

Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Guidance and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Record

Conclusion

RAMS applies only to housing development, so this draft Public Realm SPD is not subject to RAMS as it deals with infrastructure even though the site lies within 13 km internationally important nature conservation sites.

Natural England has produced some local guidance which has been tested and refined by local authorities (East Suffolk Council). This takes the form of a Flow Chart which has been completed below.

In terms of appropriate assessment, Natural England advise that it may be appropriate to provide a bespoke HRA. The draft SPD is designed to provide more detailed guidance on adopted policies within the adopted Local Plan which has already been subject to an HRA assessment. It is therefore also concluded that an additional HRA assessment is not required.

Assessment

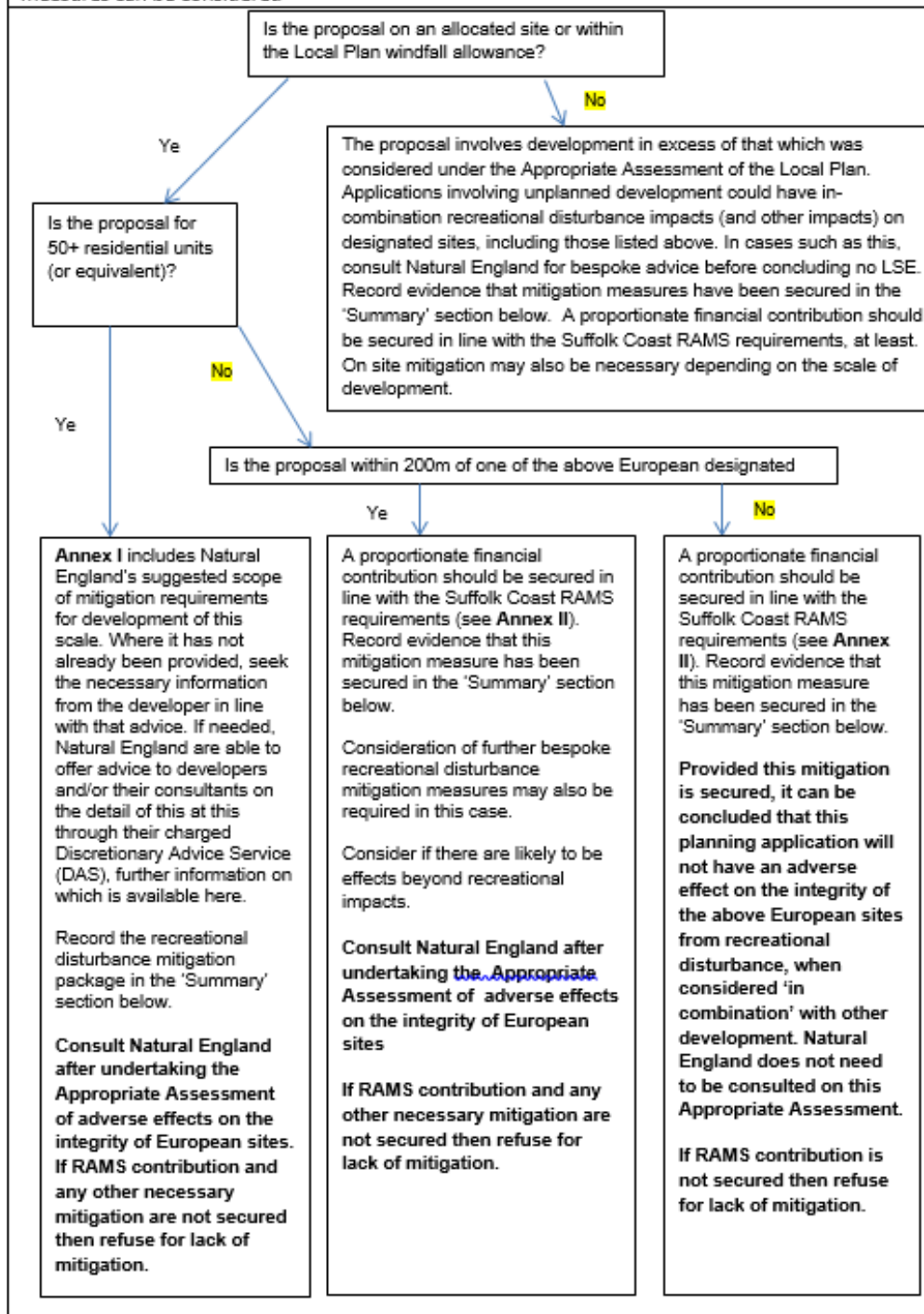
The assessment which has been conducted to create the conclusions above is attached overleaf.

Annex 1: Suffolk Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Guidance and Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Record

Application/Proposal details	Public Realm SPD
Local Planning Authority:	Ipswich Borough Council
Case officer:	SAM
Application reference:	n/a
Application description:	n/a
Application address:	n/a
Status of Application:	n/a
Grid Ref:	n/a
HRA Stage 1: screening assessment	
Test 1 – the significance test: Based on the development type and proximity to European designated sites, a judgement should be made as to whether the development constitutes a 'likely significant effect' (LSE) to a European site in terms of increased recreational disturbance	
<p><i>Is the development within 13 km of the below European sites (check NE IRZs)?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alde-Ore Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site • Benacre to Easton Bawents SPA • Deben Estuary SPA and Ramsar site • Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths & Marshes Special Area of Conservation (SAC) • Minsmere – Walberswick SPA • Orfordness-Shingle Street SAC • Sandlings SPA • Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site (Suffolk side only) 	
Yes	No
<p>Does the planning application constitute residential development?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New dwellings of 1+ units included in current site allocations and windfall (excludes replacement dwellings and extensions) • Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) • Residential caravan sites (excludes holiday caravans and campsites) • Gypsies, travellers and travelling show people plots • Tourist accommodation 	<p>Conclude no LSE to the above designated sites in terms of recreational disturbance.</p> <p>An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is not required where recreational disturbance to these sites is the only issue or recreational disturbance to these sites can be scoped out of any HRA covering other issues.</p>
Yes	No
<p>Conclude LSE. This proposal is within scope of the Suffolk Coast RAMS as it falls within the 13 km 'zone of influence' for likely impacts and is a relevant residential development type as listed above. It is anticipated that such development in this area is 'likely to have a significant effect' upon the interest features of the aforementioned designated site(s) through increased recreational pressure, when considered either alone or in combination.</p> <p>Proceed to HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment to assess recreational disturbance impacts on the above designated sites.</p>	<p>RAMS is not relevant, however other Habitats Regulations considerations should be taken into consideration for non-residential developments and in some circumstances a bespoke AA may be required.</p>

HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

Test 2 – the integrity test: The applicant must provide sufficient evidence to allow the Appropriate Assessment to be made, which is the stage at which avoidance and/or mitigation measures can be considered



Summary of the Appropriate Assessment : To be carried out by the Competent Authority (the local planning authority) in liaison with Natural England (where necessary)

Summary of recreational disturbance mitigation package

The document does not involve residential development and therefore a RAMS contribution is not appropriate.

Conclusion

Having considered the proposed avoidance and mitigation measures above, Ipswich Borough Council conclude that the project will not have an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of the European sites included within the Suffolk Coast RAMS.

Having made this appropriate assessment of the implications of the draft Public Realm SPD document , in view of the nature of the proposal , and having consulted Natural England and fully considered any representation received (where necessary), the authority may now agree to the plan or project under regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Local Planning Authority Case Officer comments, signed and dated: Sally Ann Minns 03.06.19

RAMS is designed to ensure that the integrity of internationally designated sites and species therein are protected from the recreational impact potential on internationally designated sites caused by the introduction of new housing development . It also secures appropriate financial contributions to mitigate the impact of such housing schemes. The draft Public Realm SPD , whilst it falls within the zone of influence of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries RAMSAR and SPA, a recreational disturbance mitigation package is not necessary because of the nature of development which will arise from the SPD.

The draft SPD is designed to provide more detailed guidance on adopted policies within the adopted Local Plan which has already been subject to an HRA assessment. It is therefore also concluded that an additional assessment is not required.