

Ipswich Borough Council

Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (November 2015)

The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires that an 'appropriate assessment' is carried out in relation to any plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on European sites. Where an appropriate assessment is carried out a plan may only be adopted after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.

European sites are Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. Ramsar sites should also be given the same level of protection, as stated within the National Planning Policy Framework. The Stour and Orwell Estuaries Special Protection Area and Ramsar site lies partly within Ipswich Borough. The Appropriate Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies (Landscape Partnership, 2009), which relates to the adopted Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document, identified a list of European sites outside the Borough which may also be potentially be affected by development in Ipswich.

The purpose of this statement is to assess the need for appropriate assessment in relation to the Shop Front Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The primary purpose of the SPD is to provide detailed guidance for anyone intending to create a new shop front or alter an existing one. The SPD will provide guidance on each element of the shop front including fascias, windows, doors and doorways, stallrisers, material, colours, signs, lettering, canopies and blinds, illumination, shutters and grilles, forecourts and requirements for access into the shop.

The guidance provided in the SPD will relate to the implementation of policies DM5, DM8, DM9, DM20 and DM21 in the Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document. These policies were subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations as part of their production. This is contained in the 2009 Appropriate Assessment and the Updated Appropriate Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies (Landscape Partnership, 2010).

In relation to DM5 (known as DC5 at the time), the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that 'All new development will be required to achieve high standards of design. It will need to meet specified design criteria. This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

In relation to DM8 (known as DC7 at the time) the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that 'This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

In relation to DM9 (known as DC8 at the time) the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that that due to the support for trees in the policy 'This policy is therefore likely to have a positive impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

In relation to DM20 (known as DC18 at the time) the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that 'This policy is unlikely to have an impact

on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

In relation to DM21 (known as DC19 at the time) the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that 'This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

As the Shop Front SPD relates to the implementation of these policies it can be concluded that there will be no further effects on European sites and that an appropriate assessment is not required.

Natural England have been consulted on this Screening Report and concur with this conclusion.