



# Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

## Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan

January 2020

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# 1. Introduction

1.1 The European Habitats Directive<sup>1</sup> and Wild Birds Directive<sup>2</sup> 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 as the European 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) states:

'Where a land use plan:

(a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European sites 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 92/43/EEC

<sup>2</sup> 2009/147/EEC

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>3</sup>, which has ruled that where 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 Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan is being produced by Kesgrave Town Council. A Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been produced and this screening assessment considers whether there are likely to be significant effects on protected European sites and whether a full Appropriate Assessment will be required. The Screening was revisited in November 2019 to reflect amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan for Submission under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). In particular this reflects the inclusion of an additional policy.

1.6 The Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The adopted Local Plan is currently the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2013), the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies DPD (2017) and saved policies contained in the Local Plan (2001), however a new Local Plan for the Suffolk

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<sup>3</sup> C-323/17 – People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta

Coastal area of East Suffolk is currently being prepared and is well advanced. The Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan is therefore being developed within the context of the relevant policies contained in the emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (the Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan, January 2019).

- 1.7 The emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan has been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment as part of its production. Where screening identified a likely significant effect, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken and mitigation measures identified were incorporated within the Final Draft Local Plan, resulting in a conclusion that the plan will not lead to any adverse effects on European wildlife sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Suffolk Coastal District. The 2013 Core Strategy was also previously subject to strategic level Appropriate Assessment which concluded that without mitigation there would be a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, alone and in combination with other plans. The Appropriate Assessment identified recreational disturbance particularly from dog walkers as the main significant effect. The Council has subsequently undertaken to produce a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy and requires payment towards mitigation from residential developments within 13km of the protected European sites.
- 1.8 This screening report contains the results of Stage 1 (above) in relation to the Draft 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 European site. The initial screening was undertaken by East Suffolk Council and was subject to a five week consultation with Natural England as statutory consultee in April/May 2019. Natural England were re-consulted on the updated Screening in November/December 2019.

## **2. Protected sites covered by this screening report**

- 2.1 Sites included in this assessment are listed in Table 1. This includes all sites that are within 20km of the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan area (for consistency with the distances applied within the HRA of the emerging Suffolk Coastal 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 Final Draft Local Plan.

Table 1: Relevant European protected sites

<b>Name</b>
Alde-Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC
Hamford Water SAC
Orfordness – Shingle Street SAC
Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden SAC
Alde-Ore Estuary SPA
Deben Estuary SPA
Hamford Water SPA
Outer Thames Estuary SPA
Sandlings SPA
Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA
Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar
Deben Estuary Ramsar
Hamford Water Ramsar
Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar

### 3. Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 Kesgrave Town Council is producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Kesgrave, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the town up to 2036, within the context of the emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. This HRA screening assessment reviewed an emerging draft of the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan in April 2019 during its production, and has subsequently been updated in November 2019 to reflect the inclusion of an additional policy.
- 3.2 The Draft Neighbourhood Plan reviewed includes a range of policies covering the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan area. A number of policies relate to the full Neighbourhood Plan area whilst others are area/location specific. The Plan does not allocate specific sites for development.
- 3.3 The policies in the Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan as reviewed are listed in Table 2 below. An assessment of whether each policy is likely to have a significant effect on European protected sites is included in section 5 of this report.

Table 2: List of Neighbourhood Plan policies

KE1	Infill, backland and residential garden development
KE2	Residential Uses in Kesgrave District Centre
KE3	Maintaining Kesgrave’s Identity
KE4	Benefits of Green and Community Growing Spaces
KE5	Local Green Spaces
KE6	Wildlife Conservation
KE7	Non-Designated Heritage Assets
KE8	Improving the Provision of Leisure Facilities
KE9	Maintaining and Improving Walking and Cycling Infrastructure
KE10	Improving Bus Services and Infrastructure
KE11	Improving Residential Parking

## 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 emerging Local Plan is well advanced, and was submitted for Examination in March 2019. Until the adoption of the new Local Plan, the adopted Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (2013) and Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies DPD (2017) also contain relevant policies. The emerging Local Plan sets out the broad scale and distribution of development across the area of East Suffolk formerly covered by Suffolk Coastal District. This has been subject to an Appropriate Assessment as part of its production. The current adopted plan is the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2013 which was adopted in July 2013 and was subject to a strategic level appropriate assessment. The currently adopted Site Allocations and Area Specific Strategies DPD (2017) implements the policies and development strategy set out in the Core Strategy.
- 4.5 The Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan policies interpret the strategy and policies of the emerging Local Plan at a local level. The policies contained in the Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan are proposed to provide locally

specific, criteria based policy guidance for the determination of planning applications.

- 4.6 Policy SCLP12.1 of the emerging Local Plan provides an indicative minimum housing figure of 20 to the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan area for the period 2018 – 2036. The draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any site allocations and seeks to deliver this number of dwellings through a policy approach which supports residential development in the District Centre as part of a mixed use approach along with a policy approach for infill and backland residential development.
- 4.7 A screening process has considered each policy in the emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and concluded whether significant effects are likely and that an Appropriate Assessment is needed. The Appropriate Assessment has subsequently considered the following themes - recreation pressure from new residential development, recreation pressure from tourism, urbanisation effects in close proximity, air quality from increased road traffic, water quality and resources and biodiversity net gain. Mitigation measures were identified within the Appropriate Assessment and were incorporated within the Final Draft Local Plan, resulting in a conclusion that the plan will not lead to any adverse effects on European wildlife sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Suffolk Coastal District.
- 4.8 The 2013 Core Strategy was also previously subject to strategic level Appropriate Assessment which concluded that without mitigation there would be a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites, alone and in combination with other plans. The Appropriate Assessment identified recreational disturbance particularly from dog walkers as the main significant effect. The Council has subsequently undertaken to produce a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy and requires payment towards mitigation of significant effects from residential developments within 13km of the protected European sites.



## 5. Assessment of likely effects of the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan on European protected sites

- 5.1 Table 3 below considers each policy of the Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan reviewed in relation to whether there is potential for a likely significant effect on protected European 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 Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Assessment of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites</b>	<b>Natura 2000 sites that could possibly be affected</b>	<b>Likely significant effect identified</b>	<b>AA needed?</b>
KE1 Infill and Residential Garden Development	This policy provides locally specific criteria reflecting policy SCLP5.7 in the emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (and policy DM7 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD). The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the emerging Local Plan has identified no likely significant effects from policy SCLP5.7. Policy relating to design and layout will not result in likely significant effects.	None	None	No

<p>KE2 Residential Uses in Kesgrave District Centre</p>	<p>The policy supports residential uses in the District Centre as part of mixed use development. The policy is not an allocation but sets out the range of uses that would be supported within the District Centre. The policy aims to contribute to the delivery of the housing requirement of a minimum of 20 dwellings set out in SCLP12.1 which has been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment through the production of the Local Plan, and mitigation has been incorporated in the Local Plan where necessary. The policy itself will therefore not lead to any likely significant effects.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>KE3 Maintaining Kesgrave's Identity</p>	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that new development does not compromise the appreciation of key landscape features that give Kesgrave its identity and that key views are protected. As a policy which seeks to protect the environment generally, no likely significant effects are identified.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>KE4 Benefits of Green and Community Growing Spaces</p>	<p>This policy seeks to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists to public green spaces and to secure provision of growing spaces as part of new development. This may provide indirect positive effects by reducing recreational pressure at European protected sites which are outside of Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan area, and therefore no likely significant effects are identified.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>KE5 Local Green Spaces</p>	<p>This policy identifies and protects 6 Local Green Spaces. This may potentially have indirect positive effects on European protected sites by retaining and protecting publicly accessible spaces within Kesgrave, thus reducing recreational pressure on European protected sites. Therefore no likely significant effects are identified.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>KE6 Wildlife Conservation</p>	<p>This policy seeks to deliver enhancements for wildlife as part of new development. This will contribute towards the principles of the enhancement of the wider environment and therefore no likely significant effects are identified.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

KE7 Non-Designated Heritage Assets	This policy identifies a 7 Non-Designated Heritage Assets (one incorporating four separate milestones), and sets out an approach for the conservation and enhancement of the assets and their setting. This policy will not have a direct effect on any European protected sites and no likely significant effects are identified.	None	None	No
KE8 Improving the Provision of Leisure Facilities	This policy supports the provision of new sports and recreation facilities in Kesgrave. It is considered that the policy could result in an indirect positive effect on protected European sites through the provision of enhanced recreation facilities within Kesgrave which may reduce recreational pressure on the protected sites. Therefore no likely significant effects are identified.	None	None	No
KE9 Maintaining and Improving Walking and Cycling Infrastructure	This policy seeks to maintain existing walking and cycling infrastructure and enhance walking and cycling access to leisure facilities outside of the Neighbourhood Plan area. As the policy is aimed specifically at access to leisure facilities, no likely significant effects are identified.	None	None	None

<p>KE10 Improving Bus Services and Infrastructure</p>	<p>The policy supports development where this will retain and enhance bus services and infrastructure, and also seeks enhancements to bus services and infrastructure. This policy will not have a direct effect on any European protected sites. Therefore no likely significant effects are identified.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>KE10 Improving Residential Parking</p>	<p>The policy aims to ensure that residential parking is provided in such a way that avoids issues associated with on street parking and enables safe access. This policy will not have a direct effect on any European protected sites. Therefore no likely significant effects are identified.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

## 6. Summary and conclusions

- 6.1 The Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan will provide policy which will be used for determining planning applications alongside the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. It includes locally specific criteria based policies to be used for the determination of planning applications within the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan area and the identification of location specific Local Green Spaces and Non-Designated Heritage Assets.
- 6.2 The Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to be in general conformity with the relevant policies in the emerging Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, and also considers the relevant policies of the currently adopted Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document (2013) and the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies DPD (2017). The policies provide locally specific criteria and will not lead to likely significant effects on protected European sites.



Signed:

Dated: 9 January 2020

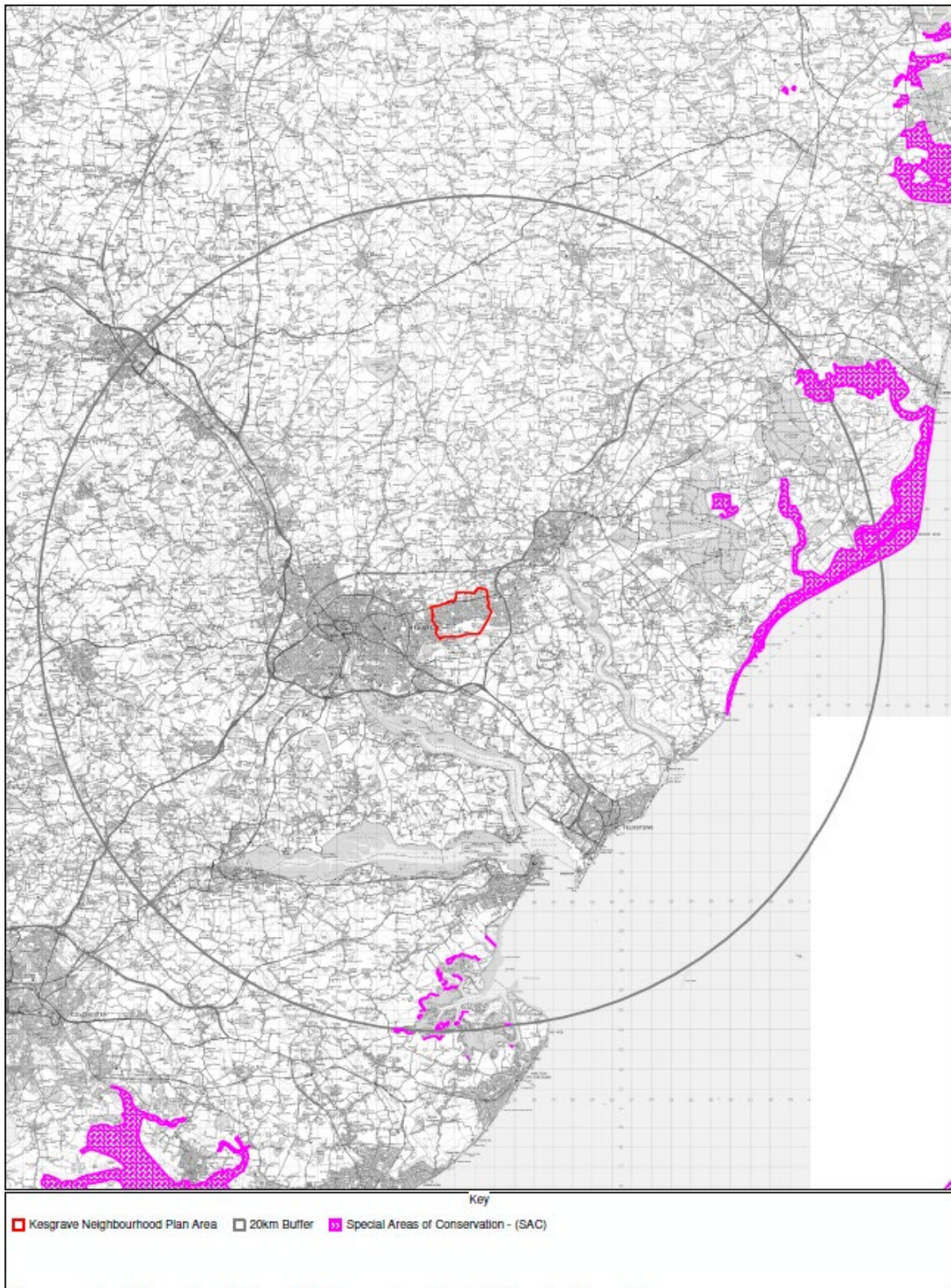
Desi Reed  
Planning Policy and Delivery Manager  
East Suffolk Council

## Appendix 1: Sources of background information

- Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan at Final Draft Plan stage (December 2018)
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for Suffolk Coastal District Council Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies (February & March 2016)
- Appropriate Assessment for Modifications to Suffolk Coastal District Council Core Strategy and Development Management Policies June 2013 (Addendum to Appropriate Assessment November 2011)



## Appendix 2: Locations of European protected sites



Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening Map 3 (20km buffer only)

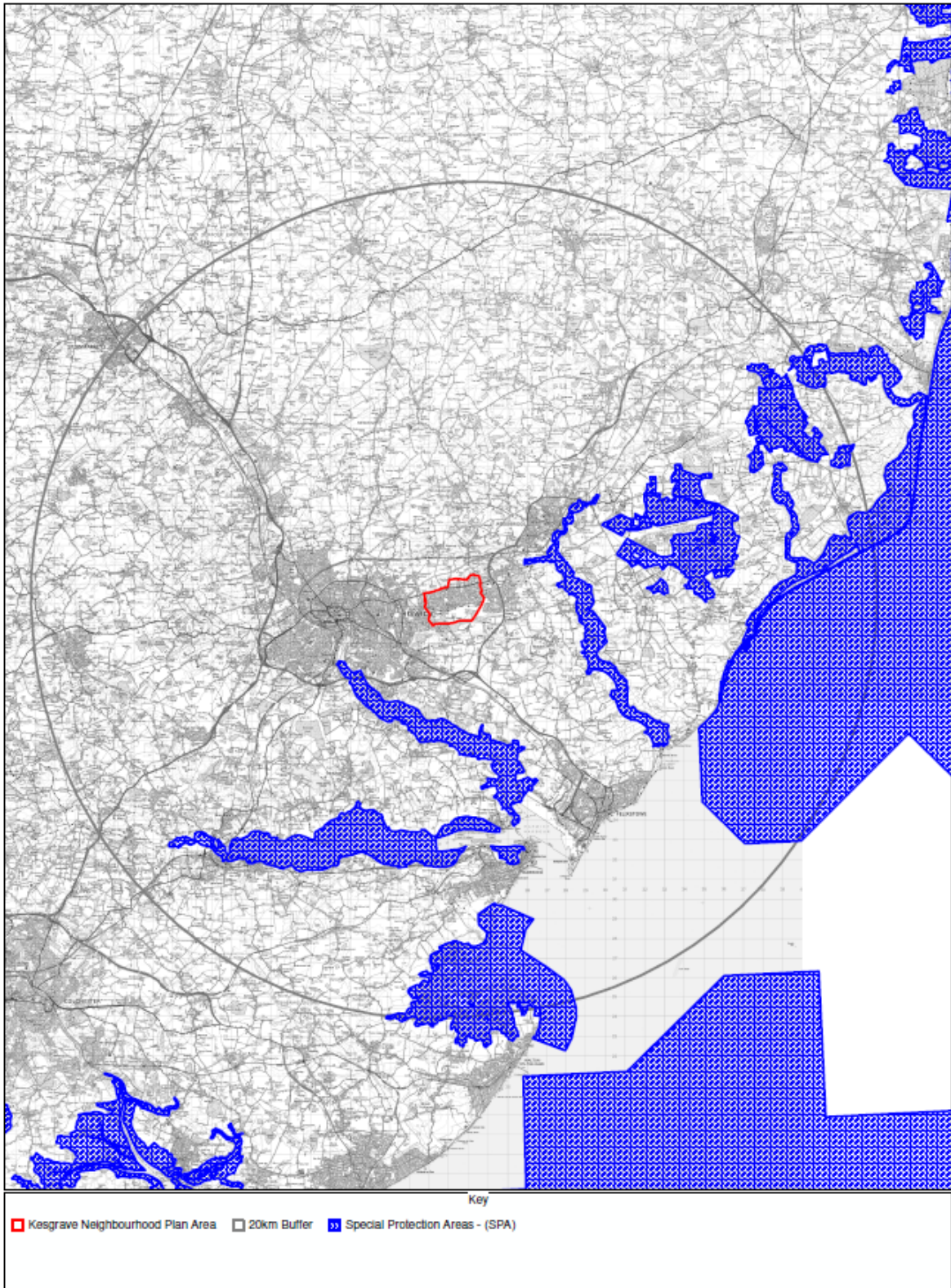
East Suffolk Council

Scale 1:170000

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Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening Map 2 (20km buffer only)

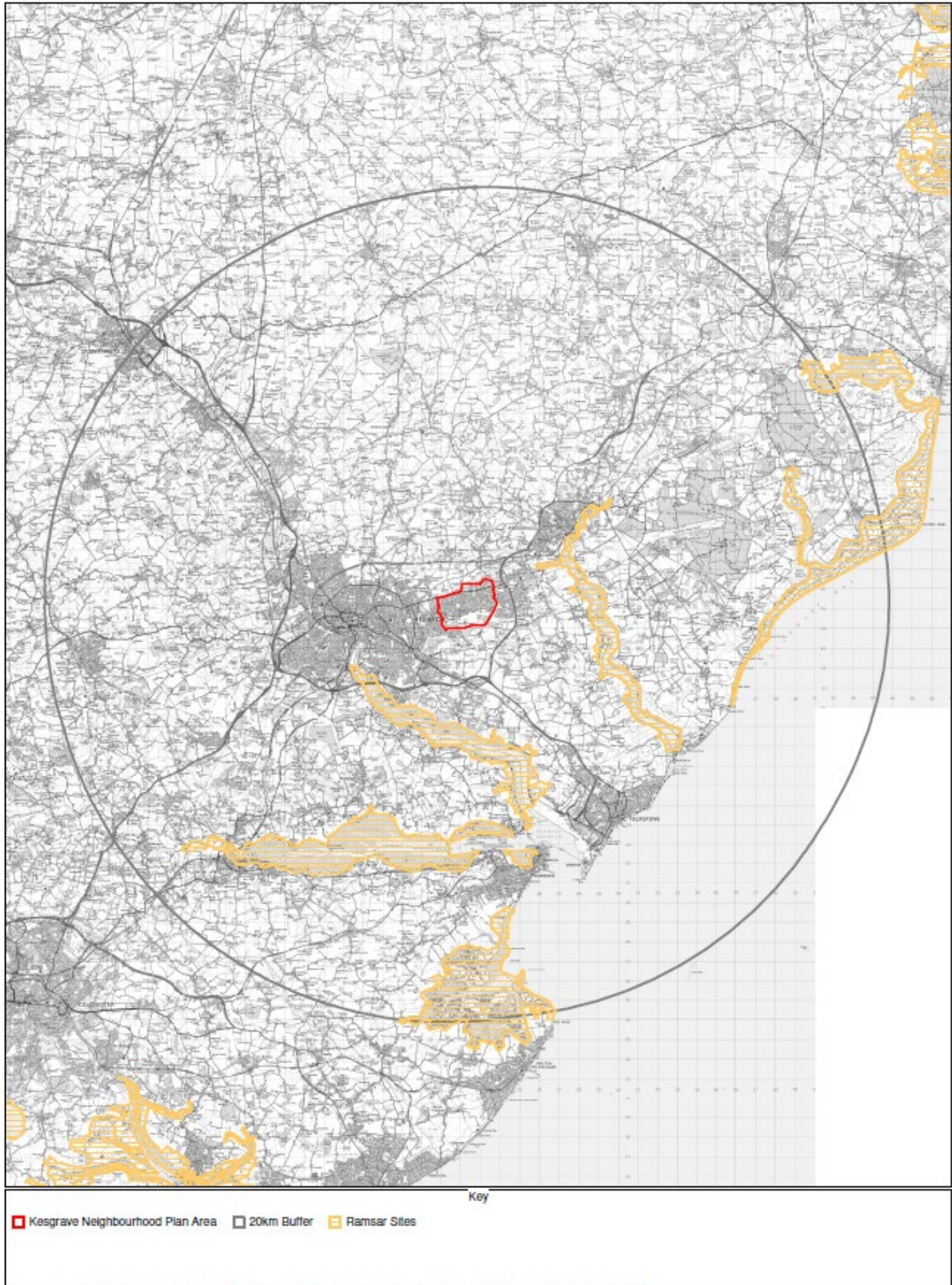
East Suffolk Council

Scale 1:170000

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**Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening Map 1 (20km buffer only)**

**East Suffolk Council**

Scale 1:170000

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### Appendix 3: Relevant European protected sites

Name	Qualifying features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan at Final Draft Plan Stage (December 2018))
<b>Special Areas of Conservation</b>			
Alde-Ore and Butley Estuaries	H1130:Estuaries H1140: Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats H1330: Atlantic salt meadows	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; The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	Hydrological changes, public access/disturbance, inappropriate coastal management, coastal squeeze, inappropriate pest control, changes in species distributions, invasive species, air pollution, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine) (Alde-Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC and Alde-Ore SPA)
Hamford Water	S4035: Fisher’s Estuarine Moth	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 the habitats of qualifying species; The structure and function of the habitats	Coastal squeeze, site management (scrub control), disturbance to breeding and overwintering birds, possible atmospheric air pollution issues. (Hamford Water SAC and Hamford Water SPA)

		<p>of qualifying species;                  The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely;                  The populations of qualifying species; and                  The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	
<p>Orfordness – Shingle Street</p>	<p>H1150: Coastal Lagoons                  H1210: Annual vegetation of drift lines                  H1220: Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves</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:                  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.</p>	<p>Not identified in Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan HRA.</p>
<p>Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden</p>	<p>H9190: Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features by maintaining or restoring:                  The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats;                  The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats; and</p>	<p>Woodland management, disease, atmospheric pollution.</p>

		The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	
<b>Special Protection Areas</b>			
Alde-Ore Estuary (also Ramsar site)	A081: Eurasian marsh harrier (breeding) A132: Pied avocet (non-breeding) A132: Pied avocet (breeding) A151: Ruff (non-breeding) A162: Common redshank (non-breeding) A183: Lesser black-backed gull (breeding) A191: Sandwich tern (breeding) A195: Little tern (breeding)	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely; The population of each of the qualifying features; and The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Hydrological changes, public access/disturbance, inappropriate coastal management, coastal squeeze, inappropriate pest control, changes in species distributions, invasive species, air pollution, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine) (Alde-Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC and Alde-Ore SPA)
Deben Estuary (also Ramsar site)	A046a: Dark bellied brent goose (non-breeding) A132: Pied avocet (non-breeding)	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features; The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features; The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;	Coastal squeeze, disturbance to birds, water and air pollution.

		<p>The population of each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	
<p>Hamford Water (also Ramsar site)</p>	<p>A046a: Dark bellied brent goose (non-breeding)  A048: Common shelduck (non-breeding)  A052: Eurasian teal (non-breeding)  A132: Pied avocet (non-breeding)  A137: Ringed plover (non-breeding)  A141: Grey plover (non-breeding)  A156: Black-tailed godwit (non-breeding)  A162: Common redshank (non-breeding)  A195: Little tern (breeding)</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <p>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;</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>Coastal squeeze, site management (scrub control), disturbance to breeding and overwintering birds, possible atmospheric air pollution issues.  (Hamford Water SAC and Hamford Water SPA)</p>
<p>Outer Thames Estuary</p>	<p>A001: Red-throated Diver (Non-breeding)  A195: Common Tern (Breeding)  A193: Little Tern (Breeding)</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <p>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;</p>	<p>Not identified in Suffolk Coastal Final Draft Local Plan HRA. SIP identifies fisheries.</p>

		<p>The population of each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	
Sandlings	<p>A224: European nightjar (breeding)</p> <p>A246: Woodlark (breeding)</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features; and</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>Changes in species distributions, inappropriate scrub control, deer, air pollution, public access/disturbance.</p>
Stour and Orwell Estuaries (also Ramsar site)	<p>A046a: Dark bellied brent goose (non-breeding)</p> <p>A054: Northern pintail (non-breeding)</p> <p>A132: Pied avocet (non-breeding)</p> <p>A141: Grey plover (non-breeding)</p> <p>A143: Red knot (non-breeding)</p> <p>A149: Dunlin (non-breeding)</p> <p>A156: Black-tailed godwit (non-breeding)</p> <p>A162: Common redshank (non-</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</p>	<p>Coastal squeeze, disturbance to birds, air pollution and new development.</p>



	breeding) Waterbird assemblage	The population of each of the qualifying features; and The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
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## Appendix 4: Natural England Consultation Response

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**Subject:** RE: Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan - SEA and HRA Screening

**From:** Jackson, John [mailto: [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk]  
**Sent:** 07 June 2019 14:40  
**To:** Andrea McMillan  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan - SEA and HRA Screening

Hi Andrea,  
Apologies for my delay getting back to you.  
I can confirm that Natural England agrees with the conclusion of the HRA that the Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect either alone, or in combination with other plans or projects, as it is in general conformity with local plan policies which have their own HRA.

Best Regards

John

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**From:** Andrea McMillan  
**Sent:** 26 April 2019 12:29  
**To:** 'consultations@naturalengland.org.uk'  
**Subject:** Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan - SEA and HRA Screening

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a Strategic Environmental Assessment draft screening opinion relating to the Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan, on which I would be grateful for your response. I also attach the Draft Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan on which the screening is based – please note this is not currently publicly available so please treat as confidential.

The draft screening opinion concludes that no further SEA work is required.

I also attach a draft Screening Assessment in relation to Habitats Regulations Assessment, on which I would also be grateful for your response. This concludes that no Appropriate Assessment will be required. Please note that we are looking to establish a template which can be used for HRA screening of Neighbourhood Plans across East Suffolk (where the Neighbourhood Plan group asks the Council to undertake this on their behalf), and I would therefore also appreciate any comments you have in this respect.

I would be grateful if you could respond within five weeks, by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

If you have any queries or require any assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Andrea McMillan



**Andrea McMillan | Principal Planner**  
East Suffolk Council

[REDACTED]  
[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

East Suffolk Council is a new district authority which, from April 2019, delivers services for the residents, businesses and communities previously served by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils

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**From:** SM-NE-Consultations (NE) <consultations@naturalengland.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 18 November 2019 10:00  
**To:** Andrea McMillan  
**Subject:** Natural England Response

Dear Andrea McMillan,

Our ref: 300789

**Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening and SEA Screening**

Thank you for your consultation.

Natural England has previously commented on this proposal and made comments to the authority in our letter dated 07 June 2019

The advice provided in our previous response applies equally to this HRA Screening Update and have no further comments to make.

The proposed amendments to the original application are unlikely to have significantly different impacts on the natural environment than the original proposal.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again. Before sending us the amended consultation, please assess whether the changes proposed will materially affect any of the advice we have previously offered. If they are unlikely to do so, please do not re-consult us.

Yours sincerely,

Danielle Priestner  
Consultations  
Natural England  
Hornbeam House, Electra Way  
Crewe Business Park  
Crewe, Cheshire CW1 6GJ

tel: [REDACTED]  
email [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk)

[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

**We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

**Natural England offers two chargeable services - the Discretionary Advice Service, which provides pre-application and post-consent advice on planning/licensing proposals to developers and consultants, and the Pre-submission Screening Service for European Protected Species mitigation licence applications. These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of**

**project development, reduce uncertainty, the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.**

For further information on the Discretionary Advice Service see [here](#)  
For further information on the Pre-submission Screening Service see [here](#)

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