impacted by adverse air emissions. Therefore, whilst impacts could be caused by individual intensive livestock applications, the policy secures adequate criteria to ensure impacts upon Habitats sites will be appropriately considered. | |
| MM49. | 90 | LP17 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM50. | 92 | LP18 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM51. | 94 | LP19 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM52. | 95 | LP20 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|---------------------------|---|--|
| MM53. | 96 | LP21 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM54. | 99 | LP22 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM55. | 100 | LP23 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM56. | 102 | LP24 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM57. | 104 | LP25 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM58. | 105 | New paragraph after 15.56 | Text added in relation to landscape and heritage assets which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------|--|--|
| MM59. | 105 | LP26 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM60. | 107 | LP27 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM61. | 109 | LP28 | Text added or removed from policy. This includes the removal of the requirement of a CEMP, as this type of plan has set criteria which many not be relevant in all circumstances. However, the need to ensure the integrity of Protected Habitats sites remains within the Plan, either within the operation or construction phase of the development. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM62. | 110 | LP29 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM63. | 111 | 16.01 – 16.07 | Text removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|----------------------------|---|--|
| MM64. | 112 | LP30 | Text removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM65. | 113 | 16.08 - 16.10 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM66. | 113 | New paragraphs after 16.10 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM67. | 113 | LP31 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM68. | 114 | 16.13 – 16.16 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM69. | 114 | LP32 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|---------------------------|---|--|
| MM70. | 116 | LP33 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM71. | 117 | LP34 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM72. | 118 | New paragraph under 16.25 | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM73. | 119 | LP35 | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM74. | 120 | Glossary -New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM75. | 121 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------------|---|--|
| MM76. | 122 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM77. | 123 | Glossary – New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM78. | 123 | Glossary – New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM79. | 123 | Glossary – New inclusion | Text added or removed which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM80. | 123 | Glossary – New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM81. | 123 | Glossary – New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------------|---|--|
| MM82. | 125 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM83. | 125 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM84. | 125 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which includes reference to Protected Habitats sites, it is considered that the inclusion of CWS is not applicable for this inclusion. | N |
| MM85. | 125 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM86. | 125 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM87. | 125 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|---|--|--|
| MM88. | 126 | Glossary - New inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM89. | 126 | Glossary – New Inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM90. | 127 | Glossary – New Inclusion | Text added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM91. | 128 | Appendix 01 – Housing Trajectory | Change in appendix which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM92. | 138 | Appendix 03 – Schedule of superseded policies | Change in appendix which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM93. | 161 | Policy LS01 and all Policy LA### allocations | Deletion of all policies relating to applications. There are no issues identified because of this modification. | N |
| MM94. | All | Footnotes | Schedule of insertions or deletions added which will not change the conclusions of the previous assessment. | N |



| Mod Ref # | Page | Policy / Paragraph | Comments on Modifications. | Further consideration required within HRA? |
|-----------|------|--------------------|---|--|
| | | | Therefore, no issues are identified because of this modification. | |



Appendix 2. HRA Screening of Individual Policies

Where mitigation is necessary to avoid Likely Significant Effects (LSE), then in line with CJEU *People over Wind* court ruling, this cannot be taken into consideration at HRA Screening Stage 1. Any policies providing mitigation are therefore also carried forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy SP01 – Housing Needs | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | The policy must be screened as it includes reference to secure land for housing applications. Consequently, as the impacts from the locations are not currently fully secured, there is a potential for LSE. This could include impacts from recreational disturbance. |
| Policy SP02 – Affordable Housing | | | | | | Screen out. This is a criteria-based policy relating to affordable housing developments and will cause no LSE. |
| Policy SP03 – The Sustainable Location of new development | | | | | | Screen out. This policy outlines how the spatial distribution of allocation sites will be reviewed as part of Part 2 Local Plan document, with consideration of approved settlement boundaries. Therefore, this will cause no LSE. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Policy SP04 – Provision for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines where Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites will be approved. This outlines that any new sites must comply with Policy SP09 – Enhancement and Management of the Environment. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy SP05 – Employment Land | ✓ | | | | | The policy must be screened as it includes reference to secure land for Employment land immediately adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site. Consequently, as the impacts from the locations are not currently known, there is a potential for LSE. This could include water pollution & non-recreational disturbance. |
| Policy SP06 – Retail and Town Centre Use | | | | | | Screen out. The proposed retail and leisure locations are further 5 kilometres away, and therefore unlikely to cause impacts from Water |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | and air pollution. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy SP07 – Tourism | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates that well-designed tourism. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy SP08 – Strategic Infrastructure Provision | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | Screen in. The policy relates to a strategic approach to deal with infrastructure within Habitats sites ZOI. However, indication of how mitigation will be implemented has not been outlined. Therefore, the policy must be considered at appropriate assessment. |
| Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment | | | | | | Screen out. The policy aims to outline when project level Habitat Regulations Assessments and a financial contribution to towards the Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy are required for developments within the identified ZOI's. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy SP10 - Climate Change | | | | | | Screen out. The Policy relates to ensuring a proactive approach to deal with climate change, which will benefit the identified Habitat Sites in the long-term. |
| LP01 - Windfall development in hamlets and dwellings clusters | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design for windfall development. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| LP02 - Residential Annexes | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design of residential annexes. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP03 - Residential Extensions and Conversions | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design of residential Extensions. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP04 - Replacement Dwellings | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to preferred design criteria to replace existing dwellings or the conversion/erection of ancillary buildings or |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | boundary treatments in the countryside. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP05 – Rural Worker Dwellings | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | Screen in. The policy relates to criteria that needs to be met for Rural Works Dwellings. However, there is a possible risk that the provision of new workers dwellings will cause increase recreational disturbance at Coastal Habitats sites. Therefore, this policy may cause LSE. |
| LP06 – Mix and type of composition and Supported and Special Needs Housing | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to the delivery of supported and special needs housing with new development proposals, to ensure scheme composition accommodates affordable housing, accessible and adaptable dwellings. As a result, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP07 – Community-led and rural exception housing | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to supporting Rural Exception Site schemes in principle, subject to specific criteria. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy LP08 – Self-Build and Custom-Build | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines that Councils will support Self-Builds and Custom Builds subject to development being in accordance with other Local Plan policies. Therefore, this will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP09 – Supporting A Prosperous Economy | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines design measures which need to be taken into account for employment. Therefore, this will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP10 – Change from Employment Uses | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines criteria of when development may be supported when it is in the vicinity of land in commercial or employment use. Therefore, this will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP11 – Retail and Town Centre Uses | | | | | | Screen out. The proposed retail and leisure locations are further 5 kilometres away. Therefore, impacts from water and air pollution can be scoped out. Therefore, this policy will not result in LSE. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy LP12 – Tourism and Leisure | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design of new tourism and leisure facilities. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP13 – Countryside Tourist Accommodation | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to restrictions on Countryside Tourist accommodation. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP14 – Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines that intensive livestock and associated structures and facilities for the storage and disposal of waste will only be permitted if it demonstrates protection for ecological sites (including Habitats sites) and watercourses. In addition, it requires the provision of emission modelling to demonstrate that adverse air quality upon ecological sites will not be caused from proposals. As a result, we are satisfied the mitigation has been embedded directly within the policy text. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy LP15 – Environmental Protection and Conservation | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design of all developments to ensure protection to the wider environment. Therefore, this policy will not result in LSE, as it will likely have a positive benefit to Habitats sites which have been screened in. |
| Policy LP16 – Biodiversity | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design of all developments to undertaken to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE, as it will likely have a positive benefit to Habitats sites which have been screened in. |
| Policy LP17 – Landscape | | | | | | Screen out. The policy ensures development will not negatively effect on the natural environment including landscape character sensitivity and visual impacts. It also aims to avoid disturbance from lighting to the wider landscape. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE, as it will likely |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | have a positive benefit to Habitats sites which have been screened in. |
| Policy LP18 – Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design within the AONB. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP19 – The Historic Environment | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good practices involving heritage assets. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP20 – Equestrian or similar other Animal Land-Based Uses | | | | | | Screen out. The policy ensures good design for equestrian uses or other animal/rural land-based uses in the countryside. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP21 – Agricultural Land To Residential Garden Land | | | | | | Screen out. The policy is criteria-based policy for the change in use of agricultural land to residential garden land or land ancillary to a residential dwelling and will not cause any LSE. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy LP22 – New Agricultural Buildings | | | | | | Screen out. The policy is a criteria-based policy for new agricultural/Rural buildings in the Countryside. It is indicated that planning applications must consider impacts in relation to biodiversity, which would include schemes which may result in adverse impacts to the identified Habitats sites. However, the policy includes embedded mitigation to avoid impacts upon sensitive features, via the provision of a Construction Environmental Management Plan. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP23 – Sustainable Construction and Design | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to good design of new developments to ensure that a sustainable approach is delivered, to achieve reductions in CO2 emissions and meet the high-water efficiency standards. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE, as it will likely have a positive benefit to Habitats sites which have been screened in. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy LP24 – Design and Residential Amenity | | | | | | Screen out. The policy ensures high quality design in relation to its character and context. It also ensures that any development will be sustainable. Therefore, the policy will not cause any LSE. |
| Policy LP25 – Energy Sources, Storage and Distribution | | | | | | Screen out. The policy ensures good design in relation to alternative energy source. It also indicates that new proposals must demonstrate that conservation sites will not be adversely impacted to the LPA. Therefore, the policy will not cause any LSE. |
| Policy LP26 – Water resources and infrastructure | | | | | | Screen out – The policy requires that all new developments must contain appropriate water efficiency and re-use measures, as well as surface water drainage schemes. This includes consideration of water use and supply, as well as ensuring that the relevant authorities for wastewater treatment are consulted. As a result, |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | this policy will cause no LSE to Habitats sites which have been screened in. |
| Policy LP27 – Flood risk and vulnerability | | | | | | Screen out. The policy requires that all new developments must mitigate against existing and potential flood risks. Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE, as it will likely have a positive benefit to Habitats sites which have been screened in. |
| Policy LP28 – Services and Facilities Within the Community | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines when new and / or expanded services and facilities will be supported. In addition, it outlines when the loss of services and facilities will be supported. The policy states that facilities to be converted to residential dwellings will be permitted where the development complies with other planning policies (e.g., Policies SP09 & LP18). Therefore, this policy will cause no LSE. |
| Policy LP29 – Flood risk and vulnerability | | | | | | Screen out – The policy relates to the flood risk and surface water strategies and sets out good |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | design measures for proposed mitigation measures. Therefore, the policy will not cause any LSE. |
| LP29 – Safe, Sustainable and Active Transport | | | | | | Screen out. The policy outlines measures to ensure safe and suitable access to transport for all. This prioritises sustainable and active transport, with the aim of maximising the opportunities to utilise these modes. Therefore, the policy will not cause any LSE. |
| Policy LP30 – Managing Infrastructure Provision | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to the management of infrastructure provision strategically. Therefore, the policy will not cause any LSE. |
| Policy LP31 – Health and Education Provision | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to the promotion and maintenance of health and education development. Therefore, the policy will not cause any LSE. |



| Policy | Stour and Orwell SPA & Ramsar | Deben Estuary SPA & Ramsar | Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes SAC, SPA & Ramsar Site | Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site | Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Policy LP32 – Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations | | | | | | Screen out. The policy relates to developer contributions and planning obligations and will not cause any LSE. |



Appendix 3. Results of embedding mitigation within the Appropriate Assessment

| Policy | Loss of Functionally Linked Land | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Potential for In Combination Effects | With proposed mitigation embedded, can adverse impacts on site integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Policy SP01 – Housing Needs | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |
| Policy SP05 – Employment Land | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |
| Policy SP08 – Strategic Infrastructure Provision | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |
| Policy LP05 – Rural Worker Dwellings | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |



Appendix 4. Comparison of Habitats Regulations Assessments mitigation proposals

| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|--|---|
| SP01 | The policy referenced land to be secured for housing application. Therefore, mitigation measures were secured for individual allocations. This included financial contributions in line with the Suffolk Coast RAMS, as well as a requirement for on-site measures (to avoid AEOI from the development alone) where allocations contain more than 50 units and situated within the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA & Ramsar site and the Deben Estuary SPA & | SP01 | <i>Housing Needs</i> | Mitigation embedded within Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment, Policy LP15 - Environmental Protection, Conservation and Policy LP16 - Biodiversity & Geodiversity and Policy LP26 - Water resources and infrastructure. | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text</u> , <i>italic</i> and bold text = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| | Ramsar Site ZOI. Policy LP17 also embedded further mitigations measures during the construction phase. | | | | |
| SP02 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | SP02 | <i>Affordable Housing</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| SP03 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | SP03 | Settlement Hierarchy <u>The sustainable location of new development</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|---|---|---|
| - | N/A | SP04 | <u>Provision for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy now that sites have been identified and that any further sites must comply with Policy SP09. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| SP04 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | - | Housing Spatial Distribution | Not applicable. | N/A |
| SP05 | Mitigation was required to ensure that impacts during the | SP05 | <i>Employment Land</i> | Mitigation embedded within Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| | construction phase of any strategic infrastructure projects had appropriate measures to avoid potential adverse disturbance impacts upon Habitats sites during the construction phase. This was embedded in Policy LP17 and required the provision of CEMPs and lighting strategies where required. | | | Environment, Policy LP15 - Environmental Protection, Conservation and Policy LP16 - Biodiversity & Geodiversity and Policy LP26 - Water resources and infrastructure. | sites with mitigation embedded. |
| SP06 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | SP06 | <i>Retail and Town Centre Uses</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| SP07 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | SP07 | <i>Tourism</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| SP08 | Mitigation was required to ensure that impacts during the construction phase of any strategic infrastructure projects had appropriate measures to avoid potential adverse disturbance impacts upon Habitats sites during the construction phase. This was embedded in Policy LP17 and required the provision of | SP08 | <i>Strategic Infrastructure Provision</i> | Mitigation embedded within Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment, Policy LP15 - Environmental Protection, Conservation and Policy LP16 - Biodiversity & Geodiversity and Policy LP26 - Water resources and infrastructure. | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|---|---|---|
| | CEMPs and lighting strategies where required. | | | | |
| SP09 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | SP09 | <i>Enhancement and Management of the Environment</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy, as includes measures to ensure mitigation is embedded into the Plan to ensure that AEOI upon relevant Habitats sites are avoided for windfall developments. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| SP10 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was | SP10 | <i>Climate Change</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| | proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | | | Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | |
| LP01 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP01 | Windfall development in hamlets and dwelling clusters <u>Windfall infill development outside settlement boundaries</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP02 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP02 | <i>Residential Annexes</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP03 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was | LP03 | <i>Residential Extensions and Conversions</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text</u> , <i>italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| | proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | | | Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | |
| LP04 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP04 | <i>Replacement Dwellings and Conversions in The Countryside (Outside of Settlement Boundaries)</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP05 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | - | <i>Replacement Dwellings and Additional Dwellings on Sub-Divided Plots Within Settlement Boundaries</i> | Not applicable – policy removed. | Not applicable |
| - | N/A | LP05 | <u>Rural workers dwellings</u> | Mitigation embedded within Policy SP09 - Enhancement and Management of the Environment | No Adverse Effects On site Integrity to identified Habitats sites with mitigation embedded. |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text</u> , <i>italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| LP06 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | - | Mix and type of composition | Not applicable – policy removed. | N/A |
| LP07 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | <u>LP06</u> | <i>Supported and Special Needs Housing</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP08 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP07 | Affordable, community led and rural exception housing <u>Community-led and rural exception housing</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| LP09 | Requirement for project level HRA if sites are proposed within the ZOI of coastal Habitats sites to avoid impacts from increased recreational disturbance. Further measures required to avoid impacts during construction and operation phase if sites are proposed adjacent to any relevant Habitats sites. Mitigation was embedded within Policy LP17. | - | Provision for Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople | Policy modified to SP04 | N/A |
| LP10 | Requirement for project level HRA for any new site, given the close proximity of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Changes in policy | - | Moorings, Marinas and Houseboats | Not applicable, policy will be addressed within Part 2 of the Plan. | N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text, italic and bold text</u> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|---|------------------|---|---|---|
| | text was recommended within the HRA to ensure mitigation was embedded. This included impacts from disturbance (construction and operation phases) and from adverse water quality. | | | | |
| LP11 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP08 | <i>Self-Build and Custom-Build</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP12 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was | LP09 | <i>Employment Development</i> <u>Supporting a Prosperous Economy</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text, italic and bold text</u> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|---|---|---|
| | proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | | | Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | |
| LP13 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP10 | Safeguarding Economic Opportunities <u>Change from Employment Uses</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP14 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP11 | Town Centre and retail <u>Retail and Town Centres</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP15 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was | LP12 | <i>Tourism and Leisure</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|--------------------|---|---|---|
| | proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | | | Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | |
| LP16 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP13 | <i>Countryside Tourist Accommodation</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| - | N/A | <u>LP14</u> | <u><i>Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming</i></u> | Mitigation (pollution and disturbance) has been embedded to ensure protection of environmentally sensitive receptors (including Habitats sites). This includes the provision of emission modelling to demonstrate there will be no significant effects upon sensitive environmental | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text, italic and bold text</u> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| | | | | receptors from air pollutants. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | |
| LP17 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP15 | Environmental Protection <u>Environmental Protection and Conservation</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP18 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP16 | <i>Biodiversity & Geodiversity</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|---|---|---|
| LP19 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP17 | <i>Landscape</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP20 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP18 | <i>Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP21 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP19 | <i>The Historic Environment</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text, italic and bold text</u> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| LP22 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP20 | Change in Land Use for Equestrian or Other Animal/Rural Land Base Uses <u>Equestrian or similar other animal land based uses</u> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP23 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP21 | <i>Agricultural Land To Residential Garden Land</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| LP24 | Application involving pig or poultry farming required water quality or air quality assessments (i.e. ammonia concentrations) to assess the likely impacts of the scheme upon Habitats sites. Changes in policy text was recommended within the HRA to ensure mitigation was embedded. | LP22 | New agricultural/Rural buildings in the Countryside New <i>Agricultural Buildings</i> | Intensive livestock policy is now included separately in Policy LP14. No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects – N/A |
| LP25 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP23 | <i>Sustainable Construction and Design</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <u>Underlined text</u> , <i>italic</i> and bold text = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|--|---|---|
| LP26 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP24 | <i>Design and Residential Amenity</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP27 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP25 | <i>Energy Sources, Storage and Distribution</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP28 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP26 | <i>Water resources and infrastructure</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| LP29 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP27 | <i>Flood risk and vulnerability</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP30 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | - | <i>Designated Open Spaces</i> | Not applicable | N/A |
| LP31 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP28 | <i>Services and Facilities Within the Community</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|----------------|--|------------------|---|---|---|
| LP32 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP29 | <i>Safe, Sustainable and Active Transport</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP33 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP30 | <i>Managing Infrastructure Provision</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LP34 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP31 | <i>Health and Education Provision</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |



| Reg 19 JLP Ref | Mitigation proposed as part of the Pre-Submission (Reg. 19) Plan | New Mods JLP Ref | Policy title (Strikethrough text = removal <i>Underlined text, italic and bold text</i> = additional text <i>Plain italic</i> = original wording) | Mitigation proposed as part of the Post Examination 'Part 1' Plan | With proposed mitigation embedded, can Adverse Effects on Site Integrity of the identified Habitats sites be avoided? |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| LP35 | The policy was screened out and will not cause any LSE. Therefore, no mitigation was proposed as part of the Appropriate Assessment. | LP32 | <i>Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations</i> | No impacts are expected from the updated policy. Therefore, the policy has been screened out and not included within the Appropriate Assessment for Post Examination stage. | No Likely Significant Effects upon relevant Habitats sites – N/A |
| LS04 | No specific comments provided. | - | <i>Hinterland and hamlet sites</i> | Not applicable. | N/A |
| LA### | Multiple recommendations specific to individual allocation sites, which were required to avoid impacts from recreational disturbance, water pollution and air pollution (in combination with other plans and projects) | <i>Housing site allocations</i> | <i>Housing Needs</i> | Not applicable in Part 1 Plan. | N/A |



Appendix 5. Characteristics of Habitats sites

| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|---|---|
| <p>The Stour and Orwell estuaries</p> <p>These estuaries straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border in eastern England. The estuaries include extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The mud-flats hold <i>Enteromorpha</i>, <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Salicornia</i> spp. The site also includes an area of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell. In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, while in winter they hold major concentrations of water birds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and waders roost, in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA. The site has close ecological links with the Hamford Water and Mid-Essex Coast SPAs, lying to the south on the same coast.</p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK9009121</p> | 3676.92 | <p><u>Qualifying Features</u> potentially affected:</p> <p>Annex I species:</p> <p>Over winter: Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species: Over winter:</p> | <p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below);</p> <p>Avoid the deterioration of the Habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.</p> | <p>Coastal squeeze – Coastal defences are present along most of the Orwell coastline to mitigate for impacts from climate change, such as rising sea level. Unless changes are made to the management of the coastline, Habitats supporting qualifying SPA birds will be lost or degraded through coastal squeeze, sedimentation and reduced exposure.</p> <p>Public access/disturbance – Stour and Orwell Estuaries is subject to land- and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; bait-digging; fishing; wildfowling; and military overflight</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> • Redshank <i>Tringa 128etanus</i> • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the Habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The structure and function of the Habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the Habitats of the qualifying features rely;</p> <p>The populations of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p> | <p>training. These activities are likely to impact Habitats supporting breeding and overwintering water birds. A better understanding of which species and Habitats are most susceptible; which types of activity are most disturbing; and which locations and times of year are most sensitive is required to ensure the Estuaries are appropriately managed.</p> <p>Changes in species distribution – Declines in the number of bird species present at Orwell coastline have occurred. This is likely to be the result of changes in population and distribution on an international scale, due to climate change.</p> <p>Invasive species – An increase in <i>Spartina anglica</i> may be affecting the growth of <i>Spartina maritime</i>, a key habitat feature for qualifying bird roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.</p> <p>Planning permission: General – The issue of development in combination with other factors is not fully understood. To ensure management is appropriate to the</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> • Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Redshank <i>Tringa 129etanus</i> • Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> • Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> • Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Wigeon <i>Mareca 129etanus129</i> • Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> | | <p>SPA a better understanding of the sensitivities relating to each habitat, species and location to different types of development is required. Difficult issues highlighted by the SIP include; a) Assessing the cumulative effects of numerous, small and often 'non- standard' developments. B) Development outside the SPA boundary can have negative impacts, particularly on the estuaries' birds. C) Assessing the indirect, 'knock-on' effects of proposals. D) Pressure to relax planning conditions on existing developments.</p> <p>Air pollution: impact from atmospheric nitrogen deposition – Atmospheric nitrogen deposition exceeds the relevant critical loads for coastal dune Habitats used by breeding terns and hence there is a risk of harmful effects.</p> <p>Inappropriate coastal management – Due to the presence of existing hard sea defences, such as sea walls there is little scope for adaptation to rising sea levels.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | | <p>Any freshwater Habitats behind failing seawalls are likely to be inundated by seawater, which would result in the loss of this habitat within the SPA.</p> <p>Fisheries: Commercial and estuarine – Commercial fishing activities can be very damaging to inshore marine Habitats and the bird species dependent on the communities they support. Any ‘amber or green’ categorised commercial fishing activities in Habitats Marine Sites are assessed by Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA). This assessment takes into account any in-combination effects of amber activities and/or appropriate plans or projects.</p> |
| <u>Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site</u> EU Code: UK11067 | 3676.92 | Ramsar criterion 2 Contains seven nationally scarce plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stiff Saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i> | There are no Conservation Objectives set for Ramsar sites. | Similar to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (See above). A key threat identified by RIS was erosion. Erosion – Natural coastal processes exacerbated by fixed sea defences, port development and maintenance dredging. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Cord-grass <i>Spartina maritima</i> • Perennial Glasswort <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> • Lax-flowered Sea Lavender <i>Limonium humile</i> • Eelgrasses <i>Zostera angustifolia</i>, <i>Z. marina</i> and <i>Z. noltei</i>. <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 63,017 waterfowl.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species/ populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> | | <p>Erosion is being tackled through sediment replacement for additional erosion that can be attributed to port development and maintenance dredging. A realignment site has been created on-site to make up for the loss of habitat due to capital dredging. General background erosion has not been tackled although a Flood Management Strategy for the site is being produced.</p> <p>The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria. Where the qualifying features of a Ramsar site would or could be adversely affected by a plan or project, the tests at Appropriate Assessment would need to be based on Article 4 of the Ramsar Convention, which allows a Contracting Party (in this case the UK government) to delete or restrict the</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redshank, <i>Tringa 132etanus 132etanus</i> • Species with peak counts in winter: • Dark-bellied Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Northern Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> • Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Red Knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> • Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> • Redshank , <i>Tringa 132etanus 132etanus</i> | | boundaries of sites only “ in its urgent national interest”. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|---------------|---|--|--|
| <p>The Deben Estuary</p> <p>The Deben Estuary lies within Suffolk Coastal District at the southern border of Suffolk. The estuaries include extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The mud-flats hold <i>Enteromorpha</i>, <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Salicornia spp.</i> In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Avocet while in winter they hold major concentrations of waterbirds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and waders roost, in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.</p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Deben Estuary SPA</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK9009261</p> | <p>978.93</p> | <p><u>Qualifying Features</u> potentially affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A046a Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Non-breeding); • A132 Pied Avocet , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (breeding) | <p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below);</p> <p>Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the Qualifying Features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of The Birds Directive.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> | <p>Coastal squeeze –The Deben Estuary coastline is undergoing widespread decline in the quality of saltmarsh, and an increase in lower marsh habitats at the expense of mid and upper marsh vegetation communities. This is likely due to impacts from climate change, such as rising sea level. Unless changes are made to the management of the coastline, Habitats supporting qualifying SPA birds will be lost or degraded through coastal squeeze, sedimentation and reduced exposure.</p> <p>Public access/disturbance – The Deben Estuary is subject to land and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; wildfowling; and low flying</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|---|
| | | | <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</p> <p>The populations of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p> | <p>aircrafts. These activities are likely to impact Habitats supporting breeding and overwintering water birds. A better understanding of which species and Habitats are most susceptible; which types of activity are most disturbing; and which locations and times of year are most sensitive is required to ensure the Estuaries are appropriately managed</p> <p>Changes in species distribution – <i>Spartina anglica</i> is encroaching onto estuarine muds. This may reduce bird roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.</p> <p>Air Pollution: Impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition –</p> <p>Modelled aerial deposits of nitrogen within Deben Estuary exceed the threshold limit above which the diversity of saltmarsh vegetation begins to be altered (possibly to reed) and adversely impacted. This is likely being caused by in combination impacts from land spreading and land use</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | | | <p>practices with high nutrient inputs e.g. outdoor pig farms.</p> <p>Water Pollution – Inappropriate water quality may impact on the supporting habitats of SPA birds. Eutrophication may be having an influence on reed growth and saltmarsh composition.</p> <p>Increased flood events could lead to habitat change/loss of diversity. Nutrient run off from farming operations could exacerbate the issue. Further monitoring and management of key issues are required.</p> <p>Fisheries: Commercial marine estuarine – In combination impacts from fisheries in European Marine Sites need to be monitored and appropriately managed to avoid potential threats to site condition.</p> |
| <p><u>Deben Estuary Ramsar site</u></p> | 978.93 | Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation) | There are no Conservation Objectives set for Ramsar sites. | <p>Similar to Deben Estuary SPA (See above).</p> <p>A key threat identified by RIS was erosion.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---------------------|-----------|---|--|--|
| EU Code: UK11017 | | <p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>Supports a population of the mollusc <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1014); British Red Data Book Endangered). Martlesham Creek is one of only about fourteen sites in Britain where this species survives</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Dark-bellied Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, 1953 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p> <p>Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> | | <p>Erosion – English Nature provides advice to the Environment Agency and coastal local authorities in relation to flood and coastal protection management. This will inform the development of the Suffolk Estuaries strategies and the second generation shoreline management plan.</p> <p>The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria. Where the qualifying features of a Ramsar site would or could be adversely affected by a plan or project, the tests at Appropriate Assessment would need to be based on Article 4 of the Ramsar Convention, which allows a Contracting Party (in this case the UK government) to delete or restrict the boundaries of sites only “ in its urgent national interest”.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>Black-tailed Godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe 307 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Common Greenshank, <i>Tringa nebularia</i>, Europe/W Africa 22 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Bean Goose, <i>137etanu fabalis fabalis</i>, NW Europe – Wintering 5 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (Source period not collated)</p> <p>Common Shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, NW Europe 832 individuals, representing an</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>average of 1% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Pied Avocet, Europe/Northwest Africa 167 individuals, representing an average of 4.9% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Spotted Redshank, <i>Tringa erythropus</i>, Europe/W Africa 3 individuals, representing an average of 2.2% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Redshank, <i>Tringa 138etanus 138etanus</i>, 2124 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)</p> <p>Species Information</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>Nationally important species occurring on the site.</p> <p>Invertebrates: <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Nationally Scarce) & <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> (Nationally Scarce)</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|---|
| <p>Minsmere – Walberswick</p> <p>Minsmere – Walberswick is situated to the East of Suffolk within Suffolk Coastal District. This composite, Suffolk coastal site contains a complex mosaic of habitats, notably, areas of marsh with dykes, extensive reedbeds, mudflats, lagoons, shingle and driftline, woodland and areas of lowland heath. The site supports the largest continuous stand of reed in England and Wales and demonstrates the nationally rare transition in grazing marsh ditch plants from brackish to fresh water. The combination of habitats creates an exceptional area of scientific interest supporting nationally scarce plants, British Red Data Book invertebrates and nationally important numbers of breeding and wintering birds.</p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Minsmere- Walberswick SPA</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK9009101</p> | | <p><u>Qualifying Features</u> potentially affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A021 <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>; Great Bittern (Breeding) • A051 <i>Mareca strepera</i>; Gadwall (Non-breeding) • A051 <i>Mareca strepera</i>; Gadwall (Breeding) • A052 <i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian Teal (Breeding) • A056 <i>Spatula clypeata</i>; Northern Shoveler (Breeding) | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p> | <p>Coastal squeeze – Coastal defences are present along most of the Minsmere – Walberswick coastline to mitigate for impacts from climate change, such as rising sea level. Unless changes are made to the management of the coastline, Habitats supporting qualifying SPA birds will be lost or degraded through coastal squeeze, sedimentation and reduced exposure.</p> <p>Public access/disturbance – Minsmere – Walberswick is subject to land and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; wildfowling; and low flying Private and MOD aircrafts. These activities are likely to impact</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A056 <i>Spatula clypeata</i>; Northern Shoveler (Non-breeding) • A081 <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>; Eurasian Marsh Harrier (Breeding) • A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen Harrier (Non-breeding) • A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied Avocet (Breeding) • A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little Tern (Breeding) • A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>; European Nightjar (Breeding) • A394 <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>; Greater White-fronted Goose (Non-breeding) | | <p>Habitats supporting breeding and overwintering water birds. A better understanding of which species and Habitats are most susceptible; which types of activity are most disturbing; and which locations and times of year are most sensitive is required to ensure the Estuaries are appropriately managed.</p> <p>Changes in species distribution – Declines in the number of bird species present at Minsmere – Walberswick coastline have occurred. This is likely to be the result of changes in population and distribution on an international scale, due to climate change.</p> <p>Invasive species – <i>Spartina anglica</i> is encroaching onto estuarine muds. This may reduce bird roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.</p> <p>Inappropriate Pest Control: Pest species, particularly Corvids and gulls, are attracted by feed of nearby outdoor pig farming. The increased populations of these species likely cause increased</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | <p>predation and disturbance of SPA/SAC features.</p> <p>Air Pollution – Impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition: Modelled aerial deposits of nitrogen within Minsmere – Walberswick exceed the threshold limit above which the diversity of heathland vegetation begins to be altered and adversely impacted. This is likely being caused by in combination impacts from land spreading and land use practices with high nutrient inputs e.g. outdoor pig farms.</p> <p>Water Pollution: Inappropriate surface and ground water quality may impact on SPA/SAC features. The estuary water is nutrient rich with high pollutant levels. Eutrophication is having an influence on reed. Increased flood events could lead to habitat change/loss of diversity. Nutrient run off from outdoor pig farming could exacerbate the issue locally. Ground water pollution on light lands from land use practices such as treatment plants,</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | | | <p>land spreading, outdoor pigs, high nutrient inputs</p> <p>on fields may be an issue locally. Further monitoring and management of key issues are required.</p> <p>Deer: High numbers of red deer are damaging reedbed, woodland and heathland habitat. Minsmere RSPB Reserve has started a culling programme to control deer populations.</p> |
| <p><u>Minsmere-Walberswick Ramsar Site</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK11044</p> | | <p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>The site contains a mosaic of marine, freshwater, marshland and associated habitats, complete with transition areas in between. Contains the largest continuous stand of reedbeds in England and Wales and rare transition in grazing marsh ditch plants from brackish to fresh water.</p> | <p>There are no Conservation Objectives set for Ramsar sites.</p> | <p>The RIS identified the following Factors affecting the site's ecological character:</p> <p>Erosion: Onsite impacts, major impact – Coastal squeeze within the Blyth Estuary.</p> <p>Recreational/tourism disturbance (unspecified): Onsite impacts, major impact – Trampling damage to vegetated shingle and driftline communities, and disturbance of little tern nesting habitat.</p> <p>The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|---|--|
| | | <p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>This site supports nine nationally scarce plants and at least 26 red data book invertebrates. Supports a population of the mollusc <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Habitats Directive Annex II; British Red Data Book Endangered), recently discovered on the Blyth estuary river walls. An important assemblage of rare breeding birds associated with marshland and reedbeds including: <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>, <i>Mareca strepera</i>, <i>Anas crecca</i>, <i>Spatula clypeata</i>, <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, <i>Panurus biarmicus</i></p> | | <p>are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria. Where the qualifying features of a Ramsar site would or could be adversely affected by a plan or project, the tests at Appropriate Assessment would need to be based on Article 4 of the Ramsar Convention, which allows a Contracting Party (in this case the UK government) to delete or restrict the boundaries of sites only “ in its urgent national interest”.</p> |
| <p><u>Minsmere to Walberswick</u></p> | <p>1256.57</p> | <p><u>Qualifying Features</u> potentially affected:</p> | <p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the ‘Qualifying</p> | <p>Same as Minsmere- Walberswick SPA (See above)</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|
| <p><u>Heaths & Marshes SAC</u></p> <p>EU Site Code:</p> | | <p><u>H1210</u>. Annual vegetation of drift lines</p> <p><u>H1220</u>. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves</p> <p><u>H4030</u>. European dry heaths</p> | <p>Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely</p> | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|---------------|---|---|---|
| <p>Redgrave & South Lopham Fens</p> <p>The site lies to the North-West of Suffolk within Mid Suffolk District. It is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires, such as dry birch woodland, scrub and carr, floristically-rich fen grassland, mixed fen, wet heath and areas of reed and saw sedge. The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i></p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar Site</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK11056</p> | <p>127.09</p> | <p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>The site is an extensive example of spring-fed lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation</p> <p>Ramsar Criterion 2</p> <p>The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3</p> <p>The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the</p> | <p>There are no Conservation Objectives set for Ramsar sites.</p> | <p>The Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) identified the following Factors affecting the site's ecological character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredging – On site with major impact to qualifying features • Eutrophication – An onsite impact. Catchment nutrient-loading hoped to be investigated to address eutrophication. • Pollution – Offsite agricultural fertilisers – Catchment nutrient-loading hoped to be investigated to address fertiliser pollution. • Pollution – Offsite pesticides/agricultural runoff |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | fen raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i> . The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires. | | The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria. Where the qualifying features of a Ramsar site would or could be adversely affected by a plan or project, the tests at Appropriate Assessment would need to be based on Article 4 of the Ramsar Convention, which allows a Contracting Party (in this case the UK government) to delete or restrict the boundaries of sites only "in its urgent national interest". |



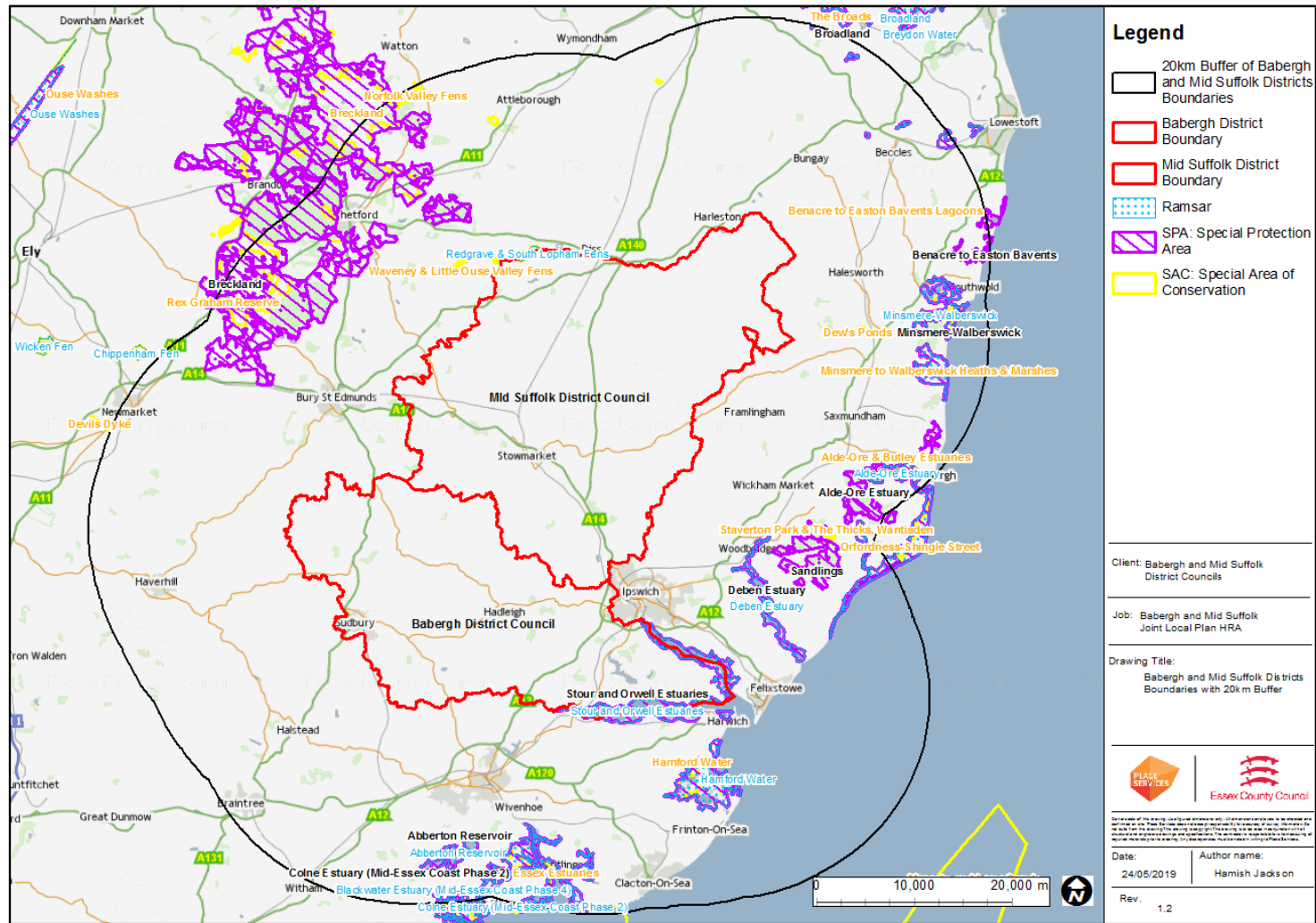
| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|---|
| <p>Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens</p> <p>The site lies to the North-West of Suffolk within Mid Suffolk District. It contains calcareous fens with a very extensive Great Fen-sedge <i>Cladium mariscus</i> beds, including managed examples, as well as stands in contact zones between small sedge mire and species-poor <i>Cladium</i> beds. The habitat type here occurs in a spring-fed valley fen. Purple moor-grass – meadow thistle (<i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>) fen-meadows are associated with the spring-fed valley fen systems. The <i>Molinia</i> meadows occur in conjunction with black bog-rush – blunt-flowered rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i> – <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>) mire and calcareous fens with great fen-sedge. Where the fen-meadow is grazed it is more species-rich, with frequent southern marsh-orchid <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>. A population of Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> occurs in a valley fen at Weston Fen.</p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Waveney & Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK0012882</p> | 192.37 | <p><u>H6410</u>. <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>H7210</u>. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; Calcium-rich fen dominated by Great Fen Sedge (Saw Sedge) <i>Cladium mariscus</i>*</p> | <p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> | <p>Inappropriate Scrub Control: Historically sections of the fen have been allowed to scrub over. These now form wet woodland and scrub with glades containing the remnants of the qualifying features.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure the site includes the same area of <i>Cladium</i> fen (H7210 Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)) present at the time of designation.</p> <p>Inappropriate Water Levels: Concerns have been expressed about water levels in the SAC. Some areas such as Redgrave and Lopham Fens have already</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p><u>S1016</u>. Desmoulin`s whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i></p> | <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</p> <p>The populations of qualifying species, and,</p> <p>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p> | <p>been worked on. Others (Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fens) are currently being investigated through the Water Level Management Plan process. Historical evidence suggests that water levels have significantly dropped over time and as a result habitats and features have been damaged. Parts of the fen supported swingmoor habitats and these are a poor representation of their former selves.</p> <p>Air Pollution - impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition: Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads.</p> <p>Water Pollution: Poor water quality arising from agricultural run-off particularly from nearby outdoor poultry and pig units causes nutrient enrichment and can lead to a reduction in biodiversity.</p> |



Appendix 6. Habitats Sites within 20km of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Districts Boundaries





Place Services

Essex County Council

County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

T: +44 (0)333 013 6840

E: enquiries@placeservices.co.uk

www.placeservices.co.uk

February 2023



Essex County Council