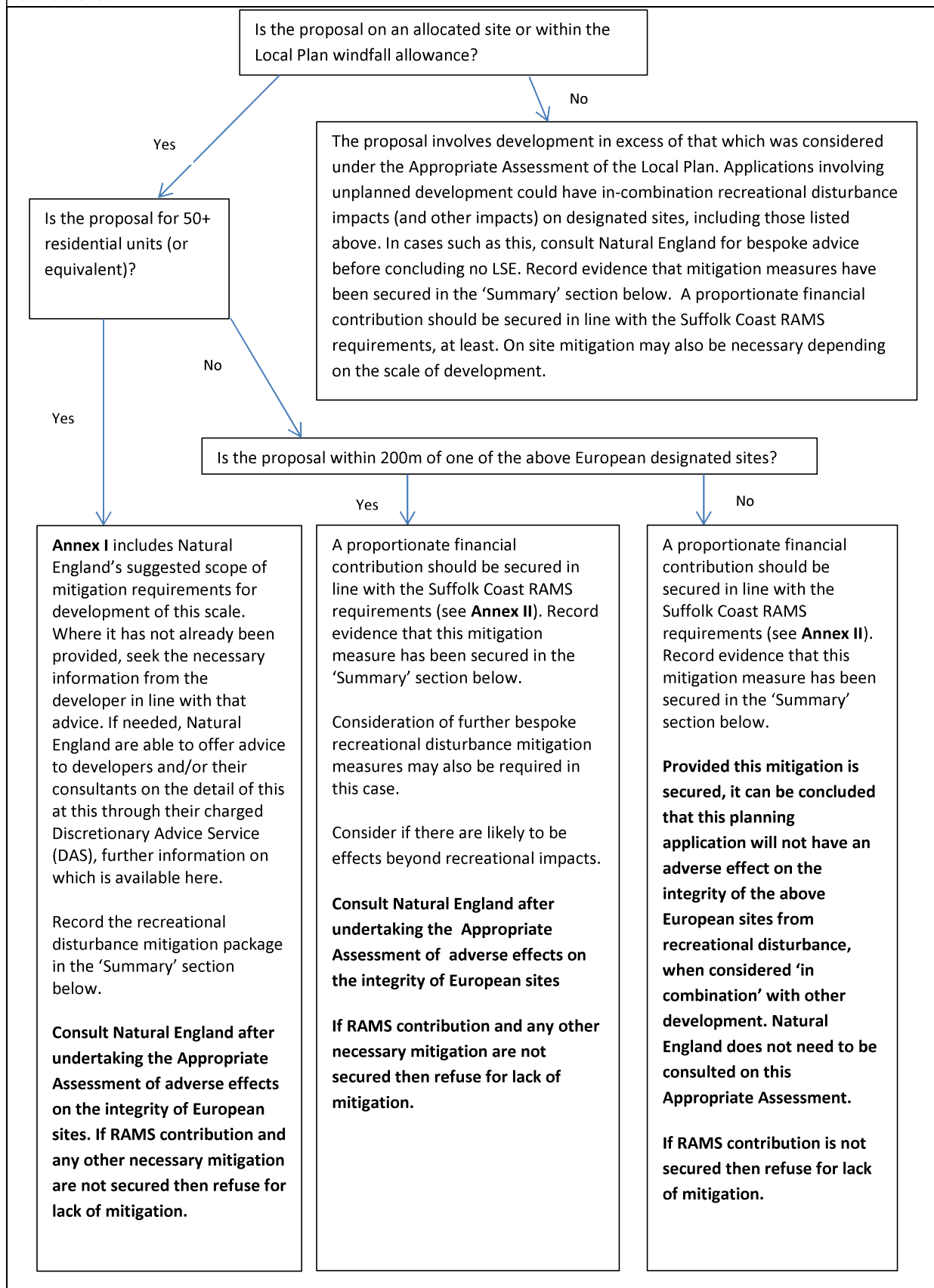


**Suffolk Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Habitat
Regulation Assessment (HRA) Record**

Application details	
Local Planning Authority:	
Case officer	
Application reference:	
Application description:	
Application address:	
Status of Application:	
Grid Ref:	
HRA Stage 1: screening assessment	
<p>Test 1 – the significance test: Based on the development type and proximity to European designated sites, a judgement should be made as to whether the development constitutes a 'likely significant effect' (LSE) to a European site in terms of increased recreational disturbance</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><i>Is the development within 13 km of the below European sites (check NE IRZs)?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar site Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Minsmere – Walberswick SPA Orfordness-Shingle Street SAC Sandlings SPA Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site (Suffolk side only) </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ Yes</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p><i>Does the planning application constitute residential development?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New dwellings of 1+ units included in current site allocations and windfall (excludes replacement dwellings and extensions) Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) Residential caravan sites (excludes holiday caravans and campsites) Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people plots Tourist accommodation </div> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ Yes</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Conclude LSE. This proposal is within scope of the Suffolk Coast RAMS as it falls within the 13 km 'zone of influence' for likely impacts and is a relevant residential development type as listed above. It is anticipated that such development in this area is 'likely to have a significant effect' upon the interest features of the aforementioned designated site(s) through increased recreational pressure, when considered either alone or in combination.</p> <p>Proceed to HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment to assess recreational disturbance impacts on the above designated sites.</p> </div> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ No</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>Conclude no LSE to the above designated sites in terms of recreational disturbance.</p> <p>An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required where recreational disturbance to these sites is the only issue or recreational disturbance to these sites can be scoped out of any HRA covering other issues.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ No</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>RAMS is not relevant, however other Habitats Regulations considerations should be taken into consideration for non residential developments and in some circumstances a bespoke AA may be required.</p> </div> </div> </div>	

HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

Test 2 – the integrity test: The applicant must provide sufficient evidence to allow the Appropriate Assessment to be made, which is the stage at which avoidance and/or mitigation measures can be considered



Summary of the Appropriate Assessment : To be carried out by the Competent Authority (the local planning authority) in liaison with Natural England (where necessary)

Summary of recreational disturbance mitigation package

[INSERT]

Conclusion

Having considered the proposed avoidance and mitigation measures above, [INSERT LPA] conclude that with mitigation the project will not have an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of the European sites included within the Suffolk Coast RAMS.

Having made this appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for the site(s) in view of that (those) site(s)'s conservation objectives, and having consulted Natural England and fully considered any representation received (where necessary), the authority may now agree to the plan or project under regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Local Planning Authority Case Officer comments, signed and dated:

Annex I – Natural England’s recommendations for larger scale residential developments within the 13 km Suffolk Coast RAMS zone of influence (50 units +, or equivalent, as a guide)

Developments of this scale should include provision of well-designed open space/green infrastructure, proportionate to its scale. Such provisions can help minimise any predicted increase in recreational pressure to the European sites by containing the majority of recreation within and around the development site boundary away from European sites. We advise that the Suitable Accessible Natural Green Space (SANGS) guidance here can be helpful in designing this; it should be noted that this document is specific to the SANGS creation for the Thames Basin Heaths, although the broad principles are more widely applicable. As a minimum, we advise that such provisions should include:

- High-quality, informal, semi-natural areas
- Circular dog walking routes of 2.7 km¹ within the site and/or with links to surrounding public rights of way (PRoW)
- Dedicated ‘dogs-off-lead’ areas
- Signage/information leaflets to householders to promote these areas for recreation
- Dog waste bins
- A commitment to the long term maintenance and management of these provisions

Natural England would be happy to advise developers and/or their consultants on the detail of this at the pre-application stage through our charged Discretionary Advice Service (DAS), further information on which is available [here](#).

However, the unique draw of the above European sites means that, even when well-designed, ‘on-site’ provisions are unlikely to fully mitigate impacts when all residential development within reach of the coast is considered together ‘in combination’. We therefore advise that consideration of ‘off-site’ measures (i.e. in and around the relevant European designated site(s)) is also required as part of the mitigation package for predicted recreational disturbance impacts in these cases. Such measures are to be delivered strategically through the Suffolk Coast RAMS to make the sites more resilient to increased recreational pressures. A proportionate financial contribution should therefore be secured from these developments in line with the Suffolk Coast RAMS.

¹ Taken from *Jenkinson, S., (2013), Planning for dog ownership in new developments: reducing conflict – adding value. Access and greenspace design guidance for planners and developers*

Annex II – Natural England’s recommendations for smaller scale residential developments within the 13 km Suffolk Coast RAMS zone of influence (0-49 units, or equivalent, as a guide) which are not within/directly adjacent to a European designated site

Whilst the provision of well-designed open space/green infrastructure on site or contributions towards strategic green infrastructure in your district is to be welcomed for developments of this scale, we advise that consideration of ‘off-site’ measures (i.e. in and around the relevant European designated site(s)) is required as mitigation for predicted recreational disturbance impacts in these cases as a minimum. Such measures are to be delivered strategically through the Suffolk Coast RAMS to make the sites more resilient to increased recreational pressures. A proportionate financial contribution should therefore be secured from these developments in line with the Suffolk Coast RAMS.