



# Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

Carlton Colville

Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2036

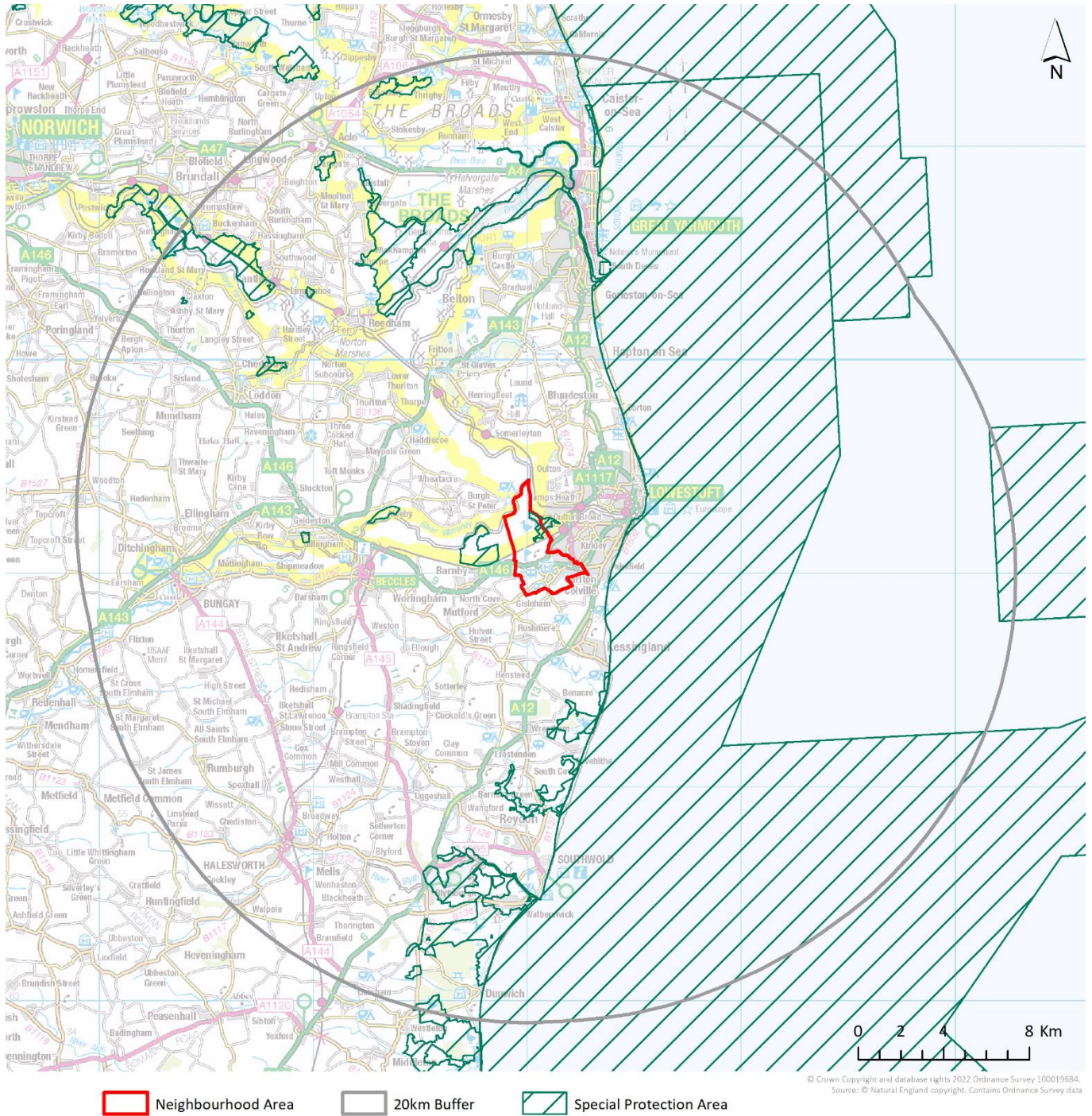
Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation Version

February 2022

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Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan  
Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement – February 2022



## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) provide protection for sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species. The network consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Both types can also be referred to as European Sites. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also states that Ramsar sites should be afforded the same level of protection and refers to SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites as ‘Habitat Sites’.

1.2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of development plans is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended). It is also a requirement of Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). In order to proceed to referendum a Neighbourhood Plan must meet a series of ‘basic conditions’, which include that it does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

1.3 Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended through EU Exit legislation) states:

‘Where a land use plan:

(a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,

The plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site’s conservation objectives.’

1.4 The HRA is therefore undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of any sites.

Stage 1: Determining whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This needs to take account of the likely impacts in combination with other relevant plans and projects. This assessment should be made using the precautionary principle. The screening assessment must reflect the outcomes of the 2018 judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union<sup>1</sup>, which has ruled that where

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<sup>1</sup> C-323/17 – People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta

mitigation is necessary this must be identified through an Appropriate Assessment.

Stage 2: Carrying out Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity. The effects of the plan on the conservation objectives of sites should be assessed, to ascertain whether the plan has an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site.

Stage 3: Identifying mitigation measures and alternative solutions. The aim of this stage is to find ways of avoiding or significantly reducing adverse impacts, so that site integrity is no longer at risk. If there are still likely to be negative impacts, the option should be dropped, unless exceptionally it can be justified by imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

- 1.5 The Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan is being produced by Carlton Colville Town Council. The 'Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation - draft' (referred to as the neighbourhood plan for the purposes of this document) has been sent to East Suffolk Council and this screening assessment considers whether there are likely significant effects (LSEs) on protected Habitat sites and whether a full Appropriate Assessment will be required.
- 1.6 The Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. East Suffolk Council is covered by two Local Plans, the East Suffolk Council - Suffolk Coastal Local Plan adopted September 2020 and the Waveney Local Plan adopted March 2019. The relevant Local Plan for Carlton Colville is the East Suffolk Council Waveney Local Plan (2019) (referred to as the Local Plan for the purposes of this document).
- 1.7 The Local Plan was subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment as part of its production (see appendix 1). Where screening identified a likely significant effect, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken and mitigation measures identified were incorporated within the Local Plan, resulting in a conclusion that the local plan will not lead to any adverse effects on Habitat sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Waveney District. Significant effects were identified in relation to recreation (including dog walking), air quality and biodiversity net gain. The Council has therefore produced a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) and requires payment towards mitigation from residential developments within 13km of the protected Habitat sites.

1.8 This screening report contains the results of Stage 1 (above) in relation to the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan. Stages 2 and 3 are only required if the screening stage concludes that there is likely to be a significant impact on a Habitat site. The initial screening has been undertaken by East Suffolk Council and was subject to consultation with Natural England as a statutory consultee.

## 2. Protected sites covered by this screening report

2.1 Sites included in this assessment are listed in Table 1 below. This includes all sites that are within 20km of the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan area (for consistency with the distances applied within the HRA of the Local Plan and adopting the precautionary approach). The locations of the sites are shown on maps in Appendix 2 and the Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives of the sites are contained in Appendix 3, along with a summary of the pressures and threats as documented in the Appropriate Assessment for the Local Plan.

**Table 1: Relevant Habitat sites**

Name
The Broads SAC
Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC
Southern North Sea SAC
Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA
Breydon Water SPA
Broadland SPA
Outer Thames Estuary SPA
Minsmere-Walberswick SPA
Breydon Water Ramsar
Broadland Ramsar
Minsmere-Walberswick Ramsar

## 3. Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan

3.1 Carlton Colville Town Council is producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Carlton Colville and part of Gisleham Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the parish up to 2036, within the context of the Local Plan. This Habitats Regulations Assessment screening assessment reviews 'Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Consultation- draft'.

- 3.2 The Neighbourhood Plan includes a range of policies covering the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan area. A number of policies relate to the full Neighbourhood Plan area whilst others are area/location specific. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate specific sites for development. It does include new policy requirements for development on sites that have already been allocated in the Local Plan.
- 3.3 The policies in the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan are listed in Table 2 below. An assessment of whether each policy is likely to have a significant effect on Habitat sites is included in section 5 of this report.

**Table 2: List of Neighbourhood Plan policies**

CC1	High Quality Design
CC2	Particular Views
CC3	Key Movement Routes
CC4	Car Parking
CC5	Biodiversity Net Gain and Wildlife-Friendly Development
CC6	Dark Skies and Lighting
CC7	Community Provision at Bell Farm Allocation
CC8	Carlton Colville Country Park

## 4. Other Plans and Projects

- 4.1 Regulation 105 of the 2017 Regulations requires consideration to be given to whether a Plan will have an effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 4.2 As noted in the introduction, the other key plan is the Local Plan. The Local Plan was adopted in March 2019. The Local Plan sets out the broad scale and distribution of development across the area of East Suffolk formerly covered by the Waveney District and has been subject to an Appropriate Assessment.
- 4.3 Local plan policy WLP1.1 states that 56% of housing growth (approx. 4,605 dwellings) will take place in the Lowestoft area (where the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan area is located). The draft Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan policies interpret the strategy and policies of the local plan at a local level. The policies contained in the draft Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan are proposed to provide locally specific policy for the determination of planning applications in compliance with the local plan's strategy. It does not propose any additional site allocations. The Local Plan does however include



two allocations that fall within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Policy WLP2.16 Land South of The Street, Carlton Colville/Gisleham allocates 900 dwellings, as well as a new school, community hub and country park. WLP2.19 Oakes Farm, Beccles Road, Carlton Colville is allocated primarily for sports provision and commercial development, however the policy includes the potential for some limited residential development.

- 4.4 A screening process considered each policy in the Local Plan and concluded that significant effects were likely and that an Appropriate Assessment was needed. The Appropriate Assessment subsequently considered the following themes - recreation pressure from new residential development, air quality from increased road traffic and biodiversity net gain. Mitigation measures were identified within the Appropriate Assessment and were incorporated within the Local Plan, resulting in a conclusion that the plan will not lead to any adverse effects on Habitat sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Waveney District.
- 4.5 The Council has subsequently produced a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy<sup>2</sup> and requires payment towards mitigation of significant effects from residential developments within 13km of the protected Habitat sites.

## 5. Assessment of likely significant effects of the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan on Habitat sites

- 5.1 Table 3 below considers each policy of the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan in relation to whether there is potential for a likely significant effect on Habitat sites. This constitutes Stage 1 as set out under paragraph 1.4 above. Consideration is given to the characteristics and location of the protected sites. The policies are considered within the context of the Local Plan policies which they must be in general conformity with and which have themselves been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment, as set out in section 4 above.

**Table 3: Likely significant effects of the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan**

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Assessment of potential impact on Habitat sites</b>	<b>Habitat sites that could possibly be affected</b>	<b>Likely significant effect identified</b>	<b>AA needed?</b>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/s106/habitat-mitigation/>



CC1: High Quality Design	This policy outlines principles of good design for all new development, including the effects on the landscape, both built and natural, residential amenity, lighting and materials. This policy does not allocate development. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites and therefore no likely significant effects have been identified.	None	None	No
CC2: Particular Views	This policy provides protection for the scenic beauty of the Neighbourhood Area and identifies specific views of value. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites and therefore no likely significant effects have been identified.	None	None	No
CC3: Key Movement Routes	This policy identifies key movement routes throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area and encourages new development to connect to and, where possible, enhance these, primarily through pedestrian and cycle connections.  Aside from the additional routes proposed within the boundary of the Local Plan allocation, the routes identified in the policy already exist and form part of the Public Rights of way Network and/ or Highway Network. Therefore, no likely significant effects have been identified.	None	No	No
CC4: Car Parking	This policy seeks to encourage a mix of parking types that are safe and convenient. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites and therefore no likely significant effects have been identified.	None	None	No
CC5: Biodiversity Net Gain and Wildlife-Friendly Development	This policy seeks to deliver Biodiversity Net Gains on new development, integrate wildlife and habitats into new development and consider the principles of Sustainable Urban Drainage. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites and therefore	None	None	No

	no likely significant effects have been identified.			
CC6: Dark Skies and Lighting	The policy seeks to retain the dark skies of the area and to prevent light pollution. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites and therefore no likely significant effects have been identified.	None	None	No
CC7: Community Provision at Bell Farm Allocation	This policy identifies principles for the delivery of community infrastructure on WLP2.16 allocated in the Waveney Local Plan, including the location of the services and further play space needs. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites and therefore no likely significant effects have been identified.	None	None	No
CC8: Carlton Colville Country Park	This policy provides further requirements as to what should be delivered on the country park on WLP2.16 allocated in the Waveney Local Plan. This policy has no direct impacts on Habitat sites, however it may encourage residents to use this area instead of visiting Habitat sites. No likely significant effects have been identified.	None	None	No

## 6. Summary and conclusions

- 6.1 The Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan will provide policies which will be used for determining planning applications alongside the Local Plan. It includes policies with locally specific criteria to be used for the determination of planning applications within the Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 6.2 The Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to be in general conformity with the relevant policies in the Local Plan and will not lead to likely significant effects on Habitat sites.

Signed: 

Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022

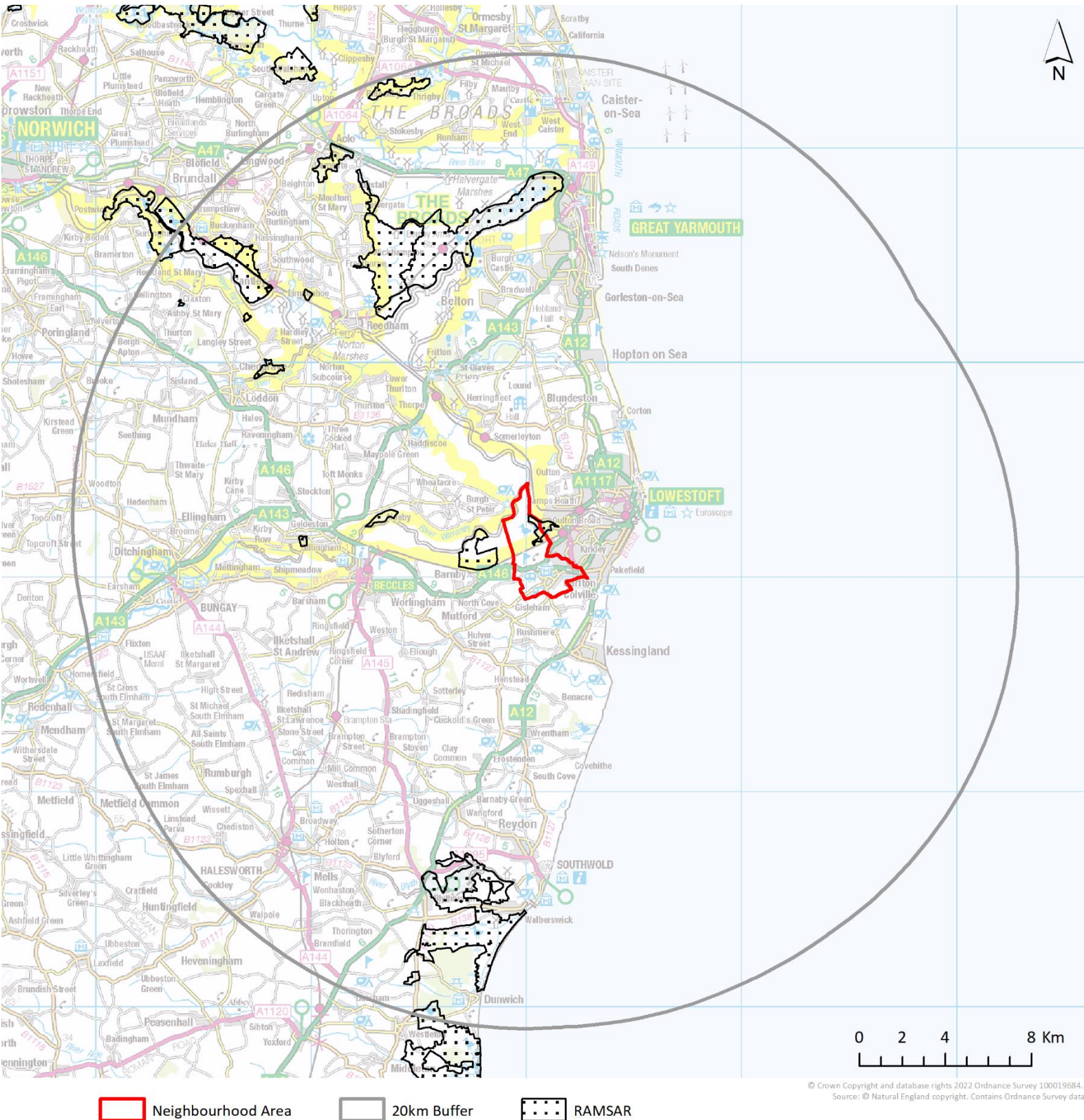
Desi Reed  
Planning Manager (Policy, Delivery & Specialist Services)  
East Suffolk Council

## Appendix 1: Sources of background information

- East Suffolk Council Waveney Local Plan adopted 20 March 2019
- Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Waveney Local Plan (December 2018)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan (June 2018)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Waveney Local Plan (superseded) for the Final Draft Plan (March 2018)
- Draft Habitats Regulations Screening Report for the First Draft Waveney Local Plan (July 2017)
- Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy for Ipswich Borough, Babergh District, Mid Suffolk District and East Suffolk Councils (May 2019)
- Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (May 2021)

## Appendix 2: Locations of Habitat sites

### Ramsar Sites





**Special Areas of Conservation**

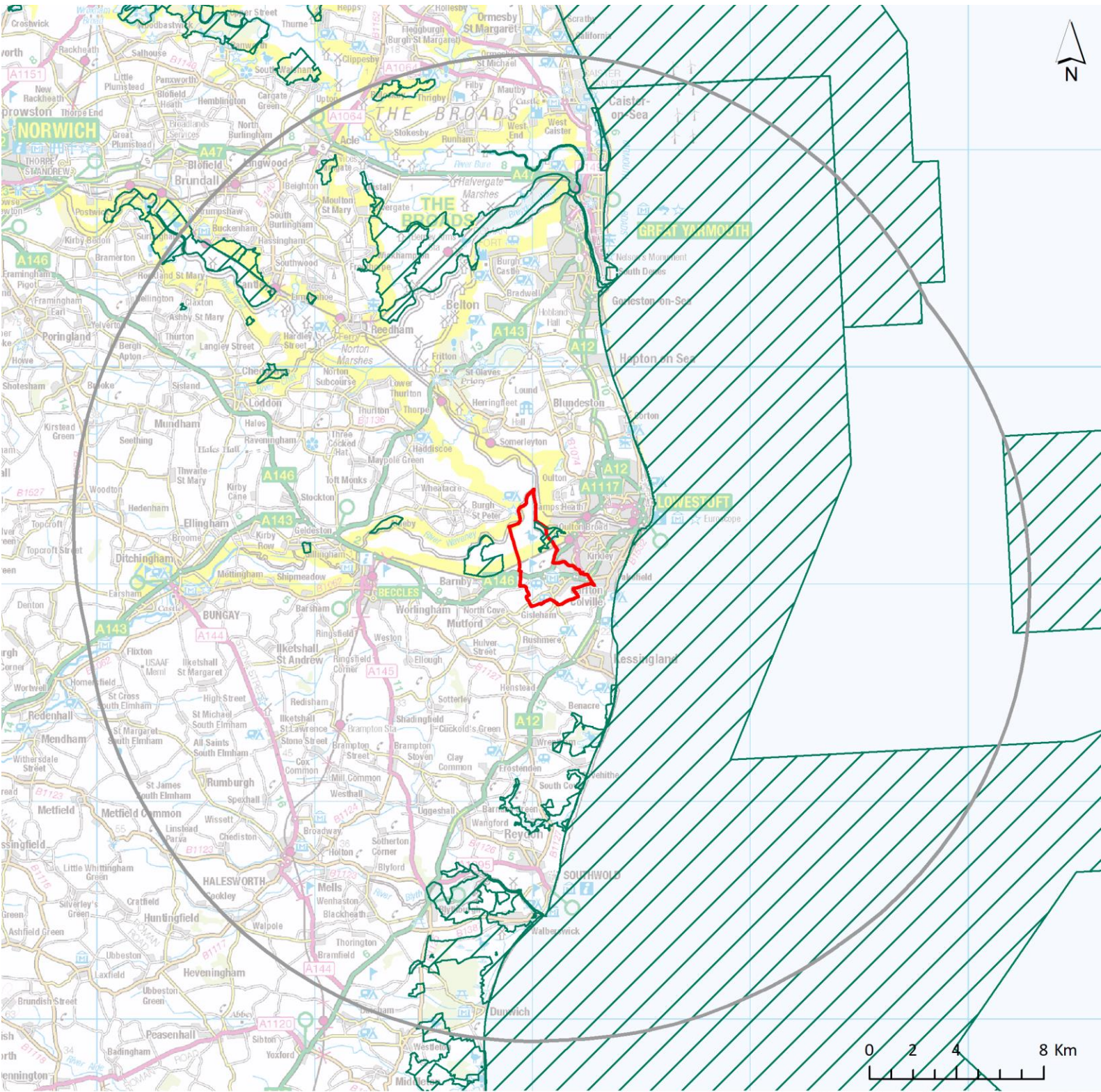


- Neighbourhood Area
- 20km Buffer
- Special Areas of Conservation

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### Special Protection Areas



 Neighbourhood Area     20km Buffer     Special Protection Area

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## Appendix 3: Relevant Habitat sites

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>			
The Broads	H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> : Desmoulin's whorl snail H7230 Alkaline fens H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils ( <i>Molinion caeruleae</i> ) H91E0# Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> ( <i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i> ) H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> -type vegetation S1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i> : Otter S1903 <i>Liparis loeselii</i> : Fen orchid S4056 <i>Anisus vorticulus</i> : Little ramshorn whirlpool snail	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely, The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Water pollution, climate change, invasive species, siltation, inappropriate water levels, hydrological changes, water abstraction, change in land management, inappropriate ditch management, inappropriate scrub control, changes in species distributions, public access/disturbance, undergrazing, drainage, direct impact from 3rd party

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
Benacre to Easton Barents Lagoons	H1150# Coastal lagoons, A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> : Eurasian marsh harrier	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	Public access/disturbance, water pollution, physical modification, changes in species distributions, fisheries (marine and estuarine).
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes	H4030 European dry heaths H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks A052(B) <i>Anas crecca</i> : Eurasian teal A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> : Eurasian marsh harrier A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i> : Hen harrier A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> : European nightjar A056(B) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats,	Coastal squeeze, public access/disturbance, changes in species distributions, invasive species, inappropriate pest control, air pollution, water pollution, deer, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine)

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
	A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler A051(B) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall A132(B) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> : Pied avocet A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern A394(NB) <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> : Greater white-fronted goose	The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	
Southern North Sea	Harbour porpoise ( <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> )	To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes an appropriate contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for harbour porpoise in UK waters.	N/A
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>			
Breydon Water	A132(NB) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> : Pied avocet A140(NB) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> : European golden plover A142(NB) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> : Northern lapwing Waterbird assemblage A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> : Common tern A151(NB) <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> : Ruff A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> : Bewick swan	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features, the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features, the supporting processes on which	Shooting/scaring, change in land management, public access/disturbance, hydrological changes, fisheries (marine and estuarine).

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
		the habitats of the qualifying features rely, the population of each of the qualifying features, and, the distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
Broadlands (also Ramsar site)	<p>H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i></p> <p>S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>: Desmoulin's whorl snail</p> <p>H7230 Alkaline fens</p> <p>H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>H91E0# Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>)</p> <p>H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs</p> <p>H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp</p> <p>H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation</p> <p>S1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i>: Otter</p> <p>S1903 <i>Liparis loeselii</i>: Fen orchid</p> <p>S4056 <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>: Little ramshorn whirlpool snail</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species,</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats,</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species,</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely,</p> <p>The populations of qualifying species, and,</p>	<p>Water pollution, climate change, invasive species, siltation, inappropriate water levels, hydrological changes, water abstraction, change in land management, inappropriate ditch management, inappropriate scrub control, changes in species distributions, public access/disturbance, undergrazing, drainage, direct impact from 3rd party</p>

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
		The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Benacre to Easton Bavents	H1150# Coastal lagoons, A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> : Eurasian marsh harrier	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features, The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features, The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely, The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Public access/disturbance, water pollution, physical modification, changes in species distributions, fisheries (marine and estuarine).
Minsmere to Walberswick (also Ramsar site)	H4030 European dry heaths H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks A052(B) <i>Anas crecca</i> : Eurasian teal A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by	Coastal squeeze, public access/disturbance, changes in species distributions, invasive species, inappropriate pest control, air pollution, water pollution, deer,

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
	<p>A081(B) Circus aeruginosus: Eurasian marsh harrier  A082(NB) Circus cyaneus: Hen harrier  A224(B) Caprimulgus europaeus: European nightjar  A056(B) Anas clypeata: Northern shoveler  A056(NB) Anas clypeata: Northern shoveler  A051(B) Anas strepera: Gadwall  A051(NB) Anas strepera: Gadwall  A132(B) Recurvirostra avosetta: Pied avocet  A195(B) Sterna albifrons: Little tern  A394(NB) Anser albifrons albifrons: Greater white-fronted goose</p>	<p>maintaining or restoring;  The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features,  The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features,  The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely,  The population of each of the qualifying features, and,  The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine)</p>
<p>Outer Thames Estuary</p>	<p>A001 (W) Gavia stellate Red-throated Diver  A195 (B) Sterna hirundo Common Tern  A193 (B) Sternula albifrons Little Tern</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;  The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features,  The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features,  The supporting processes on which the habitats of the</p>	

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
		qualifying features rely, The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
<b>Ramsar Sites</b>			
Breydon Water	Ramsar criterion 5 Internationally important waterfowl assemblage (greater than 20,000 birds)  Ramsar criterion 6 Over winter the site regularly supports internationally important numbers of: Bewick's Swan <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> and Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; The population of each of the qualifying features; and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Shooting/scaring, change in land management, public access/disturbance, hydrological changes, fisheries (marine and estuarine).
Broadland	Ramsar Criterion 1	Natural England considers the	N/A



Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan)
	<p>The site contains a mosaic of marine, freshwater, marshland and associated habitats, complete with transition areas in between. Contains the largest continuous stand of reedbeds in England and Wales and rare transition in grazing marsh ditch plants from brackish to fresh water.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 This site supports nine nationally scarce plants and at least 26 red data book invertebrates. Supports a population of the mollusc <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Habitats Directive Annex II; British Red Data Book Endangered), recently discovered on the Blyth estuary river walls.</p>	<p>Conservation Advice packages for the overlapping European Marine Site designations to be, in most cases, sufficient to support the management of the Ramsar interests.</p>	
Minsmere-Walberswick	<p>Ramsar Criterion 1 The site contains a mosaic of marine, freshwater, marshland and associated habitats, complete with transition areas in between. Contains the largest continuous stand of reedbeds in England and Wales and rare transition in grazing marsh ditch plants from brackish to fresh water.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2 This site supports nine nationally scarce plants and at least 26 red data book invertebrates. Supports a population of the mollusc <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Habitats Directive Annex II; British Red Data Book Endangered), recently discovered on the Blyth estuary river walls.</p>	<p>Natural England considers the Conservation Advice packages for the overlapping European Marine Site designations to be, in most cases, sufficient to support the management of the Ramsar interests.</p>	N/A

## Appendix 4: Natural England Consultation Response

Date: 05 April 2022  
Our ref: 385407  
Your ref: Draft Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan SEA / HRA

East Suffolk District Council  
[REDACTED]

BY EMAIL ONLY



Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Sir or Madam

**Draft Carlton Colville Neighbourhood Plan SEA / HRA**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 02 March 2022 which was received by Natural England on 02 March 2022

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

### **Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment**

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact **Julian Clarke** on **0300 060 3900** For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

Julian Clarke  
Consultations Team