

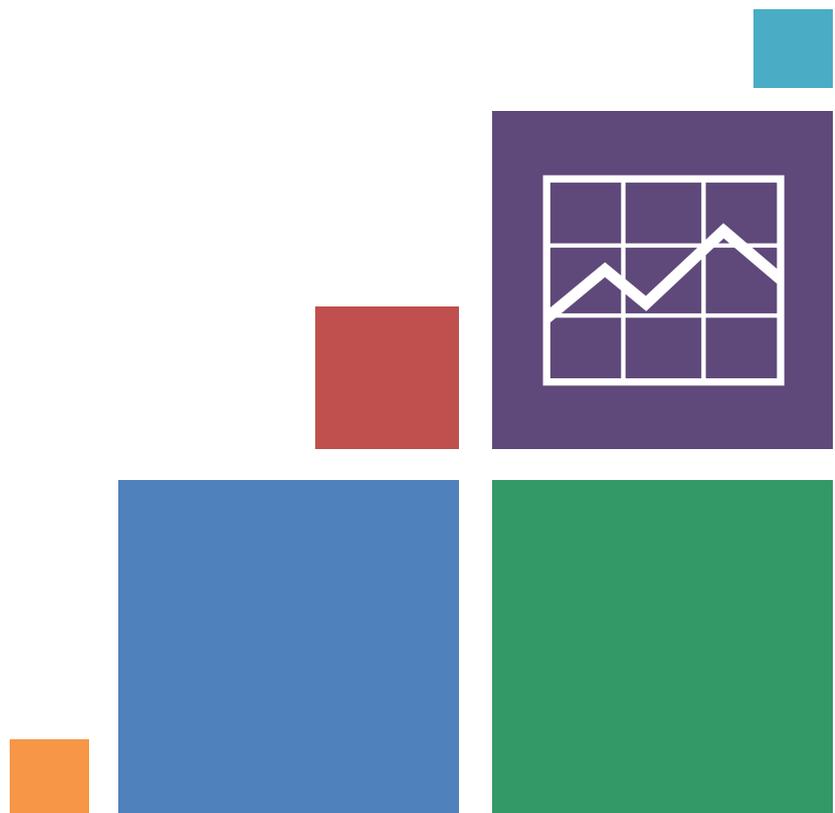


Waveney District Council
Serving the Community

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

July 2015

www.waveney.gov.uk/localplan



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1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal is an iterative process which must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. Its purpose is to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when considered against alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives.
- 1.2 [Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004](#) requires a local planning authority to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal of each of the proposals contained within a Local Plan during its preparation. Additionally, [section 39 of the Act](#) requires the authority preparing a Local Plan to do so “with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development”.
- 1.3 Sustainability Appraisals incorporate the requirements of the [Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004](#), which implement the requirements of the [European Directive 2001/42/EC](#) (the ‘Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Sustainability Appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues.
- 1.4 The process of preparing a Sustainability Appraisal is governed by the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The National Planning Practice Guidance also gives guidance on how local authorities should undertake a Sustainability Appraisal. Figure 1.1 below outlines the process of Sustainability Appraisal and how it relates to the preparation of a Local Plan.

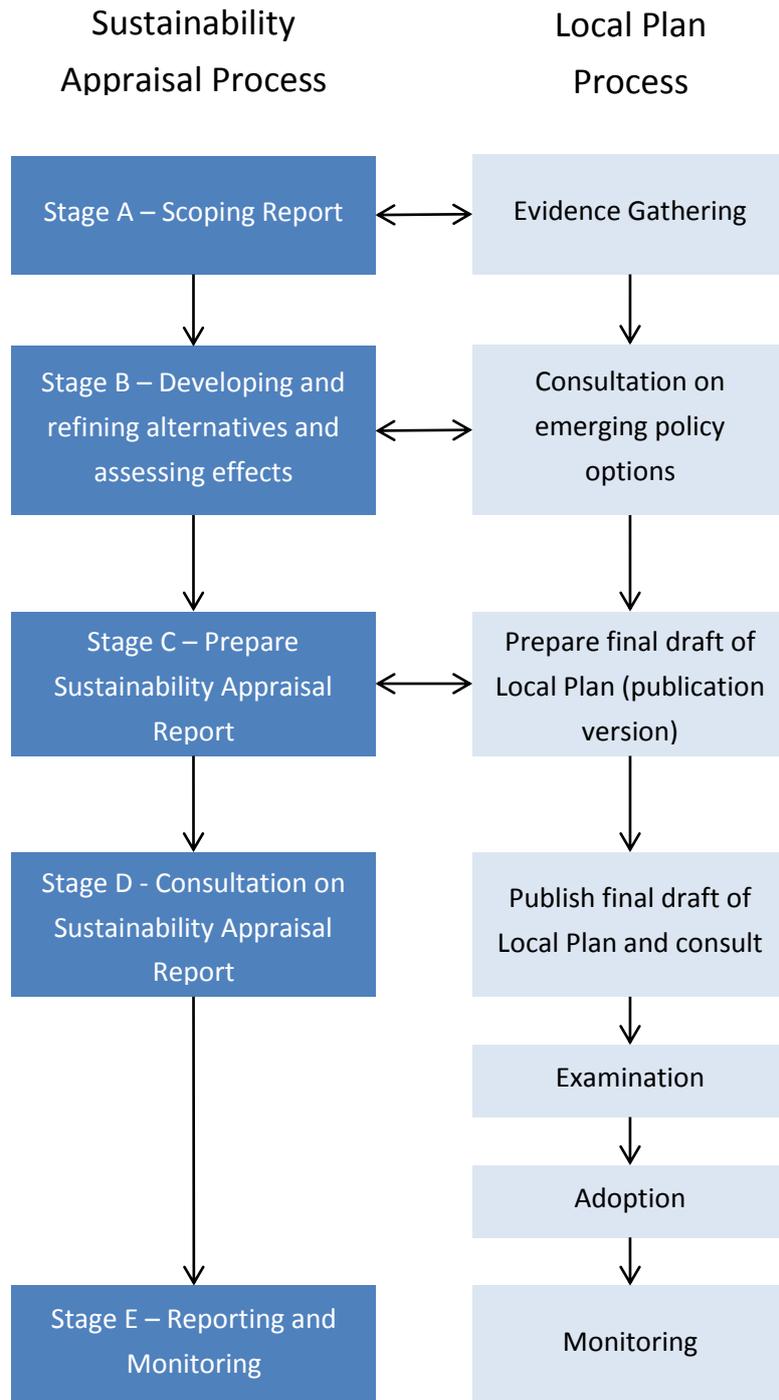


Figure 1.1 Sustainability Appraisal Process and Local Plan Process

Method

- 1.5 This Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report is the first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal of the new Waveney Local Plan which is currently being prepared. The Scoping Report aims to establish the existing sustainability context of the District with a view to understanding how sustainability issues and problems may change without a new Local Plan.



Figure 1.2 Scoping Report Method

2. Context Review (Task A1)

- 2.1 The starting point for preparing a Sustainability Appraisal involves assessing the policy context in which the document is being prepared. This means that it is essential to review other plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives that will influence the Local Plan. Therefore all relevant international, national, regional, county and local level strategies, plans and programmes have been reviewed and considered.

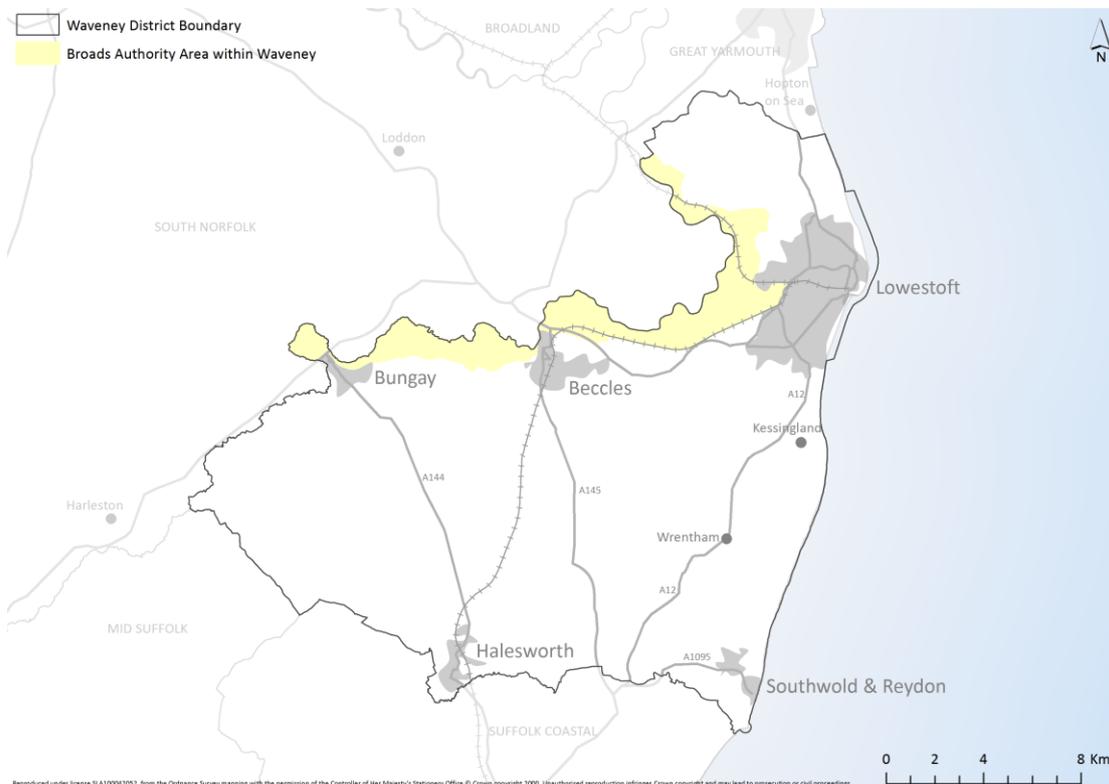
- 2.2 **Annex A** to this Scoping Report details the numerous documents that have been reviewed as part of the Scoping Report, Appendix C lists the documents reviewed. The key aims and objectives within each of these documents have been identified along with the implications they have for the Local Plan and the Sustainability Appraisal.

3. Baseline Situation (Task A2)

- 3.1. In order to be able to determine the effect the new Local Plan may have on sustainable development, it is important to gain an understanding of the current circumstances which exist within the District and the trends which may continue if no new Local Plan was produced.

Waveney Context

- 3.2. Waveney is situated on the coast in the north east corner of Suffolk and is the most easterly District in Britain. To the west is the Broads 'National Park' and to the north Great Yarmouth in Norfolk. The River Waveney, which provides the District with its name, forms the northern boundary. Lowestoft is the largest town, with the four historic market towns of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold describing an outer square to the District.
- 3.3. The District covers some 37,041 hectares (143 sq miles) and has a coastline of 26km. It is a mixed urban and rural district with a population 115,254 (2011 Census), and a density of 3.1 persons per hectare, above the Suffolk average of 1.9.



- 3.4. This section of the Scoping report includes various references to settlements and geographical areas of the District. These areas can be seen in Appendix A. Lowestoft is not a statistical geographical entity in itself as the majority of the town is unparished and made up of wards (some of which overlap with surrounding parishes). Where Lowestoft is referred to in this report it means the unparished area of Lowestoft and the surrounding Parishes of Oulton and Carlton Colville which together make up the wider built up urban area of Lowestoft. The market towns are Beccles with Worlingham, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold with Reydon. All other parishes are considered to be in the rural areas for the purpose of this report. For some statistics it has been necessary to use ward data. In these circumstances Lowestoft means the Lowestoft wards (including Gunton and Corton, Carlton Colville and Oulton wards), the Market towns are Beccles with Worlingham, Bungay, Halesworth, and Southwold and Reydon.
- 3.5. Appendix B includes population data tables on wards and parishes for context based on the 2011 census results.

Social Baseline

Health

Health **Summary**

Context

- 3.6. At the time of the 2011 Census, 23.9% of the population were over the age of 65. This is the highest percentage of those aged 65+ in all Suffolk districts and higher than Suffolk county (19.9%), the East of England (17.5%) and England (16.3%) but comparable to Suffolk Coastal at 23.2%. The average age of Waveney residents is 44.
- 3.7. There are currently 18 GP surgeries in Waveney District of which 10 are in Lowestoft. Beccles and Halesworth each have 1 surgery, there are two in Bungay and a newly built health centre in Reydon serves Southwold and Reydon. There are GP surgeries in Kessingland, Wangford and Wrentham.¹
- 3.8. Accident and Emergency provision is located at the James Paget University Hospital in Gorleston which serves as the main hospital for the District. There are community hospitals that cater for outpatient appointments in Beccles, Halesworth and Southwold.

General health

- 3.9. The 2011 Census included a question about general health. 41.1% of the Waveney population categorised themselves as being in “very good health”. This is the lowest proportion in Suffolk with Ipswich the next lowest at 45.6% and Forest Heath the highest rate at 48.1%. Less than 1% of the population for all the Suffolk districts rate themselves as in “very bad health” with the exception of Ipswich at 1.1% and Waveney, the highest at 1.5%. Figure 3.1 shows the results for Waveney.

¹ NHS Choices website as at January 2015

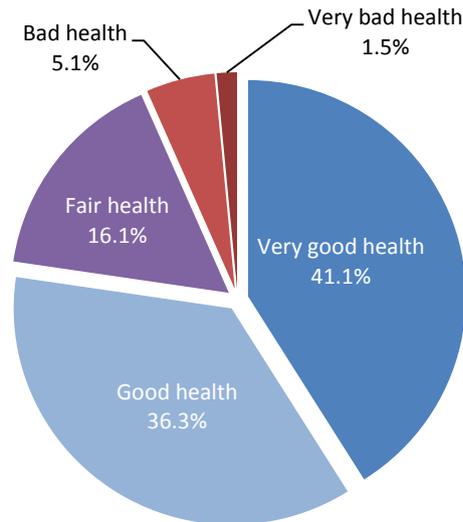


Figure 3.1 general health, Waveney population (2011 Census)

Life expectancy

- 3.10. Life expectancy for women in Waveney is 83.5 years and 79.3 years for men. This is comparable to the Suffolk average of 83.8 years for women and 80.3 years for men (births 2008 - 2012, Public Health England). However, there are significant differences within Waveney wards with life expectancy for men in Kirkley ward (Lowestoft) just 74.1 compared to 83.3 in Worlingham ward, a difference of 9.2 years. For women the difference is 8 years; 79.6 years (Kirkley) compared to 87.6 (Southwold and Reydon).

Death rates

- 3.11. The overall death rate in Waveney per 100,000 population for 2007-2012 was 520.6. This is above the Suffolk average of 497.1 (ONS, Public Health Suffolk). As with life expectancy, there are significant variations in the District. Kirkley has the highest overall rate at 810.8 and Worlingham the lowest overall rate at 383.5. *Figure 3.2* shows the overall death rates for males and females by ward.

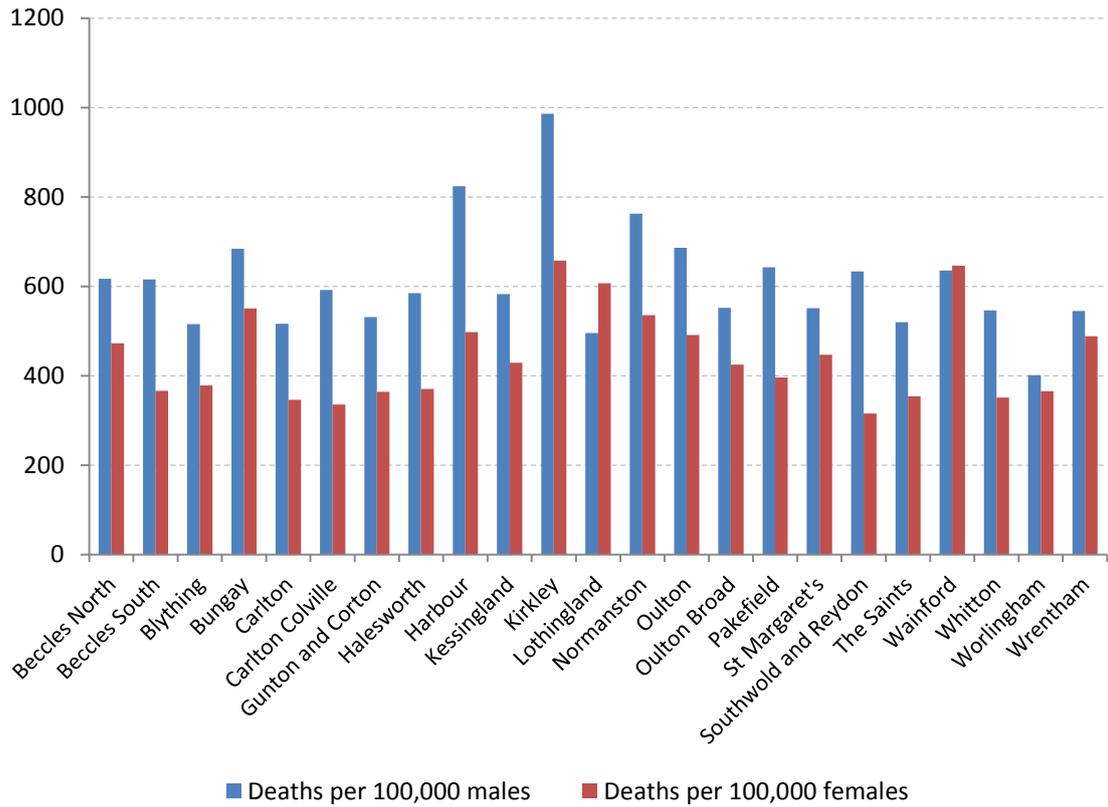


Figure 3.2 overall death rate, by ward (males and females, 2007-12)

Obesity

3.12. Table 3.1 shows that the percentage of the Waveney adult population that is obese is the highest in Suffolk². Normanston has the highest proportion of the population that is obese at 29.3% compared to Southwold and Reydon and Wrentham wards the lowest in the District at 24.3%.

Location	2006-2008
Babergh	23.9%
Forest Heath	23.4%
Ipswich	24.5%
Mid Suffolk	24.2%
St Edmundsbury	24.4%
Suffolk Coastal	22.3%
Waveney	27.0%
Suffolk County	24.3%
East of England	23.6%

Table 3.1 adult obesity

² DCLG, Association of Public Health Observatories. Percentage of adults 16+ with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30+, modelled estimate

- 3.13. Although still above the county average, the proportion of children aged 10-11 that are obese shows a slightly improving situation as shown in Table 3.2. Reception children aged 4-5 that are obese is fluctuating around 11%³.

Location	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Year 6 children (ages 10 to 11) that are obese. (%)				
Waveney	21.4	18.7	17.6	19.9
Suffolk County	17.6	16	16.9	17.4
East of England	17.7	17.2	17.1	17.2
Reception children (ages 4 to 5) that are obese. (%)				
Waveney	10.7	11.2	9.0	10.7
Suffolk County	8.7	8.6	7.7	8.9
East of England	8.9	8.7	8.1	8.5

Table 3.2 obesity in children

Physical exercise

- 3.14. Figure 3.3 shows that 21% of the Waveney adult population participates in three 30 minute physical activity sessions per week. This is the second lowest in the county ahead of Ipswich, with the highest participation in Forest Heath⁴.

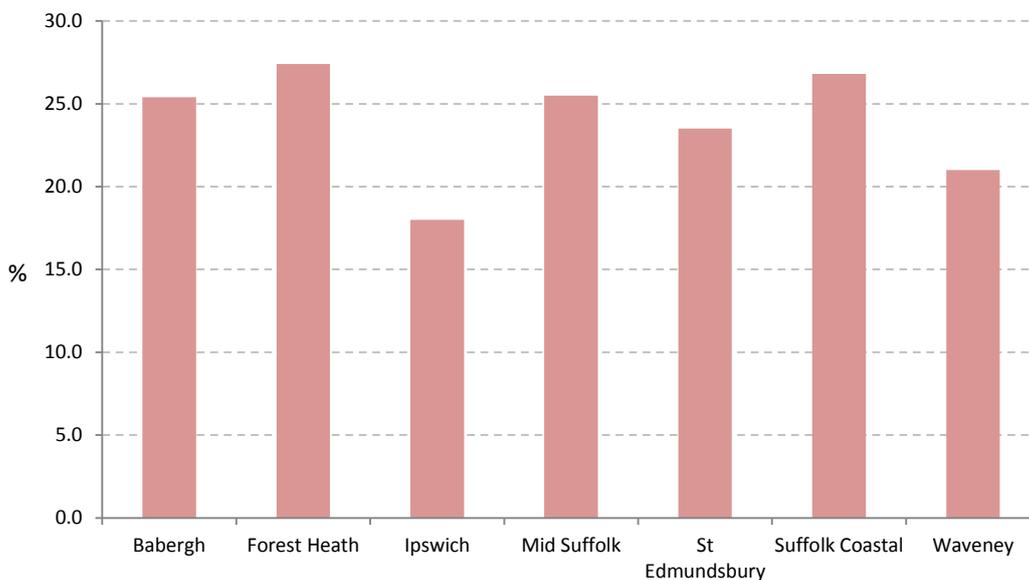


Figure 3.3 adult population participating in physical activity (2011-13)

³ National Child Measurement Programme. Data based on postcode of child.

⁴ Sport England, Active People Survey. Adult participation (16+). 3x30 minute sessions or more of moderate intensity activity a week (or 12 or more days over the last 4 weeks). Includes five light intensity sports for those aged 65 and over (yoga, pilates, indoor & outdoor bowls, archery and croquet).

*Health***Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan**

- 3.15. The Waveney population is set to increase by 4,000 by 2025 and a further 4,000 by 2037⁵. The number of those aged over 80 is set to increase from 8,000 in 2012 to 16,000 by 2037. By 2037 21% of the total population will be aged 65 to 79 and 13% will be over 80. This is likely to put increased pressure on health services and facilities such as GP surgeries and hospitals. Housing will need to meet the needs of those with decreased mobility and those requiring other specialist care for conditions such as dementia.
- 3.16. The public and private sectors are improving existing stock and providing additional accommodation for those requiring care within a nursing home environment or sheltered/very sheltered housing.
- 3.17. Lowestoft Rising brings together Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, HealthEast, Suffolk Police and the Police Crime Commissioners Officer to provide an integrated approach to address a range of social issues including health. One such project is the integrated out-of-hospital team which has reduced the number of urgent hospital admissions.
- 3.18. There are various strategies⁶ which aim to improve the life expectancy of the population as a whole and to bridge the gap between those living in the most deprived communities and those in the least deprived areas. Other areas include future service planning, improving people's experience of hospital care and support for people living at home through family carers and the voluntary sector. Existing Local Plan policies which support open space provision and cycling provision and direct development to accessible locations may help encourage healthy lifestyles.

*Health***Outlook Summary**

⁵ ONS, Table 2: 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for Local Authorities in England

⁶ Great Yarmouth and Waveney Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2009/10; NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group Five Year Strategic Plan 2014; Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2022

*Health***Key Issues and Problems**

- Waveney has the highest proportion of the adult population in Suffolk that is obese.
- Childhood obesity in Reception year children has not improved in the last 4 years.
- Less than a quarter of the adult population participates in 3 x 30 minute physical activity sessions per week.
- The population living within areas of deprivation are more at risk of having a sedentary life style, higher obesity and lower life expectancy.
- Health services and providers will need to cater for an increasingly ageing population.

Education

*Education***Summary***Context*

- 3.19. Education provision in Waveney has recently changed from a three-tier system, with middle schools, to a two-tier system. Primary schools cater for children aged 5 to 11 and secondary schools for ages 11 to 16. There are 34 primary schools and 7 secondary schools in Waveney. Pakefield High School is a new school in south Lowestoft, with the first phase of the new building opening in September 2014. Beccles Free School opened in 2012 on a temporary site in Carlton Colville and transferred to the site of the former Beccles Middle School in September 2014.
- 3.20. Provision for students taking 'A' levels is provided within the secondary schools in Beccles and Bungay and Lowestoft Sixth Form College opened September 2011. Lowestoft College provides opportunities for further and higher education.
- 3.21. Suffolk has consistently been in the bottom two of the eleven local authorities in the East of England for GCSE results since 2009/10 and has recently launched its "Raising the Bar" initiative in order to improve academic attainment in the county.

GCSE results

- 3.22. In 2014, only 41.27% of Waveney Key Stage 4 pupils achieved 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE (including English and mathematics). This is the lowest percentage in Suffolk. The highest results were in Mid Suffolk with pupils achieving 60.97%. Figure 3.4 shows the comparison of results in Waveney with Suffolk and the East of England.

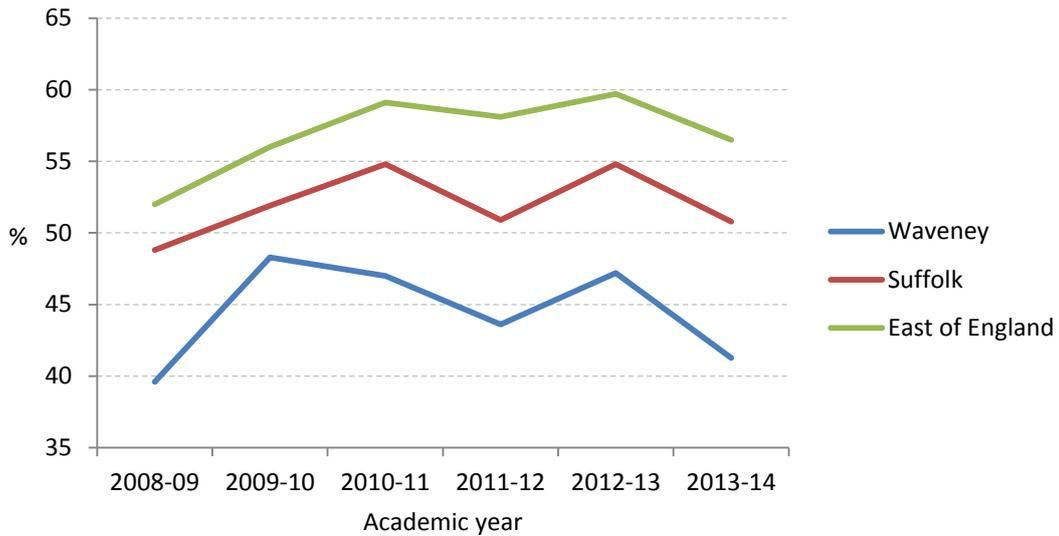


Figure 3.4 GCSE results (Suffolk Observatory)

3.23. Figure 3.5 shows the results for Key Stage 4 pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE (including English and mathematics) for the state funded schools in the District⁷. The only school to show an improvement between 2010 and 2014 is the Sir John Lemman High School with a 5% increase in this period. Although Bungay High School is consistently the best performing school in the District in terms of GCSE results, it has had the worst overall fall and is down 23% from 2010. The first results for Pakefield High School and Beccles Free School will be available for 2014-15 academic year.

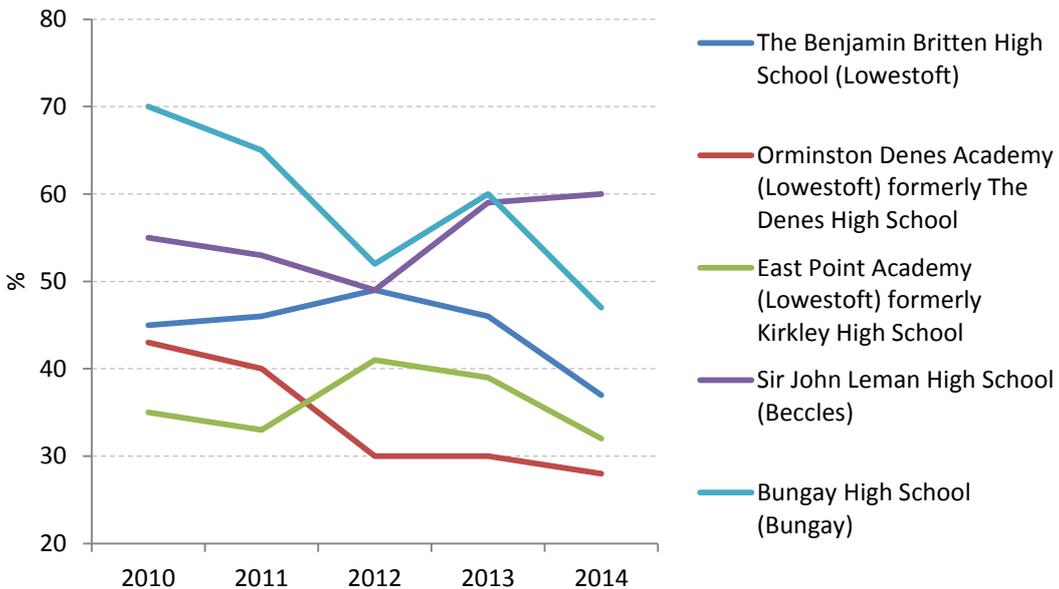


Figure 3.5 GCSE results, Waveney schools 2010-2014

⁷ Department for Education, School performance tables.

School leavers

- 3.24. 49.6% of Waveney Year 11 pupils went on to sixth form education which is comparable to the county average of 53.2% though there are significant variations within Suffolk ranging from 43.7% in Forest Heath to 62% in Suffolk Coastal (2014).
- 3.25. At the end of the 2014 academic year, 45.8% of Waveney Year 13 pupils went on to higher education with a further 16% returning to sixth form and 9% going on to further education.
- 3.26. 7.2% of Year 11 and Year 13 Waveney school leavers in 2014 were not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Qualifications in the resident population

- 3.27. The Office for National Statistics shows that the number of Waveney residents (aged 16-64) with no qualifications is 11%, the second highest in the county, compared to 7.9% for Suffolk (2013). The proportion of Waveney residents with NVQ level 4 or higher is the lowest in the county (17.2%). NVQ level 4 or higher includes Higher National Diploma, Degree and Higher Degree level qualifications or equivalent.

*Education***Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan**

- 3.28. It is likely to take some time to reverse the poor academic attainment in Waveney and in particular in Lowestoft. Suffolk County Council's "Raising the Bar" initiative aims to improve academic attainment and collaboration with employers to inspire and motivate students.
- 3.29. Lowestoft Rising has secured funding to strengthen links between businesses and schools to help young people in Lowestoft access job opportunities through work experience and mentoring. If more job opportunities are available in the District, aspirations may improve and the numbers of pupils achieving higher grades could increase.
- 3.30. Improved job opportunities may also encourage those with higher level qualifications into the District. However, as an attractive retirement area the number of older people with no qualifications could potentially increase.

*Education***Outlook Summary**

*Education***Key Issues and Problems**

- Low educational attainment at GCSE level.
- Resident population poorly qualified.

Crime**Summary***Context*

- 3.31. Suffolk Constabulary has 29 Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs). The 4 Waveney SNTs cover Lowestoft North, Lowestoft South, Beccles & Bungay and Southwold & Halesworth. Police stations are open on a daily basis in Lowestoft, Beccles and Halesworth. Bungay and Southwold Police Stations are open if officers are on duty in the station and available.

Crime

- 3.32. The total number of offences committed in Waveney District has decreased by 1,981 during the period March 2009 – March 2014⁸. All 17 categories of crime have seen decreases with the exception of drug offences, homicide, miscellaneous crimes against society and violence without injury. A sample of offences is presented in Table 3.3.

Offence	2009	2013	2014	change 2009-2014
Domestic burglary	341	416	286	-55
Drug offences	352	337	373	21
Homicide	1	0	3	2
Miscellaneous crimes against society	106	99	116	10
Public order offences	413	346	306	-107
Violence with injury	903	729	670	-233
Violence without injury	447	618	589	142
All other offences	5701	4469	3940	-1761
Waveney Total	8264	7014	6283	-1981

Table 3.3 ONS crime statistics

Anti-social behaviour

- 3.33. The number of anti-social behaviour incidents has decreased since 2010 from 7,522 (or 64.0 per 1,000 population) to 5,102 (or 44.0 per 1,000 population). Waveney has the second

⁸ ONS, Crime Statistics (12 months ending 31 March)

highest rate per 1,000 population behind Ipswich at 57.6 with the lowest rate in Suffolk Coastal at 28.9⁹ (Figure 3.6).

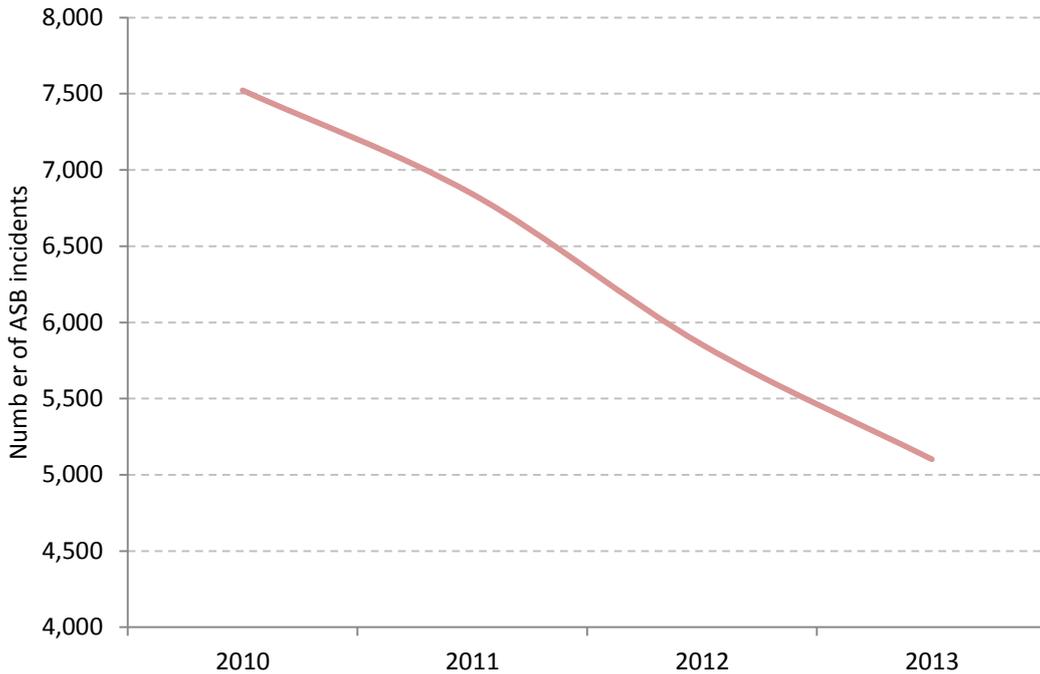


Figure 3.6 anti-social behaviour incidents, Waveney 2010 -2013

Crime

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.34. Lowestoft Rising brings together Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police, the Police Crime Commissioners Officer and HealthEast to provide an integrated approach to address a range of social issues including criminal offences and anti-social behaviour. The recent “Reducing the Strength” campaign sought to limit the sale of super-strength alcohol and offered a range of options and support for those wanting to change their lifestyle and has reduced the number of street drinkers in Lowestoft.
- 3.35. Policy DM02 of the Development Management Policies DPD includes “secured by design” principles which developers should incorporate into all schemes.

Crime

Outlook Summary



⁹ Suffolk Policy Authority (calendar year)

*Crime***Key Issues and Problems**

- Overall, the total number of criminal offences committed in Waveney is showing a decreasing trend. However, some types of crime have shown an increase.
- Anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased by over 2,400 since 2010.

Access to Services and Facilities

Summary**Context**

3.36. Just over half (60%) of the Waveney population lives in Lowestoft, 24% in the Market Towns and 16% in the rural areas. Half of the rural population live in the larger villages of Barnby/North Cove; Blundeston; Corton; Kessingland; Wangford and Wrentham.

Access to key services in rural areas

3.37. There are limited facilities and services within the rural areas. Between 2005 and 2014, 5 post office services and 2 public houses have closed, however 4 food/farm shops have been established/re-opened in this period. Only Somerleyton and Brampton (request stop) have access to the rail network. There are GP surgeries in Kessingland, Wangford and Wrentham¹⁰ and 10 primary schools serve the larger villages and rural areas.

3.38. Figure 3.7 to Figure 3.11 show the accessibility of 6 key services and facilities in the District. As expected, accessibility to a GP surgery, post office and primary school is generally good for Lowestoft and the Market Towns. These areas also have good accessibility to pubs, meeting places and supermarket/food shop. The villages of Kessingland, Wangford and Wrentham have good accessibility (within 2km) to five services with the exception of a primary school. "The Saints" area in the west of the District is consistently the least accessible being over 5km to a GP surgery, post office, primary school and food shop and 2-5km to a public house.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ Walking distance (400m) | ■ Cycling distance (2km) |
| ■ Over 2km | ■ Over 5km |

¹⁰ NHS Choices website as at January 2015

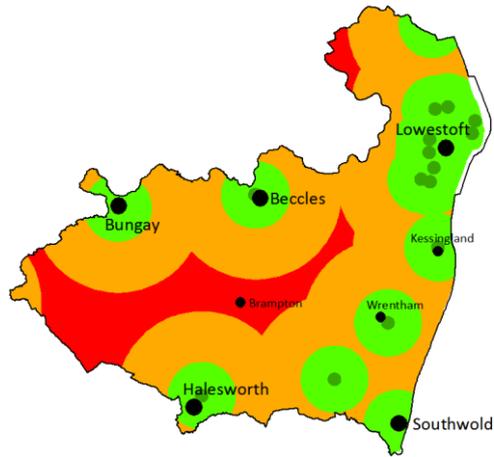


Figure 3.7 access to a GP surgery

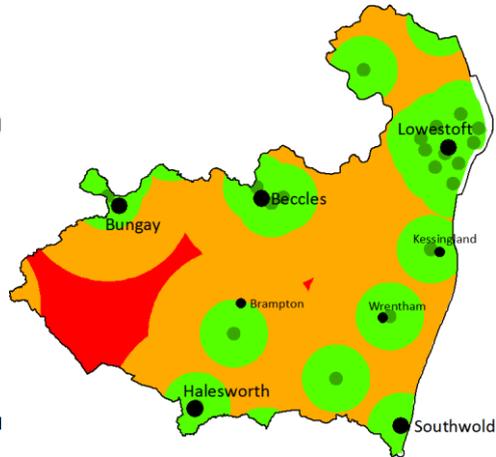


Figure 3.8 access to a post office

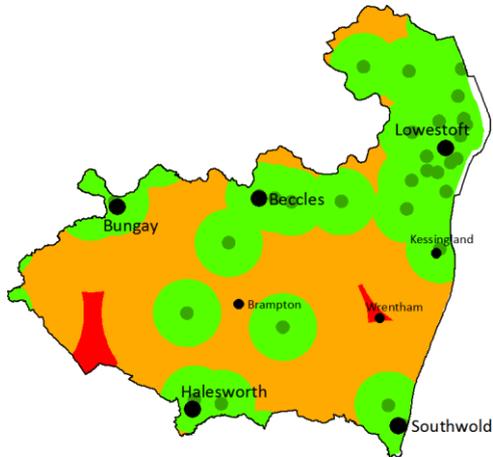


Figure 3.9 access to a primary school

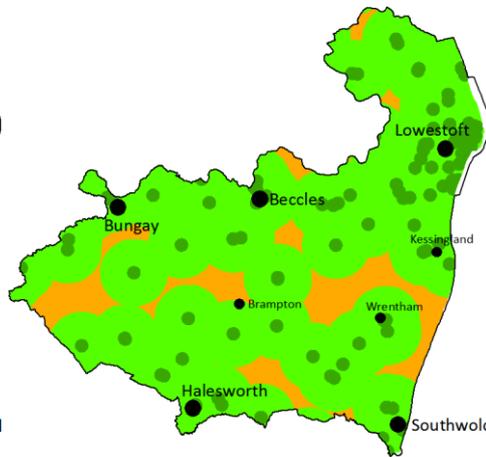


Figure 3.10 access to public houses and meeting places

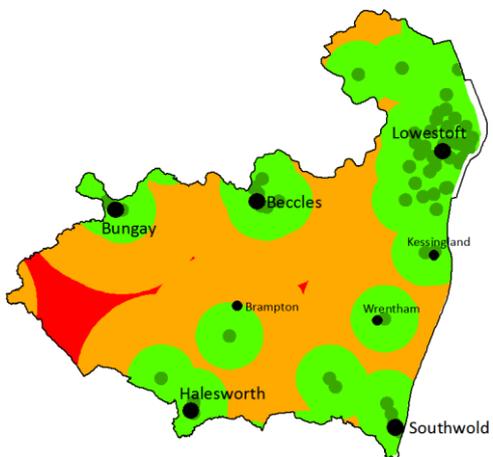


Figure 3.11 access to food shops

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- 3.39. Table 3.4 below shows the percentage of dwellings within the catchments shown on the maps above. The map shows that the majority of dwellings are within walking or cycling distance to all services. However, this is because the majority of dwellings in the District are within Lowestoft and the market towns where there is generally good service provision. Table 3.5 below shows that a much higher proportion of dwellings in the rural areas are further than walking or cycling distance from the identified services.

	GP Surgery	Post Office	Primary School	Pub / meeting place	Food shop
Up to 400m (walking distance)	22%	28%	33%	54%	59%
Between 400m and 2km (cycling distance)	68%	63%	61%	45%	36%
Between 2 and 5km	8%	9%	5%	1%	5%
Over 5km	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%

Table 3.4 Proportion of Dwellings in Waveney within different catchment distances of services

	GP Surgery	Post Office	Primary School	Pub / Meeting Place	Food shop
Up to 400m (walking distance)	16%	16%	24%	54%	32%
Between 400m and 2km (cycling distance)	32%	34%	42%	42%	35%
Between 2 and 5km	42%	44%	29%	4%	30%
Over 5km	10%	5%	4%	0%	2%

Table 3.5 Proportion of Dwellings in the Rural parts of Waveney (all areas excluding Lowestoft, Carlton Colville, Oulton, Beccles, Worlingham, Bungay, Halesworth, Southwold and Reydon) within different catchment distances of services

Broadband speeds

- 3.40. A fast, reliable internet connection can compensate for poor accessibility to physical services on the ground. For example, the lack of a local convenience store can be compensated by access to online food shopping services. All of the main supermarkets offer online food shopping across the entire District. However, broadband speeds in the rural areas tend to be slow with internet speeds of 3-10Mb or below. Paragraph 3.163 discusses this in more detail.

Open space

- 3.41. Waveney has approximately 370 hectares of open space of which 160 hectares is considered to be freely accessible for the public to use as shown in Table 3.6. A majority of this is provided in Lowestoft¹¹ where the largest population resides. Southwold & Reydon has the most open space provided per 1,000 people. The poorest provision is in Kessingland.

¹¹ Including Carlton Colville and Oulton

However Beccles, Bungay and Halesworth all have less provision per person than the District average¹².

Sub area	Area (Ha)								
	Total area of open space	Parks and gardens	Amenity green space	Passive amenity green space	Equipped play space	Green corridors (areas of wildlife along corridor)	Playing pitches	Allotments	Cemeteries and churchyards
Beccles	49.6	7.3	4.2	2.4	3.6	1.8	17.0	6.5	6.9
Bungay	9.8	0	3.3	1.1	1.2	0	0.3	0.5	3.4
Halesworth	14.6	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4	0	4.2	1.7	3.1
Kessingland	10.0	0	2.3	2.7	0.6	0	1.5	1.6	1.3
North Lowestoft	130.4	16.8	39.6	6.4	2.8	11.8	31.3	9.2	12.5
South Lowestoft	70.2	22.8	18.4	3.9	2.3	5.5	7.0	4.5	5.9
Southwold & Reydon	25.2	0	4.9	2.3	1.3	0	9.5	4.3	3.0
Rural	60.0	0	8.8	1.0	1.8	0	21.7	6.5	20.8
District	370.4	48.1	83.2	21.2	14.9	19.1	92.5	34.8	56.9

Table 3.6 open space provision (excludes semi-natural areas) (Open Space Needs Assessment, July 2015)

- 3.42. The Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment (July 2015)¹² provides a comprehensive assessment on the quantity, accessibility, and quality of open spaces. The assessment shows that the market towns have equipped children's play space exceeding the standard of 0.2 hectares per 1,000 people, whilst Lowestoft¹¹ has a deficit of over 9 hectares. Kessingland and the rural areas show a deficit of just under a hectare. Figure 3.12 shows the accessibility of equipped play spaces aimed at children within specific age ranges (toddlers, juniors and youths)¹³. Beccles and Bungay, and to a lesser degree Halesworth, are well above the District average for all catchments. Lowestoft (north) is below the District average for all three catchments. Kessingland, the rural areas and Bungay do not have any properties within the 1km walk standard for a NEAP.

¹² Waveney Open Space Needs Assessment, July 2015

¹³ LAP – Local Equipped Area for Play; LEAP – Local Equipped Area for Play; NEAP – Neighbourhood Equipped Play Area

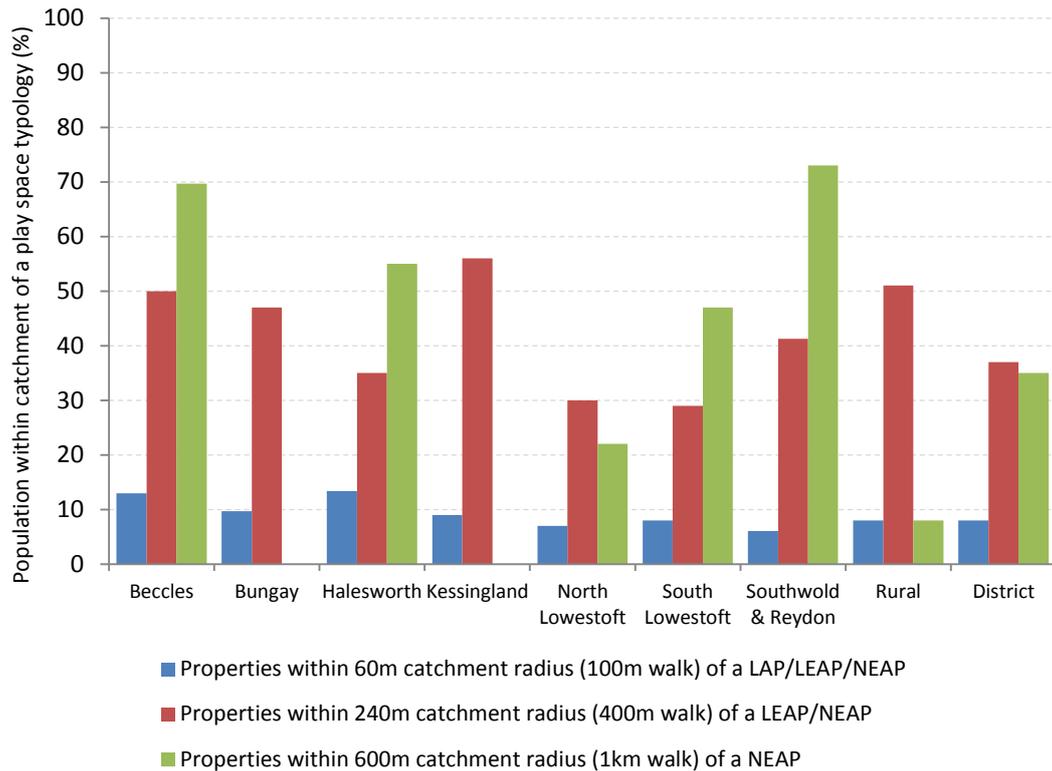


Figure 3.12 percentage of dwellings within the catchments of equipped play spaces

- 3.43. The Open Space Needs Assessment identifies that the District overall just meets the standard of 0.3 hectares of allotments per 1,000 people (-0.19ha), there are significant deficits in some areas. The best provision in terms of people per hectare is in Southwold & Reydon at 850 people per hectare. Bungay has the largest deficit at 11,146 people per hectare and Lowestoft¹¹ has the second poorest provision at 5,349 people per hectare. The provision in south Lowestoft is considerably worse than in north Lowestoft with a deficit of 6.3 and 1.67 hectares respectively. In the rural areas there are large areas without any provision but where there are allotments the provision is good. Overall, the rural areas have 0.54 hectares of allotments per 1,000 or 1,863 people per hectare. In terms of demand, the greatest waiting lists are in south Lowestoft and Bungay. In Halesworth, the demand for plots is stable with no vacancies but future development will put pressure on existing facilities. There is currently no waiting list in the Southwold/Reydon area.
- 3.44. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment 2014¹⁴, shows that compared to neighbouring authorities, provision for pitch based sports is below average and provision for non-pitch provision is above average. There is a deficit in numbers of some types of pitches

¹⁴ Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment, July 2014 (Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd). Sports pitches and facilities covered: football (mini, youth, adult); cricket; rugby union (mini, junior, adult); hockey (artificial turf pitches); athletics tracks; bowling greens; netball courts; tennis courts.

and facilities and there are limited quality issues. Accessibility is generally good; there are only a couple of small rural parts of the District that are outside of a 15 minute drive time of a sports facility (20 minutes in urban areas and 45 minutes in rural areas for an athletics track).

Access to services and facilities

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.45. Without an up to date Local Plan there is the risk that in the future more development takes place in locations without commensurate facilities and services. Current planning policies generally restrict new development in the rural areas to safeguard the countryside for its own sake and because of poor levels of public transport and limited services and facilities (policies CS01, DM22).

- 3.46. Notwithstanding recent changes to the Use Classes Order, current planning policies ensure that alternative community and commercial uses are explored before neighbourhood and village shops and facilities and rural buildings are lost to other uses such as residential (policies DM09, DM15).

- 3.47. Neighbourhood Plans give communities the opportunity to influence planning decisions within their area such as setting out the vision for an area and allocate land for development. The Community Right to Bid aims to give community groups time to make realistic bids to buy land or buildings that are of importance to the local community when they come up for sale.

- 3.48. Suffolk County Council’s “Better Broadband for Suffolk” initiative aims to bring super-fast fibre optic broadband to 90% of the county with 85% achieving speeds in excess of 24Mb.

- 3.49. Policy DM25 ensures that any development of one or more new dwellings provides open space to serve the development. The Community Infrastructure Levy is the main mechanism for securing funding to provide additional and enhanced open space. Waveney District Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy, March 2015 sets out a strategic approach to providing new open space and enhancing existing provision. The projects identified in the strategy will feed into the Community Infrastructure Levy Infrastructure Plan for costing and timescales for delivery.

Access to services and facilities

Access to Services and Facilities Outlook Summary



*Access to services and facilities***Key Issues and Problems**

- Parts of the rural area, particularly “The Saints” area in the west of the District have limited access to basic services and facilities.
- All parts of the District suffer from under provision / accessibility to some type of open space.

Deprivation, Inequality and Socio-Economics

Summary

Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 3.50. The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 provides statistics on relative levels of deprivation in England. This considers indicators (mostly based on 2008 data) for areas such as education, health, crime and employment. It combines all these indicators to provide a rank of relative deprivation for each local authority in England. The indices of deprivation are currently being updated for publication in summer 2015.
- 3.51. Waveney is ranked at 112 out of a total of 326 local authority districts. There are 73 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) within Waveney, of which five are within the most deprived 10% in the country. These areas located in the Lowestoft wards of Kirkley, Normanston, Harbour and St Margaret’s.
- 3.52. 16 Waveney Lower Super Output Areas are in the 25% most deprived in the country and 10 LSOAs are in the 25% least deprived in the country. Some wards appear in both categories indicating there are pockets of poverty and prosperity in close proximity to each other.
- 3.53. When all Waveney Lower Super Output Areas are ranked, with 1 being the most deprived and 73 the least deprived, these pockets of deprivation and prosperity can be seen in detail (Figure 3.13). The central and older areas of Lowestoft with parts of Kessingland and Beccles are clearly more deprived than their surrounding suburban areas. The least deprived areas are generally on the periphery of the towns with the exception of Reydon and part of Carlton ward in south Lowestoft.



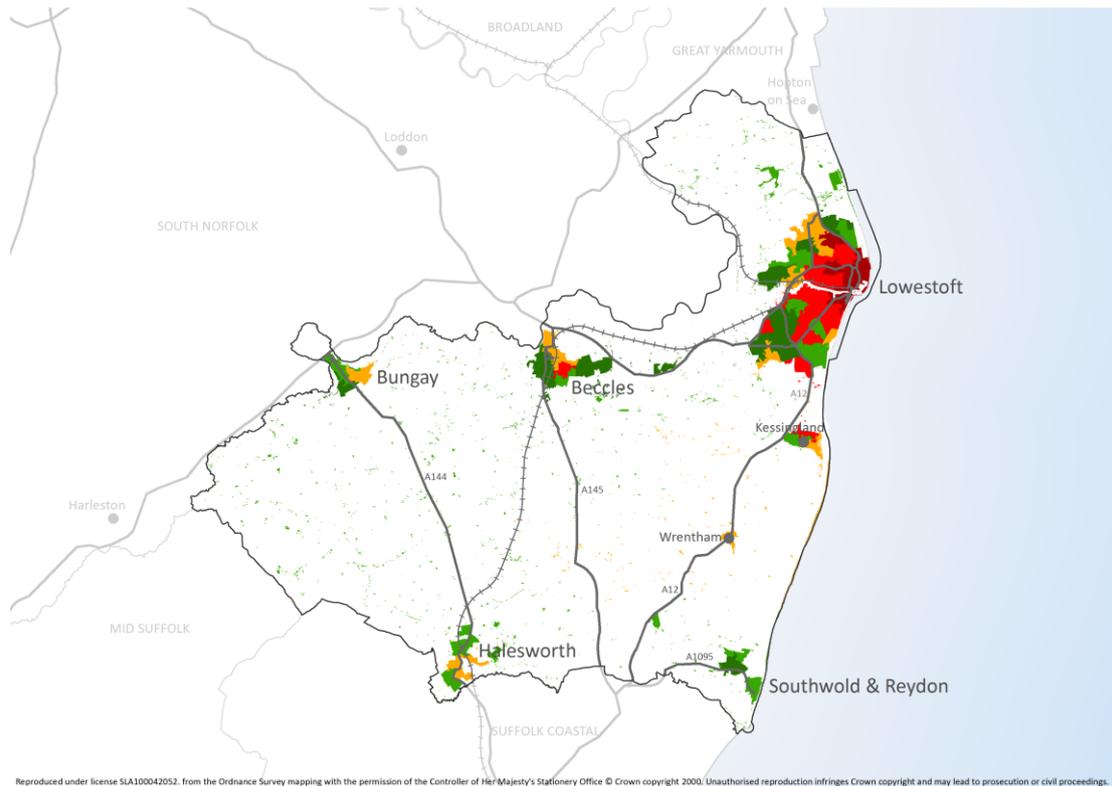


Figure 3.13 deprivation

Socio-economic classification of households

- 3.54. Mosaic UK from Experian classifies UK households using data collated from a number of government and commercial sources to identify 15 summary groups and 66 detailed types¹⁵. Figure 3.14, Figure 3.15 and Figure 3.16 show how Waveney compares to Suffolk and England at the summary group level. The most obvious difference is that Waveney has more than double the number of those classified as 'Senior Security' than in England and Suffolk. Although 'Country Living' is similar to the England figure it is half that of Suffolk. Those classed as 'Transient Renters' is higher than the Suffolk and England figures (10%, 8% and 7% respectively).

¹⁵ See <http://www.experian.co.uk/assets/marketing-services/brochures/mosaic-ps-brochure.pdf> for definitions of household types

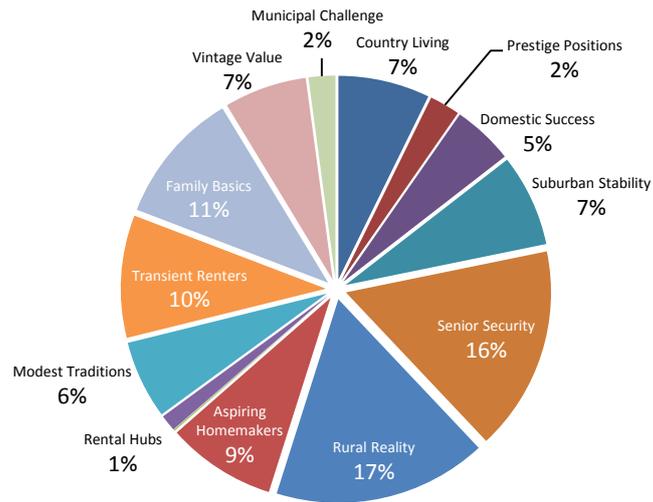


Figure 3.14 Waveney, MOSAIC UK household classifications 2014

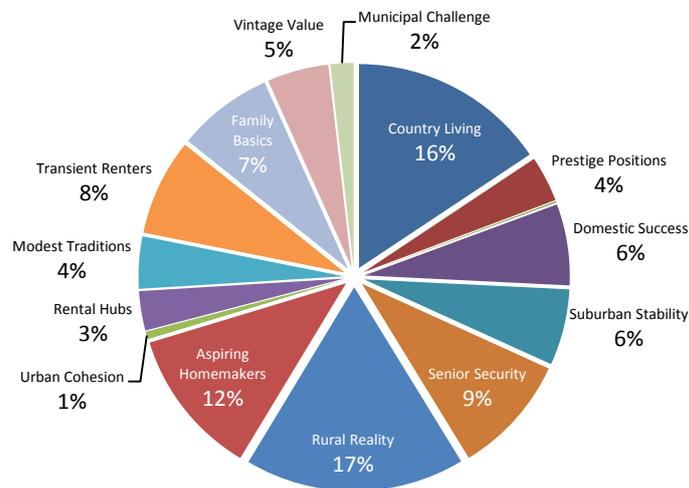


Figure 3.15 Suffolk, MOSAIC UK household classifications 2014

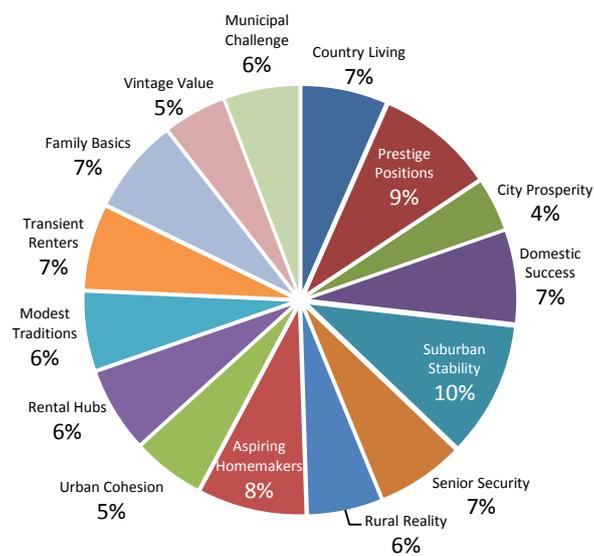


Figure 3.16 England, MOSAIC UK household classifications 2014

Out-of-work benefits (job seekers allowance)

3.55. In line with other Suffolk districts, the number of people on out-of-work benefits has declined in recent years. Figure 3.17 shows that as at March 2015, the rate of Job Seekers Allowance¹⁶ (JSA) claimants in Suffolk was 1.3% with all districts below 1.2% except for Waveney at 2.0% and Ipswich at 2.4%.

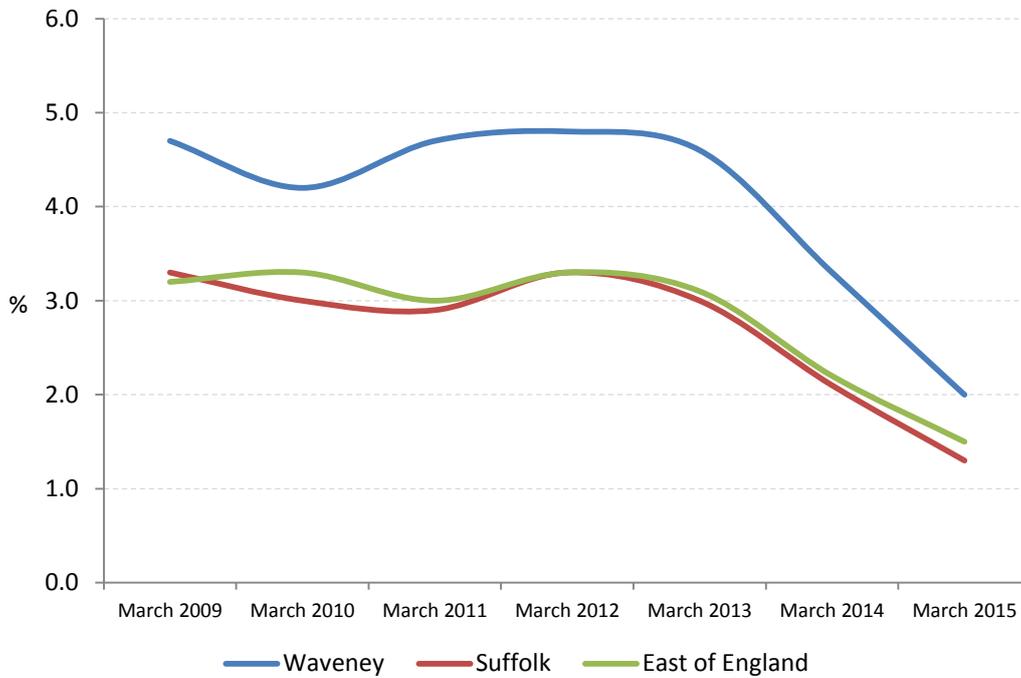


Figure 3.17 Job Seekers Allowance claimants, 2009-2015 (NOMIS)

3.56. Table 3.7 shows the percentage of the population claiming Job Seekers Allowance in the rural wards in Waveney. This is compared to the three most deprived wards in Waveney (Kirkley, Harbour and St. Margaret’s), as well as the District and Suffolk averages. The proportion of those living in the rural areas and claiming JSA is significantly lower than either the District or Suffolk averages and far lower than in Kirkley, Harbour and St. Margaret’s. This can be attributed to the high number of those of over working age (16-64 years) and with higher qualifications and skill sets living in the rural areas.

Location	JSA claimants
Blything	0.8%
Kessingland	1.6%
Lothingland	0.3%

¹⁶ Jobs Seekers Allowance is payable to people under pensionable age who are available for, and actively seeking work of at least 40 hours a week.

The Saints	0.4%
Wainford	0.9%
Wrentham	0.5%
Kirkley	4.5%
Harbour	6.1%
St. Margaret's	2.3%
Waveney	2.0%
Suffolk	1.3%

Table 3.7 JSA claimants, March 2015 (NOMIS)

Earnings

- 3.57. Earnings¹⁷ for those employed and those living in the Waveney area are below Suffolk, Regional and National averages (Table 3.8 and Table 3.9). Waveney residents and Great Yarmouth residents in full time employment earn a similar amount (£24,415 and £24,317 respectively). However those working in Great Yarmouth earn approximately £3,950 more than those working in Waveney.

Residents location	Full Time / All	April 2009	April 2010	April 2011	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014
Waveney	Full	£24,370	£22,944	£24,093	£22,608	£23,424	£24,415
	All	£19,711	£18,419	£18,585	£17,940	£18,899	£19,570
Suffolk	Full	£24,247	£24,417	£25,274	£24,141	£24,819	£26,000
	All	£20,166	£19,758	£19,936	£19,760	£20,321	£20,492
East of England	Full	£27,303	£27,216	£27,996	£27,924	£28,323	£28,735
	All	£22,513	£22,284	£22,592	£22,494	£23,145	£23,271
England	Full	£26,145	£26,268	£26,615	£26,804	£27,375	£27,500
	All	£21,680	£21,575	£21,648	£21,794	£22,204	£22,354

Table 3.8 median earnings, gross annual pay - residents analysis

Workplace location	Full Time / All	April 2009	April 2010	April 2011	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014
Waveney	Full	£22,940	£22,370	£22,129	£20,970	£21,703	£22,933
	All	£17,732	£16,535	£16,299	£16,065	£17,422	£18,407
Suffolk	Full	£23,839	£23,813	£24,786	£23,704	£23,968	£25,001
	All	£19,826	£19,238	£18,872	£19,222	£19,402	£19,749

¹⁷ NOMIS Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) - Residents analysis and Workplace analysis. Full-time workers are defined as those who work more than 30 paid hours per week or those in teaching professions working 25 paid hours or more per week. All workers = full time and part time.

Workplace location	Full Time / All	April 2009	April 2010	April 2011	April 2012	April 2013	April 2014
East of England	Full	£25,500	£25,379	£25,953	£26,145	£26,483	£26,830
	All	£21,073	£20,581	£20,600	£20,806	£21,413	£21,652
England	Full	£26,133	£26,265	£26,488	£26,822	£27,372	£27,487
	All	£21,667	£21,555	£21,458	£21,811	£22,160	£22,343

Table 3.9 median earnings, gross annual pay - workplace analysis

Socio-economic classification of occupations

- 3.58. The 2011 Census provides a socio-economic occupation breakdown for those in employment. Of the 49,181 Waveney residents in employment at the time of the Census a third are in the managerial, professional and associate professional categories (Table 3.10).

Managerial, professional and associate professional occupations	Waveney	Great Yarmouth	Suffolk Coastal	Suffolk
1: Managers, directors and senior officials	9.7%	9.5%	11.8%	10.7%
2: Professional occupations	11.6%	10.1%	17.5%	14.3%
3: Associate professional and technical occupations	10.1%	9.0%	12.6%	12.5%
TOTAL	31.4%	28.6%	41.9%	37.5%

Table 3.10 Managers, professional and associate professional occupations

- 3.59. Waveney has the highest percentage within Suffolk of those employed in skilled trade occupations (15.7%), caring, leisure and other service occupations (12%) and elementary occupations (12.3%) (Figure 3.18).

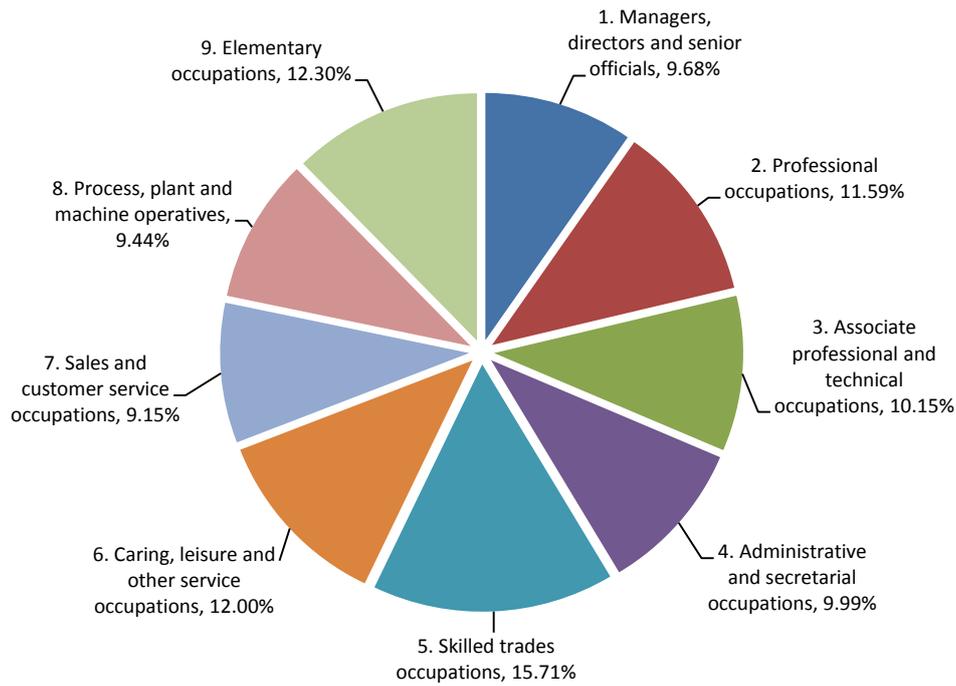


Figure 3.18 Waveney residents in employment by occupation, March 2011

- 3.60. The rural areas at 36.35% have the highest proportion of those employed in managerial, professional and associate professional positions compared to 33.15% for the market towns and 29.66% for Lowestoft. The Lowestoft wards have the highest proportion of those employed in sales and customer service, process and plant and elementary occupations at 32.6% compared to 30.05% for the market towns and 25.48% in the rural areas. Figure 3.19 shows the different occupations by settlement hierarchy.

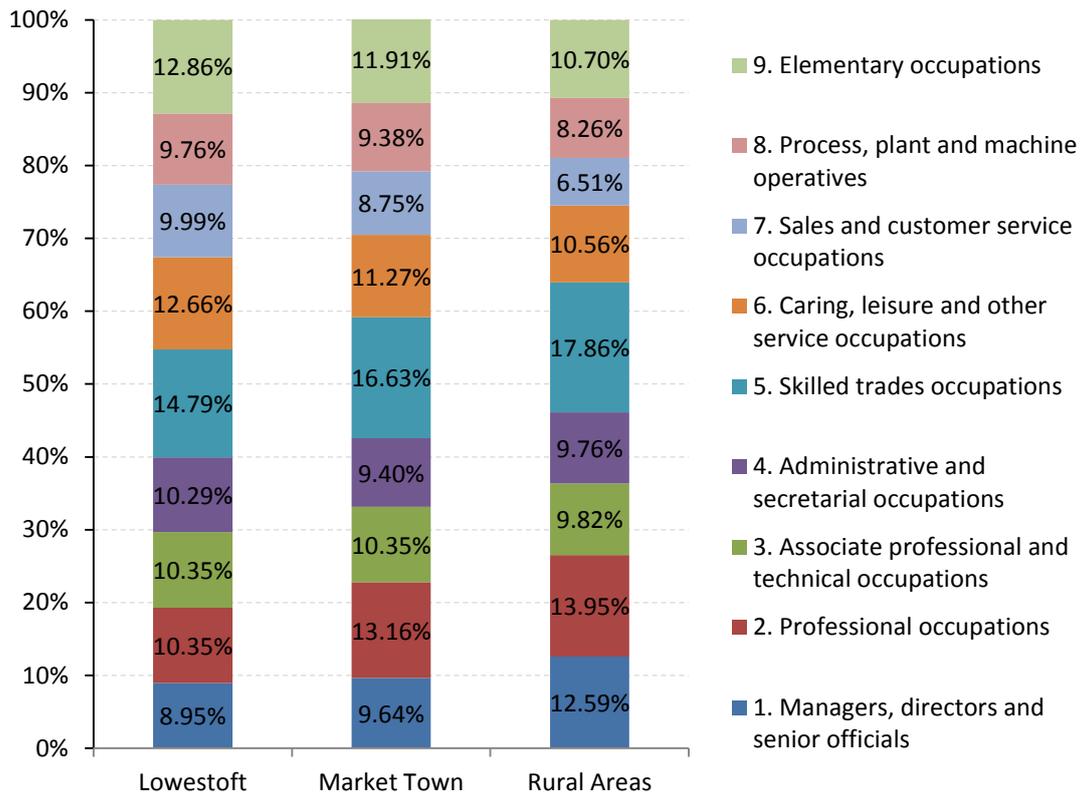


Figure 3.19 Employment by occupation, 2011 Census (NOMIS, Ward data)

Deprivation, Inequality and Socio-Economics

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.61. It is expected that the recent decline in employee jobs will start to reverse alongside a continuation of the upward trend in the number of businesses as the national economy recovers. As the number of job opportunities increases, wages should improve and the number out-of-work benefits claimants should reduce.
- 3.62. The rural areas are expected to continue to be less deprived than the urban areas of the District.

Deprivation, Inequality and Socio-Economics

Outlook Summary



Deprivation, Inequality and Socio-Economics

Key Issues and Problems

- Deprivation is significant within parts of Lowestoft.
- The proportion of the population claiming out of work benefits is higher than county and regional averages.
- Average earnings for those employed within Waveney is below the Suffolk average.
- Imbalance in inequality and deprivation between rural and urban areas.

Housing and Population

Summary

Population context

- 3.63. At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 115,254 residents living in Waveney of which:
- 23.9% aged 65 and over
 - 58.9% of working age, 16-64
 - 17.2% under 16
- 3.64. The average age for the Waveney population is 44, Figure 3.20 shows the average age for Waveney parishes (best fit). The average age for Suffolk is 42; East of England 40 and England 39.

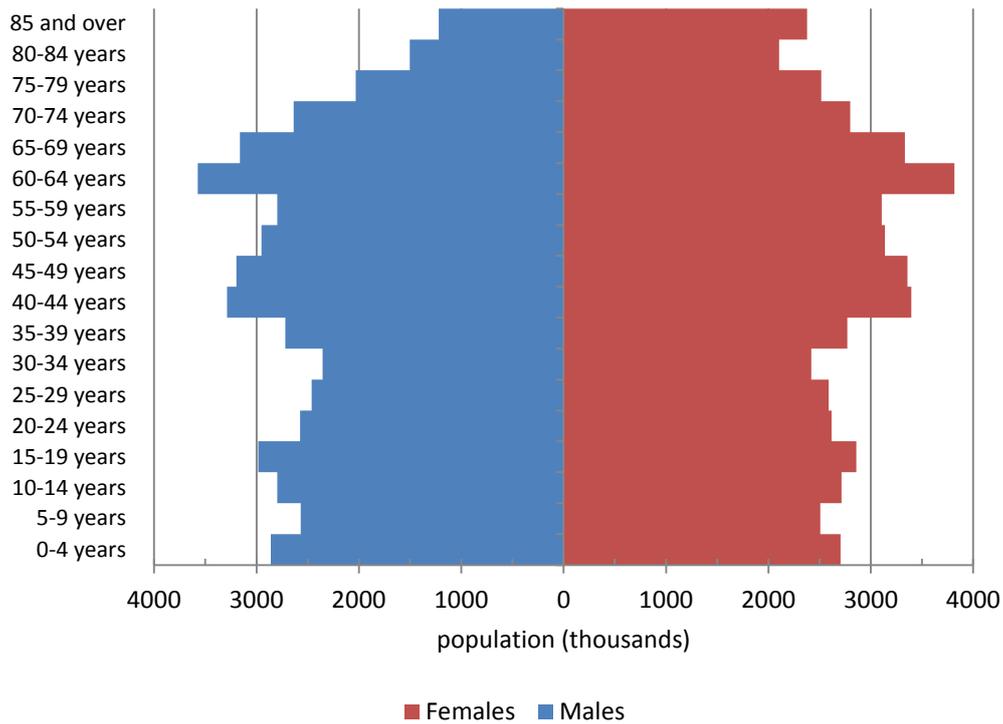


Figure 3.21 urban population, by 5 year age bands

Urban, wards: Beccles North, Beccles South, Bungay, Carlton, Carlton Colville, Gunton and Corton, Halesworth, Harbour, Kirkley, Normanston, Oulton, Oulton Broad, Pakefield, St Margaret's, Southwold and Reydon, Whitton, Worlingham

- 3.66. The total rural population is 16,474 (14% of the total population) with 8,350 males and 8,124 females (Figure 3.22). With the exception of children up to the age of 4 there are more males up to age of 39. Between the ages of 40 to 74 the number of males to females is very similar. From the age of 75 and over the number of females increases with the largest difference for those aged 85 and over with 102 more females than males.

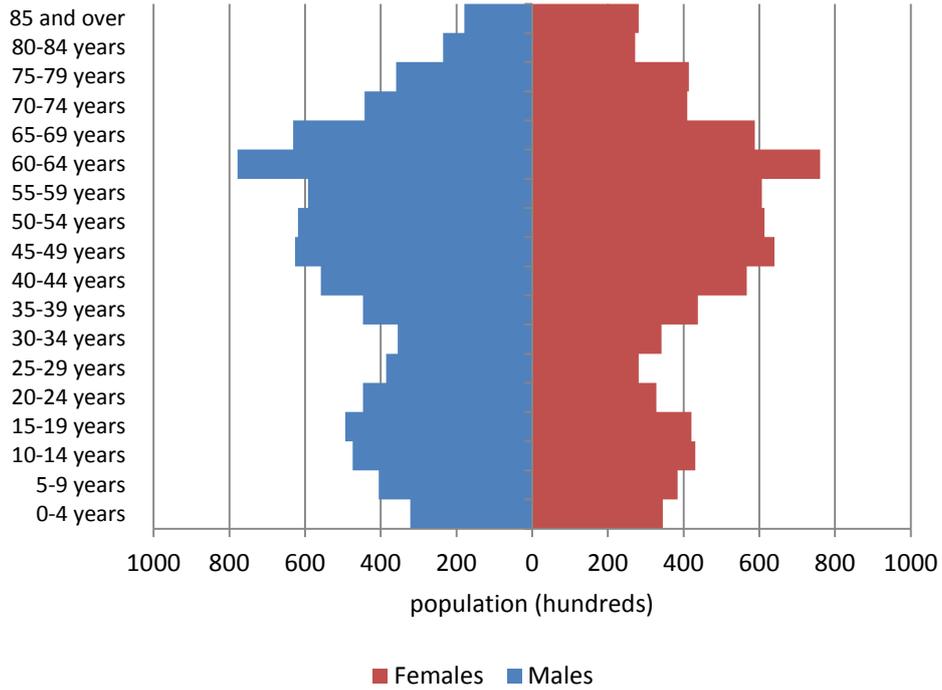


Figure 3.22 rural population by 5 year age bands

Rural, wards: Blything, Kessingland, Lothingland, The Saints, Wainford, Wrentham

3.67. Figure 3.23 shows the distribution of the Waveney population by area, with 60% living in Lowestoft. Half of the rural population (8%) live in the larger villages of Barnby/North Cove; Blundeston; Corton; Kessingland; Wangford and Wrentham.

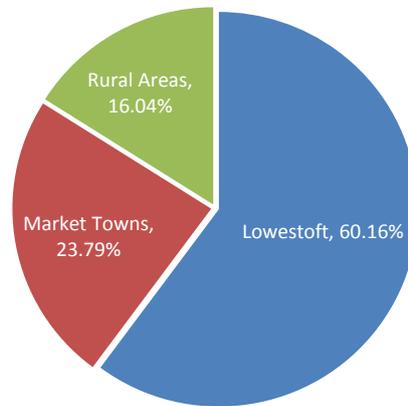


Figure 3.23 Waveney population by area

Lowestoft: Lowestoft + Carlton Colville + Oulton; Market Towns: Beccles with Worlingham, Bungay, Halesworth, Southwold with Reydon; Rural Areas: all other parishes

Population in the rural areas

3.68. Rural wards within Waveney have fewer people in their twenties and thirties, with the bulk of the population being in their fifties and sixties¹⁸. Therefore the rural population is approaching or has reached retirement age. The lack of younger people suggests that they are leaving the area, perhaps to study, and then not returning. This could be due to the prohibitive cost of a home and the lack of employment opportunities in these areas. Other lifestyle choices which could be a factor are the lack of shopping and leisure facilities and distances to primary schools which could be important for singles and couples in their twenties and thirties and families with young children.

Housing context

3.69. Waveney has 50,883 households and the average household size is 2.2 persons. 30.9% of households are of one person, above the Suffolk average, with 16.3% of those aged 65 and over. 113,519 residents live in households and 1,735 residents are living in communal establishments, such as hospitals, care homes, prisons¹⁹, defence bases, boarding schools and student halls of residence.

3.70. The types of dwellings in Waveney are generally comparable to Suffolk county but with a slightly higher proportion of terraced style houses and bungalows as illustrated in Figure 3.24.

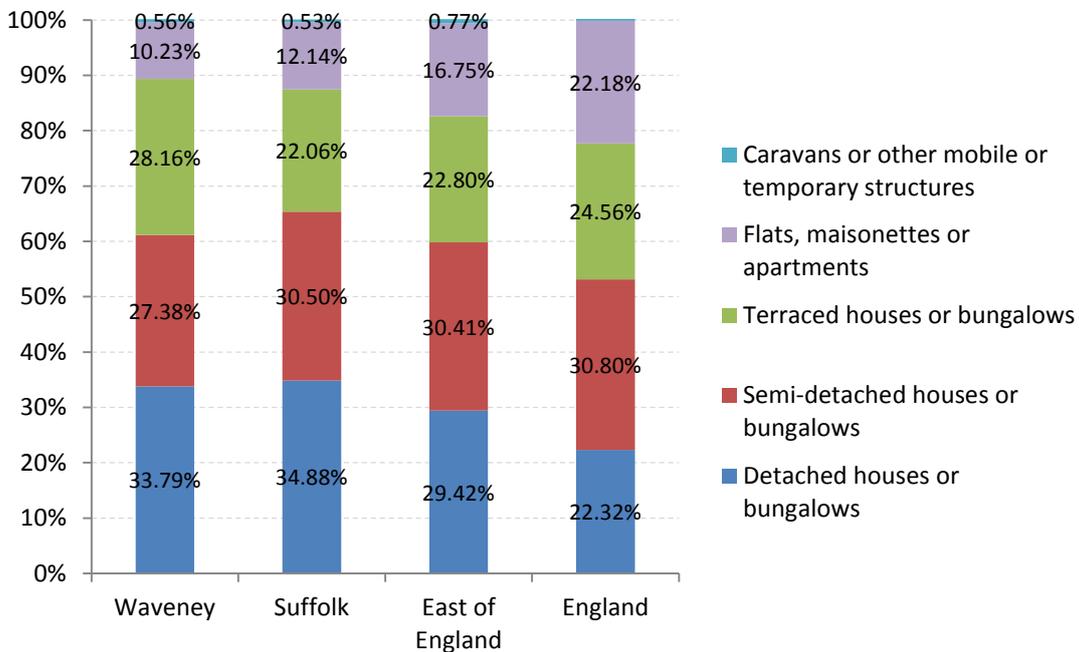


Figure 3.24 house types

¹⁸ ONS population estimates by 5 year age bands, 2013 (Suffolk Observatory)

¹⁹ Blundeston prison population April 2011: 444. Ministry of Justice, Prison population statistics: Population Bulletin – Monthly April 2011

3.71. Figure 3.25 illustrates the proportion of homes by number of bedrooms in Waveney. 37% of homes are smaller properties with none, 1 or 2 bedrooms and 63% have 3 or more bedrooms. This is comparable to the Suffolk and East of England figures. The average number of bedrooms per household in Waveney is 2.8.

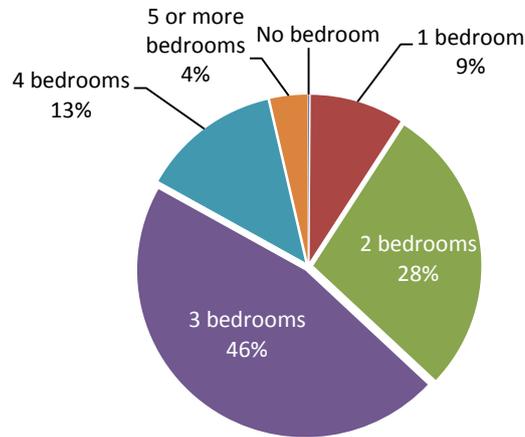


Figure 3.25 number of bedrooms (Census 2011, household spaces with at least one usual resident)

Housing tenure

3.72. Approximately 40% of homes are owned outright in Waveney; higher than the Suffolk average and considerably higher than for England. All other tenure types are relatively comparable to Suffolk (Table 3.11).

Household tenure	Waveney	Suffolk	East of England	England
All Tenures	50,883	310,745	2,423,035	22,063,368
% Owned outright	40.3	35.7	32.9	30.6
% Owned with a mortgage or loan	29.1	31.5	34.7	32.8
% Shared ownership (part owned and part rented)	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.8
% Social rented: Rented from council (Local Authority)	8.3	7.6	7.8	9.4
% Social rented: Other	5.7	7.2	7.9	8.3
% Private rented: Private landlord or letting agency	13.6	14.0	13.3	15.4
% Private rented: Other	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4
% Living rent free	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.3

Table 3.11 household tenure, 2011 Census

House prices and sales

- 3.73. The average house price in Waveney is £150,000 (the lowest in the county) compared to the Suffolk average of £187,000²⁰. Figure 3.26 illustrates the median house price sales for the period 2010 to 2014 (Quarter 4, Oct-Dec). Waveney house prices have increased from £137,750 in 2010 to £150,000 in 2014 an increase of 8.9%. The highest increase in this period has been in St Edmundsbury (22%) and the lowest in Babergh (3.2%).

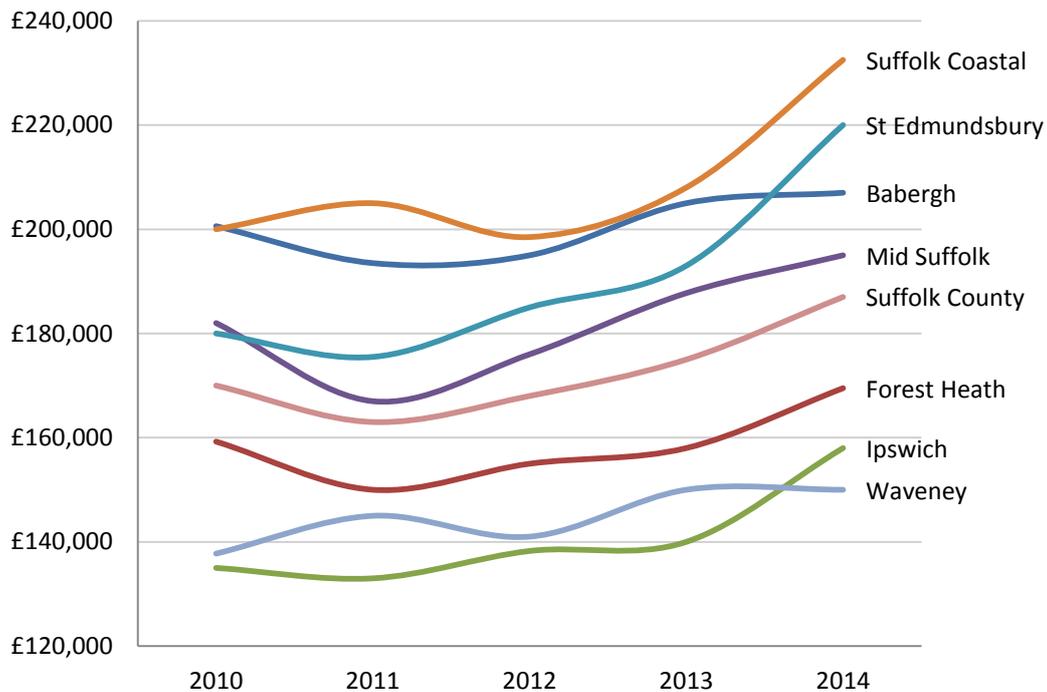


Figure 3.26 median house prices, Quarter 4 (Oct-Dec)

- 3.74. Within Waveney there are significant variations in the cost of a home. Figure 3.27 shows these differences with the lowest average house prices in Harbour ward at £82,000 compared to the highest £310,000 in Southwold and Reydon ward. As expected the rural areas have the highest house prices and the central areas of Lowestoft the lowest. Harbour ward properties are typically older terraced streets. Within Southwold itself, the majority of properties are terraced style within a Conservation Area of which many are listed. Properties in Reydon are typically detached. A recent 36 home development on a greenfield site in Reydon achieved £430,000 for a four-bedroom detached house with double garage (June 2013). A brownfield redevelopment site in Harbour ward comprising four 3-bedroom terraced houses each with 1 allocated parking space achieved £110,000 (April 2014).

²⁰ Land Registry, median house price sales, Quarter 4, 2014 (Suffolk Observatory)

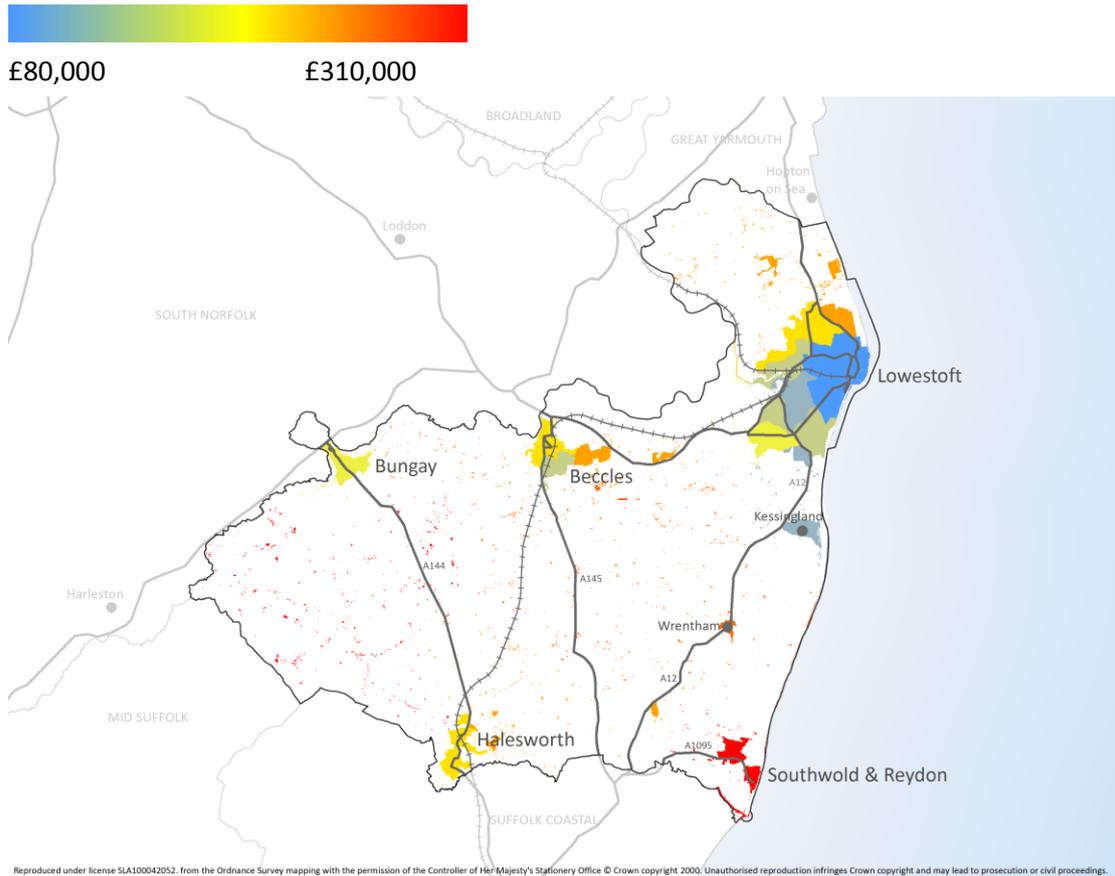


Figure 3.27 2010-2014 median house prices

3.75. House prices are 6.37 times more than earnings in Waveney²¹ as shown in Table 3.12. The ratio for Suffolk ranges from 5.37 in Ipswich to 8.99 in Babergh.

Location	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Waveney	5.93	6.86	6.42	6.85	6.37
Suffolk Coastal	6.61	7.88	7.35	7.38	7.05
Great Yarmouth	5.35	5.48	5.34	5.10	5.01
Suffolk	6.40	7.02	6.76	7.05	6.82

Table 3.12 house price to earnings ratio, 2009-2013

3.76. The number of house sales in Waveney has increased by 38.6% between 2010 and 2014, from 1,536 sales in 2010 to 2,129 in 2014²². In this time, Suffolk county sales have increased by 53% with the smallest increase in Suffolk Coastal (27%) and the highest in Forest Heath (43%).

Housing waiting list

²¹ DCLG, Table 577 Ratio of median house price to median earnings by district, from 1997

²² Land Registry, total number of house sales (Suffolk Observatory)

- 3.77. Data extracted on 3 March 2015 shows a total of 2,499 households on the Council's housing register. Based on correspondence postcode location, approximately 58% are currently living within Waveney: 62% in Lowestoft, 29% in the Market Towns and 9% in the rural areas.²³ The housing register is for general needs rented only excluding other needs such as part ownership or supported housing. It is generally accepted that it is an under estimate of need.

Homelessness

- 3.78. Figure 3.28 shows the number of households accepted as being homeless and in priority need has seen a generally decreasing trend from 265 in 2005 to 39 in 2014 (a ratio of 0.75 per 1,000 households)²⁴.

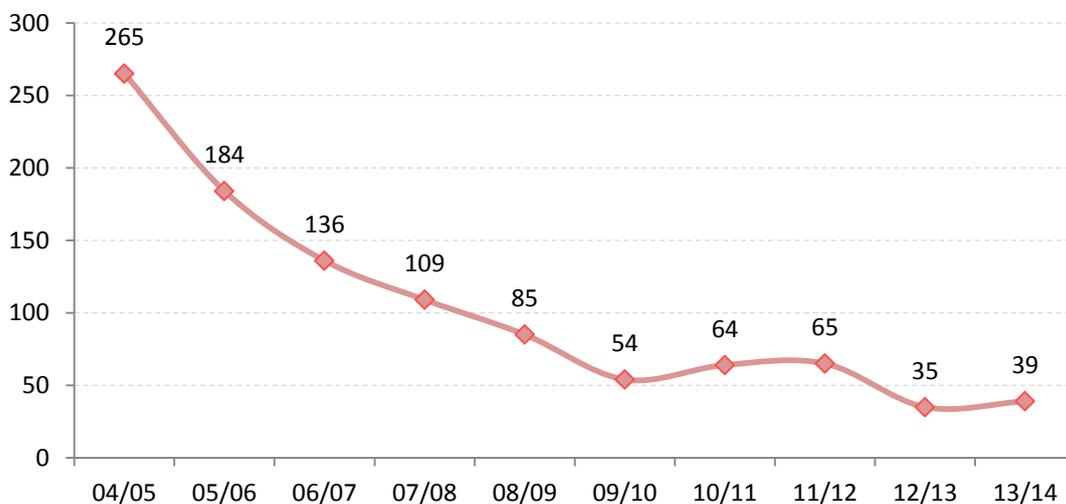


Figure 3.28 number of households accepted as being homeless and in priority need

Second Homes

- 3.79. As of June 2015 there were 1327 second homes in the District representing only 2.4% of total stock²⁵. However, in Southwold 35% of all dwellings are second homes. Elsewhere the proportion is generally higher in the rural areas with some Parishes as high as 14%. Lowestoft has a very low proportion of only 0.8%. In terms of trends the number of second homes across the District has only increased by 36 over the period 2010 to 2015.

Housing delivery (completions)

- 3.80. Between April 2001 and March 2015, 4,114 new dwellings have been completed of which 739 are affordable homes (18%).

²³ Waveney postcodes matched to Waveney Wards - postcodes in Corton allocated to 'rural area' and postcodes in the unparished area of Lowestoft allocated to 'Lowestoft'

²⁴ DCLG, Table 784: Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Acts

²⁵ Source: Council Tax base

- 3.81. The type and mix of housing provided for the period April 2009 to March 2014 includes:
- 34% affordable homes (including social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership);
 - 48% one or two bedroom homes, exceeding the current 30-40% target of homes designed for single people and couples;
 - 57% houses; 16% bungalows and 26% flats;
 - Approximately 106 homes (6%) meet the requirements of an ageing population and those with specialist needs (including sheltered and very housing, wheelchair accessible homes and Lifetime Homes standard).

- 3.82. In line with current policy the majority of housing growth has been in Lowestoft, followed by the Market Towns and larger villages. Table 3.13 illustrates the distribution of new housing development within Waveney for the period April 2001 to March 2015.

Settlement Hierarchy	Settlement	Completions 2001-15	Percentage
Lowestoft	Lowestoft + Carlton Colville + Oulton	2,253	55%
Market Towns	Beccles + Worlingham	1,207	29%
	Bungay		
	Halesworth		
	Southwold + Reydon		
Larger Villages	Barnby + North Cove	380	9%
	Blundeston		
	Corton		
	Holton		
	Kessingland		
	Wangford		
Rural areas	All other parishes	274	7%
TOTAL		4,114	

Table 3.13 housing completions 2001-2015

Rural areas includes 113 dwellings forming part of the Bloodmoor Estate straddling Carlton Colville and Gisleham parishes

Housing and population

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

Population projections (2012-2037)

- 3.83. ONS 2012-based population projections²⁶ show the Waveney population growing from 116,000 in 2012 to 124,000 by 2037 (an increase of 8,000 over 25 years / averaging 320 per annum) (*Figure 3.29*).

²⁶ ONS, Table 2: 2012-based Subnational Population Projections for Local Authorities in England (figures in thousands – rounded up to nearest thousand)

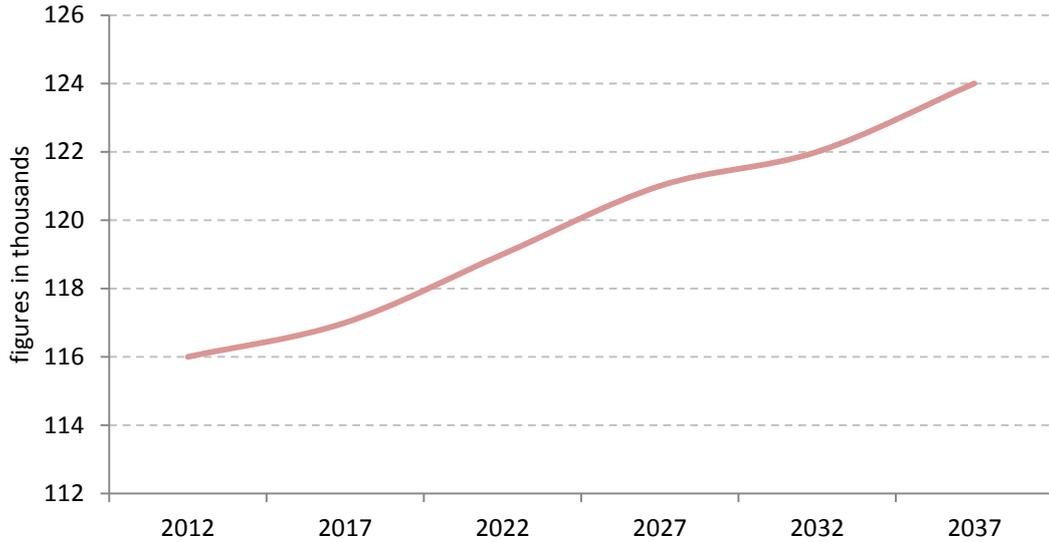


Figure 3.29 population projection, Waveney 2012-2037

3.84. Table 3.14 and Figure 3.30 show the projected changes in the population by age groupings. The most significant changes are:

- population up to the age of 69 generally decreases or at best is stable;
- largest decrease is those aged 45 to 49 - down by 1,100;
- largest increase is those aged 90 and over – up by 3,500 (30%);
- those aged 85 to 89 and 75 to 79 increases by 2,600 and 2,500 respectively;
- working age population (ages 20-64) falls by 5,000 people.

Age	2012	2025	2037	% change 2012-2037
Children + young adults: under 20	25,000	25,000	24,000	0.96
Working age: 20-64	62,000	60,000	57,000	0.93
Retired: 65-79	20,000	24,000	26,000	1.29
Elderly: 80 and over	8,000	12,000	16,000	1.98
Total	116,000	120,000	124,000	1.07

Table 3.14 population projections, by age banding

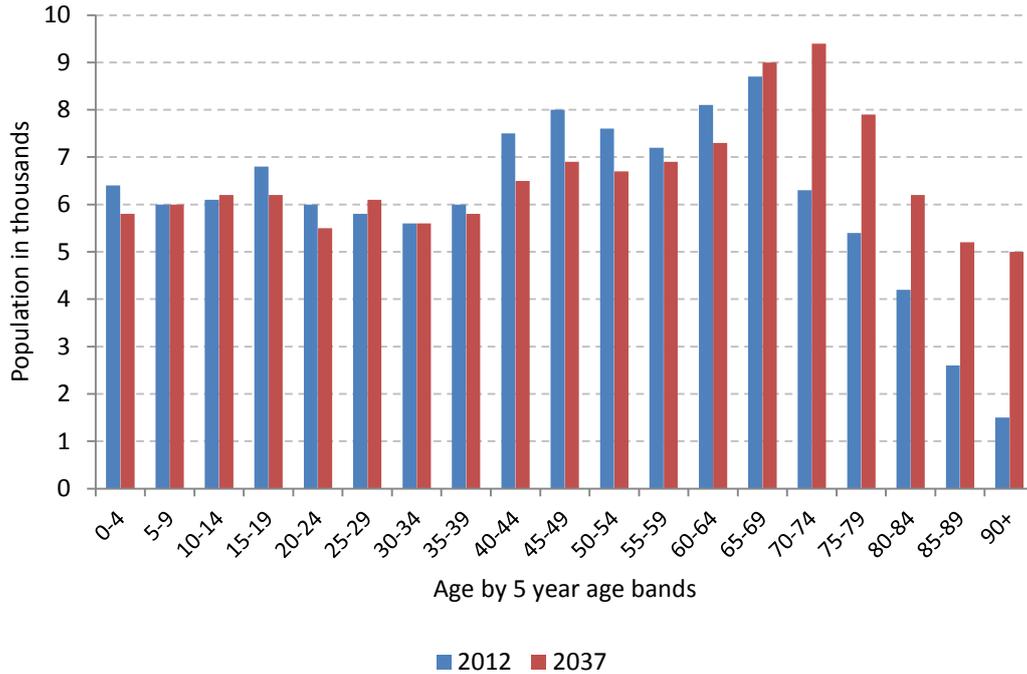


Figure 3.30 population projections, by 5 year age bandings

Household projections (2012-2037)

- 3.85. ONS 2012-based household projections²⁷ show the number of households in Waveney increasing by 15% between 2012 and 2037 (a growth of 7,739 over 25 years / averaging 309.6 per annum). Table 3.15 shows the Suffolk district projections with Suffolk county and Great Yarmouth for comparison.

Location	Households 2012	Households 2037	% change 2012-2037
Babergh	37,820	44,372	17%
Forest Heath	25,278	33,125	31%
Ipswich	57,872	70,792	22%
Mid Suffolk	40,960	50,563	23%
St Edmundsbury	46,248	54,983	19%
Suffolk Coastal	53,962	65,164	21%
Waveney	51,166	58,905	15%
Suffolk County	313,306	377,904	21%
Great Yarmouth	42,388	51,444	21%

Table 3.15 ONS household population projections 2012-2037

²⁷ DCLG, Live tables on household projections 2012-based Household Projections for Local Authorities in England

- 3.86. The average Waveney household size is set to decrease from 2.23 in 2012 to 2.07 by 2037. The Suffolk average by 2037 is 2.14 with the smallest households in Suffolk Coastal (2.04) and the largest in Forest Heath (2.35).
- 3.87. Table 3.16 shows the household projections to 2025 in more detail. The annual average household formation rate in this period is 305.

Households 2012	Households 2025	Households increase 2012-25	% change 2012-25	Annual average increase
51,166	55,127	3,961	8%	304.7

Table 3.16 household population projections 2012-2025

Projected housing completions 2014-2025

- 3.88. The Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (2014) identifies 3,276 new homes which are likely to be delivered over the period 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2025. 1,713 homes are identified as deliverable in the five year period (April 2015-March 2020). A further 770 homes are expected to be delivered post 2025.

2014 / 15	2015 / 16	2016 / 17	2017 / 18	2018 / 19	2019 / 20	2020 / 21	2021 / 22	2022 / 23	2023 / 24	2024 / 25	Total Supply 2014-2025	post 2025
137	199	378	404	428	304	353	355	215	247	256	3276	770

Table 3.17 expected housing delivery (Waveney Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, 2014)

- 3.89. Between April 2012 and March 2025 3,602 dwellings are expected to be delivered and 3,961 households are expected to form – a deficit of 359 homes. **Figure 3.31** compares the delivery of new homes to the household formation rate. The majority of this development is projected to take place in Lowestoft increasing the share of development taking place in Lowestoft to 66% over the period 2001-2025.

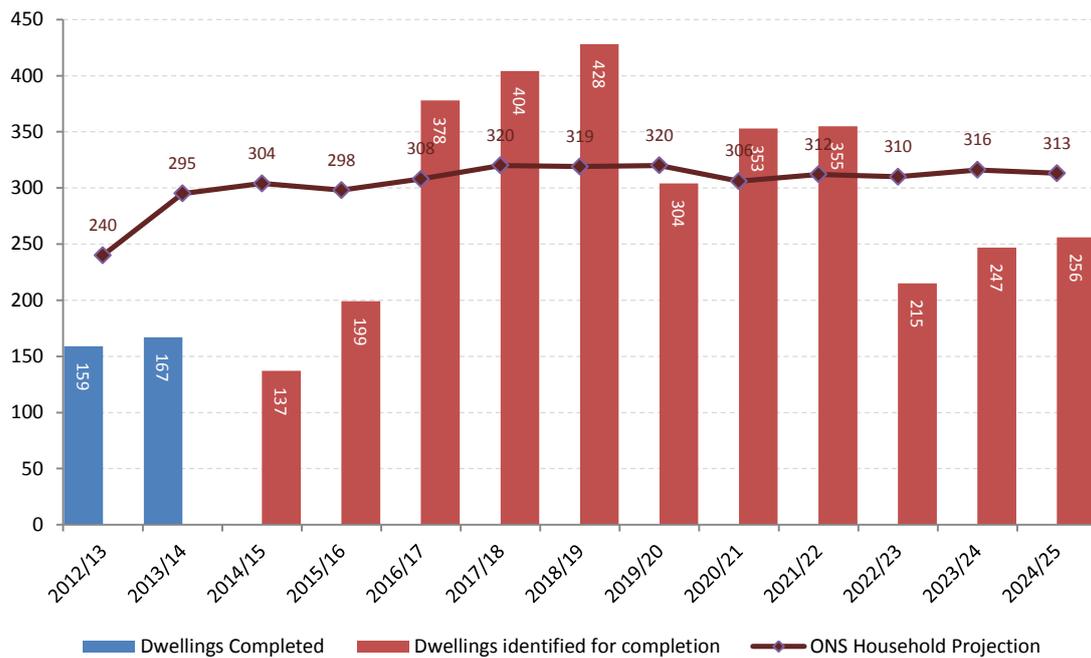


Figure 3.31 dwellings delivered compared to household projection

Other forms of housing supply

- 3.90. Other types of housing such as care homes and supported housing is expected to deliver 162 units/bedrooms of accommodation within the next 5 years. Residential annexes can address a need for people requiring some element of care which can be met by living close to relatives or carers.
- 3.91. The public and private sectors are improving existing stock and providing additional accommodation for those requiring care within a nursing home environment, supported accommodation and sheltered/very sheltered housing.

Housing and population
Outlook Summary



Housing and population
Key Issues and Problems

- By 2025 housing supply may fail to meet demand.
- Housing stock will need to meet the requirements of an ageing population.

- House prices in Waveney are more than 6 times annual earnings.
- House prices in some rural areas and Southwold and Reydon are much more expensive than other parts of the District.

Environment Baseline

Air and Water Quality

Summary

Context

- 3.92. Air and water quality within Waveney are important elements of the natural environment that must be managed and monitored carefully. Waveney is situated around a series of waterways and a coastal strip that provide habitats to a range of species.

Air Quality

- 3.93. Air Quality in Waveney is measured by 9 passive diffusion tubes that measure NO² (Nitrogen dioxide) levels at roadside locations around the District. From the annual mean concentrations of NO² recorded, the national air quality objectives had not been exceeded anywhere within Waveney in 2014²⁸. Because of this there are currently no Air Quality Management Areas declared within Waveney²⁹, reflecting the high standard of air quality found throughout the District.

River Quality

- 3.94. The rivers, tributaries and lakes of Waveney contain a large variety of flora and fauna, many of which are sensitive to water quality. The quality of water bodies found within or partially within the District is decreasing annually. This trend is likely to be caused by nitrates and the pesticide metaldehyde, which originates from agricultural land where they are applied as fertiliser and to prevent crop damage from slugs. In response to this the River Waveney and the River Blyth have both been registered on the Catchment Sensitive Farming delivery initiative³⁰ which is a nationally funded advice led partnership (Natural England, Environmental Agency) that aims to reduce the environmental impact of farming on river water quality³¹.

²⁸ 2014 Air Quality Progress Report (WDC)

²⁹ <http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/>

³⁰ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300671/catchment-map.pdf

³¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/309814/River_Basin_Management_Plan.pdf

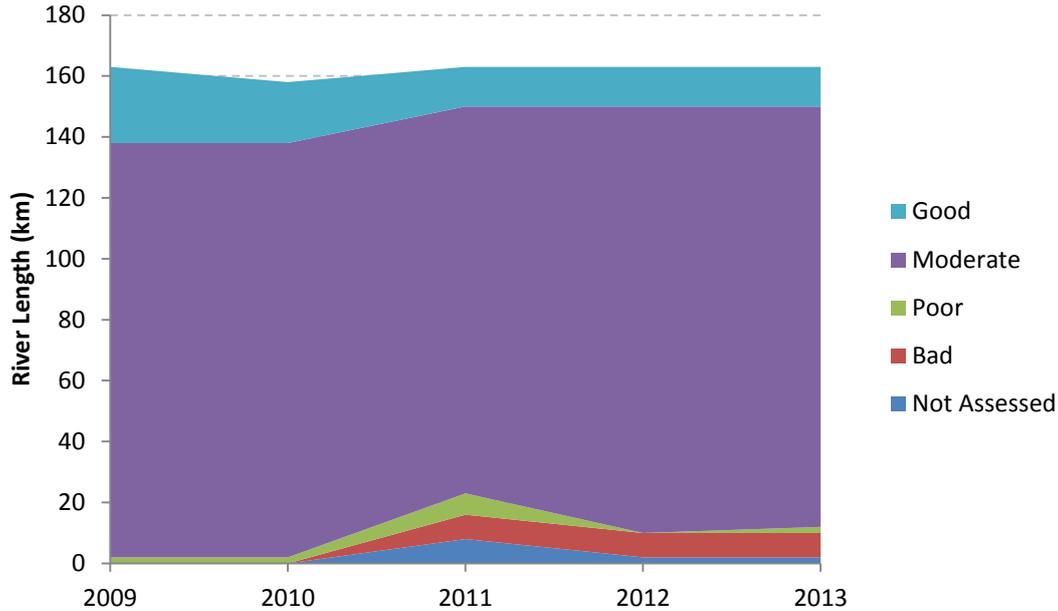


Figure 3.32 River Water Quality

Bathing Quality

- 3.95. Waveney's coastal location provides several areas of suitable bathing water. Bathing water quality information is collected annually by the Environment Agency³² on four areas within the District. Bathing water quality within Waveney is generally high; which is reflected in the retention of the three blue flag designations in the District, two of which are located at Lowestoft and the other at Southwold.

Sewage Treatment Works Capacity

- 3.96. Sewerage treatment capacity varies between each town and village in the District. Whilst Kessingland and Beccles will require upgrades to treatment centres to facilitate extra growth in the near future, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold already have enough capacity to accommodate further development without upgrading their water treatment centres³³.

Air and water quality

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.97. Both air and water quality within Waveney could be detrimentally affected if current Local Plan policies on sustainable transport and environmental protection are not in place. Whilst air quality and bathing water quality within Waveney are good and show improving trends, the water quality of rivers is decreasing. It is hoped that measures such as the Catchment Sensitive Farming delivery initiative may help reverse this trend.

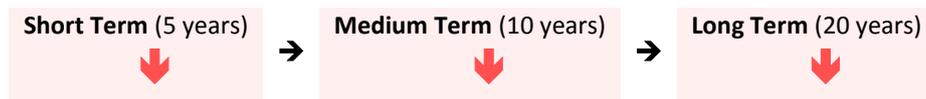
³² <http://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/index.html>

³³ Anglian Water

- 3.98. Future pressures from development beyond the existing Local Plan timeline may harmfully alter the current quality rating of rivers through increased sewage and run-off and lower the Districts overall Air quality through increased traffic.

Air and water quality

Water Quality Outlook



Air and water quality

Air Quality Outlook



Air and water quality

Key Issues and Problems

- The overall water quality of water bodies within or partially within the District is decreasing.

Landscape and Townscape

Summary

Context

- 3.99. Waveney has a diverse landscape character, with parts of the District lying within the Broads, and others within the unique landscape of the Waveney and Blyth Valleys and the East coast. Waveney also contains the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Development on previously developed land

- 3.100. The existing Local Plan sets out a target for 60% of housing developments to be constructed on previously developed land in order to minimise the use of greenfield land and therefore impact on landscape. Whilst the percentage of dwellings built on previously developed land has increased considerably since the period of 2001/2002, the total percentage from the

years 2001- 2014 is only 46.15%. Although this is below the target number, the percentages since 2006/2007 show an improving trend.

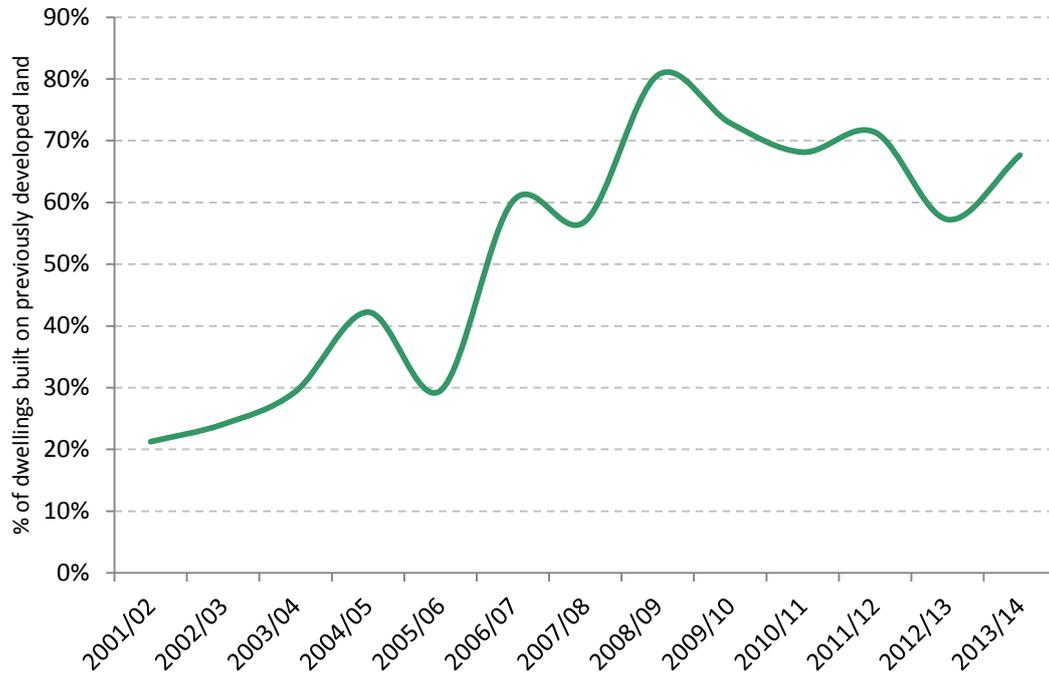


Figure 3.33 Percentage of residential development built on previously developed land

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

3.101. The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers an area of 4,984ha within the borders of Waveney. Figure 3.34 below shows the extent of the AONB in Waveney.



Figure 3.34 Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB boundary

Landscape Character

3.102. The Landscape Character Assessment³⁴ published in April 2008 is a comprehensive report that assesses changes to the landscape character of Waveney. The assessment recognised a number of areas within Waveney for their landscape sensitivity. These include rural river valleys and tributary valley farmland character areas. Figure 3.35 shows the various character areas across the District.

³⁴ Waveney and Great Yarmouth Landscape Character Assessment, Land Use Consultants (2008)

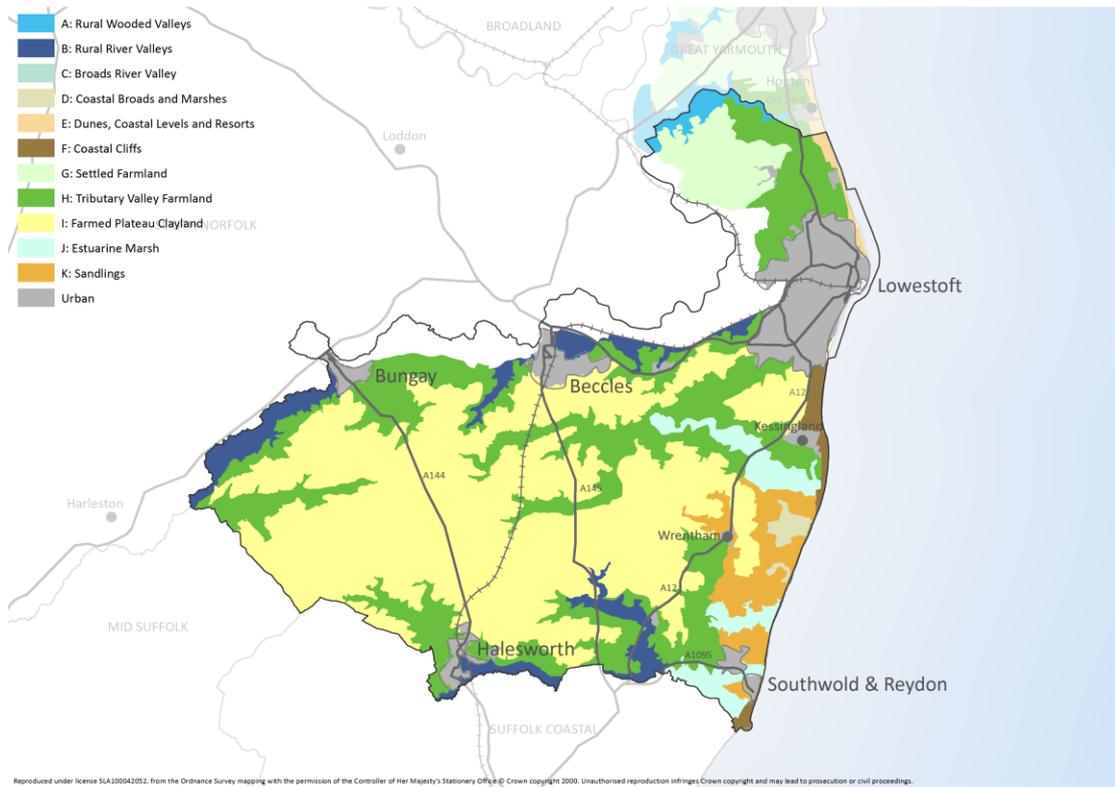


Figure 3.35 Landscape Character of Waveney³⁴

The Broads

3.103. Parts of the District fall within the Broads Authority. The Broads Authority is responsible for planning in these areas. The Broads and the area surrounding them are particularly sensitive to development.

Landscape and townscape

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

3.104. In the short term, landscape protection policies in the existing Local Plan and the priority given to previously developed land should effectively limit the impact of development on the landscape. However, in the longer term, the amount of development on greenfield sites would likely increase without suitable policy guidance set out within an up to date Local Plan. Protected sites and areas with sensitive landscape character could also be put at risk from development pressures in the longer term without an up to date Local Plan.

Landscape and townscape

Outlook Summary



*Landscape and townscape***Key Issues and Problems**

- The AONB, the Broads and the landscape character areas of tributary valley farmland and rural river valleys are particularly sensitive to the impacts of development.

Climate Change

Summary

- 3.105. Climate change is a result of global warming, a process caused by an increase of greenhouse gas emissions into the earth's atmosphere. Climate change can affect weather patterns and sea levels, both of which can result in damage to the natural and built environment. Waveney is particularly sensitive to changes in sea level due to its coastal location.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

- 3.106. CO² emissions from industrial, commercial and transport sectors are steadily decreasing³⁵ within the UK, including within Waveney. This is largely due to the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act³⁶. Industrial emissions have seen the most notable decrease on both a national and local scale; which is likely due to the decline of industrial based employment within the UK. Waveney's commercial based emissions mirror that of the UK trend, in that they have both shown a steady decrease, however the decline is less distinct than the fall in industrial emissions. The decrease in transport emissions is also lesser than that of the industry sector, however, the trend does show a more consistent decrease, which has fluctuated less in its decline than either Industrial or commercial emissions.

³⁵

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/395127/uk_greenhouse_gas_emissions_3rd_quarter_2014_provisional_figures.pdf

³⁶ <http://www.theccc.org.uk/tackling-climate-change/reducing-carbon-emissions/carbon-budgets-and-targets/>

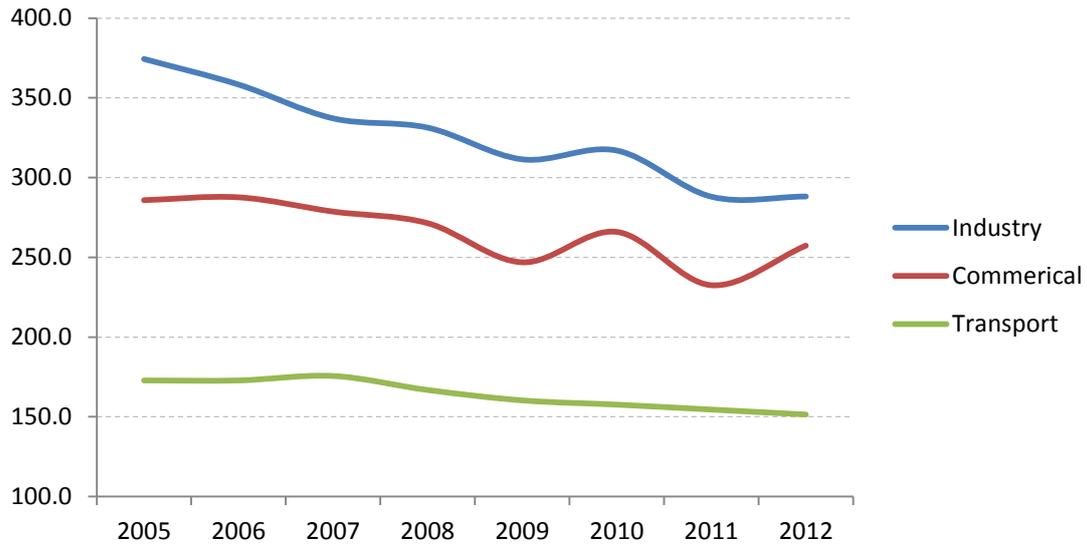


Figure 3.36 CO² Emissions in Waveney

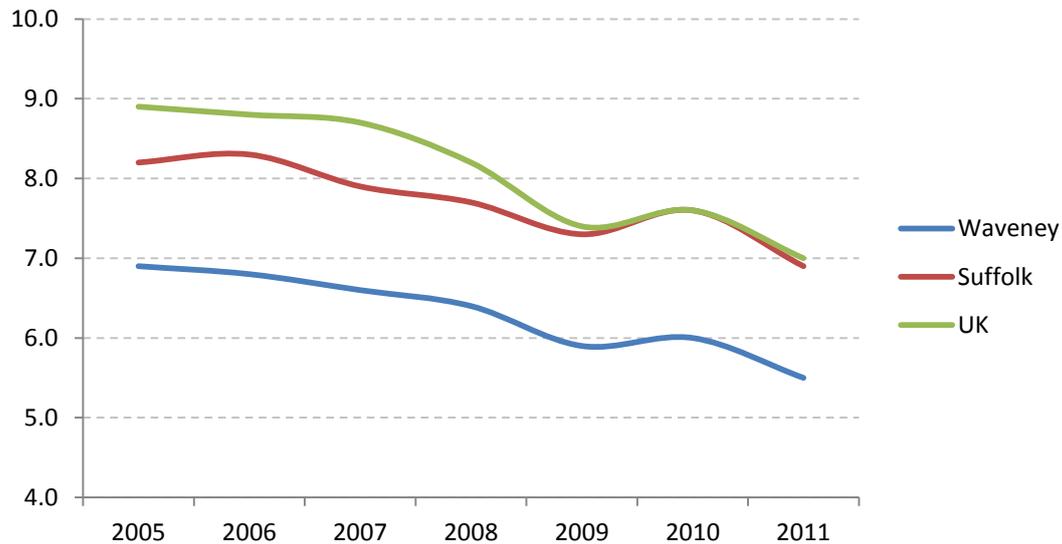


Figure 3.37 Total CO² Emissions per capita

3.107. CO² emissions per capita in Waveney have steadily decreased from 2005 to 2011³⁷, whilst the data does not cover the last 4 years it is likely that the declining trend has continued. Regional per capita averages for Suffolk and national per capita for the UK have also seen a decrease since 2005, though at a slower rate than seen in Waveney. Waveney’s total CO² emissions per capita in comparison to regional averages for Suffolk are lower in all sectors, and lower still than UK averages.

3.108. Domestic CO² emissions per capita has seen the smallest decrease since 2005 at a local, regional and national level, whereas industrial CO² emissions per capita has seen a much

³⁷ Department of Energy and Climate Change

stronger decline, which is likely caused by an economic shift away from industry and manufacturing in the UK. Whilst Industrial CO² emissions per capita have decreased at a local, regional and national level, Waveney has a significantly lower average CO² emission per capita for industry than Suffolk and UK averages, this may be due to either a greater shift away from Industrial employment.

- 3.109. Transport CO² emissions per capita are much lower in Waveney than the Suffolk and UK averages, this lower figure may be due to higher levels of cycling in the District in comparison to National and regional averages and also due to the short travel distances given the District 's high levels of self containment.

Energy Efficient Homes

- 3.110. Creating more energy efficient homes can lower Waveney's carbon footprint and reduce energy bills for people who live and work in the District. The Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) is a methodology used by the Government to assess and compare the energy and environmental performance of buildings. The SAP statistics in Waveney show that since 2001 there has been an improving trend in the SAP rating of homes.

Date	Rating
2014	69.8
2013	68.8
2011/12	81.84
2004/5	63
2003/4	60
2002/3	58
2001/2	53

Table 3.18. SAP ratings per year

Effects of Climate Change

- 3.111. There has been a progressive increase in the level of flood alerts and warnings since 2010; however it is difficult to say if this is a result of climate change. Whilst coastal flooding remains a threat, the Environmental Agency has not issued any fluvial or pluvial alerts for

inland areas within Waveney in the last two years³⁸.

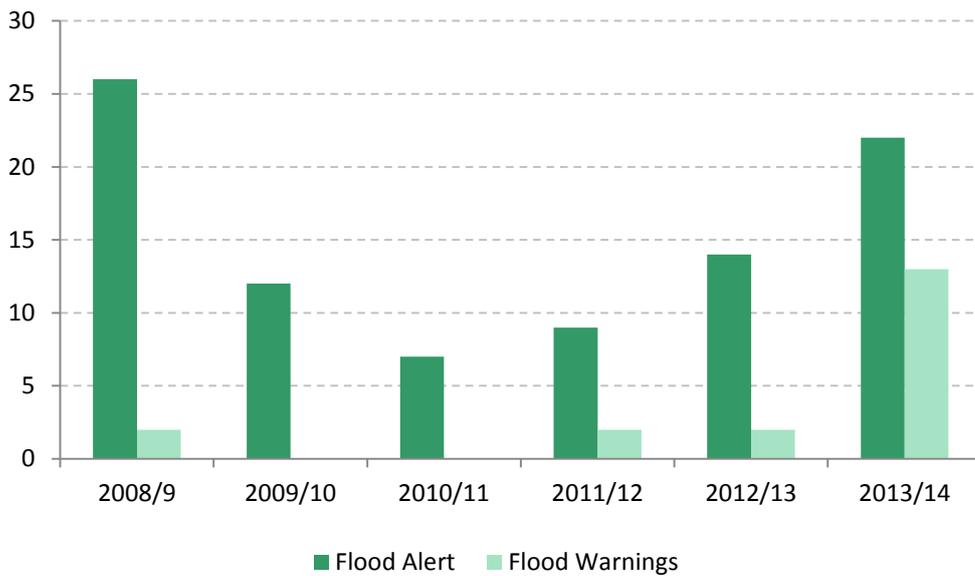


Figure 3.38 Flood Alerts and Warnings

- 3.112. Within Waveney there are 3,859 properties that fall within flood zone 2 as recognised by the Environment Agency. Of these, 73% are within Lowestoft. There are 1,970 properties within flood zone 3 areas, of which 65% are within Lowestoft. This is a considerable amount of property at risk of flooding³⁹.
- 3.113. Parts of Waveney's coast are threatened by coastal erosion, and whilst some of this has been mitigated by defences, a number of areas remain at risk. The Annual Monitoring Report (2012) identified that a total of 239 properties, made up of residential, community and commercial uses were at risk from coastal erosion within the next 100 years. However it should be noted that a number of the residential properties were not primary residences, but rather second homes or holiday lets, including 123 holiday homes at Waterside Park, Corton.

Climate change

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.114. The Government has set targets, in the form of carbon budgets to reduce the amount of CO² produced by the UK by 80% by the year 2050⁴⁰. Four carbon budgets have been set in law, which currently set targets up to the year 2027. Government projections suggest that the UK

³⁸ http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683.0&y=355134.0&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=_e&topic=floodmap#x=645913&y=290887&lg=1,&scale=6

³⁹ It should also be noted that these figures are based on 'addressable properties' and may not include all properties at risk

⁴⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reducing-the-uk-s-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-80-by-2050/supporting-pages/carbon-budgets>

is likely to comfortably meet its first three carbon budgets, however it is thought without changes to current policies the 4th carbon budget will be missed by a shortfall of 205 MtCO₂e (Million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent)⁴¹.

- 3.115. Waveney's current Local Plan helps to drive sustainable development in the District through ensuring sustainable patterns and types of development. However, recent changes to the Code for Sustainable Homes may slow down energy efficiency improvements in new domestic properties. Additionally, development pressures beyond the existing Local Plan may result in less sustainable patterns of development which encourage private car use which could result in an increase in emissions from transport.
- 3.116. The effects of climate change, even with mitigation and reductions in emissions will likely mean that more of the District is at risk from flooding and coastal erosion. However, funding has recently been secured for a new flood defence scheme for the Lake Lothing area of Lowestoft which should significantly reduce the number of properties in Lowestoft which are at risk from flooding.

Climate change

Climate Change Outlook



Key Issues and Problems

- 239 properties are at risk from coastal erosion.
- There are a significant number of properties that fall within flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 areas.
- Climate change will continue to alter weather conditions and sea levels, potentially resulting in an increase of flooding and dangerous weather. Areas at risk from flooding will increase in the period to 2107.

⁴¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/65717/6660-updated-emissions-projections-october-2012.pdf

Natural Resources

Summary

Soil Resources

- 3.117. Soil in Waveney is an important resource, in regards to both its agricultural use and the raw materials it contains. Sand, clay and gravel are the most common soil based resources in Waveney⁴². Peat can also be found in the marshy areas surrounding the River Waveney, particularly within the Beccles Marshes. However in recent years peat shrinkage has occurred, due to the implementation of artificial drainage systems.⁴³
- 3.118. In order to protect Waveney's soil resources it is important to use land as efficiently as possible. This means prioritising brownfield sites for development, and protecting greenfield land wherever possible, see Figure 3.33.
- 3.119. In some cases the value of brownfield or derelict land may actually be improved by development, especially contaminated land remediated as part of the development process. Whilst there are no declared contaminated sites in Waveney, there are several sites allocated for development in the Lake Lothing Area Action Plan that are known to be contaminated or potentially contaminated.⁴⁴
- 3.120. Figure 3.39 shows the agricultural land grade across Waveney. There is a greater concentration of higher grade agricultural land to the north east of the District, particularly north of Lowestoft. Whilst the west of rural Waveney is largely made up of agricultural land, the majority of it falls in a lower agricultural land grade.

⁴² <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/planning/resource.html#MRM>

⁴³ <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/planning/resource.html#MRM>

⁴⁴

<http://consult.waveney.gov.uk/consult.ti/keyfacts201112/viewCompoundDoc?docid=3548020&partid=3552692#3552692>

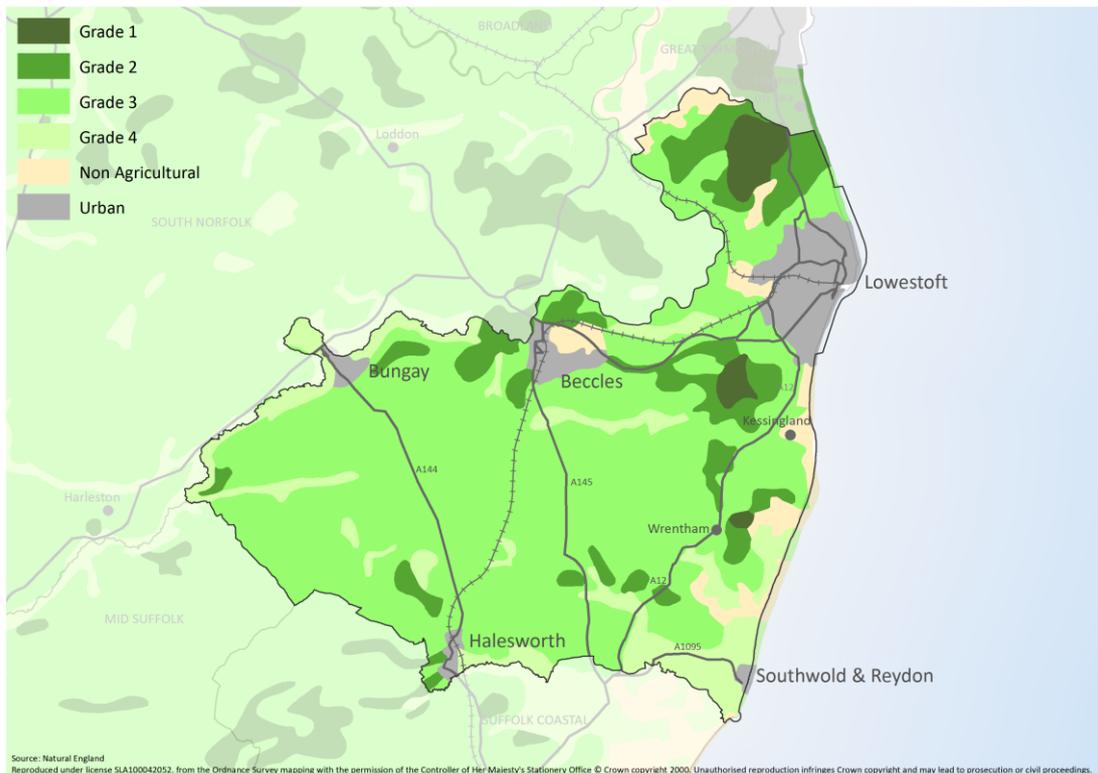


Figure 3.39 Agricultural land grade

Surface Water and Groundwater Resources

- 3.121. The Environment Agency identifies the Anglian Region as being the driest region in England and Wales, with the region receiving less than 600mm of rainfall (compared to an average of 900mm for the whole of England and Wales)⁴⁵. Due to this low level of rainfall, Waveney is vulnerable to drought. The water supply strategy for the region is made of large scale surface water abstractions, both within and just outside of the District, and ground water supplies from the Chalk aquifer (amongst others), which are the main sources of water. The split between surface (SW) and groundwater (GW) across the region is rough 70:30⁴⁶.
- 3.122. In Waveney the largest public water supply source is from surface water abstraction from the River Waveney at Shipmeadow. There are also a number of smaller groundwater abstraction sources which feed the same works at (Barsham WTW) as the SW source. The ground water sources at Barsham are fully utilised, however, the surface water sources would appear to have some spare capacity, although the fact that a license may permit more abstraction (in this case up to 20 MI/d), is no guarantee that the water will be available when required upon demand e.g. during dry summers.
- 3.123. The Environment Agency has stated that both the upper and lower sections of the River Waveney are over-abstacted, although it is not clear what effect abstractions at

⁴⁵ Environment Agency/Defra; 2008; e-Digest of Environmental Statistics

⁴⁶ Waveney and Great Yarmouth Joint Water cycle Strategy Scoping Study, March 2009

Shipmeadow are having on the river's condition. The Environment Agency has also stated that there is no potential for increasing abstraction from the Chalk aquifer at depth and any abstraction from the shallower Crag layer will only be permitted for non consumptive purposes such as spray irrigation. Due to these restrictions the potential for ground water resource development in the region is severely limited.

Water Supply

- 3.124. Essex and Suffolk water (ESW) operate all the major water treatment works (WTW) in Waveney, the largest WTW in the Waveney District is at Barsham, in the lower part of the River Waveney. Barsham works receives water directly from the River Waveney and from a number of local groundwater sources, this water is then fed into both Lowestoft and Southwold. Other water sources in Waveney are mainly from ground water supplies, which in turn feed mainly small WTW's. The water from these works is mainly used to supply local feeds.
- 3.125. The Essex and Suffolk Water Resource Management Plan 2014⁴⁷ states that over the planning period to 2040, all water resource zones ,including those covering Waveney, will be in surplus in terms of water supply.

Minerals

- 3.126. The Minerals Core Strategy Development Plan Document published by Suffolk County Council sets a target to minimise and mitigate the impact of quarrying on the environment whilst taking opportunities to enhance the landscape character, improve public access and enhance biodiversity whilst ensuring appropriate amounts of aggregate and other minerals are provided. The Minerals Core Strategy has identified two safeguarding sites for aggregate within Waveney, the first is a wharf at North Quay on Lake Lothing, and the second is Hamilton dock. These sites are protected for their importance on landing offshore dredged aggregates.

Waste

- 3.127. Waveney District Council is part of the Suffolk Waste Partnership; a group of Local Authorities that embrace the principles outlined in the National Waste Strategy, which has set a target of 30%⁴⁸ of municipal waste and 60% of household waste to be recycled by 2015. Whilst Waveney has succeeded in meeting the target for municipal waste it has failed to meet the target set for household recycling.

⁴⁷ https://www.eswater.co.uk/_assets/documents/ESW_Final_Published_PR14_WRMP_Report_-_V3_-_08OCT14.pdf

⁴⁸ <http://www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolk-waste-partnership/>

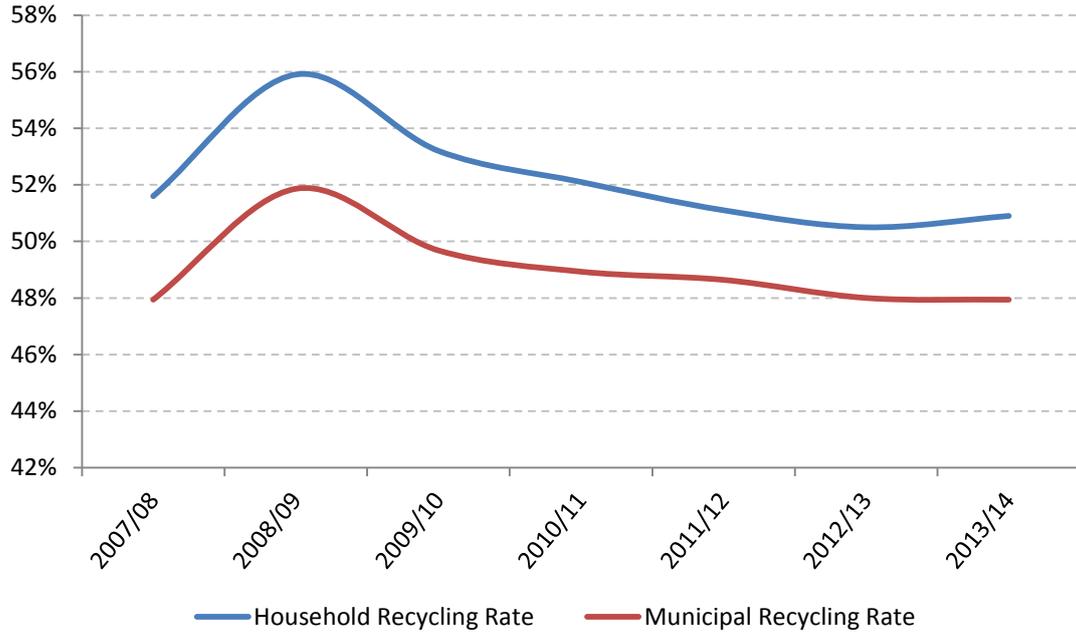


Figure 3.40 Recycling Rates

Natural resources

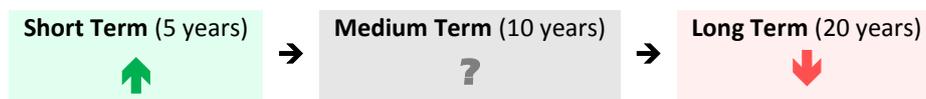
Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

3.128. Policies set out in the current Local Plan encourage effective use of brownfield land, and it is likely that over the short term loss of agricultural land will be minimised. In the longer term as the existing Local Plan begins to date there will be increasing pressure on agricultural land and potentially high grade agricultural land to accommodate future development needs.

3.129. Water resources are expected to stay in surplus over the period to 2040.

Natural resources

Outlook Summary



Natural resources

Key Issues and Problems

- High grade agricultural land is found close to the boundaries of Lowestoft, Beccles, Halesworth and some larger villages.
- Household recycling statistics are below the 60% target deadline set out in the National Waste strategy.

Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Summary

Context

- 3.130. Waveney has a wide range of wildlife which is a result of a unique combination of landscapes and habitat locations found in the District, these include woodland, marshland, rivers, coastline, hedges and fields. Waveney contains over 260 sites of biodiversity value; these sites show considerable spatial variation throughout the District, though some patterns are recognisable as can be seen on the map below.
- 3.131. Several areas of the District contain dense clusters of biodiversity sites, in particular the coastal strip between Pakefield and the River Blyth, which provides a mixture of habitat types. Several key sites can also be found along the river Waveney which offer a good selection of water and marshland habitats. Outney Common, north of Bungay, and Beccles Marsh also has a large area of biodiversity value. Another cluster is apparent in the wooded area north of Sotterley. Woodland is not common in Waveney, making this site particularly important to protect. The west of the District is dominated by agricultural farmland and does not support a large array of wildlife sites.



Figure 3.41 Sites of biodiversity value

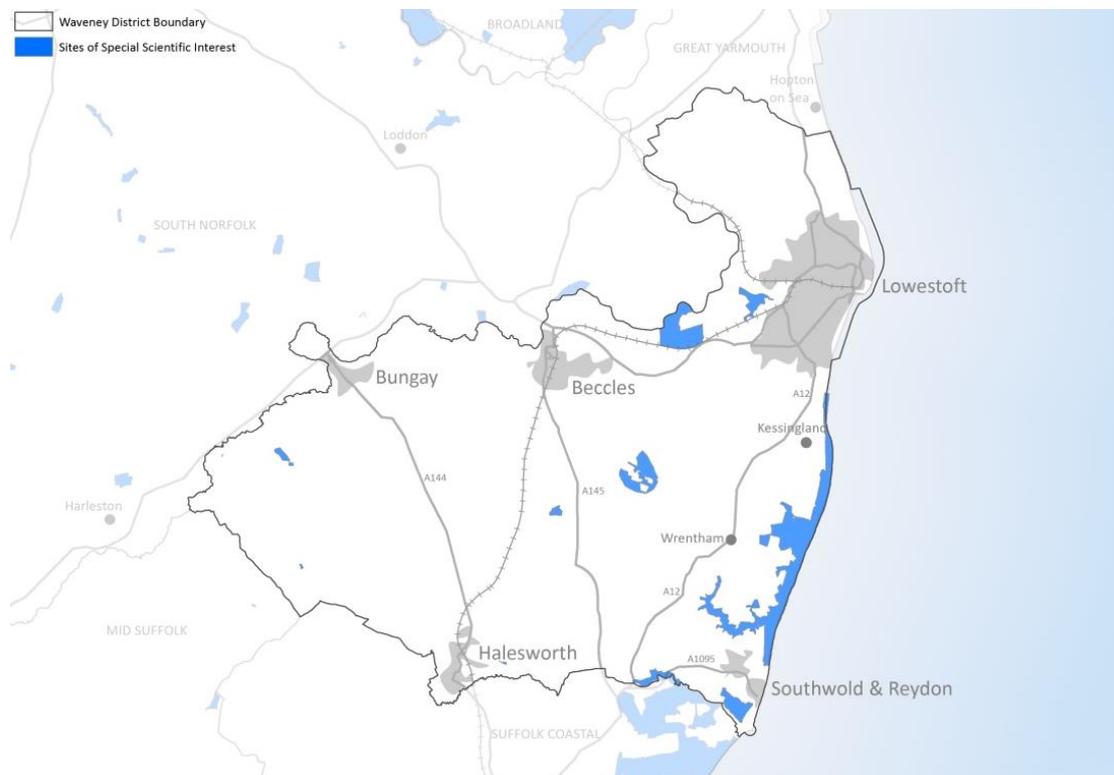
State of Sites of Specific Scientific Interest

- 3.132. The District contains 11 Sites of Special Scientific Interest; these sites are protected by law in order to preserve their special wildlife or geology. Some of these SSSIs are also Special Areas

of Conservation and Special Protection Areas protected by the EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. Off the coast of Waveney is the Outer Thames Estuary Special Protection Area which is designated to protect populations of Red Throated Diver. Natural England annually monitors SSSI's, splitting the sites into smaller "units" to help accurately measure their condition. The results for SSSI's in Waveney show that condition of SSSI units have slightly improved since 2005, with more units being considered as recovering. As of October 2014 50% of units remain in an unfavourable condition. However, the majority of these are recovering.

Condition	Nov 2005		Sep 2013		Oct 2014	
	Number of SSSI units	% of SSSI units	Number of SSSI units	% of SSSI units	Number of SSSI units	% of SSSI units
Favourable	43	49%	51	49%	52	50%
Unfavourable recovering	23	26%	35	33%	37	35%
Unfavourable no change	10	11%	15	14%	12	11%
Unfavourable declining	10	11%	3	3%	3	3%
Part destroyed	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Not Assessed	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	95	100%	105	100%	105	100%

Table 3.19 Condition and number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

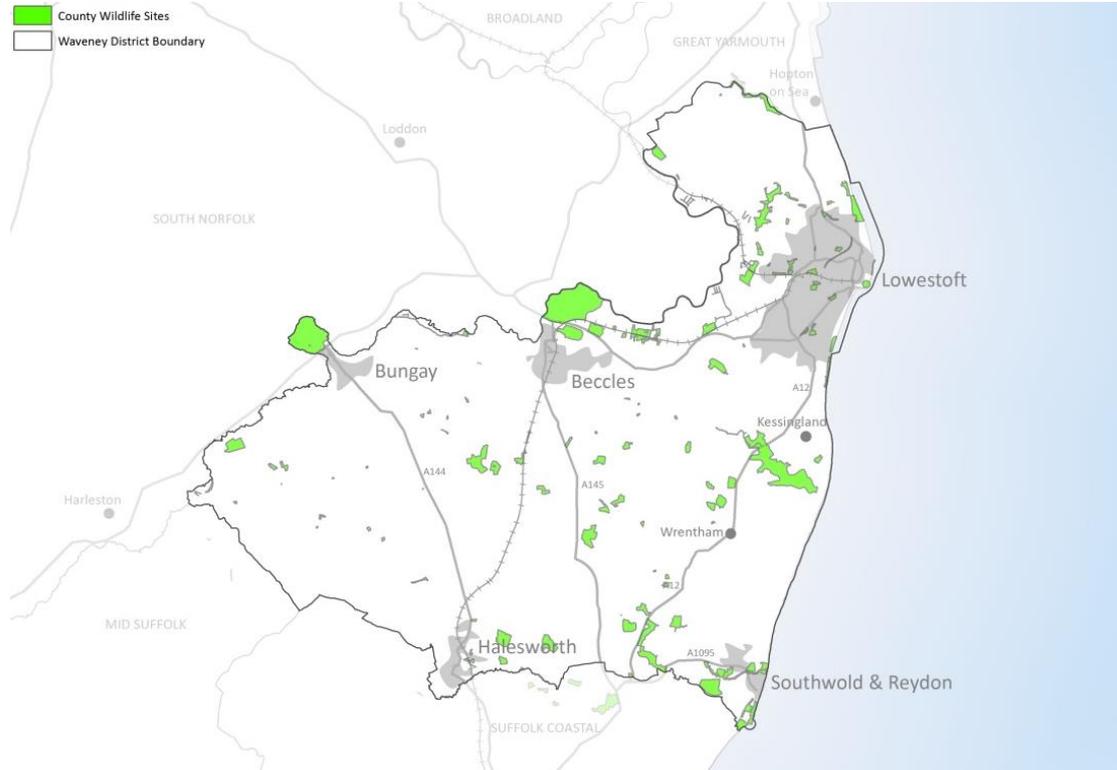


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Figure 3.42 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Management of County Wildlife Sites

3.133. Waveney also contains 100 County Wildlife Sites; whilst these sites have no statutory protection they are protected through policies included within the current Local Plan. The location of CWS's within Waveney is sporadic, though some patterns can be identified such as several sites being located along the course of the River Waveney and within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.



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Figure 3.43 County Wildlife Sites

3.134. Suffolk County Council is responsible for monitoring conservation management within Waveney's County Wildlife Sites. Table 3.20 below shows a positive trend in that the management of these sites is improving, however it should be noted that the increase from 2011 to 2012 is mainly down to the availability of new information. In reality the management quality of the County Wildlife Sites is more likely to have remained consistent.

Year	% Green	% Amber	%Red
2013	51.7	3.5	44.8
2012	51.5	3.5	45
2011	47	4	49

Table 3.20. Management level of County Wildlife Sites

Biodiversity and geodiversity

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.135. National Indicators suggest that in the long term, biodiversity in the UK will continue to follow a similar pattern to the current indicators. This is a concern as current indicators show that many elements of biodiversity are currently deteriorating (33% of total measurements), whilst other aspects have shown no overall change (19% of total measurements)⁴⁹.
- 3.136. Wild Anglia, the Local Nature Partnership, have plans to invest in the management and promotion of public access paths and trails; enabling better connected and joined-up quality green space, paths and cycle ways within Waveney. This could lead to better levels of protection and management of the natural environment within the District in the future.
- 3.137. Planning policies set out in the current Local Plan and in the National Planning Policy Framework ensure proposals for development should contribute towards enhancing the biodiversity and geodiversity of the District. As policies in the existing Local Plan become outdated it is unlikely that there will be much detrimental impact on biodiversity given the strong protection afforded by the National Planning Policy Framework. However, scope to enhance biodiversity as part of planning proposals may be lost.

Biodiversity and geodiversity

Outlook Summary



Biodiversity and geodiversity

Key Issues and Problems

- Waveney has significant areas of sensitive wildlife habitats which support biodiversity of local, national and international concern.
- 50% of SSSIs remain in an unfavourable condition.

Historic Environment

Summary

- 3.138. There are 14 conservation areas within Waveney (two of which fall within the area of Waveney District which is covered by the Broads Authority), 1602 listed buildings, 29

⁴⁹ http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/PDF/BIYP_2013.pdf

scheduled monuments and 3 historic parks and gardens. There are also 1420 locally listed buildings in Waveney; whilst these buildings are considered to make a positive contribution to an areas local character they are not nationally designated. Table 3.21 below lists the conservation areas within Waveney and Table 3.22 breaks down the number of listed buildings by grade.

Conservation Area	Site area (hectares)	
	within WDC plan area	within Broads Authority plan area
Lowestoft North	32.2	0
Lowestoft South	67.1	0
Beccles	35.5	11.6
Bungay	35	7.8
Halesworth	27	0
Southwold Harbour	6	0
Southwold High Street	37.7	0
Holton	11.8	0
Homersfield	14.1	0
Somerleyton	25.6	0
Wangford	12.2	0
Wissett	14.1	0
Wrentham	10.4	0
Walberswick (part)	2.3	0
Oulton Broad	0	46.2
Ellingham (part)	0	0.4

Table 3.21. Conservation Area Sizes

Grade	Number
GI	49
GII*	75
GII	1478

Table 3.22. Number of Listed Buildings

- 3.139. The number of listed buildings at risk has remained relatively static over the last 12 years, with 2015 seeing a slight increase, up to a total of 17. Of these 17 buildings, none are considered to be at risk from inappropriate development, but rather from decay or neglect, in most cases due to lack of available funding for repair work⁵⁰.

⁵⁰

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/suffolk.gov.uk/Environment%20and%20Transport/Planning%20and%20Building/Conservation%20and%20Listed%20Buildings/WaveneyBAR2012.pdf>

Year	Number
2015	17
2012	14
2009	13
2006	15
2003	14

Table 3.23. Number of Listed Buildings at Risk

3.140. Waveney has 3 historic parks and gardens. These areas serve a multi purpose role in providing open space for recreational use, but also in preserving and promoting historic environments which allows the areas to serve an educational role. The three parks/gardens have seen no change to either their listed grading or size since each was registered on the National Heritage List.

Name	Area (ha)	Reg. Date	Grade
Henham	283.89	01/06/1984	II
Somerleyton Park	165.57	01/06/1984	II*
Belle Vue Park	1.70	18/06/2002	II
Total	451.16		

Table 3.24. Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic environment

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

3.141. Waveney’s architectural, cultural and archaeological heritage could be threatened by increasing pressures from development, especially in respect of poor design standards damaging areas of historical character. Suitable policies are currently in place to ensure the protection and promotion of the Districts’ historical assets, but without an up to date Local Plan, and with increased development pressure, the historic environment may be threatened. However, there is strong legislative protection for listed buildings and protection for heritage assets is contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Historic environment

Outlook Summary



Historic environment

Key Issues and Problems

- Waveney has a rich historic environment which could be sensitive to pressures of new development.
- The number of listed buildings at risk has slightly increased.

Economic Baseline

Economic Growth

Summary

Context

- 3.142. Historically Waveney's economy has been based on farming, printing, manufacturing, food processing and industries taking advantage of the coastal location, such as tourism and the offshore sector. The District still has major established employers of national and international repute. The District is increasingly recognised for its growing potential to support the offshore energy sector. The recent designation of Enterprise Zone status to a number of sites in the District together with Lowestoft being designated a Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering (CORE)⁵¹ by the Government is evidence of this.
- 3.143. The New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan⁵² sets a target of 95,000 new jobs for Norfolk and Suffolk together with 10,000 more businesses by 2026. More locally, the East Suffolk Growth Plan sets a target for some 10,000 new jobs across East Suffolk (Waveney and Suffolk Coastal) and 900 new enterprises.

Employment

- 3.144. The number of jobs in Waveney has decreased over the five years, 2009-2013 from 48,702 to 47,109⁵⁵. Manufacturing has seen the largest decline along with the construction sector. However, manufacturing still remains one of the largest sectors of employment along with retail and the public sector. The proportion of jobs in manufacturing in Waveney is much higher than regional and national averages. However, the proportion of jobs in financial, professional and information technology sectors is significantly below regional and national averages.
- 3.145. Table 3.25 below shows the number of jobs broken down into sectors over the last five years together with a comparison with Suffolk and national figures. Figure 3.44 shows the proportion of jobs in each sector compared to regional and national averages.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change
Agriculture	409	409	442	407	389	-20
Mining and Quarrying	33	29	43	49	45	+12

⁵¹ Energy for New Anglia - Great Yarmouth and Waveney Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering Prospectus - http://www.waveney.gov.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?fileID=2418

⁵² New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan 2014 - <http://www.newanglia.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/New-Anglia-Strategic-Economic-Plan-V2.pdf>

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Change
Manufacturing	8147	7394	7086	7179	7113	-1035
Utilities	318	362	451	394	425	+107
Waste & remediation	136	169	139	188	203	+67
Construction	4504	3327	3662	3149	3290	-1214
Retail and Wholesale	8034	8373	8569	8374	8459	+425
Transport	1887	1491	1633	1782	1733	-154
Accommodation & food services	3551	3798	3495	4108	4146	+595
Publishing & broadcasting	85	108	142	210	235	+150
Telecoms and Computing	172	153	153	203	221	+49
Finance and business services	7862	7869	6500	7598	8132	+271
Public admin, health and education	11254	11547	11451	10555	10790	-464
Other services	2309	2496	2451	1868	1927	-381
Total	48702	47526	46217	46066	47109	-1593
Suffolk	348333	349107	352929	352161	355042	+6709
UK	31491500	31328749	31497750	31798749	32247499	+755999

Table 3.25. Total Jobs per sector⁵⁵

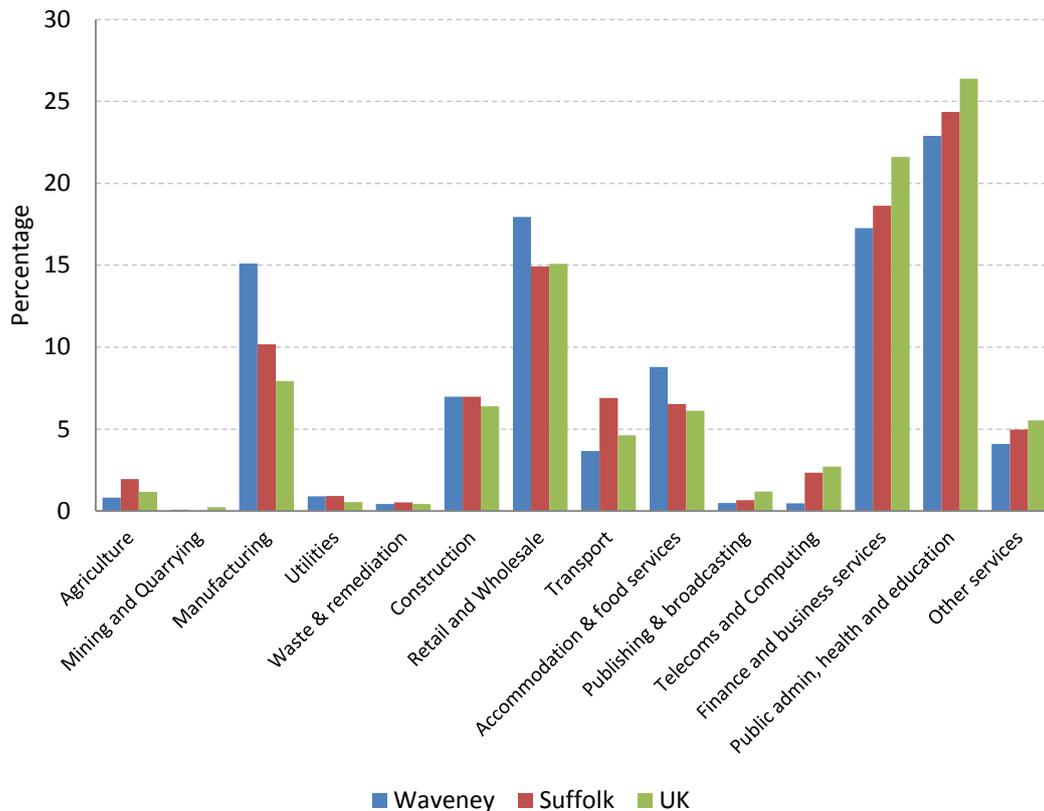


Figure 3.44. Proportion of Jobs by Sector

- 3.146. The recent decline in number of jobs in Waveney is likely to be related to the recent recession. However, over the same five year period the region and the nation have experienced jobs growth. This suggests Waveney is suffering more from the effects of the recession. Looking over a longer term there are still less jobs in Waveney now than there were in 1993. Over the 20 year period, 1993 to 2013, the number of jobs in Waveney has decreased by 7%. Over the same period the number of jobs in Suffolk has increased by 12% and the number of jobs in the UK has increased by 14%⁵³.
- 3.147. As of 2012 Waveney has a jobs density⁵³ of 0.70. This is below the regional and national averages of 0.77 and 0.78 respectively. The jobs density in Waveney has been consistently under the regional and national averages since data collection begun in 2000.
- 3.148. The proportion of the working age population of Waveney working outside the District has increased slightly since 2001⁵⁴. Data from the census shows that in 2001 77% of working

⁵³ Source: NOMIS (ONS Jobs Density) – Jobs density is the numbers of jobs in an area per resident aged 16-64. For example, a job density of 1.0 would mean that there is one job for every resident of working age.

⁵⁴ Source: NOMIS (ONS Census 2011 and 2011). UK Origin Destination Data

people who live in Waveney work in Waveney. By the 2011 census 75% of working people who live in Waveney and work in Waveney. Flows to Great Yarmouth have increased the most with some 840 more people commuting from Waveney to Great Yarmouth between 2001 and 2011.

Productivity

- 3.149. Official gross value added (GVA) statistics which measure economic output are not available at the District local authority level. However, the East of England Forecasting Model⁵⁵ provides an estimated calculation of GVA for each local authority in the East of England. The model estimated that in 2001, GVA per capita stood at £11,400. The model estimates that GVA per capita increased steadily over the period to 2010 when it was £13,300. The model then estimated a decline in GVA per capita over the period to 2012 and a recovery to £13,300 by 2015. GVA per capita in Waveney (2015) is one of the lowest in the East of England and is much lower than the Suffolk average at £18,100 at 2015 and the East of England (£20,400 in 2015) and UK (£22,100 in 2015). GVA per capita is also lower than neighbouring Great Yarmouth which is estimated at £15,500 in 2015.
- 3.150. The number of businesses operating in the area has steadily grown over the last four years⁵⁶ as indicated in Figure 3.45 below. This growth has almost been exclusively in smaller sized businesses (0-9 employees). This trend is in line with what has been experienced at the regional and national levels.

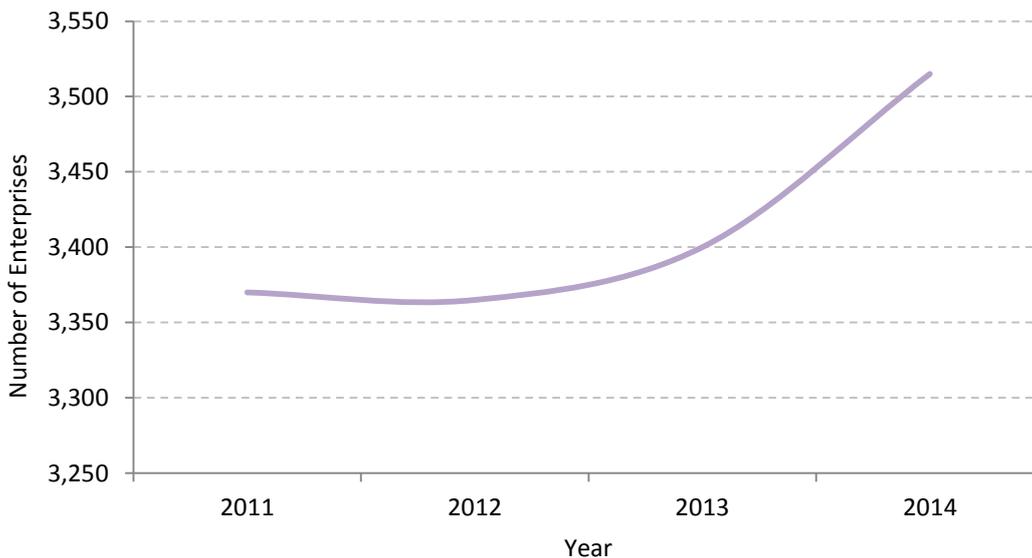


Figure 3.45. Number of Enterprises⁵⁶

⁵⁵ East of England Forecasting Model – Oxford Economics available at <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/EEFM>. Data is based on the 2014 baseline scenario.

⁵⁶ Source: NOMIS (ONS UK Business Counts – Enterprises)

3.151. Since 2004 there has been a net increase in floorspace of business premises (under use class B1, B2 and B8 of the Use Classes Order) of nearly 60,000 sqm. However, the annual rate of development has been slowing in recent years as shown in *Figure 3.46* below.

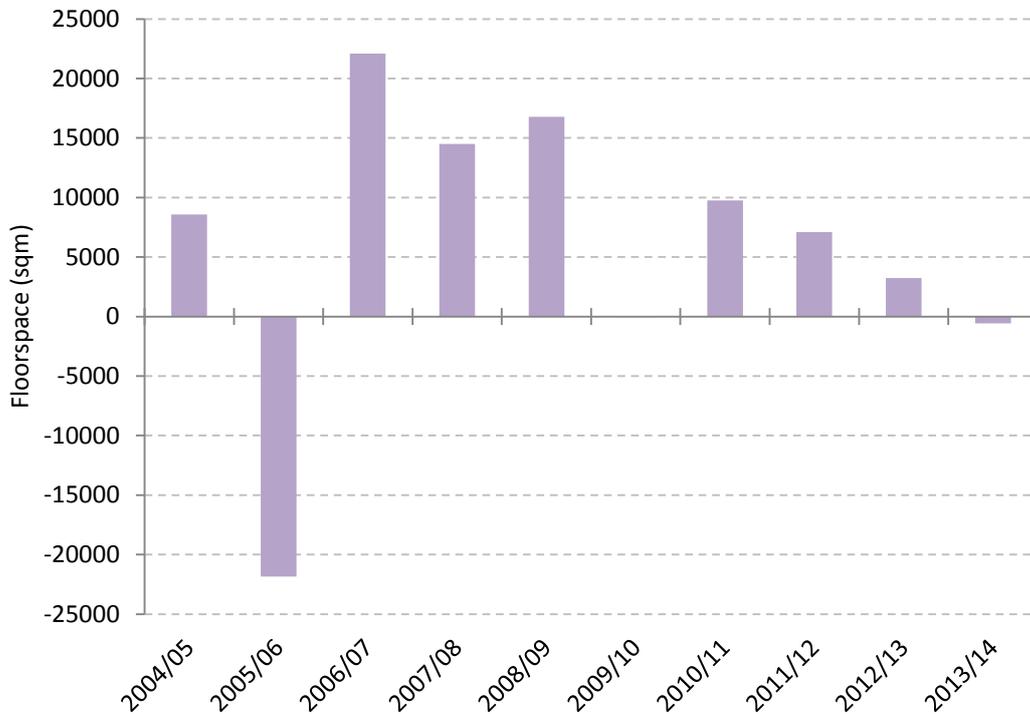


Figure 3.46. Net Business Development Floorspace

Tourism

3.152. As stated above, given the District’s coastal location together with its attractive countryside and proximity to the Broads, tourism is an important sector to the economy. As shown in Table 3.26 above, the number of jobs in the accommodation sector has increased over the last five years. Since 2007 the number of overnight visits to Waveney has been declining. However, recent figures suggest this trend might be reversing. Figure 3.47 shows data from Visit England.

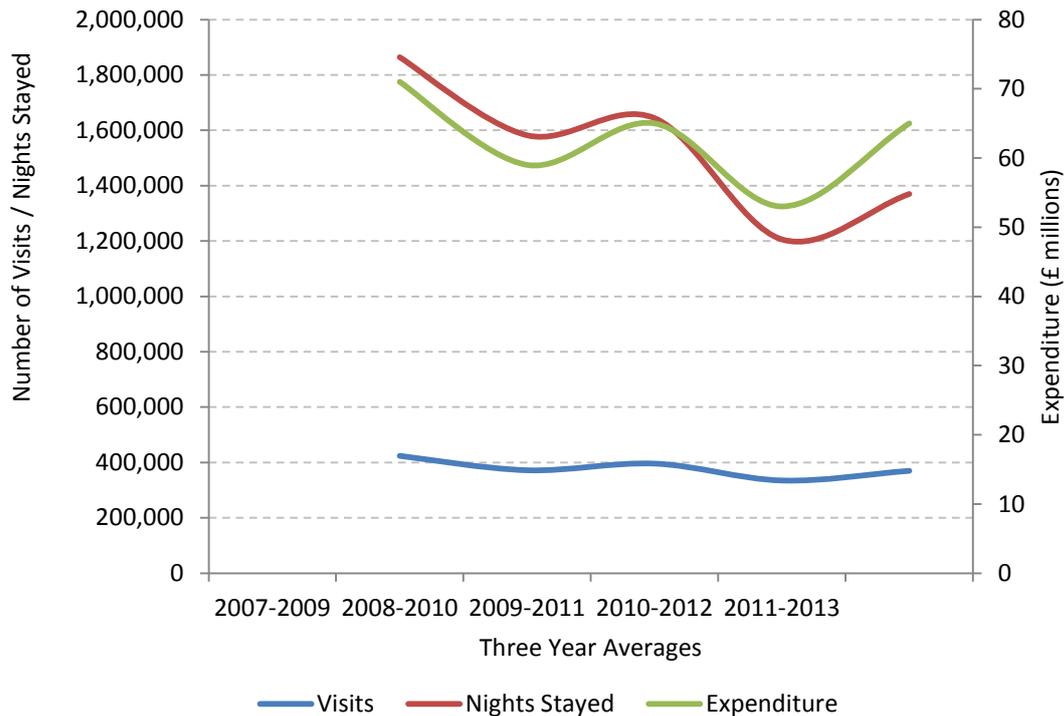


Figure 3.47. Overnight Stays⁵⁷

3.153. Day visits are also important to Waveney. In 2013 there were 3.35 million day visits to Waveney giving rise to expenditure of £91 million⁵⁸

Economic growth

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.154. It is expected that the decline in employee jobs will start to reverse alongside a continuation of the upward trend in the number of businesses as the national economy recovers. The 2014 baseline run of the East of England Forecasting Model⁵⁵ projects that the total number of employee jobs in Waveney will increase by 2,090 in the period 2011-2031. The majority of these jobs being created in the business services and professional services. The model also forecasts that GVA per capita will continue to increase. However, by 2031 the model predicts that GVA per capita will still be below regional averages.
- 3.155. Policy interventions such as the existing CORE and Enterprise Zone status should help improve the jobs situation. The existing Local Plan for Waveney promotes economic development and allocates some 65 hectares of land for employment development. Other planning policies in the plan protect other existing employment land from redevelopment for other uses. This should further help support economic growth in the short term.

⁵⁷ Source: Visit England, the GB Tourist- <http://www.visitengland.org/insight-statistics/major-tourism-surveys/overnightvisitors/>.

⁵⁸ Source: Visit England, Day Visits 2013 - <http://www.visitengland.org/insight-statistics/major-tourism-surveys/dayvisitors/index.aspx>

- 3.156. The tourism industry is also expected to remain important. The East of England Forecasting Model⁵⁵ predicts an increase of approximately 1,000 jobs in the accommodation and food sector over the period 2011-2031
- 3.157. However, there are some risks to economic development. As existing employment protection policies get older and out of date they may not be effective in resisting the loss of employment land to other uses. Over the longer-term the outlook is of course less certain, particularly as existing measures such as the Enterprise Zone come to a close and the existing Local Plan becomes out of date. Furthermore, all of the existing allocated sites remain undeveloped. This raises questions whether these sites are best suited to deliver economic growth. Lack of suitable sites to provide economic development could undermine economic performance.

Economic growth

Outlook Summary



Economic growth

Key Issues and Problems

- The number of employee jobs in Waveney is declining.
- Jobs density is below regional and national averages.
- GVA per capita is low compared to other authorities in the East of England although it is gradually improving in line with national trends.

Rural Economy

Summary

- 3.158. Within Waveney most industrial and employment activity tends to be centred on urban areas, particularly Lowestoft. There is also some employment on industrial estates in the market towns but this tends to be smaller in scale. Outside of market towns and villages land use is overwhelmingly agricultural, particularly in the west of the District, which is nearly all given over to large arable fields. However, even in rural wards agriculture only accounts for a handful of jobs and a small proportion of employment overall, as Figure 3.48 below shows.

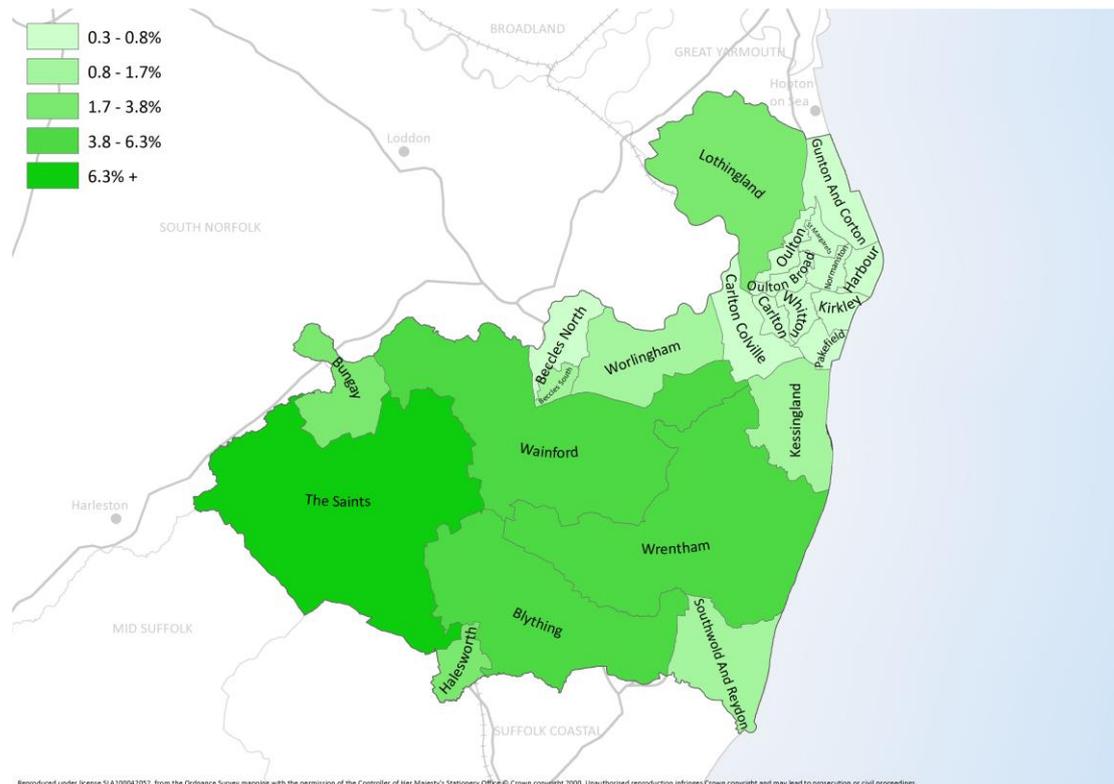


Figure 3.48 Proportion of employees employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing

- 3.159. There is some variation between rural and urban areas in terms of the proportion of residents employed in agriculture. The rural wards of Blything, Wainford, Lothingland, The Saints and Wrentham typically have a significantly higher percentage employed in agriculture (although the proportion of agricultural workers is low throughout the District). However, these percentages tend to be taken from much smaller and more dispersed populations. In total, the majority of people who are employed in agriculture in the District reside in the market towns and Lowestoft rather than the villages and surrounding rural areas. Therefore the majority of agricultural workers live in Lowestoft and the market towns but commute to work in the rural ward areas.
- 3.160. Reverse commuting patterns between the rural and urban areas may also be increased by additional employment opportunities in rural areas that are not necessarily linked to agriculture. Manufacturing provides the largest number of jobs in the rural wards. In Blything a significant number of jobs are provided by Bernard Matthews and public transport has been laid on to service workers who commute from Lowestoft. Another major employment location is the Ellough Industrial Estate, which lies partly within Wainford ward. Elsewhere the distribution of employment sites tends to be in smaller, more dispersed locations. Construction, mining and quarrying, transport and storage and accommodation and catering also provide a significant number of jobs in the rural wards⁵⁹.

⁵⁹ Source: Business Register and Employment Survey 2013 (ONS Copyright)

- 3.161. The numbers of jobs in each sector in the rural wards has been fairly stable, with comparatively little change over the last few years, apart from a decline in manufacturing employment in Blything ward.
- 3.162. Nonetheless employment opportunities in rural areas are still more limited than in urban areas and employment developments tend to be small and isolated in character. Between 2009 and 2014 there was only 569 square metres of new employment land delivered in rural areas. Most of this takes the form of converted agricultural buildings, which will potentially aid the long term viability of agricultural businesses and reuse of buildings that could otherwise have become derelict. However, it may not provide sufficient opportunities for those living in rural areas who either want or have to work locally.
- 3.163. Broadband speeds in rural areas tend to be slow, which is potentially a major drag on the competitiveness of businesses in the rural areas and can also limit the potential for home working. As Figure 3.49 below shows, Lowestoft, Beccles and Bungay have the fastest broadband internet connections (over 30mb). Halesworth and Southwold have reasonable connectivity at between 10 and 30mb, together with Kessingland. However outside of these the rural areas endure broadband internet speeds of 3-10mb or below 3mb. The map below shows that broadband speeds in rural areas lag behind those in Lowestoft and the market towns.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ Ofcom, Fixed Broadband postcode level data (2013)

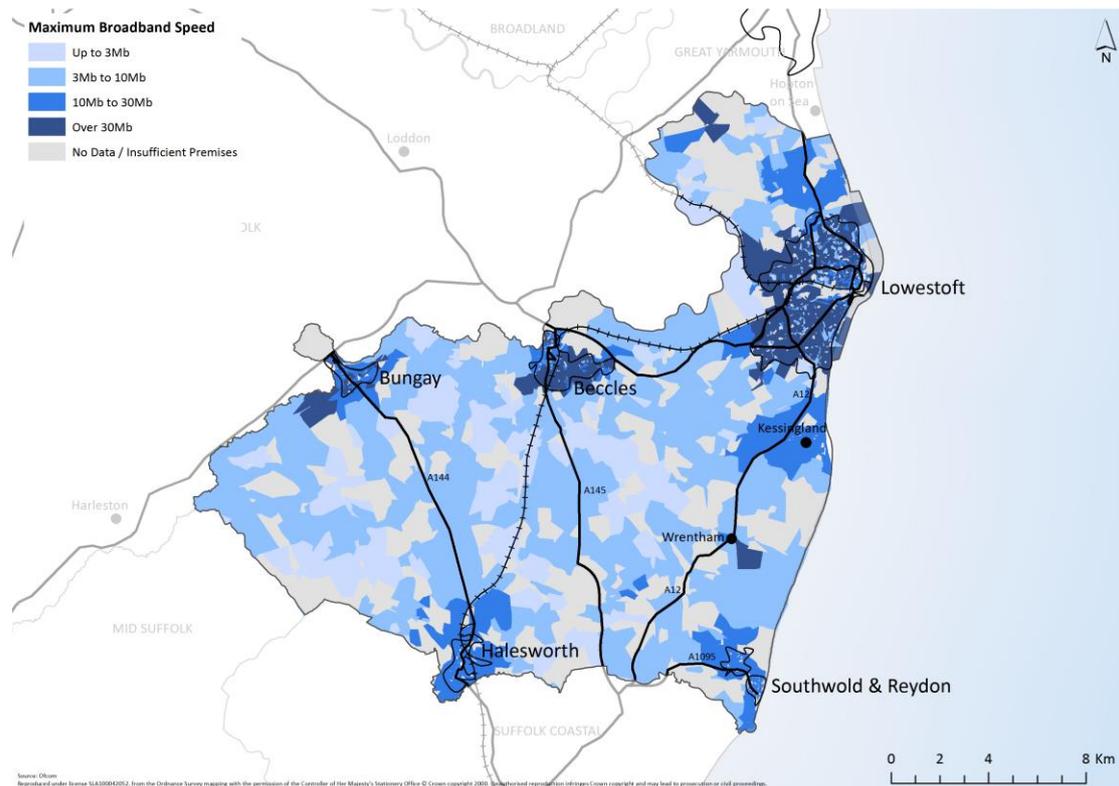


Figure 3.49 Broadband speeds in Waveney

Rural economy

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.164. Current local plan policy seeks to direct housing and employment development towards Lowestoft, the market towns and the larger villages.
- 3.165. In the short term this policy is unlikely to have any serious impacts upon rural parts of the District. They will continue to attract reasonably affluent residents and will suffer fewer of the economic and social issues that afflict central parts of Lowestoft. However over time it is likely that lack of development in the smaller villages may mean that they slowly become more unsustainable. Lack of employment opportunities or sites for employment development will deter working age people from moving to the area. Similarly a lack of affordable housing will deter incomers but also mean that local children who grew up in a rural part of the District will have to live elsewhere when they become adults. This lack of affordable housing may mean the jobs which are available in the rural areas are taken by those who live in towns increasing reverse commuting.
- 3.166. Economic development and sustainability in rural areas are also compromised by slow broadband speeds, although there is an ongoing project to increase broadband speeds throughout the County. Suffolk County Council's "Better Broadband for Suffolk" initiative aims to bring super-fast fibre optic broadband to 90% of the county, of which 85% will achieve speeds of 24Mb+. The remaining 10% of the county not on fibre based broadband

will receive varying speeds, between 5-20Mb. As at Autumn 2014, around 70,000 premises now have access to super-fast broadband with a target of 100,000 by Autumn 2015. 8% of these are classified as business premises and 92% as residential premises (Autumn Newsletter, 2014). The vast majority of improvements to broadband services have occurred within Lowestoft and the market towns. There has yet to be any significant improvement in many of the rural areas although these are under consideration for fibre optic installation between 2015 and 2018.

- 3.167. Over time it is likely that the rural areas will slip further behind their urban counterparts in terms of their ability to generate jobs and support businesses. As a result the population could become increasingly elderly, which has implications for economic sustainability and service provision.

Rural economy

Outlook Summary



Rural economy

Key Issues and Problems

- Fewer employment opportunities in rural areas and limited employment land development.
- Data suggests some evidence of reverse commuting from urban to rural areas.
- Many rural areas suffer from low broadband speeds.

Town Centre Vitality and Viability

Summary

- 3.168. Waveney has five town centres, each of which acts as a retail destination for the surrounding area. By far the largest of these is Lowestoft, which acts as the main retail destination for the District and occupies roughly the same level as Great Yarmouth in the regional hierarchy of retail centres. Lowestoft provides a range of different shops and services and its retail centre is focused on London Road North, which is where most national chains have a presence and is considered to form the core of the town's retail offer. There are further retail areas on London Road South and the High Street but these include more small and independent shops, as well as a number of charity shops. The large retail element

means that a higher proportion of town centre units are occupied by shops than other centres in the District, as Table 3.26 below shows.

Town centre	Lowestoft	Beccles	Bungay	Halesworth	Southwold
% units used for retail	64	46	40	52	52

Table 3.26. Proportion of town centre units used for retail⁶¹

- 3.169. The market towns of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold are significantly smaller than Lowestoft in terms of overall floor space and number of units. The largest market town is Beccles, which offers a limited range of national high street stores compared to Lowestoft but does include major brand retailers such as Laura Ashley and Fat Face. Bungay and Halesworth are of a similar size in terms of their town centres and populations. Both rely on small independent traders to provide services to local residents and those from neighbouring villages. Southwold is the smallest town centre within the District but caters for a large number of tourists, particularly during the summer months. Some national retailers, such as Fat Face and Tesco, are located in Southwold town centre, as well as galleries, restaurants and cafes.
- 3.170. A key feature of the recent past has been the divergence in performance between Lowestoft and the four market towns. Overall the market towns appear to be performing more strongly than Lowestoft. That is not to say that the market towns do not face challenges: Bungay and Halesworth town centres both suffer from a lack of modern retail units that would appeal to national retailers and there are concerns that these two centres are slowly losing their competitive trading position. However these issues are less obvious and less pressing than in Lowestoft, which is facing issues with a poor quality public realm and increasing competition from other retail centres.
- 3.171. Figure 3.50 below shows the proportion of vacant units in the District's town centres. The market towns all boast very low vacancy rates, well below national averages. Even Southwold, which has a higher vacancy rate than elsewhere, still manages to stay below the national average. In Lowestoft, by contrast, the vacancy rate has increased to 17%, well above the national average. This indicates a weakening retail function in parts of the town centre and difficulty in attracting new users. This may be because a high proportion of units in Lowestoft town centre are given over to retail and so the town has been more heavily affected by the recent pressures on town centre retail than other centres.

⁶¹ Source: WDC monitoring including from town centre surveys carried out in May / June each year.

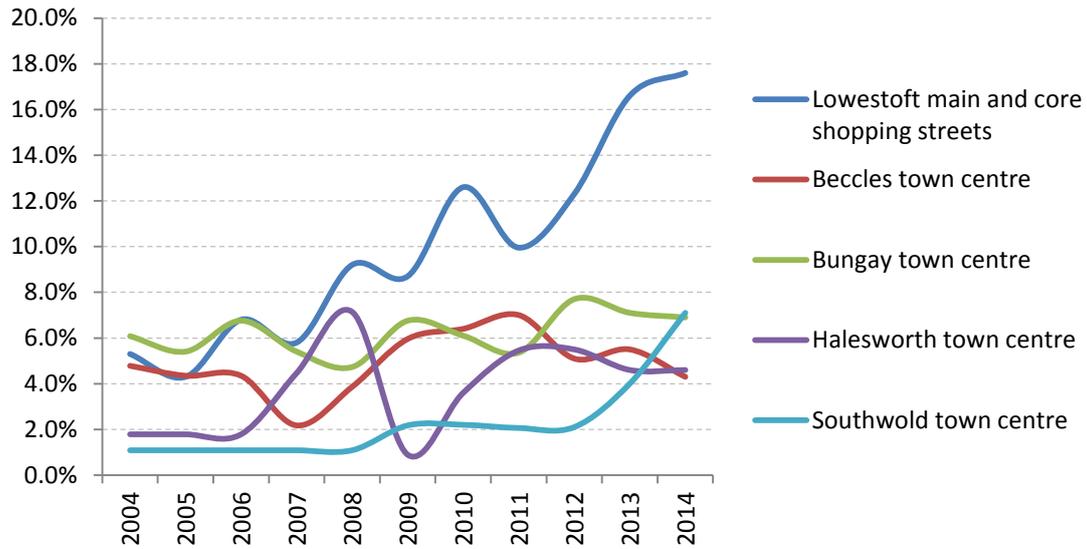


Figure 3.50. Vacant town centre units

3.172. Internet retail is becoming more important when trying to understand the District’s shopping habits. Retail needs work undertaken in neighbouring Great Yarmouth⁶² does acknowledge the growing impact of internet retail but this is based upon information gathered at the national level. The Town Centre Study undertaken on behalf of Waveney Business Forum⁶³ focuses solely on the District and shows the extent to which internet shopping has formed part of the local retail landscape. As Figure 3.51 shows, internet shopping is used by a high proportion of respondents. The highest users are those in their 20s and 30s.

⁶² Great Yarmouth Borough Council Retail Study Appendix 10 – Key Trends, 2011

⁶³ Ellis, Rebecca M. (2013) Waveney Town Centre Study, Digital Era Research Report 2013-1. Attleborough, UK: Digital Era Research

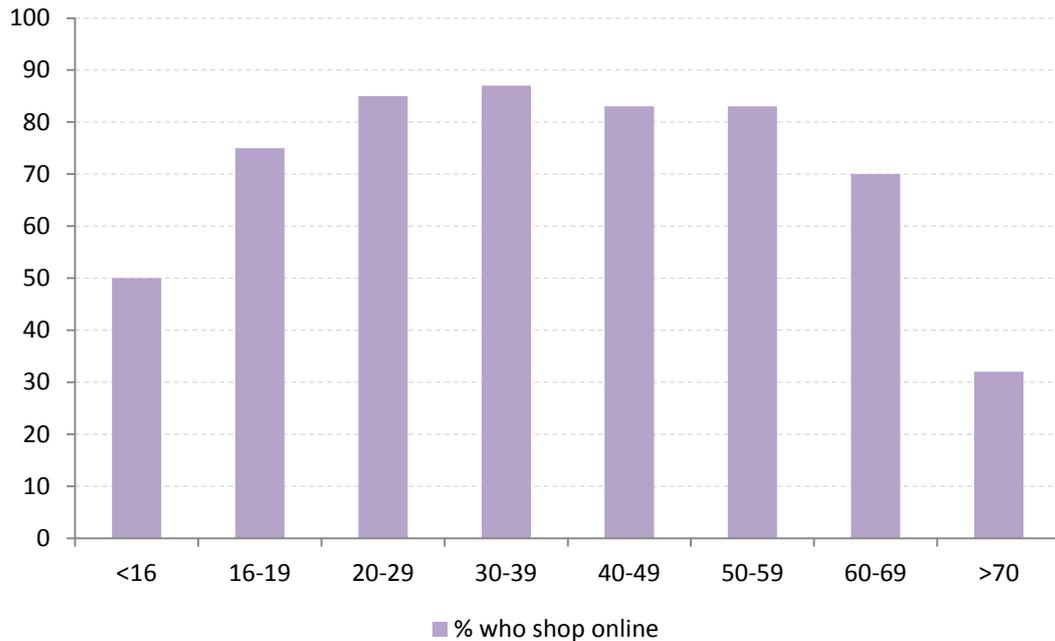


Figure 3.51 % who use internet retail by age group

- 3.173. Just as internet retailing has become increasingly popular among all adult age groups it is also used to purchase an increasing range of products. The most popular products purchased on the internet are books/CDs/DVDs and downloads but the internet is also a popular option for buying gifts, clothing and housing products. However the internet is less popular for food shopping: 17% of respondents buy food online and only 3% would use the internet for their major weekly food shopping trip.
- 3.174. Clearly internet retailing can compete across a range of products on both convenience and price. It is also now widely used across all age groups even if traditional shops remain more popular for certain products.
- 3.175. The Waveney District Council Local Plan currently makes no allocations for retail development in any of the town centres, with the exception of Policy SSP2 (Peto Square and South Quay)⁶⁴. This policy seeks to create an extension to the existing Lowestoft town centre but there is now some doubt as to whether this will be possible to deliver in the short to medium term. While there are several vacant units in Lowestoft town centre it is unclear as to whether they will be suitable for the needs of retailers in the future. That interest in new retail development is focused on the South Lowestoft Industrial Estate and North Quay Retail Park suggests that existing town centre retail units are not considered suitable for this purpose.

⁶⁴ Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan, 2012

3.176. A similar situation exists in the market towns, which do not have suitable town centre sites for future retail development. This again means that new proposals for retail in town centres must use existing units, which may not be suitable. Lack of available sites in town centres for new retail buildings removes vital choice for potential developers. For this reason greater effort needs to be made to ensure that town centre sites are available for new retail development. This will give major new retail proposals the option of locating in town centres and being able to design and build suitable retail premises. Without such sites pressure to develop in out of town locations, which offer the flexibility to create suitable retail premises, will only increase.

Town centre vitality and viability

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.177. Existing planning policy as far as possible tries to ensure that retail development of any sort is directed towards town centre areas. It also attempts to reserve town centre premises for retail use and applications for a change of use from A1 retail use are normally resisted. However, recent changes to permitted development rights to increase flexibility may start to undermine the retail function of the town centres. The effect of this on the vitality and viability of the town centres is as yet uncertain.
- 3.178. It is becoming apparent, most noticeably in Lowestoft, that the retail function of the town centre is slowly weakening and likely to contract further in the future with pressures from internet shopping. Although existing planning policies about retail promote further development in town centre areas, a lack of town centre sites could lead to pressure to build in out of centre locations. This would have the side effect of paradoxically weakening the town centre and strengthening out of centre destinations by providing a wider range of shops and services there.
- 3.179. Use of internet shopping is also likely to increase which could further harm the retail function of town centres.

Town centre vitality and viability

Outlook Summary



Town centre vitality and viability

Key Issues and Problems

- Ongoing contraction of retail function in Lowestoft town centre resulting in an increasing number of vacant retail units.

Traffic and Efficient Movement

Summary

Commuting Patterns

- 3.180. Commuting patterns in Waveney demonstrate similar trends to other parts of the County, but also some differences which are unique to the District. Figures from the 2011 Census⁶⁵ show that the car is the dominant mode of transport to and from work, accounting for 61.3% of journeys within the District. This compares with a county average of 61.9% and levels of car use are lower than other Districts within the County, the exception being Ipswich. Numbers of those who commute to work using the bus or train are also roughly comparable to levels seen elsewhere in the County. The main difference is the number of people who cycle to work. At 6.1% of commuter journeys the proportion of those cycling to work is just over one third greater than the county average of 3.9% and double the England average of 2.9%. In the built up area of Lowestoft⁶⁶ the proportion is even higher at 7.3%.
- 3.181. The proportion of workers commuting to work on foot is less striking but still quite high. In Waveney 10.2% of trips to work are made on foot, compared with a Suffolk average of 10.5%. For comparison the only district with a higher proportion of pedestrian commuters is St. Edmundsbury, with 12.4% and Ipswich with 16%. Both of these have large urban areas where people are more likely to live within walking distance of their place of work. Full details about how people travel to work are contained in Figure 3.52, below.

⁶⁵ Source: Nomis (ONS 2011 Census)

⁶⁶ ONS Built Up Area Statistical Geography – Lowestoft includes built up area of Oulton and Carlton Colville parishes.

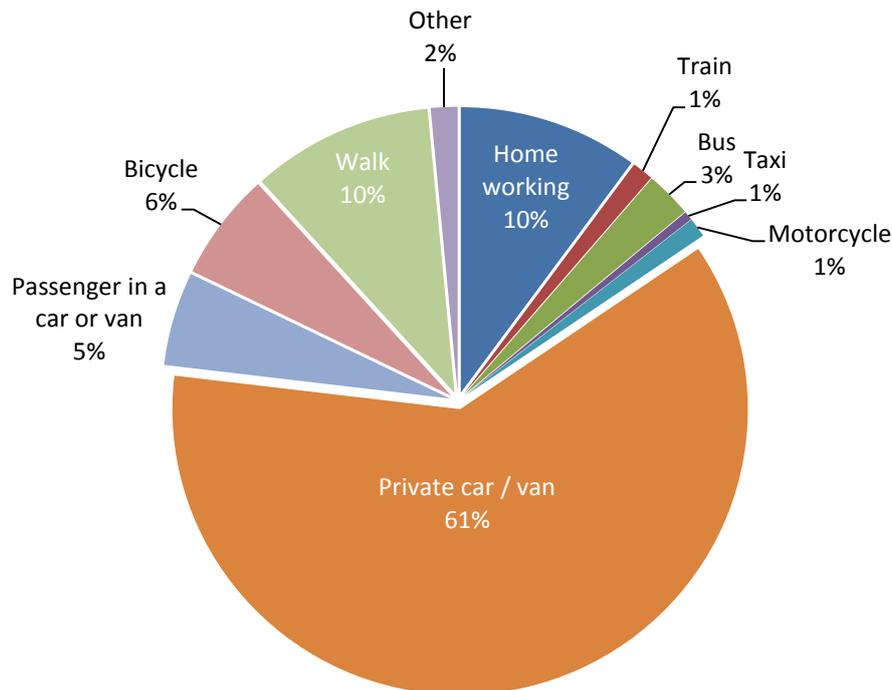


Figure 3.52 Method of travel to work by proportion of population (2011 Census)

- 3.182. There are two possible explanations for the high proportion of cyclists and pedestrians. Firstly that most people live within walking and cycling distance of their place of work; secondly the variation seen in levels of car ownership throughout the District. Figures from the 2011 Census show that 21.11% of workers travelled less than 2 km to their place of work. The second largest group (19.25%) travelled between 2 and 5 km to their place of work. These are suitable distances for walking and cycling. Overall there was a decrease in the number of commuters the further they had to travel.
- 3.183. Secondly the numbers of households without access to a car varies quite widely. Within Waveney 21.9% of households did not have access to a car. This compares to a county average of 17.9% and a national average of 25.8% (this figure includes major metropolitan areas where car ownership will be lower). Within these figures there are major disparities between urban and rural wards. Harbour (47.9%) and Kirkley (34.5%) both have a high proportion of households without access to a car. These are densely built residential areas, which also have quite high levels of social hardship and economic deprivation. It is possible that residents in these wards rely on walking and cycling, as these are cheaper than taking the bus or driving. By contrast, the Saints (5.5%) and Wainford (5.6%) have a very low proportion of commuters without access to a car. Unlike their counterparts in central Lowestoft these workers have significantly further to travel to work and so are more likely to rely on the car.
- 3.184. Despite much of the population living in the built up area of Lowestoft the proportion of those who travel to work by bus or train remains low. According to 2011 Census figures 2.6%

of Waveney residents travelled to work by bus, compared to 3.2% in Suffolk as a whole and 7.3% in England. Similarly only 1.2% of Waveney residents travel to work by train, as opposed to 2.1% in Suffolk and 9.1% in England. Rates of public transport use are higher in the urban areas of Lowestoft but even here are well below national averages.

Traffic Volume and Congestion

3.185. Traffic monitoring undertaken by Suffolk County Council and the Department for Transport between 2001 and 2013 gives a clear picture of the distribution of traffic throughout the District. Monitoring takes place at strategic points throughout Lowestoft and the wider District. The highest number of cars per day occurs on the A1117 on Bridge Road, just to the north of the western Lake Lothing Crossing at Oulton Broad. In 2013 over 22000 cars passed along this stretch of road per day. The other heavily used routes were Beccles Road south of Victoria Road and the urban stretches of the A12 travelling through Lowestoft, including the Bascule Bridge (13000 cars per day in 2013), which forms the eastern crossing of Lake Lothing. The A12 running north to Great Yarmouth (19000 cars per day) also carried considerable volumes of traffic, as did London Road South (11000 cars per day). Figure 3.53 below shows the concentrations of traffic on major routes through Lowestoft.

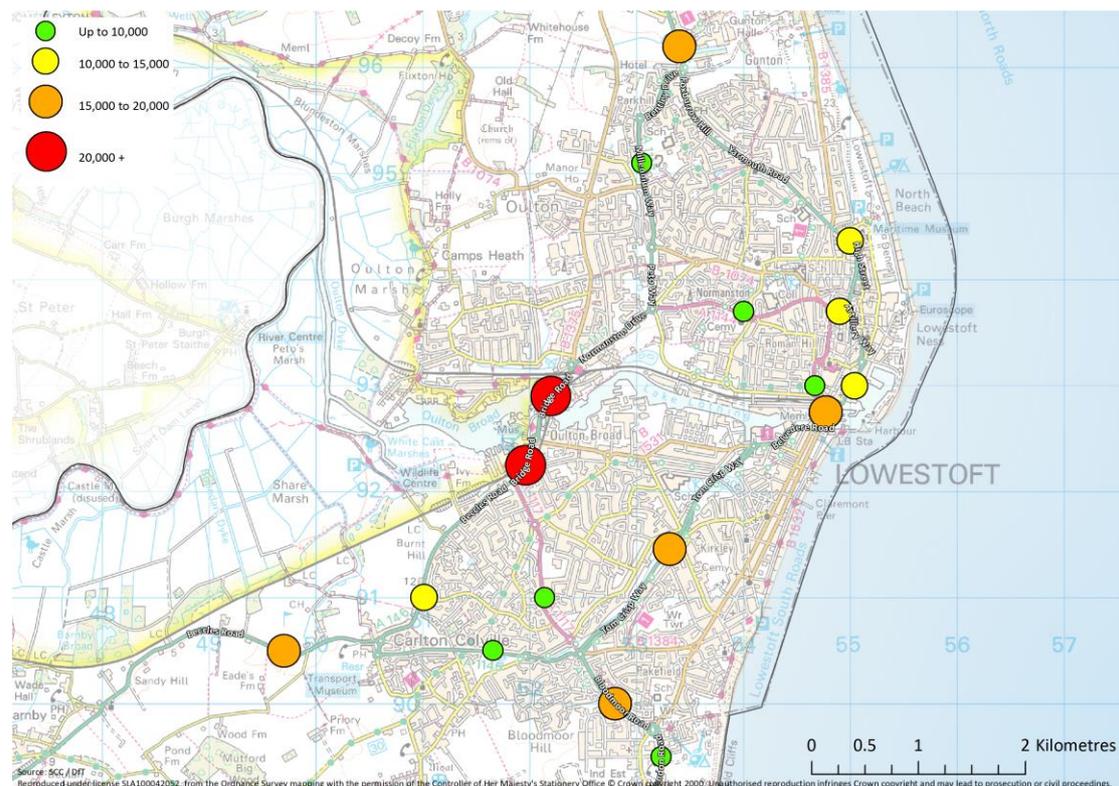


Figure 3.53 Distribution of road traffic in Lowestoft⁶⁷

⁶⁷ Source: Department for Transport and Suffolk County Council Highway Monitoring

- 3.186. While Lowestoft carried the greatest quantities of car use there was also heavy use in the market towns and rural areas. The most heavily used routes in the market towns were Station Road (12000 cars per day), George Westwood Way (11000 cars per day) and the A145 London Road (1500 cars per day) in Beccles, as well as Saxons Way (9000 cars per day) and London Road (6000 cars per day) in Halesworth. Outside of the market towns the A146, which passes Beccles to the north and A143, which runs along the northern edge of Bungay, also carried high volumes of car traffic. Beyond these the A12 running southwards towards Ipswich was the busiest road in the southern half of the District.
- 3.187. Patterns of HGV and light goods vehicle use were also very similar to those of private cars, being focused around the A12 and A1117 in Lowestoft, the main streets in Beccles and Halesworth and the main roads leading to the south and west of the District along the A12 and A146 respectively.
- 3.188. Overall traffic levels (for all types of vehicle) have remained fairly consistent between 2001 and 2013. While some routes saw a slight increase in use towards the middle of the last decade this appears to have fallen back slightly.
- 3.189. Worryingly, the busiest urban routes in the District also experienced declining numbers of cyclists. Within Lowestoft this was particularly marked along Bridge Road in Oulton Broad, Normanston Drive, St. Peter's Street and the Bascule Bridge. For example the number of cyclists on Bridge Road fell from 542 in 2001 to 176 in 2013. Normanston Drive saw a fall in cyclists from 366 to 125 over the same period, with the numbers of cyclists declining from 364 to 182 along St. Peter's Street and 412 to 160 along the Bascule Bridge. As mentioned before cycling remains a popular mode of transport in the District and it is possible that cyclists are choosing to avoid these roads rather than ceasing to cycle altogether – perhaps even walking along the pavement pushing their bikes. It indicates that cyclists are dissuaded from cycling along the busiest roads in the District, which is inconvenient because these may be the most useful and direct routes in the District. Poor traffic conditions may also have contributed to falling numbers of cyclists along Peddars Lane and Smallgate in Beccles over the same period, although these are not the busiest routes for car journeys.

Traffic and efficient movement

Future Trends which are likely to continue without the new Local Plan

- 3.190. It is likely that traffic volumes will increase as the local population increases. The existing Local Plan seeks to focus development in the most accessible locations reducing the need to travel. The Local Plan also promotes numerous sustainable transport measures which may help to encourage a reduction in car use. One such measure is a new pedestrian and cycle bridge over the central part of Lake Lothing at Brooke Peninsula. This will provide a much shorter route for the population of South Lowestoft to access the town centre, sports facilities and further education facilities in the north of the town. Additionally, to support

the existing Local Plan a Cycling Strategy is being prepared which will identify improvements in the network which can be funded out of developer contributions. As such the measures in the existing Local Plan should help mitigate the background growth in traffic. However, as the Local Plan becomes more out of date there may be increasing pressure for large-scale development in less accessible locations which are not supported by sustainable transport measures.

Traffic and efficient movement

Outlook Summary



Traffic and efficient movement

Key Issues and Problems

- Car use still accounts for the great majority of journeys to work, with 61.3% commuting to work in this way.
- A higher than average proportion of workers commute by bike compared to County and national averages; walking is also popular.
- Very few commuters use buses and trains compared to County and national averages.
- Cycle use declining on busiest routes.

4. Sustainability Issues and Problems (Task A3)

- 4.1 This section identifies the key sustainability issues and problems facing the District. The identification of key issues and problems helps establish sustainability objectives to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

Social Issues and Problems	
Health	Waveney has the highest proportion of the adult population in Suffolk that is obese and childhood obesity in Reception year children has not improved in the last 4 years.
	Less than a quarter of the adult population participates in 3 x 30 minute physical activity sessions per week.
	Health services and providers will need to cater for an increasingly ageing population.
	The population living within areas of deprivation are more at risk of having a sedentary life style, higher obesity and lower life expectancy.
Education	Low educational attainment at GCSE level.
	Resident population poorly qualified.
Crime	Overall, the total number of criminal offences committed in Waveney is showing a decreasing trend. However, some types of crime have shown an increase.
	Anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased by over 2,400 since 2010.
Access to Services and Facilities	Parts of the rural area, particularly "The Saints" area in the west of the District have limited access to basic services and facilities.
	All parts of the District suffer from under provision / accessibility to some type of open space.
Deprivation, Inequality and Socio-Economics	Deprivation is significant within parts of Lowestoft.
	The proportion of the population claiming out of work benefits is higher than county and regional averages.
	Average earnings for those employed within Waveney are below the Suffolk average.
	Imbalance in inequality and deprivation between rural and urban areas.
Housing and	By 2025 housing supply may fail to meet demand.
	Housing stock will need to meet the requirements of an ageing population.

Population	House prices in Waveney are more than 6 times annual earnings and House prices in some rural areas and Southwold and Reydon are much more expensive than other parts of the District
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Environmental Issues and Problems

Air and Water Quality	The overall water quality of water bodies within or partially within the District is decreasing.
Landscape and Townscape	The AONB, the Broads and the landscape character areas of tributary valley farmland and rural river valleys are particularly sensitive to the impacts of development.
Climate Change	239 properties are at risk from coastal erosion. There are a significant number of properties that fall within flood zone 2 and flood zone 3 areas. Climate change will continue to alter weather conditions and sea levels, potentially resulting in an increase of flooding and dangerous weather. Areas at risk from flooding will increase in the period to 2107.
Natural Resources	High grade agricultural land is found close to the boundaries of Lowestoft, Beccles, Halesworth and some larger villages. Household recycling statistics are below the 60% target deadline set out in the National Waste strategy.
Biodiversity	Waveney has significant areas of sensitive wildlife habitats which support biodiversity of local, national and international concern. 50% of SSSIs remain in an unfavourable condition.
Historic Environment	Waveney has a rich historic environment which could be sensitive to pressures of new development. The number of listed buildings at risk has slightly increased.

Economic Issues and Problems

Economic Growth	The number of employee jobs in Waveney is declining. Jobs density is below regional and national averages. GVA per capita is low compared to other authorities in East of England
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	although is gradually improving in line with national trends
Rural Economy	Fewer employment opportunities than rural areas and limited employment land development.
	Data suggests some evidence of reverse commuting from urban to rural areas.
Town Centre Vitality and Viability	Ongoing contraction of retail function in Lowestoft town centre resulting in an increasing number of vacant retail units.
Traffic and Efficient Movement	Car use still accounts for the great majority of journeys to work.
	A higher than average proportion of workers commute by bike compared to County and national averages; walking is also popular.
	Cycle use declining on busiest routes.
	Very few commuters use buses and trains compared to County and national averages.

5. Sustainability Appraisal Framework (Task A4)

- 5.1 The Sustainability Appraisal Framework consists of a series of sustainability objectives which will be used to test alternative policy options which may be included in the Local Plan. The sustainability objectives will also be used to test the overall effect of the plan and help identify any particular significant effects, both positive and negative.

- 5.2 The objectives are based on the key issues and problems identified from the baseline review and from objectives and issues identified in the context review. Each objective has a series of decision making questions to help assess policy options against them. For site allocation policy options, a set of spatial site specific decision making criteria are included in the framework.

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
1. To improve the health and well-being of the population	Will it reduce levels of obesity in adults and children?	<p>Will the allocation option result in a loss of public open space or indoor sport provision?</p> <p>Will the allocation option result in a gain of public open space provision or indoor sport provision?</p> <p>Are public open space, key services and employment opportunities accessible by foot or by cycle from the allocation option?</p>
	Will it encourage active lifestyles?	As above
	Will it improve access to health facilities?	<p>Will the allocation option provide new health facilities?</p> <p>Are health facilities accessible by foot or by cycle or by 30 minute public transport ride from the allocation option?</p>
	Will it maintain or improve residential amenity?	<p>Is the allocation option close to a noise source or lead to domestic noise complaints?</p> <p>Is the allocation option close to sources of odour or dust or could the allocation option lead to domestic odour or dust complaints?</p>
2. To improve levels of education and skills in the population	Will it increase the provision of education facilities in the District?	Does the allocation option provide new educational facilities?

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
	Will it encourage people with high level qualifications to remain, return or move to the District?	n/a
3. To reduce crime and anti-social behaviour	Will it create a safe and secure environment?	n/a
4. To improve access to key services and facilities	Will it improve accessibility to key local services and facilities?	Are post offices, primary schools, pub/meeting places, food shops and GP surgeries accessible by foot or by cycle from the allocation option? Is the allocation option within a 30 minute public transport ride to the above services or facilities? Will the allocation option provide new services or facilities which will increase the proportion of the population with walking and/or cycling access to key services and facilities?
	Will it improve the provision of public open spaces?	Will the allocation option result in a gain of public open space provision or indoor sport provision?
	Will it improve accessibility to public open space?	Is the allocation option within the relevant catchment of all types of public open space?
5. To reduce deprivation of all forms.	Will it produce balanced and mixed communities?	Will the allocation option provide for a mix of tenures of housing in the local area? Will the allocation option provide affordable homes in a rural area?

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
		Is the allocation in a deprived ward (10% or 25% most deprived in the country), if so will it provide opportunities for people living in those wards? (i.e. access to housing, jobs, education, healthcare etc.)
	Will it reduce unemployment?	Is the allocation option for employment generating development? Will the allocation option result in a loss of employment land or premises?
	Will it increase average earnings across the District?	n/a
6. To meet the housing requirements of the whole community	Will it provide sufficient housing to meet need and demand?	Is the allocation for housing?
	Will it provide a mix of housing according to local need and affordability?	Does the allocation option provide for a range of tenures? Does the allocation include provision of housing for the elderly? Does the allocation option provide affordable housing in an area of need?
	Will it increase the affordability of housing?	Will the allocation option provide employment generating development?
7. To maintain air quality	Will it increase traffic in air quality sensitive locations?	Will the allocation option result in traffic at sensitive locations?
8. To maintain and improve water	Will it improve the quality of rivers and	Is there capacity in wastewater treatment works to accommodate the

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
quality	other inland waters?	allocation option without detriment to water quality objectives? Could the allocation option result in run-off of pollutants to nearby water courses?
	Will it improve the quality of coastal bathing waters?	As above
9. To conserve and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of landscapes and townscapes	Will it protect and enhance the landscape and/or townscape?	Will the allocation option lead to coalescence of settlements? Is the allocation option in the AONB and/or it could it materially harm the AONB? Would the allocation option materially harm the setting of the Broads? Is the allocation option within tributary valley farmland or rural river valleys character areas and/or could materially harm the character areas. Will the allocation option lead to a loss of or harm important local landscape features? Will the allocation option harm the townscape and/or setting of the settlement?
10. To reduce contributions to climate change and mitigate the	Will it reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?	Are public open space, key services and employment opportunities accessible by foot or by cycle from the allocation option? Alternatively is

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
effects		the allocation within a 30 minute public transport ride of the above?
	Will it reduce the risk of flooding?	Is the allocation option within a tidal or fluvial flood zone or at risk from surface water flooding within the next 100 years?
	Will it reduce the risk of coastal erosion?	Is the allocation option at risk from coastal erosion in the next 100 years?
11. To conserve natural resources	Will it minimise the loss of undeveloped greenfield land to development?	Is the allocation option on greenfield land?
	Will it protect the best and most versatile agricultural land?	Is the allocation option on grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3a agricultural land?
	Will it reduce waste or increase recycling rates?	n/a
	Will it conserve water resources?	Will the allocation option detrimentally affect water resources?
12. To conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity	Will it maintain or enhance sites designated for their nature or geodiversity conservation interest?	Will the allocation option result in a direct loss or damage to the integrity of designated sites? Does the allocation option present an opportunity to enhance designated sites?
	Will it avoid disturbance of protected species and avoid damage to their	Will the allocation result in disturbance or damage to any protected species or their habitats?

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
	habitats?	
	Will it help deliver targets and actions for habitats and species in the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan?	Are there any BAP habitats or species on the site, could these be enhanced, protected or lost through the development of the allocation option?
13. To conserve and enhance the historic environment	Will it protect and enhance heritage assets and the setting of heritage assets?	<p>Is the allocation option on a Scheduled Ancient Monument?</p> <p>Will the allocation option harm a listed building or the setting of a listed building?</p> <p>Will the allocation option lead to direct loss of historic parks or gardens?</p> <p>Will the allocation option affect known or potential archaeological sites?</p> <p>Will the allocation option harm the integrity of a conservation area?</p>
14. To achieve sustained and resilient economic growth	Will it increase the number of jobs in the District?	<p>Is the allocation option for employment generating development?</p> <p>Will the allocation result in a loss of employment land or premises?</p>
	Will it increase the number of enterprises in the District?	As above
	Will it support key sectors?	n/a
	Will it increase productivity in the	n/a

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
	District?	
	Will it promote tourism?	Is the allocation option for tourism and/or leisure uses?
15. To enhance the rural economy	Will it provide affordable housing in the rural areas?	Is the allocation option for affordable housing in the rural area?
	Will it increase the number of jobs and businesses in the rural areas?	Is the allocation option for employment generating development in the rural area?
	Will it improve connectivity (including broadband provision) in rural areas?	n/a
16. To enhance the viability and vitality of town centres	Will it decrease the number of vacant units in town centres?	Does the allocation option involve the redevelopment of vacant units?
	Will it increase the provision of town centre uses in the town centre?	Is the allocation option for a town centre use and is it located in the town centre? Will the allocation option result in a redevelopment of town centre uses for non town centre uses?
	Will it increase footfall in town centres?	Will the allocation option make the town centre more of an attractive destination?

Sustainability Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Additional Decision Making Criteria for Site Allocation Options
		Is the allocation for a town centre use and is it located outside of a town centre which could compete with the town centre?
17. To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth	Will it decrease average commuting distance?	Are employment opportunities accessible by foot or by cycle from the allocation option (residential sites and vice versa for employment sites)?
	Will it encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport which reduce congestion?	Is the allocation option for employment use or town centre use and can it be accessed by public transport and/or other sustainable modes?

6. Consultation (Task A5)

- 6.1 The Scoping Report will be issued to statutory consultees (Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England) and other relevant stakeholders across the district for comment.
- 6.2 Comments are invited on all sections of the document and it would be helpful if comments could address the following key consultation questions.

1.	Are there any other plans and programmes that we should review as part of context review in Annex A?
2.	Are there any other sources of baseline information which we could include? Do you have any other comments on the information collated in the baseline section or the analysis of that information?
3.	Have we identified the right key sustainability issues and problems facing the District? Have we missed any key issues or problems?
4.	Do you agree with the sustainability objectives identified in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework? Are there any other objectives we should include?
5.	Do you agree with the decision making criteria and the detailed site allocation decision making criteria included in the Sustainability Appraisal Framework?
6.	Do you have any other comments on the Scoping Report?

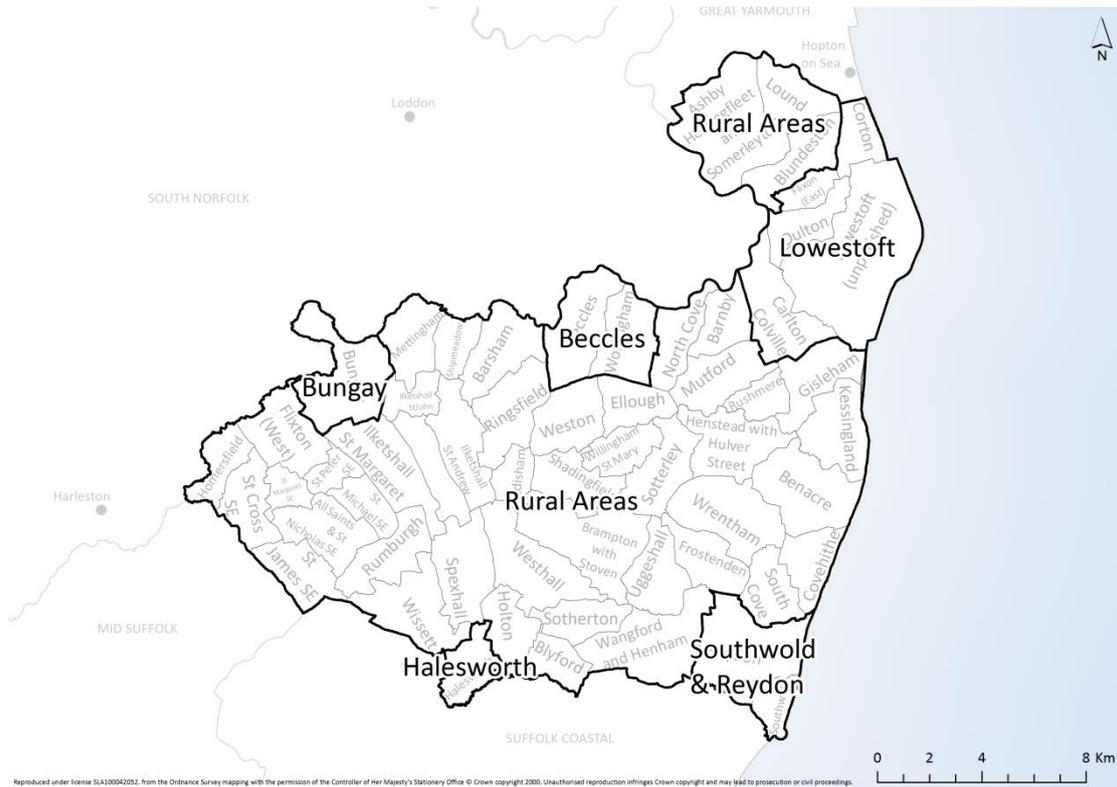
Appendix A – Geographical Definitions



Map of Wards



Map of Parishes



Map of Lowestoft, Market Towns, Rural Area

Settlement hierarchy definition

Settlement	Wards	Parishes
Lowestoft	Carlton, Carlton Colville, Gunton and Corton, Harbour, Kirkley, Normanston, Oulton, Oulton Broad, Pakefield, St Margaret's, and Whitton	unparished area of Lowestoft, Carlton Colville and Oulton + Flixton
Market Towns	Beccles North, Beccles South, Bungay, Halesworth, Southwold & Reydon and Worlingham	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, Southwold, Reydon and Worlingham
Rural areas	Blything, Kessingland, Lothingland, The Saints, Wainford and Wrentham	all other parishes

Appendix B – Population Data for Wards and Parishes

Waveney population – Wards (Census 2011)

Area Code	Name	Population	Settlement hierarchy
E05007228	Beccles North	5,005	Market Town
E05007229	Beccles South	5,118	Market Town
E05007230	Blything	2,150	Rural area
E05007231	Bungay	5,127	Market Town
E05007232	Carlton	4,586	Lowestoft
E05007233	Carlton Colville	8,505	Lowestoft
E05007234	Gunton and Corton	4,400	Lowestoft
E05007235	Halesworth	4,726	Market Town
E05007236	Harbour	7,818	Lowestoft
E05007237	Kessingland	5,105	Rural area
E05007238	Kirkley	7,439	Lowestoft
E05007239	Lothingland	2,568	Rural area
E05007240	Normanston	6,898	Lowestoft
E05007241	Oulton	4,387	Lowestoft
E05007242	Oulton Broad	4,619	Lowestoft
E05007243	Pakefield	6,563	Lowestoft
E05007245	Southwold and Reydon	3,680	Market Town
E05007244	St Margaret's	7,967	Lowestoft
E05007246	The Saints	2,242	Rural area
E05007247	Wainford	2,185	Rural area
E05007248	Whitton	7,269	Lowestoft
E05007249	Worlingham	4,673	Market Town
E05007250	Wrentham	2,224	Rural area
ualad09	Waveney	115,254	

Source website: NOMIS

Settlement hierarchy	Population	Percentage
Lowestoft	70,451	61.13%
Market Towns	28,329	24.58%
Rural Areas	16,474	14.29%
Waveney Total	115,254	100.00%

Waveney population – Parishes Best Fit (Census 2011)

Code	Name	Population	Settlement hierarchy
E04009482	All Saints and St. Nicholas, South Elmham + St. Peter, South Elmham + St Michael, South Elmham	233	Rural area
E04009483	Barnby	479	Rural area
E04009484	Barsham	215	Rural area
E04009485	Beccles	10,123	Market Town
E04009486	Benacre + Covehithe + South Cove	111	Rural area
E04009487	Blundeston	1,637	Rural area
E04009489	Brampton with Stoven	427	Rural area
E04009490	Bungay	5,127	Market Town
E04009491	Carlton Colville	8,505	Lowestoft
E04009492	Corton	1,099	Rural area
E04009496	Flixton	176	Rural area
E04009497	Frostenden	167	Rural area
E04009498	Gisleham	778	Rural area
E04009499	Halesworth	4,726	Market Town
E04009500	Henstead with Hulver Street + Rushmere	408	Rural area
E04009501	Holton	832	Rural area
E04009502	Kessingland	4,327	Rural area
E04009503	Lound	359	Rural area
E04009504	Mettingham	211	Rural area
E04009505	Mutford	471	Rural area
E04009506	North Cove	449	Rural area
E04009507	Oulton + Flixton	4,060	Lowestoft
E04009508	Redisham	125	Rural area
E04009509	Reydon	2,582	Market Town
E04009510	Ringsfield	323	Rural area
E04009511	Rumburgh	327	Rural area
E04009513	St. Andrew, Ilketshall	291	Rural area
E04009514	St. Cross, South Elmham + St Margaret, South Elmham	217	Rural area
E04009515	St. James, South Elmham	205	Rural area
E04009517	St. Lawrence, Ilketshall	158	Rural area
E04009518	St. Margaret, Ilketshall + St. John, Ilketshall	209	Rural area
E04009520	St. Mary, South Elmham Otherwise Homersfield	158	Rural area
E04009523	Shadingfield	178	Rural area
E04009524	Shipmeadow	140	Rural area
E04009525	Somerleyton, Ashby and	427	Rural area

Code	Name	Population	Settlement hierarchy
	Herringfleet		
E04009526	Sotherton + Blyford	193	Rural area
E04009527	Sotterley	113	Rural area
E04009529	Southwold	1,098	Market Town
E04009530	Spexhall	192	Rural area
E04009531	Uggeshall	145	Rural area
E04009532	Wangford with Henham	591	Rural area
E04009533	Westhall	342	Rural area
E04009534	Weston + Ellough	257	Rural area
E04009535	Willingham St. Mary	152	Rural area
E04009536	Wissett	268	Rural area
E04009537	Worlingham	3,745	Market Town
E04009538	Wrentham	966	Rural area
EEEE	Lowestoft [unparished area of]	56,932	Lowestoft

Source website: Suffolk Observatory

Settlement hierarchy	Population	Percentage
Lowestoft	69,497	60.30%
Market Towns	27,401	23.77%
Rural Areas	18,356	15.93%
Waveney Total	115,254	100.00%

Appendix C – List of Documents Scoped.

International Context

The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development – Commitments arising from summit. Sept 2002

Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, 2012

Rio +20 The Future We Want, 2012

The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals – Sept 2000

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – 1979

Ramsar convention on Wetlands of international importance especially as waterfowl habitat – 1971

Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979)

UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

European Spatial Development Perspective (May 1999)

Europe 2020 Strategy, 2010

Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2006

Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy 2009

European Directives:

Air Quality

Climate Change

Water

Land Use

Nature and Biodiversity

Waste Management

Other EU Directives/Legislation

National, Regional and Local Context – Generic

National Policy and Legislation

The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy - Securing the Future, March 2005

Mainstream Sustainable Development: The Government's Vision and What this means in Practice, DEFRA 2011

National Planning Policy Framework

National Planning Practice Guidance, 2014

National Planning Policy for Waste, 2014

National Policy Statement for Waste Water, March 2012

National Policy Statement for the National Road and Rail Networks, Consultation Draft, December 2013

Aviation Policy Framework 2013

Protection of Wrecks Act 1973

UK Marine Policy Statement, 2013
East Marine Plan, MMO 2014
Strategic Framework for Road Safety (DfT, May 2011)

Regional and Local Strategies and Plans

Transforming Suffolk Community Strategy 2008-2028 (2008 revision)
Norfolk Ambition 'The Community Strategy for Norfolk', 2003-2023 (refreshed in 2008)
Waveney Sustainable Community Strategy, 2010-2028
Waveney District Council Business Plan 2012-2022
Suffolk Coastal District Council Corporate Outcomes 2012-2022
Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Joint Environmental Policy, 2012

Other Local Authority Local Plans / Local Development Frameworks

Parish Plans

National, Regional and Local Context – Social

Health

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2022 (Early priorities for review May 2015)
NHS Five Year Forward View, 2014
Healthy Ambitions 2008-28, Nov 2008
Living Well with Dementia: Transforming the Quality and Experience of Dementia Care for the People of Norfolk 2009-2014
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