

Date: 06 June 2013  
Our ref: 85797  
Your ref: Neighbourhood Plans



Hilary Hanslip  
Principal Planning Officer – Policy  
Suffolk Coastal District

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6JC

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Ms Hanslip

## **Suffolk Coastal District Neighbourhood Plan Areas**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 08/05/2013

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

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made. Natural England does not have the resources to get involved in all neighbourhood plans and will prioritise our detailed engagement to those plans that may impact on internationally or nationally designated nature conservation sites, and/or require Strategic Environmental Assessment or screening for Habitats Regulations Assessment.

### **1. Leiston**

#### **International and European Designated Sites**

The following International and European sites fall within the Parish boundaries:

Sandlings Special Protection Area (SPA); Minsmere to Warbleswick SPA; Minsmere to Warbleswick Heaths and Marshes Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Minsmere-Warbleswick Ramsar. If these designated sites are likely to be affected by any proposals set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, for example by additional built development or by increased recreation pressure, a Screening Assessment may need to be carried out under the Habitat Regulations. This HRA Screening can draw upon the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, which we have found to be satisfactory.

#### **Nationally Designated Sites**

The following Sites of Special Scientific Interest fall within Leiston Parish boundaries:

Leiston and Aldeburgh SSSI; Sizewell Marshes SSSI; Minsmere & Warbleswick Heaths and Marshes SSSI and National Nature Reserve (NNR). The neighbourhood plan as it progresses should avoid any proposal or activity that would be likely to damage or destroy the interest features of this SSSI.

#### **Designated Landscape**

Your plan area is within or adjacent to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast. We advise that you take account of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB Management Plan and seek the views of the AONB Partnership.

## **Local Wildlife Sites**

The following Local Wildlife Sites fall within the parish boundaries:

Reckham Pits Wood; Leiston Common; Sizewell Levels & Associated Area; Suffolk Shingle Beaches and Buckles Wood. For further information on the Local Wildlife Sites contact the Suffolk Biological Records Centre which will hold a range of information on the natural environment:

<http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/>

## **2. Framlingham**

The following Local Wildlife Sites fall within Framlingham Parish boundaries:

Framlingham Mere; Framlingham Cemetery

For further information on the Local Wildlife Sites contact the Suffolk Biological Records Centre which will hold a range of information on the natural environment: <http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/>

## **3. Great Bealings**

### **International and European Designated Sites**

Whilst there are no International and European sites actually within the Parish boundaries the Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar are in close proximity. If these designated sites are likely be affected by any proposals set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, for example by additional built development or by increased recreation pressure, a Screening Assessment may need to be carried out under the Habitat Regulations. This HRA Screening can draw upon the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, which we have found to be satisfactory.

### **Nationally Designated Sites**

The Deben Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest is in close proximity to the Great Bealing parish boundary. The neighbourhood plan as it progresses should avoid any proposal or activity that would be likely to damage or destroy the interest features of this SSSI.

### **Local Sites**

The following Local Wildlife Sites fall within the Parish boundaries:

Kiln Farm Wood; Meadow Cottage Wood; and Queech Wood

For further information on the Local Wildlife Sites contact the Suffolk Biological Records Centre which will hold a range of information on the natural environment: <http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/>

## **4. Melton**

### **International and European Designated Sites**

The Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar fall within the Melton Parish boundaries. If these designated sites are likely be affected by any proposals set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, for example by additional built development or by increased recreation pressure, a Screening Assessment may need to be carried out under the Habitat Regulations. This HRA Screening can draw upon the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, which we have found to be satisfactory.

### **Nationally Designated Sites**

The Deben Estuary Site of Special Scientific Interest falls within Melton Parish boundary. The neighbourhood plan as it progresses should avoid any proposal or activity that would be likely to damage or destroy the interest features of this SSSI.

### **Designated Landscape**

Your plan area is within or adjacent to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB. We advise that you take account of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB Management Plan and seek the views of the AONB Partnership.

## **Local Sites**

The following Local Wildlife Sites fall within the Parish boundaries:

Hospital Grove; Woods Lane Meadow and Milton Mead; and Melton Picnic Site

For further information on the Local Wildlife Sites contact the Suffolk Biological Records Centre which will hold a range of information on the natural environment: <http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/>

## **5. Rendlesham**

### **International and European Designated Sites**

The Sandlings SPA falls within the Parish boundaries. It is also closely sited to the Staverton Park and Thicks Special Area of Conservation (SAC). If these designated sites are likely to be affected by any proposals set out in the Neighbourhood Plan, for example by additional built development or by increased recreation pressure, a Screening Assessment may need to be carried out under the Habitat Regulations. This HRA Screening can draw upon the Appropriate Assessment of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, which we have found to be satisfactory.

### **Nationally Designated Sites**

The Sandlings SSSI falls within Rendlesham Parish boundary and Staverton Park and Thicks SSSI is also in close proximity. The neighbourhood plan as it progresses should avoid any proposal or activity that would be likely to damage or destroy the interest features of this SSSI.

### **Designated Landscape**

Your plan area is within or adjacent to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB. We advise that you take account of the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB Management Plan and seek the views of the AONB Partnership.

## **Local Sites**

The following Local Wildlife Sites fall within the Parish boundaries:

Whitmore Wood; RAF Bentwaters; and Rendlesham Forest

For further information on the Local Wildlife Sites contact the Suffolk Biological Records Centre which will hold a range of information on the natural environment: <http://www.suffolkbrc.org.uk/>

## **6. General Information**

The following is offered as general advice to assist the Town/Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forums.

Natural England, together with the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Forestry Commission has published joint advice on neighbourhood planning which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at:

<http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/PDF/GEHO0212BWAZ-E-E.pdf>

### **Protected species**

You should consider whether your plan has any impacts on legally protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced standing advice to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected or Biodiversity Action Plan species should they be identified as an issue. The standing advice also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, you should undertake further consultation with Natural England. [Natural England Standing Advice](#)

### **National Character Areas (NCAs)**

We suggest that you could make reference to the National Character Areas (NCAs) which divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries, making them a good decision making framework for the natural environment. The above Parishes fall within NCA 82: Suffolk Coast & Heaths except

Framlingham and part of Leiston which falls within NCA83: South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands. Key facts and data on these areas are available on our website:  
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/nca/eastofengland.aspx>

### **Opportunities for enhancing the natural environment**

Neighbourhood plans may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature.

Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the installation of bird nest boxes should also be considered as part of any new development proposal.

If, as you develop your plan, you consider that it will significantly impact on designated nature conservation sites or protected species or has other significant impacts on the natural environment then you should consult Natural England again.

For clarification of any points in this letter, please contact Roslyn Deeming on 0300 060 1524. For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Roslyn Deeming  
Adviser  
Land Use Operations  
[Roslyn.deeming@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Roslyn.deeming@naturalengland.org.uk)

## Annex 1 – Information sources

The following is offered as general advice which may be of use in your deliberations.

Information held by your local authority and used in the preparation of Local Plans is often the starting point for neighbourhood plans or orders (depending on how relevant and up to date the information is). Your local authority will be able to advise you further on this.

Other useful information may be available from local environmental records centres, the Historic Environment Record Centres or local environmental and amenity groups. You can also access a range of information and maps about the local environment on the following websites – see:

<b>What's in your backyard?:</b> Provides access to environmental data at a local level <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37793.aspx">www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37793.aspx</a>
<b>Your Right to Know:</b> Public Registers of environmental permits and licences <a href="http://www2.environment-agency.gov.uk/epr/">www2.environment-agency.gov.uk/epr/</a>
<b>Natural England:</b> Publications, maps and data on the natural environment <a href="http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/default.aspx">www.naturalengland.org.uk/publications/default.aspx</a>
<b>Nature on the map:</b> Maps about nature, including the location of designated sites <a href="http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk">www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk</a>
<b>Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside:</b> Interactive map of environmental information <a href="http://magic.defra.gov.uk/">http://magic.defra.gov.uk/</a>
<b>The Land Information Search:</b> Map based tool on land designations or features <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/inf-d-6dfkmn">www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/inf-d-6dfkmn</a>
<b>English Heritage: Finding and managing your local historic environment</b> <a href="http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/">http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/</a> , <a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk">www.heritagegateway.org.uk</a> and <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/">www.helm.org.uk/</a>
<b>Data on the historic environment</b> (Heritage Counts, Heritage at Risk): <a href="http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/">http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/</a> & <a href="http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/">http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-at-risk/</a>
<b>Guidance on heritage and community-led planning:</b> <a href="http://www.helm.org.uk/communityplanning">www.helm.org.uk/communityplanning</a>