

Ipswich Borough Council

Space and Design Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document

Habitats Regulations Assessment (July 2015)

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

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

The purpose of this statement is to assess the need for appropriate assessment in relation to the Space and Design Guidelines Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The primary purpose of the SPD is to provide detailed guidance for anyone intending to develop housing within the boundary of their property or to extend or alter their dwelling. The SPD covers the spacing of new houses within residential developments, provides guidance on external amenity space and parking, and how new dwellings relate to the existing urban fabric of the town. In addition the SPD will provide guidance on what the Council considers most appropriate for extensions and alterations to existing residential buildings.

The guidance provided in the SPD will relate to the implementation of policies DM5, DM12 and DM13 in the Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document. Policies DM5, DM12 and DM13 were subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations as part of their production. This is contained in the 2009 Appropriate Assessment and the Updated Appropriate Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council Proposed Submission Core Strategy and Policies (Landscape Partnership, 2010).

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

In relation to DM12 (known as DC11 at the time) the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that 'This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

In relation to DM13 (known as DC12 at the time) the 2009 Appropriate Assessment concluded, in terms of likely significant effects, that 'This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.' There was therefore no need for an appropriate assessment to be carried out.

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

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