

# Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan

Scoping Report

Stutton Parish Council

April 2022

## Quality information

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## Revision History

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Revision date</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
V1	23/03/22	Draft for internal review	Fraser Young	Graduate Environmental Consultant
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V3	26/04/22	Consultation version	Rosie Cox	Senior Environmental Planner

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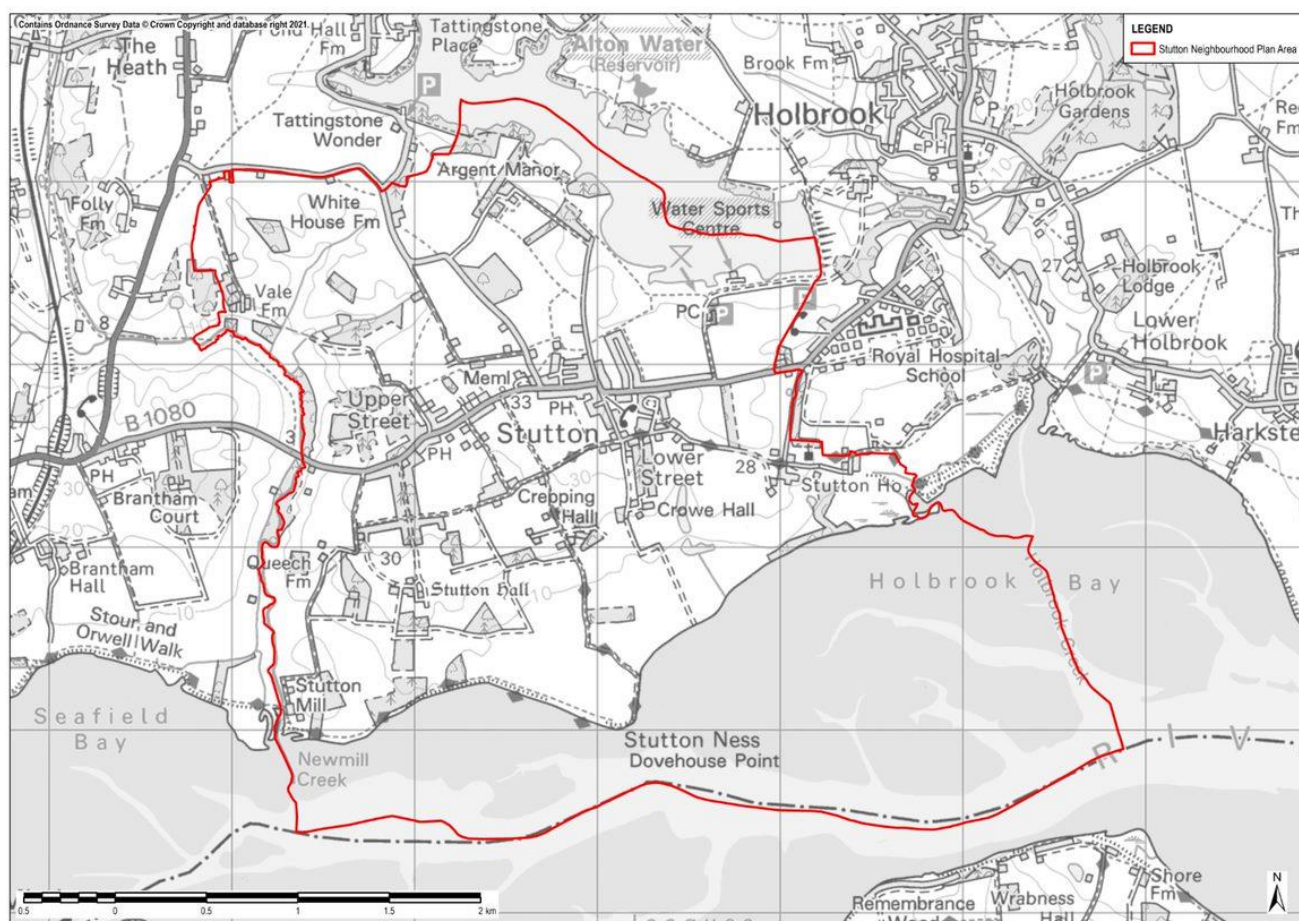
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# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Strategic (SEA) in support of the emerging Stutton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan is currently being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the adopted Babergh Local Plan (2006) and the emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. It is currently anticipated that the WNP will be submitted to Babergh District Council later in 2022.
- 1.3 The Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parish of Stutton, as shown in **Figure 1.1**, below.

**Figure 1.1 Stutton Neighbourhood Area**



## Planning policy context

- 1.4 The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared in the context of the adopted Babergh Development Plan and the emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan. The adopted Development Plan comprises the following key documents:
- Saved policies from the Babergh Local Plan Alteration No.2 (2006)
  - Babergh Core Strategy (2014)
  - Suffolk Minerals Core Strategy (2008)
  - Suffolk Waste Core Strategy (2011)
- 1.5 The settlement hierarchy set out in the adopted Core Strategy identifies Stutton as a 'Hinterland Village' within the 'functional cluster' of the Church of St Peter and is located near Ipswich; the main service centre for employment, retail and services.

## The emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)

- 1.6 The emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk JLP will provide a framework for development to 2037 and will replace the saved policies of the adopted 2006 Local Plan and the adopted Babergh Core Strategy. Minerals and waste planning will continue to be the responsibility of Suffolk County Council.
- 1.7 The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to the strategic policies of the Development Plan, as per footnote 18 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021). Additionally, the NPPF states that "*local planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans*" according to set criteria which includes its stage of preparation.
- 1.8 The Babergh and Mid Suffolk JLP was formally submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for independent examination on 31 March 2021. Examination subsequently ran from June - December 2021.
- 1.9 Following a meeting with the inspectors on Thursday 16 December 2021, it has been proposed to progress the current Joint Local Plan (JLP) as a 'Part 1' local plan. This will be followed by the preparation and adoption of a 'Part 2' local plan as soon as possible.
- 1.10 The Local Development Scheme is currently being updated to reflect this, and this will provide details of what each plan will cover, and the timetable for their production.
- 1.11 The Councils are currently working with consultants and project partners to scope and progress the outstanding matters raised by the inspectors during the examination so far, and the necessary main modifications. Further details of this work and timescales - including consultation periods - will be provided in due course.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils (2022) Babergh and Mid Suffolk New Joint Local Plan  
<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/>

## SEA explained

- 1.12 SEA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the potential impacts of an emerging plan, and potential alternatives in terms of key environmental issues. The aim of the SEA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating potential negative impacts and maximising the potential for positive effects. Through this approach, the SEA for the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan seeks to maximise the emerging plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.13 SEA is undertaken to meet the specific requirements prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 1.14 The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan has been screened by Land Use Consultants (LUC) on behalf of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in January 2022. LUC recommended that the draft Stutton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and accordingly a SEA is required. This decision was made for the following four reasons:
1. Cumulative effects could result from the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan in combination with development that takes place in the surrounding towns and villages, although the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate sites for housing or other forms of development.
  2. Part of the parish lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. The parish also lies adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site, Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA) and is within the 13 kilometre "Zone of Influence" (ZoI) of the Stour and Orwell SPA.
  3. There are 30 Listed Buildings and monuments within the parish. The parish contains a significant proportion of Grade 2 and 3 agricultural land.
  4. Policies SN11, SN14 and SN22 may result in a likely significant effect on one or more European sites.<sup>2</sup>
- 1.15 This Scoping Report seeks to establish a suggested scope for the SEA. A key procedural requirement of the SEA Regulations is to present this scope for the SEA, so that the designated authorities (Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency) can provide timely comment.

## SEA scoping explained

- 1.16 Developing the draft scope for the SEA as presented in this report has involved the following steps:
- Exploring the policy context for the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan (SNP) and SEA to summarise the key messages arising.
  - Establishing the baseline for the SEA (i.e., the current and future situation in the area in the absence of the SNP) to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.
  - Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SEA; and

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<sup>2</sup> LUC (2022) Stutton Neighbourhood Plan - SEA Screening Opinion

- Considering this information, developing an SEA framework comprising SEA objectives and assessment questions, which can then be used as a guiding framework for the subsequent assessment.

1.17 The scope is explored and presented under a series of key environmental themes as set out below.

- Air quality
- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Climate change (including flood risk)
- Landscape
- Historic environment
- Land, soil, and water resources
- Community wellbeing
- Transportation

1.18 The selected environmental themes incorporate the ‘SEA topics’ suggested by Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects. The discussion of the scoping information for each theme is presented in Chapters 2 to 9, and the proposed SEA framework is brought together as a whole in Appendix A. Each proposal within the emerging Stutton Neighbourhood Plan will be assessed consistently using this framework.

## 2. Air quality

2.1 This theme focuses on air pollution, in particular; air quality exceedances/ issues and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), whereby a local authority identifies areas where national air quality objectives are not likely to be achieved.

### Policy context

2.2 **Table 2.1** (below) presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 2.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to air quality**

Document Title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The Clean Air Strategy</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations</u></a>	2017
<a href="#"><u>A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>Mid Suffolk Core Strategy (CS)</u></a>	2008
<a href="#"><u>Mid Suffolk Core Strategy Review</u></a>	2012
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission' draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils 2020 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)</u></a>	2020

2.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to the NPPF, which predominantly seeks early planning to reduce/ mitigate air quality impacts in development and to take advantage of opportunities to improve air quality. Measures to improve air quality include traffic and travel management and green infrastructure provision. Strategic development is expected to be focused in locations that have or will be provided with high levels of accessibility; supporting both a reduced need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. Smaller-scale development should consider the potential for cumulative effects in relation to air quality.
- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should also have regard to the emerging Joint Local Plan which contains policies relating to air quality, such as Policy SP08 (Strategic Infrastructure Provision).
- Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared in areas which exceed national objectives for levels of particulates, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead and/ or nitrogen oxides. The Air Quality



Annual Status Report (ASR) for Mid Suffolk and Babergh demonstrates that there are several AQMAs in Babergh.

- Where exceedances exist, areas are declared as AQMAs and local authorities are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in the area. The latest Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for neighbouring authority Ipswich Borough is of relevance. Notably, the Ipswich AQAP (2019 – 2024)<sup>3</sup> identifies as a key measure, the need to coordinate the delivery of green travel plans between Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Council. This is with the intention of promoting travel alternatives and reducing the need to travel every day.
- To improve air quality across the UK, national strategies have in the last few decades focused on regulatory frameworks, investment by industry in cleaner processes and a shift in the fuel mix towards cleaner forms of energy (largely at point sources). Whilst there are dedicated strategies to reducing roadside emissions (as a significant source of nitrogen dioxide emissions), recent objectives outlined in the Clean Air Strategy seek to recognise wider sources (including smaller contributors and diffuse sources) that contribute to poor air quality. This includes; power generation, heating our homes, producing food, manufacturing consumer goods and powering transport.

## Baseline summary

- 2.4 In line with the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set out in Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995), Babergh District Council is required to assess Air Quality standards within the region on an annual basis. In this regard, there are no AQMAs within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.
- 2.5 The closest AQMA is the recently amended (17/08/2021) Ipswich AQMA No.3 which is located approximately 8km north of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area. This AQMA is declared due to NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean exceedances and encompasses several zones around Ipswich including the junction of Grimwade Street with St Helens Street, the Starr Lane gyratory system in Fore Street, Salthouse Street, Key Street, College Street, Bridge Street, Foundation Street and Slade Street.
- 2.6 In terms of localised congestion within Stutton, the main linear route through the parish is the B1080. In recent years there has been an increase in traffic along this road which is of concern to residents.

## Future baseline

- 2.7 The growth associated with future housing and employment provision within the parish has the potential for adverse effects on air quality due to increased levels of traffic and associated pollutants. However, this is unlikely to lead to exceedances of local air quality objectives provided suitable planning and mitigation measures are incorporated in the design of new development.

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<sup>3</sup> Ipswich Borough Council (2019) Ipswich Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan 2019 – 2024 [online] available at: [https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/air\\_quality\\_action\\_plan\\_2019\\_-\\_executive\\_approved\\_pdf\\_version.pdf](https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/air_quality_action_plan_2019_-_executive_approved_pdf_version.pdf)

- 2.8 Moreover, future development should contribute towards improving air quality, supporting opportunities to improve accessibility, particularly in terms of the use of sustainable modes of transport, including active travel modes, working from home and electric vehicle use.
- 2.9 While development in the Neighbourhood Area could increase travel to neighbouring and larger centres for services/ facilities, this is unlikely to lead to any significant increase in emissions in AQMAs within the wider district.

## Key issues

- 2.10 There are no AQMAs declared within the Neighbourhood Plan Area, the nearest being 6km from the parish within Ipswich.
- 2.11 There are no significant air pollution issues associated with the main B1080 trunk road north of the Parish. However, traffic and localised congestion are concerns for the parish (see **Chapter 9**).
- 2.12 Increased traffic and reduced air quality have the potential to negatively affect the health of residents. Such effects will be explored under the 'community wellbeing' SEA theme (**Chapter 8**).
- 2.13 The Neighbourhood Plan also presents opportunities to enhance accessibility and support more local and sustainable journeys / connections around Stutton. These opportunities will be explored in more depth under the 'transportation' theme.
- 2.14 Considering the above, within the Stutton Neighbourhood area there is an absence of significant air quality issues (i.e., AQMAs), and there are no exceeded or expected exceedances of national air quality objectives. **Therefore, the air quality theme has been scoped out for the purposes of the SEA process.**

## 3. Biodiversity and geodiversity

3.1 This theme focuses on nature conservation designations, habitats, and species within and surrounding the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.

### Policy context

3.2 **Table 3.1** (below) presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 3.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to biodiversity**

Document title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The 25 Year Environment Plan</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>Biodiversity 2020 Strategy</u></a>	2011
<a href="#"><u>Environment Act 2021</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>UK Biodiversity Action Plan</u></a>	2007
<a href="#"><u>The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act</u></a>	2006
<a href="#"><u>A Green Infrastructure Framework for Babergh District</u></a>	2012
<a href="#"><u>Suffolk Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy (CS14)</u></a>	2014
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission' draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020

3.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to the NPPF, which highlights that opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity. This includes utilising a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure at the wider catchment or landscape scale.
- Support is given through the NPPF to establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Trees notably make an important contribution to the character and quality built environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- Over the past decade policy (e.g., The Natural Environment White Paper and Biodiversity 2020) has demonstrated a move away from the traditional approach of protecting biodiversity, to a wider landscape approach to enhancing biodiversity, as part of the overall aims to halt biodiversity loss. The 25 Year Environment Plan places emphasis on improvements to the natural environment; identifying the need to “*replenish depleted soil, plant trees, support wetlands and peatlands, rid seas and rivers of rubbish, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, cleanse the air of pollutants, develop cleaner, sustainable energy and protect threatened species and habitats.*” Working at a landscape scale transformation is expected to connect habitats into larger corridors for wildlife.
- The Environment Act 2021 (through amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) will require all planning permissions in England (subject to exemptions) to be granted subject to a new general pre-commencement condition that requires approval of a biodiversity gain plan. The planning authority can only approve the biodiversity gain plan if the biodiversity value attributable to a development exceeds the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by 10% which, for the purposes of the legislation, is known as the ‘*biodiversity gain objective*’.
- A Green Infrastructure Framework for Babergh District identifies nature priorities in relation to the natural environment, economic growth and health and wellbeing. Recommendations and actions are identified under these broad themes, relating specifically to protected sites, landscapes, habitats and species, green spaces, woodland and forestry, climate change, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture, water management, education, and neighbourhood plans. Specifically, Section 6.3 ‘Action for the Rural Areas’ states that opportunities could be carried out alongside, other planning considerations such as site allocations or as part of a wider neighbourhood plan to help conserve, enhance, and link Babergh’s green and natural spaces.
- The Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)<sup>4</sup> is a partnership between East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. Its aim is to reduce the impact of increased levels of recreational use on Habitat Sites (also often called European Sites), due to new residential development in the Suffolk Coast area, and to provide a simple, coordinated way for developers to deliver mitigation for their developments.
- The RAMS project allows for a strategic approach to mitigating the in-combination effects of development on these designated areas and allows mitigation to be delivered across the project area.
- Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy Policy CS14 ‘Green Infrastructure’ relates directly to the biodiversity theme. The emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Policy SP09 ‘Enhancement and Management of the Environment’ also directly relates to this theme.

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<sup>4</sup> Footprint Ecology (2019) Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy for Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid Suffolk District and East Suffolk Councils – Technical Report [online] available at: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Section-106/Habitat-mitigation/Suffolk-HRA-RAMS-Strategy.pdf>

## Baseline summary

### Internationally designated sites

- 3.4 The Stutton Neighbourhood Area borders the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site, which is designated for containing nationally scarce plants and British Red Data Book invertebrates<sup>5</sup>. This Ramsar site of 3672.6 ha, comprises extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh, and areas of vegetated shingle on the lower river reaches.
- 3.5 The Stour and Orwell Estuaries site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA). The SPA (3672.57 ha) includes both marine areas (i.e. land covered continuously or intermittently by tidal waters) and land which is not subject to tidal influence. The marine part of the SPA is termed a European marine site. The SPA qualifies through the EU Birds Directive by supporting Internationally important populations of regularly occurring Annex 1 species including wintering golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*). Additional SPA qualifying criteria includes the site's regularly occurring assemblage of over 20,000 waterfowl.<sup>6</sup>
- 3.6 **Table 3.2** contains further information relating to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, including key characteristics and vulnerabilities.

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<sup>5</sup> JNCC (2022) Ramsar Designations Available at: [Stour and Orwell Estuaries Final \(ramsar.org\)](https://www.ramsar.org)

<sup>6</sup> Natural England (2022) Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (UK9009121A) Available at: [Stour and Orwell Estuary reg 33 advice.pdf](#)

**Table 3.2 Stour and Orwell SPA/ Ramsar site key information**

Site	Stour and Orwell SPA	Stour and Orwell Ramsar site
<b>Area (ha)</b>	3676.92	3676.92
<b>Qualifying features</b>	<p><b>Annex I species:</b> Over winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i></li> <li>• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li> <li>• Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>• Shelduck <i>Tadorna</i> Turnstone <i>Arenaria Interpres</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Waterbird assemblages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i></li> <li>• Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>• Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i></li> <li>• Shelduck <i>Tadorna</i></li> <li>• Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i></li> <li>• Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla</i></li> <li>• Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i> Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i></li> <li>• Lapwing <i>Vanellus</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Ramsar criterion 2</b> Contains seven nationally scarce plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stiff saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i></li> <li>• Small cord-grass <i>Spartina maritime</i></li> <li>• Perennial glasswort <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i></li> <li>• Lax-flowered sea lavender <i>Limonium humile</i></li> <li>• Eelgrasses <i>Zostera angustifolia</i>, <i>Z. marina</i> and <i>Z. noltei</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 5</b> Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 63,017 waterfowl.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 6</b> Species/ populations occurring at levels of international importance. Species with peak counts in spring/ autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i></li> <li>• Northern pintail <i>Anas Acuta</i></li> <li>• Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Red knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i></li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i></li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Common redshank <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i></li> </ul>

Site	Stour and Orwell SPA	Stour and Orwell Ramsar site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li> <li>• Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conservation objectives</b>	<p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (“the Qualifying Features”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the Habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the Habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the Habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	None identified.
<b>Key vulnerabilities / pressures affecting site integrity</b>	<p><b>Coastal squeeze:</b> 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><b>Public access/ disturbance:</b> 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 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><b>Changes in species distribution:</b> 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><b>Invasive species:</b></p>	<p>Similar to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. A key threat identified by RIS was erosion.</p> <p><b>Erosion:</b> 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.</p>

Site	Stour and Orwell SPA	Stour and Orwell Ramsar site
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An increase in *Spartina anglica* may be affecting the growth of *Spartina maritima*, a key habitat feature for qualifying bird roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.

**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) 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.



## Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy

- 3.7 In 2016, Natural England identified the Suffolk coast as a priority for strategic and proactive planning engagement and mitigation.
- 3.8 The Suffolk Coast Recreation disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) partnership with Babergh District Council (in addition to East Suffolk Council, Ipswich Borough Council and Mid Suffolk District Councils) was subsequently formed with the aim of reducing the impact of increased levels of recreational use on European Sites due to new residential development in the Suffolk Coast area, and to provide a simple, coordinated way for developers to deliver mitigation for their developments.<sup>7</sup>
- 3.9 RAMS applies within the identified Zone of Influence (ZOI) - the area where increased residential development will result in likely significant effects. As set out in the strategy, evidence shows that there is a 13 km ZOI around the relevant European Sites in the Suffolk Coast area (this includes East Suffolk, Ipswich Borough and Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council areas. In this regard, the entirety of the Stutton Neighbourhood area is located within the ZOI.

## Nationally designated sites

- 3.10 In terms of National designations, 2252.6 ha of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries (also referred to in the above section: under Internationally Designated Sites) is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This SSSI intersects the southern boundary of the Stutton Neighbourhood area. It is nationally important for 13 species of wintering waterfowl and three species on autumn passage. The estuary is also of national importance for coastal saltmarsh, sheltered muddy shores, two scarce marine invertebrates and a vascular scarce plant assemblage.<sup>8</sup>
- 3.11 Despite the condition of several subunits of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries being defined as Unfavourable – Declining, the subunit which intersects the Stutton Neighbourhood Area (unit 004) is Favourable<sup>9</sup>. There are no further designated SSSIs within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.12 There are several portions of Ancient Woodland within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area including Argent Manor Wood consisting of Ancient Replanted Woodland (1.3 ha) and Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland (2.6 ha). There are smaller patches of valued trees within the northern portion of the parish (also found at Wolves Wood Meadow and Kiln Spinney).

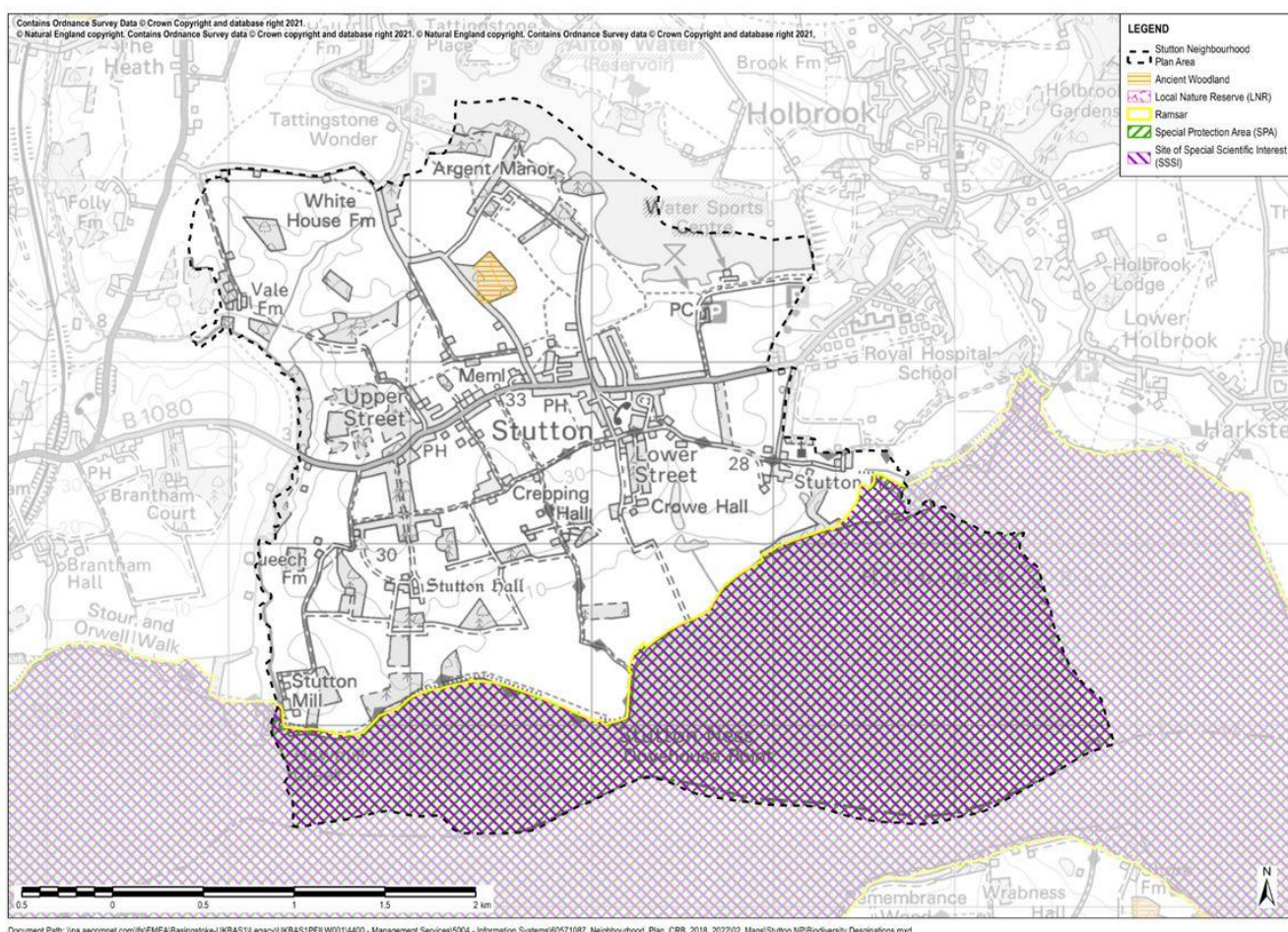
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<sup>7</sup> Footprint Ecology (2019) Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy for Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid Suffolk District and East Suffolk Councils – Technical Report [online] available at: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Section-106/Habitat-mitigation/Suffolk-HRA-RAMS-Strategy.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Natural England (2022) Designated Site Views Available at: [SSSI detail \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/SSSI/detail)

<sup>9</sup> Natural England (2022) SSSI Unit Conditions Available at: [SSSI detail \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/SSSI/detail)

**Figure 3.1 Biodiversity designations**



## Ancient Woodland

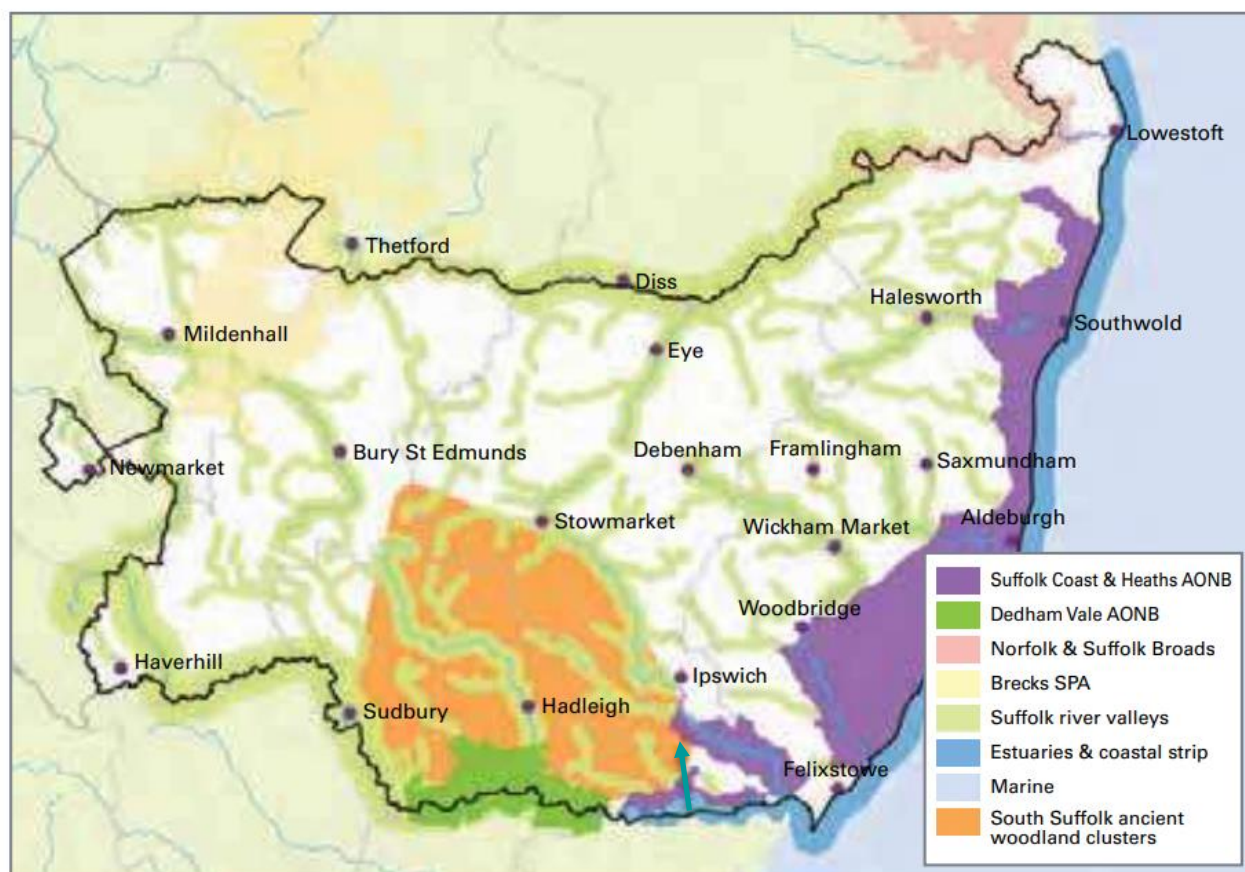
3.13 Stutton’s ancient woodlands in the north are encompassed in the South Suffolk Ancient Woodlands Cluster<sup>10</sup> depicted in **Figure 3.2**. These woodlands are well known for their spring display of bluebells. The native Bluebell is just one of 16 species of ancient woodland flora that have been recorded in these woods.

3.14 Argent Manor Wood located in the north of the Neighbourhood Area encompasses an area of 2.6 ha and is a perfect example of Ancient & Semi-Natural Woodland. There is also an area (1.3 ha) of Ancient Replanted Woodland which is connected to Argents Manor Wood.<sup>11</sup> These are illustrated below.

<sup>10</sup> Suffolk County Council (2014): ‘Suffolk Nature Strategy’ [online] available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/planning-waste-and-environment/suffolks-countryside-and-wildlife/Suffolks-Nature-Strategy-2015.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> DEFRA (2022) Magic Maps: Ancient Woodland Available at: [Magic Map Application \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.magicmaps.gov.uk/)

**Figure 3.2 South Suffolk Ancient Woodlands Cluster**<sup>12</sup>



## Locally important sites

- 3.15 County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) are areas known to be of county or regional importance for wildlife. They have a key role in the conservation of Babergh's biodiversity and are important links in the District's 'Living Landscape', as described by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust<sup>13</sup>. Although CWS designations are non-statutory they are recognition of a site's high value for biodiversity.
- 3.16 There are four County Wildlife Sites within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area: Alton Water, Wolves Wood Meadow, Kiln Spinney, and Argent Manor Wood.
- 3.17 There are also a number of designated Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area which are known locally to generally coincide with Ancient Woodland and priority habitats. The habitats are explored further below and identified in **Figure 3.3**.

## Priority Habitats and Species

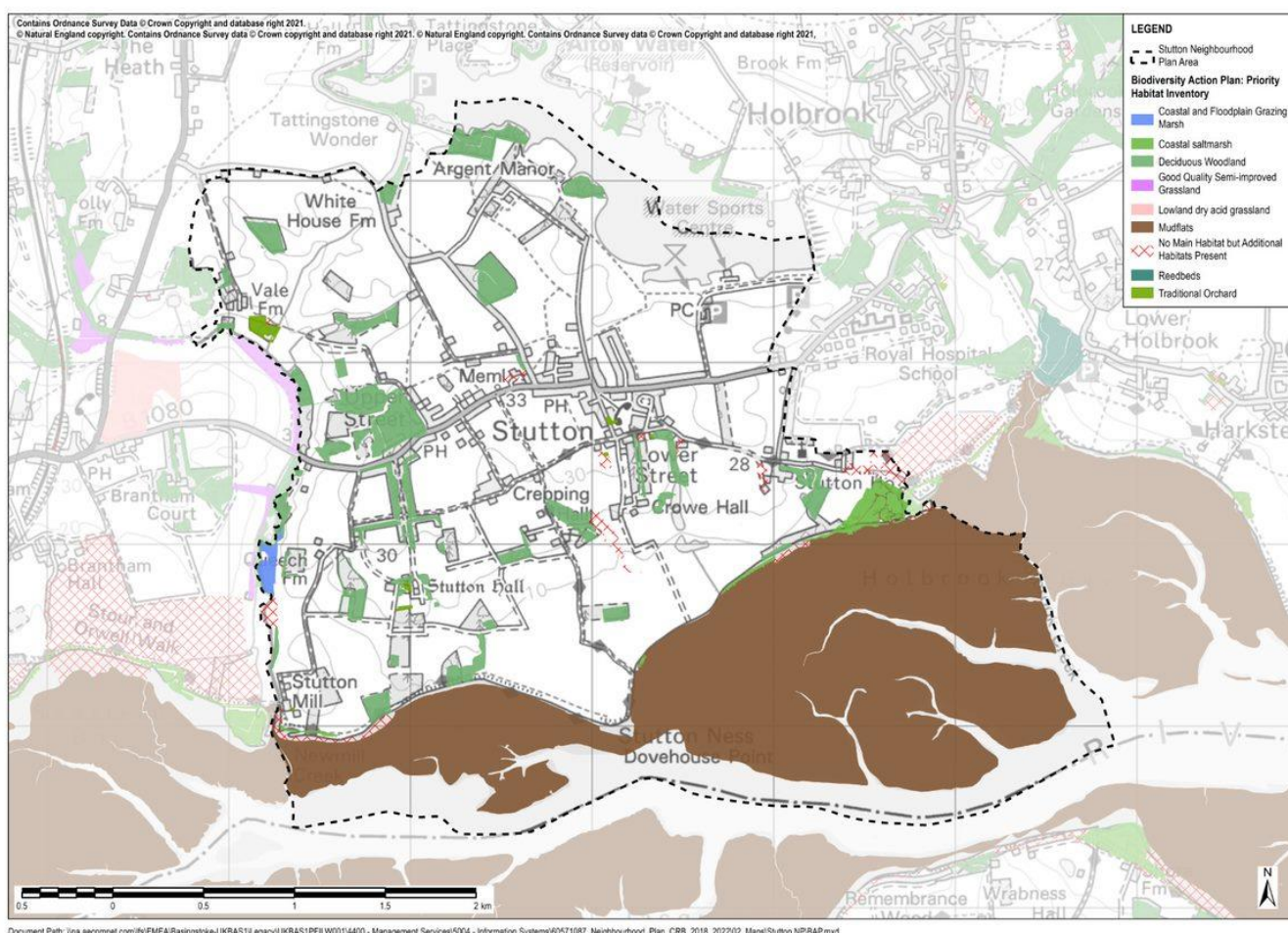
- 3.18 The Priority Habitat Inventory<sup>14</sup> describes the geographic extent and location of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance. There are a number of priority habitats present within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area including Traditional Orchards, as shown below.

<sup>12</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Landscape Appraisal available at: [Landscape Appraisal Final V5 \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net)

<sup>13</sup> Suffolk Wildlife Trust (2019) County Wildlife Sites Available at: [County Wildlife Sites | Suffolk Wildlife Trust](https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/county-wildlife-sites/)

<sup>14</sup> Gov data (2020): 'Priority habitat inventory' [online] available at: <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/4b6ddb7-6c0f-4407-946e-d6499f19fcde/priority-habitat-inventory-england>

**Figure 3.3 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats<sup>15</sup>**



3.19 A significant number of Species of Principal Importance (SPI) under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 have also been recorded in Stutton and are listed below:

- **Birds:** Skylark, Linnet, Cuckoo, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Yellow Wagtail, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Bullfinch, Starling, Turtle Dove, and Song Thrush.
- **Mammals:** Brown Hare, Hedgehog, and Dormouse.
- **Butterflies:** The Small Heath butterfly occurs at Alton Water and has also been recorded using the greenspace in Stutton Close.
- **Moths:** Over 450 species of moth have been recorded in Stutton, 28 are recorded as SPIs and among those, the Lunar Yellow Underwing *Noctua orbona* is 'nationally scarce'.
- **Reptiles:** Slow Worm – the ecological consultants for the 34 dwellings in Church Road, rated the population of the site prior to development as 'exceptional' Also present are Grass Snakes and the Common Lizard.
- **Invertebrates:** Stag Beetle.

<sup>15</sup> JNCC (2022) [UK BAP Priority Habitats](#) | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation Available at: [UK BAP Priority Habitats](#) | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation

3.20 The Section 41 list is used to guide decision makers such as public bodies to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions, including development control and planning.

## Network Enhancement Zones

3.21 A series of habitat network maps have been collated by Natural England to provide a baseline for habitat creation, enhancement, and restoration. They also identify a number of 'Network Enhancement Zones' that are presented on Defra's Magic Map software. Significant sections of the Plan area fall within Network Enhancement Zone 1 ('land connecting existing patches of primary and associated habitats which is likely to be suitable for creation of the primary habitat'). In particular, lowland fens and lowland raised bog have been identified to the south of the Plan area.

## Future baseline

3.22 Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. This in turn has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats.

3.23 CWS's act as wildlife corridors and have the potential to be impacted by new development which can remove the connection between habitats for species such as birds. Ecological sites can also be impacted by poor air quality and water quality, and factors such as noise and lighting can disturb vulnerable species.

3.24 New residential development within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area also has the potential to impact upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site as a result of recreational disturbance in combination with other plans and projects. Any future development will be required, through the RAMS, to set out mitigation to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the International site(s).

3.25 In addition to mitigating against adverse effects, the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan also presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect priority habitats but to enhance the connections between them; utilising opportunities for net-gain where possible. Effective coordination of development delivery will be key to ensure that opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised, both within Stutton and in the surrounding areas.

## Key issues

- 3.26 There are no designated sites within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however the parish borders the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site, SPA and SSSI. Since the Stutton Neighbourhood Area falls within the ZOI for the site, any new residential development will be required to mitigate the effects of the development and show how this will be achieved prior to approval of planning permission.<sup>16</sup>
- 3.27 The Neighbourhood Plan area includes areas of Ancient Woodland, and a number of local designated sites and BAP priority habitats. These BAP habitats are likely support populations of protected species.

## SEA objective(s)

- 3.28 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)
Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites, including supporting habitats and mobile species that are important to the integrity of these sites?</li> <li>• Protect and enhance semi-natural habitats as well as priority habitats and species, including ancient woodland?</li> <li>• Achieve biodiversity and environmental net gains and support the delivery of ecosystem services and multifunctional green infrastructure networks?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> </ul>

<sup>16</sup> Footprint Ecology (2019) Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy for Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid Suffolk District and East Suffolk Councils – Technical Report [online] available at: <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Section-106/Habitat-mitigation/Suffolk-HRA-RAMS-Strategy.pdf>

## 4. Climate change

- 4.1 This theme focuses on existing and future flood risk and the wider impacts of climate change, activities in the district which contribute to climate change, and measures to mitigate the effects of climate change and increase resilience.

### Policy context

- 4.2 **Table 4.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton SEA.

**Table 4.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to climate change**

Document title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>UK Climate Change Act</u></a>	2008
<a href="#"><u>UK (second) National Adaptation Programme 2018 to 2023</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>The Clean Air Strategy</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Clean Growth Strategy</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>UK Sixth Carbon Budget</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>25-Year Environment Plan</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>National Infrastructure Assessment</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>UK Climate Change Risk Assessment</u></a>	2017
<a href="#"><u>Flood and Water Management Act</u></a>	2010
<a href="#"><u>National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>How Local Authorities Can Reduce Emissions and Manage Climate Change Risk</u></a>	2012
<a href="#"><u>The National Design Guide</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>National Model Design Code</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>Heat Networks: Building a Market Framework</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Summary of Climate Change Risks for the East of England Report</u></a>	2017
<a href="#"><u>Local Energy East Strategy</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>Interim Climate Change Planning Policy</u></a>	2021

<a href="#"><u>Climate Change Strategy</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>Renewable Energy Study</u></a>	2008
<a href="#"><u>A Green Infrastructure Framework for Babergh District</u></a>	2012
<a href="#"><u>Suffolk Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS)</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy (CS14)</u></a>	2014

4.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to the NPPF, which requires proactive planning to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies are expected to improve the resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, avoid inappropriate development in the flood plain, and support the move to a low carbon economy. The NPPF recognises the potential for planning to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and deliver long-term resilience, including through reuse, regeneration and conversion.
- Notably, access to a network of high-quality open spaces can deliver wider benefits for nature, supporting efforts to address climate change, while improvements in green and other infrastructure can reduce the causes and impacts of flooding.
- Planning Practice Guidance presents the following list of ‘examples’ of ways local planning can support adaptation:
  - *“Considering future climate risks when allocating development sites to ensure risks are understood over the development’s lifetime;*
  - *Considering the impact of and promoting design responses to flood risk for the lifetime of the development;*
  - *Considering availability of water and water infrastructure for the lifetime of the development and design responses to promote water efficiency and protect water quality;*
  - *Promoting adaptation approaches in design policies for developments and the public realm relevant.”*
- The UK Climate Change Act requires Government to present to Parliament an assessment of the climate change risks for the UK every five years. Following the publication of each Change Risk Assessment, the Government must lay out its objectives, policies and proposals to address the climate change risks and opportunities. The second National Adaptation Programme (NAP2, 2018-2023), setting out these objectives, policies and proposals, was published in 2018. The ASC is required by the Act to assess the NAP and present progress reports. The most recent report was published in 2019, concluding that climate change adaptation needs to be addressed at a national scale and the Government’s response



to date has not been successful.<sup>17</sup> The Sixth Carbon Budget, required under the Climate Change Act, provides ministers with advice on the volume of greenhouse gases that the UK can emit during the period 2033 to 2037.

- The Clean Growth Strategy, Clean Air Strategy and the 25-year Environment Plan are a suite of documents which seek to progress the government's commitment under the UK Climate Change Act to becoming net zero by 2050. The documents set out detailed proposals on how the government will tackle all sources of air pollution, whilst maintaining an affordable energy supply and increasing economic growth. This parallels with the 25-year Environment Plan, which further seeks to manage land resources sustainably, recover and reinstate nature, protect soils and habitats, increase resource efficiency, improve water quality, and connect people with the environment. The documents also interlink with the government's commitment to decarbonising transport, a recognised challenge that needs more work in a timely manner if government are to achieve net zero targets. Furthermore, the decarbonisation plan recognises the twinned need to undertake action to adapt the transport sector and increase resilience to climate change risks; and this challenge is more directly addressed through the UK's National Adaptation Programme.
- The National Infrastructure Assessment identified the key national challenges, and the government is developing a National Infrastructure Strategy. The NIC also published two key reports in 2019:
  - Strategic Investment and Public Confidence – this report is clear that *“the regulatory system has not adequately addressed societal interests: it needs to work more effectively to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, transition to full-fibre digital networks, and manage the increasing risks of floods and drought.”* It calls for a much more coordinated approach, explaining that:<sup>18</sup> *“The current system leaves strategy primarily to infrastructure owners and providers. But they may not be best placed to assess the coming challenges, and they do not have the right incentives to build the right infrastructure to address them... There are some good examples of the system delivering strategic, long-term investment, however in general the system is not designed to deliver this... [R]egulators should demonstrate how they have taken consideration of the strategic vision of... local government...”*
  - Resilience Study Scoping Report - includes a section on ‘Resilience in the planning system’, although the focus is on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) more so than local infrastructure.<sup>19</sup>
- The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published on a 5-yearly cycle in accordance with the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008. It required the Government to compile an assessment of the risks for the UK arising from climate change, and then to develop an adaptation programme to address those risks and deliver resilience to climate change on the

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<sup>17</sup> CCC (n.d.): ‘UK adaptation policy’ [online] available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/preparing-for-climate-change/uk-adaptation-policy/>

<sup>18</sup> NIC (n.d.): ‘Strategic Investment and public confidence’ [online] [nic.org.uk/publications/strategic-investment-and-public-confidence/](http://nic.org.uk/publications/strategic-investment-and-public-confidence/)

<sup>19</sup> NIC (n.d.): ‘Strategic Investment and public confidence’ [online] [nic.org.uk/publications/resilience-study-scoping-report/](http://nic.org.uk/publications/resilience-study-scoping-report/)

ground. For both the 2012 and the 2017 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, the Adaptation Sub-Committee commissioned an evidence report aiming to understand the current and future climate risks and opportunities. The evidence report contains six priority risk areas requiring additional action between 2017 and 2022, see below:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure;
  - Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures;
  - Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry;
  - Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
  - Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
  - New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals.
- The CCRA is presented through a number of different reports, including the summary of Climate Change Risks for the East of England Report, which summarises the most relevant findings from the UK level evidence report.
  - The Flood and Water Management Act was introduced in 2010 as a response to the need to develop better resilience to climate change. The Act requires better management of flood risk, creating safeguards against rises in surface water drainage charges, and protecting water supplies for consumers. Good flood and coastal risk management is further outlined through the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2020).
  - The Committee of Climate Change's 2012 report entitled 'How Local Authorities Can Reduce Emissions and Manage Climate Change Risk' emphasises the crucial role councils have in helping the UK meet its carbon targets and preparing for the impacts of climate change. It outlines specific opportunities for reducing emissions and highlights good practice examples from Local Authorities.
  - Opportunities for reducing emissions are further explored through the Local Energy East Strategy recognises the East region as one of the most important energy producing areas in the UK and a leading area for renewable energy. Collective actions are identified which seek to; grow the local energy sector, support the delivery of new smart grid systems which underpin housing and commercial development, increase energy efficiency, improve energy affordability and reduce fuel poverty, and support the transition to electric vehicles.
  - The National Design Guide (NDG) and the National Design Code address how the Government recognises "well-designed places" including opportunities for climate change measures. Notably the NDG defines what constitutes a well-designed place using ten characteristics under three themes of climate, character and community. Under the climate theme, homes and buildings should be functional, healthy and sustainable, resources should be efficient and resilient, and buildings should be made to last.

- The Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy outlines policies aimed at mitigating carbon emissions, including:
  - Policy CS12, Sustainable Design and Construction Standards; and
  - Policy CS13, Renewable/Low Carbon Energy.
- Additionally, policy SP10 (Climate Change) of the emerging Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan directly relates to this theme.
- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should also have regard to the adopted CS14 and the emerging which contains policies directly relating to the climate change theme, including flood management and sustainable design.

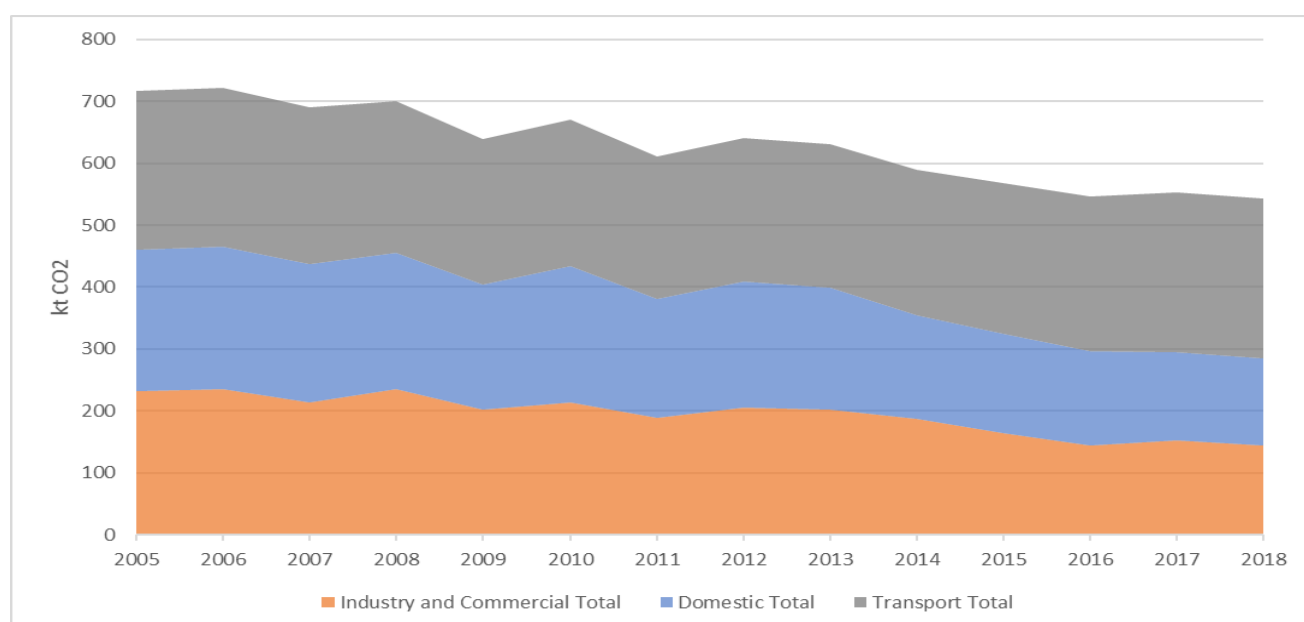
## Baseline summary

### Climate change

4.4 In 2019, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council announced a climate emergency declaration, and subsequently set up an Environment and Climate Change Task Force to examine the climate challenge the districts face. Following engagement with environmental experts, the task force presented their recommendations to cabinets in July 2020. The proposals were unanimously approved, forming the two councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan.<sup>20</sup>

4.5 As shown in **Figure 4.1** (below), the largest contributing sector of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Babergh District in 2018 was the Transport sector (47.5% of total), which has been the case since 2005.

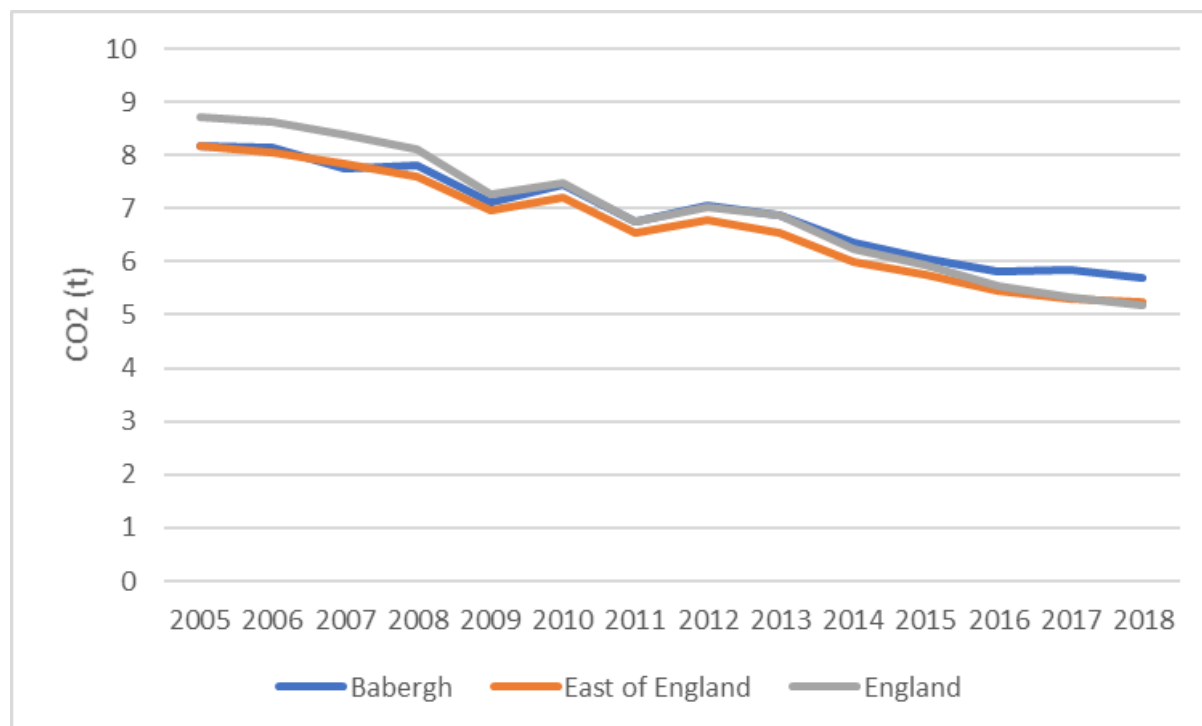
**Figure 4.1: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (kt) per sector (2005- 2018) Babergh District**



<sup>20</sup> Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils (2019) CRMP Available at: [Microsoft Word - Appendix A - Carbon Reduction Management Plan.docx \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

4.6 **Figure 4.2** (below) presents data over the period 2005- 2018 relating to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.<sup>21</sup> In this regard, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Babergh District are higher than comparative figures for the East of England and England as a whole. Additionally, CO<sub>2</sub> levels have decreased at a slower rate between 2016- 2018 in Babergh District (-2.0%) in comparison to regional (-3.8%) and national figures (-6.2%).

**Figure 4.2: Carbon dioxide emissions (t) 2005 – 2018**



4.7 With regards to transport emissions, the uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) will contribute positively towards the reduction of road transport related emissions. In line with assumptions made by the Department for Transport’s ‘Road to Zero’ report (2018), it is assumed that ULEV uptake will increase rapidly in the coming decade and therefore aside from HGVs, all vehicles could be ultra-low emission (powered either by hydrogen or electricity) by 2030.

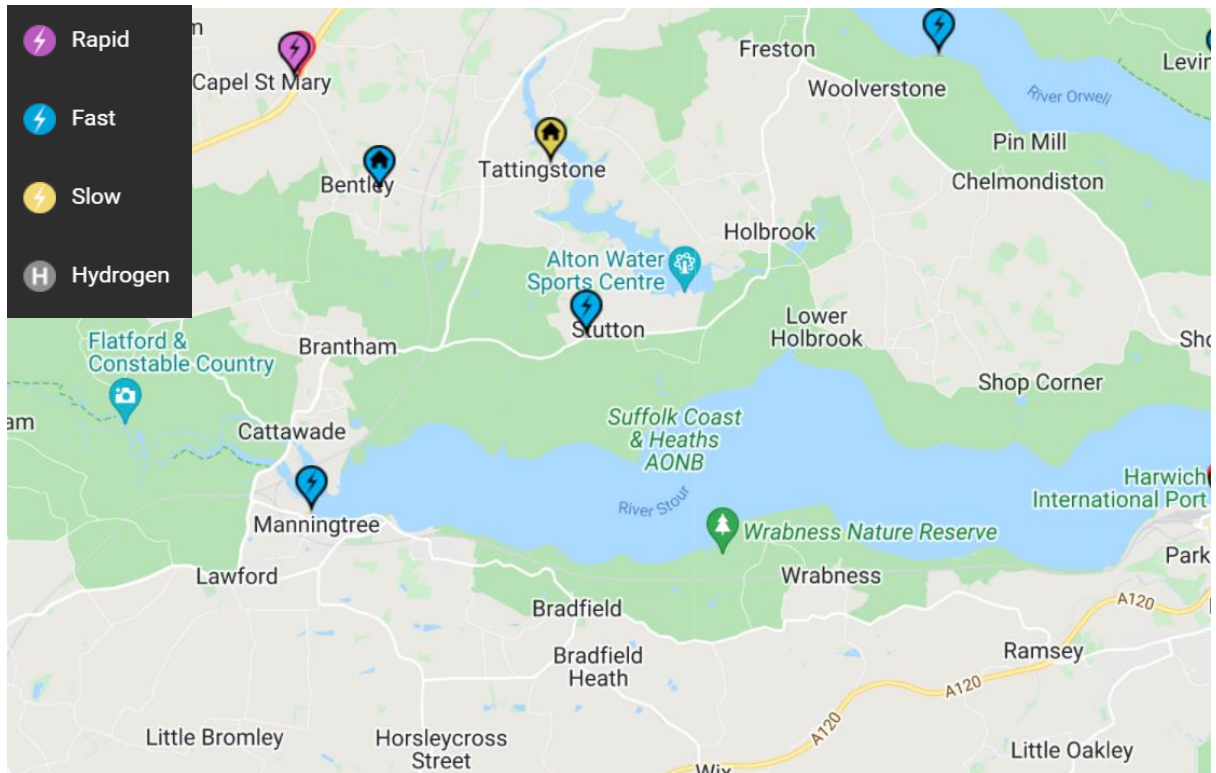
4.8 Electric vehicles (EVs) do not burn fuel and create almost no noise. They are battery powered and have the potential to be ‘zero-emission vehicles’ (ZEVs) if powered by renewable electricity. As of May 2020, 0.16% of vehicles in Suffolk County are fully electric and there are 120 charging points across the County. In terms of the Neighbourhood Area, there are a small number of charging points located within of the Village. However, as depicted in **Figure 4.3**, within 5km of the Plan border, there are a greater number of charging points, particularly towards the north.

4.9 The closest fast charging station is located along the B1080 as illustrated in **Figure 4.3**. Several charging stations ranging from fast to rapid are positioned towards Capel St Mary along the A12. There is a notable absence of charging

<sup>21</sup> Department of Energy and Climate Change (2019) ‘2005 to 2017 UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – data tables’ [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-to-2017>

stations to the south-east of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area (approaching the A120), potentially discouraging sustainable transport methods in this direction.

**Figure 4.3 EV Charging Points**



4.10 The Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan (2020) sets out “*Encouraging greater take-up of public transport and active travel (walking and cycling) and a massive roll-out of zero emissions vehicles*” as a key priority for local action.<sup>22</sup>

## Renewable energy

4.11 The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy publishes annual statistics on renewable energy generation, disaggregated by Local Authority. The most recently published data is for 2020 and shows that Babergh has a total renewable energy installed capacity of 15.3 megawatts (see **Table 4.2**). Renewable energy generation in Babergh has experienced a growth of 104% between 2014 and 2020, predominately as a result of the significant increase in photo-voltaics (PV), i.e., solar panels.

**Table 4.2 Renewable energy installed capacity (MW) in the Babergh District (2014- 2018)**<sup>23</sup>

Photo-voltaics	Onshore Wind	Hydro	Anaerobic Digestion	Offshore Wind	Wave /Tidal	Sewage Gas	Landfill Gas	Municipal Solid	Animal Biomass	Plant biomass	Cofiring	Total
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<sup>22</sup> Ricardo Energy & Environment (2020) Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan Technical Report [online] available at: <http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Greenest-County/SCCP/SCCP/Misc/2020-06-01-REE-SCEP-Technical-Report-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> DBEIS (2020), Regional Renewable Statistics [online] available at: [Renewable electricity by local authority 2014 to 2020 rev.xlsx \(live.com\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/434242/Renewable_electricity_by_local_authority_2014_to_2020_rev.xlsx)

<b>2014</b>	7.5	0.1	-	0.5	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	<b>7.5</b>
<b>2020</b>	13.9	0.03	-	1.2	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	<b>15.3</b>

## Climate change adaptation

4.12 Research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released in 2018 by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) team. UKCP18 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections are broken down to a regional level across the UK and are shown in probabilistic form, which illustrate the potential range of changes and the level of confidence in each prediction.

4.13 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change for the East of England by 2050 in a 'medium emissions' scenario are likely to be as follows:

- An increase in winter mean temperature of 2.2 °C and an increase in summer mean temperature of 2.8 °C;
- A change in winter mean precipitation greater than +10% and summer mean precipitation greater than -10%.

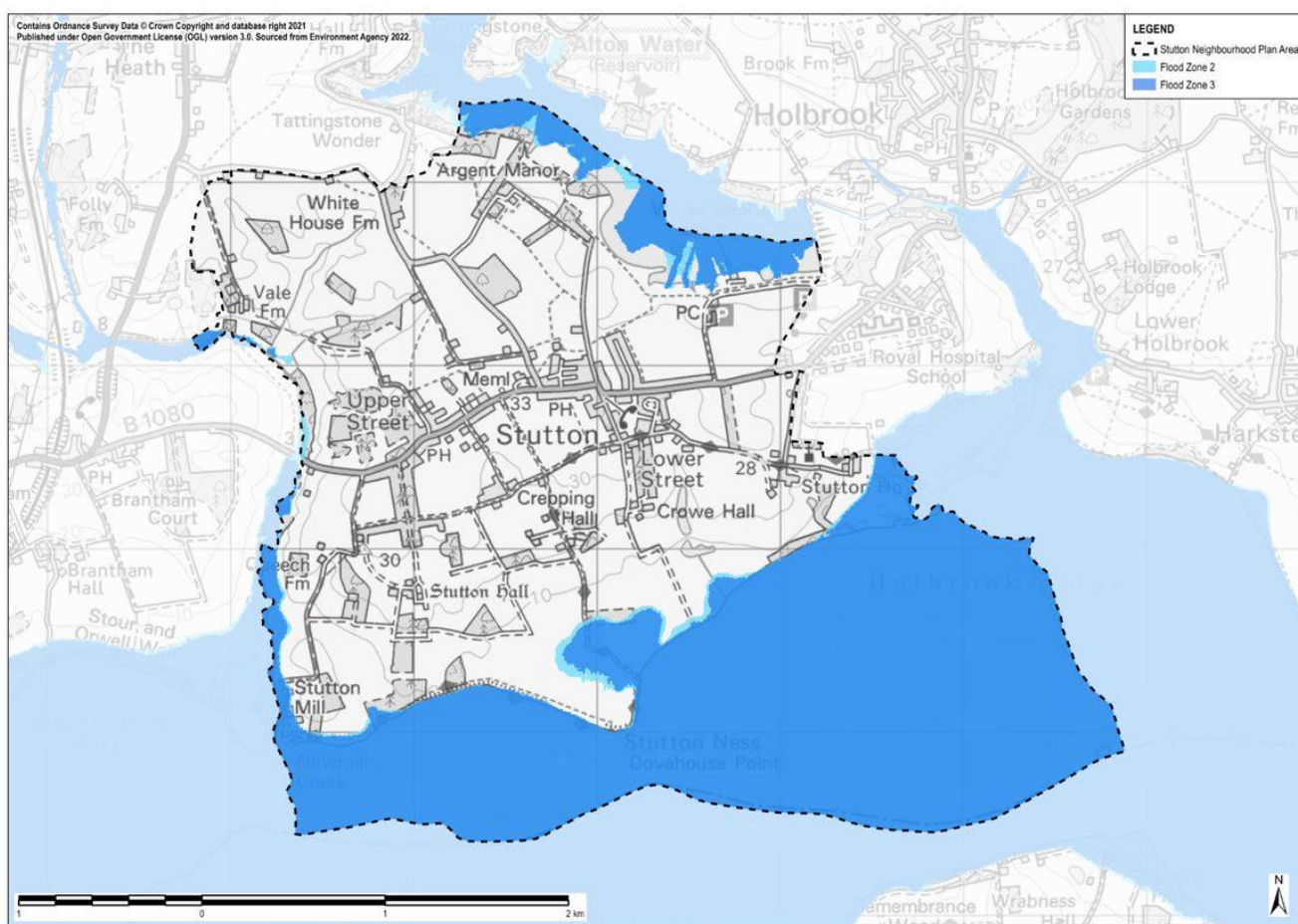
4.14 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for the Neighbourhood Plan area, including:

- Effects on water resources from climate change
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers
- A need to upgrade flood defences
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution
- Increased demand for air-conditioning
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature

4.15 With regards to flooding, areas at highest risk of fluvial flooding in Stutton are surrounding Alton Water to the north and surrounding the River Stour to the south. As highlighted by **Figure 4.4**, these areas fall within Flood Zone 3. Areas within Flood Zone 3 have been shown to be at a 1% or greater probability of flooding from rivers or 0.5% or greater probability of flooding from the sea.

4.16 **Figure 4.4** shows that much of the areas within Flood Zones 2 and 3 lie outside of the built-up areas of the parish. The rest of the parish lies within Flood Zone 1 and therefore has a lower probability of flooding.

**Figure 4.4 Fluvial flood risk<sup>24</sup>**

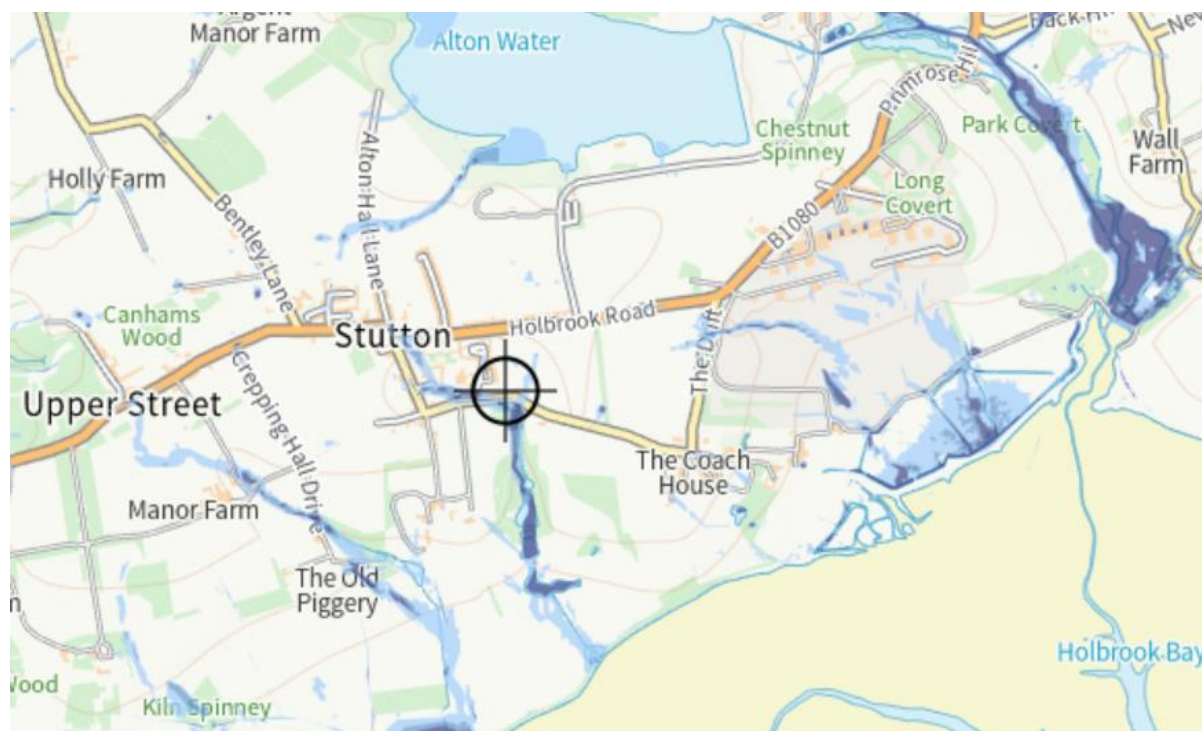


4.17 Similarly, as shown in **Figure 4.4** overleaf, surface water flooding in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area is highest in areas directly adjacent to the River Stour, particularly at Stutton Mill and Crowe Hall.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Gov UK (n.d.): 'Flood map for planning' [online] available at: [Flood map for planning - GOV.UK \(flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/flood-map-for-planning)

<sup>25</sup> Gov UK (n.d.): 'Flood risk' [online] available at: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map>

**Figure 4.4 Surface Water Flooding**



## Future baseline

- 4.18 In line with UK trends and national commitments, emissions are likely to continue to fall as energy efficiency measures, renewable energy take-up and new technologies, such as EVs and solar PV, become more widely adopted. In the future, new development could have the potential to increase flood risk through factors such as changing surface and ground water flows, overloading existing inputs to the drainage and wastewater networks or increasing the number of residents exposed to areas of existing flood risk.
- 4.19 It is further recognised that climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events such as enhanced precipitation, which can increase surface water runoff, for example from Alton Water. This has the potential to put residents, property and development at a high risk of flood exposure.
- 4.20 However, in line with the NPPF (2021) sequential testing is likely to ensure that development within areas at highest risk of flooding is largely avoided, and development is likely to deliver mitigation such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

## Key issues

- 4.21 As highlighted by the figures above, the Stutton Neighbourhood is partially affected by areas of high and medium fluvial and surface water flood risk, notably adjacent to the Alton Water and River Stour. There is evidence of local issues regarding the drainage of this surface water which has been expressed by a number of residents living in the area. There is an opportunity for the Neighbourhood Plan to support delivery of effective and high quality Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).



4.22 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for Babergh have steadily declined over the period of 2005-2018, in line with regional and national statistics, but at a slightly slower rate. The transport sector is the largest contributor to emissions in the District, and continues to be a key challenge locally, reflecting the rural nature of the parish.

## SEA objective(s)

4.23 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)
Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of journeys made by polluting vehicles?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>• Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>• Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>• Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?</li> </ul>
Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>• Sustainably manage water runoff, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood Area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?</li> </ul>

## 5. Landscape

5.1 This theme focuses on designated and protected landscapes within or near to the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan area, as well as landscape character, landscape quality and visual amenity.

### Policy context

5.2 **Table 5.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 5.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to landscape**

Document title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The 25 Year Environment Plan</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>The National Design Guide</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>National Model Design Code</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy</u></a>	2014
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission' draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment</u></a>	2011
<a href="#"><u>Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Landscape Character Guidance</u></a>	2015

5.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard for the NPPF which gives great weight to conserving and enhancing protected landscapes, as well as landscape character and scenic beauty. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.
- The NPPF recognises the role of green infrastructure in landscape settings, as well as the importance of designated biodiversity sites, habitats, woodland, historic features, agricultural land and cultural landscapes. The positive contribution that land remediation can make in terms of addressing despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land is also recognised.
- The 25-year Environment Plan and National Design Guide complement each other with their aims for a cleaner, greener country which puts the environment first and celebrates the variety of natural landscapes and habitats. Design is focused on beautiful, enduring and successful places, which respond to local character and provide a network of high quality green open spaces.

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should also have regard for the emerging JLP, which contains policies specifically relating to valued landscapes, landscape character, settlement identity, green infrastructure and design. Policy LP19 of the emerging JLP specifically focuses on landscape and character. It states: To protect and enhance landscape character development must:
  - Integrate positively with the existing landscape character of the area and reinforce the local distinctiveness and identity of individual settlements.
  - Have proposals which are sensitive to their landscape and visual amenity impacts (including on dark skies and tranquil areas); subject to siting, design, lighting, use of materials and colour, along with the associated mitigation measures; and
  - Enhance and protect landscape character and values and heritage assets such as; locally characteristic landscape features, for example by use of materials which complement the local individual landscape character, archaeological and historic patterns of settlement and land use and designations; being demonstrably informed by local guidance.
- The Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (2011) identifies 30 distinct landscape typologies across the County, based upon the qualities and characteristics unique to each area. The Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Landscape Character Guidance (2015) provides further evidence of local landscape sensitivities and identifies key character features at a settlement-specific scale.
- A number of policies within the Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy indirectly relate to the landscape theme, including:
  - CS2 Settlement Pattern Policy; and
  - CS14 Green Infrastructure

## Baseline summary

### National Designated Landscapes

5.4 The southern half of the parish is designated in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), a designation which was established in 1970 and extended in the summer of 2020. The northern half of the parish sits within the 'setting' of the AONB and is in the AONB Group's APA (Additional Project Area).<sup>26</sup>

5.5 The AONB Management Plan (2018) sets out the area's special qualities:

*"The estuary and shoreline include many habitats including beach, deciduous woodland, grazing, and intertidal mudflats and provides wildlife habitats of international importance. It is a dynamic shoreline landscape with ongoing processes of flooding, siltation, and erosion. Mature shoreline trees lying prone across the beaches after cliff erosion is a distinctive local sight. Sounds of birds*

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<sup>26</sup> Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Advisory Committee and Partnership (2018) Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Available at <https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SCH-AONB-Management-Plan-2018-23.pdf>

*and lapping water and wind in the trees are part of the experience along the shore.”<sup>27</sup>*

5.6 The AONB Management Plan seeks to balance a variety of competing needs to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB. In terms of planning and development proposals, where existing development, be that housing or business, is expanded the impacts of incremental developments need to be considered against the purposes of the AONB. This could include negative impacts on tranquillity, such as increased traffic movements, lighting etc and need to be judged against the cumulative impacts on the designated landscapes. A similar impact is possible from developments within the setting of the AONB.

5.7 Land Use objectives set out within the Management Plan include:<sup>28</sup>

- The AONB landscape and the factors contributing to its natural beauty and special qualities are conserved and better understood;
- Development decisions have regard to the purposes of the AONB and scenic beauty is given great weight in the determination process;
- The views of local communities are taken into account during the determination of development applications, particularly when Neighbourhood Plans are in place;
- Wildlife management supports the conservation and enhancement of characteristic landscapes, and protected sites are managed effectively; and
- Natural capital value and the contribution of ecosystem services to the natural environment is taken into account in land use decisions.

### National Character Areas (NCAs)

5.8 Natural England published 159 NCAs which are areas that share similar landscape characteristics, and which follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision-making framework for the natural environment.<sup>29</sup> The entirety of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan area falls into the '**Suffolk Coast and Heaths**' NCA (No. 82). This is a belt of sands and shingles that stretches from Yarmouth to the north, to Harwich in the south. The distinctive landscape character is a product of its underlying geology, shaped by the effects of the sea and the interactions of people. It is mainly flat or gently rolling, often open but with few commanding viewpoints.

5.9 The distinctive landscape character is a product of its underlying geology, shaped by the effects of the sea and the interactions of people. It is mainly flat or gently rolling, often open but with few commanding viewpoints.

5.10 The NCA's Statement of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) are summarised in **Table 5.2** overleaf.

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<sup>27</sup> Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Advisory Committee and Partnership (2018) Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Available at <https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SCH-AONB-Management-Plan-2018-23.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Natural England (2022) NCA: 82 Available at: [NCA Profile: 82 Suffolk Coast and Heaths - NE491 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](https://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ncas/82)

## Table 5.2 SEOs for the Suffolk Coast and Heaths NCA<sup>30</sup>

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**SEO 1:** Manage the nationally significant coastal landscapes, ensuring that coastal management decisions take full account of landscape, environmental and visual impacts as part of an integrated approach working with coastal processes. Improve people's understanding of the process of coastal change.

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**SEO 2:** Manage the components of characteristic productive agricultural landscapes to benefit food production, biodiversity and soil and water quality. Promote sustainable farming practices that are able to adapt to changing agricultural economics, the considerable challenges of climate change and water availability.

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**SEO 3:** Increase and enhance public awareness and enjoyment of the distinctive assemblage of historic landscapes. Sustainably manage the agricultural, semi-natural, geological and rich archaeological and historic environment, as well as seeking opportunities for more integrated access to support recreation and education, while protecting the area's wildlife habitats and tranquillity.

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**SEO 4:** Manage the forest plantations, to combine commercial forestry and fuel production with a mix of habitats for rare and endangered plants and animals, enhancing both their capability as a strategic recreational resource and their role in climate change adaptation and regulation.

### Landscapes Character Types (LCT's)

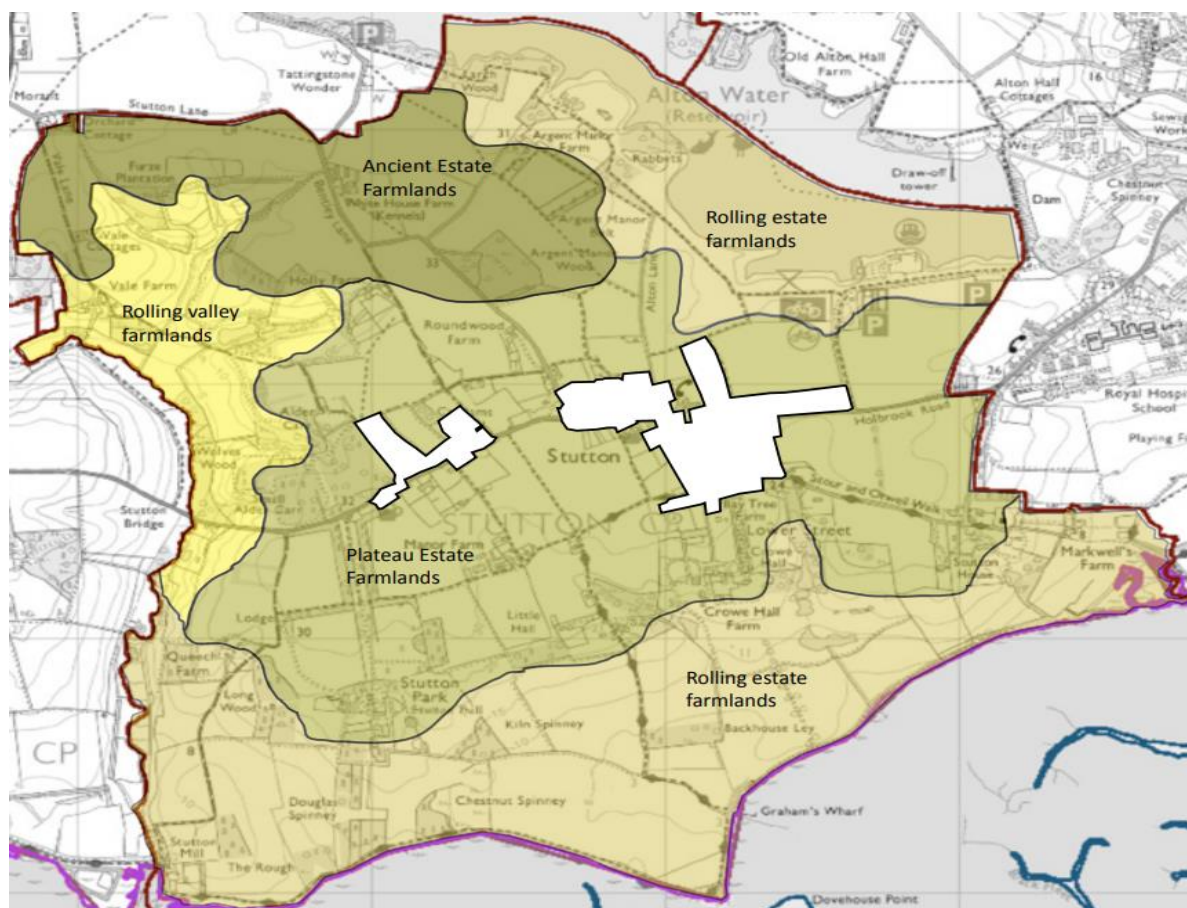
- 5.11 Delivering a more in-depth analysis is the Suffolk County Council Landscape Character Assessment<sup>31</sup> which was first published in 2008 (updated 2011). It is a comprehensive evaluation which describes 31 character-types within Suffolk County. Four LCT's are present within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area (refer to **Figure 5.1** overleaf).
- 5.12 The type that is most relevant to the village setting is the '**Plateau Estate Farmlands**'. Both Stutton's settlement clusters and their fringes sit on the elevated land that forms this type.
- 5.13 There is a further plateau LCT to the northwest '**Ancient Estate Farmlands**' where the estate character gives way to a more organically arranged ancient landscape on heavier soils. The plateaux are surrounded by sloping valleyside landscape types.
- 5.14 Land falls away to the west into the Samford Valley which gives rise to a small area of '**Rolling Valley Farmlands**'. The fringes of the estuary and the gentle slopes towards Alton water are '**Rolling Estate Farmlands**'. This type is found at various locations across Suffolk exhibiting local variation, depending on the characteristics of the adjoining landscape types. It has an apparent landed estate character and parklands are not uncommon.

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<sup>30</sup> Natural England (2022) Suffolk Coast and Heaths SEO Available at: [82 Suffolk Coast & Heaths 270415RYv4.pdf](#)

<sup>31</sup> Suffolk County Council (2011) Suffolk LCTS Available at: [Suffolk Landscapes - Countryside Environment Service](#)

**Figure 5.1 LCT's in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area**



5.15 According to the Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk Landscape Character Guidance<sup>32</sup>, Plateau Estate Farmlands are only found in one small area of the district, on the southern edge of the Shotley peninsula around Stutton.

### Topography of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area

5.16 The centre of the parish, where the settlement is located, is fairly fiat plateau. The highest points are around 33m AOD along the route of the Bentley Road in the northeast of the parish. Land falls significantly to the south, reaching almost to sea level at the estuary shoreline. It also falls to the west, into the valley of the Stutton Brook (known as the Samford valley) which takes a meandering course to the estuary<sup>33</sup>.

5.17 The brook has eroded some relatively steep slopes leading to some scenic views across rolling countryside on the western edges of the parish. A series of streams and drains drain into the Stutton Brook, and directly into the Stour, adding further diversity to the topography along the valley edges.

### Stutton's Local Landscape

5.18 The parish occupies a roughly hexagonal-shaped area of gently sloping valley sides and interfluvial plateau, a sub-peninsula of the Shotley peninsula. Its boundaries are often formed of water courses; it adjoins the wide estuary of the River Stour to the south, and the Samford Valley to the west. To the northeast it

<sup>32</sup>Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils (2015) Landscape Character Guidance Available at: [Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance](#)

<sup>33</sup>Stutton Parish Council (2021) Landscape Appraisal available at: [Landscape Appraisal Final V5 \(stuttonvillage.net\)](#)

meet the edges of Alton Water, the flooded valley of the Tattingstone Brook, now the largest body of inland water in Suffolk.

- 5.19 The settlement of Stutton extends for about a mile along the B1080, which bisects the parish. The village has an overall strong linear form with settlement clustered either side of the B1080 which extends east-west, linking to Holbrook and Brantham respectively. The linear pattern also traverses in short spurs northwards and southward along a grid-like arrangement narrow lanes that run perpendicular to the main road.
- 5.20 Regarding the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan, the settlement has two clusters. The central main settlement cluster of Stutton is accompanied by a second cluster to the west, known as Upper Street. On the ground these clusters are separated by an undeveloped gap to the west of Bentley Lane. The village is also surrounded by a small number of scattered farms and, to the south, its large manor houses<sup>34</sup>.

### Locally Significant Views

- 5.21 There are a number of important views both in and out of Stutton Parish, which are important for preserving the rurality of the village<sup>35</sup>. Along the village edges mature trees and tall hedges often bound fields and line the lanes, giving rise to areas with strong feelings of containment and confined views. Where absent, mid-range rural views to the north are experienced across farmland. These are contained along the skyline by regular hedges, woodland and trees which link up to contain long range views.
- 5.22 The most notable key views within the Stutton Neighbourhood area are summarised below:
- 5.23 Crepping Hall Drive: This view is through the designated AONB landscape, it is rural and scenic. It also offers a key local amenity as the driveway is a very well used footpath which connects into a wider network. It offers greatly valued local amenity. Both residents and visitors enter the AONB here and can continue southwards past Crepping Hall to access the estuary - this is a key access point for the River Stour. Visitors park at the nearby village hall.
- 5.24 Church Field Road: This view similarly intersects the designated AONB landscape. It is particularly rural, tranquil and quiet. It is publicly accessible - Church Field Road offers a key local amenity as it is used as a route to Stutton Green and the Holbrook Bay/RHS walks - an access point for the River Stour. Intermittent glimpses of the estuary are possible to the south - this is highly valued as it is one of the few places where public glimpses of the river are attainable from the village edges. Views here provides a reminder of the proximity of the river, that is lacking elsewhere in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.
- 5.25 Lewis Lane: This comprises of the view westward through farmland from a footpath along Lewis Lane, north of the residential zone. The view incorporates the rolling valley sides of the Samford Valley offering a scenic view. The variety in terms of the topography and rich texture experienced contrasts with the flat plateau views that characterise the majority of the farmland views in the parish.

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<sup>34</sup>Stutton Parish Council (2021) Landscape Appraisal available at: [Landscape Appraisal Final V5 \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net/Landscape%20Appraisal%20Final%20V5.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Key View Assessment Available at: [Key Views Final \(V5\).pdf \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net/Key%20Views%20Final%20(V5).pdf)

- 5.26 Alton Hall Lane: This is a southward view from Alton Hall Lane - a quiet, historic, tree-lined lane, also known locally as 'Watery Lane'. The views comprise the lane itself and the tranquil farmland setting on either side. These views are not in the AONB. Alton Hall Lane offers an important pedestrian access route to Alton Water - its surfaced nature means it's an important lane for pedestrians, and cyclists.
- 5.27 Footpath North of Holbrook Road: This view extends eastwards across farmland from the village edge towards Alton Water to the north and the clocktower of the RHS to the east. Some detracting in the view is experienced from the campsite at Alton Water.
- 5.28 Alton Water: This view is from the footpath along the reservoir edge southeast to the sailing centre. A block of woodland occupies the centre of the view behind the top of the dam, and a water tower and the RHS clocktower break the skyline and provides orientation. This scenic view across water, is one of many views on offer on the circuitous path around the reservoir. It is of interest to many visitors as well as local residents and is highly valued for its tranquil amenity.

## Future baseline

- 5.29 New development in the Neighbourhood Plan area has the potential to lead to incremental changes in landscape quality in and around the parish. In the absence of the Neighbourhood Plan more speculative development may come forward within the open countryside or countryside setting, which could place increased pressure on the local landscape. This may negatively impact upon the landscape features which contribute to the distinctive character, in particular the special qualities and setting of the AONB.
- 5.30 The AONB designation provides a good degree of protection for inappropriate development outside the settlement boundaries, and to some lesser extent where it provides setting to the AONB. New development should have regard for the objectives of the AONB Management Plan in addition to higher level policy in this respect.
- 5.31 Furthermore, locally distinctive landscape features, characteristics and special qualities can be protected, managed and enhanced through the Neighbourhood Plan. New development that is appropriately designed/ master-planned, and landscape-led, has the potential to support the area's inherent landscape character and quality. This may, for example, include regeneration and brownfield development that improves the village setting, delivering green infrastructure improvements and/ or new recreational opportunities and enhanced framing of key views such as those across Alton Water.

## Key issues

- 5.32 The southern half of the parish is designated in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Important viewpoints have been identified in Stutton, valued locally by residents and reflecting the special qualities of the Neighbourhood Plan area and wider AONB. In particular views from across Alton Water are of interest to many visitors as well as local residents and is highly valued for its tranquil amenity.



5.33 The Stutton Neighbourhood Area is described by the Suffolk Coast and Heaths NCA. The Suffolk County Landscape Character Assessment (SCLCA) also divides the Neighbourhood Area into four distinct LCTs: 'Plateau Estate Farmlands, Ancient Estate Farmlands, Rolling Valley Farmlands, and Rolling Estate Farmlands.

## SEA objective(s)

5.34 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

**Table 5.3: Proposed SEA objective for landscape**

SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)
To protect and enhance the character and quality of the immediate and surrounding landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the Suffolk Coast &amp; Heaths AONB in line with the objectives of the AONB management plan 2018?</li> <li>• Protect and/ or enhance local landscape character and quality of place?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity and settlement character?</li> <li>• Identify and protect locally important viewpoints which contribute to character and sense of place?</li> <li>• Protect visual amenity and locally important views in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area?</li> <li>• Retain and enhance landscape features that contribute to the water setting, or rural setting, including trees and hedgerows?</li> </ul>

## 6. Historic environment

6.1 This theme focuses on designated and non-designated heritage assets (including archaeology) and their setting.

### Policy context

6.2 **Table 6.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 6.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to the historic environment.**

Document title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The 25 Year Environment Plan</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>The National Design Guide</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>National Model Design Code</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Historic England Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets</u></a>	2017
<a href="#"><u>Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</u></a>	2016
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy</u></a>	2014
<a href="#"><u>Historic England Advice Note 11: Neighbourhood Planning and the Historic Environment</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission' draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020

6.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The key high-level principles for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment are as follows:
  - The historic environment is a shared resource
  - Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment
  - Understanding the significance of places is vital
  - Significant places should be managed to sustain their values
  - Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent
  - Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.

- The significance of places is the key element which underpins the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Significance is a collective term for the sum of all the heritage values attached to a place, be it a building an archaeological site or a larger historic area such as a whole village or landscape
- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard for the NPPF, which ultimately seeks to conserve and enhance historic environment assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. The NPPF seeks planning policies and decisions which are sympathetic to local character and history without preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation of change. The NPPF supports the use of area-based character assessments, design guides and codes and masterplans to help ensure that land is used efficiently while also creating beautiful and sustainable places.
- As set out in the NPPF, it should be ensured that the design of streets, parking areas, other transport elements and the content of associated standards reflects current national guidance, including the National Design Guide and the National Model Design Code. Design Codes can set out a necessary level of detail in sensitive locations, for example, with heritage considerations, and they can set out specific ways to maintain local character.
- Planning Practice Guidance expands on the NPPF recognising the proactive rather than passive nature of conservation.
- The role of the historic environment, as part of healthy and thriving ecosystems, landscapes and cultural values, including settlement identity, is reiterated through the key messages of the 25 Year Environment Plan and National Design Guide.
- Historic England's Advice Notes provide further guidance in relation to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. Of particular relevance for the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan is the emphasis on the importance of:
  - Understanding the different types of special architectural and historic interest which underpin designations, as well as how settings and/ or views contribute to the significance of heritage assets;
  - Recognising the value of implementing controls through neighbourhood plans, conservation area appraisals and management plans; and
  - Appropriate evidence gathering, including clearly identifying those issues that threaten an area or assets character or appearance and that merit the introduction of management measures.
- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan will also be required to be in general conformity with JLP area which contain policies directly relating to the historic environment. Namely, it provides Policy LP21 (The Historic Environment) which directly relates to this theme.
- In addition to conserving the historic environment, the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should seek to identify opportunities to enhance the fabric and setting of the historic environment. It should also seek to rejuvenate features and areas which are at risk of neglect and decay.

## Baseline summary

### Early Origins and Evolution of the Parish

- 6.4 Stutton is listed in the Domesday Survey in 1086 as half a church with 15 acres (under land Of Robert Grenon), 2 Beehives (Count Alan Of Brittany) as well as several manors.
- 6.5 The name Stutton historically derives from Old English 'stut' or Old Scandinavian 'stutr' and could mean either 'farmstead or village infested by gnats', or 'where bullocks are kept'. The origins of the village began east of the main settlement on the sides of the estuary valley where the church still sits, overlooking Holbrook Bay. This area is known locally as Stutton Green, and the hamlet here comprises a farm, some large houses and most notably, St Peter's church.
- 6.6 The present church building dates from the 15th Century although there was a building here at Domesday. The ancient survey also lists a mill, three salthouses and two beehives. Quarhams (next to the church) is thought to be the oldest existing building in the village.<sup>36</sup>
- 6.7 Settlement on the peninsula was early, and settlers had easy access to Stutton via nearby water channels. Records show the first agriculturists were here by around 4000BC. Springs above the Stutton shore and the good soils would have encouraged habitation and the wooded shores would have provided timber for building. The peninsula has traces of Iron age, Roman and later coaxial field systems, and plenty of archaeological evidence shows a long history of habitation in the area.

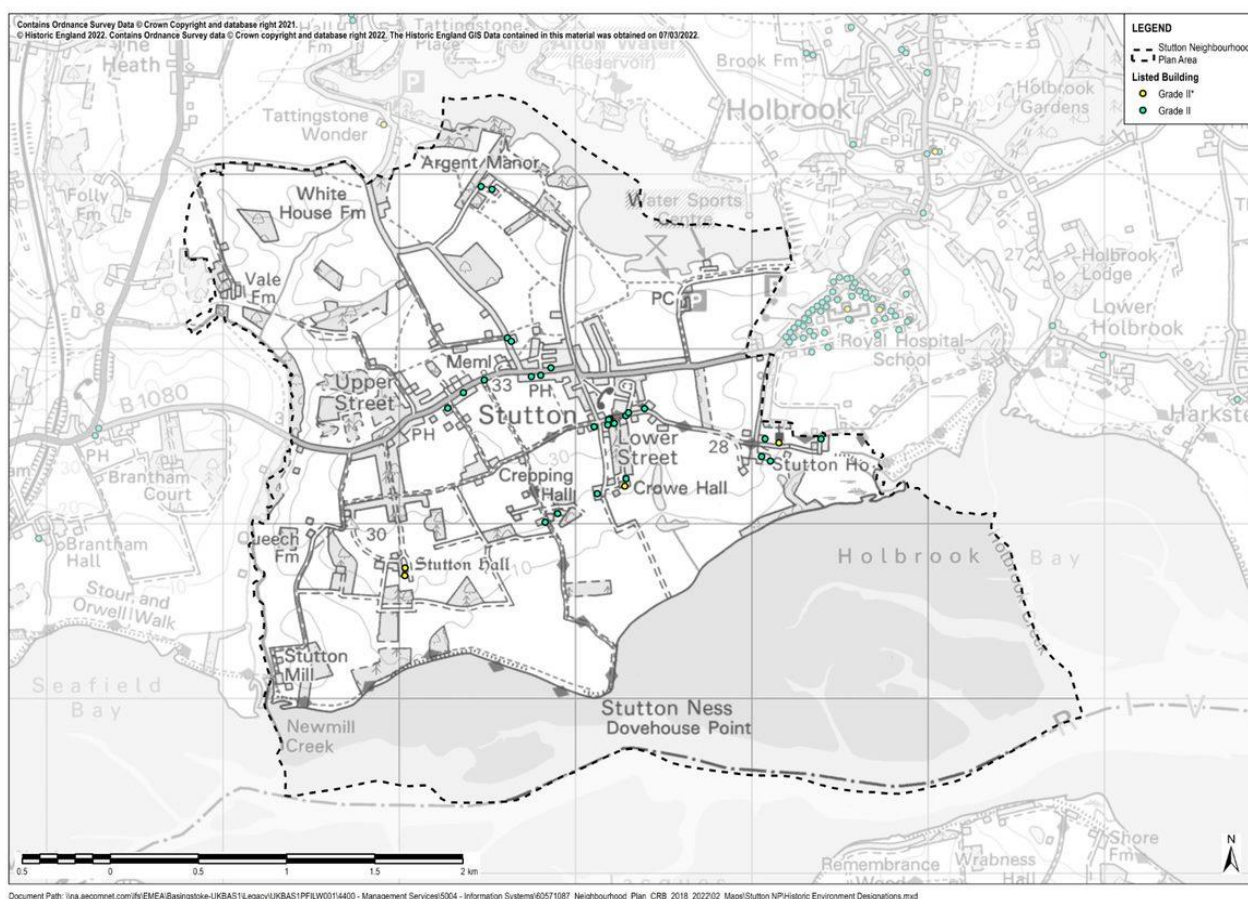
### Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.8 The Neighbourhood Plan area includes four Grade II\* listed buildings, and 26 Grade II listed buildings - many of which date from before the 15th Century and the remainder of which are dated to the 19th Century. These are illustrated in **Figure 6.1** overleaf.
- 6.9 Of particular note is the Grade II\* listed Church of St Peter exhibiting flint flush chequer work to crenelations and plinth. To north west and south west walls of the church are two similar monuments, of John Jermy (1662) and his wife, set within a pair of arches the carved kneeling couple face each other with a prayer desk and open books before them.
- 6.10 Several of the listed buildings are substantial houses south of the main part of the village and around Stutton Green overlooking the River Stour; but the majority are more modest houses within the village, predominantly around Lower Street and Manningtree Road. They also include a number of large houses overlooking the river to the 16th Century Kings Head pub and small cottages.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Heritage Gateway (2022) Suffolk Historic Environment Record available at: [HeritageGateway - Historic Environment Records](#)

<sup>37</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Landscape and Character Appraisal Available at [Landscape Appraisal Final V5 \(stuttonvillage.net\)](#)

**Figure 6.1 Historic Environment Designations**



### Non-designated Heritage Assets<sup>38</sup>

6.11 It should be noted that not all the area’s historic environment features are subject to statutory designations, and non-designated features comprise a large part of what people have contact with as part of daily life – whether at home, work or leisure. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are important by local communities. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings in the area are likely to be of value. The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER)<sup>39</sup> identifies 49 monument records which lie either wholly or partially within the Neighbourhood Area which are depicted in **Figure 6.2**.

6.12 With regard to non-designated heritage assets, the HER records the findspot of an undated stone axe within the site and an outline record (STU 094) with archaeological potential in the area surrounding and to the east of Church Road. To the north of Holbrook Road, the HER records the site of a probable WWII pillbox immediately north-east of the site; the HER also records the findspot of a Neolithic stone axe 30m south-east of this site with archaeological potential. The HER also highlights a site north of Manningtree Road whereby undated cropmarks of a fragmentary field system with archaeological potential are identified.

<sup>38</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Non designated Assets Available at: [Appendix 7 - Non designated Heritage Sites \(stuttonvillage.net\)](#)

<sup>39</sup> Heritage Gateway (2022) Suffolk Historic Environment Record available at: [HeritageGateway - Historic Environment Records](#)

**Figure 6.2 Suffolk HER - Approximate Neighbourhood Area**



6.13 Since 2008, Historic England has released the listed buildings, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens, registered battlefields, etc., deemed to be 'at risk'. In this regard none of the designated assets within the Stutton Neighbourhood area are known to be 'at risk'.<sup>40</sup>

## Future baseline

6.14 Whilst designated assets, and non-designated assets will continue to be afforded protection under the provisions of the NPPF, adopted Babergh Core Strategy, and emerging JLP, it is recognised that future development within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area has the potential to negatively affect historic character and settings, detract from historic settlement qualities and disrupt valued viewpoints; being susceptible to insensitive design and layout in new development.

6.15 However, planning for future growth through the Neighbourhood Plan will support the minimisation of impacts. There is also the potential for future development to provide beneficial enhancement of designated and non-designated heritage assets and/or their settings within the Stutton Neighbourhood Area. This may include through public realm and access improvements, or opportunities to better reveal the significance of an asset, to increase enjoyment of the historic environment.

<sup>40</sup> Historic England (2022) Risk Register Available at: [Heritage at Risk 2021 \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.heritageatrisk.org.uk/)

## Key issues

- 6.16 The Stutton Neighbourhood area is rich in history and is host to four Grade II\* and 26 Grade II listed buildings and monuments, including the Church of St Peter .
- 6.17 The parish is also rich in non-designated assets, for example around Manningtree Road whereby undated cropmarks of a fragmentary field system with archaeological potential are identified.

## SEA objective(s)

- 6.18 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective and assessment questions.

**Table 6.2: Proposed SEA objective for the historic environment**

SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)
To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment within and surrounding the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings?</li> <li>• Protect the integrity of the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the Suffolk HER?</li> <li>• Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the Neighbourhood Area?</li> </ul>

## 7. Land, soil and water resources

7.1 This theme focuses on the quality of soil resources, the extent of mineral resources, water supply resources and water quality in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.

### Policy context

7.2 **Table 7.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 7.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to land, soil and water resources**

Document title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The 25 Year Environment Plan</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>Safeguarding our Soils: A strategy for England</u></a>	2009
<a href="#"><u>Future Water: The government's water strategy for England</u></a>	2011
<a href="#"><u>Water for Life</u></a>	2011
<a href="#"><u>The National Waste Management Plan</u></a>	2013
<a href="#"><u>Anglian Water's Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (SMWLP)</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission' draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy</u></a>	2014
<a href="#"><u>Babergh and Mid Suffolk Water Cycle Study</u></a>	2020

7.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to the NPPF, which seeks to protect high quality soil resources, and improve the water environment; recognising the wider benefits of natural capital and derived from ecosystem services. Furthermore, the NPPF recognises the need to take account of the long-term implications of climate change and build resilience in this respect. The NPPF encourages efficient land use, utilising brownfield land opportunities and land remediation schemes where appropriate and delivering environmental gains.



- The 25-year Environment Plan presents a focus for environmental improvement in the next couple decades, with aims to achieve clean air, clean and plentiful water, and reduced risk from environmental hazards. This includes measures to improve soil quality, restore and protect peatlands, use water more sustainably, reduce pollution, maximise resource efficiency and minimise environmental impacts. This leads on from and supports the soil strategy for England (Safeguarding our soils) which seeks to ensure that all England's soils will be managed sustainably and degradation threats tackled successfully by 2030, as well as the national water strategies which seek to secure sustainable and resilient water resources and improve the quality of waterbodies, and the national waste plan which seeks to identify measures being taken to move towards a zero waste economy.
- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should also have regard to the Norfolk and Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plans, which form part of the Local Development Frameworks for each county. These plans identify and safeguard sites and resources important to the continued sustainable management of mineral extractions and waste arisings.
- The Babergh Water Cycle Study (2011) considers the following issues, addressing the constraints that they may pose to future development and, where applicable, discusses the improvements necessary to achieve the required level of development throughout the planning period, until 2031:
  - Water Resources and Supply;
  - Wastewater Collection and Treatment;
  - Water Quality and Environmental Issues;
  - Flood Risk; and
  - Demand Management and Sustainable Drainage Systems.
- The Anglian Water Services (AWS) Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) (2019) is a technical document written primarily for regulators, as well as other technical stakeholders, following principles set out in the Water Resources Planning Guideline. The 2019 WRMP:
  - Promotes the efficient and effective use of available resources, through an ambitious, customer supported and cost-beneficial demand management programme that includes including reducing leakage by 22% by 2025 and 42% by 2045, with average per capita consumption falling to 120 l/h/d by 2045.
  - Improves the resilience of public water supplies by adapting to climate change from 2020 and moving to a higher level of service for all customers by 2025. The reduced risk of severe restrictions is cost beneficial and supported by customers.
  - Supports the delivery of a wider resilience strategy to reduce the population served by a single supply to 14% by 2025, with a long-term ambition to reach zero by 2035.
  - Enhances the environment by reducing abstraction in sensitive areas, including the capping of time-limited abstraction licences by 2022.
  - Is supported by customers, who have been consulted extensively.

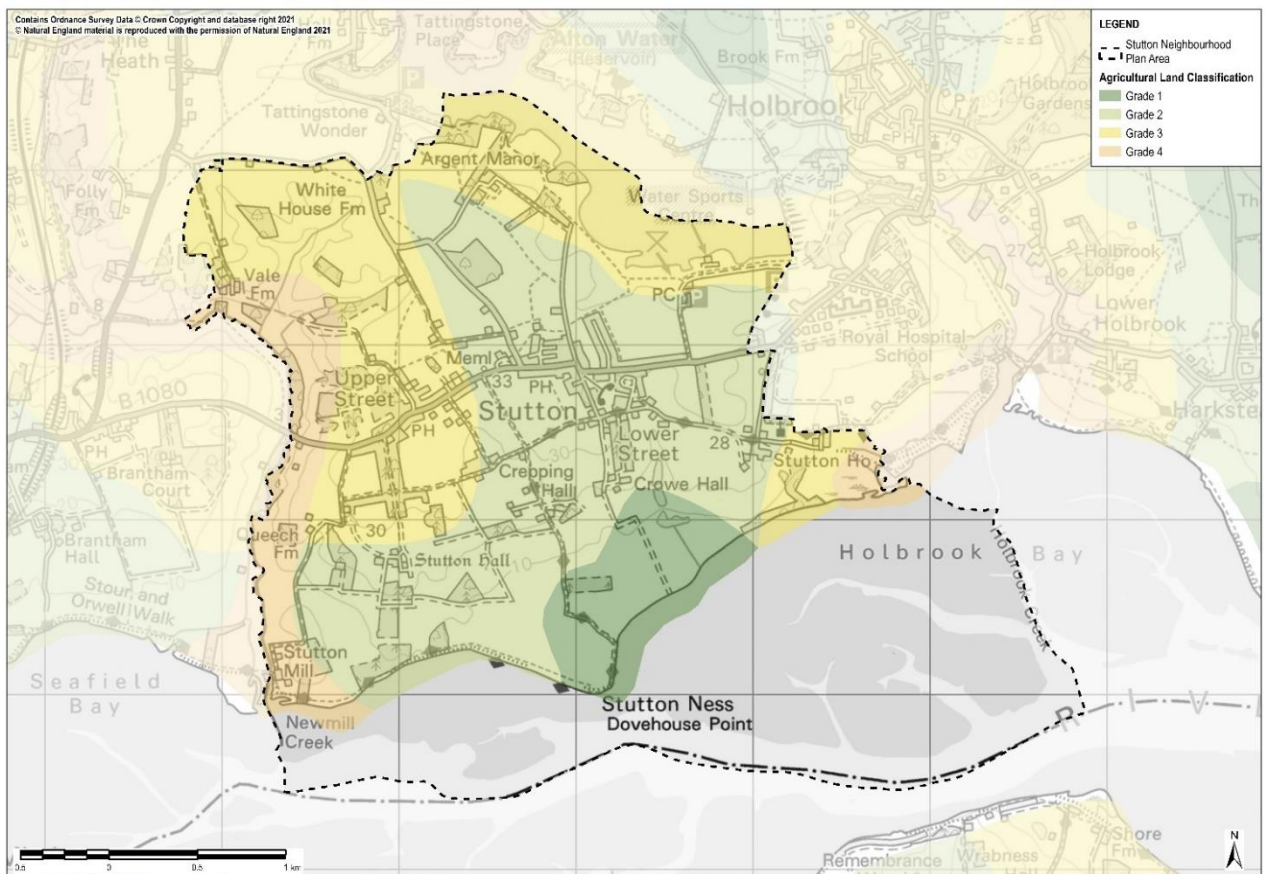
- Reflects feedback from consultation, including early adaptation to climate change, improving drought resilience, planning for growth, and the need to develop a plan that represents ‘best-value’ over the long-term.
  - Fully considers every potential water resource option, including third party options and intercompany transfers.
- A number of policies within the Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy indirectly relate to the land, soil and water resources theme, including:
  - CS2 Settlement Pattern Policy;
  - CS3 Strategy for Growth and Development;
  - CS12 Sustainable Design and Construction Standards; and
  - CS21 Infrastructure Provision.
- Further, the emerging Joint Local Plan provides Policy LP17 (Environmental Protection) which directly relates to this theme.

## Baseline summary

### Soil resources

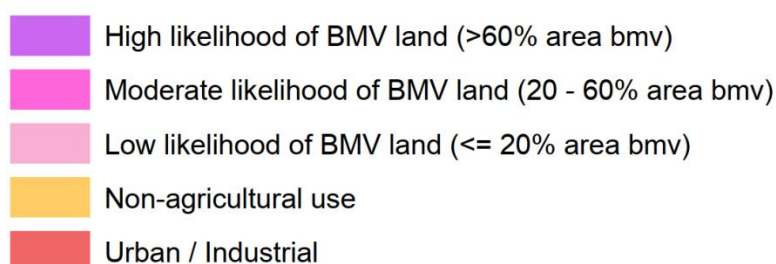
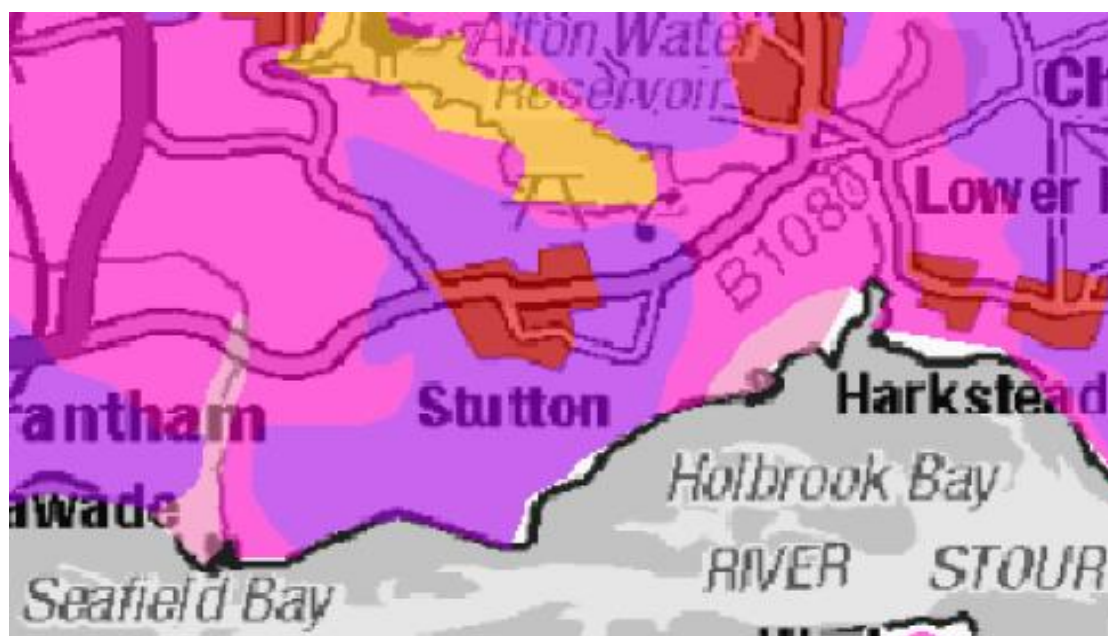
7.4 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus ‘non-agricultural’ and ‘urban’), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the ‘best and most versatile’ land (BMV) and Grades 3b to 5 are of poorer quality.

**Figure 7.1 Agricultural Land Classification**



- 7.5 As shown in **Figure 7.1** above, the majority of the Stutton settlement is underlain by very good quality land (Grade 2). The remaining part of the Neighbourhood Area is underlain by Grade 3 land (good to moderate), with the exception of some small areas of non-agricultural land and high-quality Grade 1 land in the south of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 7.6 While less accurate, the 2017 predictive Land Classification Assessment for the East region indicates that Outside of the ‘urban’ settlement core, parts of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area have a high likelihood of being within BMV land (>60%) (**Figure 7.2**).<sup>41</sup>

**Figure 7.2 Land Classification Assessment – Stutton**



## Mineral resources

- 7.7 Bedrock geology (colloquially referred to as ‘solid’ geology) is a term used for the main mass of rocks forming the Earth that are present everywhere, whether exposed at the surface in outcrops or concealed beneath superficial deposits or water. In this regard, the bedrock geology of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area is Red Crag Formation - Sand. This characterises sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 2 to 4 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods whereby the local environment previously dominated by shallow seas.

<sup>41</sup> Natural England (2017): ‘Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land’ [online] available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6205542189498368?category=5208993007403008>

- 7.8 These sedimentary rocks are shallow-marine in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained (locally with some carbonate content) forming interbedded sequences.
- 7.9 Superficial deposits (colloquially referred to as 'drift') are the youngest geological deposits formed during the most recent period of geological time, the Quaternary, which extends back about 2.6 million years from the present. They rest on older deposits or rocks referred to as bedrock.
- 7.10 In this regard, the Stutton Neighbourhood Area is composed of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup - sand and gravel superficial deposits. These sedimentary deposits are fluvial in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained and form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting similar to the Stutton settlement).
- 7.11 The Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan (SMWLP)<sup>42</sup> identifies that besides indigenous land-won sand and gravel, the supply of aggregates to Suffolk is made up from sand and gravel imported from surrounding counties, imported crushed rock, marine dredged sand and gravel, and indigenous and imported recycled construction, demolition and excavation waste.
- 7.12 The SMWLP allocates nine sites for the extraction of sand and gravel; one of which lies west of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area at Tattingstone. Further, the north half of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area lies within a Minerals Site Map (Map B2) and two Mineral Consultations Areas are located north of Stutton at nearby Holbrook.<sup>43</sup>

## Water quality

- 7.13 Stutton Brook is the main watercourse flowing through the West of the Neighbourhood Area, which forms part of the wider Stour Operational Catchment. Notably, the overall condition status classification for Stutton Brook in 2019 was 'poor'; with poor ecological quality and a failed chemical status. Reasons for not achieving good status are identified as physical modification (creating barriers to ecological continuity) and both diffuse and point source pollution (from sewage discharge, transport drainage, poor nutrient management and poor livestock management).<sup>44</sup>
- 7.14 Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) denote areas at risk from agricultural nitrate pollution.<sup>45</sup> Much of the east of England is a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), including the whole Neighbourhood Plan area for both surface water and groundwater.
- 7.15 In this regard, the north of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area within the Holbrook Groundwater Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) with the majority of the south

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<sup>42</sup> Suffolk County Council (2020) Suffolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan [online] available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/minerals-and-waste-policy/suffolk-minerals-and-waste-development-scheme/>

<sup>43</sup> Suffolk County Council (2020): 'Minerals Core Strategy' [online] available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/minerals-and-waste-policy/suffolk-minerals-and-waste-development-scheme/>

<sup>44</sup> Environment Agency (2020) Catchment Data Explorer [online] available at: <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB105036040890>

<sup>45</sup> Environment Agency and Defra (2018) Nitrate Vulnerable Zones [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nitrate-vulnerable-zones>

falling into the Sandlings and Chelmsford NVZ and some sections of Upper Street incorporated into Stutton Brook NVZ.

7.16 The Holbrook NVZ is also Drinking Water Safeguard Zone (surface water)<sup>46</sup> with recent monitoring from the Environment Agency indicates that water quality in this NVZ has deteriorated in recent years.

7.17 Another significant water resource in the north of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area is Alton Water (or Alton Reservoir) is a manmade reservoir. It is the largest in Suffolk, with a perimeter of over 8 miles (13 km). Due to a shortage of water in the Ipswich area in the 1960s, a list of twenty potential sites for reservoirs was made, with Alton being the chosen site. The land was mainly farmland but was also home to a mill and Alton Hall.

### Water quality issues from waste-water

7.18 Stutton parish is served by Brantham Water Recycling Centre (WRC). Anglian Water's WRLTP document identifies three areas where there is a plan to increase drainage capacity (Ipswich-Cliff Quay, Stowmarket and Brantham). Investigations and improvements to Combined Sewer Overflows are also planned in Ipswich and Stowmarket.<sup>47</sup> This may also help improve water quality downstream. The WRLTP has been reviewed by Anglian Water (AW) against current information and will be updated as part of the preparation of the Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan.<sup>48</sup>

### Water resources

7.19 Babergh District is served by one water company, Anglian Water Services (AWS). The Environment Agency have published a document entitled 'Areas of Water Stress: final classification' which included a map of England, identifying areas of relative water stress. The whole of AWS' supply area is shown as an area of 'Serious' water stress, based upon the amount of water available per person both now and in the future.<sup>49</sup>

7.20 Within their Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs) water companies refer to their Water Resource Zones (WRZs). A WRZ is the largest possible zone in which all resources, including external transfers, can be shared and hence the zone in which all customers experience the same risk of supply failure from a resource failure.<sup>50</sup> Babergh District is served by the East Suffolk WRZ.<sup>51</sup> The growth impacts in each WRZ are shown in **Figure 7.3** (overleaf). In terms of East Suffolk, demand is predicted to increase by 5-10% between 2017 to 2045.

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<sup>46</sup> Anglian Water (2022) NVZs Available at: [Check for Drinking Water Safeguard Zones and NVZs \(data.gov.uk\)](https://www.data.gov.uk)

<sup>47</sup> Anglian Water (2019) Water Recycling Long Term Plan available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/water-recycling-long-term-plan/>

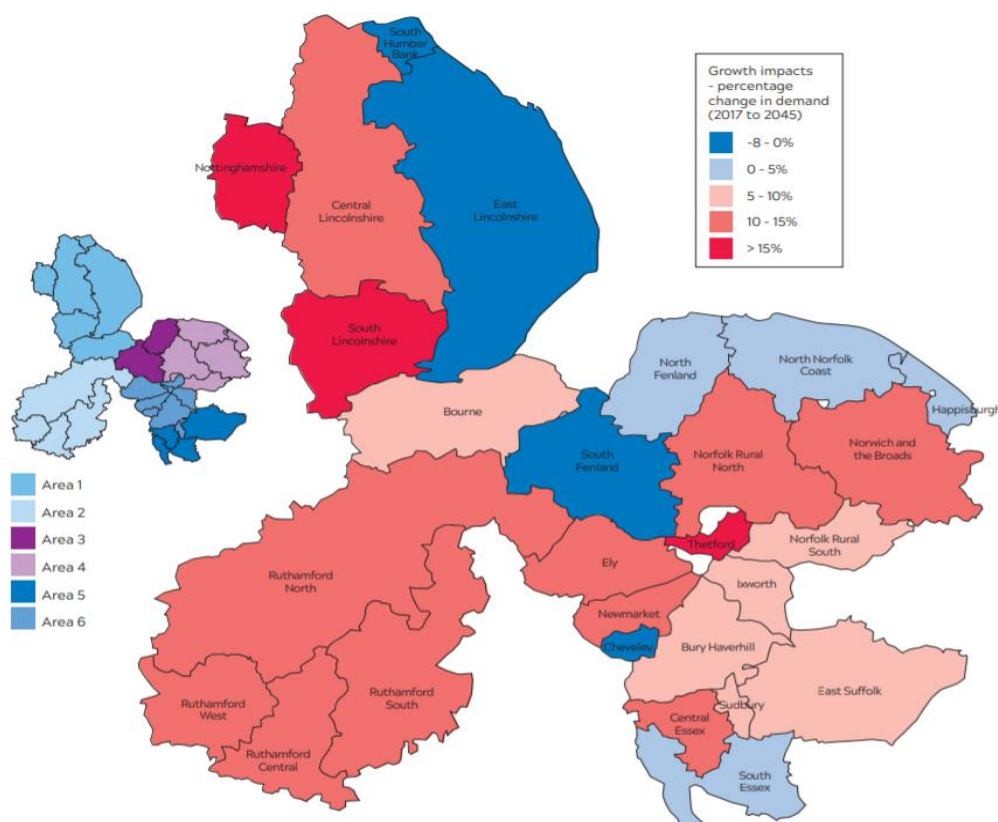
<sup>48</sup> LUC (2022) Stutton Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening

<sup>49</sup> Environment Agency (date unknown) Areas of water stress: final classification [online] available at: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2782-FE1-Areas-of-Water-Stress.pdf>

<sup>50</sup> Babergh District Council (2011) Babergh Water Cycle Study [online] available at: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Strategic-Planning/Babergh-CoreStrategy/CoreStrategyCoreDocList/BDCWaterCycleStudyFinalv2Report.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> Anglian Water (2019) Water Resource Management Plan 2019 [online] available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp-report-2019.pdf>

**Figure 7.3: Population growth impacts on demand between 2017 to 2045 (DYAA)**



7.21 The WRMP indicates that the main problem dominating the next years is supply-demand balance, due to population growth, climate change, sustainability reductions and the need to increase resilience to severe drought. Additionally, the area is characterised by low rainfall and conservation interest of wetland sites.<sup>52</sup>

## Future baseline

7.22 Future development in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area has the potential to affect water quality through increased consumption, diffuse pollution, wastewater discharges, water run-off, and modification. While AWS are required to address water supply and wastewater management issues in line with their WRMP 2019, it will be important for new development to avoid impacts on water quality and to contribute to reducing consumption and improving efficiency.

7.23 New development has the potential to lead to the loss of BMV agricultural land in the parish.

7.24 It is unlikely that new development within the parish would have an impact on the wider area's NVZ designation given the strategic scale of the overall NVZs. Additionally, a large source of detriment to NVZ comes from agricultural use, which is not anticipated to be brought forward through the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

<sup>52</sup> Anglian Water (2019): 'WRMP' [online] available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp-report-2019.pdf>

## Key issues

- 7.25 A proportion of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area is underlain by land classified as best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land, including areas of Grade 1. Future development should seek to avoid loss of this resource wherever possible.
- 7.26 The Stutton Neighbourhood area overlaps with an NVZ however it is unlikely that the NP will have an impact on the designation. The Stutton Neighbourhood area is also nearby a site for the extraction of sand and gravel in the west of the Plan Area at Tattingstone.
- 7.27 The WRMP states that even with the proposed demand management strategy, the Essex Suffolk WRZ will be in a water resource deficit by 2044-2055.<sup>53</sup> However the WRMP has outlined measures required to address predicted shortfalls and investment priorities over the Plan period.

## SEA objective(s)

- 7.28 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objectives:

SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)
Ensure the efficient and effective use of land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of, or hindering of access to mineral resources in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land resources?</li> <li>• Avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of, or hindering of access to mineral resources in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area?</li> <li>• Promote the use of previously developed land, vacant &amp; derelict brownfield land opportunities?</li> </ul>
Protect and enhance water quality and use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support improvements to water quality?</li> <li>• Ensure the timely provision of wastewater infrastructure?</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development?</li> <li>• Protect groundwater and surface water resources from pollution?</li> <li>• Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?</li> </ul>

<sup>53</sup> Anglian Water (2019) Water Resource Management Plan 2019 [online] available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp-report-2019.pdf>

## 8. Community wellbeing

8.1 This theme focuses on population structure, deprivation issues, community assets and infrastructure, as well as influences on health and wellbeing in the Neighbourhood Area.

### Policy context

8.2 **Table 8.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 8.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to community wellbeing**

Document title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The 25 Year Environment Plan</u></a>	2018
<a href="#"><u>Healthy and safe communities - Planning practice guidance</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Planning for Sport Guidance</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Homes and Housing Strategy</u></a>	2019
<a href="#"><u>Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy - Update 2021</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy</u></a>	2014
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 'Pre-Submission' draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020

8.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan will need to have regard for the principles set out in the NPPF, which seek to retain and enhance access to community services and facilities such as educational facilities and open spaces. The NPPF recognises the benefits of having a range of local provision to support community needs. In addition, the NPPF recognises the benefits of creating cohesive communities in safe environments where the fear of crime (and crime itself) does not undermine resident quality of life. This contributes to ensuring settlement and community identities are protected.
- The NPPF recognises the role of development plans in helping to deliver access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity, therefore contributing to the health and wellbeing of communities.



The health benefits of access to nature, green spaces and green infrastructure are further reiterated in the 25-year Environment Plan.

- The 2020 Health Equity in England Report identifies a health gap less and more deprived areas, which has grown in the last decade. This means an increased amount of people can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health with a stalled, or even declined, life expectancy.
- The Planning for Sport Guidance seeks to help the planning system provide formal and informal opportunities for everyone to take part in sport and be physically active, setting out twelve principles.
- The Joint Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out six priorities for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils to engage with in order to prevent or relieve homelessness:
  - Priority 1: Prevention of Homelessness
  - Priority 2: Supporting Vulnerable Households to Secure and Maintain Accommodation
  - Priority 3: Mitigating Against the Impact of Welfare Reforms
  - Priority 4: Increasing Access to Suitable Accommodation
  - Priority 5: Raise Aspirations of Positive Health and Wellbeing amongst Homeless Persons
  - Priority 6: End Rough Sleeping

The document also provides a plan on how to ensure that sufficient accommodation, support, and advice is and will be made available for residents of the Districts who are at risk of becoming homeless or may already be homeless.

- The Homes and Housing Strategy provides nine strategic aims that underpin the delivery of Babergh and Mid Suffolk's housing vision and key priorities. The strategy demonstrates a commitment to meeting future housing challenges and builds upon the vision for "*residents to live in affordable and high-quality homes that enable them to build settled, safe and healthy lives, within sustainable and thriving communities*".
- The Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy articulates Babergh and Mid Suffolk's vision of supporting, encouraging and inspiring their communities to be more active and achieve a better quality of life.
- Policies within the Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy which directly relate to the population and communities' theme include:
  - CS2: Settlement Pattern Policy;
  - CS3: Strategy for Growth and Development;
  - CS18: Mix and Types of Dwellings;
  - CS19: Affordable Homes; and
  - CS21: Infrastructure Provision

- The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should also have regard to the adopted CS and emerging JLP, which contains policies relating to community wellbeing, i.e. housing and services policies including, but not limited to; SP01 - SP04, SP08, and LP01 – LP11.

## Baseline summary

### Population and age structure

- 8.4 Stutton is a rural parish in the district of Babergh about eight miles south of Ipswich and 15 miles northeast of Colchester. Stutton has a stable population with three quarters of residents having lived in the village for ten years or more according to the 2019 Housing Needs Survey<sup>54</sup>.
- 8.5 In 2019 it was recorded as having 409 homes with population of 811 in the 2011 census. 45.9% of residents are female and 54.1% male. The mean age of the population of Stutton is 50.7 years old, compared to 43.1 for Babergh District and 41.7 for the County of Suffolk as a whole<sup>55</sup>.

**Table 8.2: Population estimates (2011- 2019)**

Date	Stutton	Babergh	East of England	England
<b>2011</b>	811	87,740	5,846,965	53,012,456
<b>2019 mid-year estimate</b>	836	92,036	6,236,072	56,286,961
<b>Population Change between 2011- 2019 mid estimate</b>	+3.1%	+4.9%	+6.6%	+6.1%

- 8.6 As can be seen from **Table 8.2** Stutton's population has increased by 3.1% between 2011 and 2019, which is substantially lower than the district (4.9%), county (6.6%) and National (6.1%) averages.
- 8.7 The percentage of people aged over 65 in Stutton is 32.4% compared to 16.4% nationally. Some, but not all, of this higher than the average percentage of older people is accounted for by Oak House, an extra care housing scheme, which has a mix of 38 one-and two-bedroom flats.

The proportion of children in Stutton aged 15 and under is lower (13.5%) than both Babergh (19.6%) and England (18.9%). Stutton's mean age (50.7) is significantly higher than that for Babergh (43.1) and for England (39.3).

<sup>54</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Neighbourhood Plan Available at: [THIS Neighbourhood Plan \(proofed\) \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net)

<sup>55</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Site Options Assessment Available at: [220215 Stutton NP Final SOA amended.pdf \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net)

## Index of Multiple Deprivation

8.8 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD) is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
  - a. 'Geographical Barriers': relating to the physical proximity of local services
  - b. 'Wider Barriers': relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
  - a. 'Indoors Living Environment' measures the quality of housing.
  - c. 'Outdoors Living Environment' measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
  1. Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index: The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
  2. Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index: The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

8.9 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs)<sup>56</sup> are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardised geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2019, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalised into deciles, with

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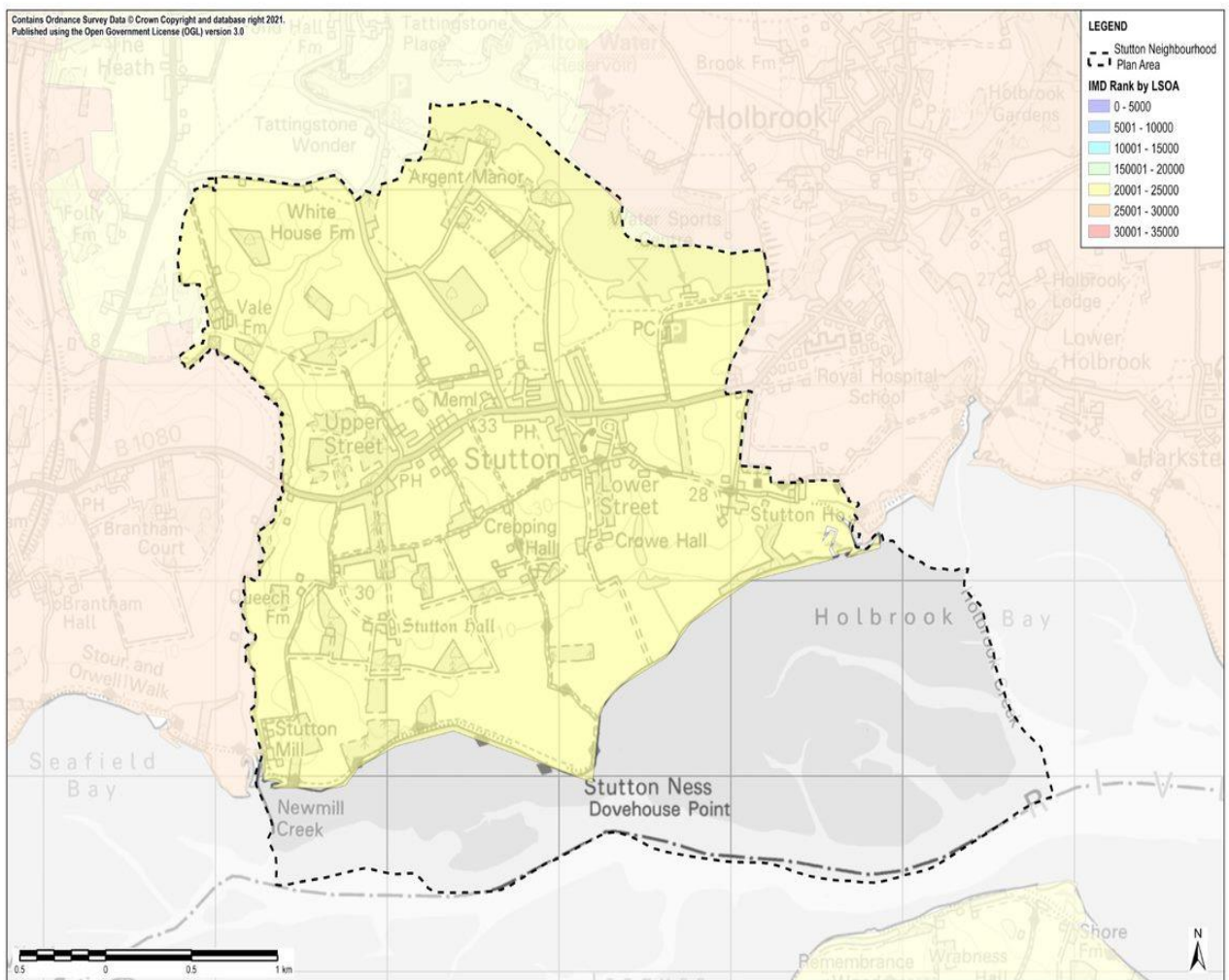
<sup>56</sup> DCLG (2019): Indices of Deprivation Explorer', [online] available at: [https://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/ioid\\_index.html](https://dclgapps.communities.gov.uk/imd/ioid_index.html)

a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.

8.10 In this regard, Stutton falls in Babergh 01 IAQ LSOA (i.e. neighbourhood). This is within Stour ward and Babergh district. In 2019, this LSOA was ranked 22,963 out of 32,844 LSOAs. In England, where 1 is the most deprived LSOA, this is amongst the 40% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country. This hasn't changed since 2015, when this LSOA was ranked 20,744 out of 32,844.<sup>57</sup>

8.11 In terms of the health of Stutton residents, according to the most recent Census 42.5% of people were classified as in very good health, 35.7% as good, 16.4% as fair, 4.1% as bad and 1.4% as very bad. These health statistics are similar to those for Babergh District and for England as a whole<sup>58</sup>.

**Figure 8.1 Index of Multiple Deprivation**



<sup>57</sup> DCLG (2019) Babergh 01 IAQ LSOA Available at: [Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2019 \(communities.gov.uk\)](https://www.communities.gov.uk)

<sup>58</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Neighbourhood Plan Available at: [THIS Neighbourhood Plan \(proofed\) \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://www.stuttonvillage.net)

## Housing needs

- 8.12 The current housing stock in Stutton include detached homes in Stutton total 227 in number which, at 55.6% of the housing stock, is higher than Babergh (41.6%) and more than twice the national average.<sup>59</sup>
- 8.13 As of 2020, Stutton has a greater proportion of one person households (37%) than both Babergh (28%) and England generally (30%). One in four of these households are aged 65 and over, which is significantly higher than that for Babergh and England. The majority of households are owner occupiers (69%), a figure that is slightly lower than Babergh but higher than the England total. 17% are socially rented households (mainly council) which is higher than for Babergh in general but matches the percentage of social housing nationally.<sup>60</sup>

## Community Assets

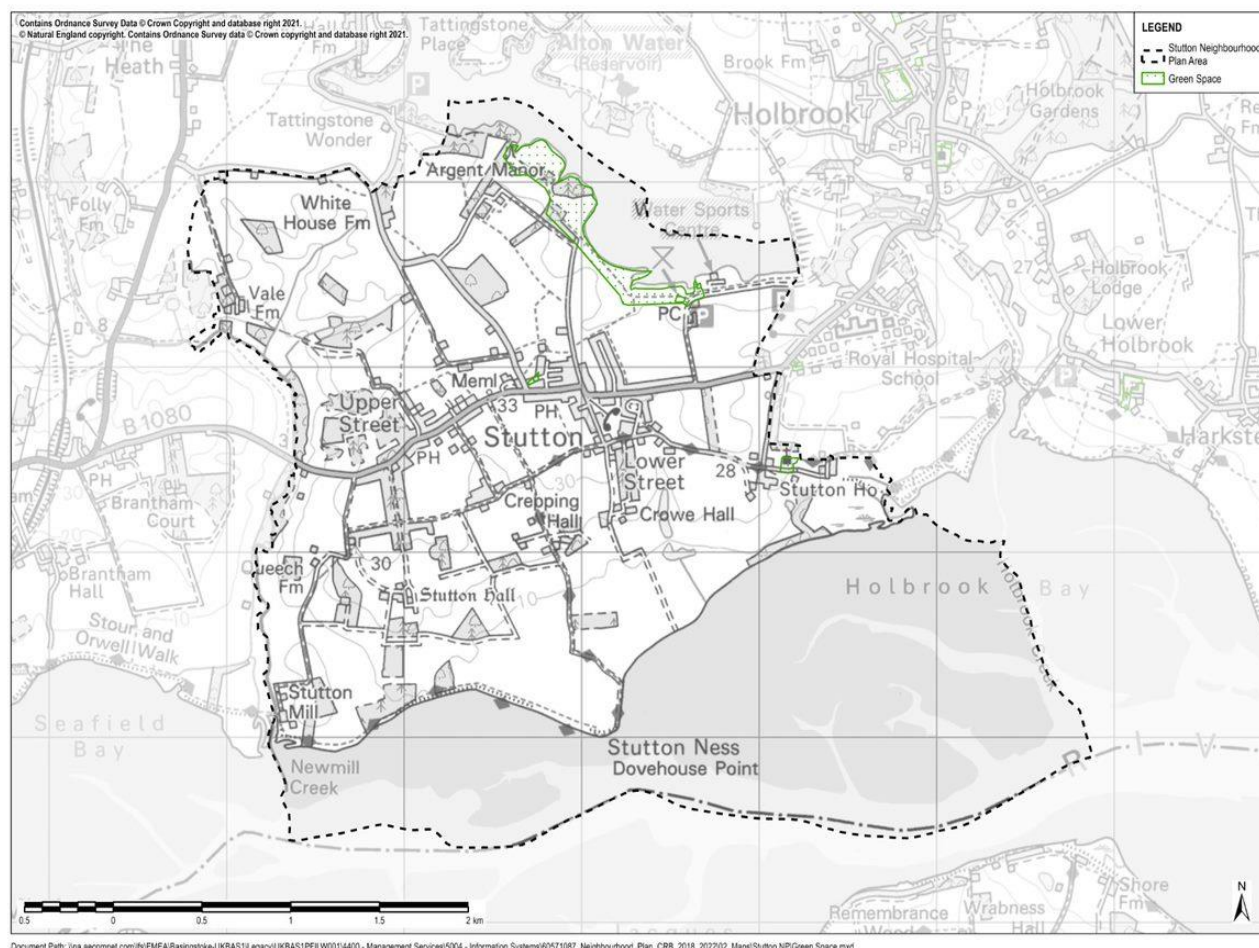
- 8.14 Stutton benefits from a number of valued amenities including the Community Hall, the Community Shop and café, the primary school, the playing field and community woodland, allotments, two pubs, Alton Water park and the hairdressers. A number of community organisations aim to improve the quality of life within the village, such as the Stutton Support Network, the Community Association Stutton Community Shop, Stutton Grows (managing the community woodland) and the Community Speedwatch group.
- 8.15 There are also numerous clubs and activity groups that utilise the Community Hall, such as art classes and the Carpet Bowls club.
- 8.16 Alton Waters is a community asset and attraction for the village. Alton Water Park offers sailing, a cafe, bike hire and, lately, a campsite. It also provides a substantial public amenity with footpaths, picnic areas, wildlife reserves and hides, attracting thousands of visitors annually.
- 8.17 **Figure 8.2** overleaf identifies green spaces in the Neighbourhood Area, located to the north of the settlement. It is noted that the Parish Council seek to designate a further five Local Green Spaces within the village through the Neighbourhood Plan. These include allotment space, village playing field, Stutton Close green space, the village green opposite the King's Head, and Canhams Wood.

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<sup>59</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Neighbourhood Plan Available at: [THIS Neighbourhood Plan \(proofed\) \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net/this-neighbourhood-plan-proofed)

<sup>60</sup> Stutton Parish Council (2021) Site Options Assessment Available at: [220215 Stutton NP Final SOA amended.pdf \(stuttonvillage.net\)](https://stuttonvillage.net/220215-Stutton-NP-Final-SOA-amended.pdf)

**Figure 8.2 Green Space**



### Local employment

8.18 More than 30 businesses operate from the village in total. A number of these businesses are concentrated at a small industrial estate at Manor Farm, including a soft toy manufacturer and motor mechanic.

8.19 Employment comes partly from these businesses, the school and some home-working, but (as in the case of most Suffolk villages) most working residents commute locally and to London — Stutton is five miles from Manningtree rail station, which is in turn about an hour from London on a direct rail line (see **Chapter 9**).

### Future baseline

8.20 To further improve deprivation levels in these areas in the longer term, the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should seek to utilise opportunities to support the delivery of the right mix of housing types, tenures and sizes according to local needs, to support sustainable growth of the community.

8.21 This is reflected in the local Housing Needs Survey which was carried out by Community Action Suffolk during 2019 where a 40% response rate was achieved. There were a number of older households expressing a wish to downsize either now or in the future, some of whom had or anticipated experiencing mobility and/or health problems.

- 8.22 As the population of Stutton increases and ages, there is likely to be increasing pressure on healthcare services. Therefore, the lack of direct healthcare services in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area has the potential to lead to the decline in access to core services for residents. This highlights a need to support the retention and improvement of important facilities within the Neighbourhood Area. This also includes open green space provision in Stutton which has been increasingly highlighted through the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. These factors are more likely to be appropriately considered and addressed through planned development rather than unplanned development.
- 8.23 The COVID-19 pandemic has also changed the way people work and shop. For many people, working from home is likely to continue to form part of a more flexible approach. The effects of increased levels of home working are further discussed under the transportation theme (**Chapter 9**).

## Key issues

- 8.24 A large proportion of the population within Neighbourhood Area are over 65 age band. This suggests there is an ageing population within the parish and a subsequent need to plan for more adaptable homes, specialist homes, etc. Furthermore, an ageing population can place extra and different demands on local health, education, transport and potentially housing such as Oak House.
- 8.25 With a lower proportion of younger people, it is likely that this imbalance, if it were to increase, could threaten the future sustainability of the community. The number of local children may challenge the viability of the village's primary school.
- 8.26 There is a range of community facilities in the Stutton Neighbourhood area including (for example, around Alton Water). Access to green space is also very good which can help reduce barriers to accessing services and improve the living environment.

## SEA objective(s)

8.27 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

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<b>SEA objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)</b>
Ensure growth in the Parish is aligned with the needs of all residents and capacity of the settlement and social infrastructure, improving accessibility, anticipating future needs and specialist requirements, and supporting cohesive and inclusive communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, and affordable housing?</li><li>• Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?</li><li>• Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li><li>• Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs, particularly the needs of an ageing population?</li><li>• Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li><li>• Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities?</li><li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li><li>• Minimise fuel poverty?</li><li>• Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</li></ul>

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## 9. Transportation

9.1 This theme focuses on; transport infrastructure and movement networks within and surrounding the Stutton Neighbourhood area traffic flows, and congestion.

### Policy context

9.2 **Table 9.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan SEA.

**Table 9.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to transportation**

Document Title	Year of publication
<a href="#"><u>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</u></a>	2021
<a href="#"><u>The Transport Investment Strategy – Moving Britain Ahead</u></a>	2017
<a href="#"><u>The Department for Transport’s Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy</u></a>	2016
<a href="#"><u>Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge</u></a>	2020
<a href="#"><u>Suffolk Local Transport Plan (2011- 2031)</u></a>	2011
<a href="#"><u>Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy</u></a>	2014
<a href="#"><u>Regulation 19 ‘Pre-Submission’ draft Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan (JLP)</u></a>	2020

9.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Stutton Neighbourhood should have regard to the NPPF, which seeks the consideration of transport issues from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals to address any known issues and maximise opportunities to increase accessibility, particularly by walking, cycling and public transport. Larger developments are expected to be delivered in areas which are or can be made sustainable by limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. However, it is recognised that sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural environments.
- National transport strategies set out investment priorities which ultimately all seek to improve the connectivity, effectiveness and reliability of transport networks, whilst reducing impacts on the natural environment (including through decarbonisation). Furthermore, they place great emphasis on making cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journeys. This includes investment in new and upgraded infrastructure, changing perceptions and increasing safety.

- The Suffolk Local Transport Plan 2011-2031, published by Suffolk County Council sets out proposed transport solutions for the plan area up to 2031, with a focus on enabling sustainable economic growth.
- Alongside the adopted CS emerging JLP, the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan should have regard to the strategic policy aims of the Transport Plans.
- The Joint Strategic Plan Refresh 2016-2020 provides an assessment of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the people of Babergh and Mid Suffolk until 2020.
- A number of policies within the Babergh Local Plan Core Strategy indirectly relate to the health and wellbeing theme, including:
  - CS2 Settlement Pattern Policy;
  - CS3 Strategy for Growth and Development;
  - CS14 Green Infrastructure; and
  - CS21 Infrastructure Provision.
- Further, the emerging Joint Local Plan provides Policies SP08 – SP10, LP17, LP25, LP26, LP30 – LP35 which directly relate to this theme.

## Baseline summary

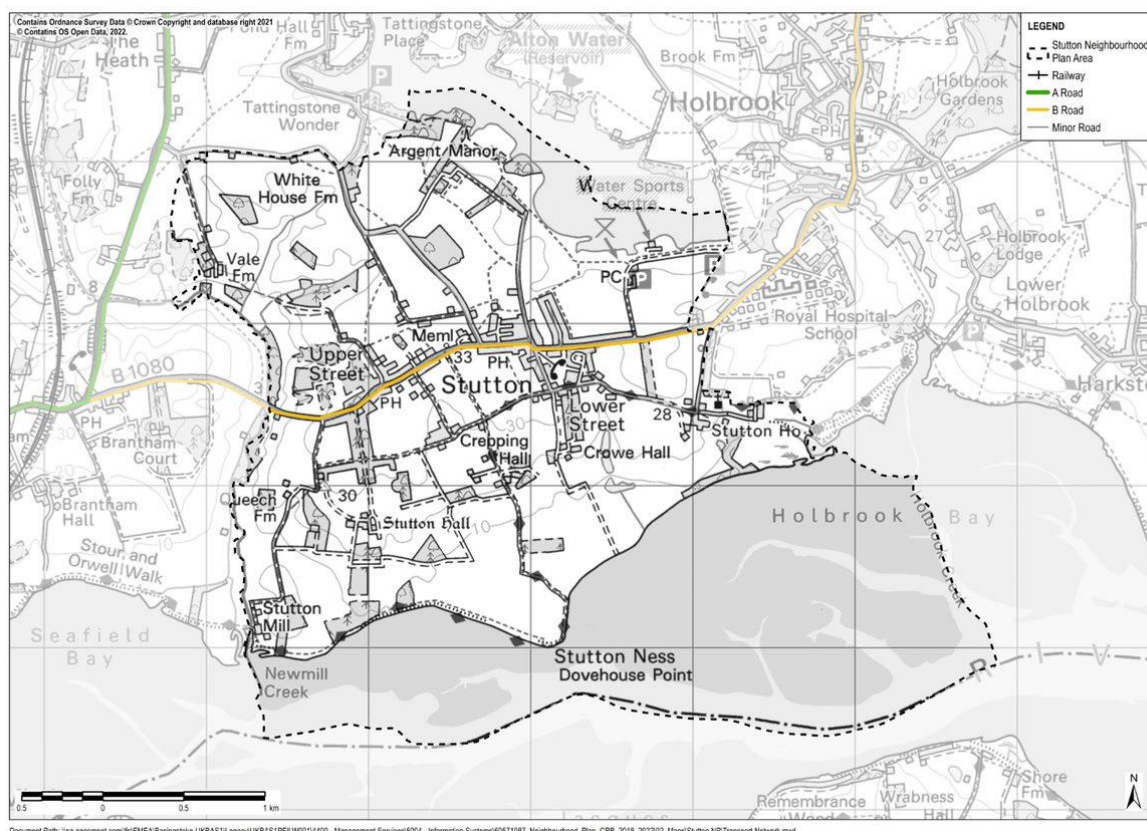
### Local transport routes

- 9.4 **Figure 9.1** shows Stutton as a rural village surrounded by a small number of scattered farms and large manor houses to the south, which are connected via paths or bridleways.
- 9.5 In terms of the road network, as shown in **Figure 9.1**, the main linear route through Stutton is the B1080<sup>61</sup> which connects the parish with neighbouring settlements. In recent years there has been an increase in traffic along this road which is of concern to residents. The closest A road is the A137 in the north west of the Neighbourhood Area.
- 9.6 HGVs are an issue locally, which in turn presents issues regarding safety for road users/ pedestrians. However, Church Field Road is a locally valued 'Quiet Lane', providing a route to Stutton Green and the Holbrook Bay – and an access point for the River Stour. This route is highly valued by residents and visitors as it is one of the few local travel routes where public glimpses of the River Stour are attainable from the village edges.

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<sup>61</sup> Joint Strategic Plan Refresh 2016-2020 available at: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/The-Council/Performance/Joint-Strategic-Plan-2016-2020.pdf>

**Figure 9.1 Local transport routes**



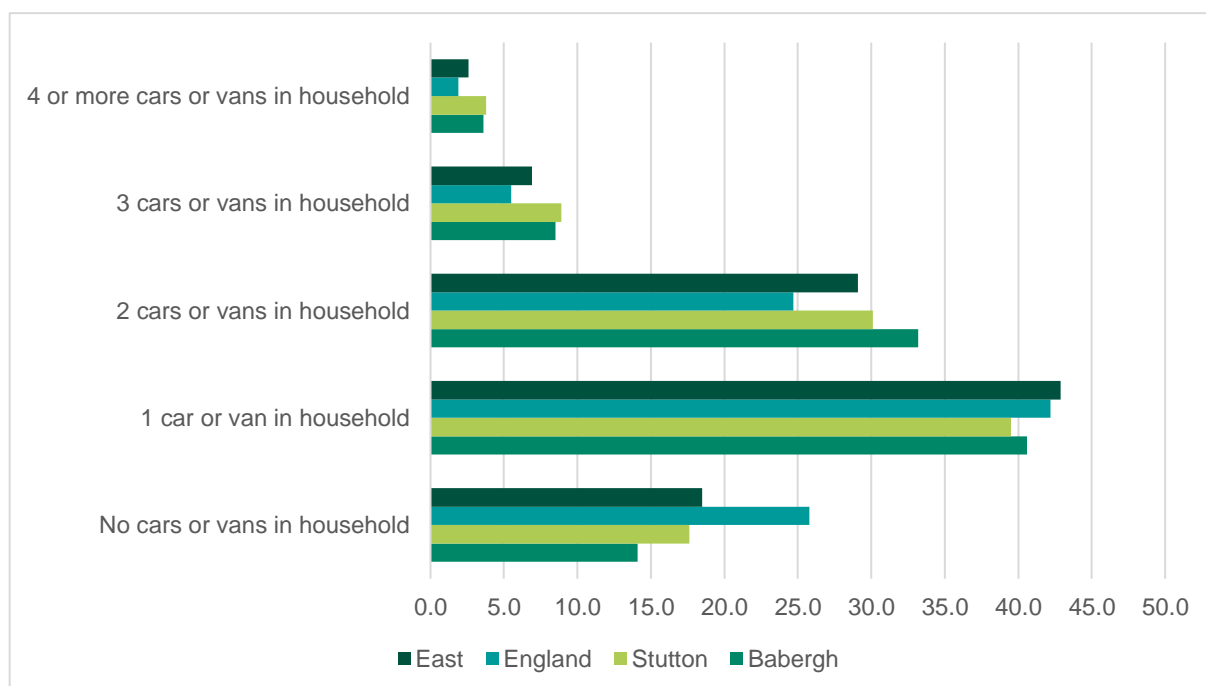
## Sustainable transport offer

- 9.7 Sustainable transport in the parish is limited. The 92 bus connects Stutton to Manningtree and Ipswich, providing a fairly regular daily service until around 5.30pm. There is however a restricted timetable on Saturdays, leaving the village with no public transport in the early morning, evenings and on Sundays. This can cause problems for those commuting to college or to work.
- 9.8 In terms of access to the rail network, Manningtree Station is 4.6 miles from the village, providing relatively frequent services to Norwich and London.

## Charge points

- 9.9 There are 120 charging points across Suffolk. In terms of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area, there are a small number of charging points located within of the village at private households. However, within 5km of the Plan border, there are a greater number of charging points, particularly towards the north.
- 9.10 The closest fast charging station is located at Stutton Community Hall along the B1080 Several charging stations ranging from fast to rapid are positioned towards Capel St Mary along the A12. There is a notable absence of charging stations to the south-east of the Stutton Neighbourhood Area and around Alton Water Reservoir. These are explained further in **Chapter 3** and illustrated in **Figure 4.3**.

**Figure 9.2 Car ownership (2011)<sup>62</sup>**



9.11 As shown in **Figure 9.2** above, Car ownership in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area is high. 3.8% of residents in Stutton own four or more cars or vans in their household, which is higher than the district (3.6%), regional (2.6%) and National (1.9%) averages.

9.12 Similarly residents in Stutton who own three or more cars or vans in their household, is also higher than the district, regional and National averages, respectively. This is unsurprising given the rural nature of the village setting and lack of public transport access.

9.13 Parking in the village is considered plentiful at the centre, although the recent addition of a barrier and charges has actually resulted in increased roadside parking on Holbrook Road and Alton Hall Lane.

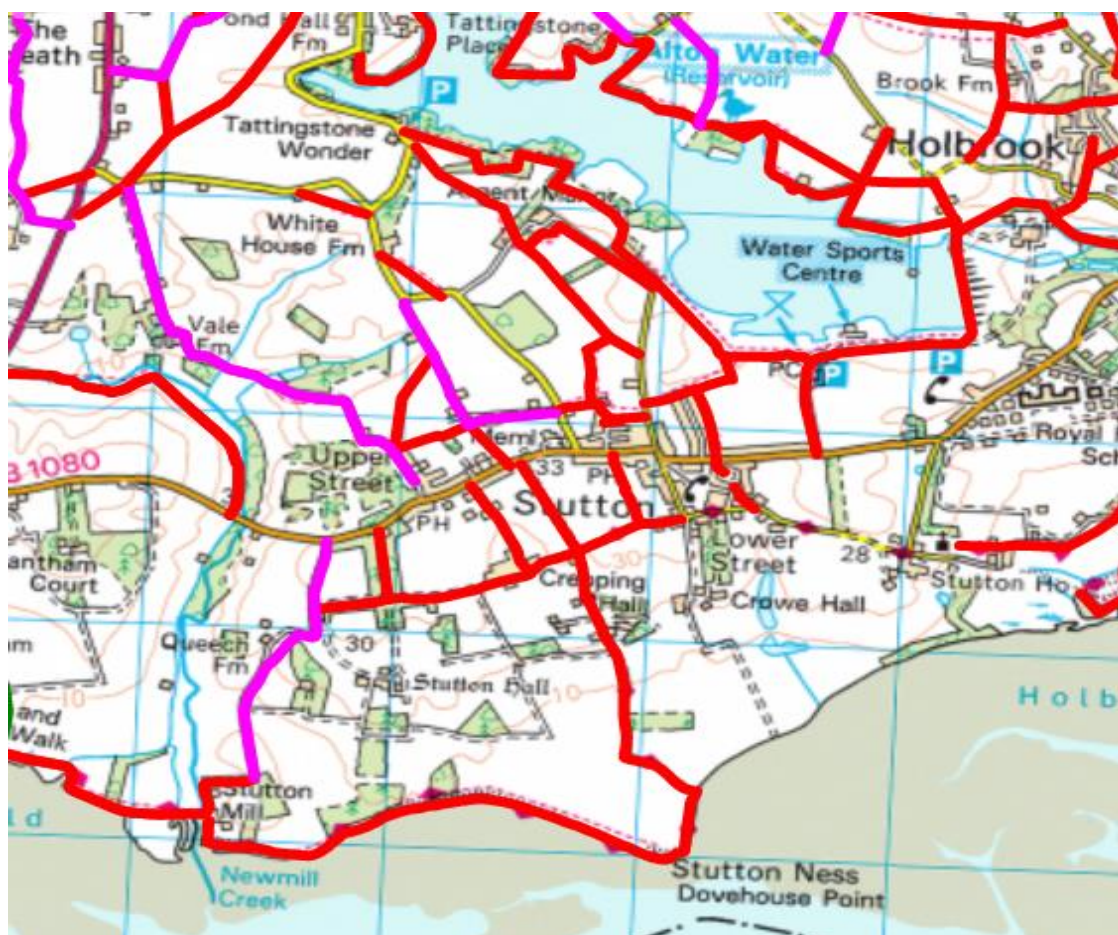
## Footpaths and cycle network

9.14 As can be seen from **Figure 9.3** overleaf, the parish has good access to footpaths and bridleways. The Bridleway surrounds Upper Street connecting it to Stutton Mill to the south and Vale Farm to the north of the Neighbourhood Area. There are also good access opportunities around Alton Hall across a network of footpaths and quiet lanes.

9.15 Alton Lane and Alton Water are connected through to Upper Street, and there are connections to the wider footpath network and the estuary. Woodfield Lane and the east-west footpath are to be the focus for the parish's Greenway project, providing access for all on surfaced paths.

<sup>62</sup> UK GOV (2011): '2011 Census' [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census>

**Figure 9.3 Public Rights of Way**



- solid red line: footpath;
- solid fuchsia line: bridleway;
- solid green line: restricted byway;
- solid blue line: byway open to all traffic.

## Future baseline

- 9.16 Given the rural nature of the parish and lack of sustainable transport options, in the absence of strategic transport interventions, growth in the Neighbourhood Area will likely further reliance on the private vehicle for travel. This has the potential to increase traffic and lead to additional localised congestion issues around the B1080 which in turn may reduce road safety.
- 9.17 HGV traffic may continue to be an issue for the parish, particularly through Upper Street, Manningtree Road Holbrook Road, and Bentley Road.
- 9.18 The Stutton Neighbourhood Plan can however support small-scale infrastructure improvements and active travel opportunities that seeks to maximise opportunities for pedestrian and cyclist movements, as demonstrated through the quiet lanes project ongoing within the parish. Moreover, Stutton Parish Council has recently agreed to a community action to develop a cycling strategy.
- 9.19 As discussed in previous chapters, considering the pandemic, and changing working habits, the provision of infrastructure to facilitate working from home is

likely to positively contribute towards transport management, reducing the number of vehicles on the road at peak times.

9.20 Whilst negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by new infrastructure, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations.

## Key issues

9.21 Trends show cars/ vans as the primary mode of transport within the parish, and there are several traffic hotspots within Stutton, recognised locally for causing safety issues for pedestrians.

9.22 While there are daily bus services to Ipswich and Manningtree (Monday - Friday), weekend bus services are much more limited. Travel by rail is also limited given Manningtree Station located 4.6 miles away. Manningtree Station provides access to strategic centres including London.

9.23 There are numerous footpaths and bridleways present in the Neighbourhood Plan area, providing connectivity throughout the parish. Opportunities to improve and/ or extend active travel connections, alongside public realm improvements and urban greening within the plan are should be sought.

## SEA objective(s)

9.24 Considering the key issues discussed above it is proposed that the SEA should include the following objective:

SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the option/ proposal help to...)
Promote sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the key objectives within the Suffolk Local Transport Plan to encourage more sustainable transport?</li> <li>• Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?</li> <li>• Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement?</li> <li>• Facilitate on-going high levels of home and remote working?</li> <li>• Improve road safety?</li> <li>• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?</li> <li>• Improve parking facilities?</li> </ul>

# 10. Next steps

## Subsequent stages for the SEA process

- 10.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the second stage of the SEA process -
- Screening
  - Scoping
  - Assess reasonable alternatives (to inform preparation of the draft plan)
  - Prepare the Environmental Report (to informing consultation and plan finalisation)
  - Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption
- 10.1 The next stage will involve appraising reasonable alternatives for the Stutton Neighbourhood Plan. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will be fed back to the Parish Council so that they might be taken into account when preparing the draft plan.
- 10.2 Once the draft ('pre-submission version') plan has been prepared by the Neighbourhood Plan group, it will be subjected to SEA and the Environmental Report prepared for consultation alongside it.
- 10.3 Following consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the Environmental Report, the Neighbourhood Plan will be finalised and submitted to Babergh District Council for Independent Examination.

## Consultation on the scoping report

- 10.4 At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies. The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report; in particular, the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues, and the proposed SEA Framework.
- 10.5 The consultation period runs from Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
- Fraser Young, AECOM
- Email address: [fraser.young@aecom.com](mailto:fraser.young@aecom.com)
- 10.6 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SEA where appropriate.

# Appendix A Proposed SEA Framework

**Table A.1 Proposed SEA framework**

SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the proposal help to...)
Air Quality	Will the option/proposal help to: Improve air quality in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>Implement measures (such as appropriate planting and provision of green infrastructure) which will help support air quality in the Stutton Neighbourhood Area</li> </ul>
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity sites and features, by avoiding impacts on regionally and locally designated sites, and delivering demonstrable biodiversity net gains.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regionally and locally designated sites, including supporting habitats and mobile species that are important to the integrity of these sites?</li> <li>Protect and enhance priority habitats and species and the areas that support them?</li> <li>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>Support enhancements to multifunctional green infrastructure networks?</li> <li>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> </ul>
Climate change	Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number of journeys made?</li> <li>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?</li> <li>Support proposals for EV charging infrastructure?</li> </ul>
	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, considering the likely future effects of climate change?</li> <li>Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support</li> </ul>



SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the proposal help to...)
		<p>adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainably manage water runoff, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?</li> <li>• Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development in the Neighbourhood area?</li> <li>• Increase the resilience of biodiversity in the area to the effects of climate change, including through enhancements to ecological networks?</li> </ul>
Landscape		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance the Suffolk Coast &amp; Heaths AONB in line with the objectives of the AONB management plan 2018?</li> <li>• Protect and/ or enhance local landscape character and quality of place?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance local identity, diversity and settlement character?</li> <li>• Identify and protect locally important viewpoints which contribute to character and sense of place?</li> <li>• Protect visual amenity and locally important views in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Retain and enhance landscape features that contribute to the river setting, or rural setting, including trees and hedgerows?</li> </ul>
Historic environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserve and enhance buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their settings?</li> <li>• Conserve and enhance the Low Street Conservation area?</li> <li>• Protect the integrity of the historic setting of key monuments of cultural heritage interest as listed in the Suffolk HER?</li> <li>• Support the undertaking of early archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?</li> <li>• Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the Neighbourhood area?</li> </ul>

SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions (will the proposal help to...)
Land, soil and water resources	To ensure the efficient and effective use of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the loss of high-quality agricultural land resources?</li> <li>• Avoid the unnecessary sterilisation of, or hindering of access to mineral resources in the Plan area?</li> <li>• Affect the integrity of waste infrastructure within and surrounding the Plan area?</li> <li>• Promote any opportunities for the use of previously developed land, or vacant/ underutilised land?</li> </ul>
	To protect and enhance water quality, and use and manage water resources in a sustainable manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid impacts on water quality?</li> <li>• Support improvements to water quality?</li> <li>• Ensure appropriate drainage and mitigation is delivered alongside development?</li> <li>• Protect waterbodies from pollution, including NVZs?</li> <li>• Maximise water efficiency and opportunities for water harvesting and/ or water recycling?</li> <li>• Improve the resilience of water supplies?</li> </ul>
Community Wellbeing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, and affordable housing?</li> <li>• Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes?</li> <li>• Meet the needs of all sectors of the community?</li> <li>• Provide flexible and adaptable homes that meet people's needs, particularly the needs of an ageing population?</li> <li>• Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people?</li> <li>• Encourage and promote social cohesion and active involvement of local people in community activities?</li> <li>• Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>• Minimise fuel poverty?</li> <li>• Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents?</li> </ul>

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<b>SEA theme</b>	<b>SEA objective</b>	<b>Assessment questions (will the proposal help to...)</b>
Transportation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support the key objectives within the Suffolk Local Transport Plan to encourage more sustainable transport?</li><li>• Enable sustainable transport infrastructure enhancements?</li><li>• Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement?</li><li>• Facilitate on-going high levels of home and remote working?</li><li>• Improve road safety?</li><li>• Reduce the impact on residents from the road network?</li><li>• Improve parking facilities?</li></ul>

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