

# **Appropriate Assessment**

for

Ipswich Borough Council  
**Draft Site Allocations and Policies**  
**(incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan)**  
**DPD**

**January 2014**

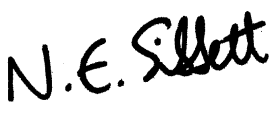

## Quality control

Appropriate Assessment

for

### Ipswich Borough Council

### Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD

Checked by Project Manager:	Approved by:
Signature: 	Signature: 
Name: Nicholas Sibbett	Name: Jo Parmenter
Title: Principal Ecologist	Title: Director
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The Landscape Partnership Ltd is a practice of Chartered Landscape Architects, Chartered Town Planners and Chartered Environmentalists, registered with the Landscape Institute and a member of the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment & the Arboricultural Association.

The Landscape Partnership Limited  
Registered Office:  
Greenwood House  
15a St Cuthberts Street  
Bedford  
MK40 3JG.

Registered in England No 2709001

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## Executive summary

This document is the Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, of Ipswich Borough Council's Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD, which forms part of the Council's Local Plan.

The Appropriate Assessment in this report is carried out on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council to allow the Council to decide whether to give effect to the plan. The plan would not be sound if the Appropriate Assessment could not show that there was no adverse affect upon the integrity of nature conservation sites of European importance as recognised by their designation as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and/or Ramsar sites. The Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is open for public comment and likely to be subject to an Examination in Public, and this Appropriate Assessment will also be open to public comment and scrutiny at that Examination.

An earlier 'Likely Significant Effect' report showed that there were two policies which required Appropriate Assessment as they may have a likely significant effect upon Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. Policy DM44 (allocation IP149 for a new Country Park at Pond Hall Farm adjacent to the SPA) may have a likely significant effect, probably positive, through improved management of visitors. Policy DM46, 'The Port of Ipswich' (allocation IP262), may have a likely significant effect through land-take from the SPA, or disturbance to birds. Other policies would not have any impact. The Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD may also have an impact in combination with the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review and is reliant on the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment of that Local Plan document. Natural England also requested further assessment for policies DM33 'Green corridors', DM36 'Employment land' and DM39 'land allocation for housing'.

The Appropriate Assessment showed that further detail is required within DM44 and DM46, so that subsequent development can be guided to avoid impacts. For Policy DM44 (allocation IP149 for a new Country Park at Pond Hall Farm), design features are recommended so that the Country Park attracts visitors to a centre situated a short distance from the estuary shore, thus reducing the number and/or duration of visits to the estuary edge which would disturb birds. For Policy DM46, 'The Port of Ipswich', design features to minimise disturbance and prevent land-take from the estuary are provided. However, port development has previously been carried out in sensitive coastal environments and developers should be made aware that development inconsistent with those design features would be given great scrutiny through a planning application Appropriate Assessment. Other policies had no adverse affect upon the integrity of any European site.



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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The plan being considered

- 1.1.1 This document sets out the Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, of Ipswich Borough Council's Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD. This forms part of the Ipswich Local Plan.
- 1.1.2 This plan is a combination of two previous draft plans: the Site Allocations and Policies development plan document and the IP-One Area Action Plan. Its formal title is the 'Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) development plan document'. It is hereafter referred to simply as the 'Site Allocations plan'.
- 1.1.3 The Site Allocations plan covers three main areas of policy. Firstly it sets out a policy approach to managing development in identified areas (Chapter 4). Secondly it identifies a wide range of sites, which should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development (Chapter 5). Thirdly it sets out policies for the IP-One area and provides development guidelines for six opportunity areas within IP-One where significant development and public realm improvements are anticipated (Chapters 6 and 7).
- 1.1.4 It replaces the remaining 'saved' policies from the 1997 adopted Ipswich Local Plan, which were primarily site or area related policies. The updated policies map also replaces sites and designations from the 1997 adopted Proposals Map as indicated by the Core Strategy Proposals Map key.
- 1.1.5 An Appropriate Assessment of the Ipswich Borough Council Core Strategy and Policies DPD was undertaken in 2009, also by The Landscape Partnership. The Borough-wide strategy for growth, and overall housing and employment figures for Ipswich are within the adopted Core Strategy and Policies development plan document (the 'Core Strategy'), which is currently under focused review. An Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review is currently being made in parallel with this document.

## 1.2 Appropriate Assessment requirement

- 1.2.1 The Appropriate Assessment process is required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. These regulations are often abbreviated to, simply, the 'Habitats Regulations'.
- 1.2.2 Regulation 102 states that
- (1) Where a land use plan—
    - (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain 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 shall, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.
  - (2) The plan-making authority shall for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.
  - (3) They shall also, if they consider it appropriate, take the opinion of the general public, and if they do so, they shall take such steps for that purpose as they consider appropriate.
  - (4) In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 103 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority or, in the case of a regional spatial strategy, the Secretary of State shall give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).

(5) A plan-making authority shall provide such information as the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers may reasonably require for the purposes of the discharge of the obligations of the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers under this Part.

(6) This regulation does not apply in relation to a site which is—

(a) a European site by reason of regulation 10(1)(c); or

(b) a European offshore marine site by reason of regulation 15(c) of the 2007 Regulations (site protected in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Habitats Directive).

1.2.3 The plan-making authority, as defined under the Regulations, is Ipswich Borough Council.

1.2.4 The screening in this report is carried out on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council to allow it to decide whether an Appropriate Assessment is required. Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is likely to be subject to an Examination in Public, and the screening process will also be open to scrutiny at that Examination.

### **1.3 Appropriate Assessment process**

1.3.1 The Appropriate Assessment process involves a number of steps, which are set out sequentially below.

#### ***Likely significant effect***

1.3.2 The Council, in consultation with Natural England should decide whether or not the plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site. This is a 'coarse filter' and any effect, large or small, positive or negative, should be considered.

#### ***Connected to management of the site***

1.3.3 The Council should decide whether the plan is connected to the nature conservation management of European sites. Invariably, for a development plan, this is not the case.

#### ***Screening***

1.3.4 The combination of decisions on likely significant effect and connections to management is often called 'screening'. If the plan is likely to have a significant effect, and is not connected to the management of the site, an Appropriate Assessment is required.

#### ***Scoping***

1.3.5 The whole plan must be assessed, but a 'scoping' exercise helps decide which parts of the plan have potential to give rise to significant effects and therefore where assessment should be prioritised. Natural England is an important consultee in this process. The implementation of both screening and scoping process is described in Section 3 below.

#### ***Consultations***

1.3.6 Natural England is a statutory consultee, and so should be consulted at the draft plan stage. The public may also be consulted if it is considered appropriate, for example if the appropriate assessment is likely to result in significant changes to the plan.

#### ***Iterations and revision***

1.3.7 The process is iterative; the conclusions of the first assessment may result in changes to the plan, and so a revision of the assessment would be required. If the revised assessment suggests further plan changes, the iteration will continue.

1.3.8 Iterative revisions typically continue until it can be ascertained that the plan will not have an adverse affect on the integrity of any European site.

1.3.9 There are further provisions for rare cases where over-riding public interest may mean that a land-use plan may be put into effect, notwithstanding a negative assessment, where there are no alternatives to development, but these provisions are not expected to be routinely used.



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***Guidance and good practice***

- 1.3.10 This report has taken account of published guidance and good practice including: Department for Communities and Local Government, 2006, *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment under The Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006: Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), Circular 06/2005, Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs Circular 01/2005, *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system*; and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 2007, *The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: A guide to why, when and how to do it*.

**1.4 European sites**

- 1.4.1 European sites, often known as Natura 2000 sites across Europe, are those legally registered as Special Protection Areas (for bird sites) and Special Areas of Conservation (for species other than birds, and habitats). These are usually abbreviated as SPA and SAC respectively. Wetlands of International Importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention, are usually abbreviated as Ramsar sites.
- 1.4.2 Although the Appropriate Assessment process only legally applies to European sites, Government Policy in NPPF<sup>1</sup> is to apply the same protection to potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar sites and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites. The use of the term 'European site' or 'European sites' in this report includes all those sites to which Government policy applies.
- 1.4.3 As the interest features of the Ramsar sites are usually very similar to the interest features of the SPA and / or SAC designations, both geographically and ecologically, the assessment below, for clarity does not always repeat Ramsar site names. The assessment does however consider Ramsar sites fully, and if an assessment for a Ramsar site was found to differ from that for the respective SPA / SAC, this would be clearly identified.

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). Department of Communities and Local Government.

## 2 European sites potentially affected

### 2.1 Sites within the Local Plan area

2.1.1 All European sites within the Local Plan area are potentially affected. There is one site within Ipswich Borough which is designated as SPA and as a Ramsar site, with much overlap between designations. The site location is shown in Figure 01.

2.1.2 Appendix 1 gives details of the European site within Ipswich Borough (from JNCC), and Appendix 2 gives Natural England's Conservation Objectives for the SPA.

#### ***Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA***

2.1.3 The Stour and Orwell Estuaries is a wetland of international importance, comprising extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. It provides habitats for an important assemblage of wetland birds in the non-breeding season and supports internationally important numbers of wintering and passage wildfowl and waders.

#### ***Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site***

2.1.4 In addition to the internationally important bird interest as set out above, the Ramsar site also supports several nationally scarce plant species and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

### 2.2 Sites outside the Local Plan area

2.2.1 European sites in neighbouring Districts might be potentially affected by development within Ipswich Borough.

2.2.2 European sites in the vicinity are large and in some instances overlap Local Authority boundaries, so are listed below without reference to specific Districts/Boroughs. A 15km radius from the boundary of Ipswich Borough was chosen as the 'area of search' within which European sites potentially affected by development in the Local Plan were identified. Sites are shown in Figure 01. Appendix 3 gives details of the European sites within a 15km radius from the boundary of Ipswich Borough (from JNCC), and Appendix 4 gives Natural England's Conservation Objectives for these sites. Appendix 5 gives the site plan for Hamford Water candidate SAC as it is not yet available in GIS form for inclusion on Figure 01.

2.2.3 European sites within the 15km radius are;

#### ***Hamford Water candidate SAC***

2.2.4 Hamford Water is a large, shallow estuarine basin comprising tidal creeks, islands, intertidal mud, sand flats and saltmarshes. Above the saltmarsh there is unimproved and improved grassland (including grazing marsh), scrub, woodland, hedges, ditches, ponds and reedbeds. The SAC encompasses those areas where Fisher's Estuarine Moth's food plant hog's fennel (*Peucedanum officinale*) grows and where there is an abundance of the grasses required by the species for egg laying. Fisher's Estuarine Moth *Gortyna borellii lunata* has a localised population distribution in the UK, due to its specific habitat requirements and is only found in two areas, the north Essex coast and the north Kent Coast. Hamford Water supports the majority of the Essex population and is the most important site nationally for this species, supporting approximately 70% of the UK population. The SAC is small in size, in comparison to the SPA.

#### ***Hamford Water SPA***

2.2.5 Hamford Water SPA is an estuary and saltmarsh system which supports a great number of breeding and wintering birds.

#### ***Deben Estuary SPA / Ramsar***

2.2.6 The Deben Estuary is designated as SPA and as a Ramsar site. The estuary supports a highly complex mosaic of habitat types including mudflats, lower and upper saltmarsh, swamp and scrub. The composition of the mosaic varies with substrate, frequency and duration of tidal inundation, exposure, location and management.

- 2.2.7 The SPA designation is based on large numbers of wintering Avocet and Dark-bellied Brent geese, whereas the Ramsar designation also includes a wider range of migrating and wintering birds, flora, and fauna including the rare snail *Vertigo angustior*.

***Sandlings SPA***

- 2.2.8 Sandlings SPA contains heathland and conifer plantation which support Nightjar and Woodlark.

***Staverton Park and the Thicks SAC***

- 2.2.9 This site is representative of old acidophilous oak woods in the eastern part of its range, and its ancient oaks *Quercus* spp. have rich invertebrate and epiphytic lichen assemblages. Despite being in the most 'continental' part of southern Britain, the epiphytic lichen flora of this site includes rare and Atlantic species, such as *Haemotomma elatinum*, *Lecidea cinnabarina*, *Thelotrema lepadinum*, *Graphis elegans* and *Stenocybe septata*. Part of the site includes an area of old holly *Ilex aquifolium* trees that are probably the largest in Britain. The site has a very well-documented history and good conservation of woodland structure and function.

***Alde-Ore Estuary SPA / Ramsar***

- 2.2.10 Alde-Ore Estuary SPA is an estuary with extensive areas of saltmarsh and shingle habitats, which supports a large number of wintering and breeding bird species.

- 2.2.11 The Ramsar site, with the same boundaries as the SPA, comprises the estuary complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness. There are a variety of habitats including, intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle (including the second-largest and best-preserved area in Britain at Orfordness), saline lagoons and grazing marsh. The Orfordness/Shingle Street landform is unique within Britain in combining a shingle spit with a cusped foreland. The site supports nationally-scarce plants, British Red Data Book invertebrates, and notable assemblages of breeding and wintering wetland birds.

***Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC***

- 2.2.12 This estuary, made up of three rivers, is the only bar-built estuary in the UK with a shingle bar. This bar has been extending rapidly along the coast since 1530, pushing the mouth of the estuary progressively south-westwards. It is relatively wide and shallow, with extensive intertidal mudflats on both sides of the channel in its upper reaches and saltmarsh accreting along its fringes. The Alde subsequently becomes the south-west flowing River Ore, which is narrower and deeper with stronger currents. The smaller Butley River, which has extensive areas of saltmarsh and a reedbed community bordering intertidal mudflats, flows into the Ore shortly after the latter divides around Havergate Island. There is a range of littoral sediment and rock biotopes (the latter on sea defences) that are of high diversity and species richness for estuaries in eastern England. Water quality is excellent throughout. The area is relatively natural, being largely undeveloped by man and with very limited industrial activity. The estuary contains large areas of shallow water over subtidal sediments, and extensive mudflats and saltmarshes exposed at low water. Its diverse and species-rich intertidal sand and mudflat biotopes grade naturally along many lengths of the shore into vegetated or dynamic shingle habitat, saltmarsh, grassland and reedbed.

***Orfordness – Shingle Street SAC***

- 2.2.13 Orfordness – Shingle Street SAC contains coastal lagoons, annual vegetation of drift lines and perennial vegetation of stony banks.

- 2.2.14 The lagoons at this site have developed in the shingle bank adjacent to the shore at the mouth of the Ore estuary. The salinity of the lagoons is maintained by percolation through the shingle, although at high tides sea water can overtop the shingle bank. The fauna of these lagoons includes typical lagoon species, such as the cockle *Cerastoderma glaucum*, the ostracod *Cyprideis torosa* and the gastropods *Littorina saxatilis tenebrosa* and *Hydrobia ventrosa*. The nationally rare starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis* is also found at the site.

2.2.15 Orfordness is an extensive shingle spit some 15 km in length and is one of two sites representing Annual vegetation of drift lines on the east coast of England. The drift-line community is widespread on the site and comprises sea beet *Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima* and orache *Atriplex* spp. in a strip 2-5 m wide.

2.2.16 The spit supports some of the largest and most natural sequences in the UK of shingle vegetation affected by salt spray. The southern end of the spit has a particularly fine series of undisturbed ridges, with zonation of communities determined by the ridge pattern. Pioneer communities with sea pea *Lathyrus japonicus* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland occur. Locally these are nutrient-enriched by the presence of a gull colony; elsewhere they support rich lichen communities. The northern part of Orfordness has suffered considerable damage from defence-related activities but a restoration programme for the shingle vegetation is underway.

## 2.3 Other relevant plans or projects affecting these sites

2.3.1 In addition to a potential effect from the Ipswich Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD, the European sites may also be affected by a number of plans or projects, including other Local Plan documents of Ipswich Borough Council, and Local Plans of other neighbouring Local Authorities, existing developments and proposed developments, management carried out by land managers with the consent of Natural England, projects of statutory agencies and utility companies such as projects affecting the water environment, and third party effects such as recreation, etc.

2.3.2 The Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review potentially has an impact on those European sites which are outside the Borough, by setting the amount of growth and therefore influencing impacts at distance from Ipswich. Impacts at distance from proposed development are largely independent of the precise location of the development; for example if people resulting from a new residential development drive several miles to a European site, they would do so regardless of the exact location of the residential development. The cumulative impacts of all allocations are assessed in the assessment of the Core Strategy and Policies DPD. If the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review is found to have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site outside the boundary of Ipswich, then the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD would similarly have no impact upon those European sites. The assessment of Ipswich Borough Council's Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD therefore is largely restricted to the impact of Site Allocations within Ipswich having a local effect upon European sites within the Ipswich boundary.

2.3.3 In the context of this Appropriate Assessment, the most relevant other plans or projects to be considered are

- Ipswich Borough Council Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review

### **3 Likely significant effects**

#### **3.1 Connected with the management of European sites**

3.1.1 It is considered that the Ipswich Borough Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is not necessary for, or connected with, the nature conservation management of any European sites.

#### **3.2 Criteria for screening of individual policies**

3.2.1 The screening of individual policies is a process to determine which, if any, of the individual policies requires individual assessment. For example, some of the proposed policies might each have a direct or indirect effect upon an international site, whilst other individual policies may have no effect. Criteria are set to determine which individual policies may have an effect. Effects from a combination of policies are also considered.

3.2.2 The criteria for determining if an individual policy, or a combination of policies, would have a likely significant effect, and require assessment, are based on the characteristics of the relevant European site and the objectives set by Natural England. The main factors to consider are

- Development on or close to the European site destroying part or all of the site, or changing the ecological functioning of the site (e.g. disrupting water flows or migration routes, or providing damaging levels of air pollution)
- Development close to the European site causing localised increased public recreation, causing disturbance to birds, damage to vegetation, increased littering / flytipping, or leading to management compromises (e.g. grazing being restricted).
- Reduction of water quality, from increased discharges of surface water drainage, or from pollution incidents, either during, or after, construction

#### **3.3 Screening of individual policies**

3.3.1 The table in Appendix 6 lists each policy, provides a brief explanation of the policy, and gives an assessment of whether the policy is likely to have a significant effect on any European site. The conclusion drawn from the table in Appendix 6 is that there are two policies where there is uncertainty as to whether there may be a significant effect on one or more European sites.

3.3.2 The policy DM46 'Port of Ipswich', allocates land for port-related uses at the Ash Tip, Cliff Quay (site reference IP262). The land is adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. It is uncertain whether 'port-related uses' would include construction of a new quay or jetty, or be constrained to expansion of shore based facilities. A new quay, or shore-based facilities, might have an impact upon the adjacent SPA through land-take from the estuary, or from additional disturbance to birds.

3.3.3 This allocation had also been made in the 1997 Local Plan. It is considered that further investigations are made, through an appropriate assessment process, including discussions with Natural England and The Port of Ipswich, to identify the effect of such an allocation. For example, it may be possible to add detail to the Policy to describe the type of development which may be acceptable, and rule out those types of development which may not be acceptable.

3.3.4 Policy DM44 'Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities' includes the provision of a new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm (allocation IP149), adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and to Bridge Wood. The Appropriate Assessment to the adopted Core Strategy advised that visitor management measures were needed at Bridge Wood to protect the Orwell Estuary Special Protection Area. Pond Hall Farm offers the ideal opportunity to provide a visitor centre in the medium to long term, to raise visitor awareness of the potential impacts of disturbance on over wintering birds on the estuary and to draw visitors away from the foreshore. A detailed planning application will need to demonstrate impacts on the SPA, and itself be subject to Appropriate Assessment. It is considered that a planning application could demonstrate no harm to the SPA, and may have some benefit in current managing visitor

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impacts. However, in the absence of details at this stage it is possible that there could be an adverse impact or a positive impact from the allocation and further assessment is needed through the appropriate assessment process.

- 3.3.5 Natural England subsequently asked for policies DM33, DM36 and DM39 to be screened back in to the Appropriate Assessment.

### **3.4 Screening of the whole Plan**

- 3.4.1 Policies in this Plan do not have cumulative effects on European sites and the whole plan has no greater likely significant effect than that resulting from Policy DM44 and DM46 alone, over and above cumulative effects which are assessed for the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review.

### **3.5 Screening of the Plan in combination with other plans**

- 3.5.1 The assessment of Ipswich Borough Council's Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is largely restricted to the impact of Site Allocations within Ipswich having a local effect upon European sites within Ipswich Borough. If the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review is found to have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site outside the boundary of Ipswich, then the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD would similarly have no impact upon those European sites.
- 3.5.2 The Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review should be completed in parallel or in advance of the assessment of the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD, so that this 'in combination' effect can be resolved.

### **3.6 Conclusion of screening ('likely significant effect')**

- 3.6.1 It is concluded that the Ipswich Borough Council Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is likely to have a significant effect on European sites, particularly with respect to Policy DM44 'Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities' (new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm, allocation IP149), and 'The Port of Ipswich' (Policy DM46). This conclusion is made for the Plan alone, and in combination with the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review. An Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is therefore necessary and presented in Section 4 below.

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## 4 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The screening and scoping stage above showed that two policies require further assessment. These policies are Policy DM44 'Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities' (new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm, allocation IP149), and 'The Port of Ipswich' (Policy DM46). Natural England also advised that Policies DM33 'Green corridors', DM36 'Employment Areas' and DM39 'Land Allocated for housing' should also be assessed. This Appropriate Assessment will be restricted to these policies. Cumulative impacts of all policies are assessed separately in an assessment of the Core Strategy and Policies Focussed Review.

### 4.2 Appropriate Assessment of DM33

4.2.1 DM33 states that 'The Council will seek to establish and enhance green corridors within the Borough and linking to adjacent open spaces and walking, cycling or riding routes. Green corridors are identified broadly on Plan 1 including a green rim around the periphery ...and along the navigable length of the River Orwell'. Plan 1 is appended in Appendix x. Within the defined green corridors, development would only be permitted where it would maintain, and where possible enhance, the corridor's amenity, recreational and green transport functions. The Council would seek to establish attractive green links and to provide for public access wherever safe and practicable

4.2.2 One green corridor is adjacent to The Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. This is entirely in the location of Orwell Country Park, which is already managed for public access and nature conservation. It is considered that Policy DM33 is unlikely to alter the public access, amenity, recreational and green transport functions of this area bearing in mind its current use.

4.2.3 It is considered that Policy DM33 would not adversely affect the integrity of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA.

### 4.3 Appropriate Assessment of DM36 'Employment areas'.

4.3.1 Employment Areas are defined on the policies map and the IP-One inset policies map. This policy contains the town's main existing and proposed employment areas. All the existing employment areas have been reviewed and boundaries amended where appropriate. New employment areas have been designated at Ipswich Business Park north of Whitton Lane and Airport Farm Kennels south of Ravenswood.

4.3.2 Existing employment areas are not thought to have any current impacts upon European sites; for example condition assessments by Natural England do not record any such reasons for the small percentage of sites in the vicinity of Ipswich which are recorded as unfavourable.

4.3.3 Impacts from employment land could potentially include

- Increased risk of airborne emissions causing air pollution, arising from industrial processes such as manufacturing
- Increased risk of water discharge causing water pollution, arising from industrial processes such as manufacturing
- Increased noise and light causing disturbance to birds on the Stour and Orwell Estuary

4.3.4 The Local Plan document does not specify the uses of the employment land, so for example no heavy manufacturing industry is either specified or ruled out. However, no developments likely to produce harmful amounts of air pollution or water pollution are specifically allocated. The location of the employment areas, within a dense urban environment, indicates that polluting industries are unlikely to be permitted. In the event of a planning application for such a development, discharges to air or water would be subject to scrutiny and if there was doubt a project Appropriate Assessment would be needed. Discharges to air or water would also need Environment Agency's consent, with Appropriate Assessment part of that decision-making process.

- 4.3.5 Proposed new areas for employment land, within or adjacent to existing employment areas, or new sites, are all separated sufficiently from the Stour and Orwell estuaries that no noise or lighting impact is likely to occur.
- 4.3.6 Employment sites generally have a lower impact on European sites than does housing, as employment sites generally do not generate recreational impacts at distance as a result of an increased human population
- 4.3.7 It is considered that Policy DM36 would not adversely affect the integrity of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA.

#### **4.4 Appropriate Assessment of DM39**

- 4.4.1 Policy DM39 'land allocated for housing' is included as Natural England's request. The Likely Significant Effect report prepared in advance of this assessment screened out residential sites as being sufficiently far that pedestrian access to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA was unlikely. Natural England requested further assessment as the residential site allocations are within a distance such that there may be increased visits by car.
- 4.4.2 The potential for increased visits are assessed within the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review, which looks at the potential for increased visits by car to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and other European sites in the vicinity of Ipswich. To avoid duplication, the assessment is not repeated but the conclusion, of no adverse affect upon the integrity of a European site, remains valid.

#### **4.5 Appropriate Assessment of Policy DM44**

- 4.5.1 The site allocation for Policy DM44 is shown in Appendix 8. The site covers 24.7ha and comprises grassland fields with farm buildings present in the centre. It is adjacent to other parts of Orwell Country Park and a network of footpaths currently used by Country Park visitors is present in/around the Site Allocation land. The site is adjacent to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, with the site allocation boundary reaching down to approximately the high tide line. The SPA boundary appears from use of the Magic website ([www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)) to extend as far up as the high tide line.
- 4.5.2 The allocation is for a Country Park extension and visitor's centre. There is no more detail available. It is likely that the visitor centre would utilise existing buildings, which are approximately 140 – 270 metres from the high tide line, or new buildings may be constructed in their place. The land may be made available for informal recreation in its current grassland state, or there is a possibility that recreational features such as play equipment, public art or paths may be installed. It is likely that a car park would be needed.
- 4.5.3 A study of disturbance impacts upon wintering birds was carried out on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries in 2007<sup>2</sup>. Walkers with or without dogs, and boats, were the most frequent activities and also caused most of the disturbance. The part of the estuary immediately adjacent to the Site Allocation was called Pond Ooze in this study. The study found that there were few birds at high tide at Bridge Wood or Nacton, with large roosts further downstream. At low tide, birds were more evenly distributed through out the estuary but again there were few birds at Bridge Wood. The highest densities of people were on the Orwell north shore, at Nacton, Bridge Wood and Pond Ooze. People on the shore, with or without dogs, and joggers, were the primary cause of disturbance at Bridge Wood and Pond Ooze. It was thought that easy access to the sites, from Orwell Country Park, combined with a large residential population nearby, were the reasons for the large numbers of people. Bait digging was carried out across the estuary, with hotspots for this activity being located elsewhere than Pond Ooze or Bridge Wood. The highest density of feeding birds was adjacent to Piper's Vale, where there was no visitor access to the estuary edge. In conclusion, the estuary shore adjacent to the proposed site allocation and at Bridge Wood had high levels of visitor activity in winter which caused a reduction in bird density, thus making that part of the estuary unavailable to some birds.

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<sup>2</sup> Ravenscroft, Parker, Vonk and Wright (2007) *Disturbance to waterbirds wintering in the Stour-Orwell Estuaries SPA*. Suffolk Coast and Heaths Unit.



- 4.5.4 Potential negative impacts from a proposed visitor centre at this site might be
- Increased recreational disturbance to feeding and resting birds in the spring and autumn migration period, in particular Redshank which is a qualifying feature of the Ramsar site at these times
  - Increased recreational disturbance to feeding and resting waterfowl in the wintering period (Ramsar and SPA features)
  - Increased bait digging at the site, which depletes food and acts as disturbance to feeding and resting birds in the spring and autumn migration period and in the wintering period.
  - Increased pollution to estuarine waters from visitor centre sewage discharge
- 4.5.5 Impacts listed below are considered to not potentially cause harm to the European site, for the reasons listed
- Increased disturbance to breeding avocet (SPA qualifying feature) is thought unlikely to occur, because this species nests on saltmarsh, which is not present in this part of the estuary
  - Trampling damage to plant species listed as Ramsar species is not likely to occur as these are saltmarsh or mudflat species
  - Harm to invertebrate species listed as Ramsar qualifying features is unlikely as these are species of saltmarsh or brackish lagoons, or (in the case of *Mercuria confusa*) underneath vegetation of intertidal mud with low salinity) which are not present in this stretch of the estuary.
- 4.5.6 The SPA objectives (Appendix 2) are to *Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.* A working objective for this Appropriate Assessment would be to avoid significant increases in disturbance at the estuary foreshore of Orwell Country Park as a result of the site allocation and subsequent development.
- 4.5.7 An extreme hypothetical scenario might include a large and free car park very visible from the estuary shore, noisy play equipment and/or barbecue stands next to the beach, and dogs encouraged to be off leads. This scenario is likely to cause an increase in activity levels to the estuary and could cause an adverse effect upon the integrity of the SPA / Ramsar site.
- 4.5.8 However, there are design features which could be incorporated into the proposed development based on the site allocations. This would lead to no significant increase of disturbance, and have no impact on the estuary. The design features would be intended to concentrate visitor activity around buildings at some distance from development, and shield some of this activity from sight of the estuary. The visitor centre, and/or car park, would need to be sufficiently attractive to encourage Bridge Wood users to use the visitor centre.
- 4.5.9 Key principles for the site allocation to result in no adverse impact upon integrity of the SPA would include
- Visitor centre and car park is set in the north of the site and screened from the estuary
  - Visitor centre is attractive and welcoming, to attract visitors from other parts of the estuary (reducing disturbance elsewhere) and providing a good visitor experience without visitors necessarily having to visit the estuary shore
  - Car park is attractively designed and its pricing policy does not encourage use of other car parks (e.g. at Bridge Wood) nor encourage winter use
  - The grassland or other habitat to be created near to close to the estuary edge is not physically suitable for noisy play such as football or Frisbee
  - Extensive seating areas, and a catering concession if economically viable, to be set in the north of the site so that visitors may relax away from the estuary if they wish

- Play areas, for a range of play activities and ages, are set in the north of the site and screened from the estuary
- Displays within the visitor centre and outside, and ranger walks, provide information about bird disturbance and promote sustainable usage

4.5.10 Provided that the Site Allocation is amended to include the key principles in the above paragraph, it is likely that disturbance increases would be minimised and there would be no adverse affect on integrity of the SPA.

## 4.6 Appropriate Assessment of Policy DM46

4.6.1 The site allocation for Policy DM46 is shown in Appendix 9. The site occupies 3.12ha and is adjacent both to the existing port facilities and to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site. The site appears, from Google Earth aerial photography, to be sparsely vegetated brownfield land.

4.6.2 The site is allocated for 'port-related uses', with no other detail given. The allocation previously existed in the 1997 Local Plan. 'Port-related uses' might potentially include a new quay for ship loading / unloading, shore-based facilities such as external storage or warehouses, or other shore-based industrial facilities.

4.6.3 An extreme hypothetical scenario might include land-take from the estuary for a new quay, with dredging of intertidal and subtidal mud for ship passages, together with noisy and illuminated loading / unloading facilities. This scenario might well cause an increase in disturbance and a decrease in the intertidal resource for birds to the estuary and could cause an adverse effect upon the integrity of the SPA / Ramsar site.

4.6.4 However, there are design features which could be incorporated into the proposed development based on the site allocation. This would lead to no significant increase of disturbance, and have no impact on the estuary resource. The design features would be intended to shield shore-based development from sight of the estuary and include no new quay facilities.

4.6.5 Key principles for the site allocation to result in no adverse impact upon integrity of the SPA would include

- No quay facilities to be constructed
- Shore based facilities to be designed in a way such that activity (noise / light / movement) is screened from the estuary, for example by arranging buildings such that their rear elevations are without doors, windows or external lighting and rear elevations face the estuary
- No dredging requirement
- Construction period is sensitive to the need to avoid disturbance to the estuary

4.6.6 Provided that the Site Allocation is amended to include the key principles in the above paragraph, it is likely that disturbance increases would be minimised and there would be no adverse affect on integrity of the SPA.

4.6.7 However, port development is normally in sensitive coastal environments. Ports have experience of operating and managing coastal environments, and there are past examples of Port development in estuaries (e.g. London Gateway Port, opened in November 2013<sup>3</sup>). There is a possibility that port development in this allocated site, with design features not consistent with the key principles above, may be possible given a major investment in environmental studies and mitigation / compensation works. It is therefore possible that the site allocation might result in no adverse effect upon integrity of the European site even if port development is substantial, although currently no proposals are known and there is no evidence of impacts and mitigation. For development not consistent with the key principles above, the Site Allocation

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<sup>3</sup> [www.londongateway.com](http://www.londongateway.com), website accessed on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014)

requires amending so that the possibility of such a development is not ruled out but potential developers are aware of the great sensitivity and scrutiny to be applied.

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## 5 Consultations

### 5.1 Consultation on 'Likely Significant Effect'

- 5.1.1 Natural England (statutory consultee) and Suffolk Wildlife Trust (interested body) were consulted on the Likely Significant Effect stage of the process. Both organisations were sent the report by The Landscape Partnership (November 2013) *Appropriate Assessment screening for Ipswich Borough Council Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD* on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
- 5.1.2 Natural England agreed with the screening, but also requested that three further policies were likely to have a significant effect. These policies were
- Policy DM33 – green corridors. Natural England advised that there is potential for recreational disturbance and cannot rely on Policy DM34.
  - Policy DM36 - employment areas. Whilst Natural England can agree with the conclusion that employment land is less likely to have recreational impacts compared to housing allocations there needs to be certainty that there are no pathways for other impacts to occur.
  - DM39 – land Allocated for housing. Natural England advised that this should be included in the Appropriate Assessment as whilst it may be that there will be an increase in visitors on foot from the 2000+ houses it doesn't take into account the possible increased visits by car.
- 5.1.3 This email is appended in Appendix 10. Although the Likely Significant Effect report was not subsequently updated, Natural England's comments are addressed within this Appropriate Assessment.
- 5.1.4 Suffolk Wildlife Trust responded on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and agreed with the identification of two policies Policy DM44 'Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities' (new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm, allocation IP149), and Policy DM46 'The Port of Ipswich' (allocation of land for port-related uses at the Ash Tip, Cliff Quay, allocation IP262). Clarification was also requested for the relationship of the assessment with the assessment for the Core Strategies Focussed Review being carried out simultaneously. Clarification was given on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Correspondence is given in Appendix 11.

### 5.2 Consultation on the Appropriate Assessment

- 5.2.1 This Appropriate Assessment is published with the Local Plan documents for consultation with the public, stakeholders and statutory bodies. Comments received will be publicly available following the closure of the consultation period.

## 6 Conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment

### 6.1 Conclusions for policies assessed

#### *Policy DM44*

6.1.1 It cannot be ascertained that Policy DM44 'Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities' (new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm, allocation IP149) would not have an adverse affect upon the integrity of a European site, in its current form. This is primarily due to the potential for increased disturbance to wintering birds on the adjacent Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site.

6.1.2 However, there are design features which could be incorporated into the proposed development based on the site allocation. This would lead to no significant increase of disturbance, and have no impact on the European site. The design features would be intended to concentrate visitor activity around buildings at some distance from development, and shield some of this activity from sight of the estuary. The visitor centre, and/or car park, would need to be sufficiently attractive to encourage Bridge Wood users to use the visitor centre.

6.1.3 Key principles for the site allocation to result in no adverse impact upon integrity of the SPA would include

- Visitor centre and car park is set in the north of the site and screened from the estuary
- Visitor centre is attractive and welcoming, to attract visitors from other parts of the estuary (reducing disturbance elsewhere) and providing a good visitor experience without visitors necessarily having to visit the estuary shore
- Car park is attractively designed and its pricing policy does not encourage use of other car parks (e.g. at Bridge Wood) nor encourage winter use
- The grassland or other habitat to be created near to close to the estuary edge is designed to be physically unsuitable for noisy play such as football or Frisbee
- Extensive seating areas, and a catering concession if economically viable, to be set in the north of the site so that visitors may relax away from the estuary if they wish
- Play areas, for a range of play activities and ages, are set in the north of the site and screened from the estuary
- Displays within the visitor centre and outside, and ranger walks, provide information about bird disturbance and promote sustainable usage

6.1.4 Provided that the Site Allocation is amended to include the key principles in the above paragraph, it is likely that disturbance increases would be minimised and it could be ascertained there would be no adverse affect on integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site resulting from this policy.

#### *Policy DM46*

6.1.5 It cannot be ascertained that Policy DM46 'The Port of Ipswich' (allocation of land for port-related uses at the Ash Tip, Cliff Quay, allocation IP262) would not have an adverse affect upon the integrity of a European site, in its current form. This is primarily due to the potential for increased disturbance to wintering birds and loss of estuary habitat on the adjacent Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site.

6.1.6 However, there are design features which could be incorporated into the proposed development based on the site allocation. This would lead to no significant increase of disturbance, and have no impact on the estuary resource. The design features would be intended to shield shore-based development from sight of the estuary and include no new quay facilities.

6.1.7 Key principles for the site allocation to result in no adverse impact upon integrity of the SPA would include

- No quay facilities to be constructed

- Shore based facilities to be designed in a way such that activity (noise / light / movement) is screened from the estuary, for example by arranging buildings such that their rear elevations are without doors, windows or external lighting and rear elevations face the estuary
- No dredging requirement
- Construction period is sensitive to the need to avoid disturbance to the estuary

6.1.8 Provided that the Site Allocation is amended to include the key principles in the above paragraph, it is likely that disturbance increases would be minimised and there would be no adverse affect on integrity of the SPA.

6.1.9 However, port development is normally in sensitive coastal environments. Ports have experience of operating and managing coastal environments, and there are past examples of Port development in estuaries (e.g. London Gateway Port, opened in November 2013<sup>4</sup>). There is a possibility that port development in this allocated site, with design features not consistent with the key principles above, may be possible given a major investment in environmental studies and mitigation / compensation works. It is therefore possible that the site allocation might result in no adverse effect upon integrity of the European site even if port development is substantial, although currently no proposals are known and there is no evidence of impacts and mitigation. For development not consistent with the key principles above, it is suggested that Site Allocation is amended to make potential developers aware of the great sensitivity and scrutiny to be applied to developments other than in accordance with the key principles. A planning application Appropriate Assessment would be required.

6.1.10 Provided that the Site Allocation is amended as advised above, it could be ascertained there would be no adverse affect on integrity of the SPA and Ramsar site resulting from this policy.

***Policies DM33, DM36 and DM39***

6.1.11 It could be ascertained there would be no adverse affect on integrity of any European site resulting from these policies.

## **6.2 Conclusion of cumulative impacts and relationships with other plans**

6.2.1 Policies in this Plan do not have cumulative effects on European sites and the whole plan has no greater likely significant effect than that resulting from Policy DM44 and DM46 alone, over and above cumulative effects which are assessed for the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review.

6.2.2 If the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review is found to have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site outside the boundary of Ipswich, then the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD would similarly have no impact upon those European sites.

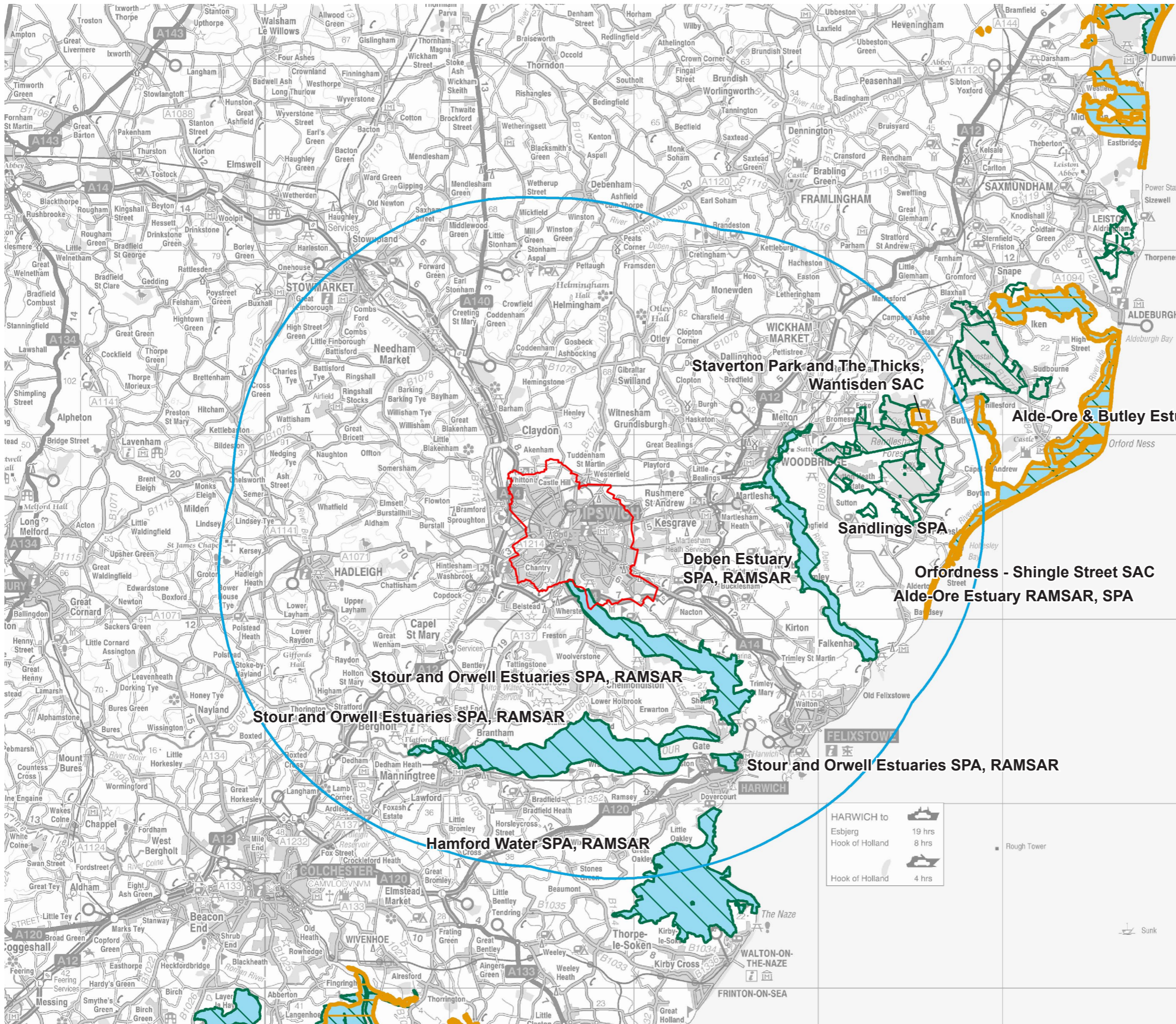
6.2.3 The Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review should be completed in parallel or in advance of the assessment of the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD, so that this 'in combination' effect can be resolved.

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<sup>4</sup> [www.londongateway.com](http://www.londongateway.com), website accessed on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

***Figure 1***





**Key**

- Ipswich boundary
- 15km radius from Ipswich boundary
- Special Area of Conservation
- Special Protection Area
- RAMSAR

**Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden SAC**

**Alde-Ore & Butley Estuaries SAC**

**Sandlings SPA**

**Deben Estuary SPA, RAMSAR**

**Orfordness - Shingle Street SAC  
Alde-Ore Estuary RAMSAR, SPA**

**Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, RAMSAR**

**Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, RAMSAR**

**Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, RAMSAR**

**Hamford Water SPA, RAMSAR**

HARWICH to		19 hrs
Esbjerg		8 hrs
Hook of Holland		4 hrs

E13882 Ipswich Local Plan AA  
**Designations Sites**

**Figure 01**  
Scale 1:200,000  
October 2013





# ***Appendix 1***

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

---

## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

### Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: [RIS@JNCC.gov.uk](mailto:RIS@JNCC.gov.uk)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 13 July 1994

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Stour and Orwell Estuaries

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## 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

**This RIS is for:** Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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## 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

### a) Site boundary and area:

\*\* Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

### b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

**7. Map of site included:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) **Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

051 57 16 N                      001 09 38 E

**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Felixstowe

The Stour Estuary forms the south-eastern part of Essex/Suffolk boundary.

The Orwell Estuary is a relatively long and narrow estuary with extensive mudflats and some saltmarsh, running from Ipswich in the north, southwards towards Felixstowe.

**Administrative region:** Essex; Suffolk

**10. Elevation** (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    **11. Area** (hectares): 3676.92

Min.	-1
Max.	3
Mean	0

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The Stour and Orwell Estuaries is a wetland of international importance, comprising extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. It provides habitats for an important assemblage of wetland birds in the non-breeding season and supports internationally important numbers of wintering and passage wildfowl and waders. The site also holds several nationally scarce plants and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

2, 5, 6

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 2

Contains seven nationally scarce plants: stiff saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia rupestris*; small cord-grass *Spartina maritima*; perennial glasswort *Sarcocornia perennis*; lax-flowered sea lavender *Limonium humile*; and the eelgrasses *Zostera angustifolia*, *Z. marina* and *Z. noltei*.

Contains five British Red Data Book invertebrates: the muscid fly *Phaonia fusca*; the horsefly *Haematopota grandis*; two spiders, *Arctosa fulvolineata* and *Baryphema duffeyi*; and the Endangered swollen spire snail *Mercuria confusa*.

Ramsar criterion 5

**Assemblages of international importance:**

**Species with peak counts in winter:**

63017 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:**

Common redshank , *Tringa totanus totanus*, 2588 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

**Species with peak counts in winter:**

Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 2627 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Northern pintail , *Anas acuta*, NW Europe 741 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Grey plover , *Pluvialis squatarola*, E Atlantic/W Africa -wintering 3261 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Red knot , *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering) 5970 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Dunlin , *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe 19114 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Black-tailed godwit , *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe 2559 individuals, representing an average of 7.3% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Common redshank , *Tringa totanus totanus*, 3687 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

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. See [www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm).

Details of bird species occurring at levels of National importance are given in Section 22

**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	shingle, sand, mud
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, coastal, valley, subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), estuary
Nutrient status	
pH	
Salinity	brackish / mixosaline, fresh, saline / euhaline
Soil	no information
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Lowestoft, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lowestoft.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lowestoft.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 13.0° C Min. daily temperature: 7.0° C Days of air frost: 27.8 Rainfall: 576.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1535.5

**General description of the Physical Features:**

The Stour and Orwell estuaries include extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The site also includes an area of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell.

**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Stour and Orwell estuaries include extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The site also includes an area of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell.

**18. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Sediment trapping

**19. Wetland types:**

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
G	Tidal flats	44.2

H	Salt marshes	35
F	Estuarine waters	19.8
4	Seasonally flooded agricultural land	0.7
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	0.3

## 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

Orwell is a relatively long and narrow estuary with extensive mudflats bordering the channel that support large patches of eelgrass *Zostera* sp. The saltmarsh tends to be sandy and fairly calcareous with a wide range of communities. There are small areas of vegetated shingle on the foreshore of the lower reaches. Grazing marshes adjoin the estuary at Shotley. The Stour estuary is a relatively simply structured estuary with a sandy outer area and a muddier inner section. The mud is rich in invertebrates and there are areas of higher saltmarsh. The shoreline vegetation varies from oak-dominated wooded cliffs, through scrub-covered banks to coarse grasses over seawalls, with reed-filled borrow dykes behind.

Ecosystem services

## 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

### Nationally important species occurring on the site.

#### Higher Plants.

*Puccinellia rupestris* (nationally scarce); *Spartina maritima* (nationally scarce); *Sarcocornia perennis* (nationally scarce); *Limonium humile* (nationally scarce); *Zostera angustifolia* (nationally scarce); *Zostera marina* (nationally scarce); *Zostera noltei* (nationally scarce).

## 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

### Birds

#### Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

#### Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Pied avocet , *Recurvirostra avosetta*, W Europe 21 pairs, representing an average of 2.8% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1996-2000)

#### Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:

Ringed plover , *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa 638 individuals, representing an average of 2.1% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

#### Species with peak counts in winter:

Great crested grebe , *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*, NW Europe 245 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Great cormorant , *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*, NW Europe 232 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe	2955 individuals, representing an average of 3.8% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)
Eurasian curlew , <i>Numenius arquata arquata</i> , N. a. <i>arquata</i> Europe (breeding)	1824 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)
Ruddy turnstone , <i>Arenaria interpres interpres</i> , NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa	690 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the GB population (5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000)

**Species Information**

**Nationally important species occurring on the site.**

**Invertebrates.**

*Phaonia fusca*; *Haematopota grandis* (Meigen) (RDB3); *Arctosa fulvolineata* (RDB3); *Baryphyma duffeyi* (RDB3); *Mercuria (=Pseudamnicola) confusa* (RDB1).

**23. Social and cultural values:**

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

- Aesthetic
- Archaeological/historical site
- Livestock grazing
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Sport hunting
- Tourism
- Transportation/navigation

**b)** Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	
Local authority, municipality etc.	+	

National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	+

**25. Current land (including water) use:**

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Cutting of vegetation (small-scale/subsistence)	+	
Bait collection	+	
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	
Sewage treatment/disposal	+	
Harbour/port	+	
Flood control	+	
Transport route	+	+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements	+	+

**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

*Explanation of reporting category:*

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Erosion	2	Natural coastal processes exacerbated by fixed sea defences, port development and maintenance dredging.	+		+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?  
 Erosion - Erosion is being tackled through sediment replacement for additional erosion that can be attributed to port development and maintenance dredging. A realignment site has been created on-site to make up for the loss of habitat due to capital dredging. General background erosion has not been tackled although a Flood Management Strategy for the site is being produced.



Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? YES
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**27. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Management agreement	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	+	+

**b) Describe any other current management practices:**

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

**Fauna.**

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

High tide bird counts.

**Environment, Flora and Fauna.**

Vegetation, bird and invertebrate surveys/monitoring carried out on NGO reserves.

**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

**Activities, Facilities provided and Seasonality.**

A popular area for tourists as it is within an AONB. There are more visitors in the summer. However it is well used throughout the year by walkers, bird watches and for sailing.

**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House,  
Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

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Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)

# NATURA 2000

## STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)  
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)  
AND  
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

### 1. Site identification:

1.1 Type  1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date  1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199407
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 09 38 E	51 57 16 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  2.3 Site length (km)

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK54	Essex	28.60%
UK403	Suffolk	71.40%

#### 2.6 Biogeographic region

  
Alpine

  
Atlantic

  
Boreal

  
Continental

  
Macaronesia

  
Mediterranean

### 3. Ecological information:

#### 3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment

### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment				
		Resident	Breed	Winter	Stage	Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
A054	<i>Anas acuta</i>			741 I		B		C	
A050	<i>Anas penelope</i>			3979 I		C		C	
A051	<i>Anas strepera</i>			97 I		C		C	
A169	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>			690 I		C		C	
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>			2627 I		B		C	
A067	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			213 I		C		C	
A149	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>			19114 I		B		C	
A143	<i>Calidris canutus</i>			5970 I		C		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				638 I	B		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			372 I		B		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>			2559 I		A		C	
A160	<i>Numenius arquata</i>			2153 I		C		C	
A017	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			232 I		C		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>			3261 I		B		C	
A005	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			245 I		C		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		21 P			B		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			2955 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			3687 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				2588 I	B		C	
A142	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			6242 I		C		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	88.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	5.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	0.5
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	0.8
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.5
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	0.2
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4.1 Other site characteristics

### Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Clay, Mud, Neutral, Sand, Shingle

### Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lagoon, Lowland, Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

## 4.2 Quality and importance

### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	3.6% of the population in Great Britain 5-year peak mean 1996-2000
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### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### Over winter the area regularly supports:

<i>Anas acuta</i> (North-western Europe)	1.2% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
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<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	1.2% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
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<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa)	1.4% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
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<i>Calidris canutus</i> (North-eastern Canada/Greenland/Iceland/North-western Europe)	1.3% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
--	--

<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	7.3% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
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<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.3% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
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<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2.8% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
---	--

#### On passage the area regularly supports:

<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	2% of the population 5-year peak mean 1995/96-1999/2000
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### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC): AN INTERNATIONALLY IMPORTANT ASSEMBLAGE OF BIRDS

#### Over winter the area regularly supports:

63017 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 19/05/2005)

#### Including:

*Podiceps cristatus* , *Phalacrocorax carbo* , *Branta bernicla bernicla* , *Tadorna tadorna* , *Anas penelope* , *Anas strepera* , *Anas acuta* , *Bucephala clangula* , *Charadrius hiaticula* , *Pluvialis squatarola* , *Vanellus vanellus* , *Calidris canutus* , *Calidris alpina alpina* , *Limosa limosa islandica* , *Numenius arquata* , *Tringa totanus* , *Arenaria interpres* .

### 4.3 Vulnerability

There is pressure for increased port development and marine recreation in this area. Marine recreation is being addressed within the Estuary Management Plan. Port development is being considered by public inquiry. Maintenance dredging of the River Stour and River Orwell poses potential threats to the SPA but the activity is being addressed through the provisions of the Habitats Regulations. The saltmarsh is eroding, partly as a result of natural coastal processes; the beneficial use of dredgings is taking place to try to combat these processes.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0



## ***Appendix 2***

**European Site Conservation Objectives for  
Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area  
Site Code: UK9009121**

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- 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 populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

**Qualifying Features:**

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Breeding)

A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)

A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)

A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

**Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:**

A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)

A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)

A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)

## **This is a European Marine Site**

This site is a part of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk), or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

## **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of 'Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review'. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.

## ***Appendix 3***

- ▶ **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**
  - **UK SAC summary**
    - **UK SAC site list**
  - England site list
  - Northern Ireland
  - Scotland
  - Wales
  - ▶ **SAC selection**
    - ▶ Summary
    - ▶ Background to site selection
    - Latest changes to the UK SAC list
    - Annex I Habitat accounts
    - Annex II Species accounts
    - Browse cSACs on a map
    - Notes on nomenclature
    - Search for a SAC
    - Other designations on UK SACs
    - cSACs in NI which adjoin cSACs in the RoI
    - Annex I habitats and Annex II species occurring in the UK
    - Abbreviations and acronyms
    - Acknowledgements
    - References
    - **Download spatial and summary data**
    - **Download GIS data**
    - ▶ **Marine SACs**

## Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries

### Site details

<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Unitary Authority</b>	Suffolk
<b>Centroid*</b>	TM444509
<b>Latitude</b>	52.10166667
<b>Longitude</b>	1.568888889
<b>SAC EU code</b>	UK0030076
<b>Status</b>	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
<b>Area (ha)</b>	1561.53

\* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

### General site character

Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (70%)  
Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (25%)  
Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (5%)

[Boundary map](#) and associated biodiversity information on the NBN Gateway.

[Natura 2000 data form](#) for this site as submitted to Europe (PDF format, size 30kb).

[Interactive map](#) from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).



Location of Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC/SCI/cSAC

### Note:

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, **all** features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

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

#### 1130 [Estuaries](#)

This **estuary**, made up of three rivers, is the only bar-built estuary in the UK with a shingle bar. This bar has been extending rapidly along the coast since 1530, pushing the mouth of the estuary progressively south-westwards. The eastwards-running Alde River originally entered the sea at Aldeburgh, but now turns south along the inner side of the Orfordness shingle spit. It is relatively wide and shallow, with extensive intertidal mudflats on both sides of the channel in its upper reaches and saltmarsh accreting along its fringes. The Alde subsequently becomes the south-west flowing River Ore, which is narrower and deeper with stronger currents. The smaller Butley River, which has extensive areas of saltmarsh and a reedbed community bordering intertidal mudflats, flows into the Ore shortly after the latter divides around Havergate Island. The mouth of the River Ore is still moving south as the Orfordness shingle spit continues to grow through longshore drift from the north. There is a range of littoral sediment and rock biotopes (the latter on sea defences) that are of high diversity and species richness for estuaries in eastern England. Water quality is excellent throughout. The area is relatively natural, being largely undeveloped by man and with very limited industrial activity. The estuary contains large areas of shallow water over subtidal sediments, and extensive mudflats and saltmarshes exposed at low water. Its diverse and species-rich intertidal sand and mudflat biotopes grade naturally along many lengths of the shore into vegetated or dynamic shingle habitat, saltmarsh, grassland and reedbed.

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

#### 1140 [Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide](#)

#### 1330 [Atlantic salt meadows \(\*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae\*\)](#)

### 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.

*Many designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site in these pages does not imply any right of public access.*

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

*Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).*

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

---

## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

### Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: [RIS@JNCC.gov.uk](mailto:RIS@JNCC.gov.uk)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 04 October 1996

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Alde–Ore Estuary

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## 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

**This RIS is for:** Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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## 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

### a) Site boundary and area:

\*\* Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

### b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

**7. Map of site included:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) **Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

52 04 58 N                      01 33 03 E

**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Woodbridge

Alde-Ore Estuary is located on the east coast of Suffolk, east of Woodbridge, stretching between Aldeburgh to the north and Bawdsey to the south.

**Administrative region:** Suffolk

**10. Elevation** (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    **11. Area** (hectares): 2546.99

Min.	-1
Max.	5
Mean	1

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

The site comprises the estuary complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness. There are a variety of habitats including, intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle (including the second-largest and best-preserved area in Britain at Orfordness), saline lagoons and grazing marsh. The Orfordness/Shingle Street landform is unique within Britain in combining a shingle spit with a cusped foreland. The site supports nationally-scarce plants, British Red Data Book invertebrates, and notable assemblages of breeding and wintering wetland birds.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

**2, 3, 6**

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 2

The site supports a number of nationally-scarce plant species and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Ramsar criterion 3

The site supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wetland birds.

**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:**

Lesser black-backed gull , *Larus fuscus graellsii*, 5790 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 3.9% of the breeding population  
W Europe/Mediterranean/W Africa (Seabird 2000 Census)

**Species with peak counts in winter:**

Pied avocet , *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 1187 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)  
Europe/Northwest Africa

Common redshank , *Tringa totanus totanus*, 2368 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the GB 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. See [www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm).

See Sections 21/22 for details of noteworthy species

**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	shingle, mud, nutrient-rich, sedimentary
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, coastal, shingle bar, intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), estuary, lagoon
Nutrient status	mesotrophic
pH	no information
Salinity	saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent



Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Lowestoft, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lowestoft.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lowestoft.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 13.0° C Min. daily temperature: 7.0° C Days of air frost: 27.8 Rainfall: 576.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1535.5
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**General description of the Physical Features:**

This estuary is the only bar-built estuary in the UK with a shingle bar. This bar has been extending rapidly along the coast since 1530, pushing the mouth of the estuary progressively south-westwards. The eastwards-running Alde River originally entered the sea at Aldeburgh, but now turns south along the inner side of the Orfordness shingle spit. It is relatively wide and shallow, with extensive intertidal mudflats on both sides of the channel in its upper reaches and saltmarsh accreting along its fringes. The Alde subsequently becomes the south-west flowing River Ore, which is narrower and deeper with stronger currents. The smaller Butley River, which has extensive areas of saltmarsh and a reedbed community bordering intertidal mudflats, flows into the Ore shortly after the latter divides around Havergate Island. The mouth of the River Ore is still moving south as the Orfordness shingle spit continues to grow through longshore drift from the north.

**17. Physical features of the catchment area:**

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Alde-Ore Estuary comprises the estuarine complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness.

This estuary is the only bar-built estuary in the UK with a shingle bar. This bar has been extending rapidly along the coast since 1530, pushing the mouth of the estuary progressively south-westwards. The eastwards-running Alde River originally entered the sea at Aldeburgh, but now turns south along the inner side of the Orfordness shingle spit. It is relatively wide and shallow, with extensive intertidal mudflats on both sides of the channel in its upper reaches and saltmarsh accreting along its fringes. The Alde subsequently becomes the south-west flowing River Ore, which is narrower and deeper with stronger currents. The smaller Butley River, which has extensive areas of saltmarsh and a reedbed community bordering intertidal mudflats, flows into the Ore shortly after the latter divides around Havergate Island. The mouth of the River Ore is still moving south as the Orfordness shingle spit continues to grow through longshore drift from the north.

**18. Hydrological values:**

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

Shoreline stabilisation and dissipation of erosive forces

**19. Wetland types:**

Inland wetland, Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	33.3
H	Salt marshes	23.6
G	Tidal flats	17.7
M	Rivers / streams / creeks: permanent	9.8
Sp	Saline / brackish marshes: permanent	5.9

Tp	Freshwater marshes / pools: permanent	3.9
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	3.8
J	Coastal brackish / saline lagoons	2

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## 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The main habitat types of the Alde-Ore Estuary are: intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, reedswamp, coastal freshwater, brackish lagoons, semi-improved grazing marsh, brackish ditches and vegetated shingle, the second-largest and best-preserved example in Britain.

A unique feature for East Anglian beaches is the abundance on the ground of normally epiphytic lichens.

There is a zonation of shingle vegetation from shifting to more stable areas of grassland and lichen communities.

Areas of saltmarsh succeed to higher saltmarsh and neutral grassland with ditches.

There is a series of brackish lagoons and ditches; and borrow pits.

Ecosystem services

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## 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

### Nationally important species occurring on the site.

#### Higher Plants.

A range of nationally scarce plant species characteristic of freshwater, estuarine, and shingle habitats, and their transitions are present. These include: *Althaea officinalis*, *Frankenia laevis*, *Lathyrus japonicus*, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Medicago minima*, *Parapholis incurva*, *Puccinellia fasciculata*, *Ruppia cirrhosa*, *Sarcocornia perennis*, *Sonchus palustris*, *Trifolium suffocatum*, *Vicia lutea* and *Zostera angustifolia*.

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## 22. Noteworthy fauna:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

### Birds

#### Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:

#### Species regularly supported during the breeding season:

Eurasian marsh harrier , <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> , Europe	3 pairs, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5 year mean 1993-1997)
Mediterranean gull , <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> , Europe	6 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 5.5% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)
Sandwich tern , <i>Sterna</i> ( <i>Thalasseus</i> ) <i>sandvicensis sandvicensis</i> , W Europe	169 pairs, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year mean 1991-1995)

Little tern , <i>Sterna albifrons albifrons</i> , W Europe	88 apparently occupied nests, representing an average of 4.5% of the GB population (Seabird 2000 Census)
<b>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</b>	
Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , Iceland/W Europe	283 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Spotted redshank , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , Europe/W Africa	44 individuals, representing an average of 32.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , Europe/W Africa	29 individuals, representing an average of 4.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
<b>Species with peak counts in winter:</b>	
Greater white-fronted goose , <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i> , NW Europe	186 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean for 1996/7-2000/01)
Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe	1398 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian wigeon , <i>Anas penelope</i> , NW Europe	6851 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i> , NW Europe	2447 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i> , NW Europe	556 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i> , NW & C Europe	224 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

### Species Information

#### Nationally important species occurring on the site.

#### Invertebrates.

The highly specialised invertebrate fauna of the saline lagoons includes *Nematostella vectensis*, and *Gammarus insensibilis*, both species protected under Schedules 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Other notable invertebrates on the site include: *Malacosoma castrensis*, *Campsicnemus magius*, *Cheilosia velutina*, *Empis prodomus*, *Dixella attica*, *Hylaeus euryscapus*, *Pseudamnicola confusa*, *Euophrys browni*, *Baryphyma duffeyi*, *Haplodrassus minor*, *Trichoncus affinis*.

### 23. Social and cultural values:

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

- Aesthetic
- Aquatic vegetation (e.g. reeds, willows, seaweed)
- Archaeological/historical site
- Environmental education/ interpretation
- Fisheries production
- Livestock grazing
- Non-consumptive recreation

Scientific research  
 Sport fishing  
 Sport hunting  
 Tourism  
 Transportation/navigation

b) Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:

- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	+
Public/communal	+	

**25. Current land (including water) use:**

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Current scientific research	+	
Collection of non-timber natural products: commercial	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Marine/saltwater aquaculture	+	
Gathering of shellfish	+	
Permanent arable agriculture		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	
Harbour/port		+
Flood control		+
Irrigation (incl. agricultural water supply)		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

Explanation of reporting category:

1. Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.
2. Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.

NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Erosion	2		+		+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors?  
 Erosion - English Nature provides advice to the Environment Agency and coastal local authorities in relation to flood and coastal protection management. This will inform the development of the Suffolk Estuaries strategies and the second generation shoreline management plan.

A Management Scheme is required, taking into account the effects of erosion. A Coastal Habitat Management Plan will be produced for this site.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? YES

**27. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	+
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Other	+	
Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	+	
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	+	
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	+	
Management plan in preparation	+	

**b) Describe any other current management practices:**

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

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**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

**Fauna.**

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

**Environment.**

Monitoring estuarine processes.

Saline lagoon survey.

Study on the effects of guano-fication on shingle flora.

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

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**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

**Activities.**

The site is used informally for walking, boating and angling.

Facilities provided.

River moorings.

Seasonality.

Walking and boating activities are predominantly in spring and summer. Seasonal (winter) wildfowling occurs on the estuary.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,

European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6EB

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**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House, Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

---

**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

**Site-relevant references**

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- Suffolk Wildlife Trust (1993) *National Vegetation Classification of the saltmarsh of the Deben, Alde–Ore and Blyth estuaries, Suffolk*. Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Ashbocking

Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)



# NATURA 2000

## STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)  
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)  
AND  
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

### 1. Site identification:

1.1 Type  1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date  1.4 Update

#### 1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

#### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199610
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 33 03 E	52 04 58 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  2.3 Site length (km)

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK403	Suffolk	100.00%

#### 2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesia

Mediterranean

### 3. Ecological information:

#### 3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment

### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment				
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global	
Breed	Winter	Stage							
A081	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		>3 P			C		B	
A183	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		14070 P			A		C	
A151	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			3 I		C		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>			766 I		A		B	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		104 P			A		B	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		48 P			C		C	
A191	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>		170 P			C		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>			1919 I		C		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	50.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	20.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	25.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	5.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Mud, Nutrient-rich, Sedimentary, Shingle

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lagoon, Lowland, Shingle bar

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

#### During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

*Circus aeruginosus*

at least 1.9% of the GB breeding population  
5 year mean, 1993-1997

<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	23.1% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1990-1994
<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding)	2% of the GB breeding population 5 count mean, 1993-4,1996-8
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Western Europe/Western Africa)	1.2% of the GB breeding population 5 year mean, 1992-1996
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (Western Africa - wintering)	0.4% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	60.3% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

<b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</b>	
<b>During the breeding season the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Larus fuscus</i> (Western Europe/Mediterranean/Western Africa)	11.3% of the breeding population 5 year mean 1994-1998
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

### 4.3 Vulnerability

The area is vulnerable to sea-level rise and coastal squeeze. These issues are being addressed through The Environment Agency Local Environment Action Plan, the estuary Management Plan and possibly managed retreat. Human disturbance from recreation is minimal as this is a reasonably robust system. Flood defence policy will need to take into account risks to the site from flooding and of flood control alleviation measures. Shooting is controlled through a management plan. A considerable part of the site is managed sympathetically by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and English Nature.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	4.5
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS)

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).

## Notes for compilers:

1. The RIS should be completed in accordance with the attached *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines for completing the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands*. Compilers are strongly advised to read this guidance before filling in the RIS.
2. Further information and guidance in support of Ramsar site designations are provided in the *Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, 2nd edition, as amended by COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex B). A 3rd edition of the Handbook, incorporating these amendments, is in preparation and will be available in 2006.
3. Once completed, the RIS (and accompanying map(s)) should be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat. Compilers should provide an electronic (MS Word) copy of the RIS and, where possible, digital copies of all maps.

---

## 1. Name and address of the compiler of this form:

### Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Monkstone House

City Road

Peterborough

Cambridgeshire PE1 1JY

UK

Telephone/Fax: +44 (0)1733 – 562 626 / +44 (0)1733 – 555 948

Email: [RIS@JNCC.gov.uk](mailto:RIS@JNCC.gov.uk)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD MM YY

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Designation date

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Site Reference Number

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## 2. Date this sheet was completed/updated:

Designated: 11 March 1996

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## 3. Country:

UK (England)

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## 4. Name of the Ramsar site:

Deben Estuary

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## 5. Designation of new Ramsar site or update of existing site:

**This RIS is for:** Updated information on an existing Ramsar site

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## 6. For RIS updates only, changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:

### a) Site boundary and area:

\*\* Important note: If the boundary and/or area of the designated site is being restricted/reduced, the Contracting Party should have followed the procedures established by the Conference of the Parties in the Annex to COP9 Resolution IX.6 and provided a report in line with paragraph 28 of that Annex, prior to the submission of an updated RIS.

### b) Describe briefly any major changes to the ecological character of the Ramsar site, including in the application of the Criteria, since the previous RIS for the site:

**7. Map of site included:**

Refer to Annex III of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines*, for detailed guidance on provision of suitable maps, including digital maps.

a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:

- i) **hard copy** (required for inclusion of site in the Ramsar List): *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;
- ii) **an electronic format** (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image) *Yes*
- iii) **a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables** *yes* ✓ -or- *no* ☐;

b) **Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:**

e.g. the boundary is the same as an existing protected area (nature reserve, national park etc.), or follows a catchment boundary, or follows a geopolitical boundary such as a local government jurisdiction, follows physical boundaries such as roads, follows the shoreline of a waterbody, etc.

The site boundary is the same as, or falls within, an existing protected area.

For precise boundary details, please refer to paper map provided at designation

**8. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude):**

52 02 31 N                      01 20 44 E

**9. General location:**

Include in which part of the country and which large administrative region(s), and the location of the nearest large town.

Nearest town/city: Ipswich

Deben Estuary is located in East Anglia, on the east coast of Suffolk. It extends 18 km from the tidal limit above Wilford Bridge near Woodbridge, south to the mouth of the estuary at Felixstowe.

**Administrative region:** Suffolk

**10. Elevation** (average and/or max. & min.) (metres):    **11. Area** (hectares): 978.93

Min.	-1
Max.	4
Mean	1

**12. General overview of the site:**

Provide a short paragraph giving a summary description of the principal ecological characteristics and importance of the wetland.

This estuary is relatively narrow and sheltered. It has limited amounts of freshwater input and the intertidal areas are constrained by sea-walls. The site supports nationally and internationally-important flora and fauna.

**13. Ramsar Criteria:**

Circle or underline each Criterion applied to the designation of the Ramsar site. See Annex II of the *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* for the Criteria and guidelines for their application (adopted by Resolution VII.11).

**2, 6**

**14. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in 13 above:**

Provide justification for each Criterion in turn, clearly identifying to which Criterion the justification applies (see Annex II for guidance on acceptable forms of justification).

Ramsar criterion 2

Supports a population of the mollusc *Vertigo angustior* (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1014); British Red Data Book Endangered). Martlesham Creek is one of only about fourteen sites in Britain where this species survives.

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

**Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):**

**Species with peak counts in winter:**

Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla* 1953 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB 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. See [www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm](http://www.bto.org/survey/webs/webs-alerts-index.htm).

**15. Biogeography** (required when Criteria 1 and/or 3 and /or certain applications of Criterion 2 are applied to the designation):

Name the relevant biogeographic region that includes the Ramsar site, and identify the biogeographic regionalisation system that has been applied.

**a) biogeographic region:**

Atlantic

**b) biogeographic regionalisation scheme** (include reference citation):

Council Directive 92/43/EEC

**16. Physical features of the site:**

Describe, as appropriate, the geology, geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth, water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; downstream area; general climate, etc.

Soil & geology	mud, sedimentary
Geomorphology and landscape	lowland, coastal, valley, intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), estuary
Nutrient status	eutrophic
pH	no information
Salinity	saline / euhaline
Soil	mainly mineral
Water permanence	usually permanent
Summary of main climatic features	Annual averages (Lowestoft, 1971–2000) ( <a href="http://www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lowestoft.html">www.metoffice.com/climate/uk/averages/19712000/sites/lowestoft.html</a> ) Max. daily temperature: 13.0° C Min. daily temperature: 7.0° C Days of air frost: 27.8 Rainfall: 576.3 mm Hrs. of sunshine: 1535.5

**General description of the Physical Features:**

The Deben Estuary extends south-eastwards for over 12 km from the town of Woodbridge to the sea just north of Felixstowe. It is relatively narrow and sheltered, and has limited amounts of freshwater input. The estuary mouth is the narrowest section and is protected by the presence of shifting sandbanks. The intertidal areas are constrained by sea-walls. The saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats that occupy the majority of the site, however, display the

most complete range of saltmarsh community types in Suffolk. The estuary holds a range of swamp communities that fringe the estuary, and occasionally form larger stands. In general, these are dominated by common reed *Phragmites australis*.

### 17. Physical features of the catchment area:

Describe the surface area, general geology and geomorphological features, general soil types, general land use, and climate (including climate type).

The Deben Estuary extends south-eastwards for over 12 km from the town of Woodbridge to the sea just north of Felixstowe. It is relatively narrow and sheltered, and has limited amounts of freshwater input. The estuary mouth is the narrowest section and is protected by the presence of shifting sandbanks. The intertidal areas are constrained by sea-walls. The saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats that occupy the majority of the site, however, display the most complete range of saltmarsh community types in Suffolk.

### 18. Hydrological values:

Describe the functions and values of the wetland in groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilization, etc.

No special values known

### 19. Wetland types:

Marine/coastal wetland

Code	Name	% Area
H	Salt marshes	46.8
G	Tidal flats	36.8
F	Estuarine waters	15.3
U	Peatlands (including peat bogs swamps, fens)	1
E	Sand / shingle shores (including dune systems)	0.1

### 20. General ecological features:

Provide further description, as appropriate, of the main habitats, vegetation types, plant and animal communities present in the Ramsar site, and the ecosystem services of the site and the benefits derived from them.

The estuary supports a highly complex mosaic of habitat types including:

mudflats, lower and upper saltmarsh, swamp and scrub. The composition of the mosaic varies with substrate, frequency and duration of tidal inundation, exposure, location and management.

Ecosystem services

### 21. Noteworthy flora:

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

#### Nationally important species occurring on the site.

##### Higher Plants.

*Althaea officinalis*, *Bupleurum tenuissimum*, *Lepidium latifolium*, *Puccinellia fasciculata*, *Sarcocornia perennis*, *Suaeda vera*, *Zostera angustifolia* are nationally scarce plants associated with estuarine habitats.

**22. Noteworthy fauna:**

Provide additional information on particular species and why they are noteworthy (expanding as necessary on information provided in 12. Justification for the application of the Criteria) indicating, e.g. which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc., including count data. *Do not include here taxonomic lists of species present – these may be supplied as supplementary information to the RIS.*

**Birds****Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:****Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:**

Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> , Iceland/W Europe	307 individuals, representing an average of 1.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i> , Europe/W Africa	22 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

**Species with peak counts in winter:**

Bean goose , <i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i> , NW Europe - wintering	5 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (Source period not collated)
Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> , NW Europe	832 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Pied avocet , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> , Europe/Northwest Africa	167 individuals, representing an average of 4.9% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Spotted redshank , <i>Tringa erythropus</i> , Europe/W Africa	3 individuals, representing an average of 2.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> ,	2124 individuals, representing an average of 1.8% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

**Species Information****Nationally important species occurring on the site.****Invertebrates.**

*Vertigo angustior* (Nationally Scarce)

*Vertigo pusilla* (Nationally Scarce)

**23. Social and cultural values:**

Describe if the site has any general social and/or cultural values e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological sites, social relations with the wetland, etc. Distinguish between historical/archaeological/religious significance and current socio-economic values.

- Aesthetic
- Fisheries production
- Non-consumptive recreation
- Sport fishing
- Sport hunting
- Tourism
- Transportation/navigation

**b)** Is the site considered of international importance for holding, in addition to relevant ecological values, examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning? No

If Yes, describe this importance under one or more of the following categories:



- i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland:
- ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland:
- iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples:
- iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland:

**24. Land tenure/ownership:**

Ownership category	On-site	Off-site
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	+	+
National/Crown Estate	+	
Private	+	+

**25. Current land (including water) use:**

Activity	On-site	Off-site
Nature conservation	+	+
Tourism	+	+
Recreation	+	+
Cutting of vegetation (small-scale/subsistence)	+	
Fishing: commercial	+	
Fishing: recreational/sport	+	
Bait collection	+	
Arable agriculture (unspecified)		+
Grazing (unspecified)	+	+
Hunting: recreational/sport	+	
Flood control		+
Irrigation (incl. agricultural water supply)		+
Urban development		+
Non-urbanised settlements		+

**26. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site’s ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:**

*Explanation of reporting category:*

1. *Those factors that are still operating, but it is unclear if they are under control, as there is a lag in showing the management or regulatory regime to be successful.*
2. *Those factors that are not currently being managed, or where the regulatory regime appears to have been ineffective so far.*

*NA = Not Applicable because no factors have been reported.*

Adverse Factor Category	Reporting Category	Description of the problem (Newly reported Factors only)	On-Site	Off-Site	Major Impact?
Erosion	2	Coastal squeeze within the Deben Estuary	+		+

For category 2 factors only.

What measures have been taken / are planned / regulatory processes invoked, to mitigate the effect of these factors? Erosion - English Nature provides advice to the Environment Agency and coastal local authorities in relation to flood and coastal protection management. This will inform the development of the Suffolk Estuaries strategies and the second generation shoreline management plan.

Is the site subject to adverse ecological change? YES

**27. Conservation measures taken:**

List national category and legal status of protected areas, including boundary relationships with the Ramsar site; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it is being implemented.

Conservation measure	On-site	Off-site
Site/ Area of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI/ASSI)	+	
Special Protection Area (SPA)	+	
Land owned by a non-governmental organisation for nature conservation	+	
Site management statement/plan implemented	+	
Other	+	+
Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB)	+	
Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)	+	

**b) Describe any other current management practices:**

The management of Ramsar sites in the UK is determined by either a formal management plan or through other management planning processes, and is overseen by the relevant statutory conservation agency. Details of the precise management practises are given in these documents.

**28. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:**

e.g. management plan in preparation; official proposal as a legally protected area, etc.

No information available

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**29. Current scientific research and facilities:**

e.g. details of current research projects, including biodiversity monitoring; existence of a field research station, etc.

**Fauna.**

Numbers of migratory and wintering wildfowl and waders are monitored annually as part of the national Wetland Birds Survey (WeBS) organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

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**30. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:**

e.g. visitor centre, observation hides and nature trails, information booklets, facilities for school visits, etc.

None reported

---

**31. Current recreation and tourism:**

State if the wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type(s) and their frequency/intensity.

**Activities.**

Boating and walking locally and bird watching centred on Martlesham Creek and Felixstowe Ferry.  
Fishing.

**Facilities provided.**

Moorings along the river at Woodbridge, Waldring Field, Ramsholt.

**Seasonality.**

Activities are predominantly undertaken during the summer especially fishing, as this is when thin-lipped grey mullet *Liza ramada* enter the estuary.

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**32. Jurisdiction:**

Include territorial, e.g. state/region, and functional/sectoral, e.g. Dept. of Agriculture/Dept. of Environment, etc.

Head, Natura 2000 and Ramsar Team, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,  
European Wildlife Division, Zone 1/07, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol,  
BS1 6EB

---

**33. Management authority:**

Provide the name and address of the local office(s) of the agency(ies) or organisation(s) directly responsible for managing the wetland. Wherever possible provide also the title and/or name of the person or persons in this office with responsibility for the wetland.

Site Designations Manager, English Nature, Sites and Surveillance Team, Northminster House,  
Northminster Road, Peterborough, PE1 1UA, UK

---

**34. Bibliographical references:**

Scientific/technical references only. If biogeographic regionalisation scheme applied (see 15 above), list full reference citation for the scheme.

**Site-relevant references**

Anon. (2002) *Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Coastal Habitat Management Plan: Executive summary*. English Nature, Peterborough (Living with the Sea LIFE Project) [www.english-nature.org.uk/livingwiththesea/project\\_details/good\\_practice\\_guide/HabitatCRR/ENRestore/CHaMPs/SuffolkCoast/SuffolkCHaMP.pdf](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/livingwiththesea/project_details/good_practice_guide/HabitatCRR/ENRestore/CHaMPs/SuffolkCoast/SuffolkCHaMP.pdf)

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- Davidson, NC, Laffoley, D d'A, Doody, JP, Way, LS, Gordon, J, Key, R, Pienkowski, MW, Mitchell, R & Duff, KL (1991) *Nature conservation and estuaries in Great Britain*. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough
- Doody, JP, Johnston, C & Smith, B (1993) *Directory of the North Sea coastal margin*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough
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- Musgrove, AJ, Langston, RHW, Baker, H & Ward, RM (eds.) (2003) *Estuarine waterbirds at low tide. The WeBS Low Tide Counts 1992–93 to 1998–99*. WSG/BTO/WWT/RSPB/JNCC, Thetford (International Wader Studies, No. 16)
- Musgrove, AJ, Pollitt, MS, Hall, C, Hearn, RD, Holloway, SJ, Marshall, PE, Robinson, JA & Cranswick, PA (2001) *The Wetland Bird Survey 1999–2000: wildfowl and wader counts*. British Trust for Ornithology, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds & Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Slimbridge. [www.wwt.org.uk/publications/default.asp?PubID=14](http://www.wwt.org.uk/publications/default.asp?PubID=14)
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- Suffolk Wildlife Trust (1993) *National Vegetation Classification of the saltmarsh of the Deben, Alde–Ore and Blyth estuaries, Suffolk*. Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Saxmundham

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Please return to: **Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland**  
Telephone: +41 22 999 0170 • Fax: +41 22 999 0169 • email: [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)

# NATURA 2000

## STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)  
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)  
AND  
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

### 1. Site identification:

1.1 Type  1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date  1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199603
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 20 44 E	52 02 31 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  2.3 Site length (km)

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK403	Suffolk	100.00%

#### 2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesia

Mediterranean

### 3. Ecological information:

#### 3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment

### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Breed	Winter	Stage						
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		2516 I		B		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		95 I		B		B	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	80.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	18.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	1.0
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	1.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Mud, Sedimentary

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Coastal, Estuary, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Lowland, Valley

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

##### Over winter the area regularly supports:

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

(Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)

7.5% of the GB population

5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

#### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

##### Over winter the area regularly supports:

*Branta bernicla bernicla*  
(Western Siberia/Western Europe)

0.8% of the population  
5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

### 4.3 Vulnerability

The saltmarsh and intertidal habitats are vulnerable to sea level rise and coastal squeeze. These issues are being addressed through the Environment Agency LEAP, the estuary Shoreline Management Plan and research into possible managed retreat in parts of the site.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0

- ▶ **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**
  - **UK SAC summary**
    - **UK SAC site list**
  - England site list
  - Northern Ireland
  - Scotland
  - Wales
  - ▶ **SAC selection**
    - ▶ Summary
    - ▶ Background to site selection
    - Latest changes to the UK SAC list
    - Annex I Habitat accounts
    - Annex II Species accounts
    - Browse cSACs on a map
    - Notes on nomenclature
    - Search for a SAC
    - Other designations on UK SACs
    - cSACs in NI which adjoin cSACs in the RoI
    - Annex I habitats and Annex II species occurring in the UK
    - Abbreviations and acronyms
    - Acknowledgements
    - References
    - **Download spatial and summary data**
    - **Download GIS data**
    - ▶ **Marine SACs**

## Hamford Water

### Site details

<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Unitary Authority</b>	Essex
<b>Centroid*</b>	TM217276
<b>Latitude</b>	51.9025
<b>Longitude</b>	1.2236
<b>SAC EU code</b>	UK0030377
<b>Status</b>	Candidate site submitted to the EU (Candidate)
<b>Area (ha)</b>	50.35

\* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

### General site character

Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water) (7%)  
 Grassland and scrub habitats (general) (85%)  
 Woodland habitats (general) (8%)

[Boundary map](#) and associated biodiversity information on the NBN Gateway.

[Natura 2000 data form](#) for this site as submitted to Europe (PDF format, size 30kb).

[Interactive map](#) from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).



Location of Hamford Water SAC/SCI/cSAC

### Note:

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, **all** features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

### 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

#### 4035 [Fisher's estuarine moth](#) *Gortyna borelii lunata*

Fisher's estuarine moth *Gortyna borelii lunata* has a localised population distribution in the UK, due to its specific habitat requirements and is only found in two areas, the north Essex coast and the north Kent Coast. Hamford Water supports the majority of the Essex population and is the most important UK site for this species, supporting approximately 70% of the population. Hamford Water is a large, shallow estuarine basin comprising tidal creeks, islands, intertidal mud, sand flats and saltmarshes. Above the saltmarsh there is unimproved and improved grassland (including grazing marsh), scrub, woodland, hedges, ditches, ponds and reedbeds. The site encompasses those areas where the moth's food plant hog's fennel (*Peucedanum officinale*) grows and where there is an abundance of the grasses required by the species for egg laying.

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

Not applicable.

*Many designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site in these pages does not imply any right of public access.*





# NATURA 2000

## STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)  
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)  
AND  
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

### 1. Site identification:

1.1 Type  1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date  1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	199306
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 14 29 E	51 52 46 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  2.3 Site length (km)

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK54	Essex	100.00%

#### 2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesia

Mediterranean

### 3. Ecological information:

#### 3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment

### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Breed	Winter	Stage						
A052	<i>Anas crecca</i>		3631 I		B		C	
A046a	<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>		6892 I		B		C	
A137	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		520 I		C		C	
A156	<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>		1121 I		A		C	
A141	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		3251 I		B		C	
A132	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		317 I		A		B	
A195	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	55 P			B		C	
A048	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		1629 I		B		C	
A162	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		1461 I		C		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	70.0
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	25.0
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	1.0
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	2.0
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	1.0
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

#### Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Clay, Mud, Neutral, Sand

#### Geomorphology & landscape:

Barrier beach, Coastal, Enclosed coast (including embayment), Estuary, Floodplain, Intertidal sediments (including sandflat/mudflat), Islands, Lagoon, Lowland, Open coast (including bay), Subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank)

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Eastern Atlantic - breeding)	2.3% of the GB breeding population 4 year mean 1992-1995
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Western Europe/Western Mediterranean - breeding)	25% of the GB population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

<b>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</b>	
<b>Over winter the area regularly supports:</b>	
<i>Anas crecca</i> (North-western Europe)	2.7% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Western Siberia/Western Europe)	2.3% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> (Europe/Northern Africa - wintering)	1.1% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> (Iceland - breeding)	1.7% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	7.5% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (North-western Europe)	2.2% of the population in Great Britain 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96
<i>Tringa totanus</i> (Eastern Atlantic - wintering)	0.8% of the population 5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96

### 4.3 Vulnerability

The main vulnerability is due to natural changes in sea level, leading to accelerated erosion of saltmarshes. The problem is being addressed in two ways; use of sand and gravels from dredging in Harwich harbour to reinforce existing beaches and protecting grazing marsh areas by reinforcing seawall toe with these materials in the most aggressive areas. The option of managed realignment may be considered in the future.

The nature of the site leads to potential water quality problems due to discharge from boats and from local sewage works as well as small industrial discharges. English Nature is addressing this problem with Water Quality Control officers of the Environment Agency (monitoring) and any authorised discharges will be reviewed under the provisions of the Habitat Regulations.

Although a secluded backwater the site attracts a large number of yachts and accompanying watersports. There is occasional disturbance to the site by water and jet skiers. This is controlled by a wardening scheme.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK01 (NNR)	64.8
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0



- ▶ **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**
  - **UK SAC summary**
    - **UK SAC site list**
    - England site list
    - Northern Ireland
    - Scotland
    - Wales
  - ▶ **SAC selection**
    - ▶ Summary
    - ▶ Background to site selection
    - Latest changes to the UK SAC list
    - Annex I Habitat accounts
    - Annex II Species accounts
    - Browse cSACs on a map
    - Notes on nomenclature
    - Search for a SAC
    - Other designations on UK SACs
    - cSACs in NI which adjoin cSACs in the Rol
    - Annex I habitats and Annex II species occurring in the UK
    - Abbreviations and acronyms
    - Acknowledgements
    - References
    - **Download spatial and summary data**
    - **Download GIS data**
  - ▶ **Marine SACs**

## Orfordness - Shingle Street

### Site details

<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Unitary Authority</b>	Suffolk
<b>Centroid*</b>	TM440486
<b>Latitude</b>	52.08138889
<b>Longitude</b>	1.561388889
<b>SAC EU code</b>	UK0014780
<b>Status</b>	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
<b>Area (ha)</b>	901.19

\* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

### General site character

Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins) (25%)  
 Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes (15%)  
 Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets (40%)  
 Improved grassland (18%)  
 Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites) (2%)

[Boundary map](#) and associated biodiversity information on the NBN Gateway.

[Natura 2000 data form](#) for this site as submitted to Europe (PDF format, size 30kb).

[Interactive map](#) from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).

### Note:

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, **all** features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

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

**1150 Coastal lagoons** \* Priority feature

Note: not a marine feature as occur landward of Highest Astronomical Tide Orfordness – Shingle Street encompasses a series of percolation **lagoons** on the east coast of England, and, together with Benacre to Easton Bavents and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast, forms a significant part of the percolation lagoon resource concentrated in this part of the UK. The lagoons at this site have developed in the shingle bank adjacent to the shore at the mouth of the Ore estuary. The salinity of the lagoons is maintained by percolation through the shingle, although at high tides sea water can overtop the shingle bank. The fauna of these lagoons includes typical lagoon species, such as the cockle *Cerastoderma glaucum*, the ostracod *Cyprideis torosa* and the gastropods *Littorina saxatilis tenebrosa* and *Hydrobia ventrosa*. The nationally rare starlet sea anemone *Nematostella vectensis* is also found at the site.

**1210 Annual vegetation of drift lines**

Orfordness is an extensive shingle spit some 15 km in length and is one of two sites representing **Annual vegetation of drift lines** on the east coast of England. In contrast to Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes, drift-line vegetation occurs on the sheltered, western side of the spit, at the transition from shingle to saltmarsh, as well as on the exposed eastern coast. The drift-line community is widespread on the site and comprises sea beet *Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima* and orache *Atriplex* spp. in a strip 2-5 m wide.

**1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks**

Orfordness is an extensive shingle structure on the east coast of England and consists of a foreland, a 15 km-long spit and a series of recurves running from north to south on the Suffolk coast. This spit has been selected as it supports some of the largest and most natural sequences in the UK of shingle vegetation affected by salt spray. The southern end of the spit has a particularly fine series of undisturbed ridges, with zonation of communities determined by the ridge pattern. Pioneer communities with sea pea *Lathyrus japonicus* and false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* grassland occur. Locally these are nutrient-enriched by the presence of a gull colony; elsewhere they support rich lichen communities. The northern part of Orfordness has suffered considerable damage from defence-related activities but a restoration programme for the shingle vegetation is underway.

### 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.



Location of Orfordness - Shingle Street SAC/SCI/cSAC

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

Not applicable.

*Many designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site in these pages does not imply any right of public access.*

# NATURA 2000

## STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)  
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)  
AND  
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

### 1. Site identification:

1.1 Type  1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date  1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

### 1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	
date confirmed as SCI	
date site classified as SPA	200108
date site designated as SAC	

### 2. Site location:

#### 2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 26 33 E	52 04 44 N

2.2 Site area (ha)  2.3 Site length (km)

#### 2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK403	Suffolk	100.00%

#### 2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine

Atlantic

Boreal

Continental

Macaronesia

Mediterranean

### 3. Ecological information:

#### 3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment



### 3.2 Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I

Code	Species name	Population			Site assessment			
		Resident	Migratory		Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
Breed	Winter	Stage						
A224	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>		109 P		B		C	
A246	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		154 P		B		C	

## 4. Site description:

### 4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	1.5
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	0.9
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	14.6
Dry grassland. Steppes	11.5
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	0.1
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	10.6
Coniferous woodland	57.6
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	1.4
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	1.8
<b>Total habitat cover</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 4.1 Other site characteristics

**Soil & geology:**

**Geomorphology & landscape:**

### 4.2 Quality and importance

#### ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

**During the breeding season the area regularly supports:**

<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	3.2% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1992
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	10.3% of the GB breeding population Count as at 1997

#### ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)

### 4.3 Vulnerability

Sandlings SPA comprises six SSSIs. Sandlings Forest SSSI, the largest of these, is dominated by commercial forestry. Within the forest, large areas of open ground suitable for woodlark and nightjar were created by storm damage in 1987. Maintenance of open areas in the future relies on clear felling as the main silvicultural practice and the maintenance of some areas earmarked for woodlark and nightjar habitat. These objectives are included in the East Anglia Forest District Strategic Plan.

On the heathland SSSIs, lack of traditional management has resulted in the heathland being subjected to successional changes with the consequent spread of bracken, shrubs and trees. This is being addressed through habitat management work under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and Tomorrows Heathland Heritage, and is resulting in the restoration of more typical heathland habitat favourable to both nightjar and woodlark.

Human influences on the site include the frequent presence of travellers' caravans. This is a longstanding problem, and a variety of mechanisms are utilised to keep them from the heathland; the digging of trenches and construction of earth barriers around the borders of sites is proving effective.

## 5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0

► **Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)**

• **UK SAC summary**

**UK SAC site list**

• England site list

• Northern Ireland

• Scotland

• Wales

► **SAC selection**

    ► Summary

    ► Background to site selection

    • Latest changes to the UK SAC list

    • Annex I Habitat accounts

    • Annex II Species accounts

    • Browse cSACs on a map

    • Notes on nomenclature

    • Search for a SAC

    • Other designations on UK SACs

    • cSACs in NI which adjoin cSACs in the RoI

    • Annex I habitats and Annex II species occurring in the UK

    • Abbreviations and acronyms

    • Acknowledgements

    • References

    • **Download spatial and summary data**

    • **Download GIS data**

► **Marine SACs**

## Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden

### Site details

<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Unitary Authority</b>	Suffolk
<b>Centroid*</b>	TM356509
<b>Latitude</b>	52.10583333
<b>Longitude</b>	1.440833333
<b>SAC EU code</b>	UK0012741
<b>Status</b>	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
<b>Area (ha)</b>	81.45

\* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

### General site character

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (100%)

[Boundary map](#) and associated biodiversity information on the NBN Gateway.

[Natura 2000 data form](#) for this site as submitted to Europe (PDF format, size 30kb).

[Interactive map](#) from MAGIC (Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside).



Location of Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden SAC/SCI/cSAC

### Note:

When undertaking an appropriate assessment of impacts at a site, **all** features of European importance (both primary and non-primary) need to be considered.

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

#### 9190 [Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains](#)

This site is representative of **old acidophilous oak woods** in the eastern part of its range, and its ancient oaks *Quercus* spp. have rich invertebrate and epiphytic lichen assemblages. Despite being in the most 'continental' part of southern Britain, the epiphytic lichen flora of this site includes rare and Atlantic species, such as *Haemotomma elatinum*, *Lecidea cinnabarina*, *Thelotrema lepadinum*, *Graphis elegans* and *Stenocybe septata*. Part of the site includes an area of old holly *Ilex aquifolium* trees that are probably the largest in Britain. The site has a very well-documented history and good conservation of woodland structure and function.

### 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.

*Many designated sites are on private land: the listing of a site in these pages does not imply any right of public access.*

## ***Appendix 4***



## **European Site Conservation Objectives for Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0012741**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

### **Qualifying Features:**

H9190. Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations”) and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for those features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England’s website. This list is far from exhaustive.



## **European Site Conservation Objectives for Orfordness – Shingle Street Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0014780**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

### **Qualifying Features:**

H1150. Coastal lagoons\*

H1210. Annual vegetation of drift lines

H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves

\* denotes a priority natural habitat or species (supporting explanatory text on following page)

## **This is a European Marine Site**

This site is a part of the Alde Ore & Butley European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk), or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

### **\* Priority natural habitats or species**

Some of the natural habitats and species listed in the Habitats Directive and for which SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Directive and the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (\*) in Annex I and II of the Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Directive or the Habitats Regulations.

### **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for those features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.



**European Site Conservation Objectives for  
Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries Special Area of Conservation  
Site code: UK0030076**

With regard to the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species;
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

**Qualifying Features:**

H1130. Estuaries

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations”) and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving favourable conservation status for those features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England’s website. This list is far from exhaustive.

## European Site Conservation Objectives for Alde–Ore Estuary Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9009112

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- 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 populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### Qualifying Features:

- A081 *Circus aeruginosus*; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding)
- A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)
- A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Breeding)
- A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)
- A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
- A183 *Larus fuscus*; Lesser black-backed gull (Breeding)
- A191 *Sterna sandvicensis*; Sandwich tern (Breeding)
- A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

### Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:

- Seabird assemblage
- Waterbird assemblage

## **This is a European Marine Site**

This site is a part of the Alde Ore & Butley European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk), or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

## **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of 'Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review'. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.

**European Site Conservation Objectives for  
Hamford Water Special Protection Area  
Site Code: UK9009131**

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- 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 populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

**Qualifying Features:**

- A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
- A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
- A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
- A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)
- A137 *Charadrius hiaticula*; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)
- A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
- A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
- A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
- A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

**Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:**

- A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)
- A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)
- Waterbird assemblage

## **This is a European Marine Site**

This site is a part of the Hamford Water European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk), or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

## **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of 'Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review'. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.



## European Site Conservation Objectives for Deben Estuary Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9009261

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- 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 populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### **Qualifying Features:**

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)

## **This is a European Marine Site**

This site is a part of the Deben Estuary European Marine Site. These conservation objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice Package, for further details please contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk), or by phone on 0845 600 3078, or visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx>

## **Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives**

European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of 'Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review'. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

This document is also intended for those who are preparing information to be used for an appropriate assessment by either the appropriate nature conservation body or a competent authority. As such this document cannot be definitive in how the impacts of a project can be determined. Links to selected sources of information, data and guidance which may be helpful can be found on Natural England's website. This list is far from exhaustive.





## European Site Conservation Objectives for Sandlings Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9020286

With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified ('the Qualifying Features' listed below);

**Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.**

Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:

- 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 populations of the qualifying features;
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### Qualifying Features:

A224 *Caprimulgus europaeus*; European nightjar (Breeding)

A246 *Lullula arborea*; Woodlark (Breeding)

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

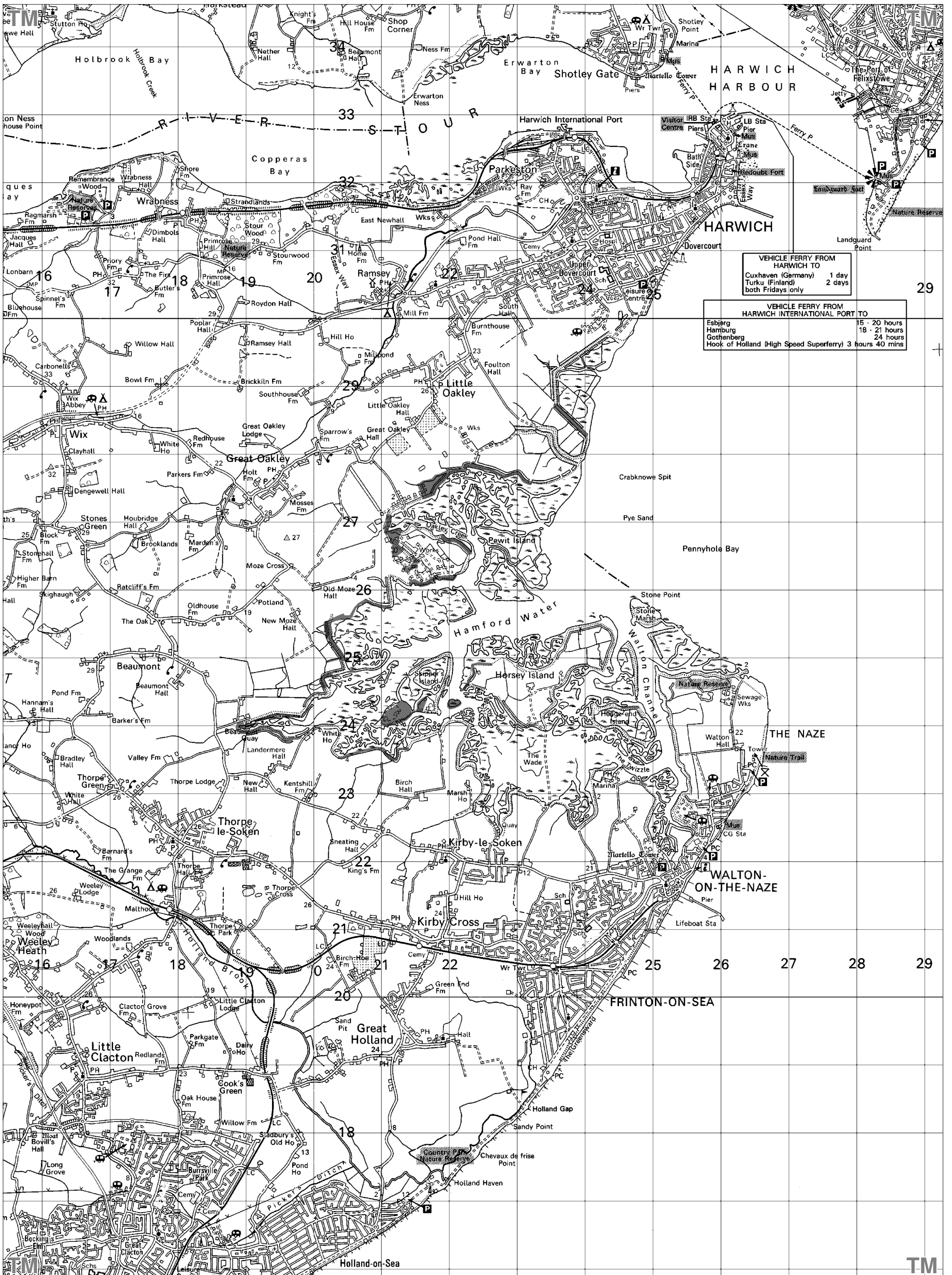
European Site Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations”) and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 1992. They are for use when either the appropriate nature conservation body or competent authority is required to make an Appropriate Assessment under the relevant parts of the respective legislation.

These conservation objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site can be said to demonstrate a high degree of integrity and the site itself makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive for those features. On the first page of this document there may be a list of ‘Additional Qualifying Features identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review’. These are additional features identified by the UK SPA Review published in 2001 and, although not yet legally classified, are as a matter of Government policy treated in the same way as classified features.

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# ***Appendix 5***





VEHICLE FERRY FROM HARWICH TO	
Cuxhaven (Germany)	1 day
Turku (Finland)	2 days
both Fridays only	
VEHICLE FERRY FROM HARWICH INTERNATIONAL PORT TO	
Esbjerg	15 - 20 hours
Hamburg	18 - 21 hours
Gothenburg	24 hours
Hook of Holland (High Speed Superferry)	3 hours 40 mins

candidate Special Area of Conservation

**Hamford Water**

Essex

candidate Special Area of Conservation  
50.35 Hectares

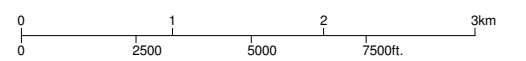
This map relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number: UK0030377  
Date of registration: 26 September 2013  
Signed: *L. Higham*

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

EU Site Code: UK0030377  
Version Number: 1  
Longitude: 1° 13' 25" E  
Latitude: 51° 54' 9" N  
Projection: British National Grid  
Area of SAC: 50.35 Hectares

Theme ID: 1475892  
Grid Ref: TM217276  
Version: 20130926  
Plotted: 24/09/2013  
PlotID: 1833

Scale 1:50000 at A3



Map 1 of 1

Candidate Special Area of Conservation Directive 92/43/EEC  
Submitted to the EC by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Date: 26 September 2013  
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# ***Appendix 6***

**Screening of Ipswich Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD**

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
DM33 Green Corridors	<p>The Council will seek to establish and enhance green corridors within the Borough and linking to adjacent open spaces and walking, cycling or riding routes</p> <p>Within the defined green corridors, development will only be permitted where it would maintain, and where possible enhance, the corridor's amenity, recreational and green transport functions</p>	No	<p>The Accompanying 'Plan 1' shows the location of green corridors, including one corridor adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA, designated largely for birds. Superficially, it appears that policy DM33 would permit a recreational development adjacent to the SPA which might cause an increase in the disturbance to birds. However, any such development would be subject to its own Habitats Regulations Assessment, and to policy DM34 below. Protection is also given by Core Strategy and Policies CS4 (Protecting our Assets) and DM31 (Protecting Local Natural and Geological Interest). It is certain that any development which would cause harm to the SPA would not be permitted.</p> <p>It is concluded that policy DM33 would not be likely to have a significant effect upon any European site.</p>

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
DM34 The ecological network	<p>The Council will seek to establish and enhance an ecological network across the Borough in accordance with the ecological network map.</p> <p>Within core areas of the network, sites of international and national importance for biodiversity or geodiversity identified on the policies map will be protected from development, which directly or indirectly would have an adverse effect on their natural value</p>	No	The policy protects sites of international importance (European sites) from development which would have an adverse effect.
DM35 Countryside	<p>Within the countryside defined on the policies map, major development will only be permitted provided it respects the character of the countryside and it:</p> <p>is necessary to support a sustainable rural business including tourism, or</p> <p>is a recreational use of land which retains its open character</p>	No	There are no defined areas of countryside near any European site on the Proposed Site Allocations and Policies Map. Policy DM 34 protects sites of international importance (European sites) from development which would have an adverse effect.

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
DM36 Employment areas	<p>The Employment Areas are defined on the policies map and the IP-One inset policies map</p> <p>This policy contains the town's main existing and proposed employment areas.</p> <p>All the existing employment areas have been reviewed and boundaries amended where appropriate.</p> <p>New employment areas have been designated at Ipswich Business Park north of Whitton Lane and Airport Farm Kennels south of Ravenswood.</p>	No	<p>Existing employment areas are not thought to have any current impacts upon European sites. Proposed new areas for employment land, within or adjacent to existing employment areas, or new sites, are all separated sufficiently from the Stour and Orwell estuaries that no impact is likely to occur.</p> <p>Employment sites generally have a lower impact on European sites than does housing, as employment sites generally do not generate recreational impacts at distance as a result of an increased human population.</p>
DM37 District and Local Centres	<p>District and Local Centres are defined on the policies map. Within defined District and Local Centres, Core Strategy policy DM21 shall apply.</p> <p>District and Local Centres perform an important role serving, to varying degrees, the day-to-day convenience, food and services needs of their local resident catchment populations. Ipswich contains 12 existing District Centres and 34 Local Centres (with additional centres of both types proposed through the Core Strategy</p>	No	Existing District and Local Centres are not thought to have any current impacts upon European sites. Proposed new Centres are all separated sufficiently from the Stour and Orwell estuaries that no impact is likely to occur.
DM38 The protection of allocated sites	Sites will be safeguarded for the use(s) for which they have been allocated.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.



<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
DM39 Land allocated for housing	Sites are allocated for residential development, or part residential development within mixed use developments as indicated in Table 1 of the DPD. There are over 40 sites listed, with an indicative capacity of 2,409 homes. Sites are shown on the policies map and the IP-One inset policies map	No	Sites generally are at some distance from Stour and Orwell estuaries SPA. The closest sites are over 500m distant from the SPA, so regular visits by residents on foot are unlikely. No individual site is likely to have a significant effect upon any European site. The cumulative impact of the total amount of housing is assessed separately, within the parallel Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review which is currently being made in parallel with this document.
DM40 Land with planning permission or awaiting a Section 106 Agreement	As at 1st April 2013, the sites listed in Table 2 of the Plan have planning permission for residential development, student accommodation or mixed use development including residential use, which has not been implemented or has started and then stalled, or are awaiting the completion of a Section 106 Agreement	No	Development on these sites has already been tested through a planning application and found to be acceptable.
DM41 Land allocated for Gypsy and Traveller sites	Two sites currently used by Gypsies and Travellers are identified on the policies map and are protected for that use. Land is allocated for an additional permanent Gypsy and Traveller site, at Site IP261 Land at River Hill.	No	Existing sites are not thought to have any current impacts upon European sites. The proposed new site is separated sufficiently from the Stour and Orwell estuaries that no impact is likely to occur

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
DM42 Land allocated for employment use	Seventeen sites are allocated for employment development within Use Classes B1, B2 or B8, either in their entirety or as part of mixed use developments as specified in Table 3 of the Plan.	No	Existing or disused sites are not thought to have any current impacts upon European sites. Proposed new areas for employment development, within or adjacent to existing employment areas, or new sites, are all separated sufficiently from the Stour and Orwell estuaries that no impact is likely to occur.
DM43 Land allocated and protected as open space	<p>Existing open spaces are defined on the policies map. Within the defined open spaces, Core Strategy policy DM28 (protection of facilities) shall apply.</p> <p>Development of sites shall include more than the standard amount of public open space, as specified in Table 4 in the Plan. These are sites where some loss of open space would occur, thus the policy maintains usable open space.</p>	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
DM44: Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities	Land is allocated for leisure uses or community facilities as specified in Table 5 of the Plan, on stand alone sites or as part of larger development sites	Yes (likely to be positive)	<p>The table includes the provision of a new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm, adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and to Bridge Wood.</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment to the adopted Core Strategy advised that visitor management measures were needed at Bridge Wood to protect the Orwell Estuary Special Protection Area. Pond Hall Farm offers the ideal opportunity to provide a visitor centre in the medium to long term, to raise visitor awareness of the potential impacts of disturbance on over wintering birds on the estuary and to draw visitors away from the foreshore. Its effect is likely to be positive.</p> <p>A detailed planning application will need to demonstrate impacts on the SPA, and itself be subject to Appropriate Assessment. It is considered that a planning application could demonstrate no harm to the SPA, and some benefit in current managing visitor impacts through the provision of a country park.</p> <p>The need for community infrastructure associated with the Northern Fringe development is dealt with through the Core Strategy (which will be subject to Appropriate Assessment) and supplementary planning document. Appendix 3 provides additional information about the sites allocated through this policy.</p>

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
DM45 Safeguarding land on development sites for transport infrastructure	Development of the following sites for the uses allocated through other policies in this plan shall incorporate provision for transport infrastructure, as specified in Table 6 of the Plan	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.
DM46 Port of Ipswich	Land is allocated for port related uses at the Ash Tip, Cliff Quay (site reference IP262).	Uncertain	This land was included in the 1997 Local Plan proposals map for port use. The land is adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. It is uncertain whether 'port-related uses' would include construction of a new quay or a new quay, or be constrained to expansion of shore based facilities. A new quay, or shore-based facilities, might have an impact upon the adjacent SPA through land-take from the estuary, or from additional disturbance to birds.
DM47: Central Shopping Area	The Central Shopping Area is defined on the IP-One inset policies map. Within the Central Shopping Area, Core Strategy policy DM20 shall apply	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.
DM48 Primary, Secondary and Speciality Shopping Areas and Frontages	Within the Central Shopping Area, Primary, Secondary and Speciality Shopping Areas are defined on the IP-One inset policies map	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.
DM49 Retail Site Allocation	Site IP40 (formerly IP40 and IP41, now combined) Land at Westgate is allocated for A1 retail-led mixed use development, which could include other uses provided the predominant retail use is delivered.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
DM50 District and Local Centres within IP-One	District Centres are defined on the IP-One inset policies map at Duke Street and Wherstead Road.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.
DM51 Town Centre Boundary	The town centre is defined on the IP-One inset policies map.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.
DM52 The Waterfront	The Waterfront is defined on the IP-One inset policies map. The Waterfront remains the focus for regeneration within central Ipswich to create high quality, mixed use neighbourhoods.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the location of the proposals.
DM53 Education Quarter	The Education Quarter is defined on the IP-One inset policies map, comprising the Suffolk New College campus and the University Campus Suffolk campus (and proposed primary school). Within the defined Education Quarter, development for education and ancillary uses such as student accommodation or offices will be permitted	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.
DM54 Arts, Culture and Tourism	The Council will support the retention and enhancement of existing facilities providing arts, cultural and tourism facilities, including visitor accommodation. New facilities for arts, culture or tourism including accommodation will be supported where they are focused within the town centre boundary or within the Waterfront area.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals. Any planning application which arises outside the Waterfront area would be protected from harming the SPA by other policies.






<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
DM55 Improving Pedestrian and Cycle Routes	The Council will support improvements to pedestrian and cycle routes within the town centre and linking the town centre to residential areas and beyond. It will seek opportunities to deliver specific improvements as listed.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.
DM56 Transport Proposals in IP-One	A route shown on the IP-One inset policies map is safeguarded for the provision of a new Wet Dock Crossing, linking Toller Road in the east with Mather Way in the west	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.
DM57 Town Centre Car Parking	The Council will pursue a town centre car parking policy.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.

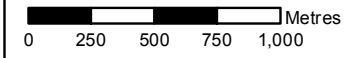
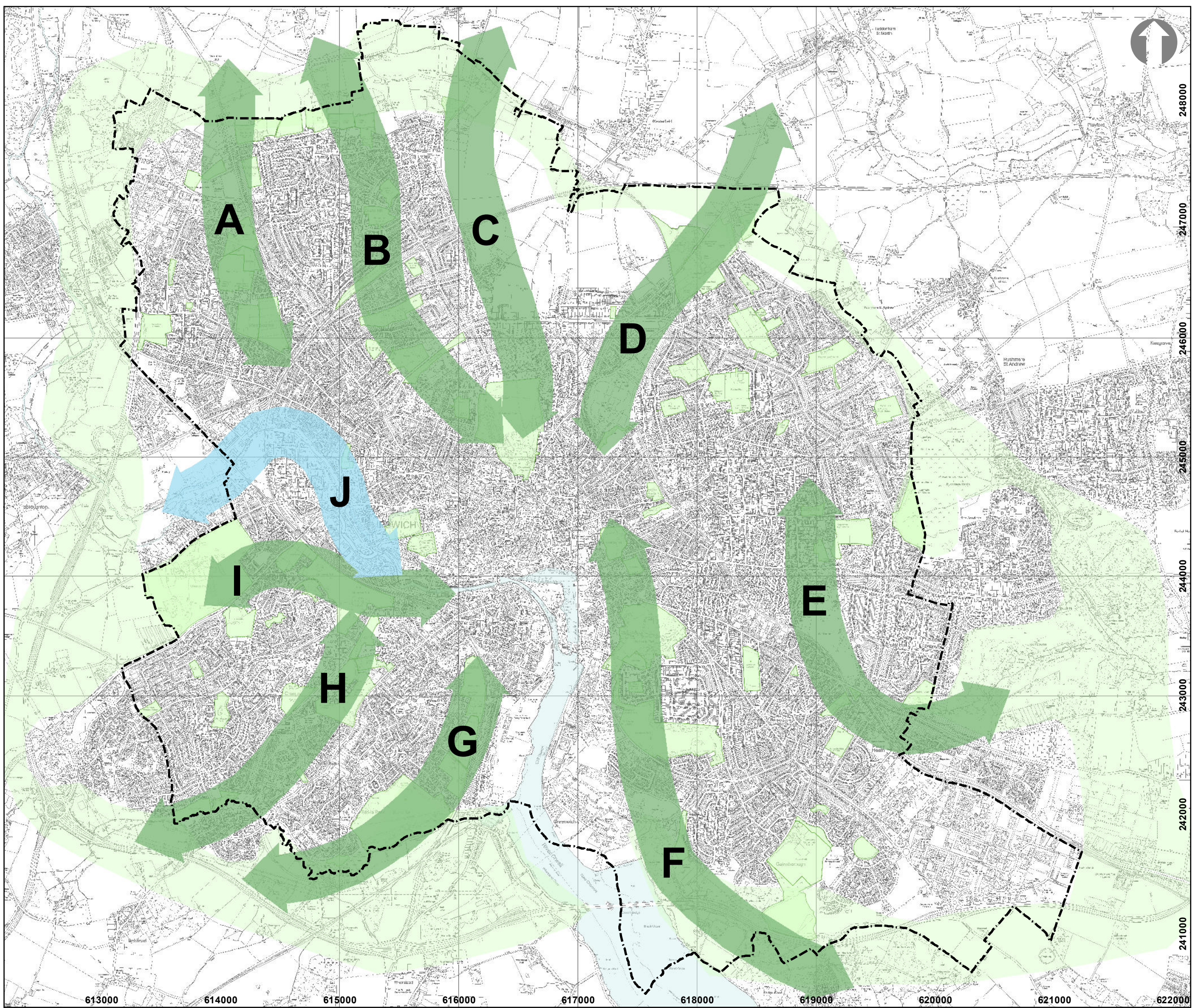
# ***Appendix 7***



**IPSWICH LOCAL PLAN**  
**Plan 1 Green Corridors**  
Draft 16th September 2013



-  Green Corridor  
(Policy DM33 - A to I)
-  River Corridor  
(Policy DM33 - J)
-  Green Rim - Indicative  
(Policy DM33 - K)
-  Existing Open Space, Playing  
Fields or Allotments
-  Ipswich Borough Boundary

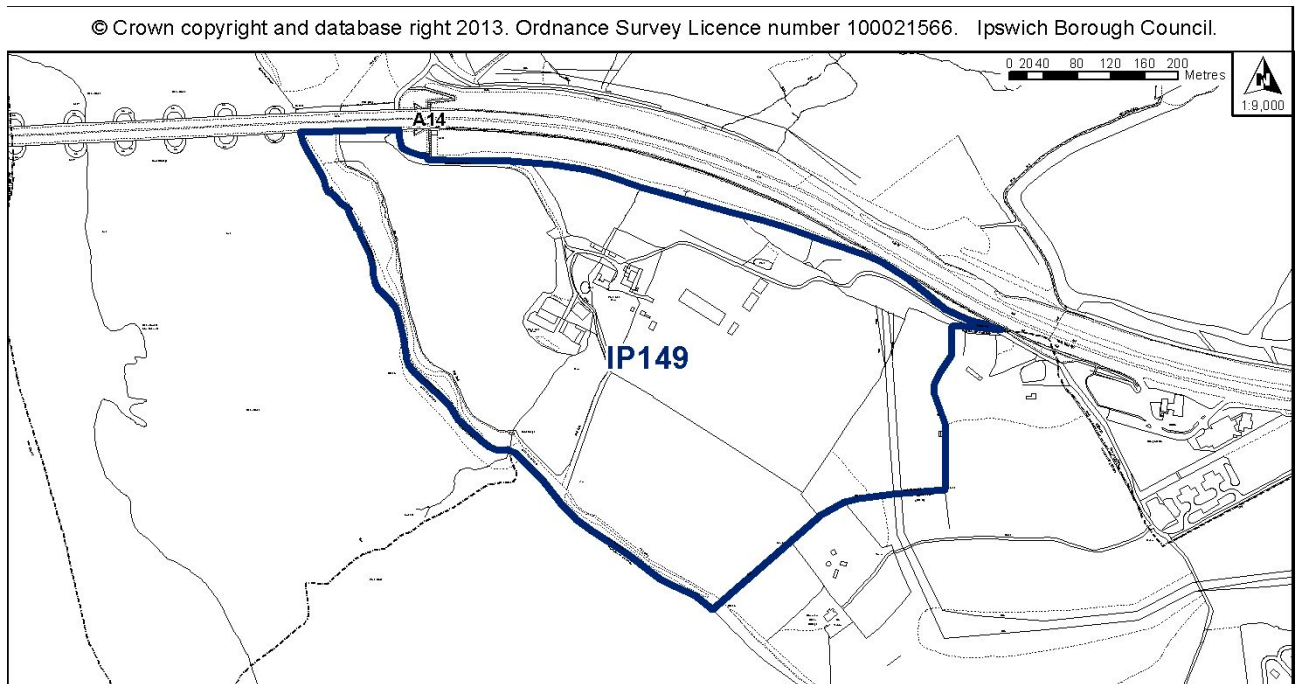




## ***Appendix 8***

**Site ref: IP149 (UC266) Pond Hall Farm**

**Site area: 24.7ha**



#### **Proposed Allocation Policy DM44**

Use(s)	% of site	Density of housing (H, M, L)*	Indicative capacity
Country Park extension and visitors' centre	100%	N/A	N/A

\* see Core Strategy policy DM30 for average densities.

#### **Preferred Option 2007**

No allocation

#### **Current use**

Farm land

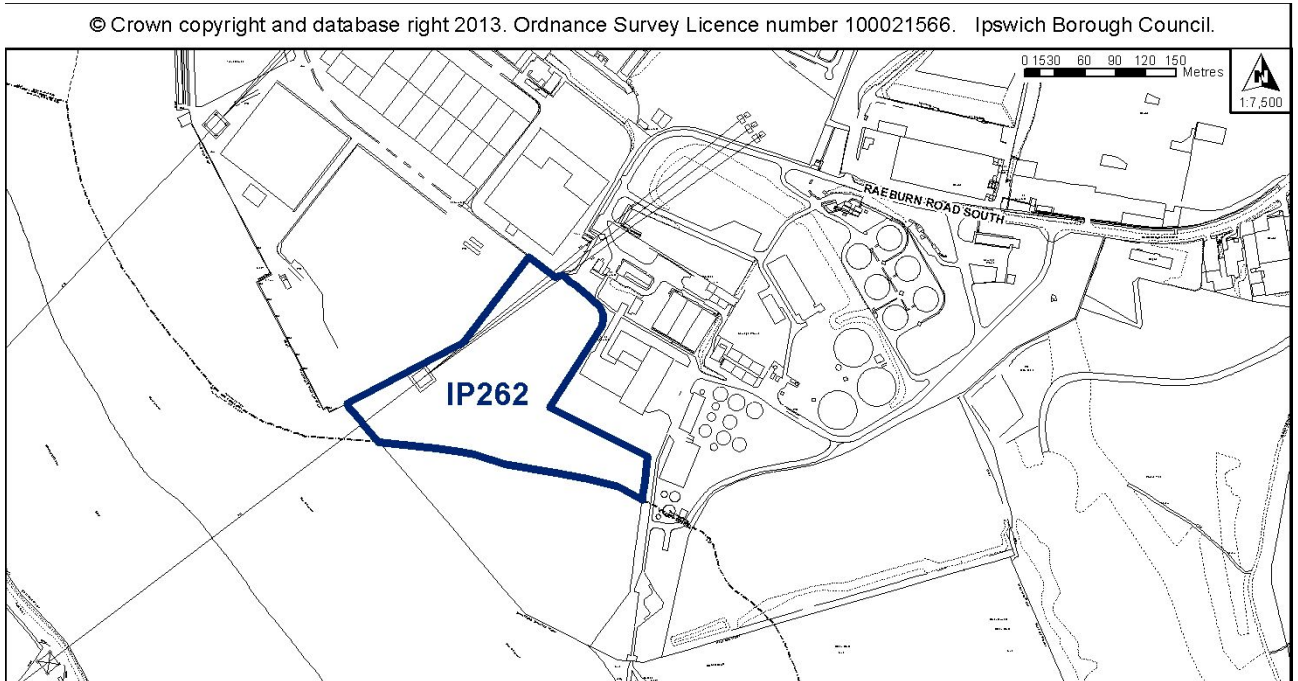
#### **Development constraints / issues**

Access constraints, possible contamination, adjacent to a Ramsar Site and Special Protection Area for Birds.

## ***Appendix 9***

**Site ref: IP262 (UC N/A) Former Ash Tip, Cliff Quay**

**Site area: 3.12ha**



**Proposed Allocation Policy DM46**

Use(s)	% of site	Density of housing (H, M, L)*	Indicative capacity
Port related uses	100%	N/A	N/A

\* see Core Strategy policy DM30 for average densities.

**Preferred Option 2007**

Site was not identified in 2007 (but was previously allocated in the 1997 Local Plan)

**Current use**

Vacant land.

**Development constraints / issues**

Close to an SPA and Ramsar Site. Odour from the sewage works.

# ***Appendix 10***

9 January 2014

Our ref: 103964



[nick.sibbett@tlp.uk.com](mailto:nick.sibbett@tlp.uk.com)

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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

T 0300 060 4276

Dear Mr Sibbett

### **Ipswich Borough Council - Site Allocations**

Thank you for your consultation dated 13 November 2013.

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

Natural England agrees with the conclusions reached that the Ipswich Borough Council Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is likely to have a significant effect on European sites, particularly with respect to Policy DM44 'Land allocated for leisure uses or community facilities' (new Country Park at Pond Hall Carr and Farm, allocation IP149), and 'The Port of Ipswich' (Policy DM46). This conclusion is made for the Plan alone, and in combination with the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review. Natural England agrees that an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is therefore necessary.

Natural England would like to also make the following specific comments:

1. It would be helpful to mention the name of the SPA which will be affected by the policies i.e. Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
2. Having looked at the Appropriate Assessment Screening Natural England would also advise that the following policies should be included in the Appropriate Assessment as Likely Significant effect cannot be ruled out:
  - a) Policy DM33 – Green Corridors – there is potential for recreational disturbance, an Appropriate Assessment is required to identify suitable mitigation measures and cannot rely on Policy DM34.
  - b) Policy DM36 employment areas – Whilst Natural England can agree with the conclusion that employment land is less likely to have recreational impacts compared to housing allocations there needs to be certainty that there are no pathways for other impacts to occur.
  - c) DM39 – Land Allocated for housing – This should be included in the Appropriate Assessment as whilst it may be that there will be an increase in visitors on foot from the 2000+ houses it doesn't take into account the possible increased visits by car. This should also therefore be included in the Appropriate Assessment.

For any queries relating to this consultation please contact Kate Wheeler by email at [kate.wheeler@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:kate.wheeler@naturalengland.org.uk) or on 0300 060 4276. For all other correspondence, please email [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk), or if it is not possible to consult by email, please send to the above address.

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

Yours sincerely

Kate Wheeler  
Land Use Operations

# ***Appendix 11***



**Nick Sibbett**

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**From:** Nick Sibbett  
**Sent:** 06 January 2014 09:37  
**To:** 'James Meyer'  
**Subject:** RE: Ipswich Borough Council - Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations

Hi James, thanks for your email.

I found two sites in the Site Allocations which might have likely significant effect, which were the Country Park, and an allocation for dock expansion next to the SPA. All the other allocations were sufficiently far that there were no individual allocations which would affect the SPA, although cumulatively they could do. I am looking at the cumulative impact within the Core Strategy only to avoid duplication, on the basis that if the Core Strategy fails then the Site Allocations would also fail. Hope this clarification on process helps.

best regards

Nick

**Nick Sibbett**  
Principal Ecologist

**The Landscape Partnership**

Please note our new address.

The Granary, Sun Wharf, Deben Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1AZ  
t: 01394 380 509 w: [thelandscapepartnership.com](http://thelandscapepartnership.com)

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**From:** James Meyer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 19 December 2013 17:33  
**To:** Nick Sibbett  
**Subject:** RE: Ipswich Borough Council - Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations

Hi Nick,

Thanks for this and apologies for taking so long to get back to you. If its not too late we had the following comments on the screening you have done for the Ipswich BC Core Strategy Review and Site Allocations documents:

- For the Core Strategy review document we'd agree with your screening.
- For the Site Allocations document whilst we'd agree with you screening policies DM44 and DM46 in to the AA, we'd query why the policies for the allocation of individual sites have all been screened out? As I understand it the cumulative impact (particularly through recreational disturbance) of the individual site allocation policies would in principle be assessed through the relevant strategic housing allocation policy in the Core Strategy. However, would assessing the individual site allocations enable you to determine the contribution each site (or combinations of sites) would make to the level of impact? Or is it IBC's intention that all residential development will contribute to strategic mitigation (i.e. the provision of new 'country park' facilities)? If the latter is the case I can understand why individual sites would be screened out.

Hope that makes sense!

06/01/2014

Kind regards

James

**James Meyer**  
**Conservation Planner**

---

**From:** Nick Sibbett [mailto:nick.sibbett@tlp.uk.com]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2013 17:06  
**To:** Simone Bullion; James Meyer  
**Cc:** Robert Hobbs  
**Subject:** Ipswich Borough Council - Site Allocations

Dear Simone and James,

On behalf of Ipswich Borough Council I request your advice regarding the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 'likely significant effect', for the Ipswich Draft Site Allocations and Policies. The Local Plan document and our 'likely significant effect' report are attached.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Best regards

Nick

**Nick Sibbett**  
Principal Ecologist

**The Landscape Partnership**  
Ancient House Mews, Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1DH  
t: 01394 380 509 w: [thelandscapepartnership.com](http://thelandscapepartnership.com)

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**Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Brooke House**  
**Ashbocking, Ipswich, IP6 9JY**  
**01473 890089**

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06/01/2014

consent to this.