

North Norfolk
Local Plan
2016 - 2036



HABITATS
REGULATIONS
ASSESSMENT

Draft Scoping Report
May 2017

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Executive Summary

Habitats Regulations Assessment is required in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, (amended 2012); in order to ensure that plans and projects do not have a likely significant effect on any European designated sites for nature conservation. Such plans or projects can only proceed if the competent authority is convinced they will not have an “adverse effect on the integrity of a European site”. Where there is uncertainty over the effects then the competent authority will need to demonstrate how these can be avoided and what mitigation can be put in place.

A Local Plan is the subject of Habitats Regulations Assessment, which is the responsibility of the plan-making body (in this case North Norfolk District Council) to produce.

This scoping report provides the background and review of evidence to support the commencement of screening and the final Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North Norfolk Core Strategy and Site Allocations documents. This report considers:

- The European designated sites within and outside the plan area affected.
- The characteristics of these sites and their conservation objectives.
- Any other relevant plans, policies and projects that need to be considered.

This report considers all information relevant to the assessment of the emerging plans through the review of the current Core Strategy and Site Allocations documents, providing the background and evidence of what is already available and what further evidence needs to be gathered. Available evidence and previous assessment work is used to highlight potential concerns and opportunities relating to protection of European sites, to inform the development of the new Local Plan.

This report is not a Habitat Regulations Assessment; this is a scoping document to help the development of Habitat Regulations Assessment work in the future.

Following the previous Habitat Regulations Assessment work for the Local Plan, some points need to be considered. These points provide initial guidance to support the Council’s consideration of possible impacts on European sites and will inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment:

This report has identified the main impacts on the District’s European sites and will now inform the preparation of a full Appropriate Assessment for the Core Strategy and Site Specifics documents as the policies and plan start to emerge. This will enable deliverable mitigation to be identified early on in the plan making process.

Contents

1. Introduction – Local Plan Process	5
Habitat Regulations Assessment process	7
European sites	8
Map of designated sites in the District	9
2. Special Protection Area (SPA's) site information	
Broadland SPA	10
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	11
North Norfolk Coast SPA	12
The Wash SPA	15
Breydon Water SPA	18
3. Special Conservation Areas (SAC'S) site information	
The Broads SAC	19
North Norfolk Coast SAC	21
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	22
Paston Great Barns SAC	23
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	24
River Wensum SAC	25
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	26
Winterton Horsey Dunes SAC	26
Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC	27
4. Ramsar site information	
Broadland Ramsar	28
North Norfolk Coast Ramsar	29
The Wash Ramsar	30
Dersingham Bog Ramsar	32
Roydon Common Ramsar	32
5. Other relevant plans and projects	33
Neighboring districts/boroughs	34
6. Previous HRA work and Core Strategy mitigation measures	36
Possible impacts	37
How this report fits into the current North Norfolk Local plan process	37
7. Impacts that could undermine the special qualities of the sites	39
8. Conclusions and next steps	45
9. Appendix 1 Outline of assessment of plans under the Habitats Regulations	46
10. Appendix 2 Marine designated sites	47

1. Introduction - Local Plan Process

1.1 This report provides the initial stages and scoping of a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the new North Norfolk Local Plan, currently being prepared by North Norfolk District Council. A Habitats Regulations Assessment considers the implications of a plan or project for European sites designated for nature conservation, in terms of any significant effect on their special qualities that could occur as a result of the plan or project. Further explanation of the assessment process is provided below.

1.2 At the present time, spatial planning and development management in North Norfolk District Council is led by the North Norfolk Local Development Framework, a suite of planning documents. The current Local Plan will be replaced by a new plan that will provide the planning policy context for development across the whole of North Norfolk for the period 2016 - 2036. The main elements which will form the single Plan document are:

- **Strategic Policies** - These provide the overarching approach to development in North Norfolk, such as where and how much development should take place, and also set the long-term spatial vision, objectives and key policies.
- **Development Management Policies** - These cover specific topic areas such as affordable housing, tourism, coastal erosion, and protecting the natural and built environment, and are used in the determination of individual planning applications.
- **Site Allocations** - Sets out detailed policies for the development of individual sites to help meet the aims of strategic policies.
- **Policies Map** - Shows geographically where policies apply.

The process to produce the new Local Plan is expected to take approx. 3 years to complete.

1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment work was completed for the previous Core Strategy in 2007 and for the Site Specific Allocations document in 2010 when it was recognised that new growth had the potential to affect European designated site interest and there was a need to properly assess those potential impacts in accordance with the duties placed upon the Council by the Habitats Regulations.

- 1.4 It is Government policy that local planning documents are continually reviewed in order to remain up to date and informed by current evidence on local economic, social and environmental needs, and national legislation and planning policy. In light of this, and recognizing the need to revisit key issues such as housing targets, North Norfolk District Council has embarked on the preparation of a new Local Plan. The Core Strategy and Site Specifics Allocations document is currently being prepared.
- 1.5 The new Local Plan will replace all documents within the current Local Development Framework. Previous Habitats Regulations Assessment work has covered all of the documents that make up the current Local Development Framework. It is that assessment work that is now revisited in order to start to inform the Habitat Regulations Assessment of the emerging new Local Plan.
- 1.6 This scoping report for the Habitat Regulations sets out the background to European site protection in the District, and gives a review of evidence. It considers the Habitats Regulations Assessment work to date, and how that previous work now provides the foundations for the assessment of the newly emerging Local Plan. It is important to consider how well the measures put in place to protect European site interest have worked, and what evidence there is available to support the continuation of such measures, or to indicate that they may need modification.
- 1.7 The Habitats Regulations Assessment report will be updated alongside the Local Plan as it is progressed by North Norfolk District Council. The Habitats Regulations Assessment will be finalised when the new Local Plan is considered complete by the Council and is ready for submission for Examination, although any post-Examination modifications will also need to be checked before the Local Plan is given effect.
- 1.8 This report starts to draw together available evidence relating to potential impacts on European sites and possible opportunities to prevent those impacts from occurring, to enable the Council to consider the level, type and locations for growth that could occur whilst maintaining adequate protection for European sites. This assessment will continue to be updated and expanded as the Local Plan progresses and additional information and evidence is gathered.
- 1.9 This introductory section of the report provides the background and context for plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Habitats Regulations Assessment process

- 1.10 A 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' is the step-by-step process of ensuring that a plan or project being undertaken by, or permitted by a public body, will not adversely affect the ecological integrity of a European wildlife site. Where it is deemed that adverse effects cannot be ruled out, a plan or project must not proceed, unless exceptional tests are met. This is because European legislation, which is transposed into domestic legislation and policy, affords European sites the highest levels of protection in the hierarchy of sites designated to protect important features of the natural environment.
- 1.11 The relevant European legislation is the Habitats Directive 1992¹ and the Wild Birds Directive 2009², which are transposed into domestic legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended. These Regulations are normally referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations.' Legislation sets out a clear step-by-step approach for decision makers considering any plan or project. In England, those duties are supplemented by national planning policy through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This national planning policy also refers to Ramsar sites, which are listed in accordance with the international Ramsar Convention. The NPPF requires decision-makers to apply the same protection and process to Ramsar sites as that set out in legislation for European sites. Formally proposed sites, and those providing formal compensation for losses to European sites, are also given the same protection.
- 1.12 The duties set out within the Habitats Regulations apply to any public body or individual holding public office with a statutory remit and function, referred to as 'competent authorities.' The requirements are applicable in situations where the competent authority is undertaking or implementing a plan or project, or authorizing others to do so. A more detailed guide to the step by step process of Habitats Regulations Assessment is provided in this report at Appendix 1.
- 1.13 In assessing the implications of any plan or project, in this case a Local Plan, for European sites in close proximity, it is essential to fully understand the sites in question, their interest features, current condition, sensitivities and any other on-going matters that are influencing each of the sites. Every European site has a set of 'interest features,' which are the ecological features for which the site is designated or classified, and the features for which Member States should ensure the site is maintained or, where necessary restored. Each European site has a set of 'conservation objectives' that set out the objectives for the site interest, i.e. what the site should be achieving in terms of restoring or maintaining the special ecological interest of European importance. The site conservation objectives are relevant to any Habitats Regulations Assessment, because they identify the objectives to be achieved for the site, and a Habitats Regulations Assessment may therefore consider whether any plan or project may compromise the achievement of those objectives.

1.14 European sites

1.15 North Norfolk includes all or part of 15 internationally designated sites; an additional 4 sites outside the district are also considered within the scope of this report. These sites are listed below in Figure 1 and their locations are shown in Map 1.

Figure 1

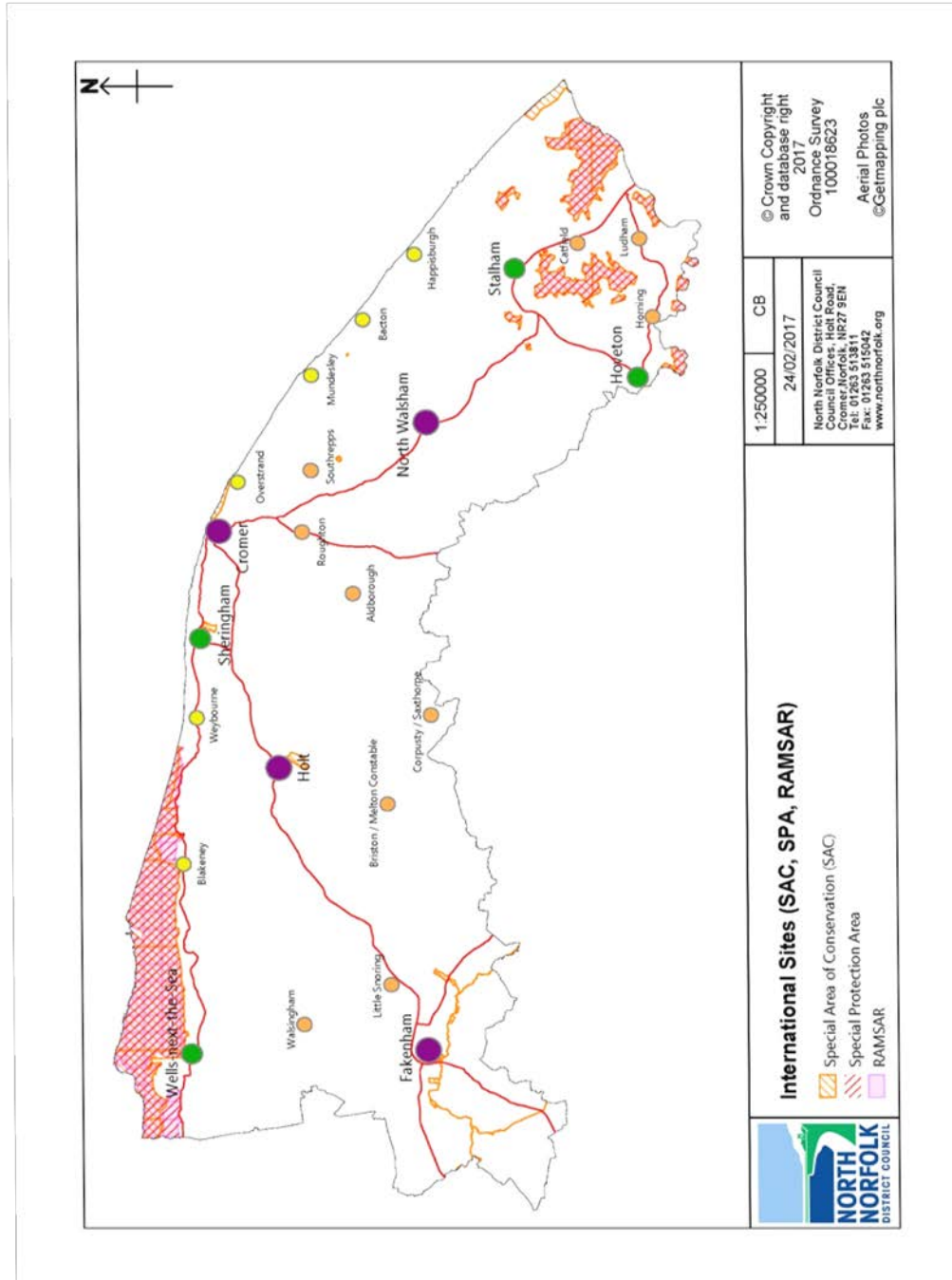
SPA	SAC	Ramsar
Broadland	The Broads	Broadland
Great Yarmouth North Denes	North Norfolk Coast	North Norfolk Coast
North Norfolk Coast	Norfolk Valley Fens	The Wash
The Wash	Paston Great Barn	Dersingham Bog (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council)
Breydon Water (Great Yarmouth District Council)	Overstrand Cliffs	Roydon Common (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council)
	River Wensum	
	The Wash and North Norfolk Coast	
	Winterton –Horsey Dunes	
	Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog (King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council)	

1.16

Marine Sites

1.17 There are a number of marine sites in the area and these and their reasons for designation can be seen in Appendix 2 of this report. Some of these are Sites of Community Importance, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Coastal Zones. Whilst some of these are not formally designated or adopted they are still important considerations for the Appropriate Assessment as they include special features that may be sensitive to change. The Appropriate Assessment therefore will need to include these sites and include mitigation where impact is identified.

Map 1 Designated sites in the District



2. SPAs site information

2.1 Broadland SPA

Site area: 5462.4ha

Site description: Broadland is a low-lying wetland complex straddling the boundaries between east Norfolk and northern Suffolk in eastern England. The Broads are a series of flooded medieval peat cuttings. They lie within the floodplains of five principal river systems, known as Broadland. The area includes the river valley systems of the Bure, Yare and Waveney and their major tributaries. The distinctive open landscape comprises a complex and interlinked mosaic of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh and fen meadow, forming one of the finest marshland complexes in the UK. The differing types of management of the vegetation for reed, sedge and marsh hay, coupled with variations in hydrology and substrate, support an extremely diverse range of plant communities. The area is of international importance for a variety of wintering and breeding raptors and waterbirds associated with extensive lowland marshes. The estuary at the mouth of Broadland is Breydon Water SPA, and the two sites adjoin each other at Halvergate Marshes. Breeding and wintering raptors, and wintering waterbirds spend time on feeding areas outside the SPA boundary.

Designated features are: This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 3 individuals representing up to 15.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 21 pairs representing up to 13.1% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

Over winter;

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 320 individuals representing up to 4.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 6 individuals representing up to 6.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 22 individuals representing up to 2.9% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1987/8-1991/2)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 96 individuals representing up to 13.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 yr peak mean 87/8-91/2)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus*, 133 individuals representing up to 2.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 yr peak mean 93/4-97/8)

This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

Over winter;

Gadwall *Anas strepera*, 605 individuals representing up to 2.0% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (RSPB: Count 99/00)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 3,290 individuals representing up to 1.5% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 yr peak mean 94/5-98/9)

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, 401 individuals representing up to 1.0% of the wintering Northwestern/Central Europe population (RSPB: Count 99/00)

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 22,603 individual waterfowl (RSPB, Count 99/00) including: Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, Coot *Fulica atra*, Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

2.2 Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA

Site area: 149.19ha

Site description: Great Yarmouth North Denes is located on the North Sea coast of Norfolk in East Anglia about 30 km east of Norwich. Behind a wide shingle beach, the North Denes dune system is actively accreting. These low dunes are stabilised by Marram *Ammophila arenaria* and there are extensive areas of Grey Hair-grass *Corynephorus canescens*. The location supports important numbers of breeding Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* that feed outside the SPA in nearby waters.

Designated features: This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 220 pairs representing at least 9.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992-1996)

2.3 North Norfolk Coast SPA

Site area: 7886.79ha

Site description: The North Norfolk Coast SPA encompasses much of the northern coastline of Norfolk in eastern England. It is a low-lying barrier coast that extends for 40 km from Holme to Weybourne and includes a great variety of coastal habitats. The main habitats – found along the whole coastline – include extensive intertidal sand- and mud-flats, saltmarshes, shingle and sand dunes, together with areas of freshwater grazing marsh and reedbed, which has developed in front of rising land. The site contains some of the best examples of saltmarsh in Europe. There are extensive deposits of shingle at Blakeney Point, and major sand dunes at Scolt Head. Extensive reedbeds are found at Brancaster, Cley and Titchwell. Maritime pasture is present at Cley and extensive areas of grazing marsh are present all along the coast. The grazing marsh at Holkham has a network of clear water dykes holding a rich diversity of aquatic plant species. The great diversity of high-quality freshwater, intertidal and marine habitats results in very large numbers of waterbirds occurring throughout the year. In summer, the site holds large breeding populations of waders, four species of terns, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* and wetland raptors such as Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. In winter, the coast is used by very large numbers of geese, sea-ducks, other ducks and waders. The coast is also of major importance for staging waterbirds in the spring and autumn migration periods. Breeding terns, particularly Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, and wintering sea-ducks regularly feed outside the SPA in adjacent coastal waters.

To the west, the coastal habitats of North Norfolk Coast SPA are continuous with The Wash SPA, with which area the ecology of this site is intimately linked.

Designated features: This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 177 pairs representing at least 30.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 3 individuals representing at least 15.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1998)

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 460 pairs representing at least 3.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1996)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 377 pairs representing at least 15.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994-1998)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 14 pairs representing at least 8.8% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, 2 pairs representing at least 20.0% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1996)

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*, 2 pairs representing at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994-1998)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*, 3,457 pairs representing at least 24.7% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1994-1998)

Over winter;

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 153 individuals representing at least 12.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (Count as at 1997/8)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 1,236 individuals representing at least 2.3% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, 5 individuals representing at least 5.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1993/4 - 1998/9)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 2,667 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*, 16 individuals representing at least 2.1% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year mean 1993/4-1997/8)

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, 54 individuals representing at least 7.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1993/4 - 1998/9)

This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

During the breeding season;

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 700 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (Count as at 1998)

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 220 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (Count as at 1998)

On passage;

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,256 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1994/5 - 1998/9)

Over winter;

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*, 11,512 individuals representing at least 3.8% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 10,801 individuals representing at least 3.1% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 23,802 individuals representing at least 10.6% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 1,139 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,998 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1993/4 - 1997/8)

Wigeon *Anas penelope*, 14,039 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Western Siberia/Northwestern/Northeastern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 91,249 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*,

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Teal *Anas crecca*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*, Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

2.4 The Wash SPA

Site area: 62211.66ha

Site description: The Wash is located on the east coast of England and is the largest estuarine system in the UK. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse that drain much of the east Midlands of England. The Wash comprises very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters and deep channels. The eastern end of the site includes low chalk cliffs at Hunstanton. In addition, on the eastern side, the gravel pits at Snettisham are an important high-tide roost for waders. The intertidal flats have a rich invertebrate fauna and colonising beds of Glasswort *Salicornia* spp. which are important food sources for the large numbers of waterbirds dependent on the site. The sheltered nature of The Wash creates suitable breeding conditions for shellfish, principally Mussel *Mytilus edulis*, Cockle *Cardium edule* and shrimps. These are important food sources for some waterbirds such as Oystercatchers *Haematopus ostralegus*. The Wash is of outstanding importance for a large number of geese, ducks and waders, both in spring and autumn migration periods, as well as through the winter. The SPA is especially notable for supporting a very large proportion (over half) of the total population of Canada/Greenland breeding Knot *Calidris canutus islandica*. In summer, the Wash is an important breeding area for terns and as a feeding area for Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* that breed just outside the SPA.

To the north, the coastal habitats of The Wash are continuous with Gibraltar Point SPA, whilst to the east The Wash adjoins the North Norfolk Coast SPA.

Designated features: This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 152 pairs representing at least 1.2% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count, as at 1993)

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*, 33 pairs representing at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (5 year mean, 1992-1996)

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, 15 pairs representing at least 9.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain (Count as at 1995)

Over winter;

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 110 individuals representing at least 8.7% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, 11,250 individuals representing at least 21.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 11,037 individuals representing at least 4.4% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, 68 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:

On passage;

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, 1,185 individuals representing at least 2.4% of the Europe/Northern Africa - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Sanderling *Calidris alba*, 1,854 individuals representing at least 1.9% of the Eastern Atlantic/Western & Southern Africa - wintering population (2 year mean Aug 1994 - 1995)

Over winter;

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, 859 individuals representing at least 1.2% of the wintering Iceland - breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Curlew *Numenius arquata*, 3,835 individuals representing at least 1.1% of the wintering Europe - breeding population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 22,248 individuals representing at least 7.4% of the wintering Western Siberia/Western Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, 35,620 individuals representing at least 2.5% of the wintering Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, 9,708 individuals representing at least 6.5% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Knot *Calidris canutus*, 186,892 individuals representing at least 53.4% of the wintering Northeastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, 25,651 individuals representing at least 2.9% of the wintering Europe & Northern/Western Africa population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, 33,265 individuals representing at least 14.8% of the wintering Eastern Greenland/Iceland/UK population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Pintail *Anas acuta*, 923 individuals representing at least 1.5% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Redshank *Tringa totanus*, 2,953 individuals representing at least 2.0% of the wintering Eastern Atlantic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, 15,981 individuals representing at least 5.3% of the wintering Northwestern Europe population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, 717 individuals representing at least 1.0% of the wintering Western Palearctic - wintering population (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 400,273 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, Pintail *Anas acuta*, Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Sanderling *Calidris alba*, Curlew *Numenius arquata*, Redshank *Tringa totanus*, Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Knot *Calidris canutus*, Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*.

2.5 Breydon Water SPA (falls within boundary of Great Yarmouth District Council)

Area: 1202.94ha

Site description: Breydon Water is located at the extreme east of England on the coast of Norfolk. The site is an inland tidal estuary at the mouth of the River Yare and its confluence with the Rivers Bure and Waveney. It has extensive areas of mud-flats that are exposed at low tide and these form the only tidal flats on the east coast of Norfolk. There are also extensive areas of floodplain grassland adjacent to the intertidal areas. Breydon Water is internationally important for wintering waterbirds, some of which feed in the Broadland SPA that adjoins this site at Halvergate Marshes.

Designated features: This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

During the breeding season;

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*, 155 pairs representing up to 1.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain (4 count mean, 1992-1994 & 1996)

Over winter;

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 33 individuals representing up to 2.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, 391 individuals representing up to 5.6% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, 5,040 individuals representing up to 2.0% of the wintering population in Great Britain (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6)

Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.

The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl

Over winter, the area regularly supports 43,225 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including: Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Shoveler *Anas clypeata*, Wigeon *Anas penelope*, White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*, Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*.

Conservation Objectives for SPA's

All the SPA'S have a general set of aims and are as follows:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features
2. The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features
3. The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely
4. The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
5. The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

3. SAC Site Information

3.1 The Broads SAC

Area: 5889.43

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Condition status.

Alderfen Broad SSSI- 8.65% Favourable 91.35% Unfavourable Recovering

Ant Broads and Marshes -49.89%Favourable 43.38% Unfavourable Recovering 6.72% Unfavourable Declining

Broad Fen Dilham 100% Unfavourable Recovering

Bure Broads and Marshes 43.08 Favourable 46.85 % Unfavourable Recovering 10.07% Unfavourable no change

Calthorpe Broad 97.68% Favourable 2.32% Unfavourable Recovering

Ludham - Potter Heigham Marshes 100% Favourable

Priory Meadows *Hickling* 29.79% Favourable 70.21% Unfavourable Recovering

Smallburgh Fen 100% Favourable

Upper Thurne Broads and Marshes 64.69% Favourable 16.65% Unfavourable

Recovering 4.82% Unfavourable no change Unfavourable Declining 13.85%

General Site Character - as given on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (16%)

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (19%)

Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (1%)

Dry grassland, Steppes (1%)

Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (39%)

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (24%)

Designated features

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.

3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation

7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs

7210 Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae *

Priority feature

7230 Alkaline fens

91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) * Priority feature

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

1903 Fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*

4056 Ramshorn snail *Anisus vorticulus*

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
3. The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
4. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
5. The populations of qualifying species, and,
6. The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

3.2 North Norfolk Coast SAC

Area: 3148.6ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Condition status.

North Norfolk Coast 97.82% Favourable 2.18 Unfavourable Recovering

General site character: as given on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website: Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (3.7%)

Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair (65.3%)

Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (19.1%)

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (6.3%)

Improved grassland (5.6%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1150 Coastal lagoons * Priority feature

1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks

1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes

2120 "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes")"

2130 "Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")" * Priority feature

2190 Humid dune slacks

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

1395 Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats

3. The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
4. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
5. The populations of qualifying species, and,
6. The distribution of qualifying species within the site

3.3 Norfolk Valley Fens SAC

Area: 616.48ha

Site condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status
Holt Lowes 30.07% Favourable 69.93% Unfavourable recovering
Sheringham and Beeston Regis Commons 100% Unfavourable recovering
Southrepps Common 100% Unfavourable recovering

General site character: as given on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website: Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (5%)
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (25%)
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (30%)
Dry grassland, Steppes (5%)
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (5%)
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (30%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

7230 Alkaline fens

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

4030 European dry heaths

6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (* important orchid sites)

6410 *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* *
Priority feature

91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) * Priority feature

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1014 Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angustior*

1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
3. The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
4. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
5. The populations of qualifying species, and,
6. The distribution of qualifying species within the site

3.4 Paston Great Barn SAC

Area: 0.96ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status

Paston Great Barn 100% Favourable

General site character: as given on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website: Improved grassland (50%)

Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (50%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1308 Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species
2. The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
3. The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely
4. The populations of qualifying species, and,
5. The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

3.5 Overstrand Cliffs SAC

Area: 29.82ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status
Overstrand Cliffs 100% Favourable

General site character: as given on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website: Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (100%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1230 Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

Conservation Objectives

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;

1. The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and
3. The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely

3.6 River Wensum SAC

Area: 306.79ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status

River Wensum 11.05% Favourable 47.70% Unfavourable recovering 41.25% Unfavourable no change.

General site character: as given on the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's website: Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (42%)
Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (12%)
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (40%)
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (6%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site
3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculus fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

1016 Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*

1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*

1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio*

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
3. The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
4. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
5. The populations of qualifying species, and,
6. The distribution of qualifying species within the site

3.7 The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC

Area: 107718ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status

No condition was available on the Natural England website

General Site Character: Marine areas, Sea inlets (51%)
Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (46%)
Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (3%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide

1160 Large shallow inlets and bays

1170 Reefs

1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand

1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

1420 Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*)

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

1150 Coastal lagoons * Priority feature

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1365 Harbour seal *Phoca vitulina*

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

Conseration Objectives: No data from Natural England website

3.8 Winterton Horsey-Dunes SAC

Area: 426.96ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status

67.92% Favourable 9.88% Unfavourable recovering 22.20% Unfavourable no change

General Site Character: Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (11%)
Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair (46%)
Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (0.2%)
Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, *Phygrana* (12%)

Dry grassland, Steppes (13.8%)
Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland (15%)
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (2%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) * Priority feature
2190 Humid dune slacks

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

2110 Embryonic shifting dunes
2120 "Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")"

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitats, and,
3. The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely

3.9 Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC

Area: 353.45ha

Site Condition: as underpinned by the SSSI Conservation status

95.44% Unfavourable recovering 4.56 Unfavourable declining

General Site Character: Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (0.3%)

Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens (5%)

Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana (67%)

Dry grassland, Steppes (1%)

Improved grassland (1.7%)

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (11%)

Coniferous woodland (7%)

Mixed woodland (6%)

Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (1%)

Designated features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*

7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

4030 European dry heaths

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

Not applicable.

Conservation Objectives:

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;

1. The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats
2. The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and
3. The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely

4. Ramsar sites

4.1 Broadland Ramsar

Area: 5488.61

General overview as given on Ramsar Information Sheet UK11010

Broadland is a low-lying wetland complex straddling the boundaries between east Norfolk and northern Suffolk. The area includes the river valley systems of the Bure, Yare and Waveney and their major tributaries. The open distinctive landscape comprises a complex and interlinked mosaic of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh and fen meadow. The region is important for recreation, tourism, agriculture and wildlife.

Ramsar criteria: The site supports a number of rare species and habitats within the biogeographical zone context, including the following Habitats Directive Annex I features:

H7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*
Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge).

H7230 Alkaline fens Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens.

H91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) Alder woodland on floodplains, and the Annex II species

S1016 *Vertigo moulinsiana* Desmoulin's whorl snail

S1355 *Lutra lutra* Otter

S1903 *Liparis loeselii* Fen orchid. The site supports outstanding assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates including nine British Red Data Book plants and 136 British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts

in winter: Tundra swan , *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, NW Europe 196 individuals,

representing an average of 2.4% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-

2002/3) Eurasian wigeon , *Anas penelope*, NW Europe 6769 individuals, representing

an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Gadwall ,

Anas strepera strepera, NW Europe 545 individuals, representing an average of 3.1% of

the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Northern shoveler , *Anas*

clypeata, NW & C Europe 247 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB

population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Species/populations identified

subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species

with peak counts in winter: Pink-footed goose , *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland,

Iceland/UK 4263 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year

peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Greylag goose , *Anser anser anser*, Iceland/UK, Ireland

1007 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population.

4.2 North Norfolk Coast Ramsar

Area: 7862.39 ha

General overview as given on Ramsar Information Sheet UK11048:

This low-lying barrier coast site extends for 40 km from Holme to Weybourne and encompasses a variety of habitats including intertidal sands and muds, saltmarshes, shingle and sand dunes, together with areas of land-claimed freshwater grazing marsh and reedbed, which is developed in front of rising land. Both freshwater and marine habitats support internationally important numbers of wildfowl in winter and several nationally rare breeding birds. The sandflats, sand dune, saltmarsh, shingle and saline lagoons habitats are of international importance for their fauna, flora and geomorphology.

Ramsar criteria:

The site is one of the largest expanses of undeveloped coastal habitat of its type in Europe. It is a particularly good example of a marshland coast with intertidal sand and mud, saltmarshes, shingle banks and sand dunes. There are a series of brackish-water lagoons and extensive areas of freshwater grazing marsh and reed beds. Ramsar criterion 2 Supports at least three British Red Data Book and nine nationally scarce vascular plants, one British Red Data Book lichen and 38 British Red Data Book invertebrates. Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species

with peak counts in winter: 98462 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season: Sandwich tern , *Sterna (Thalasseus) sandvicensis* sandvicensis, W Europe 4275 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 7.7% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census) Common tern , *Sterna hirundo hirundo*, N & E Europe 408 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 4% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census) Little tern , *Sterna albifrons albifrons*, W Europe 291 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 2.5% of the breeding population (Seabird 2000 Census) Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Red knot , *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering) 30781 individuals, representing an average of 6.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species with peak counts in winter: Pink-footed goose , *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland, Iceland/UK 16787 individuals, representing an average of 6.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 8690 individuals, representing an average of 4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Eurasian wigeon , *Anas penelope*, NW Europe 17940 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Northern pintail , *Anas acuta*, NW Europe 1148 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover , *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa 1740 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Sanderling , *Calidris alba*, Eastern Atlantic 1303 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Bar-tailed godwit , *Limosa lapponica lapponica*, W Palearctic 3933 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually.

4.3 The Wash Ramsar:

Area: 62211.66ha

General overview: as given on Ramsar Information Sheet UK11072:

The Wash is the largest estuarine system in Britain. It is fed by the rivers Witham, Welland, Nene and Great Ouse. There are extensive saltmarshes, intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow waters and deep channels. It is the most important staging post and over-wintering site for migrant wildfowl and wading birds in eastern England. It supports a valuable commercial fishery for shellfish and also an important nursery area for flatfish. It holds one of the North Sea's largest breeding populations of common seal *Phoca vitulina* and some grey seals *Halichoerus grypus*. The sublittoral area supports a number of different marine communities including colonies of the reef-building polychaete worm *Sabellaria spinulosa*.

Ramsar criteria: The Wash is a large shallow bay comprising very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow water and deep channels. Ramsar criterion 3 Qualifies because of the inter-relationship between its various components including saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mud flats and the estuarine waters. The saltmarshes and the plankton in the estuarine water provide a primary source of organic material which, together with other organic matter, forms the basis for the high productivity of the estuary. Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 292541 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Eurasian oystercatcher , *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*, Europe & NW Africa -wintering 15616 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Grey plover , *Pluvialis squatarola*, E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering 13129 individuals, representing an average of 5.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak) Red knot , *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering) 68987 individuals, representing an average of 15.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Sanderling , *Calidris alba*, Eastern Atlantic 3505 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Eurasian curlew , *Numenius arquata arquata*, N. a. *arquata* Europe (breeding) 9438 individuals, representing an average of 2.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Common redshank , *Tringa totanus totanus*, 6373 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Ruddy turnstone , *Arenaria interpres interpres*, NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa 888 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Species with peak counts in winter: Pink-footed goose , *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland, Iceland/UK 29099 individuals, representing an average of 12.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 20861 individuals, representing an average of 9.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), page 4 Ramsar Information Sheet: UK11072 Page 4 of 12 The Wash Produced by JNCC: Version 3.0, 13/06/2008 Common shelduck , *Tadorna tadorna*, NW Europe 9746 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Northern pintail , *Anas acuta*, NW Europe 431 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Dunlin , *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe 36600 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Bar-tailed godwit , *Limosa lapponica lapponica*, W Palearctic 16546 individuals, representing an average of 13.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover , *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa 1500 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3) Black-tailed godwit , *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe 6849 individuals, representing an average of 19.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Species with peak counts in winter: European golden plover , *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*, P. a. *altifrons* Iceland & Faroes/E

Atlantic 22033 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Northern lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*, Europe - breeding 46422 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) Contemporary data and information on waterbird trends at this site and their regional (sub-national) and national contexts can be found in the Wetland Bird Survey report, which is updated annually.

4.4 Dersingham Bog Ramsar

Area: 157.75ha

General overview: as given on Ramsar Information Sheet UK11019:

Dersingham Bog is East Anglia's largest remaining example of a pure acid valley mire, and supports extensive bog, wet heath and transition communities over peat. These are sustained by groundwater, fed via springs and seepage, from the underlying greensand, which in places has caused the development of iron pans. The mire grades into dry heathland along the greensand scarp slope. The scarp slope is a former sea cliff, and the bog habitats are a remnant of the transition mires that formerly existed between this former shoreline and the now mostly land-claimed saltmarshes around The Wash. In addition to its internationally important plant communities, the site also supports important assemblages of birds and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Ramsar criteria: Ramsar criterion 2 Supports an important assemblage of invertebrates - nine British Red Data Book species have been recorded.

4.5 Roydon Common Ramsar:

Area: 194.1ha

General overview: as given on Ramsar Information Sheet UK11061:

Roydon Common is an area of lowland mixed valley mire surrounded by heathland. It sits on the Cretaceous greensand of west Norfolk, within a broad south-west-facing valley basin. It has a classic sequence of vegetation types associated with valley mires of this type. The dry heath of the upper slopes is hydrologically linked with wetter lower slopes, which experience seasonal waterlogging and are colonised by wet heath. This grades into the valley bottom, which is permanently waterlogged, and comprises acid bog and nutrient-poor fen communities, blending into more base-rich fen and carr woodland in the valley bottom.

Ramsar criteria: Ramsar criterion 1 The site is the most extensive example of valley mire-heathland biotope within East Anglia.– It is a mixed valley mire holding vegetation communities which reflect the influence of both base-poor and base-rich water. Ramsar criterion 3 The vegetation communities have a restricted distribution within Britain. – It also supports a number of acidophilic invertebrates outside their normal geographic range and six British Red Data Book invertebrates.

There is a wet land at Buttle Marsh that the Broads Authority are considering putting forward for future designation as a SSSI and SAC. This is c50ha of wetland that is supporting rare species such as nesting Bittern.

5. Other relevant plans and projects

5.1 The assessment of significant effects of a given option needs to take account of the option's impact in combination with other plans and projects. The guidance states that only those that are considered most relevant should be collected for the 'in combination' test - an exhaustive list could render the assessment exercise unworkable. The following plans or strategies are considered to have potential effects and therefore have been included within the assessment.

5.2 Plans include historical data which has informed the previous Core Strategy HRA 2007 and Site Specifics HRA 2010.

North Norfolk Community Partnership: Sustainable Community Strategy 2006-2009.

Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England - 2008

Adopted Shoreline Management Plans 3A (Snettisham to Sheringham), and 3B (Sheringham to Lowestoft) 1996 and the Consultation Shoreline Management Plan 3B (Kelling to Lowestoft Ness), November 2004

Local Transport Plan for Norfolk 2006 – 2011

Biodiversity Mapping and Ecological Networks, Norfolk Wildlife Trust 2006

Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plans (different dates for HAPS and SAPS)

Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan, consultation draft June 2006

Norfolk Coast AONB Partnership Management Plan and Action Plan 2009 -2014 (Current 2014 to 2019)

AONB Visitor Management Strategy 1995

Visitor Surveys at European protected sites across Norfolk during 2015 and 2016 – Footprint Ecology

Wash and North Norfolk European Marine Site Management Plan and Action Plan (yearly). Current 2015 to 2016

National Character Areas – Natural England

Landscape Character Assessment - 2009

Strategic framework Water Research Capacity information – in preparation

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment – in preparation

Emerging local plan covering emerging site options and spatial strategy – in preparation

5.3 Neighboring District/Boroughs

North Norfolk District Council borders King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, Breckland District Council, Great Yarmouth District Council, Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority. Therefore their plans and projects will need to be considered as part of North Norfolk's HRA.

5.4 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council

King's Lynn is preparing a review of the Local Plan (Core Strategy and Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan 2016 -2036).

Once adopted the plan will:

- allocate sites for development
- apply policies to meet local needs
- guide development in the borough up to 2036

The recent 'call for sites and policy suggestions' consultation offered an opportunity for developers, agents, landowners, individuals, and other interested parties to:

- promote sites located within the borough for future development
- suggest locations/areas for special policy treatment
- put forward policy suggestions

The HRA will be resubmitted with the new Core Strategy and Site Allocations. There were issues relating to delivering mitigation and therefore a mitigation fund and group has been set up as a result.

5.5 Great Yarmouth Borough Council

The Local Plan runs until 2030 and the Site Specifics document is being prepared. In terms of development that has the potential to impact on European designated sites from Great Yarmouth, this would most likely be in relation to planned housing growth as set out in the Core Strategy. This includes development in some of the northern settlements including Winterton. A HRA was undertaken to support the Core Strategy and identified that potential impacts were only likely to affect three European designated sites: Winterton-Horsey Dunes SAC, North Denes SPA and Breydon Water SPA (the former being of particular interest for North Norfolk). Accordingly, the HRA set out a number of recommendations including monitoring and mitigation measures to avoid potential adverse impacts from recreational disturbance caused by increased visitor pressures from new development. The Council are close to publishing a Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy which will help to implement the recommendations of the HRA. This

includes monitoring and mitigation measures to avoid adverse impacts on Winterton-Horsey Dunes SPA. In summary, with such measures in place, GYBC is confident that planned development will not have adverse impacts on such European designated sites.

Great Yarmouth is also progressing their Local Plan Part 2: Detailed Policies and Site Allocations document. This will be accompanied by a HRA, helping to identify suitable sites for development (considering potential impacts on European designated sites) and will build on the work of the Core Strategy, its HRA and the Monitoring and Mitigation Strategy.

5.6 Breckland District Council

The Council is in the process of Producing a new Local Plan which will replace the Core Strategy and suit of documents that make up the current adopted Local Plan. The new (emerging) Local Plan will run from 2011 - 2036 The HRA for the site specifics document will provide information regarding the impact of proposed policies and growth overall on designated sites.

Additionally a number of Neighbourhood Plans are being produced although none of which are in force.

In 2015 Footprint Ecology produced a scoping document for the Issues and Options plan. It is too early to say whether mitigation measures will be adequate for the emerging policies and plans.

5.7 Broadland District Council

A joint Core Strategy was adopted in 2014 with Site Specifics in 2016. They conducted a HRA of the Site Specifics document in 2014 and this outlined some disturbance to European sites, namely Winteron Horsey-Dunes. However mitigation through policies in the Development Plan Document and community Infrastructure Levy will address this and therefore reduce risk to an acceptable level.

5.8 Broads Authority

The current Local Plan is being replaced and a new Habitats Regulation Assessment was produced in 2016 by Footprint Ecology for the Preferred Options. This assessment is not complete until the plan is ready for adoption, but at this stage it concluded that there are options for avoiding likely significant effects and a Local Plan can be prepared with full compliance with the Habitats Regulations.

6. Previous HRA work and mitigation measures

6.1 During the Appropriate Assessment of the Preferred Options document, issues raised by the policies were discussed with Natural England. Comments and concerns from consultees, including Natural England, were taken on board, and policy additions and amendments recommended. Those additions and amendments were integrated into the Submission Core Strategy document, resulting in no policies being identified as being likely to cause significant effects on European sites. This information can be found in the Appropriate Assessment for the Preferred Options.

6.2 The HRA for the Site Specifics document concluded that, both alone and in combination with other plans and policies, there was no adverse effect on the integrity of international sites. However this was dependent on a commitment by NNDC to undertake two series of measures (see below), where the existence of a potential impact is unclear, and to respond to additional information they produce in such a way as to avoid future impacts.

6.3

1, Initiate program of visitor activity and impacts at designated sites, and identification of targeted management responses.

Mitigation proposals could include:-

- Adoption of interpretation materials and other means of visitor education;
- Restrictions on the activities of dog walkers;
- Implement site and access management. The extent of these will need to be agreed amongst Natural England and the relevant local authorities;
- Closing or re-routing of unofficial paths;
- Permanent or seasonal restrictions and or closures of sites, or adoption of new fencing;
- Operation of new car parking areas to draw visitors away from heavily-used or vulnerable sites; and
- Allocating further Sustainable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANG).

6.4 As a result of this recommendation a report by Footprint ecology was commissioned 'Visitor surveys at European protected sites across Norfolk during 2015 and 2016'. The report was commissioned by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership/Norfolk County Council on behalf of all the planning authorities in Norfolk.

6.5 The overall conclusion of the report was that growth would cause greater visitor disturbance and therefore mitigation would need to be addressed through Local Authorities plan documents. It was also recommended that the local authorities should work in partnership via a memorandum of understanding to deliver and fund strategic mitigation schemes.

The HRA for the Site Specifics document suggested this also: "Financial responsibility could be allocated taking into account both proximity of each authority's housing and

development allocations to international sites, and the relative magnitude of that allocation and the pressure associated with it”.

2. Undertake further water quality assessments

6.6 Detailed discussions are ongoing between the Council, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency to investigate issues around the capacity of STWs to accommodate the proposed growth. A Water Infrastructure Statement has been prepared to summarize the latest available information and support discussion at examination.

6.7 NNDC will commit to acknowledging and acting upon the findings of these studies, and if necessary reviewing the site specific allocations in the light of new information. If the studies identify that there is the potential for adverse effect on the integrity of international sites, measures such as re-routing water for treatment elsewhere; local management of waste waters, including forms of pre-treatment such as reedbed systems; and more appropriate phasing of development, in line with changes to water treatment capacity and technologies should also be investigated. Additional studies may be required to determine the most appropriate approaches.

6.8 Tables for impacts on each individual policy can be found in both the Core Strategy and Site Specifics HRA documents.

6.9 Possible impacts

Possible impacts to the European sites as a consequence of the new plan documents could include:

- Loss of supporting habitats
- Habitat fragmentation impacts
- Proximity impacts
- Hydrological impacts
- Impacts from increased recreation and leisure pressures
- Impacts from increased use of roads
- Cumulative impacts
- Other impacts – outside scope of Local Plan policies such as climate change, changes in agriculture, minerals planning and road network planning.

(Other impacts may be identified through the Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan).

6.10 How this report fits into the current North Norfolk Local Plan process

At the time of this report the Local Plan is in the process of identifying policy options and alternatives along with the identification and appraisal of site specific options.

6.11 As part of this stage there will be continued evidence gathering to inform policy development, stakeholder engagement and public consultation where necessary. Because plan policies and site specific options are currently being explored, specific policies and options cannot be assessed at this time for potential impact of European sites. It will be the role of the full Appropriate Assessment following this scoping report

to assess these emerging plans and policies and ensure that impact is avoided or reduced through mitigation and reflected through each stage of the plan process. By understanding the European sites reasons for designation, their qualifying features, condition and objectives, an assumption can be made as to whether certain types of impact would have a detrimental impact on the integrity of the site and therefore require Appropriate Assessment.

6.12 Table 2 below illustrates the type of effect which will need to be further explored in the Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan.

7. Table 2 **Impacts that could undermine the special qualities of the sites**

European site	Reasons for designation	Impacts that could undermine the special qualities of the site
Broadland SPA	See page 10	<p>Loss of supporting habitats through development, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects, proximity impacts, hydrological impacts from contamination of watersources, impacts from increased recreation and leisure pressures on more sensitive species, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authorities growth areas, other impacts such as climate change.</p> <p>ACTION: More data needed on visitor pressure and its impacts on these species</p>
Great Yarmouth North Denes SPA	See page 11	<p>Loss of habitat through accretion, erosion of dune systems, inundation of sea water in fresh water systems, increased visitor pressures, climatic change.</p> <p>ACTION: More data needed on visitor pressure and its impacts on Little Tern</p>
North Norfolk Coast SPA	See page 12	<p>Inundation of freshwater with sea water after surges, loss of habitat, grazing pressure, accretion and erosion of dunes, hydrological impacts from</p>

		<p>contamination of watersources, impacts from increased recreation and leisure pressures on more sensitive species, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authorities growth areas, other impacts such as climate change</p> <p>ACTION: More data needed on visitor pressure and its impacts on these species</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Wash EMS Group to determine sensitive areas and where data is needed</p>
The Wash SPA	See page 15	<p>Inundation of freshwater habitats, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects such as offshore wind farms, coastal erosion, impacts from fishing industry, hydrological contamination, impacts from increased recreation and leisure pressures, climatic change.</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Wash EMS Group to determine sensitive areas and where data is needed</p>
Breydon Water SPA	See page 18	<p>Hydrological contamination, visitor pressure, climatic change, changes in agricultural management, salt water inundation.</p> <p>ACTION: More data needed on visitor pressure and its impacts on qualifying species</p> <p>ACTION: Norfolk Rivers Trust may be able to advise on the state of the</p>

		rivers that feed the site
The Broads SAC	See page 19	Hydrological contamination, habitat fragmentation, proximity impacts, visitor pressure. ACTION: More detail needed on the sensitivity of the site to disturbance and increased recreation
North Norfolk Coast SAC	See page 21	Increased visitor pressure, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects, proximity impacts, hydrological impacts from contamination of watersources, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authorities growth areas, other impacts such as climate change. ACTION: Work with Norfolk Coast Partnership and Wash and North Norfolk European Marine Site group to determine pressures and mitigation
Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	See page 22	Hydrological and soil contamination, visitor pressure, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects, proximity impacts, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authorities growth areas, other impacts such as climate change, changes in agriculture. Action: more detail needed on the qualifying features of this site and

		how they could be affected
Paston Great Barn SAC	Barbestelle Bat	Increased visitor pressure, proximity impacts. The site is 100% favourable so no action identified.
Overstrand Cliffs SAC	See page 24	Erosion, visitor pressure, climatic change. The site is 100% favourable so no action identified
River Wensum SAC	See page 25	Hydrological contamination, changes in agriculture affecting water and banks, proximity impacts, silt inundation, erosion of banks and bankside vegetation, poor management, non-native species, pollution, changes to river morphology. ACTION: work with Norfolk Rivers Trust to advise on pressures and mitigation
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	See page 26	Increased visitor pressure- for example increased visits to see the seals, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects, proximity impacts, hydrological impacts from contamination of watersources, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authorities growth areas, other impacts such as climate change. ACTION: Work with Norfolk Coast Partnership and Wash and North Norfolk European Marine Site group to determine pressures and mitigation

Winterton Horsey-Dunes SAC	See page 26	Hydrological contamination, erosion of dunes, visitor pressure, climatic change, proximity impacts. ACTION: More information needed on sensitivity of the site
Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog SAC	See page 27	Visitor pressure, hydrological and soil contamination, proximity impacts, soil erosion, soil contamination. ACTION: Work with Natural England reserve managers to determine pressures and mitigation
Broadland Ramsar	See page 28	Hydrological contamination, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects, proximity impacts, impacts from increased recreation and leisure pressures on more sensitive species, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authority's growth areas, other impacts such as climate change, changes in agriculture. Action: Norfolk Rivers Trust can advise on the state of the rivers that feed the site and the habitat they support
North Norfolk Coast Ramsar	See page 29	Increased visitor pressure, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects, proximity impacts, hydrological impacts from contamination of watercourses, cumulative impacts including visitor pressure from other authorities growth

		<p>areas, other impacts such as climate change.</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Norfolk Coast Partnership and Wash and North Norfolk European Marine Site group to determine pressures and mitigation</p>
The Wash Ramsar	See page 30	<p>Inundation of freshwater habitats, habitat fragmentation impacts through development and infrastructure projects such as offshore wind farms, coastal erosion, impacts from fishing industry, hydrological contamination, impacts from increased recreation and leisure pressures, climatic change.</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Wash EMS Group to determine sensitive areas and where data is needed</p>
Dersingham Bog Ramsar	See page 32	<p>Visitor pressure, hydrological and soil contamination, proximity impacts, soil erosion, soil contamination.</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Natural England reserve managers to determine pressures and mitigation</p>
Roydon Common Ramsar	See page 32	<p>Visitor pressure, hydrological and soil contamination, proximity impacts, soil erosion, soil contamination.</p> <p>ACTION: Work with Natural England reserve managers to determine pressures and mitigation</p>

8. Conclusions and next steps

8.1 This scoping report provides the background and review of evidence to support the commencement of screening and the final Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North Norfolk Core Strategy and Site Allocations documents. This report considers:

- The European designated sites within and outside the plan area affected.
- The characteristics of these sites and their conservation objectives.
- Any other relevant plans, policies and projects that need to be considered.

8.2 The report also looked at the previous HRA work and mitigation measures from the previous Core Strategy and Site Specifics document. In the former, no policies were identified as being likely to cause significant effects on European sites. The HRA for the Site Specifics document concluded that, both alone and in combination with other plans and policies, there was no adverse effect on the integrity of international sites. However this was dependent on a commitment by NNDC to undertake two series of measures, where the existence of a potential impact is unclear, and to respond to additional information they produce in such a way as to avoid future impacts.

8.3 The first commitment was to undertake a program of visitor activity and impacts at designated sites, and identification of targeted management responses. This has been achieved through the publication of the report by Footprint Ecology 'Visitor surveys at European protected sites across Norfolk during 2015 and 2016' Natural England have stated this report will be a key document to informing the full Appropriate Assessment and assessing impacts.

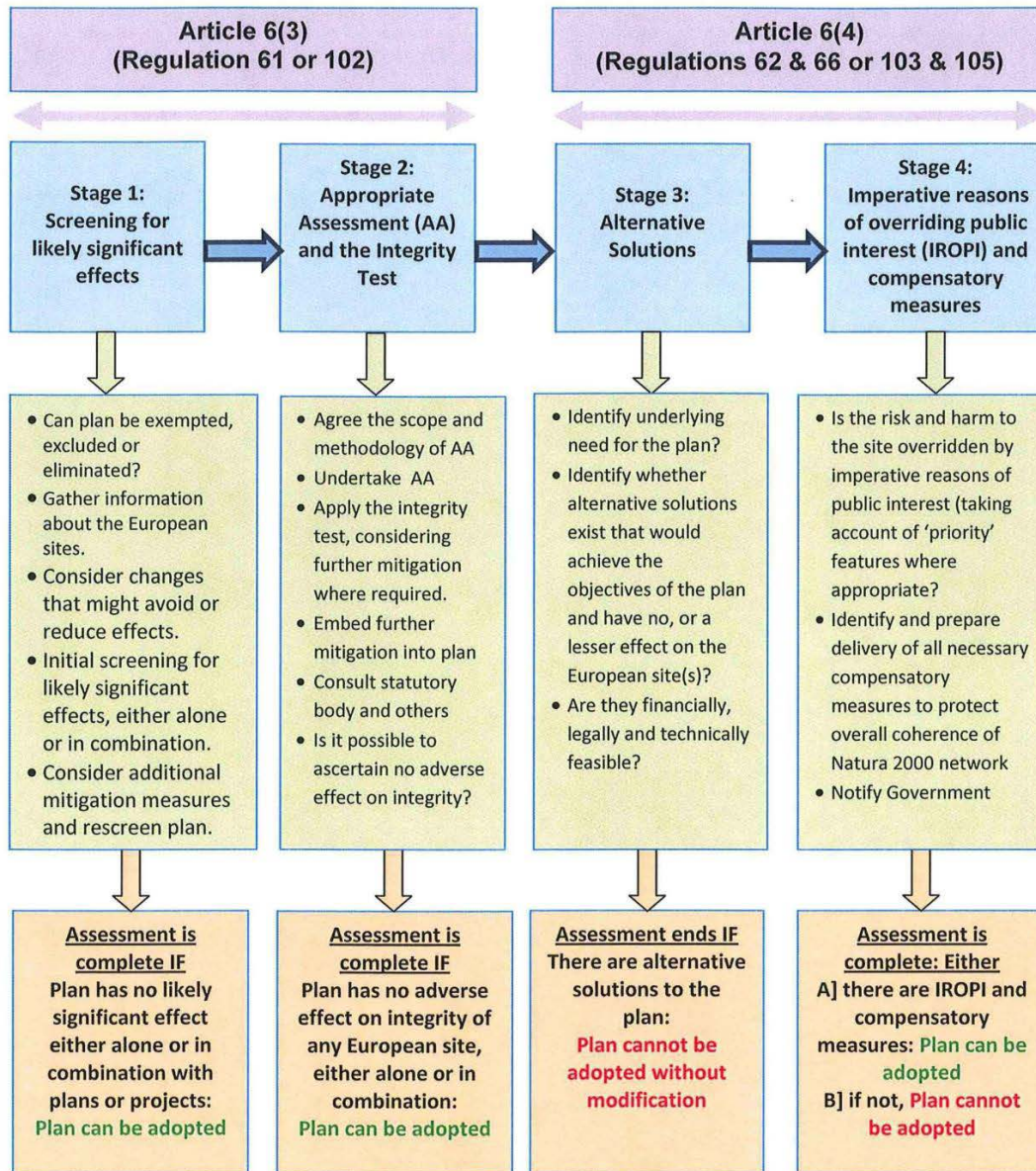
8.4 The second commitment was to undertake further water quality assessments and this is currently being undertaken.

8.5 There is still some information that needs exploration, namely the impact visitor pressure has on certain sites and their qualifying features.

8.6 Mitigation that is deliverable and realistic based on sound evidence needs to be included in the full Appropriate Assessment. Partnership working with other authorities that cross boundaries and setting up a monitoring and mitigation fund/strategy to deliver developer contributions would help to target areas where pressure is high and enable more strategic solutions to the impact of growth. This is advised by Natural England.

8.7 Some common potential threats have been identified but this is by no means a definitive list. However this will provide a starting point for the full assessment and open a dialogue with other conservation organisations and Local Authorities to ensure that all risks are adequately covered.

Appendix 1 Outline of assessment of plans under the Habitat regulations



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Appendix 2 Marine designated sites

North Norfolk Sandbanks and Saturn Reef SCI (Sites of Community Importance (SCIs) are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government of each country.)

Area 360341 ha

Site Character Marine areas, Sea inlets (100%)

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

1170 Reefs

Southern North Sea cSAC (cSACs are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission, but not yet formally adopted)

Area: 3695054

General site character

Marine areas, Sea inlets (100%)

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1351 Harbour porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

Species occurrence description not yet available.

Haisborough, Hammond and Winterton SCI

Area:146759ha

General site character

Marine areas, Sea inlets (100%)

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

1170 Reefs

Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge SCI

Area: 84514 ha

General site character

Marine areas, Sea inlets (100%)

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time

1170 Reefs

Cromer Shoal Chalk Beds Marine Coastal Zone

Area: 320.48km²

Moderate energy infralittoral rock
High energy infralittoral rock
Moderate energy circalittoral rock
High energy circalittoral rock
Subtidal chalk
Subtidal coarse sediment
Subtidal mixed sediments
Subtidal sand
Peat and clay exposures
North Norfolk Coast (subtidal)

Legislation: Marine and Coastal Act 2009

Greater Wash pSPA (Potential Special Protection Area)

One of the latest pSPAs, the Greater Wash pSPA, straddles the 12 nautical mile (nm) limit and falls under the joint responsibility of JNCC and Natural England – Natural England for the area in inshore waters (within 12nm) and JNCC for the area in offshore waters (beyond 12nm). The consultation on the Greater Wash pSPA will run in parallel with a Natural England consultation on a further two pSPAs which are fully situated in English inshore waters.

The Greater Wash pSPA is proposed to protect marine areas of great importance for different tern species during the breeding season (Sandwich tern, little tern and common tern) as well as a range of seabird species during the non-breeding season (red-throated diver, common scoter and little gull).

SPAs are protected sites classified under the EU Birds Directive to protect rare and vulnerable birds, as well as regularly occurring migratory birds, in the member states of the EU.

Outer Thames Estuary SPA

Area: 3798.24km²

The Outer Thames Estuary SPA is classified for the protection of the largest aggregation of wintering red-throated diver (*Gavia stellata*) in the UK, an estimated population of 6,466 individuals, which is 38% of the wintering population of Great Britain .

More information on the marine designated sites can be found on the JNCC website: www.jncc.defra.gov.uk