



Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan 2019-2031: Regulation 14 Draft

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA): Screening Report – November 2019







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Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
BDC	Babergh District Council
DC	District Council
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
Ha	Hectare
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone (for SSSIs)
Km	Kilometre
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NDP/NP	Neighbourhood Development Plan / Neighbourhood Plan
NE	Natural England
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RAMS	Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SIP(s)	Site Improvement Plans(s)
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Specific Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
ZOI	Zone of Influence



1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of This Report

This report screens to determine whether the Regulation 14 draft Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A Stage 1 HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected Habitats (European) Sites as a result of the implementation of a plan/project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

1.2 The Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan

The main purpose of the Plan is to set out and identify the best ways to direct local planning towards community wants and needs, while protecting the natural environment and cultural assets, ensuring a more sustainable future for the community. The Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Development Plan will set out planning policies for Chelmondiston Parish and within the confines of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary as defined (see Appendix 1).

Once formally 'made' or 'adopted', a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same legal weight as Local Development Plans adopted up by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in this case Babergh District Council.



2. Legislative Background

2.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (*The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any Habitats Site, in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of Habitats sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites and Habitats Sites in the NPPF (2019).

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to support the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan which is being produced by Chelmondiston Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The area covered by the Plan is shown in Appendix 1.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA.

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.



3. HRA Screening

3.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

This section forms a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

This section of this Report aims to:

- Identify the Habitats sites within 20km of the Chelmondiston Plan area.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan for its potential to impact upon a Habitats site.
- 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.

3.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report

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

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 Screening Report does not therefore consider mitigation measures within the assessment of Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan.

3.2.2 CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

This Court judgement now imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority for any plans or projects 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.

Within this Stage 1 HRA Screening report, the assessment will determine the requirement for whether or not a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is needed for the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan.

3.3 Habitats (European) Sites

'Habitats sites' is the term used in the (revised) NPPF (2019) to describe the network of sites of 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 are 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).

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.

3.3.1 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: The Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA is internationally important for wintering waterfowl. *Legislation: EU Birds Directive.*

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 and Little Ouse Valley Fens for calcareous fens, *Molinia* meadows and Desmoulin’s whorl snail *Legislation: EU Habitats Directive*.

Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance)

Ramsar Sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl Habitats. Example: Redgrave and South Lopham Fens is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation which supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*. 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*.

3.3.2 Habitats Sites to be considered

There are 14 Habitats sites (SPA/SAC/Ramsar) which lie within 20 km of Chelmondiston parish and are shown on the map in Appendix 2. The Plan area lies within the 13km Zone of Influence for the Stour & Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site and Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

Table 1: Habitats Sites within 20km of the development

SPA	SAC	Ramsar
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	Hamford Water	Stour and Orwell Estuaries
Deben Estuary	Staverton Park and the Thicks	Deben Estuary
Hamford Water	Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries	Hamford Water
Orfordness and Shingle Street		Alde-Ore Estuary
Sandlings		Colne Estuary
Colne Estuary		

The Plan area lies with the Zones of Influence of 14 Habitats Sites (7 SSSIs) as identified by Natural England to consider potential impacts on statutory sites. However, only the SSSIs listed by Natural England as in scope for residential development in Chelmondiston Parish are the Stour and Orwell Estuary SSSI (SPA and Ramsar) and Deben Estuary SSSI (SPA and Ramsar site).

After consideration of the Zones of Influence as shown on MAGIC website www.magic.gov.uk, it was concluded that the four Habitats Sites underpinned by the above two SSSIs should now be assessed for any likely significant effects resulting from the Regulation 14 Draft Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan.



3.3.3 Conservation Objectives

Information on each of the above Habitats sites has been obtained from the Natural England website.

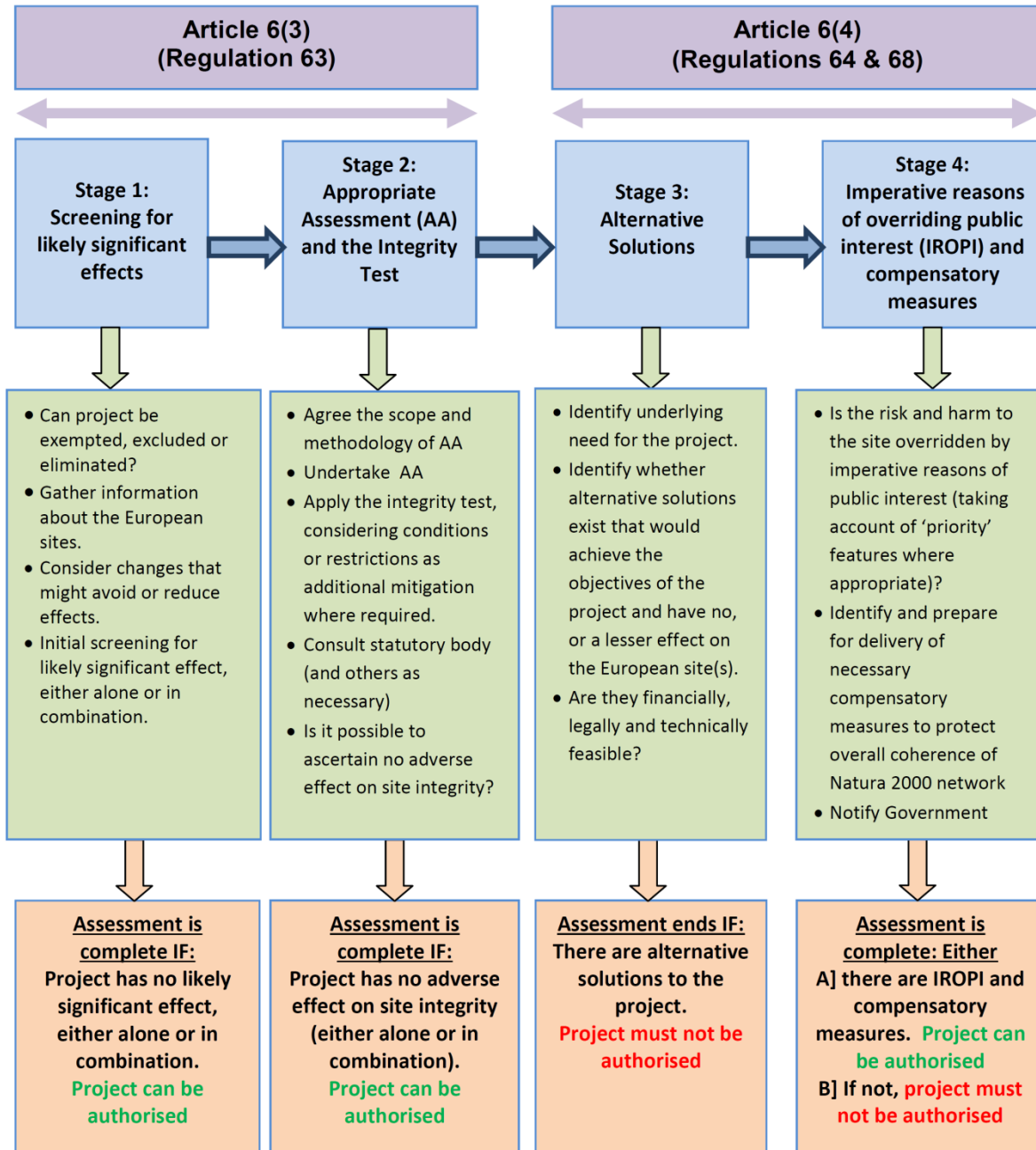
Appendix 3 indicates the reason why each Habitats site is important and has been designated; the Conservation Objectives and Designation Features for each site. It also reflects the Supplementary Advice for Conservation Objectives which describes the range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity and key vulnerabilities to consider within Habitats Regulations assessments.

3.4 Method and Approach

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA screening report; this is necessary to ensure the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats (European site or a European offshore marine site), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.



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





3.4.1 Stage 1: HRA screening

This screening stage identifies if alternatives are needed because any policies or projects will have an impact on a Habitats Site, amendments need to be made in Neighbourhood Development Plans. Table 3 identifies the different categories assigned to each policy in the plan: Category A identifies those policies or projects that may not result in a Likely Significant Effect and are considered to have No Negative Effect. Category B identifies those policies or projects that will have No Likely Significant Effect. Category C identifies those policies or projects that might have Likely Significant Effect and thus upon a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Each of the policies in the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan has been screened to identify whether they would have any impact on a Habitats Site and allocated to a category as shown in Table 3.

Table 2: Screening categories

Category A : No negative effect
Policies or projects that will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Habitats site.
Category B : No Likely Significant Effect
Policies or projects that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a likely significant effect on a Habitats site alone or in combination. This conclusion could only be reached if the effects, even in combination and taking the precautionary principle into account, are considered trivial.
Category C Likely Significant Effect
Policies or projects which are predicted to have a likely significant effect on a Habitats Site either on its own or in combination with other plans and projects and require revision or further assessment (Appropriate Assessment).

3.4.2 Potential impacts of the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan on Habitats Sites

There are a wide range of potential impacts from development which can be summarised as -

- Land take by developments;
- Impact on protected species found within but which travel outside the protected sites (functionally linked land) may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Habitats site, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- Increased disturbance, for example from recreational use resulting from new housing development and / or improved access due to transport infrastructure projects;
- Changes in water availability, or water quality as a result of development and increased demands for water treatment, and changes in groundwater regimes due to increased impermeable areas;



- 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.

Each policy in the neighbourhood plan will therefore be assessed against the above criteria in the table below.

Table 3: Assessment of potential impacts

Nature of potential impact	How the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Habitats site?	Why these effects are/ not considered likely to be significant ?
Land take by development	The Plan area is outside the boundaries of the 14 Habitats sites within scope of this HRA.	N/A
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The Plan area does not contain any functionally linked land for use by designated features of the Habitats sites.	N/A
Recreational pressure and disturbance	HRA / AA work undertaken at the Local Plan level indicates that there could be a potential pathway for development in the Plan area to impact on the SPA & Ramsar sites within the scope of the HRA as the Parish lies within the Zones of Influence. There are however no site allocations within the Plan area.	N/A
Water quantity and quality	HRA / AA work undertaken at the Local Plan level indicates that there could be a potential pathway for development at Chelmondiston to impact on the SPA & Ramsar sites within scope of the HRA as the Parish lies within the Zones of Influence. The Plan however does not allocate any land for development purposes or include any content that would lead or contribute to any deterioration of water quality.	N/A



Nature of potential impact	How the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Habitats site?	Why these effects are/ not considered likely to be significant ?
Changes in air & noise pollution levels	It is considered that there is no pathway for development to result in pollution impacts.	N/A

3.5 Results of HRA Screening of Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The HRA Screening exercise explores whether there will be any Likely Significant Effect resulting from the Plan's policies. These Policies are:

- **Draft Policy CNDP1 New Housing within Settlement Boundaries**
- **Draft Policy CNDP2 Design Principles**
- **Draft Policy CNDP3 Development within Pin Mill Conservation Area**
- **Draft Policy CNDP4 Development affecting non-designated heritage assets**
- **Draft Policy CNDP5 Protecting Local Green Space**
- **Draft Policy CNDP6 Protecting Other Open Spaces**
- **Draft Policy CNDP7 Conserving and Enhancing Valued Landscapes and Biodiversity**
- **Draft Policy CNDP8 Protection and Enhancement of Local Shops, Community Facilities and Public Houses**
- **Draft Policy CNDP9 Sport and Recreation Facilities**
- **Draft Policy CNDP10 Local Business and Shops**



This section considers each policy in turn and the results of the screening exercise is recorded in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of Findings from the HRA screening

Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>Draft Policy CNDP1 New Housing within Settlement Boundaries</p> <p>Over the plan period 2019 to 2031, within the defined settlement boundaries for Chelmondiston, Pin Mill and Lings Lane (shown on the Policies Map) proposals for new housing development will be supported where they are compatible with the settlement hierarchy and when they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Located on an infill site, unless this would lead to significant loss of private garden space, spaces between dwellings and over-development of residential plots; b) Small-scale (individual or small groups of houses) that relate well to the existing layout, facilities and amenities of the village; c) Give priority to the development of previously developed land or the re-use of existing buildings, where possible; d) Achieve a high-quality standard of design that makes a positive contribution to the surrounding environment, coastal and valued landscape by reflecting and respecting the character of the surrounding built environment; e) Capable of providing safe access for vehicles, pedestrians and cycles and include of off-street car parking to serve the development; and f) They do not have a significant adverse impact on the amenity of existing and future occupiers, particularly with regard to building height. 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>Draft Policy CNDP2 Design Principles</p> <p>All new development will be expected to respond positively to the key attributes of the neighbourhood area and the key local design features of the settlement within which it is located. Development will not be supported where it is of poor design that has a significant adverse impact on the character of the area. To ensure good design is achieved development should be designed to take account of and will be assessed against the following criteria, where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It promotes or reinforces local distinctiveness by demonstrating that appropriate account has been taken of existing good quality examples of street layouts, blocks and plots, building forms, materials (e.g. Suffolk Red Brick and weatherboarding, slate and tile for roofs, that should mostly be pitched roofs) and detailing, building style and the vernacular of the settlement; b) It is designed in such a way so as to make a positive use of local landform, trees, hedgerows and other vegetation and for larger proposals has had suitable regard to landscape setting and settlement pattern; c) It conserves and/or creates new habitat, nesting and roosting opportunities for wildlife and makes links to existing wildlife habitat where feasible and relevant to the development proposed; d) It uses space and creates new public open spaces that are enclosed, integrated and overlooked by buildings and are in prominent useable locations; e) It includes sufficient garden and amenity space to serve the needs of the development and its users; f) It includes appropriate boundary treatments that reflect local context for example by matching the 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>materials, style and height of those of adjoining properties, when these are of good design quality;</p> <p>g) It does not have a detrimental effect on the amenity of existing or future occupiers in neighbouring property;</p> <p>h) It does not have a severe cumulative adverse effect on the safe and efficient operation of the existing transport and road infrastructure;</p> <p>i) It includes measures that seek to improve pedestrian facilities and linkages in the Parish and beyond to encourage walking and cycling, wherever possible;</p> <p>j) It contributes to local identity, and sense of place. Proposals should not feature generic designs and should display how they take account of the locally distinctive character of the area in which they are to be located within the Design & Access Statement;</p> <p>k) It respects the height of the immediate surrounding area. Future development will generally be expected to be no more than two storeys and with pitched roofs;</p> <p>l) It uses, and where appropriate re-uses, local and traditional materials appropriate to the context of the site, or suitable artificial alternatives;</p> <p>m) It contributes to reducing carbon emissions, where possible, and where such features are included they are a sympathetic enhancement to the building and surrounding area. In meeting this criterion applicants will have to meet any standard set by Building Regulations, but they are encouraged to seek to go further than these standards in a move to the development being zero carbon;</p> <p>n) It includes recycling facilities (such as bin stores) that are suitable in terms of size, position, ease of</p>		



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>use and unobtrusive when viewed as part of the wider streetscene;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o) It is designed to be as water efficient as possible; p) Extensions to existing dwellings should harmonise with the style, size, building materials and character of surrounding properties; q) Outbuildings should be of a style and size commensurate with the neighbouring buildings. Traditionally outbuildings have been brick or weather-boarded and with pitched tiled or slated roofs and r) It has appropriate car parking in accordance with the County Council's adopted standards and, where possible, this is sited so that it is unobtrusive and does not dominate the street scene the visual impact of car parking should be minimised and provided <p>Poor design when assessed against the above criteria will not be supported.</p>		
<p>Draft Policy CNDP3 Development within Pin Mill Conservation Area</p> <p>All new development within and affecting the setting of Pin Mill Conservation Area (Figure 5) will be expected to maintain and where possible enhance the positive attributes of the Conservation Area and its setting. Development proposals will be supported where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Maintain the historic pattern of development by respecting the area's historic street layouts, building plots and boundary treatments; b) Reinforce local identity by the appropriate use of the traditional materials such as Suffolk Red Brick, weatherboarding and slate and clay tile for roofs; 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>c) Maintain the predominant low, two-storey height of buildings;</p> <p>d) Use of pitched roofs with cottage style dormer windows and chimneys;</p> <p>e) Gates and fences should use ironwork or wood;</p> <p>f) Existing buildings should be maintained as far as practicable using original or sympathetic materials in any conversion;</p> <p>g) Replacement windows and new window openings should match those existing in the property (where these are of a style and material appropriate to the age and character of the building);</p> <p>h) Areas attached to buildings that are easily visible from the public highway/footway, such as boundary walls/fences, public seating areas etc. should reflect the nature of surrounding areas, avoiding formality and urban styles in informal rural settings.</p> <p>i) Retain open spaces, mature trees and hedgerows; and</p> <p>j) Where below ground works and investigations are required suitable archaeological investigations are undertaken and recorded.</p>		
<p>Draft Policy CNDP4 Development affecting non-designated heritage assets</p> <p>Development affecting the non-designated heritage assets in the area should conserve those assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. The following non-designated heritage assets have been identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Village Hall, • The Old Bakery • Longwood Cottage 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grange • St Andrew’s Church • The Baptist Chapel • The Methodist Chapel • The Red Lion Public House • The former Riga Public House • Naedan Lodge • The 3 cottages of the former ‘Alma’ public house • King’s Boatyard • Riverview Cottage • Spring Cottage 		
<p>Draft Policy CNDP5 Protecting Local Green Space</p> <p>The local green spaces shown on the Policies Map are designated in accordance with paragraphs 99 and 100 of the NPPF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNDP5/1 – Pin Mill Common • CNDP5/2 – Dawn Covert • CNDP5/3 – Cliff Plantation • CNDP5/4 – Pages Common • CNDP5/5 – Baptist Chapel Graveyard • CNDP5/6 – Community Orchard • CNDP5/7 – St Andrew’s Churchyard • CNDP5/8 – Picnic site, Pin Mill Road • CNDP5/9 – Bylam Common <p>Inappropriate development will only be permitted in very special circumstances, when potential harm to the local green space by way of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>Draft Policy CNDP6 Protecting Other Open Spaces</p> <p>Development that would result in the loss of small open spaces within the neighbourhood area will only be supported when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Equivalent or better provision is provided elsewhere within a suitable location; or b) It can be clearly demonstrated by the applicant that the open space no longer performs a useful open space function in terms of the local environment, amenity, or active public recreation use. 	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
<p>Draft Policy CNDP7 Conserving and Enhancing Valued Landscapes and Biodiversity</p> <p>New development should conserve and enhance valued landscapes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protecting in accordance with their significance the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and designated biodiversity sites, including the Special Protection Area/Ramsar/Site of Special Scientific Interest; b) Conserving and enhancing the landscape setting, landscape features and settlement pattern of the neighbourhood area; c) Conserving and enhancing the areas of historic local woodland in the Parish; d) Conserving in situ known archaeological sites in the area and, where considered appropriate, based on relevant technical advice, undertaking a site survey based on this advice. Where such a survey reveals evidence of archaeological remains these should be recorded or conserved in situ based on the advice of the relevant technical body; 	No, Category A	No specific recommendations



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>e) Conserving and enhancing mature trees and hedgerows, or where removal is proposed as a last resort, offsetting by way of replacement planting of native species is provided elsewhere on- the site or within the neighbourhood plan area;</p> <p>f) Where new planting and landscaping is proposed it should use native species and be designed in such a way so as to ensure that it is suitable when considered in the wider local landscape, and where appropriate, links to existing woodland and hedgerows;</p> <p>g) Taking account of the impact of the development on significant views (SEE FIG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pin Mill viewed from the River Orwell • The Butt and Oyster from the riverside looking east • Pin Mill viewed from above – Church Path • Open fields looking south towards Harkstead Church • Open fields looking south-east towards Rence Park. • Corsican pine plantation beside Page’s Common. <p>h) Where opportunities arise creation of new views and vistas;</p> <p>i) Promote high quality residential design that respects local townscape and landscape character and reflects local vernacular building styles, layouts and materials, and which avoids over-manicured urban styles;</p> <p>j) Conserve existing landscape features such as trees, hedges, grassland and other landscape features as intrinsic parts of new development,</p>		



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>which together afford the village a sense of enclosure;</p> <p>k) Preserving the area’s dark skies by minimising light pollution from internal and external lighting;</p> <p>l) Seek to minimise the encroachment of development into visually exposed landscapes and where development is proposed on the edge of the village, it enhances views of the settlement edge from the surrounding countryside and does not lead to inappropriate incursion into the surrounding countryside by reason of its siting, design, materials or use of landscaping; and by</p> <p>m) Seeking to conserve and enhance the integrity and fabric of historic buildings and their settings, particularly where new uses are proposed through the use of appropriate styles and sustainable locally distinctive materials.</p>		
<p>Draft Policy CNDP8 – Protection and Enhancement of Local Shops, Community Facilities and Public Houses</p> <p>There will be a presumption in favour of the protection of existing facilities. Where permission is required, the change of use of local community facilities, as listed below, will only be permitted for other health, education or community type uses (such as village halls, local clubhouses, health centres, schools and children’s day nurseries), unless one of the following can be demonstrated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The proposal includes alternative provision, on a site within the locality, of equivalent or enhanced facilities. Such sites should be accessible by public transport, walking and cycling and have adequate car parking; or 2. Satisfactory evidence is produced (including active marketing locally and in the wider area) 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>that, over a minimum period of 12 months, it has been demonstrated that there is no longer a demand for the facility.</p> <p>The facilities are listed as follows and shown on the Policies Map:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Red Lion • The Butt and Oyster Inn • St Andrews Church • Peninsula Baptist Church • Methodist Chapel • Village Hall • Chelmondiston Church of England Primary School <p>Proposals that would enhance the appearance, improve access and accessibility for all users to these facilities will be supported when they are in accordance with other development plan policies and the policies of the Draft Chelpin Plan.</p>		
<p>Draft Policy CNDP9 – Sport and Recreation Facilities</p> <p>The following recreation facilities also identified on the Policies Map will be protected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Playing field; • Primary School playing field; • The allotments at the bottom of Pin Mill Road. <p>Development proposals for the improvement of the existing recreation facilities on these sites will be supported when they would not have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity.</p> <p>Development proposals that would result in the loss of these facilities will only be supported when the applicant can demonstrate that the facility is no longer needed for recreational use or suitable alternative provision can be</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p>provided elsewhere within the neighbourhood area to an equivalent or better standard and in a location that is in close proximity to the community it serves.</p>		
<p>Draft Policy CNDP10 Local Business and Shops</p> <p>To ensure Chelmondiston remains a balanced, sustainable community with a mix of local jobs, homes and other facilities, the following existing employment area will be protected for continued business uses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law's Cottage • His 'n' Hers • Hill Farm Equestrian Centre • King's Yard, Pin Mill • Webb's Yard, Pin Mill • Studio Art Gallery and Photographic Centre <p>Conversion and re-use of rural buildings for employment use where these are of substantial construction and such development would not have a significant adverse impact on the area's natural and built environment, residential amenity or lead to road traffic impacts will be supported.</p> <p>The following local shops will be protected for retail use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollingsworths (including Post Office) • Orwell Stores <p>Harmful visual effects caused by open storage, lorry or multiple vehicle parking, inappropriate security fencing, signage and floodlighting will be resisted in any expansion of local businesses or residential premises.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

3.5.1 Recommendations

There are no recommendations for the policies in this Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Development Plan as they have all been assigned to Category A (no negative effect) with no need to amend policy text.



As there is no Likely Significant Effect from the Plan alone, it is necessary to assess the likely effects from the Plan, in combination with other plans and projects; these are considered in Section 3.5.

3.6 Other Plans & Projects: In-Combination Effects

There are three relevant Plan level HRAs that has been carried out by Babergh DC or other organisations and these have been found, without mitigation, to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Habitats sites being assessed in-combination with other plans and projects. This relates to recreational disturbance from residential development. There are no Projects considered to be relevant to this section.

In the context of this HRA, as the Regulation 14 draft Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan does not allocate any sites for development, it does not require any mitigation measures and therefore there are no likely significant effects in combination with other plans and projects.



4. Conclusions

Subject to Natural England's review, this HRA Screening Report concludes that the Regulation 14 draft Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan is not predicted to have any Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The content of the Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan has therefore been **screened out** for any further assessment and Babergh DC can demonstrate its compliance with the UK Habitats Regulations 2017.



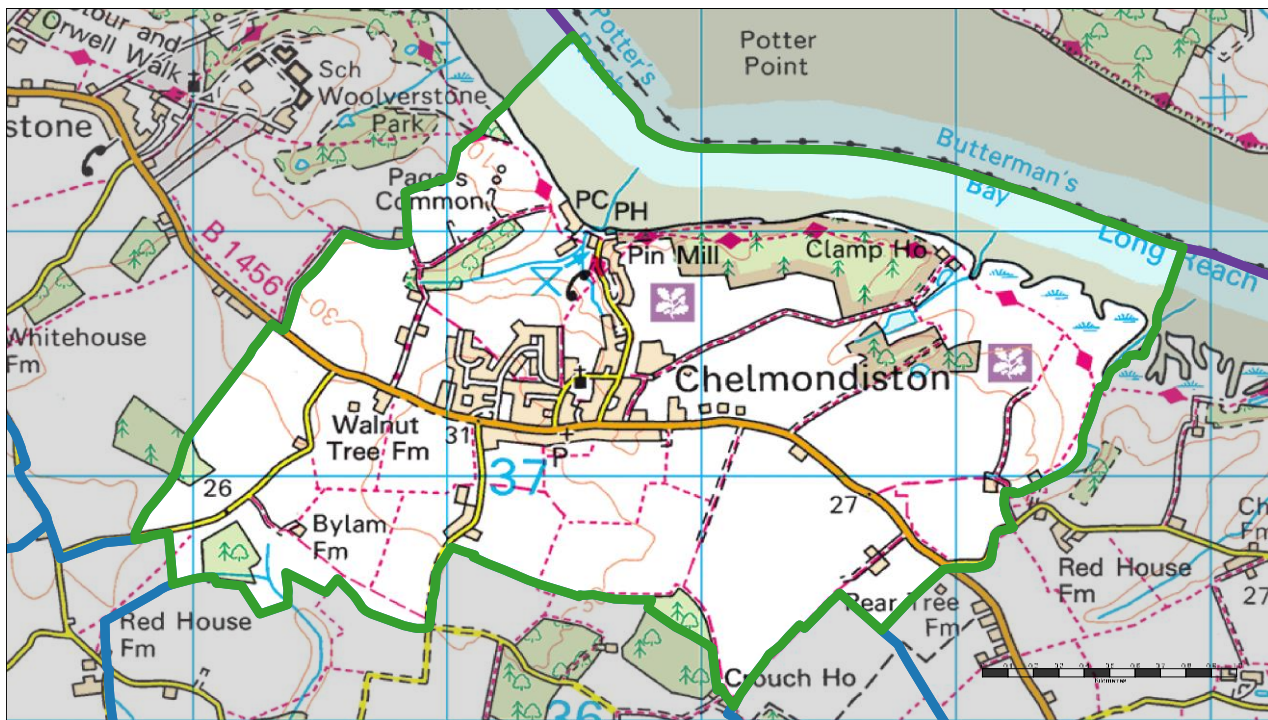
5. References

- Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 14 Draft, Chelmondiston Parish Council (2019)
- Babergh District Council Local Plan: Proposed Submission (2017)
- Babergh District Council Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and Site Specific Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) HRA screening Appropriate Assessment (2017)
- Land Use Consultants (Aug 2016) HRA screening report for Babergh District Draft Local Plan
- Place Services (June 2019) Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment including Appropriate Assessment
- Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6581547796791296#content>
- Natural England Site Improvement Plans: East of England <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/4873023563759616>



Appendix I


The Neighbourhood Development Plan Area for Chelmondiston



Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan Area



BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

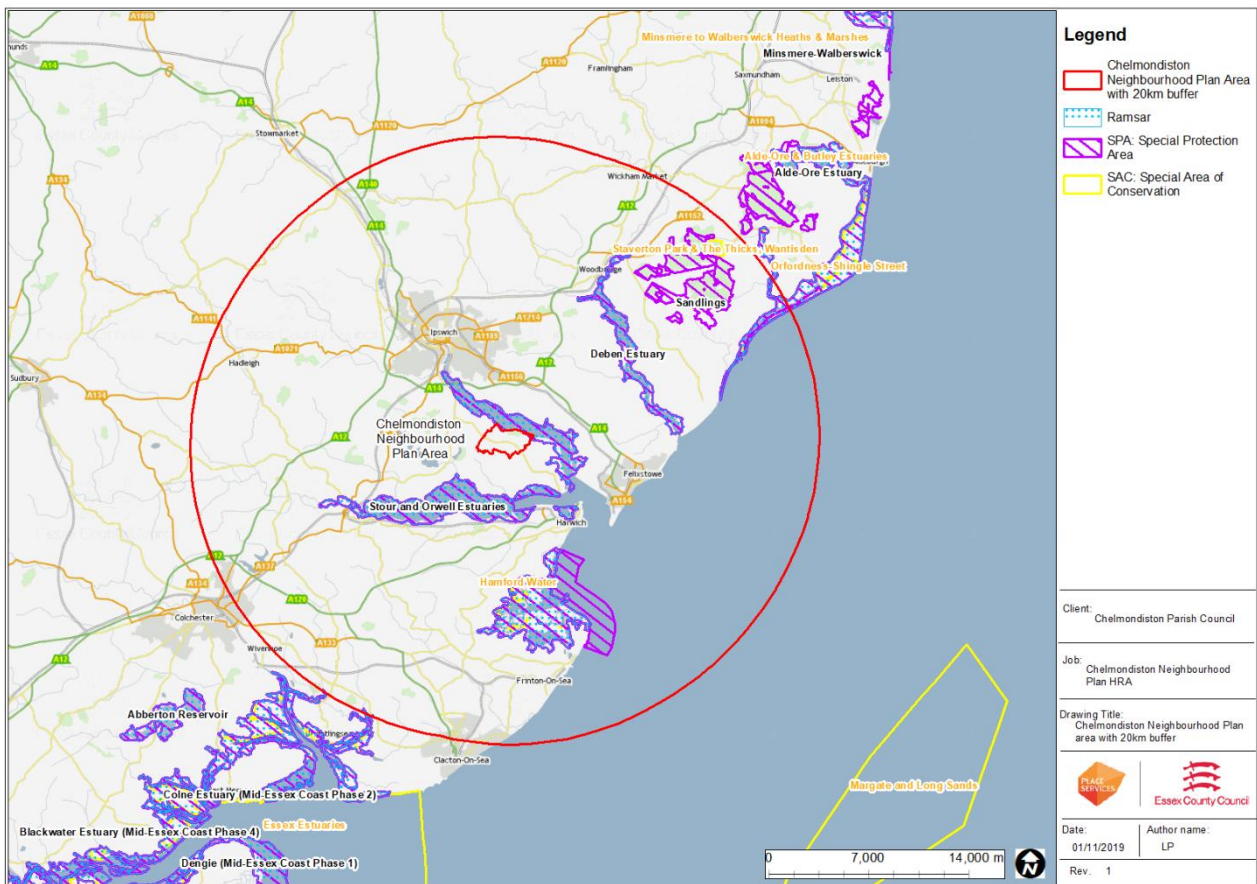
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Source: Chelmondiston Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Submission March 2018



Appendix II

Chelmondiston parish and Habitats Sites within 20km



Source: Place Services, 2019



Appendix III

Characteristics of Habitats Sites

This appendix contains information about the Habitats Sites included in the scoping for this HRA. Information about each site's area, the site descriptions, qualifying features and pressures and threats are drawn from Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the Standard Data Forms or Ramsar Information Sheets available from the JNCC website. Site conservation objectives are drawn from Natural England's website and are only available for SACs and SPAs. Supplementary Advice has also been added to describe the range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity and key vulnerabilities to consider within Habitats Regulations assessments.



Appendix 1. Characteristics of Habitats Sites

Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
The Stour and Orwell estuaries				
<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 waterbirds, 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>				
<u>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009121	3676.92	<u>Qualifying Features</u> potentially affected: Annex I species: Over winter: Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below); 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. Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:	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. 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



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>importance of the following migratory species: Over winter:</p> <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 totanus</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> • Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> 	<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>overflight 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 maritima</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 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)</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"> • 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 tetanus</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>Anas Penelope</i> • Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> • Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> • Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> 		<p>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. 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'</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"> Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>. 		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.
<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> Small cord-grass <i>Spartina maritime</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>. 	None available.	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. 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.



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</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> 		



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"> Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> 		
<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>				
<u>Deben Estuary SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009261	978.93	<p>Qualifying species:</p> <p>Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Non-breeding);</p> <p>Pied avocet , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (breeding)</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</p>	<p>Coastal squeeze:</p> <p>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</p>



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
			<p>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>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>degraded through coastal squeeze, sedimentation and reduced exposure.</p> <p>Public access/disturbance:</p> <p>The Deben Estuary is subject to land and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; wildfowling; and low flying 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:</p> <p><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</p>



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				<p>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 practices with high nutrient inputs e.g. outdoor pig farms.</p> <p>Water Pollution:</p> <p>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>
<u>Deben Estuary Ramsar site</u>	978.93	Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation)	None available	Similar to Deben Estuary SPA (See above).



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>Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe 307 individuals, representing an average</p>		<p>A key threat identified by RIS was erosion.</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>



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>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>Anser 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 average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Pied avocet , i,Europe/Northwest Africa 167 individuals, representing an average</p>		



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

Hamford Water

Hamford Water is a large, shallow estuarine basin that was formed due to a natural dip in the underlying geology of the area. The site supports coastal habitats including shallow creeks, drowned estuaries, low-lying islands, mudflats and broad tracts of tidal salt marsh and reclaimed grazing marsh that lies between the North Sea and



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p>the rising ground inland. Hamford Water supports Fisher's estuarine moth and its larval food plant, the hog's fennel (<i>Peucedanum officinale</i>). The moth is found where there is an abundance of both hog's fennel and the coarse grasses required by the moth for egg laying. Several rare or notable plants and a well-developed flora characteristic of the lime-rich sand are supported on the dune-topped shingle spits. The site is important for nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering and nesting waterbirds birds including avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>), redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) and little terns (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>), and serves as a winter refuge for migratory water birds displaced by severe weather.</p>				
<p><u>Hamford Water</u></p> <p><u>SAC</u></p> <p>EU code: UK 0030377</p>	2187.21	<p><u>S4035</u> Fisher's estuarine moth <i>Gortyna borelii lunata</i></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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Climate change:</p> <p>The overall vulnerability of this SAC to climate change has been assessed by Natural England (2015) as being high, taking into account the sensitivity, fragmentation, topography and management of its supporting habitats.</p> <p>Air Pollution:</p> <p>The supporting habitat of this feature is considered sensitive to changes in air quality. Exceedance of these critical values for air pollutants may modify the chemical status of the habitat's substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering its vegetation structure and composition (including food-plants) and reducing supporting habitat quality and population viability of this feature.</p> <p>Water quality:</p>



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
				<p>Hog's fennel grows along the banks of borrow-dykes and ditches and is therefore likely to be sensitive to changes in water quality. As Fisher's estuarine moth spends its pupal and some of its larval life cycle stage below ground it may be affected by ground water levels.</p> <p>Succession:</p> <p>Scrub encroaching is resulting in a loss of suitable grassland habitat for the moth. There are efforts to control and reduce scrub at the worst affected sites. Clearing scrub and restoring grassland will also provide opportunities for landward migration of hog's fennel and Fisher's estuarine moth, away from the threats of sea level rise.</p>
<p><u>Hamford Water</u></p> <p><u>SPA</u></p>	2187.21	<p>Qualifying species:</p> <p><i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)</p>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features 	As for SAC



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p><i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding)</p> <p><i>Sternula albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	
<p><u>Hamford Water</u> <u>Ramsar site</u></p> <p>UK11028</p>	2187.21	<p><u>Ramsar criterion 6</u></p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p>	N/A	N/A



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"> • <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover • <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i>; Common redshank <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose • <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p><i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover (Non-breeding)</p>		
Staverton Park and The Thicks				



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p>Staverton Park and The Thicks,, Wantisden is representative of old acidophilous oak woods in the eastern part of its range, and its ancient oaks <i>Quercus</i> spp. have rich invertebrate and epiphytic lichen assemblages. Despite being in the most 'continental' part of southern Britain, the epiphytic lichen flora of this site includes rare and Atlantic species, such as <i>Haemotomma elatinum</i>, <i>Lecidea cinnabarina</i>, <i>Thelotrema lepadinum</i>, <i>Graphis elegans</i> and <i>Stenocybe septata</i>. Part of the site includes an area of old holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> trees that are probably the largest in Britain. The site has a very well-documented history and good conservation of woodland structure and function.</p>				
<p>Staverton Park and the Thicks SAC EU code: UK0012741</p>	<p>84.28</p>	<p>Qualifying habitats: Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland</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</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>	<p>Air pollution: This habitat type is considered sensitive to changes in air quality. Exceedance of these critical values for air pollutants may modify the chemical status of its substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering its vegetation structure and composition and causing the loss of sensitive typical species associated with it</p> <p>Climate change: The overall vulnerability of this SAC to climate change has been assessed by Natural England (2015) as being moderate, taking into account the sensitivity, fragmentation, topography and management of its habitats.</p>
<p>Sandlings</p>				



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<p>The Sandlings SPA lies near the Suffolk Coast between the Deben Estuary and Leiston. In the 19th century, the area was dominated by heathland developed on glacial sandy soils. During the 20th century, large areas of heath were planted with blocks of commercial conifer forest and others were converted to arable agriculture. Lack of traditional management has resulted in the remnant areas of heath being subject to successional changes, with the consequent spread of bracken, shrubs and trees, although recent conservation management work is resulting in their restoration. The heaths support both acid grassland and heather-dominated plant communities, with dependant invertebrate and bird communities of conservation value. Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i> and Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> have also adapted to breeding in the large conifer forest blocks, using areas that have recently been felled and recent plantation, as well as areas managed as open ground</p>				
Sandlings SPA EU code: UK9020286	3,391.80	Qualifying species: <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> ; European nightjar (Breeding) <i>Lullula arborea</i> ; Woodlark (Breeding)	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; The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Recreation pressure: The nature, scale, timing and duration of some human activities can result in the disturbance of birds at a level that may substantially affect their behaviour, and consequently affect the long-term viability of the population. Such disturbing effects can for example result in changes to feeding or roosting behaviour, increases in energy expenditure due to increased flight, abandonment of nest sites and desertion of supporting habitat (both within or outside the designated site boundary where appropriate). This may undermine successful nesting, rearing, feeding and/or roosting, and/or may reduce the availability of suitable habitat as birds are displaced and their distribution within the site contracts. Disturbance associated with human activity may take a variety of forms including noise, light, sound,



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				<p>vibration, trampling, and presence of people, animals and structures. This may become more of an issue as the population recovers and if an increase in development locally leads to an increase in recreational pressure in the Sandlings.</p> <p>Air pollution:</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats which support this SPA feature may be sensitive to changes in air quality. Exceeding critical values for air pollutants may result in changes to the chemical status of its habitat substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering vegetation structure and composition and thereby affecting the quality and availability of nesting, feeding or roosting habitats</p>
<p>Orfordness and Shingle Street</p> <p>Orfordness is an extensive shingle structure consisting of a foreland, a 15 km-long spit and a series of recurves running from north to south. It supports some of the largest and most natural sequences in the UK of shingle vegetation affected by salt spray. The southern end has a particularly fine series of undisturbed ridges, with zonation of communities determined by the ridge pattern. Pioneer communities with sea pea <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> and false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> grassland occur. The nationally rare starlet sea anemone <i>Nematostella vectensis</i> is also found at the site.</p>				



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Orfordness and Shingle Street SPA EU code: UK0014780	888	Qualifying habitats Coastal lagoons Annual vegetation of drift lines Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves	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; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely	Similar to Alde-Ore-Estuary SPA Inappropriate coastal management : Maintaining coastal defences at Bawdsey and Slaughden is leading to increased shingle recharge requirements at Slaughden, and loss of shingle beach at southern end of SAC at Bawdsey.

Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries

This estuary, made up of three rivers, is the only bar-built estuary in the UK with a shingle bar. This bar has been extending rapidly along the coast since 1530, pushing the mouth of the estuary progressively south-westwards. The eastwards-running Alde River originally entered the sea at Aldeburgh, but now turns south along the inner side of the Orfordness shingle spit. It is relatively wide and shallow, with extensive intertidal mudflats on both sides of the channel in its upper reaches and saltmarsh accreting along its fringes. The smaller Butley River has extensive areas of saltmarsh and a reedbed community bordering intertidal mudflats. There is a range of littoral sediment and rock biotopes (the latter on sea defences) that are of high diversity and species richness for estuaries in eastern England. The estuary contains large areas of shallow water over subtidal sediments, and extensive mudflats and saltmarshes exposed at low water. Its diverse and species-rich intertidal sand and mudflat biotopes grade naturally along many lengths of the shore into vegetated or dynamic shingle habitat, saltmarsh, grassland and reedbed.



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Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC EU Code: UK 0030076	1561.53	<p>Qualifying Habitats:</p> <p>Estuaries</p> <p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</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</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>	<p>Hydrological changes:</p> <p>Flood wall breaches in December 2013 (due to tidal surge) have led to flooding of Hazelwood Marshes and Lantern Marshes south (both currently intertidal). This has led to a loss of nesting habitat and saline lagoons.</p> <p>Public Access/Disturbance:</p> <p>Human disturbance to nesting birds on beaches, notably on Orfordness and Shingle Street, by people accessing the southern end of the ness by boat, plus walkers along beach from Aldeburgh, and recreational beach users at Shingle Street. Human trampling affects vegetated shingle habitat. Military and private aircraft (paramotors, helicopters and planes) regularly fly low over the site leading to disturbance of SPA features, wintering and breeding birds.</p> <p>Coastal squeeze:</p> <p>Seawalls afford little scope for natural adaption of the estuary to sea level rise through roll back of habitat. Saltmarsh is at risk of being squeezed in the future</p>



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				<p>(although currently the estuary is perceived as in balance) and limited areas of natural habitat transition within the site could be lost. The developing policy of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership should consider scope for natural adaption to sea level rise.</p> <p>Inappropriate coastal management:</p> <p>Maintaining coastal defences at Bawdsey and Slaughden is leading to increased shingle recharge requirements at Slaughden, and loss of shingle beach at southern end of SAC at Bawdsey.</p> <p>Inappropriate pest control:</p> <p>Fox predation/disturbance is a key issue for breeding birds on Orfordness, particularly Lesser black backed gulls. Foxes can cause gulls and other breeding birds to abandon nesting sites, and predate adult birds and chicks.</p> <p>Changes in species distributions:</p> <p>There are negative population trends in bird species using the site. Breeding locations are moving within and away from the designated site, possibly due to</p>



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				<p>habitat change on site, as a reaction to other species and due to draw of other adjacent hinterland habitat. This requires further investigation and possible mitigation.</p> <p>Invasive species:</p> <p><i>Spartina</i> is encroaching on estuarine muds. With <i>Spartina</i> at the front, and reed encroaching at the back, saltmarsh could be squeezed out.</p> <p>Air Pollution- impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition :</p> <p>Air pollution impacts on vegetation diversity. Aerial deposits of nitrogen may exceed the site relevant critical load (20 – 30 kg N ha-1 yr-1) above which the diversity of saltmarsh vegetation begins to be altered (possibly to reed) and adversely impacted. Many land use practices contribute to this problem locally including land spreading, outdoor pigs, high nutrient inputs on fields.</p> <p>Fisheries:</p> <p>Commercial marine and estuarine – There are many different fishing pressures close to shore that may</p>



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				include bycatch of juvenile fish and disturbance of fish nursery areas that could potentially have an impact on Little tern Stern
Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar site EU code: UK11002	2,547	<p>Ramsar criterion 2: The site supports a number of nationally-scarce plant species and British Red Data Book invertebrates</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3: The site supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wetland birds.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6: Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance: Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa, 5790 apparently occupied nests,</p>	N/A	N/A



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>representing an average of 3.9% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census)</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter: Pied avocet , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, Europe/Northwest Africa, 1187 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</p> <p>Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>, 2368 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)</p>		
<p>Colne Estuary</p> <p>Colne Estuary is a comparatively short and branching estuary, with five tidal arms which flow into the main river channel. The estuary has a narrow intertidal zone predominantly composed of flats of fine silt with mudflat communities typical of south-eastern estuaries. The estuary is of international importance for wintering Brent Geese and Black-tailed Godwit and of national importance for breeding Little Terns and five other species of wintering waders and wildfowl. The variety of habitats which include mudflat, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, sand and shingle spits, disused gravel pits and reedbeds, support outstanding assemblages of invertebrates and plants.</p>				
<u>Colne Estuary SPA</u>	2701.43	Qualifying species:	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site	Coastal Squeeze:



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EU code: UK9009243		<p>A046a <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A059 <i>Aythya ferina</i>; Common pochard (Breeding)</p> <p>A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A137 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover (Breeding)</p> <p>A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding)</p> <p>A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</p> <p>Waterbird assemblage</p>	<p>contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features • The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features • The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely • The population of each of the qualifying features, and, <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>Coastal defences along much of the Essex coastline prevent intertidal habitats from shifting landward in response to rising sea levels. As a result, these habitats are being gradually degraded and reduced in extent, with knock-on effects on the waterbirds and other species they support. 'Managed realignment' schemes and additional intervention measures to create new areas of intertidal habitat and reduce erosion rates are being implemented but more will be needed to offset future losses. Grazing marshes in the area of the Mid Essex Coast SPAs are important for waterbirds and are also threatened by sea level rise because most are near or below mean high tide level, currently protected behind seawalls.</p> <p>Public access /disturbance:</p> <p>Breeding and overwintering waterbirds are susceptible to human disturbance from a range of land- and water-based activities - including boating and watersports, walking, bait-digging, fishing and wildfowling - as well as low-flying aircraft. Some</p>



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				<p>activities, such as powerboating, may produce physical disturbance to habitats.</p> <p>Planning permission: general – Several of the issues affecting the Essex Estuaries and the management of disturbance effects on the sites are related to each other, and addressing them is likely to require an improved overview of the relative sensitivities of different habitats, species and locations to different types of development.</p> <p>Changes in species distributions:</p> <p>Declines have occurred in the numbers of some of the waterbird species using the Essex Estuaries SIP area but these may be due to changes in their distributions or population levels at a national or continental scale, possibly linked to climate change.</p> <p>Invasive species:</p>



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				<p>An increase in Pacific oyster <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> settlement and colonisation within the European Marine Site (EMS) may result in areas of foreshore being covered in such numbers as to make them difficult to access and utilise as feeding grounds for overwintering birds. Invasive common cord grass may adversely affect other species and habitats, including feeding and roosting areas of SPA bird species.</p> <p>Fishing:</p> <p>Recreational bait digging may impact waterbirds e.g. by reducing prey availability, or damaging the intertidal mudflats and sandflats and associated communities. The extent of the activity and potential impacts on site features are not currently well understood. Certain forms of commercial fishing, e.g. bottom towed fishing gear; can be very damaging to inshore marine habitats and the bird species dependent on the communities they support.</p>



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				<p>Air Pollution- risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition:</p> <p>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. However, on the Essex estuaries declines in the numbers of breeding terns appear to be due mainly to erosion of a man-made cockle-shingle bank (at Foulness) and to disturbance (elsewhere), rather than to over-vegetation of breeding areas caused by nitrogen deposition.</p>
<p><u>Colne Estuary Ramsar Site</u></p> <p>UK11015</p>	2701.43	<p><u>Ramsar criterion 1</u></p> <p>The site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh present. This site, and the four other sites in the Mid-Essex Coast complex, includes a total of 3,237 ha, that represent 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and 7% of the total saltmarsh in Britain.</p>	N/A	N/A



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		<p><u>Ramsar criterion 2</u></p> <p>The site supports 12 species of nationally scarce plants and at least 38 British Red Data Book invertebrate species.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 3</u></p> <p>This site supports full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 5</u></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 32041 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p>		



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p><u>Ramsar criterion 6</u></p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dark-bellied brent goose, Branta bernicla bernicla,</i> • <i>Common redshank , Tringa totanus totanus,</i> <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species with peak counts in winter: Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> 		



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