



Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

Draft Shadingfield Sotterley Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan 2019 – 2036

SSWE – NDP - Draft – v11.2 (received by East Suffolk
Council on 18 March 2021)

March 2021

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1. Introduction

1.1 The European Habitats Directive¹ and Wild Birds Directive² provide protection for sites that are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species. The network consists of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Both types can also be referred to as European Sites. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also states that Ramsar sites should be afforded the same level of protection as the European sites.

1.2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of development plans is set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended including through EU Exit legislation). It is also a requirement of Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended). In order to proceed to referendum a Neighbourhood Plan must meet a series of 'basic conditions', which include that it does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations.

1.3 Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended including through EU Exit legislation) states:

'Where a land use plan:

(a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European sites or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,

The plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.'

1.4 The HRA is therefore undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of any sites.

¹ 92/43/EEC

² 2009/147/EEC

Stage 1: Determining whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This needs to take account of the likely impacts in combination with other relevant plans and projects. This assessment should be made using the precautionary principle. The screening assessment must reflect the outcomes of the 2018 judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union³, which has ruled that where mitigation is necessary this must be identified through an Appropriate Assessment.

Stage 2: Carrying out Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity. The effects of the plan on the conservation objectives of sites should be assessed, to ascertain whether the plan has an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site.

Stage 3: Identifying mitigation measures and alternative solutions. The aim of this stage is to find ways of avoiding or significantly reducing adverse impacts, so that site integrity is no longer at risk. If there are still likely to be negative impacts, the option should be dropped, unless exceptionally it can be justified by imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

1.5 The Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan is being produced by Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Council's. A Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been produced and this screening assessment considers whether there are likely to be significant effects on protected European sites and whether a full Appropriate Assessment will be required.

1.6 The Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan will need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The adopted Local Plan is currently the East Suffolk Council Waveney Local Plan (2019) (referred to as the Local Plan for the purposes of this document). The Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan is therefore being developed within the context of the Local Plan.

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

- 1.7 The Local Plan was subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment as part of its production. Where screening identified a likely significant effect, an Appropriate Assessment was undertaken and mitigation measures identified were incorporated within the Local Plan, resulting in a conclusion that the plan will not lead to any adverse effects on European wildlife sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Waveney District. Significant effects were identified in relation to recreation (including dog walking), air quality and biodiversity net gain. The Council has subsequently undertaken to produce a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy and requires payment towards mitigation from residential developments within 13km of the protected European sites.
- 1.8 This screening report contains the results of Stage 1 (above) in relation to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Stages 2 and 3 are only required if the screening stage concludes that there is likely to be a significant impact on a European site. The initial screening has been undertaken by East Suffolk Council and was subject to a seven week consultation with Natural England as statutory consultee who commented on the draft plan received by East Suffolk Council on the 12 November 2020.

2. Protected sites covered by this screening report

- 2.1 Sites included in this assessment are listed in Table 1. This includes all sites that are within 20km of the Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan area (for consistency with the distances applied within the HRA of the Local Plan and adopting the precautionary approach). The locations of the sites are shown on maps in Appendix 2 and the Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives of the sites are contained in Appendix 3, along with a summary of the pressures and threats as documented in the Appropriate Assessment for the Local Plan.

Table 1: Relevant European protected sites

Name
The Broads SAC
Benacre to Easton Bavents Lagoons SAC
Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC
Dews Ponds SAC

Broadland SPA
Benacre to Easton Bavents SPA
Outer Thames Estuary SPA
Minsmere-Walberswick SPA
Breydon Water SPA
Broadland Ramsar
Minsmere-Walberswick Ramsar
Breydon Water Ramsar

3. Draft Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1 Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Councils are producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the parishes up to 2036, within the context of the Local Plan. This Habitats Regulation Assessment screening assessment reviews Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood plan (draft version 11-2 received by East Suffolk Council on 18 March 2021).
- 3.2 The Draft Neighbourhood Plan includes a range of policies covering the Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan area. A number of policies relate to the full Neighbourhood Plan area whilst others are area/location specific. The Plan does not allocate specific sites for development.
- 3.3 The policies in the Draft Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan as reviewed are listed in Table 2 below. An assessment of whether each policy is likely to have a significant effect on European protected sites is included in section 5 of this report.

Table 2: List of Neighbourhood Plan policies

Policy reference	Policy Title
NEP1	Protecting Wildlife Habitats and Open Spaces
NEP2	Local Green Space

NEP3	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
HEP1	Protecting and Enhancing Heritage Assets
HP1	Housing Development within the Settlement Boundary
HP2	Housing Development Outside the Settlement Boundary
HP3	Housing Density, Mix and Design
HP4	Rural Tourism Accommodation
FSP1	Community Facilities
FSP3	Shadingfield Village Hall
STP1	Traffic
STP2	Pedestrian and Cycle Access
BEP1	Business Development

4. Other Plans and Projects

- 4.1 Regulation 105 of the 2017 Regulations requires consideration to be given to whether a Plan will have an effect either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 4.2 As noted in the introduction, the other key plan is the Local Plan. The Local Plan was adopted in March 2019. The Local Plan sets out the broad scale and distribution of development across the area of East Suffolk formerly covered by the Waveney District Council
- 4.5 The Draft Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan policies interpret the strategy and policies of the Local Plan at a local level. The policies contained in the Draft Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan are proposed to provide locally specific, criteria-based policy guidance for the determination of planning applications.
- 4.6 WLP1.1 state that 10% of housing growth covered by the Local Plan will take place in the rural areas. WLP7.1 Rural Settlement Hierarchy and Housing Growth in the Local Plan sets out the distribution of housing in the rural areas. Those villages defined as Larger Villages will receive 70% of rural housing growth in the rural areas. Those defined as Smaller Villages will receive 20% of the growth, with the final 10% coming from windfall

development elsewhere across the rural areas. Willingham with Shadingfield are considered smaller villages under the Local Plan whilst Sotterley and Ellough are considered countryside.

- 4.7 A screening process has considered each policy in the Local Plan and concluded whether significant effects are likely and that an Appropriate Assessment is needed. The Appropriate Assessment has subsequently considered the following themes - recreation pressure from new residential development, air quality from increased road traffic and biodiversity net gain. Mitigation measures were identified within the Appropriate Assessment and were incorporated within the Local Plan, resulting in a conclusion that the plan will not lead to any significant adverse effects on European wildlife sites within and in the vicinity of the (then) Waveney District.

- 4.8 The Council has subsequently become involved in the production of a Recreational Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy and requires payment towards mitigation of significant effects from residential developments within 13km of the protected European sites.

5. Assessment of likely effects of the Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan on European protected sites

- 5.1 Table 3 below considers each policy of the Draft Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan reviewed in relation to whether there is potential for a likely significant effect on protected European sites. This constitutes Stage 1 as set out under paragraph 1.4 above. Consideration is given to the characteristics and location of the protected sites. The policies are considered within the context of the Local Plan policies which they must be in general conformity with and which have themselves been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment, as set out in section 4 above.

Table 3: Likely significant effects of the Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan

Policy	Assessment of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites	Natura 2000 sites that could possibly be affected	Likely significant effect identified	AA needed?
NEP1	<p>This policy provides a locally specific criteria for the protection of wildlife habitats and open spaces. It aims to retain the existing landscape character and preserve biodiversity and where possible seek enhancements. The policy also states that any negative impacts should be shown to be adequately mitigated against. Furthermore, it aims to retain trees and hedgerows on development sites although it does provide exceptions for access requirements. The policy states that development will not be supported in Priority Habitats, or County Wildlife Sites where it would have a material adverse impact on the conservation of fauna and flora or the qualities of the landscape that make it special. Where development is deemed acceptable landscaping should be integral to the scheme. The policy states that where possible green corridors should be created and finishes by stating development should respect dark skies.</p> <p>The proposed policy reflects WLP8.34 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and WLP8.35 Landscape Character of the Local Plan. Policy WLP8.34 was subject to the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Local Plan and mitigation has been incorporated in the Local Plan where necessary. The</p>	None	None	No

	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment did not identify any likely significant effects in relation to WLP8.34 Biodiversity and Geodiversity.</p> <p>Furthermore, the proposed neighbourhood policy is aimed at preserving and enhancing natural features. This policy will, therefore, not result in any likely significant effects.</p>			
NEP2	<p>The policy looks to designate an area of open space in Shadingfield as Local Green Space. The policy reflects WLP8.23 Protection of Open Spaces of the Local Plan and sets a broadly similar criteria for the loss of open space. In addition, the area of Local Green Space relates to an area designated as open space in the adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>Overall, the retention of Local Green Spaces can have a positive impact on nearby protected European sites by ensuring local residents do not need to travel to them for day to day open space use. Accordingly, this proposed policy will not result in any likely significant effects.</p>	None	None	No
NEP3	<p>The policy builds upon the criteria for acceptable renewable energy sites set out in policy WLP8.27 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy of the Local Plan by setting 2 additional criteria namely; that any renewable energy scheme is appropriately located so they will not cause visual, aural or olfactory disturbance to local residents; and do not adversely affect the character. The policy states that the plan will not support commercial wind projects. The additional criteria in shaping renewable energy development will not encourage additional development over that of</p>	None	None	No

	policy WLP8.27 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy so is, therefore, unlikely to have any significant effects.			
HEP1	The policy looks to identify non-designated heritage assets and provide a criteria for development of or adjacent to non-designated heritage assets by seeking to protect and where appropriate enhance them. It also states that new development should be sensitive to the character of the identified buildings and sets further guidance for farmhouses. The policy provides protection to heritage assets and is thus unlikely to significantly and adversely affect protected European areas.	None	None	No
HP1	The policy sets out a criteria for small residential developments within the settlement boundary of Shadingfield and Willingham. The policy relates to WLP1.2 Settlement Boundaries of the Local Plan which seeks to concentrate development within settlement boundaries. The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Local Plan did not identify any significant effects for WLP1.2, therefore a policy which extends the criteria will not result in any likely significant effects. Furthermore, it builds upon the design considerations outlined in policy WLP8.29 Design which was found to be qualitative as opposed to encouraging development within the Local Plan HRA.	None	None	No

HP2	<p>This policy addresses new dwellings outside the settlement limits and is broadly reflective of WLP8.7 Small Scale Residential Development in the Countryside of the Local Plan and directly draws upon policy WLP8.11 Conversion of Rural Buildings to Residential Use and WLP8.14 Conversion and Replacement of Rural buildings for Employment Use. The policy also adds that development in areas at risk of flooding will not be supported. The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Local Plan did not identify any significant effects for these Local Plan policies but did note that all dwellings which are within the zone of influence for important nature sites need to be mitigated for. The Neighbourhood Plan area is distanced from nearby European protected areas, but any site-specific development within a zone of influence (potentially including local waterway routes) of the protected sites would require a project specific HRA. The neighbourhood policy directs development to the Local Plan and is not deemed to have any significant effects.</p>	None	None	No
HP3	<p>This policy sets out the criteria for local housing developments in terms of density, mix and design. In accordance with Local Plan policy WLP8.32 Housing Density and Design the Neighbourhood Plan sets out its own level of housing densities based on its local circumstance. It states that new development should be reflective of the settlement patterns immediately adjacent. In this it draws from policy WLP8.29 Design. The policy sets out the ratio of smaller and larger housing. The housing mix</p>	None	None	No

	<p>sets a higher proportion of smaller dwellings than those set out in policy WLP8.1 Housing Mix. Finally, the policy expands upon Local Plan policy WLP8.29 Design by stating that wherever practical development should use traditional materials, support low energy consumption and provide sufficient parking in accordance with Suffolk Parking Guidance. Policy WLP8.29 Design is deemed a qualitative policy that doesn't directly encourage development under the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Local Plan whilst the housing mix policy notes that if developments are in relevant zones of influence for important natural sites then sufficient mitigation would need to be provided. This policy is deemed to be reflective of the Local Plan and not deemed to have any significant effects.</p>			
<p>HP4</p>	<p>This policy sets the criteria for new rural tourism accommodation stating that to convert an existing building the structure must have been present for at least 5 years previously. The policy further states that any new development will be assessed on its impact to the landscape character in accordance with policy WLP8.35 Landscape Character and that a financial viability assessment will be submitted with any planning application. This Neighbourhood Plan policy builds upon policy WLP8.15 New Self Catering Tourist Accommodation by defining a permanent building for rural conversion and setting out the need for a financial viability assessment. The proposed Neighbourhood policy provides</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

	additional criteria to the existing local plan policy so is not expected to have any significant effects on nearby protected European sites. The second criterion states that development shall be carried out in accordance with a Local Plan policy which was not considered to have a significant effect under the Local Plan HRA.			
FSP1	The policy supports improvements to existing community uses provided on their policy map subject to an appropriate design and that it is not detrimental to nearby properties. The policy further states that loss of community facilities will be resisted unless it is demonstrated the facility is not viable, relevant or necessary to the Local Community. The proposed policy broadly reflects policy WLP8.22 Built Community and Facilities of the Local Plan which during its own HRA was not found to have any significant risk but may on a project-by-project basis need their own HRA's covering construction and mitigation. Improving Local communal facilities could have a positive impact on nearby protected European sites by reducing the need to travel to the protected sites to meet day-to-day communal needs.	None	None	No
FSP3	The policy supports the redevelopment or replacement of the existing Shadingfield Village Hall provided that the current facility is demonstrably not fit for purpose and the support of the local community is also demonstrated. It then goes on to provide a design criterion for any new village hall. The policy is broadly reflective of policy WLP8.22	None	None	No

	Built Community and Facilities of the Local Plan. New or improved facilities for local communities is not considered to significantly increase pressure on nearby protected natural environments and could in some instances reduce pressure as local residents would not need to travel as far for better quality services.			
STP1	The policy aims to ensure that new development identifies impacts on the surrounding transport infrastructure and mitigate any adverse impacts. The policy further states that no new development should risk highway safety. The proposed policy broadly reflects policy WLP8.21 Sustainable Transport of the Local Plan. Ensuring new development effectively and safely fits into the existing transport network is not considered to have any significant effects. Under policy WLP8.21 Sustainable Transport applications above a certain threshold will be expected to provide a transport assessment.	None	None	No
STP2	The policy aims to protect footpaths and bridleways and to ensure new developments improve connections to existing footpaths and provide safe, sustainable routes to nearby amenities and services. The neighbourhood policies are broadly consistent with policy WLP8.21 Sustainable Transport of the Local Plan by improving and connecting cycle and pedestrian networks. Whilst it is recognised that improved sustainable infrastructure may create attractive routes for leisure trips to important natural areas it is not deemed to have a significant impact and	None	None	No

	will provide environmental benefits by reducing the need for cars.			
BEP1	<p>The policy provides criteria for new employment uses. The proposed policy expands on the existing policy on the Ellough industrial estate by putting a greater emphasis on sustainable transport. The proposal reflects policy WLP8.21 Sustainable Transport of the Local Plan and expands upon policy WLP3.3 Land South of Benacre Road at Ellough Airfield, Ellough.</p> <p>The policy also provides more generalised criteria for employment uses and supports retail and small businesses, home working and agricultural businesses subject to a set criteria. Whilst this policy does not allocate to a specific area/site it is considered that any new retail or small businesses, home working or agricultural business is unlikely to increase pressure or travel numbers to the European protected sites.</p>	None	None	No

6. Summary and conclusions

- 6.1 The Draft Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan will provide policy which will be used for determining planning applications alongside the adopted Local Plan. It includes locally specific criteria based policies to be used for the determination of planning applications within the Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan area and the identification of location specific Local Green Spaces and Non-Designated Heritage Assets.
- 6.2 The Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to be in general conformity with the relevant policies in the adopted East Suffolk Council Waveney Local Plan. The policies provide locally specific criteria and will not lead to likely significant effects on protected European sites.

Signed:



Dated: 26 March 2021

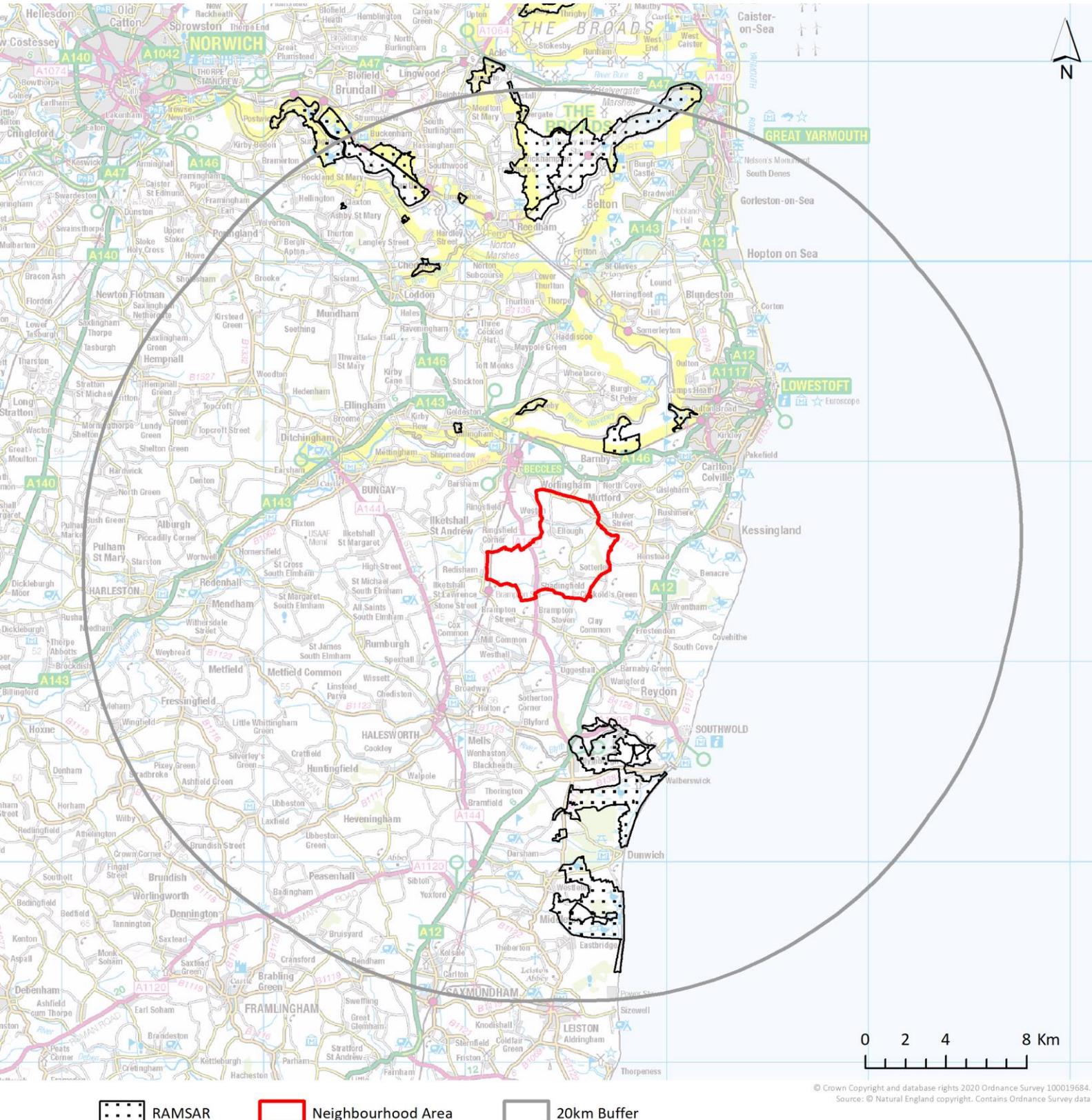
Desi Reed
Planning Policy and Delivery Manager
East Suffolk Council

Appendix 1: Sources of background information

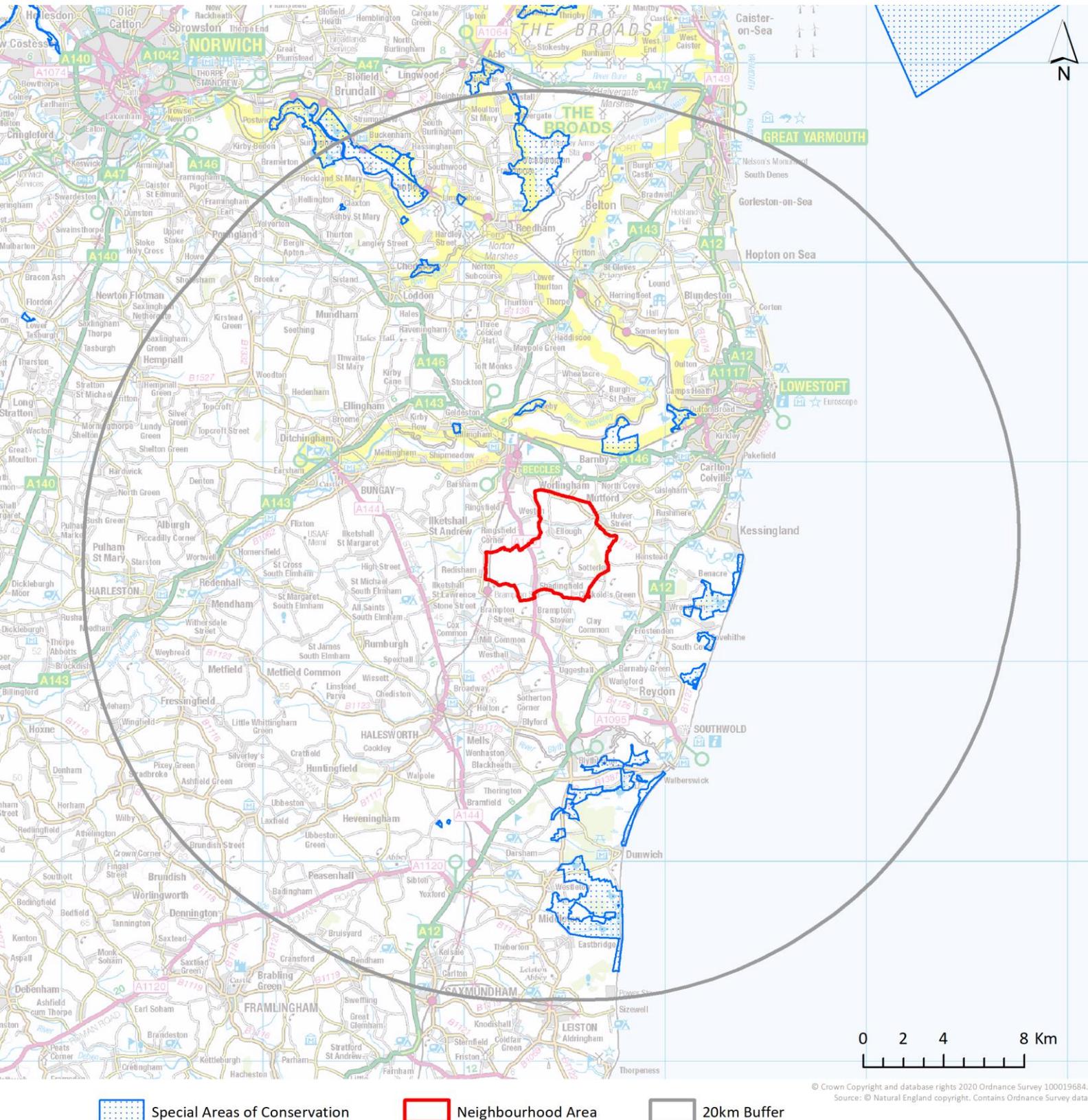
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for the East Suffolk Waveney Local Plan
(<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/waveney-local-plan/>)

Appendix 2: Locations of European protected sites

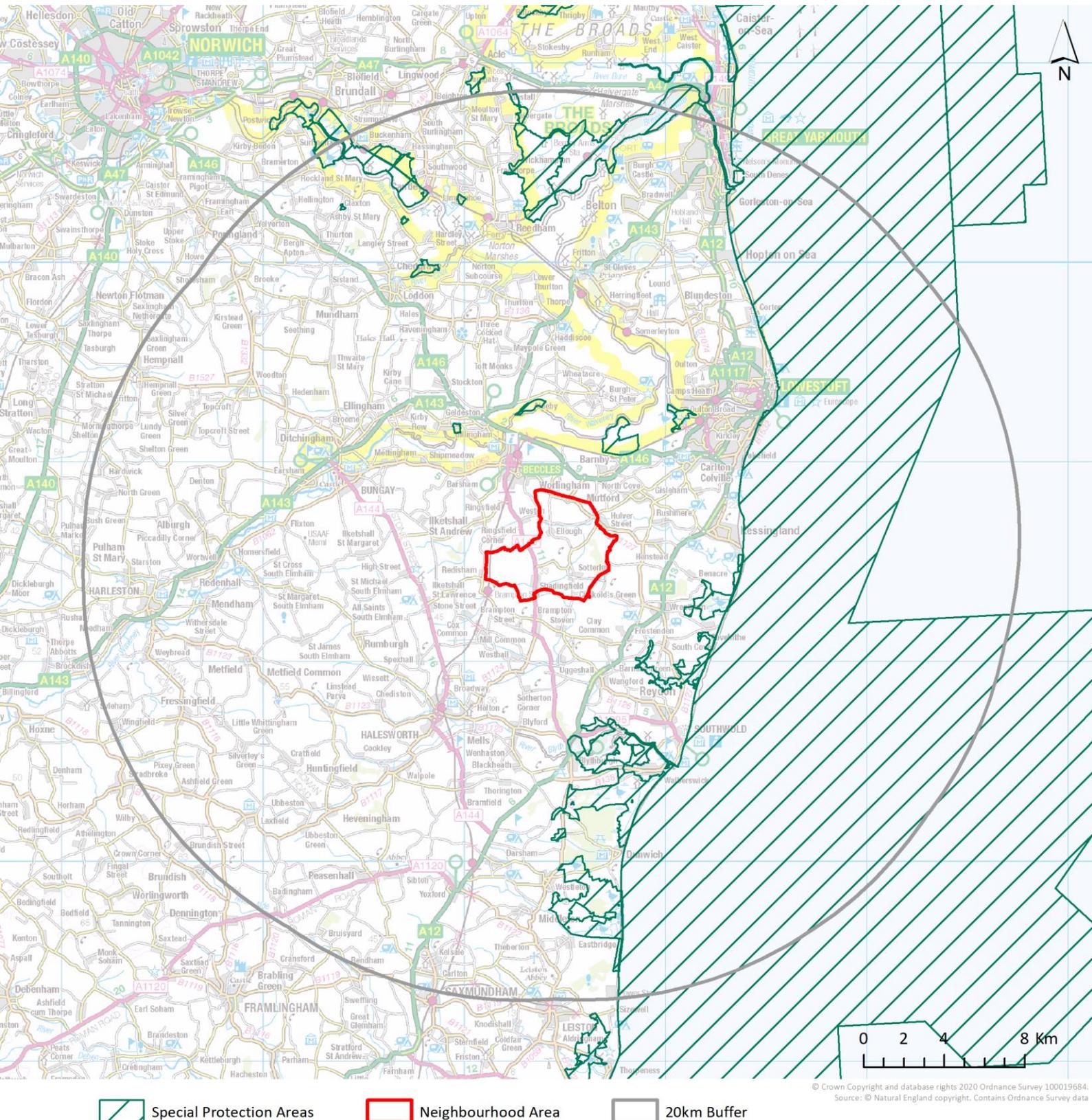
RAMSAR



Special Areas of Conservation



Special Protection Areas



Appendix 3: Relevant European protected sites

Name	Qualifying features	Conservation Objectives	Pressure and threats (as summarised in the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the East Suffolk Waveney Local Plan)
Special Areas of Conservation			
Benacre to Easton Barents Lagoons	H1150# Coastal lagoons, A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> : Eurasian marsh harrier	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.	Public access/disturbance, water pollution, physical modification, changes in species distributions, fisheries (marine and estuarine).
Dew's Ponds	S1166 <i>Triturus cristatus</i> : Great crested newt	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species, The structure and function of the	None identified

		<p>habitats of qualifying species, The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely, The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	
<p>Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes</p>	<p>H4030 European dry heaths H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks A052(B) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>: Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>: Eurasian marsh harrier A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar A056(B) <i>Anas clypeata</i>: Northern shoveler A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i>: Northern shoveler A051(B) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall A132(B) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>:</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.</p>	<p>Coastal squeeze, public access/disturbance, changes in species distributions, invasive species, inappropriate pest control, air pollution, water pollution, deer, fisheries (commercial marine and estuarine)</p>

	<p>Pied avocet A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern A394(NB) <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>: Greater white-fronted goose</p>		
The Broads	<p>H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>: Desmoulin's whorl snail H7230 Alkaline fens H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) H91E0# Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i>-type vegetation S1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i>: Otter S1903 <i>Liparis loeselii</i>: Fen orchid S4056 <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>: Little</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely, The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p>Water pollution, climate change, invasive species, siltation, inappropriate water levels, hydrological changes, water abstraction, change in land management, inappropriate ditch management, inappropriate scrub control, changes in species distributions, public access/disturbance, undergrazing, drainage, direct impact from 3rd party</p>

	ramshorn whirlpool snail		
Special Protection Areas			
Benacre to Easton Bavents	H1150# Coastal lagoons, A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i> : Little tern A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> : Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> : Eurasian marsh harrier	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features, The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features, The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely, The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	Public access/disturbance, water pollution, physical modification, changes in species distributions, fisheries (marine and estuarine).
Breydon Water (also Ramsar Site)	Waterbird assemblage A037(NB) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> : Bewick swan A132(NB) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> : Pied avocet A140(NB) <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> : European golden plover A142(NB) <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> : Northern lapwing A151(NB) <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> : Ruff A193(B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> : Common tern		Shooting/scaring, change in land management, public access/disturbance, hydrological changes, fisheries (marine and estuarine).

<p>Broadland (also Ramsar Site)</p>	<p>H7210# Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i> S1016 <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>: Desmoulin's whorl snail H7230 Alkaline fens H6410 <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>) H91E0# Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) H7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs H3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp H3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or Hydrocharition-type vegetation S1355 <i>Lutra lutra</i>: Otter S1903 <i>Liparis loeselii</i>: Fen orchid S4056 <i>Anisus vorticulus</i>: Little ramshorn whirlpool snail</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species, The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species, The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely, The populations of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p>Water pollution, climate change, invasive species, siltation, inappropriate water levels, hydrological changes, water abstraction, change in land management, inappropriate ditch management, inappropriate scrub control, changes in species distributions, public access/disturbance, undergrazing, drainage, direct impact from 3rd party</p>
<p>Minsmere-Walberswick (also Ramsar Site)</p>	<p>H4030 European dry heaths H1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by</p>	<p>Coastal squeeze, public access/disturbance, changes in species distributions, invasive species, inappropriate pest control, air pollution, water pollution, deer, fisheries</p>

	<p>A052(B) <i>Anas crecca</i>: Eurasian teal A021(B) <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>: Great bittern A081(B) <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>: Eurasian marsh harrier A082(NB) <i>Circus cyaneus</i>: Hen harrier A224(B) <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>: European nightjar A056(B) <i>Anas clypeata</i>: Northern shoveler A056(NB) <i>Anas clypeata</i>: Northern shoveler A051(B) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall A051(NB) <i>Anas strepera</i>: Gadwall A132(B) <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>: Pied avocet A195(B) <i>Sterna albifrons</i>: Little tern A394(NB) <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>: Greater white-fronted goose</p>	<p>maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features, The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features, The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely, The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p>	<p>(commercial marine and estuarine)</p>
<p>Outer Thames Estuary</p>	<p>A001 (W) <i>Gavia stellate</i> Red-throated Diver A195 (B) <i>Sterna hirundo</i> Common Tern A193 (B) <i>Sternula albifrons</i> Little Tern</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring; The extent and distribution of the</p>	

		habitats of the qualifying features, The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features, The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely, The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.	
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Appendix 4: Response from Natural England

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 10 December 2020

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 any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.

However, we refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening

Natural England considers that, based on the material supplied with the consultation, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned, significant environmental effects resulting from the neighbourhood plan are unlikely. We therefore agree with the conclusion of the SEA screening report that a Strategic Environmental Assessment would not be required.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham & Ellough Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any further consultations on your plan, please contact:
consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,
Ben Jones
Consultations Team

Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

Natural environment information sources

The Magic¹ website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available here².

Priority habitats are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found here³. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

National Character Areas (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found here⁴.

There may also be a **local landscape character** assessment covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the Magic⁵ website and also from the LandIS website⁶, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

Natural environment issues to consider

The National Planning Policy Framework⁷ sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Planning Practice Guidance⁸ sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

Natural environment issues to consider

The National Planning Policy Framework⁷ sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Planning Practice Guidance⁸ sets out supporting guidance.

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Landscape

Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed here⁹), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Ancient woodland¹⁰. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed here¹¹) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice here¹² to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 171. For more information, see our publication Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land¹³.

Improving your natural environment

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see Planning Practice Guidance on this 14).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

Links:

¹ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

² <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

³ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.asp>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

⁵ <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

⁶ <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

⁷ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/807247/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

⁸ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>

⁹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹⁰<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

¹¹<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

¹²<https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

¹³<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

¹⁴<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>