

# Habitats Regulations Assessment

for

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

December 2014

## Quality control

Appropriate Assessment

for

### Ipswich Borough Council Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD

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# Contents

## Executive summary

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	The plan being considered.....	1
1.2	Appropriate Assessment requirement.....	1
1.3	Appropriate Assessment process .....	2
1.4	European sites.....	3
<b>2</b>	<b>European sites potentially affected.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Sites within the Local Plan area.....	4
2.2	Sites outside the Local Plan area .....	4
2.3	Other relevant plans or projects affecting these sites .....	6
<b>3</b>	<b>Likely significant effects.....</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1	Connected with the management of European sites .....	7
3.2	Criteria for screening of individual policies.....	7
3.3	Screening of individual policies.....	7
3.4	Policies removed from the Proposed Submission plan.....	8
3.5	Screening of the whole Plan.....	8
3.6	Screening of the Plan in combination with other plans.....	8
3.7	Conclusion of screening ('likely significant effect') .....	8
<b>4</b>	<b>Consultations.....</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	Consultation on 'Likely Significant Effect' .....	9
4.2	Consultation on the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD.....	9
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusions of Assessment.....</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Conclusions for the plan policies.....	11
5.2	Conclusion of cumulative impacts and relationships with other plans .....	11

## Figures

- 01 European sites in the study area

## Appendices

- 01 European sites within Ipswich Borough
- 02 Conservation Objectives for European site within Ipswich Borough
- 03 European sites within 15km of Ipswich Borough
- 04 Conservation Objectives for European sites within 15km of Ipswich Borough
- 05 Hamford Water cSAC plan
- 06 Screening of Policies
- 07 Correspondence from Natural England
- 08 Correspondence with Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- 09 Comments on January 2014 Appropriate Assessment

## Executive summary

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

The Habitat Regulations 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.

The Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD was also assessed in combination with the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review and is reliant on the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment of that Local Plan document.

The Assessment showed that Policy SP8 (allocation IP149 for a new Country Park at Pond Hall Farm), had been revised from the previous draft to give greater clarity that further studies were needed on SPA impacts before this allocation could be implemented, giving reassurance that the DPD would have no likely significant effect on a European site. Policy DM46, 'The Port of Ipswich', for which consultees expressed concern, has been dropped from the Plan. Policies DM33 'green corridors', DM36 'employment areas' and DM39 'land allocated for housing' which required Appropriate Assessment at Draft Plan stage have also been omitted from the Proposed Submission Plan. Other policies had no adverse affect upon the integrity of any European site.

# 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 Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD. This forms part of the Ipswich Local Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Draft plan (January 2014) was 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)'. Following a public consultation and amendments, the Draft plan has progressed to Proposed Submission stage.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD covers three main areas of policy. Firstly it identifies a wide range of sites across the whole Borough, which should be allocated for development or afforded a degree of protection from development (Chapter 4). Secondly it sets out policies for town centre uses such as retail and leisure (Chapter 5). Finally it provides development guidelines for six opportunity areas within IP-One where significant development and public realm improvements are anticipated (Chapter 6). Policies and proposals specifically for the IP-One area are included throughout the relevant sections of the plan, with only the additional development guidelines set out in a separate chapter for the Opportunity Areas.
- 1.1.4 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 review. An Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review has been completed in parallel with this document. The proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review was found to have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, subject to various mitigation measures being implemented.
- 1.1.5 The Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) was subject to an Appropriate Assessment in January 2014, by The Landscape Partnership. That Appropriate Assessment found that it could not be ascertained that 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' would not have an adverse affect upon the integrity of a European site, in their current form. This was primarily due to the potential for increased disturbance to wintering birds on the adjacent Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA / Ramsar site. However, design principles were suggested which would reduce impacts and allow no adverse affect upon integrity of the European site to be ascertained. No other polices were found to have an adverse affect upon the integrity of any European site.

## 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. Proposed Submission 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 below.

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### ***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.

### ***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 (downloaded from Natural England's publications website on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014), and Appendix 2 gives Natural England's Conservation Objectives for the European site from the same source.

#### ***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 (downloaded from Natural England's publications website on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014), and Appendix 4 gives Natural England's Conservation Objectives for these sites from the same source. 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 Proposed Submission 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 Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Focused Review 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 Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD. This assessment found that the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review had no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site outside the boundary of Ipswich (with mitigation embedded within the Plan), so the Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD would similarly have no impact upon those European sites.

2.3.3 The assessment of Ipswich Borough Council's Proposed Submission 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.

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

- Ipswich Borough Council Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review

### **3 Likely significant effects**

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

3.1.1 It is considered that the Ipswich Borough Proposed Submission 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. Changes to the policies since the Draft stage have been considered and there are no changes to the conclusion made at that time. The conclusion drawn from the table in Appendix 6 is that there are no policies where there is uncertainty as to whether there may be a significant effect on one or more European sites.

3.3.2 Policy SP2 (was policy DM39 at Draft stage) 'land allocated for housing' is included at Natural England's request from the 2013 scoping stage. Natural England requested further assessment as the residential site allocations are within a distance such that there may be increased visits by car.

3.3.3 The potential for increased visits are assessed within the Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies Local Plan 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 here but the conclusion, of no adverse affect upon the integrity of a European site, remains valid

3.3.4 Policy SP8, regarding Site IP149 Land at Pond Hall Carr and Farm is allocated as an extension to Orwell Country Park, to provide better management of visitors to this part of the Orwell Estuary SPA. The Council will also investigate further the feasibility of including a visitor centre facility within the site, including any potential impacts on the Special Protection Area. Current recreation use of the estuary in the Pond Hall Farm area is restricted to the estuary shore, and other parts of Pond Hall Farm are not accessible to the public. A Country Park at Pond Hall Farm offers the opportunity to give people the choice of walking inland at that point and thereby causing less disturbance to SPA birds.

3.3.5 A visitor centre would only be considered if a feasibility study showed there would be no impacts upon the SPA, providing reassurance that Policy SP8 would not result in a visitor centre

which would have an adverse effect upon the SPA. Visitor Centre proposals will need to be tested for any impacts on European sites according to policy DM31 of the Core Strategy and be subject to Appropriate Assessment. It is considered that a planning application may be able to demonstrate no harm to the SPA, and that there would be some benefit in managing visitor impacts through the provision of an extension to the country park.

3.3.6 Policy SP8 will in itself therefore not result in a likely significant effect upon any European site.

### **3.4 Policies removed from the Proposed Submission plan**

3.4.1 The policy DM46 'Port of Ipswich', which was in the Draft plan of January 2014, 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. This allocation had also been made in the 1997 Local Plan.

3.4.2 This policy has now been removed from the Plan due to the uncertainty, although the Ash Tip site remains in an existing employment area. Any proposals which come forward outwith the Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD would be required to undergo a Habitats Regulations Assessment and also be subject to policy DM31 of the Core Strategy and Policies DPD.

3.4.3 Natural England asked in 2013 for policies DM33, DM36 and DM39 to be screened back in to the Appropriate Assessment for the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD at that time. Policies DM33 and DM36 are now incorporated within the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review, as policies DM33 and DM25 respectively.

### **3.5 Screening of the whole Plan**

3.5.1 Policies in this Plan do not have cumulative effects on European sites.

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

3.6.1 The assessment of Ipswich Borough Council's Proposed Submission 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. The Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review has been found to have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site subject to embedded mitigation, and the Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD would similarly have no impact upon those European sites.

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

3.7.1 It is concluded that the Ipswich Borough Council Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD is not likely to have a significant effect on European sites. This conclusion is made for the Plan alone, and in combination with the Draft Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review. An Appropriate Assessment of the Plan is therefore not necessary.

## 4 Consultations

### 4.1 Consultation on 'Likely Significant Effect'

- 4.1.1 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.
- 4.1.2 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.
- 4.1.3 This email is appended in Appendix 7. Although the Likely Significant Effect report was not subsequently updated, Natural England's comments are addressed within this Appropriate Assessment and that of the Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review which now contains DM33 and DM36 within policies DM33 and DM25 respectively.
- 4.1.4 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 8.

### 4.2 Consultation on the Appropriate Assessment of the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD

- 4.2.1 An Appropriate Assessment was published with the Draft Local Plan documents for consultation with the public, stakeholders and statutory bodies from January to March 2014. Comments were received from Natural England, with primary concerns expressed regarding allocation IP149 Pond Hall Farm for a Country Park extension, DM46 'The Port of Ipswich' and cumulative effects arising from those allocations. A summary of these comments and how they have been addressed is contained in Appendix 9.
- 4.2.2 Ipswich Borough Council held a meeting with Natural England and Suffolk Wildlife Trust to explore those concerns, on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
- 4.2.3 The Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD subsequently was published with a separate Policy for allocation IP149 Pond Hall Farm. The revised policy recognises concerns regarding the Country Park and requires a feasibility study to comment on impacts on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA before any development is implemented. This change was to provide reassurance that the Country Park, and especially a visitor centre, would not be implemented unless it was clear that there would be no adverse affect on the integrity of the SPA.
- 4.2.4 Policy DM46 'The Port of Ipswich' was dropped as a result of Natural England's concerns. This does not prevent the possibility of a planning application arising on the Ash Tip site but it does

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mean that the development plan itself does not allocate land adjacent to the SPA for development. Any planning application would be subject to the requirements of Policy DM31 which reflects requirements relating to the Habitats Regulations.

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## **5 Conclusions of Assessment**

### **5.1 Conclusions for the plan policies**

5.1.1 It is concluded that there are no policies where there is uncertainty as to whether there may be a significant effect on one or more European sites.

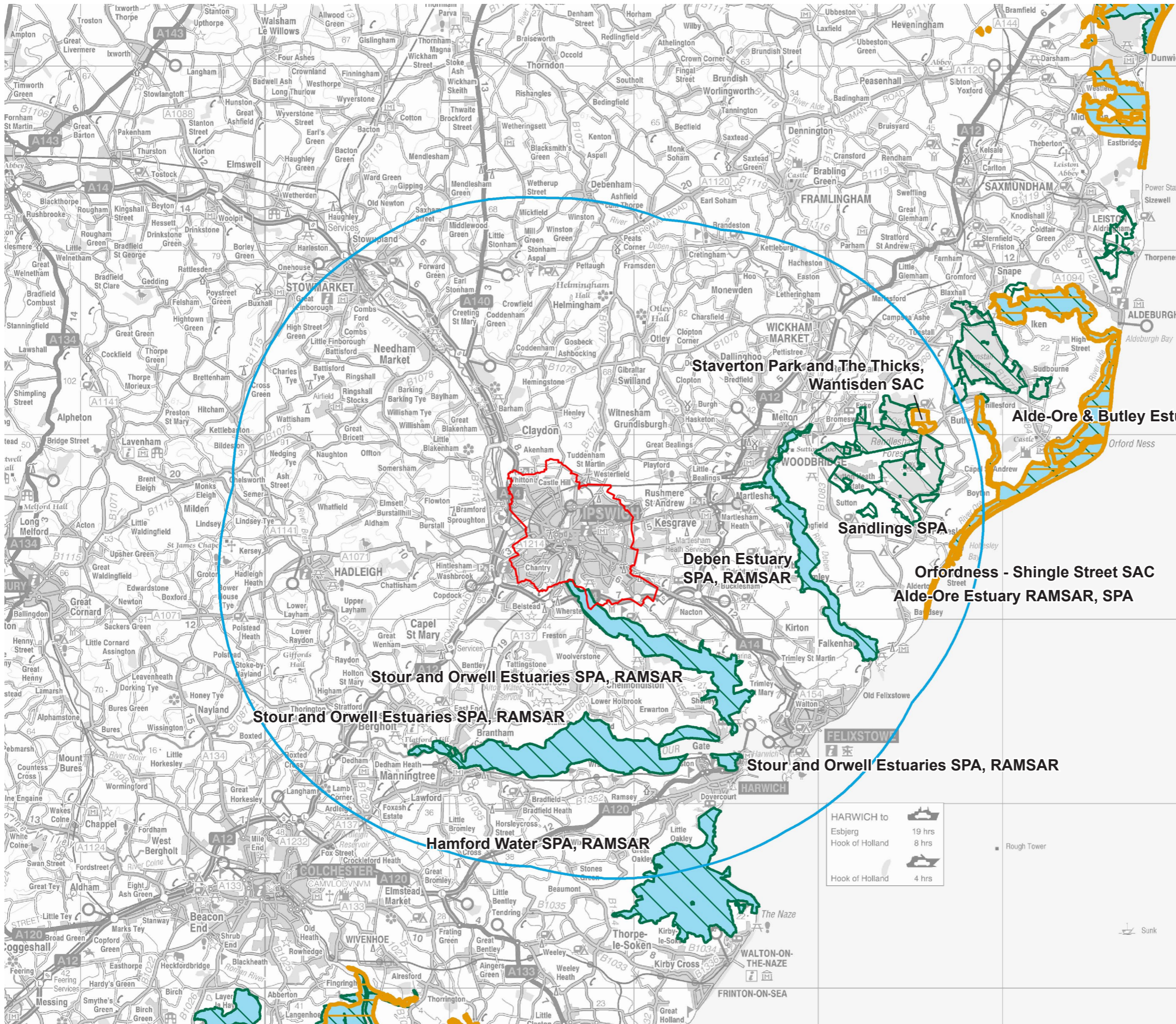
### **5.2 Conclusion of cumulative impacts and relationships with other plans**

5.2.1 Policies in this Plan do not have cumulative effects on European sites. The whole plan adds detail but no additional development or any additional cumulative effects than that which was assessed for the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review.

5.2.2 The Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies DPD Review has been found to have no adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site, and the Draft Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD similarly has no impact upon those European sites.

***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***

## EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds Special Protection Area (SPA)

**Name:** Stour and Orwell Estuaries

**Unitary Authority/County:** Essex, Suffolk.

**Site description:** The Stour and Orwell estuaries straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border in eastern England. The SPA is coincident with Cattawade Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Orwell Estuary SSSI and Stour Estuary SSSI. The estuaries include extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The mud-flats hold *Enteromorpha*, *Zostera* and *Salicornia* spp. The site also includes areas of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell and at Cattawade Marshes at the head of the Stour. Trimley Marshes on the north side of the Orwell includes several shallow freshwater pools, as well as areas of grazing marsh, and is managed as a nature reserve by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, while in winter it holds major concentrations of waterbirds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and some waders roost, in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA. The site has close ecological links with the Hamford Water and Mid-Essex Coast SPAs, lying to the south on the same coast.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 3,676.92 ha.

### Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex 1 species	Count and season	Period	% of GB population
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	21 pairs - breeding	5 year peak mean 1996 – 2000	3.6%

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed in Annex I) in any season:

Migratory species	Count and season	Period	% of subspecies/population
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	2,588 individuals – autumn passage	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	2.0% <i>britannica</i>
Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	2,627 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	1.2% <i>bernicla</i> , Western Siberia (breeding)
Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	741 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	1.2% Northwestern Europe (non-breeding)
Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	3,261 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	1.3% Eastern Atlantic (non- breeding)
Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> <i>islandica</i>	5,970 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	1.3% <i>islandica</i>
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	19,114 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	1.4% <i>alpina</i> , Western Europe (non-breeding)
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	2,559 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	7.3% <i>islandica</i>
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	3,687 individuals - wintering	5 year peak mean 1995/96 – 1999/2000	2.8% <i>britannica</i>

Bird counts from: Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) database.

#### Assemblage qualification:

The site qualifies under **article 4.2** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by over 20,000 waterbirds (waterbirds as defined by the Ramsar Convention) in any season:

In the non-breeding season, the area regularly supports 63,017 individual waterbirds (5 year peak mean 1993/94 - 1997/98), including great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, wigeon *Anas penelope*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, pintail *Anas acuta*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, knot *Calidris canutus islandica*, dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*, curlew *Numenius arquata*, redshank *Tringa totanus* and turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

**Non-qualifying species of interest:** The SPA/Ramsar site as a whole, including the proposed extensions, is used by non-breeding marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, merlin *Falco columbarius*, peregrine *Falco peregrinus*, short-eared owl *Asio flammeus* and kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (all species listed in Annex I of the EC Birds Directive) in numbers of less than European importance (less than 1% GB population). It also supports breeding common tern *Sterna hirundo*, little tern *Sterna albifrons* and kingfisher (all listed in Annex I) in numbers of less than European importance.

#### Status of SPA:

- 1) Stour and Orwell Estuaries was classified as a Special Protection Area on 13 July 1994.
- 2) Extensions to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA were classified on 19 May 2005.

## ***Appendix 2***



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **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

## This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.

## ***Appendix 3***



EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds:  
Special Protection Areas

Alde-Ore Estuary (Suffolk)

The Alde-Ore Estuary proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA) is situated on the east coast of Suffolk between Aldeburgh in the north and Bawdsey in the south. The site comprises the estuary complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness. The variety of habitats important for breeding and wintering birds includes vegetated shingle, intertidal mudflats, semi-improved grazing marsh, saltmarsh and saline lagoons.

The site includes the entire Alde-Ore Estuary SSSI, notified in 1985 (revised in 1992 under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981). The Alde-Ore Estuary SSSI includes the Orfordness-Havergate NNR, the English Nature owned part of which has already been designated as Orfordness-Havergate SPA.

The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive by sustaining nationally important numbers of the following Annex 1 species, marsh harrier *Circus aeruginosus* (breeding), avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (wintering and breeding) ruff *Philomachus pugnax* (wintering), sandwich tern *Sterna sandvicensis* (breeding) and little tern *Sterna albifrons* (breeding). Further Annex 1 species winter on site, including, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*, golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, and short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*. Mediterranean gull *Larus melanocephalus*, common tern *Sterna hirundo* and Arctic tern *Sterna paradisaea* breed on Havergate Island.

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive by regularly supporting internationally important numbers of two migratory species. The Orfordness colony of breeding lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*, represented in 1995, 12% of the British population and 8% of the world population of the *graellsii* race. The five year wintering peak mean 1989/90 to 1993/94 for redshank *Tringa totanus*, was 1,662 birds, representing 1.5 % of the British population and 1.1% of the east Atlantic flyway population.

The site supports over 1% of the British wintering population of the following (calculated from five year winter peak means 1989/90 to 1993/94), shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, wigeon *Anas penelope*, teal *Anas crecca*, black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*. In addition, the site supports over 1% of the British breeding population of, Gadwall *Anas strepera*, shoveler *Anas clypeata* and herring gull *Larus argentatus*.

The site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wetland birds, in addition to the species mentioned above. Breeding species include, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* (also winter) black headed gull *Larus ridibundus* and barn owl *Tyto alba*. Wintering species include, cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, European white-fronted goose *Anser abifrons albifrons*, brent goose *Branta bernicla*, pintail *Anas acuta*, grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, dunlin *Calidris alpina* and curlew *Numenius arquata*.

This citation / map relates to a site entered in  
the Register of European sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number UK9000112  
Date of registration 25 AUG 1998

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment

SPA Citation  
January 1996

# EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries

**Unitary Authority/County:** Suffolk

**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005

**Grid reference:** TM444509

**SAC EU code:** UK0030076

**Area (ha):** 1561.53

**Component SSSI:** Alde-Ore Estuary SSSI

### Site description:

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 has extensive areas of saltmarsh and a reedbed community bordering intertidal mudflats. It 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.

The adjacent shingle and lagoon habitats are designated separately as the Orfordness-Shingle Street SAC.

**Qualifying habitats:** The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- Estuaries
- Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. (Intertidal mudflats and sandflats)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0030076

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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

**EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds:  
Special Protection Area**

**The Deben Estuary (Suffolk)**

The Deben Estuary Special Protection Area (SP A) extends for about 18km from the mouth of the estuary at Felixstowe, on the east coast of Suffolk to near the tidal limit above Wilford Bridge. It is a relatively narrow and sheltered estuary with a limited amount of freshwater input and intertidal areas constrained by sea walls. Saltmarsh and intertidal mud flats occupy the majority of the site but there are also areas of reedswamp, unimproved neutral grassland and scrub. The estuary is largely surrounded by agricultural land.


The boundary of the SPA is coincident with the Deben Estuary SSSI, notified in 1991, and overlaps with the Ferry Cliff, and Sutton and Ramsholt Cliff geological SSSIs. The site includes all land above mean low water mark up to an inland boundary that follows variable features such as the upper limit of wetland habitat or the sea wall.

The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive by regularly supporting nationally important numbers of avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, an Annex 1 species. The five year winter peak mean for the period 1988/89 to 1992/93 was 57 birds, representing 11.4% of the British population. Further Annex 1 species wintering on the site include golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*, hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* and short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*.

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive by regularly supporting internationally important numbers of dark-bellied geese, *Branta bernicula bernicula*, a regularly occurring migratory species. The five year winter peak mean for the period 1988/89 to 1992/93 was 1,889 birds, representing 2.1% of the British and 1.1% of the north-west European population. In addition the site supports nationally important numbers of the following migratory waterfowl (figures are five year winter peak means for the period 1988/89 to 1992/93): 1,046 shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (1.4% of the British population); 252 grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (1.2% of British); 143 black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (2.9% of British); and 1,454 redshank *Tringa totanus* (1.9% of British).

The site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wetland birds in addition to the species mentioned above. Breeding species include shelduck, gadwall *Anas strepera*, teal *A. crecca*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, redshank, oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* and snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. Wintering species include cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*, teal, pintail *Anas acuta*, wigeon *A. penelope*, goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, coot *Fulica atra*, oystercatcher, ringed plover, dunlin *Calidris alpina*, snipe, curlew *Numenius arquata*, turnstone *Areneria interpres* and twite *Carduelis flavirostris*. The estuary is more important for many species of waterfowl in years when severe weather reduces food resources available on the continent.

SPA Citation  
March 1996

This citation / map relates to a site entered in  
the Register of European sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number UK9009261  
Date of registration 25 AUG 1999  
Signed   
on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Environment

## Reasons for recommendation as a candidate Special Area of Conservation

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Area name: Hamford Water

Administrative area: Essex

Component SSSI: Hamford Water

This area has been recommended as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) because it contains species which are rare or threatened within a European context. The SSSI citation describes the special interests for which the site was notified in the British context. The interests for which the site was selected as SSSI may differ from the interests selected in a European context.

The species for which the area has been recommended as a candidate SAC is listed below. The reasons for their selection are listed, together with a brief description of the habitats and species as they typically occur across the UK. This area contains the interests described although it may not contain all the typical features.

The area is considered to have a high diversity of habitats/species of European importance.

### Interest(s) submitted to the European Commission

#### European priority interest(s):

1. Fisher's estuarine moth *Gortyna borelii lunata*

- **for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.**

*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.

<b>For agency use only:</b>
<b>Date issued:</b> _____
<b>Reference number or date of map:</b> _____

## EC Directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds: Special Protection Area

### Hamford Water (Essex)

Hamford Water is a large, shallow estuarine basin comprising tidal creeks and islands, intertidal mud and sand flats, and saltmarshes.

The flats are a small, locally sheltered area of medium to low level clay and silt flats. In places, particularly on the seaward side, the London Clay bedrock is exposed, and this area with soft recent muds provides contrasting substrates for inter-tidal algae and invertebrates. The saltmarsh fringe is of varying width outside the sea wall around most of Hamford Water, and the islands, notably Horsey, Skippers, Hedge-End and Garnham's, have substantial saltmarsh on their margins or, locally, within their breached sea walls.

The site qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting, in summer, a nationally important breeding population of little terns *Sterna albifrons*. An average of 35 pairs was present during the five-year period 1986-90, representing 1% of the British breeding population.

Hamford Water also qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting a nationally important wintering population of avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. During the five-year period 1986/87 to 1990/91, an average peak count of 99 birds was recorded, representing 7% of the British wintering population.

The site qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting internationally or nationally important wintering populations of the following six species of migratory waterfowl (average peak counts for the five-year winter period 1986/87 to 1990/91): 5,650 dark-bellied brent geese *Branta bernicla bernicla* (2% of the Western European and 4% of the British wintering population); 1,580 black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* (2% of East Atlantic Flyway population, 33% of British); 1,240 redshank *Tringa totanus* (1% of North West population, 2% of British); 620 ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula* (1% of EAF, 3% of British); 840 shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* (1% of British); 3,630 teal *Anas crecca* (2% of British); and 1,080 grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola* (2% of British).

During severe winter weather elsewhere, Hamford Water can assume even greater national and international importance as wildfowl and waders from many other areas arrive, attracted by the relatively mild climate, compared with continental European areas, and the abundant food resources available.

SPA Citation  
July 1992

# EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Orfordness – Shingle Street

**Unitary Authority/County:** Suffolk

**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005

**Grid reference:** TM440486

**SAC EU code:** UK0014780

**Area (ha):** Suffolk

**Component SSSI:** Alde-Ore Estuary SSSI

### Site description:

Orfordness is an extensive shingle structure consisting of a foreland, a 15 km-long spit and a series of recurves running from north to south. It supports some of the largest and most natural sequences in the UK of shingle vegetation affected by salt spray. The southern end 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.

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 and comprises sea beet *Beta vulgaris* ssp. *maritima* and orache *Atriplex* spp.

The site also includes a series of percolation lagoons that 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.

The adjacent estuarine and intertidal habitats are designated separately as the Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC.

**Qualifying habitats:** The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Annual vegetation of drift lines
- Coastal lagoons\*
- Perennial vegetation of stony banks. (Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves)

Annex I priority habitats are denoted by an asterisk (\*).

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0014780

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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

# EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds

## Citation for Special Protection Area (SPA)

**Name:** Sandlings

**Unitary Authority/County:** Suffolk

**Consultation proposal:** All or parts of Blaxhall Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Leiston - Aldeburgh SSSI, Sandlings Forest SSSI, Snape Warren SSSI, Sutton & Hollesley Heaths SSSI and Tunstall Common SSSI have been recommended as a Special Protection Area because of their European ornithological importance. In particular, for their breeding populations of Nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* and Woodlarks *Lullula arborea*.

**Site description:** The Sandlings SPA lies near the Suffolk Coast between the Deben Estuary and Leiston. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area was dominated by heathland developed on glacial sandy soils. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, large areas of heath were planted with blocks of commercial conifer forest and others were converted to arable agriculture. Lack of traditional management has resulted in the remnant areas of heath being subject to successional changes, with the consequent spread of bracken, shrubs and trees, although recent conservation management work is resulting in their restoration. The heaths support both acid grassland and heather-dominated plant communities, with dependant invertebrate and bird communities of conservation value. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* have also adapted to breeding in the large conifer forest blocks, using areas that have recently been felled and recent plantation, as well as areas managed as open ground.

**Size of SPA:** The SPA covers an area of 3,391.80 ha.

### Qualifying species:

The site qualifies under **article 4.1** of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex 1 species	Count and Season	Period	% of GB population
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	109 males - breeding	Count as a 1992	3.2% GB
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	154 pairs - breeding	Count as at 1997	10.3% GB

Bird figures from:

Morris, A., Burges, D., Fuller, R.J., Evans, A.D. & Smith, K.W. 1994. The status and distribution of nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in Britain in 1992. A report to the British Trust for Ornithology. *Bird Study* **41**: 181-191.

Wotton, S.R. & Gillings, S. 2000. The status of breeding woodlarks in Britain in 1997. *Bird Study* **47**: 212-224.

### Status of SPA

Sandlings was classified as a Special Protection Area on 10 August 2001.

# EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

## Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

**Name:** Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden  
**Unitary Authority/County:** Suffolk  
**SAC status:** Designated on 1 April 2005  
**Grid reference:** TM356509  
**SAC EU code:** UK0012741  
**Area (ha):** 81.45  
**Component SSSI:** Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden SSSI

### Site description:

This site is representative of old oak *Quercus* spp. woods, and its ancient oaks 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.

**Qualifying habitats:** The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

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

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0012741

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: *Trevor Salmon*

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



## ***Appendix 4***



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and**
- **The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **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

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’, including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term ‘favourable conservation status’ is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England’s Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **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)

## This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Alde Ore & Butley European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **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 SPA is a part of the Deben Estuary European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **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)



## This is a European Marine Site

This SPA is a part of the Hamford Water European Marine Site (EMS). These Conservation Objectives should be used in conjunction with the Regulation 35 Conservation Advice document for the EMS. For further details about this please visit the Natural England website at:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/marine/protectandmanage/mpa/europeansites.aspx> or contact Natural England's enquiry service at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk) or by phone on 0845 600 3078.

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



## **European Site Conservation Objectives for Hamford Water candidate Special Area of Conservation Site code: UK0030377**

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely**
- **The populations of qualifying species, and,**
- **The distribution of qualifying species within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features:**

S4035. *Gortyna borellii lunata*; Fisher's estuarine moth

## **This site is currently a candidate Special Area of Conservation**

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) are sites that have been submitted to the European Commission by Government, but have not yet been formally adopted.

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

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’, including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

Candidate SACs are European Sites and the provisions of the Habitats Regulations apply to them.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term ‘favourable conservation status’ is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 August 2014 – version 1.



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and**
- **The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **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

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.



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

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features**
- **The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely**
- **The population of each of the qualifying features, and,**
- **The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features:**

A224 *Caprimulgus europaeus*; European nightjar (Breeding)

A246 *Lullula arborea*; Woodlark (Breeding)

## Explanatory Notes: European Site Conservation Objectives

These 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. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a ‘Habitats Regulations Assessment’ including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where this is available) will also provide a framework to inform the management of the European Site under the provisions of Articles 4(1) and 4(2) of the Wild Birds Directive, and the prevention of deterioration of habitats and significant disturbance of its qualifying features required under Article 6(2) of the Habitats Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each bird feature for a [Special Protection Area \(SPA\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 (Version 2). This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England’s Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014. Previous references to additional features identified in the 2001 UK SPA Review have also been removed.



## European Site Conservation Objectives for Staverton Park and The Thicks, Waitisden Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0012741

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

**Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;**

- **The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats**
- **The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and**
- **The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely**

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying *Supplementary Advice* document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.

### **Qualifying Features:**

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

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



## \* 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

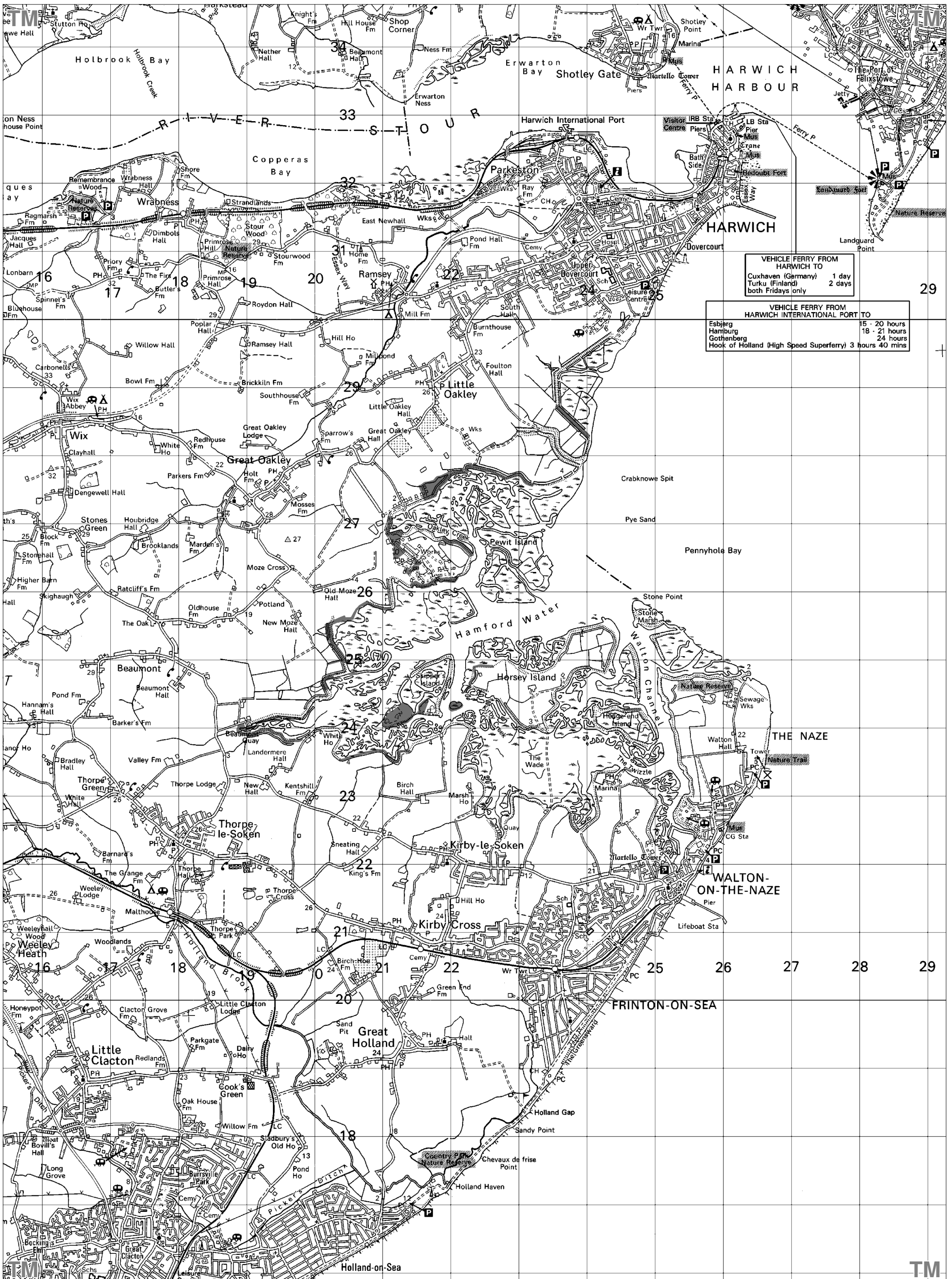
These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.

These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or significant disturbance of its qualifying features as required by the provisions of Article 6(1) and 6(2) of the Directive.

These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a [Special Area of Conservation \(SAC\)](#). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in Article 1 of the Habitats Directive.

**Publication date:** 30 June 2014 – version 2. This document updates and replaces an earlier version dated 29 May 2012 to reflect Natural England's Strategic Standard on European Site Conservation Objectives 2014.

# ***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

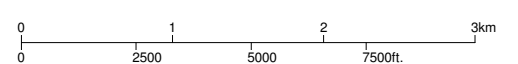
This map relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.  
Register reference number: UK0030377  
Date of registration: 26 September 2013  
Signed: *L. Higham*

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 Proposed Submission Site Allocations and Policies (incorporating IP-One Area Action Plan) DPD

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
SP1 The protection of allocated sites	Sites will be safeguarded for the use(s) for which they have been allocated	No	This policy simply means that any alternatives for the allocated sites would be a departure from the development plan.
SP2 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 numerous sites listed, with an indicative capacity of 1,934 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.
SP3 Land with planning permission or awaiting a Section 106 Agreement	As at 1st April 2014, 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.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
SP4 Land protected 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 not allocated for an additional permanent site but the Council will work with other Local Authorities to meet the need for permanent pitches.	No	Existing sites are not thought to have any current impacts upon European sites. New site proposals will need to be tested for any impacts on European sites according to policy DM31 of the Core Strategy and Policies DPD.
SP5 Land allocated for employment use	Several 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.
SP6 Land allocated and protected as open space	Existing open spaces are defined on the policies map. Within the defined open spaces, Core Strategy policy DM28 (protection of facilities) shall apply.  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.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites.
SP7: 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	No	The listed sites and policy would not have any significant effect on any European site.

Policy	Brief description	Likely to have a significant effect?	Reason
SP8 Orwell Country Park Extension	Site IP149 Land at Pond Hall Carr and Farm is allocated as an extension to Orwell Country Park, to provide better management of visitors to this part of the Orwell Estuary SPA. The Council will also investigate further the feasibility of including a visitor centre facility within the site, including any potential impacts on the Special Protection Area.	No	<p>The Appropriate Assessment to the adopted Core Strategy advised that visitor management measures were needed at Bridge Wood (part of the Orwell Country Park) to protect the Orwell Estuary Special Protection Area. Current recreation use of the estuary in the Pond Hall Farm area is only on the estuary shore, as that is the only place there where people may visit. A Country Park at Pond Hall Farm offers the opportunity to offer people the choice of walking inland and causing less disturbance to SPA birds.</p> <p>A visitor centre would only be considered if a feasibility study shows that there are no impacts upon the SPA, providing reassurance that Policy SP8 would not result in a visitor centre which would have an adverse effect upon the SPA.</p> <p>Visitor Centre proposals will need to be tested for any impacts on European sites according to policy DM31 of the Core Strategy and be subject to Appropriate Assessment. It is considered that a planning application may be able to demonstrate no harm to the SPA, and some benefit in current managing visitor impacts through the provision of a country park.</p> <p>Policy SP8 will in itself therefore not result in a likely significant effect upon any European site.</p>

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
SP9 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.
SP10 Retail Site Allocation	Site IP040 (formerly IP040 and IP041, 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.
SP11 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.
SP12 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.



<b>Policy</b>	<b>Brief description</b>	<b>Likely to have a significant effect?</b>	<b>Reason</b>
SP14 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.
SP15 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.
SP16 Transport Proposals in IP-One	The Council supports the aspiration identified in the Local Transport Plan for the provision of a new Wet Dock Crossing, linking the east bank in the vicinity of Toller Road with the west bank in the vicinity of Mather Way. The crossing would facilitate access to the Island Site and provide for through traffic.	No	This will not in itself affect any European sites due to the scale and location of the proposals.
SP17 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***

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  
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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 8***

**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 [mailto:JamesM@suffolkwildlifetrust.org]  
**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**

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**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.



## ***Appendix 9***

## Comments on Appropriate Assessment January 2014

Comments	Respondent	IBC Response	Action
<b>Core Strategy AA</b>			
<p>Agree with the comment under para. 5.3.1 based on the Haven Gateway Water Cycle Study 2 Report 2009 that 'Growth cannot take place until the treatment works have sufficient capacity.' This strengthens the case for a proper pre-application water assessment to be carried out.</p>	Environment Agency	Noted.	None
<b>Site Allocations AA</b>			
<p>Disagree with conclusion of the AA for DM44 site IP149 that, if amended to add mitigating principles, the policy would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site. The AA provides insufficient information regarding;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing interest in the area of the SPA which could be disturbed, e.g. bird numbers;</li> <li>• Existing levels of disturbance;</li> <li>• Likely additional disturbance resulting from visitor centre;</li> <li>• Residual impact with mitigation in place;</li> <li>• Monitoring and management proposals to ensure impacts remain insignificant.</li> </ul> <p>There is no consideration of potential alternative locations in less sensitive areas.</p>	Natural England	<p>Further discussions have taken place with Natural England which have led to the changes identified in the column to the right. Potential impacts on the SPA in association with a possible visitor centre are being addressed through further visitor assessments.</p>	<p>Policy SP8 has been added which states 'Site IP149 Land at Pond Hall Carr and Farm is allocated as an extension to Orwell Country Park, to provide better management of visitors to this part of the Orwell Estuary Special Protection Area. The Council will also investigate further the feasibility of including a visitor centre facility within the site, including any potential impacts on the Special Protection Area.'</p>

<p>We are satisfied with the conclusion of the AA that, provided site IP262 is amended to include the recommended mitigation principles, it is likely that disturbance increases would be minimised and there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA/Ramsar site. The mitigation recommendations include design features, requirements for no new quay facilities/dredging, and a construction period that is sensitive to the need to avoid disturbance to the estuary. If the site allocation is not amended thus, developers should be made aware of the great sensitivity of developments and the requirement for project level Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Concerns noted. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that potential effects would not necessarily be insurmountable. The need for Appropriate Assessment would be picked up at project level should the Port wish to develop the land.</p>	<p>IP262 has been deleted, but the site remains in an area protected for employment uses.</p>
<p>The AA concludes that the plan's policies don't 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 assessed for the Core Strategy Review. If the latter is found to have no adverse effect on any European site outside Ipswich, the Site Allocations DPD would similarly have no impact. The Core Strategy AA will need amendment in line with our comments, to reach a satisfactory conclusion of no adverse effect and thus enable this 'in combination' effect to be resolved.</p>	<p>Natural England</p>	<p>As the potential issues relating to these sites have been resolved through amendments to the Site Allocations DPD (see above) it can be concluded that no amendments are needed in relation to the AA of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Policies DM33, DM36 and DM39</p>	<p>Natural England</p>	<p>Noted. DM33 and DM36 have been moved from the Site Allocations and</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>Natural England is satisfied with the conclusion of the AA that it could be ascertained there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site resulting from these policies.</p>		<p>Policies document to the Core Strategies and Policies document for a more coherent approach.</p>	
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