

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

North Lowestoft Heritage
Action Zone Design Guide
Supplementary Planning Document

April 2020

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The European Habitats Directive¹ and Wild Birds Directive² 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 plans and projects is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended, including through EU Exit legislation).
- 1.3 Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended, including 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 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 Union³, which has ruled that where mitigation is necessary this must be identified through an Appropriate Assessment.

¹ 92/43/EEC

² 2009/147/EEC

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

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 North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is being produced by Place Services on behalf of East Suffolk Council working in partnership with Historic England, Lowestoft Town Council and the East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust (ESBPT). The SPD will apply to the area shown on the map in Appendix 2. This report considers whether there are likely to be significant effects on protected European sites and whether a full Appropriate Assessment may be required.
- 1.6 The adopted Local Plan is the East Suffolk Council - Waveney Local Plan adopted 20 March 2019.
- 1.7 The East Suffolk Council - Waveney Local Plan was subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment as part of its production. Where screening identified a likely significant effect, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken and the mitigation measures identified were incorporated within the 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 Waveney District Council. The Appropriate Assessment identified recreational disturbance particularly from dog walkers as the main significant effect. The Council has subsequently finalised and published a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy and requires payment towards mitigation from residential developments within 13km of the protected European sites.

2. Protected sites covered by this report

- 2.1 Sites included in this assessment are listed in Table 1. This includes all sites that are within 20km of the area covered by the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone SPD (for consistency with the distances applied within the HRA of the Waveney Local Plan and adopting the precautionary approach). The locations of the sites are shown on maps in Appendix 3 and the Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives of the sites are contained in Appendix 4, along with a summary of the pressures and threats as documented in the Appropriate Assessment for the Local Plan.

Table 1: Relevant European protected sites

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

3. North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

- 3.1 The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone is a five year initiative funded by Historic England that began in March 2018 and will run until March 2023. The Historic England initiative aims to use the potential of the historic environment to revive old places and create economic growth through partnership with local people and local authorities.
- 3.2 The Design Guide SPD was commissioned by East Suffolk Council in partnership with Historic England, Lowestoft Town Council and the East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust. The Design Guide introduces the northern area of Lowestoft explaining its historic importance, designation as Heritage Action Zone and the purpose of the

Design Guide to facilitate the delivery of high quality design. Once adopted, the Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document will be a material consideration in taking decisions on planning applications.

- 3.3 The Design Guide initially provides detail in sections 1-3 on the Heritage Action Zone initiative and intention to ensure places meet their potential and are attractive to residents, business, tourist and investors. The Design Guide describes the aims of the HAZ project to achieve this through joint working, grant funding, and skill sharing.
- 3.4 The aims and scope of the document are described as ensuring “new development conserves and enhances the character of the area and maximizes its contribution to the heritage led regeneration.” Sections 4 and 5 of the Design Guide provide national and local planning policy context and detail the historic evolution of northern Lowestoft from the post-medieval to the modern day. A Statement of Historic Significance together with details of heritage assets and an analysis of the five main character areas is provided in Section 6. These key areas are the historic High Street, Whapload Road, the Power Park and surrounds, historic parklands, and the Scores (pedestrian passageways unique to the area).
- 3.5 Proposals that will enable high quality design to assist in the regeneration of the historic area are contained in sections 7-10 on the guidance for new development, public realm, alterations and shopfronts.
- 3.6 The guidance for new development analyses existing development in each of the five main character areas and identifies the key characteristics that new development should reflect. In the Whapload Road character area these include dominate gable frontages, long building depths, and a palette of pebbles, brick and painted brick wall. Guidance for new development also analyses the urban grain, movement, permeability and legibility of the heritage action zone. Key proposals include the provision of guidance on aspirational highway works to make the High Street a one-way road with increased footway space, providing a ‘Tiger’ crossing to reconnect Crown Street, and reducing the carriageway along Whapload Road.
- 3.7 The guidance for the public realm addresses street furniture, landscaping, materials, and key spaces for improvement. Design guidance is included on alterations to the junction between the High Street and Compass Street, High Street and Mariners Street, along Whapload Road, and several of the Scores, and guidance is also

included on enhancing public open space associated with any potential one-way scheme on the High Street.

- 3.8 As detailed above, sections 1-6 of the Design Guide contain the background and context for the initiative, a description of the history and analysis of the character of the designated area. These sections do not propose specific actions or guidance. The guidance that supports high quality design to regenerate the historic area is contained in sections 7-10. Screening will therefore focus on sections 7-10 of the Draft North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide.

4. Other Plans and Projects

- 4.1 Regulation 105 of the 2017 Regulations (as amended, including through EU Exit legislation) 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 subject to Examination in autumn of 2018 and adopted at Full Council on 20th March 2019. The Local Plan sets out the broad scale and distribution of development across the northern area of East Suffolk formerly covered by Waveney District Council.
- 4.5 The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Plan Design Guide SPD provides detail in the implementation of policies in the adopted Waveney Local Plan as well as complementing the existing Built Heritage and Design Supplementary Planning Document adopted in April 2012 and the newly emerging Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Document which is in production.
- 4.6 The existing Built Heritage and Design Supplementary Planning Document can be found at <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Waveney-Local-Plan/Supplementary-Planning-Documents/Historic-Buildings-and-Conservation-Areas/01-Adopted-Built-Heritage-and-Design-SPD-.pdf>
- 4.7 Through the production of the Waveney Local Plan, a screening process considered each policy in the Local Plan and concluded whether significant effects are likely and that an Appropriate Assessment is needed. The Appropriate Assessment of The Waveney Local Plan has subsequently considered the following themes –
- Transport and air quality
 - Water quality

- Flood risk and coastal erosion,
- Tourism, retail and employment development, and
- Recreation (described as visitation in the HRA)

4.8 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 European wildlife sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Waveney District.

5. Assessment of likely effects of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide on European protected sites

5.1 Table 3 below considers each relevant section of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide SPD 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 relevant sections are considered within the context of the Local Plan policies from which they hang and which have themselves been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment, as set out in section 4 above. These Local Plan policies can be found in Section 2 Strategy for the Lowestoft Area and Section 7 District-Wide Strategic Planning Policies and include;

- Local Plan Policy WLP2.2 Power Park
- Local Plan Policy WLP2.5 East of England Park
- Local Plan Policy WLP2.9 Historic High Street and Scores Area
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.12 Existing Employment Areas
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.18 New Town Centre Use Development
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.19 Vitality and Viability of Town Centres
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.23 Protection of Open Spaces
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.29 Design
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.30 Design of Open Spaces
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.37 Historic Environment
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.31 Lifetime Design
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.38 Non Designated Heritage Assets
- Local Plan Policy WLP8.39 Conservation Areas

5.2 At the time Natural England advised the potential for traffic increases in close proximity to European sites as a result of increased development, potentially leading to air quality impacts, and the potential for recreation impacts as a result of the quantum of housing proposed, could specifically lead to disturbance of birds, and damage to sensitive habitats. The subsequent Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Waveney Local Plan by Footprint Ecology included recommendations that were added to the plan. It concluded that the Waveney Local Plan conformed with Habitats Regulations and adverse impacts would be prevented.

Table 3: Likely significant effects of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide

[Policy/ Section]	Assessment of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites	Natura 2000 sites that could possibly be affected	Likely significant effect identified	AA needed?
7.0 Guidance for New Developments: Historic Core	Analysis of existing development and identification of key characteristics and palette of materials to be reflected in new development and inspirational images of infill development.	None	None	No
7.1 Guidance for New Developments: Whapload Road	Analysis of existing development and identification of key characteristics and palette of materials to be reflected in new development.	None	None	No
7.2 Guidance for New Developments: Power Park and surrounds	Analysis of existing development and identification of key characteristics and palette of materials to be reflected in new development.	None	None	No
7.3 Guidance for New Developments: Parklands	Analysis of existing development and identification of key characteristics and palette of materials to be reflected in new development.	None	None	No
7.4 Guidance for New Developments: The Scores	Analysis of existing development and identification of key characteristics and palette of materials to be reflected in new development.	None	None	No

[Policy/ Section]	Assessment of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites	Natura 2000 sites that could possibly be affected	Likely significant effect identified	AA needed?
7.5 Urban Grain, Movement, Permeability and Legibility	Proposals to make the High Street one-way and increase and prioritise pedestrian footways.	None	None	No
7.6 Reconnecting Crown Street	Proposal to create a 'Tiger' crossing to reconnect Crown Street.	None	None	No
8.0 Guidance for Public Realm: Street Furniture, Landscaping, Materials	Guidelines for the amount, durability, colour and positioning of street furniture. Guidance to care for green spaces. Guidance on surface materials for roads and pavements.	None	None	No
8.1 Public Realm Enhancement Identification Map	Map identifying the street typology and places for public realm improvements.	None	None	No
8.2 Historic Core: High Street	Proposal to make the High Street north bound only, reduce carriageway speeds, widen footpaths, introduce raingardens, use high quality surface materials and introduce discrete parking bays.	None	None	No

[Policy/ Section]	Assessment of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites	Natura 2000 sites that could possibly be affected	Likely significant effect identified	AA needed?
8.3 Whapload Road -South, Whapload Road - North	Proposal to reduce carriageway width, widen footways, introduce raised tables, improve links to The Scores, and introduce markings identifying the location of the former Beech Village.	None	None	No
8.4 The Scores	Proposal to reduce carriageway to minimum, widen footways and use quality surface materials.	None	None	No
8.5 Initial materials and street furniture palette	Proposed type, style, and colour of materials and street furniture.	None	None	No
8.6 Key Public Spaces	Proposal to create a public square outside the Blue Anchor pub. Proposal for a public space that highlights the heritage of the Scores in front of Christ Church. Proposal to utilize flank walls as canvasses.	None	None	No
8.7 Plant Palettes and Zoning	Proposed plant palette for main character areas.	None	None	No
9.0 Guidance for Alterations	Guidance on both internal and external alterations to existing buildings in the HAZ area.	None	None	No

[Policy/ Section]	Assessment of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites	Natura 2000 sites that could possibly be affected	Likely significant effect identified	AA needed?
10.0 Guidance for Shopfronts	Guidance on shopfront including history, design, materials, colour palette and advertisement.	None	None	No

6. Summary and conclusions

- 6.1 The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document will provide additional guidance to inform the regeneration of the area and the design of new development within the area. The guidance will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications alongside the Waveney Local Plan. It includes information on the key characteristics to be reflected in the design of new development, proposals to improve the public realm, information to assist in high quality internal and external alterations of existing buildings, and guidance for the design of shopfronts.
- 6.2 The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document will assist in securing high quality developments to be brought forward in the area. The guidance for new development, public realm, alterations and shopfronts will assist in the regeneration of the historic area. It will be instrumental in realising the full potential of the historic northern area of Lowestoft.
- 6.3 The Heritage Action Zone area is adjacent to the shoreline and in close proximity to the Broads. The area has been in employment, residential, retail and tourism use for years. The proposals and guidance relate solely to an existing, clearly defined, urban area of north Lowestoft.
- 6.4 Regeneration is expected to make a positive contribution to the local economy through increased visitation to retail and tourism uses in the Heritage Action Zone. The Design Guide is not likely to increase visitation to areas outside the Heritage Action Zone and settlement boundary of Lowestoft.
- 6.5 The guidance and proposals in the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document are considered to have no significant adverse impact on any Natura 2000 sites either independently or in combination with other plans and strategies. It is therefore not considered necessary to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document.

- 6.6 The draft Screening Statement was published for consultation alongside the draft Supplementary Planning Document. Natural England, as the appropriate nature conservation body, were consulted on the draft Screening Statement and confirmed that they agree with the conclusions. Their response is contained in Appendix 5.

Signed: 

Dated: 09 April 2020

Desi Reed
Planning Policy and Delivery Manager
East Suffolk Council

Appendix 1: Sources of background information

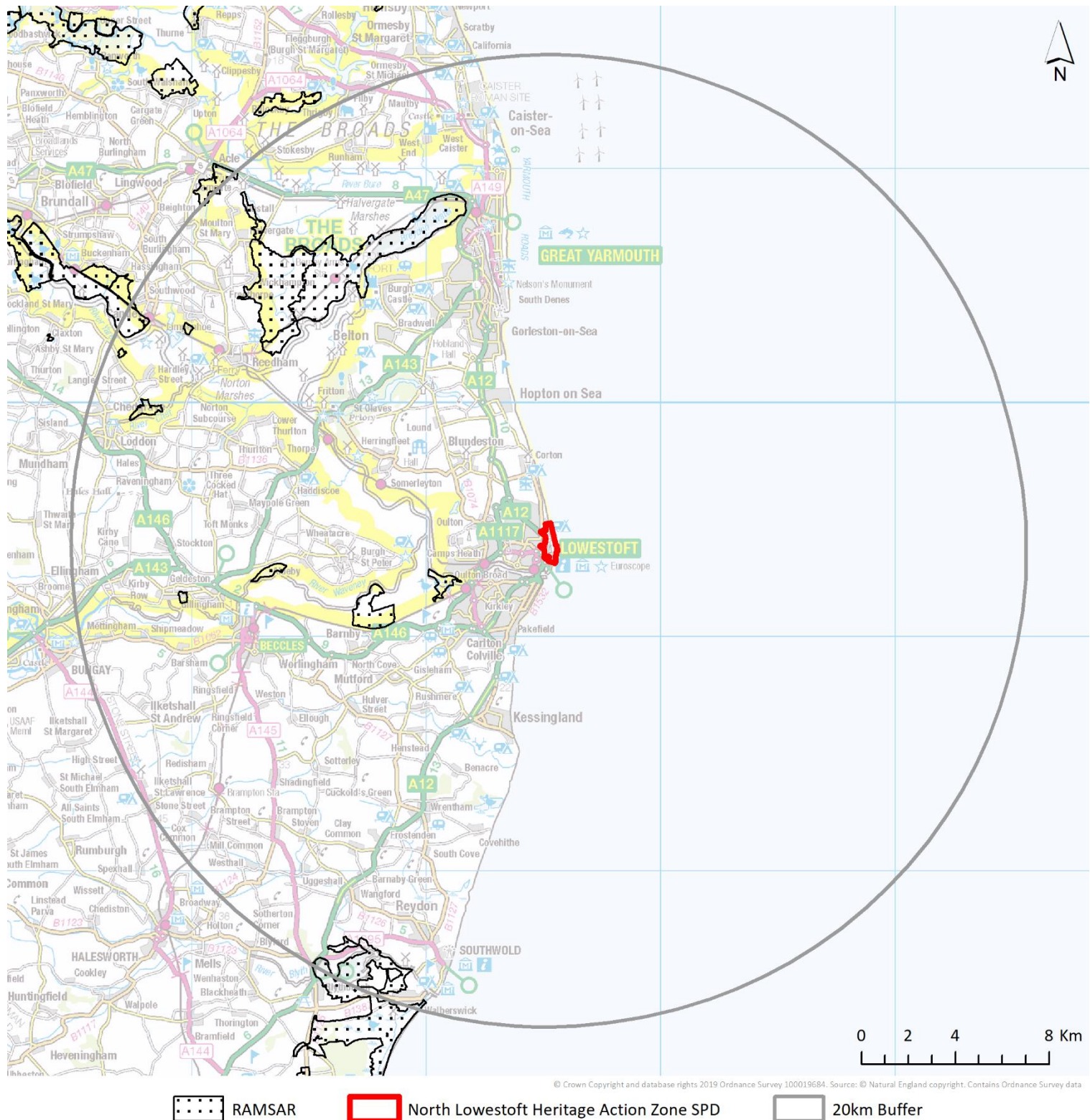
- The East Suffolk Waveney Local Plan and Central Lowestoft Planning Policy Map can be found at:
<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy-and-local-plans/waveney-local-plan/>
- The Draft Habitats Regulations Screening Report, July 2017, prepared by the former Waveney District Council can be found at:
<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Waveney-Local-Plan/First-Draft-Local-Plan/Habitats-Regulations-Screening-Report-Draft.pdf>
- The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Waveney Local Plan, December 2018 prepared by Footprint Ecology can be found at:
<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Waveney-Local-Plan/Habitats-Regulations-Assessment.pdf>

Appendix 2: Map of the area covered by the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide SPD



Appendix 3: Locations of European protected sites

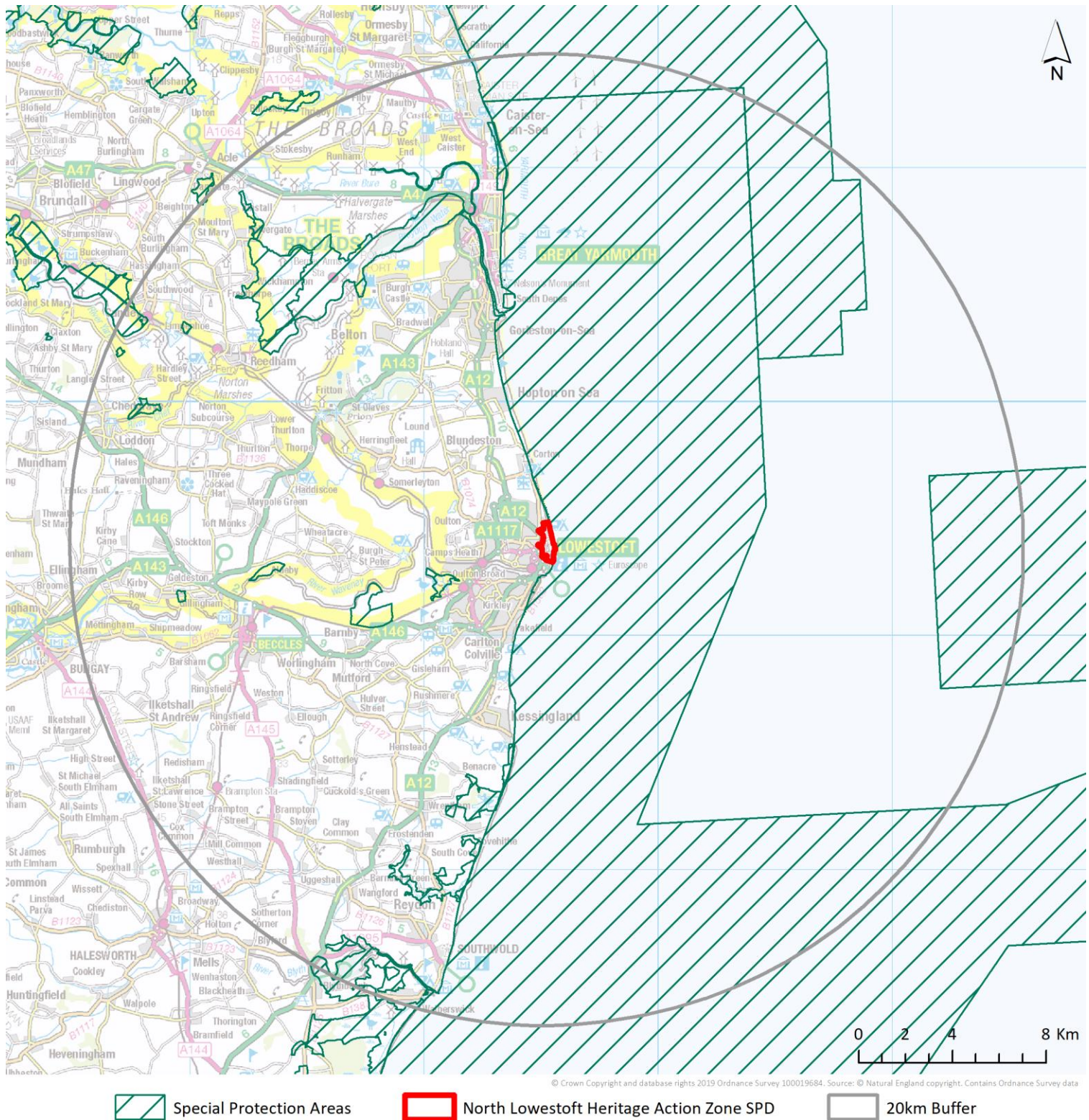
RAMSAR



Special Areas of Conservation



Special Protection Areas



Appendix 4: Relevant European protected sites

Name	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Waveney Local Plan at Final Draft Plan Stage (2018))
Special Areas of Conservation			
The Broads	<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>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</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>

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 A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i> : Northern shoveler A051(B) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i> : Gadwall	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, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	Coastal squeeze, public access/disturbance, changes in species distributions, invasive species, inappropriate pest control, air pollution, water pollution, deer, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine)

	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		
Dew's Ponds	S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i> : Great crested newt	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 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.	None identified
Southern North Sea	1351 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.	Site not designated at time of Waveney Local Plan preparation.
Special Protection Areas			
Broadlands (also Ramsar site)	H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving	Water pollution, climate change, invasive species, siltation, inappropriate water levels, hydrological changes, water

	<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>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>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p>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>
Benacre to Easton Bvents	<p>H1150# Coastal lagoons,</p> <p>A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern</p> <p>A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>: Great bittern</p> <p>A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>: Eurasian marsh harrier</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>Public access/disturbance, water pollution, physical modification, changes in species distributions, fisheries (marine and estuarine).</p>

		<p>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>Minsmere to Walberswick (also Ramsar site)</p>	<p>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 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</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 qualifying features rely, The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>Coastal squeeze, public access/disturbance, changes in species distributions, invasive species, inappropriate pest control, air pollution, water pollution, deer, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine)</p>

Outer Thames Estuary	A001 (W) <i>Gavia stellata</i> Red-throated Diver A195 (B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Common Tern A193 (B) <i>Sternula albifrons</i> Little Tern	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.	
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Appendix 5: Natural England Consultation Response

From: SM-NE-Plan Cons Area Team (Norfolk, Suffolk) (NE)

Sent: 18 December 2019 14:24

To: PlanningPolicy

Subject: 303581 East Suffolk North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide SPD

For the attention of Ian Johns:

Dear Ian

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the draft North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone Design Guide Supplementary planning document and the accompanying HRA screening and SEA screening opinion documents.

I can confirm that Natural England agrees with the conclusions of both the SEA and HRA screening reports and has no further comments to make on either document. Furthermore we have no comments on the supplementary planning document.

Kind regards

Francesca

Francesca Shapland
Lead Adviser, Planning & Conservation
Suffolk Coast, Norfolk & Suffolk Team

www.naturalengland.org.uk

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.