



Tendring District Local Plan – Preferred Options (Reg 18) **Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report**

January 2026





About Place Services

Place Services is a leading public sector provider of integrated environmental assessment, planning, design and management services. Our combination of specialist skills and experience means that we are uniquely qualified to help public organisations meet the requirements of the planning process, create practical design solutions and deliver environmental stewardship.

Our Natural Environment Team has expertise of arboriculture, biodiversity, countryside management and ecology. This multidisciplinary approach brings together a wide range of experience, whether it is for large complex briefs or small discrete projects. We aim to help our clients protect and improve the natural environment through their planning, regulatory or land management activities. This approach ensures that not only that our clients will fulfil their legal duties towards the natural environment, but they do so in a way that brings positive benefits to wildlife and people.

Address: County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH

Contact no: 0333 013 6840

Email: placeservicesecology@essex.gov.uk

Website: www.placeservices.gov.uk

VAT number: GB 104 2528 13



Report Checking and Version Control

Prepared by:

Hamish Jackson | Senior Ecological Consultant | hamish.jackson@essex.gov.uk

Sue Hooton | Principal Ecological Consultant | sue.hooton@essex.gov.uk

Report version control:

| Version | Date | Author | Description of changes |
|---------|------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.1 | 07/01/2026 | Hamish Jackson | Drafted |
| 1.2 | 07/01/2026 | Sue Hooton | Reviewed |
| 1.3 | 07/01/2026 | Sue Hooton | Issued |
| 2.1 | 09/01/2026 | Hamish Jackson | Revision following LPA comments |

Copyright:

This report may contain material that is non-Place Services copyright. (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Historic England), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Place Services is able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences or permissions, but for which copyright itself is not transferable by Place Services. Users of this report remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

Disclaimer:

The material contained in this report was designed as an integral part of a report to an individual client and was prepared solely for the benefit of that client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by a third party. To the fullest extent permitted by law Place Services will not be liable by reason of breach of contract, negligence, or otherwise for any loss or damage (whether direct, indirect or consequential) occasioned to any person acting or omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the material contained in the report. Loss or damage as referred to above shall be deemed to include, but is not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated loss of profits damage to reputation or goodwill, loss of business, or anticipated loss of business, damages, costs, expense incurred or payable to any third party (in all cases whether direct, indirect or consequential) or any other direct, indirect or consequential loss or damage



Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Summary | 7 |
| 1.Introduction | 9 |
| 1.1 The Purpose of This Report | 9 |
| 1.2 Overview of the Tendring District Local Plan | 11 |
| 1.3 Habitats (European) sites | 11 |
| 2. Method and Approach | 13 |
| 2.1 Four Stage Approach | 13 |
| Stage 1 - Screening | 13 |
| Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment (AA) | 13 |
| Stage 3 - Assessment of Alternative Solutions | 14 |
| Stage 4 - Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and Compensatory Measures | 14 |
| 2.2 Screening Methodology - Assessment of Likely Significant Effects | 17 |
| 2.3 Identifying Habitats sites, their Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features | 19 |
| 2.4 Identifying potential effects to a Habitats site from the Local Plan and Use of Impact Pathways | 22 |
| Land Take | 23 |
| Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | 23 |
| Disturbance | 24 |
| Water Quality | 24 |
| Water Quantity | 26 |
| Air Quality | 26 |
| 2.3 Screening categorisation | 30 |
| 3. Screening of Likely Significant Effects | 31 |
| 3.1 Screening Policies for Likely Significant Effect | 31 |
| 3.2 Screening of Policies and Nominated Sites for Likely Significant Effect | 35 |
| 3.3 Policies carried forward to Appropriate Assessment Stage | 43 |
| 3.4 Habitats sites Screened in for Appropriate Assessment | 43 |
| 3.5 HRA Screening Conclusion and Considering the Next Stage | 47 |
| 4. Conclusion | 48 |
| 5. References | 49 |
| 6. Appendices | 51 |



List of Tables

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1. Description and Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites | 12 |
| Table 2. Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Process | 15 |
| Table 3. Can the plan be exempt, excluded or eliminated from requiring a HRA | 17 |
| Table 4. Habitats sites within 20 km of Tendring District | 19 |
| Table 5. Main sources and effects of air pollutants on Habitats sites | 27 |
| Table 6. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Categorisation | 30 |
| Table 7. Lists of Habitats sites within the scope of the assessment | 31 |
| Table 8. Policies and Allocation sites that may Cause a Likely Significant Effect | 36 |

List of Appendices

| | |
|---|-----|
| Appendix 1. HRA Screening of Individual Policies | 51 |
| Appendix 2. HRA Screening of allocation sites | 95 |
| Appendix 3. Characteristics of Habitats sites within 20km | 132 |
| Appendix 4. Habitats sites within 20km of the District boundaries | 196 |
| Appendix 5. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - North West | 197 |
| Appendix 6. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - North East | 198 |
| Appendix 7. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - South East | 199 |
| Appendix 8. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - South West | 200 |



Glossary of Acronyms

| | |
|-------|--|
| AA | Appropriate Assessment |
| AEOI | Adverse Effect On site Integrity |
| AMR | Annual Monitoring Report |
| CEMP | Construction Environmental Management Plan |
| CLEUD | Certificate of Lawful Existing Use or Development |
| DC | District Council |
| EA | Environment Agency |
| EC | European Commission |
| EMS | European Marine Site |
| EU | European Union |
| Ha | Hectare |
| HRA | Habitats Regulations Assessment |
| IRZ | Impact Risk Zone |
| JLP | Joint Local Plan |
| Km | Kilometre |
| LPA | Local Planning Authority |
| LTP | Local Transport Plan |
| LSE | Likely Significant Effect |
| NE | Natural England |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NSIP | Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Project |
| PRoW | Public Right of Way |
| RAMS | Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy |
| RIS | Ramsar Information Sheet |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SACO | Supplementary Advice on Conservation Objectives |
| SIP | Site Improvement Plan |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SSSI | Site of Specific Scientific Interest |
| WFD | Water Framework Directive |
| WRC | Water Recycling Centres |
| ZOI | Zone of Influence |



Summary

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been prepared by Place Services for the Tendring District Local Plan – Preferred Options to enable Tendring District Council to comply with Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

As the policies contained in the Local Plan cannot rule out Likely Significant Effects on Habitats (European) sites identified at Stage 1 HRA Screening, there is a need for further assessment of impacts and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is therefore necessary.

This report includes the first stage of the HRA process: it aims to consider the elements of the Local Plan Full Update which need to be screened in as having the potential for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) and hence requiring further assessment of their potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of one of more Habitats (European) sites.

The following Habitats sites have been scoped in as it has been identified that they may be affected by impacts resulting from the Tendring District Local Plan – Preferred Options:

| SPA | SAC | Ramsar site |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Abberton Reservoir SPA | Essex Estuaries SAC | Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA | Hamford Water SAC | Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site |
| Colne Estuary SPA | | Colne Estuary Ramsar site |
| Dengie SPA | | Dengie Ramsar site |
| Hamford Water SPA | | Hamford Water Ramsar site |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA | | Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA | | |

There are a wide range of potential impacts upon Habitats sites which could arise as a result of components of the Local Plan Full Update; the following have been considered most likely to cause a Likely Significant Effect:

- Impacts on protected species outside the designated site



- Disturbance (including recreational disturbance)
- Water quality
- Air Quality

The Screening of Likely Significant Effects stage of the Plan has been included in Chapter 3 of this report, with the complete list of policies screened in for further assessment set out within Appendix 1 and 2. This includes 8 policies, 43 proposed allocated sites have been screened into the Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2).

The Appropriate Assessment for the Tendring Local Plan will be completed as part of the Regulation 19 (Submission), to demonstrate compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).



1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of This Report

- 1.1.1 This report is to provide a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Tendring District Local Plan – Preferred Options in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This includes considerations of the Full modifications, which have been completed following the Pre-Submission stage.
- 1.1.2 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) require the Competent Authority (in this instance Tendring District Council) to undertake a HRA before making a decision about permission for any plan or project that may result in an adverse effect on the integrity of a Habitats site¹ as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, December 2024).
- 1.1.3 In line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C- 323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a HRA Screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats (Natura 2000) site. As the policies relate to land within the Zone of Influence (ZOI) for a number of Habitats sites, it is not possible to rule out Likely Significant Effects, without mitigation in place.
- 1.1.4 The Court judgement (CJEU Holohan C- 461/17) imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage:
2. [...] an 'Appropriate Assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.
 3. [...] the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted

¹ Habitats site: Any site which would be included within the definition at Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the purpose of those regulations and those listed in paragraph 194 of the NPPF (December 2024). This includes potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on Habitats sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.



establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

4. [...] where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'Appropriate Assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

- 1.1.5 This report therefore provides an updated (plan level) Stage 1 HRA Screening and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 1.1.6 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) are commonly known as the 'Habitats Regulations'. Requirements are set out within Regulations 63 and 64 of the Habitats Regulations, where a series of steps and tests are followed for plans or projects that could potentially affect Habitats sites. The steps and tests set out within Regulations 63 and 64 are commonly referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' process. The Government has produced core guidance for competent authorities and developers to assist with the HRA process. This can be found on the Defra website².
- 1.1.7 It demonstrates how the Plan or Project is compatible with UK obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA and forms a plan level HRA as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 1.1.8 At HRA stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, plans and projects should only be permitted when it has been proven beyond scientific doubt that there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats sites. The legal process can allow projects that may result in negative impacts on the integrity of a site if the competent authority is satisfied that, there are no alternative solutions, the plan or project must be carried out for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) (Regulation 64). However, this will require suitable compensation to ensure that the overall coherence of the series of such sites is retained.
- 1.1.9 The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authorities' - in this case Tendring District Council - and Place Services has been commissioned to complete this on behalf of the Council. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body.
- 1.1.10 This HRA report aims to:

² <http://www.defra.gov.uk/habitats-review/implementation/process-guidance/guidance/sites/>



- Consider the elements of the Plan screened in as having potential for Likely Significant Effect (LSE) for further assessment of their potential to result in adverse effects on the integrity of the Habitats sites at stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.
- Assess the potential for effects from the Plan alone
- Assess the potential for in combination effects from other projects and plans in the area.
- Identify if there are any outstanding issues that need further investigation.

1.1.11 It is not considered that there are any serious limitations to this HRA.

1.2 Overview of the Tendring District Local Plan

- 1.2.1 The Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond has been adopted in two parts: Section 1 (which was prepared jointly by Tendring District, Colchester City, and Braintree District Councils, and contains strategic policies that are common between all three authorities) was adopted January 2021, and Section 2 (which contains policies that are specific to the Tendring District) was adopted in January 2022.
- 1.2.2 To ensure that Plans remain effective, Tendring District Council is required to review the adopted local plans and provide an update at least every five years. As a result, the 'Preferred Options' stage forms the first part of the Local Plan Review, which includes a call for sites to inform new proposed site allocation option. This aim for the updated local plan is to manage development in the Tendring District up to 2042.

1.3 Habitats (European) sites

- 1.3.1 Habitats sites is the term used in the NPPF (December 2024) to describe any sites which would be included within the definition at Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the purpose of those regulations. These now form part of the UK national network of sites for nature protection. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of UK's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.
- 1.3.2 All Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated for other species, and for Habitats. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) are also part of the National Network of sites. This is because all SPAs and SACs are comprised of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all Ramsar sites in England are SSSIs. Together, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites make up the Habitats sites in England.
- 1.3.3 The following table (Table 1) offers a description and explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites.

**Table 1. Description and Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites****Special Protection Areas (SPAs)**

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within EU countries. Example: Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA. straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border and include extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches *Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).*

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas designated to protect habitat types that are in danger of disappearance, have a small natural range, or are highly characteristic of the region; and to protect species that are endangered, vulnerable, rare, or endemic. Example: Hamford Water SAC. Designated for its important Fisher's estuarine moth populations. *Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).*

Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance)

Ramsar sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl Habitats. For example, Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh and which supports 7 species of nationally scarce plants. Ramsar sites often overlap with SACs and SPAs and UK planning policy determines that they should be accorded the same importance when developments are proposed. *Legislation: Ramsar Convention (1971) – Wetlands of International Importance.* Example: Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site. straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border and include extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches *Legislation: Ramsar Convention (1971) – Wetlands of International Importance.*



2. Method and Approach

2.1 Four Stage Approach

- 2.1.1 The legislation does not require a fixed method for preparing a HRA report, but case law has shaped the way it should be undertaken. The HRA is a sequential process and it is generally divided into four stages. These stages are set out below, as well as Table 2. Each of the stages contains a number of sequential steps, comprising the tests or procedures required by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).
- 2.1.2 This HRA includes the first sequential stage, i.e., screening. The four stages are outlined here and Stage 1 is explored in further detail below.

Stage 1 - Screening

- 2.1.3 The process identifies whether a Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats site. Current guidance on HRA recommends that the screening stage should comprise the following elements:
- Determining whether the Plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site – if it is then no further assessment is necessary,
 - Identify Habitats (European) sites in and around the Plan area,
 - Review the policies and proposals in the Plan and consider the potential effects on Habitats (European) sites (magnitude, duration, location, extent),
 - Examine other plans and projects that could, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a Habitats (European) site,
 - Produce screening assessment – record of screening analysis.
- 2.1.4 The screening exercise should be approached on a precautionary basis. If the screening stage concludes that there are likely to be no significant impacts on Habitats (European) sites, then there will be no need to progress to Stage 2. If effects are judged likely or uncertain, the precautionary principle is applied, and the Plan is then considered under Stage 2.

Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment (AA)

- 2.1.5 Where a plan may cause Likely Significant Effects, the second stage is to undertake an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and establish whether there may be an Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEIOI) of any Habitats sites in view of their Conservation Objectives.



- 2.1.6 An AA assesses the impacts of the proposed plan against the conservation objectives of the qualifying features of the relevant Habitats sites. Should the AA identify adverse effects, then alternatives, such as changes to the Plan, should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. If no alternative exists, mitigation measures are identified and evaluated.
- 2.1.7 Some policies of a plan can be used to mitigate some of the potential Likely Significant Effects identified. These can be considered at Appropriate Assessment. This stage thus becomes an iterative process as avoidance and reduction measures can be incorporated in order to be able to ascertain that there is no Adverse Effect on Integrity on any Habitats site, before making a final assessment.
- 2.1.8 Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken by the competent authority and should assess every aspect of the Local Plan which can by itself, or in combination with other plans and projects, affect the Habitats sites' Conservation Objectives. The assessment must consider the implications for each qualifying feature of each potentially affected Habitats site.
- 2.1.9 If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered, the HRA proceeds to Stage 3.

Stage 3 - Assessment of Alternative Solutions

- 2.1.10 A HRA only moves to Stage 3 when significant effects on the integrity of Habitats sites remain, following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigation measures in Stage 2.

Stage 4 - Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest and Compensatory Measures

- 2.1.11 Stage 4 involves the process of identifying 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' ('IROPI'). It must demonstrate that no alternatives exist and identify potential compensatory measures. This stage is a last resort and should be avoided if at all possible. If significant negative effects remain, a Plan may only be adopted under such circumstances if there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, where it is deemed that the Plan should proceed.

**Table 2. Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Process**

| Stage | Tasks | Outcome |
|--|--|---|
| Stage 1 HRA Screening (Regulation 63) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List the policies and Nominated Sites. - Identify potential effects to a Habitats site from the Local Plan. - Assess if any significant effects on a Habitats site from the Plan, either alone or in combination, with other plans or projects. | <p>Where significant effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect' report and Local Plan can be adopted.</p> <p>Where significant effects are judged likely, either alone or in combination or there is a lack of information to prove otherwise, go to Stage 2.</p> <p><i>People over Wind CJEU ruling (April 2018) means that it is not possible to consider mitigation measures when screening for impacts.</i></p> |
| Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (Regulation 63) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List policies and allocations within scope. - List Habitats sites within scope. - Set out methodology of the AA and agree with Natural England. - Assess the implication of the policies and allocations against the designated features and species not listed but which could be using the habitat features. - Apply the integrity test. - Where there may be adverse effects on the ecological integrity of Habitats sites, in view of the Site's conservation objectives, | <p>If no adverse effect on site integrity either alone or in combination, the Local Plan can be adopted.</p> <p>If it is not possible to ascertain no adverse effect on site integrity, go to Stage 3.</p> <p>Holohan CJEU ruling (November 2018) now imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage.</p> |



| Stage | Tasks | Outcome |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>consider mitigation measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure mitigation is embedded into the Local Plan. - Assess in combination effects with other plans and projects. - Reapply the integrity test. Where there may be adverse effects on the ecological integrity of Habitats sites, in view of the Site's conservation objectives, consider mitigation measures. - Formally Consult Natural England. | |
| Stage 3 Assessment of alternative solutions (Regulation 64) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify whether alternative solutions exist that would achieve the objectives of the Local Plan and have no or a lesser effect on the integrity of a Habitats site(s). - If effects remain after alternative solutions have been considered, consider whether the policies and/or projects should proceed with modification or the policies (and projects) be removed from the Local Plan. | <p>If there are alternative solutions to the Local Plan, it cannot be adopted without modification.</p> <p>If not financially, legally, or technically viable alternatives exist, go to Stage 4.</p> |
| Stage 4 IROPI (Regulation 64) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider if the risk and harm to the Habitats site is over-ridden by Imperative Reasons of Over-riding Public Interest. | <p>If there are IROPI and compensatory measures, the Local Plan can be adopted</p> <p>If there are no IROPI the Local Plan cannot be adopted.</p> |



| Stage | Tasks | Outcome |
|-------|---|---------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and prepare delivery of compensatory measures to protect the overall coherence of the UK national network and notify Government. | |

2.2 Screening Methodology - Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

2.2.1 The screening stage identifies whether the Local Plan may result in a Likely Significant Effect to any Habitats site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The screening process should identify all aspects of the Local Plan that are:

- Exempt from assessment
- Excluded from assessment
- Eliminated from further assessment
- Judged to have no Likely Significant Effects, alone or in combination with other plans or projects and can therefore be screened out
- Screened in as it is not possible to rule out Likely Significant Effects.

2.2.2 In line with the 2018 Court judgment (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17) mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment. Consequently, any aspect of the Development Plan Document Submission Version Plan which cannot be ruled out as having Likely Significant Effects should continue to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

2.2.3 It has been established that this Plan requires an HRA for the following reasons, outlined in Table 3 below:

Table 3. Can the plan be exempt, excluded or eliminated from requiring a HRA

| Stage | Outcome |
|---------------------------|--|
| Can the plan be exempt? | No, the is not directly connected with or necessary to management of any Habitats sites. |
| Can the plan be excluded? | No, the Local Plan cannot be excluded as it falls within the definition of being a plan within the Habitats Regulations. |



| Stage | Outcome |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Can the plan be eliminated? | No, the Local Plan as a whole cannot be eliminated as it proposes a number of policies which may have a Likely Significant Effect on one or more Habitats site. However, individual policies can be eliminated. |

- 2.2.4 Plans should not contain proposals that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage, as this would be regarded as 'faulty planning'.
- 2.2.5 'Significant effects' has been defined through case law. A significant effect is any effect that would undermine the conservation objectives for the qualifying features of Habitats sites potentially affected, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. There must be a causal connection or link between the Local Plan and the qualifying features of the site (s) which could result in possible significant effects on the site (s). Effects may be direct or indirect and a judgement must be taken on a case-by-case basis. The decision as to whether or not a potential impact is significant depends on factors such as: magnitude of impact, type, extent, duration, intensity, timing, probability, cumulative effects and the vulnerability of the habitats and species concerned. So, what may be significant in relation to one site may not be in relation to another.
- 2.2.6 An effect which is not significant can be described as 'insignificant', 'de minimis' or 'trivial'- *i.e.* it would not undermine the conservation objectives.
- 2.2.7 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle has been used in the assessment. A conclusion of 'no significant effect' was only reached where it was considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a proposal in the Local Plan would have a significant effect on the integrity of a Habitats site.
- 2.2.8 Key advice guidance and information has also come from the following sources:
- HRAs of neighbouring authorities Local Plans
 - Extensive experience of producing other HRAs
 - Government information regarding Habitats sites and their 'zones of influence' or 'Impact Risk Zone', e.g. www.magic.gov.uk



2.3 Identifying Habitats sites, their Conservation Objectives and Qualifying Features

2.3.1 The qualifying features and conservation objectives of the Habitats sites, together with current pressures on and potential threats, was drawn from the Standard Data Forms for SACs and SPAs and the Information Sheets for Ramsar Wetlands as well as Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIP) and the most recent conservation objectives. An understanding of the designated features of each Habitats site and the factors contributing to its integrity has informed the assessment of the potential Likely Significant Effects of the Local Plan.

2.3.2 Key sources of the Habitats sites information were found at:

- JNCC: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>
- Site Designation features and Conservation Objectives- Designated Sites View: <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>
- Site Improvement Plans, e.g.: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6270737467834368>
- MAGIC (the Multi Agency Geographic Information website): www.magic.gov.uk
- "Managing Natura 2000 sites- The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC" http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/Provisions_Art_6_nov_2018_endocx.pdf

2.3.3 The Local Plan has the potential to impact areas that are beyond the Plan's area boundary. As a starting point, a distance of 20km from the county boundary was used to identify Habitats sites which could be affected by impacts relating to the Local Plan; these are listed below. They include all Habitats sites within Tendring and those within 20km of Tendring, to take into account any windfall sites that may arise. These are listed in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Habitats sites within 20 km of Tendring District

| Site | Location |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Abberton Reservoir SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Colchester City, situated 5km to the West of the Tendring district. |
| Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Colchester City, situated 5km to the West of the Tendring district. |



| Site | Location |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Ald-Ore Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Colchester City, situated 5km to the West of the district. |
| Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District, situated 11.8km to the North-East of the Tendring district. |
| Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District, situated 15.2km to the North-East of the of the Tendring district. |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Colchester City and Maldon District, situated 5km to the South-West of the Tendring district. |
| Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Colchester City and Maldon District, situated 5km to the South-West of the Tendring district. |
| Colne Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located to south of the Tendring district, with the site also located within the boundary of Colchester City. |
| Colne Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located to south of the Tendring district, with the site also located within the boundary of Colchester City. |
| Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Rochford District, Maldon District and Chelmsford City, situated 18.1km to the South-West of the Tendring district. |
| Crouch & Roach Estuaries Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Rochford District, Maldon District and Chelmsford City, situated 18.1km to the South-West of the Tendring district. |
| Deben Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District, situated 7.8km to the North-East of the Tendring district. |
| Deben Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District Council, situated 7.8km to the North-East of the Tendring district. |
| Dengie SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Maldon District, situated 5.9km to the South-West of the Tendring district. |
| Dengie Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Maldon District, situated 5.9km to the South-West of the Tendring district. |



| Site | Location |
|--|--|
| Essex Estuaries SAC | The Habitats site is located across the majority of the Essex coast, with part of the site within Tendring, located South of the district. |
| Foulness SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Rochford District, situated 12.5km to the South of the Tendring district. |
| Foulness Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of Rochford District, situated 12.5km to the South of the Tendring district. |
| Hamford Water SPA | The Habitats site is located within the Tendring, located to the East of the district. |
| Hamford Water Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the Tendring, located to the East of the district. |
| Hamford Water SAC | The Habitats site is located within the Tendring, located to the East of the district. |
| Orfordness - Shingle Street SAC | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District, situated 11.8km to the North-East of the district. |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located to the East of Tendring district, approximately 0.56km from the coast. |
| Sandlings SPA | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District, situated 13.9km to the North-East of the of the Tendring district |
| Southern North Sea | The Habitats site is located to the North-East of Tendring district, approximately 8.82km from the coast. |
| Staverton Park and The Thicks SAC | The Habitats site is located within the boundary of East Suffolk District, situated 19.4km to the North-East of the of the Tendring district |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA | The Habitats site is located within the Tendring, located to the North of the district. |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within the Tendring, located to the North of the district. |

2.3.4 A map of all 28 Habitats sites with the 20 km radius of the County boundary can be found in Appendix 4.



2.4 Identifying potential effects to a Habitats site from the Local Plan and Use of Impact Pathways

2.4.1 There are a wide range of potential impacts upon Habitats sites and the following potential pathways for unmitigated effects arising from the Local Plan are grouped into categories, and these are summarised below:

- **Land take** - Direct or indirect impacts to a Habitats site causing habitat loss, degradation or fragmentation.
- **Impacts on protected species outside the designated site** - e.g. loss of functionally linked land (outside Habitats sites). The impact on site features (species) which travel outside the protected sites may be relevant where a development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Habitats sites, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- **Disturbance** - Increase of any type of disturbance from construction and operation phases, such as those arising from dust, noise and lights, as well as from increased recreational disturbance during operation phases.
- **Water quality** - Changes in water quality to water-dependent Habitats sites e.g. nutrient increases
- **Water quantity** - Changes in surface or ground water availability from increased surface runoff or increased groundwater extraction.
- **Air quality** - Changes in localised atmospheric pollution levels from vehicle emissions or dust during the construction phase.

2.4.2 During the Screening stage each policy is screened for Likely Significant Effects, based upon the above categories. Where it is not possible to rule out Likely Significant Effects without mitigation, it is necessary to progress to Appropriate Assessment stage.

2.4.3 There are many uncertainties associated with using trigger distances as there are very few standards available as a guide to how far impacts will travel. When considering the potential for effects on Habitats sites, distance itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact. There are other factors that will influence the relative distance at which an impact can occur, such as the prevailing wind or river flow direction. This means that development proposed in a plan that is some distance away from a Habitats site could potentially affect the site, and therefore should be considered as part of HRA screening.

2.4.4 Rather than rely on distance alone, best practice is to use a 'source-pathway-receptor' model which focuses on whether there is a potential link or causal connection (pathway) from the source (the direct or indirect change occurring as a result of development) by which impacts from a plan can affect the vulnerabilities/sensitivities of a Habitats site's features to the predicted changes. The pathway is the route or mechanism by which any



Likely Significant Effect would be manifest in the environment and would reach the receptor (i.e. the Habitats site). Therefore, during the screening stage a number of assumptions based on professional judgement have been applied in relation to assessing the Likely Significant Effects on Habitats sites that may result from the Local Plan, as described below.

- 2.4.5 The risks of effects to occur are predicted in light of assumptions, limitations and confidence in predictions. Then, taking no account of the mitigation measures incorporated into the Local Plan, the potential effects on qualifying features are determined and assessed on whether they are likely to be 'significant'.
- 2.4.6 The Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) which are provided on the MAGIC website (www.magic.gov.uk) have been used as a starting point in determining Likely Significant Effect on Habitats sites and spatial data has been used to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the Habitats sites.
- 2.4.7 Each potential impact pathway is considered in more detail below.

Land Take

- 2.4.8 Direct or indirect impacts to a Habitats site could cause habitat loss, degradation or fragmentation.
- 2.4.9 Loss of land may have the potential to result in Likely Significant Effects to Habitats sites where the habitat affected contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which the Habitats sites are designated.
- 2.4.10 Land take is therefore within scope of the HRA screening.

Impacts on protected species outside the designated site

- 2.4.11 Functionally linked land is land situated outside the Habitats site which supports designated features of Habitats sites. Loss of land may have the potential to result in Likely Significant Effects to Habitats sites where the habitat affected contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which the Habitats site is designated, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- 2.4.12 Mobile interest features listed in the relevant Habitats sites- i.e. the birds- may use off-site habitat (land outside of the SPA and Ramsar site boundary) for feeding, roosting, foraging and loafing, especially large fields comprising arable and pastoral land uses and coastal habitats, for example, Hen Harrier, Brent Geese, Lapwing and Golden Plover.
- 2.4.13 Natural England has previously advised that their recognised foraging distance threshold for the majority of wetland bird (excluding Lapwing and Golden Plover) species is 2km from a Habitats site. However, Lapwing and Golden Plover can be found considerably further from the coastal sites.



- 2.4.14 Impacts on protected species outside the designated site is therefore within scope of the HRA screening.

Disturbance

- 2.4.15 Disturbance concerns species, rather than habitats e.g. wetland birds and it may be limited in time (noise, source of light etc.). The intensity, duration and frequency of repetition of disturbance are therefore important parameters. The following factors can be regarded as significant disturbance. Any event, activity or process contributing to the:
- The long-term decline of the population of the species on the site.
 - The reduction, or to the risk of reduction, of the range of the species within the site.
 - The reduction of the size of the available habitat of the species.
- 2.4.16 Managing Natura 2000 Sites states that: *“Disturbance of a species occurs on a site from events, activities or processes contributing, within the site, to a long-term decline in the population of the species, to a reduction or risk of reduction in its range, and to a reduction in its available habitat. This assessment is done according to the site’s conservation objectives and its contribution to the coherence of the network.”*
- 2.2.1 Increase of any type of disturbance from construction phases, such as those arising from noise, light and vibration and visual disturbance are capable of causing significant disturbances for species, e.g. wintering waterfowl populations.
- 2.4.17 In addition, recreation can create increased pressure on the qualifying features. Potentially disturbing activities could include visual and noise disturbance of bird populations by walkers, especially those with dog. Localised damage to vegetation and soils by frequent pedestrian traffic, mountain bikes and trail bikes could also result in adverse effects, particularly if there are qualifying habitats which are sensitive to erosion.
- 2.4.18 Disturbance, including from recreational impacts, is therefore within scope of the HRA screening. A precautionary distance of 2km from an allocation site has been used for the purpose of this screening assessment for non-recreational related disturbance.

Water Quality

- 2.4.19 An important determinant of the nature of wetland Habitats sites and the species that they support is the quality of the water that feeds them. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts.
- 2.4.20 High levels of toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life and have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including changes in wildlife behaviour and increased vulnerability to disease. Therefore, any discharge from construction sites into water sources which are functionally linked to designated sites could therefore result in a



Likely Significant Effect if management plans or discharge consents from Environment Agency are not provided to support schemes.

- 2.4.21 The enrichment of plant nutrients in water by any high nutrient discharges can also cause eutrophication, which increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient, so eutrophication is often associated with discharges containing available nitrogen. Algal blooms, which commonly occur due to eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, increasing the oxygen-depleting effects of eutrophication.
- 2.4.22 Any sewage or industrial waste discharges can also contribute to increased nutrients levels in Habitats sites, particularly to phosphate levels in watercourses leading into them. Some components of sewage effluent, pesticides, and industrial chemicals, are suspected to interfere with hormones, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life. Diffuse pollution, including that from urban run-off, is considered to be a major factor in the unfavourable condition of some Habitats sites. Tidal mudflats, on which many SPA bird species depend, are vulnerable to smothering by increased macroalgal growth due to treated effluent discharge and scouring by increased flow volumes.
- 2.4.23 Furthermore, greater pressure on water treatment services due to new development, especially housing, may increase the risk of effluent entering aquatic environments. This is because the allocation of large numbers of new homes in certain locations may result in the capacity of existing available infrastructure being exceeded, a situation that could potentially cause service failures to water and wastewater customers.
- 2.4.24 The Water Cycle Study (AECOM 2025) has identified that the following Wastewater Recycling Centres has no further capacity to address increased growth as a result of the Local Plan:
- Clacton Holland Haven WRC
 - Great Bromley WRC
 - Manningtree WRC
 - St Osyth WRC
- 2.4.25 Therefore, development within the catchment of these WRC, which flows directly into Habitats sites, could result in adverse impacts from water quality. Clacton Holland Haven WRC is not considered to be significantly hydrologically linked to any Habitats sites, but the remaining three WRC could result in impacts if investment is not secured to cope within additional housing. As a result, any housing within the catchment of these WRC, will need to be screened in to appropriate assessment stage.



2.4.26 In addition, due to the very nature of watercourses, it is indicated that hydrological connectivity can continue for considerable distances. However, Natural England have advised that professional judgement is required when looking at hydrological impacts and greater than 20km is considered over precautionary. Therefore, allocation sites will be screened in where there is clear impact pathway within a Habitats site with water quality sensitivities.

2.4.27 Water quality is therefore within scope of the HRA screening.

Water Quantity

2.4.28 Changes in the depth, duration, frequency, magnitude and timing of water supply or flow, can have significant implications for some waterbirds in sensitive habitats. Such changes may affect the quality and suitability of habitats used by birds for drinking, preening, feeding or roosting.

2.4.29 Increased water usage can have wide ranging effects on river and wetland habitat parameters, including increased temperatures and nutrient concentrations and reduced oxygen concentrations. Such impacts can be significantly detrimental to rivers' floristic characteristics and to notable species.

2.4.30 Increased use of water sources by a proposal also has the potential to affect terrestrial habitats. Excessive abstraction from underlying aquifers could cause a lowering of the water table and affect the water quality of sensitive wetland habitats. Therefore, Quarries that are below the water table will require dewatering on a regular basis. Dewatering can lead to a reduction in the water table and "draw down" from hydraulically linked groundwater dependent habitats (including streams and rivers).

2.4.31 Due to the very nature of watercourses, hydrological connectivity can continue for considerable distances. Natural England have advised on project level HRAs that it requires professional judgement when looking at hydrological impacts. Sites are screened in where there is a potential risk of significant of increased or reduction of water resources affecting a Habitats site.

2.4.32 Water quantity is therefore within scope of the HRA screening.

Air Quality

2.4.33 There are number of atmospheric pollutants which can result in direct or indirect impacts to Habitats sites. These impacts are usually caused when the qualifying features are plants, soils and wetland habitats. However, some species may also be indirectly impacted from air pollution causing changes in habitat composition. Potential impacts from pollutants and their sources have been highlighted within Table 5.

**Table 5. Main sources and effects of air pollutants on Habitats sites**

| Pollutants | Source | Effects on habitats and species |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Acid Deposition | SO ₂ , NO _x and ammonia all contribute to acid deposition. Although future trends in sulphur emissions and subsequent deposition to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will continue to decline, it is likely that increased nitrogen emissions may cancel out any gains produced by reduced sulphur levels | Can affect habitats and species from acid rain, as well as dry deposition. Some habitats will be more susceptible depending on soil type, geology, weathering rate and buffering capacity. |
| Ammonia (NH ₃) | Ammonia is released following decomposition and volition of animal wastes. It is naturally occurring trace gas, but levels have increased considerably within increased agricultural practices (primarily pig or poultry farming). Ammonia reacts with acid pollutants such as the products of SO ₂ and NO _x emissions to produce fine ammonium (NH ₄) containing aerosol which may be transferred much longer distances (Can therefore be a significant trans-boundary issue). | Adverse effects are as a result of nitrogen deposition leading to eutrophication. As emissions mostly occur at ground level in the rural environment and NH ₃ is rapidly deposited, some of the most acute problems of NH ₃ are for small relict nature reserves located near to intensive agricultural landscapes. |
| Nitrogen oxides (NO _x) | Nitrogen oxides are mostly primarily produced in combustion processes, such as coal fire power stations. | Deposition of nitrogen compounds (nitrates, nitrogen dioxide and nitrous oxide), can lead to both soil and freshwater acidification. In addition, nitrogen compounds can cause eutrophication of soils and water. This alters the species composition of plant communities and can eliminate sensitive species. |
| Nitrogen deposition (N) | The pollutants that contribute to nitrogen deposition are derived mainly from NO _x and NH ₃ emissions. These pollutants cause acidification (see also acid deposition) as well as eutrophication. | Species-rich plant communities with relatively high proportions of slow growing perennial species and bryophytes are most at risk from nitrogen eutrophication, due to its promotion of competitive and invasive species which can respond readily to elevated levels of N. N disposition can also increase the risk of damage from abiotic factors e.g. drought and frost. |



| Pollutants | Source | Effects on habitats and species |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Ozone (O ₃) | A secondary pollutant generated by photochemical reactions from NO _x and volatile organic compounds. These are mainly released by the combustion of fossil fuels in the UK has led to a large increase in background ozone concentration, leading to an increased number of days when levels across the region are above 40ppb. Reducing ozone pollution is believed to require action at international level to reduce levels of the precursors that form ozone. | Concentrations of O ₃ above 40 ppb can be toxic to humans and wildlife and can affect buildings. Increased ozone concentrations may lead to a reduction in growth of agricultural crops decreased forest production and altered species composition in semi-natural plant communities. |
| Sulphur Dioxide SO ₂ | Main sources of sulphur dioxide emission are electricity generation, industry and domestic fuel combustion. May also arise from shipping and increased atmospheric concentrations in busy ports. Total sulphur dioxide emissions have decreased substantially in the UK since the 1980's. | Wet and dry depositions of sulphur dioxide acidify soils and freshwater, and alters the species composition of plant and associated animal communities. The significance of impacts depends on levels of deposition and the buffering capacity of soils. |

2.4.34 Nitrogen deposition (*i.e.* primarily NO_x and NH₃ emissions) has been included as a key vulnerability/ factor affecting site integrity as part of the Site Improvement Plans for the following Habitats sites:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA
- Ald-Ore Estuary SPA
- Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC
- Deben SPA
- Hamford Water SPA
- Hamford Water SAC
- Sandlings SPA
- Staverton Park and The Thicks SAC
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA



- 2.4.35 This is because nitrogen deposition exceeds relevant 'critical loads' for these sites. Critical Loads are defined as: *"a quantitative estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge"*³.
- 2.4.36 Therefore, where nitrogen deposition exceeds relevant critical loads there is a possibility that eutrophication, acidification and changes to habitat type will be caused, which could affect qualifying features of a Habitats site. Critical loads for nitrogen deposition are in units of kilogrammes of nitrogen per hectare per year (kg N/ha/year) and vary with habitat sensitivity⁴.
- 2.4.37 The leading cause of increased nitrogen deposition at Habitats sites are typically locally intensive agricultural practices, *i.e.*, land spreading, outdoor pigs, high nutrient inputs on fields. This may result in protected habitats being altered, which may in turn, may impact the supporting species / qualifying features which rely on these specific habitats.
- 2.4.38 In addition, the creation of new site allocation and infrastructure within the county could result in increases of traffic on roads, which may result in increases in air pollution (ammonia NH₃, nitrogen oxides NO_x and sulphur dioxide SO₂) from traffic emissions upon Habitats sites, if increases of traffic are caused within 200m as referenced within the Highways Agency Design Manual for Road and Bridges (DMRB)⁵.
- 2.4.39 Furthermore, construction can also generate dust. Effects of dust on vegetation will depend on the prevailing wind direction and the distance the dust can travel is related to particle size. It is likely that the large and intermediate size particles would create more harm by smothering vegetation and preventing light to reach chloroplasts.
- 2.4.40 Any potential impacts upon specific Habitats sites identified will need to consider habitat / pollution impacts information from the Air Pollution Information System (APIS), as well as professional judgement on the proposed likely impacts upon the habitats associated with the relevant Habitats site.
- 2.4.41 Consequently, adverse air quality has been included within the scope for the HRA screening.

³ Air Pollution Information System. Critical Loads and Critical Levels - a guide to the data provided in APIS. Available from http://www.apis.ac.uk/critical-loads-and-critical-levels-guide-data-provided-apis#_Toc279788052 [Accessed October 2023].

⁴ IAQM (June 2019). Available from <https://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2019.pdf> [Accessed April 2024].

⁵ Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (2019). Sustainability & Environment Appraisal LA 105 Air quality. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrbs/search/10191621-07df-44a3-892e-c1d5c7a28d90> [Accessed April 2024]



2.3 Screening categorisation

2.4.42 Screening is set out in Chapter 3 of this report and Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 considers each policy and proposed site allocation in the Local Plan and the results of the screening exercise recorded, using the precautionary principle. Each policy and allocation site included in the Local Plan has been categorised using criteria in Table 6 below. This system has been used to record the potential policies and proposed allocation sites to have a Likely Significant Effect.

Table 6. Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Categorisation

Category A: Significant effects not likely

Category A identifies those policies that would not result in a Likely Significant Effect and are considered to have no adverse effect. These policies can be 'screened out' and no further assessment is required. This is because, if there are no adverse effects at all, there can be no adverse effect to contribute to in-combination effects of other plans or projects.

Category B: Significant effects uncertain

Category B identifies those policies which will have no significant adverse effect on any Habitats site. That is, there could be some effect but none which would undermine the conservation objectives, when the policy is considered on its own. Given that there may be some effect this now needs to be considered in combination with other plans or projects. If these effects can be excluded in-combination, the policy can be screened out and no further assessment required. However, if the possibility of a significant adverse effect in combination cannot be ruled out there will be a Likely Significant Effect in combination, and Appropriate Assessment will be required.

Category C: Likely Significant Effect

Category C identifies those policies which cannot be ruled out as having a Likely Significant Effect upon a Habitats site, alone, that is the effect could undermine the conservation objectives. In this case an Appropriate Assessment is triggered without needing to consider in-combination effects at screening stage, although they may need to be considered at Appropriate Assessment.



3. Screening of Likely Significant Effects

3.1 Screening Policies for Likely Significant Effect

- 3.1.1 The key Habitats sites information (i.e. the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the Habitats sites) together with current pressures and potential threats have been referenced. Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) have been interrogated on MAGIC and these help to show which elements may have an effect.
- 3.1.2 The Habitats sites scoped in or out are set out in Table 7 below. Impacts on Habitats sites over 20km from the Plan's area have been scoped out for Likely Significant Effects due to the distance and the identified Impact Risk Zones on the MAGIC Map. This distance is considered to be over precautionary for a water pollution and air quality impact pathways. This is based on previous advice from Natural England.
- 3.1.3 The list of Habitats sites, their qualifying features and conservation objectives can be found in Appendix 3 including web links to further information.
- 3.1.4 The list of key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity can also be found in Appendix 3.
- 3.1.5 A map of the Habitats sites within 20km of the Tendring District boundary has been included in Appendix 4.

Table 7. Lists of Habitats sites within the scope of the assessment

| Site | Scoping assessment | Included within screening assessment? |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Abberton Reservoir SPA | The Habitats site is located only 5km from the Tendring district border. Whilst there will be no direct impacts or clear impact pathways to the Habitats site, proposals within Tendring could result in impacts to the over wintering bird qualifying features and conservation objectives of the SPA, via impacts to functionally linked land. | Yes |
| Abberton Reservoir Ramsar | The Habitats site is located only 5km from the Tendring district border. Whilst there will be no direct impacts or clear impact pathways to the Habitats site, proposals within Tendring could result in impacts to the over | Yes |



| Site | Scoping assessment | Included within screening assessment? |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | wintering bird qualifying features of the Ramsar site, via impacts to functionally linked land. | |
| Ald-Ore Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located 5km from the Tendring district border. The LPA is located within the Zone of Influence for the Habitat site. Therefore, it is considered likely that proposals could potentially affect the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the Habitats site. | Yes |
| Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located 5km from the Tendring district border. The LPA is located within the Zone of Influence for the Habitat site. Therefore, it is considered likely that proposals could potentially affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | Yes |
| Colne Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |
| Colne Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |



| Site | Scoping assessment | Included within screening assessment? |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Crouch & Roach Estuaries Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Deben Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Deben Estuary Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Dengie SPA | The Habitat is located 5.9km from the Tendring district border. The LPA is located within the Zone of Influence for the Habitats site. Therefore, it is considered likely that proposals could potentially affect the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the Habitat site. | Yes |
| Dengie Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located 5.9km from the Tendring district border. The LPA is located within the Zone of Influence for the Habitats site. Therefore, it is considered likely that proposals could potentially affect the qualifying features and conservation objectives of the Habitats site. | Yes |
| Essex Estuaries SAC | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |
| Foulness SPA | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that | No |



| Site | Scoping assessment | Included within screening assessment? |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | |
| Foulness Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Hamford Water SPA | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | |
| Hamford Water Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |
| Hamford Water SAC | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |
| Orfordness - Shingle Street SAC | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA | The Habitats site is located only 0.56km from the Tendring district border. Therefore, it is considered necessary to include the Habitats site within the scope of the assessment. | Yes |
| Sandlings SPA | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Southern North Sea SAC | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |



| Site | Scoping assessment | Included within screening assessment? |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Staverton Park and The Thicks SAC | The Habitats site is located a sufficient distance away from the district boundary and no impact pathways have been identified. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that proposals could affect the qualifying features of the Habitats site. | No |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site | The Habitats site is located within district boundary with potential impact pathways from new site allocations. | Yes |

3.2 Screening of Policies and Nominated Sites for Likely Significant Effect

-
- 3.3.1 This chapter summarises the potential for Likely Significant Effects identified, based upon Chapter 2 and using Categories A, B and C above. It advises as to where Likely Significant Effects can be ruled out. The need for an 'Appropriate Assessment' is triggered where the HRA Screening stage identifies policies which may have a Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats sites (see Appendix 1).
- 3.3.2 A number of impact pathways have been identified in Chapter 2 above and these have been screened in below. 15 Habitats sites have been scoped in for HRA screening. Where this is likely to result in a significant effect, or where there is uncertainty, in line with the precautionary approach being applied in the HRA, until significant effects can be ruled out, they are treated as giving rise to Likely Significant Effects.
- 3.3.3 A summary of the assessment is set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. Conclusions take into account the potential effects of other plans and projects. Each policy and proposed allocation site were considered in the context of the policy Screening criteria above.
- 3.3.4 Table 8, below, lists the policies to consider if any have the potential to cause a Likely Significant Effect, before taking mitigation into account and therefore require Appropriate Assessment.

**Table 8. Policies and Allocation sites that may Cause a Likely Significant Effect**

| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|--|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Proposed Policies | | | | | | | |
| LP1 - Housing Supply | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category B |
| LP9 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| PP6a - Extensions to Existing Employment Sites in the Countryside | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category B |
| PP7 - Employment Allocations | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category B |
| PP8 -Tourism | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| PP16 - St Osyth Village Centre | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAE 2 - Freeport East, Bathside Bay and the A120 Corridor | | | | | | Yes | Screen In, Category B |
| SAE3 - Collierswood Farm A120 | | Yes | | | | | Screen In, Category B |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|--|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Strategic Business Park | | | | | | | |
| Proposed Site Allocations | | | | | | | |
| SAMU8 - Tendring Central, Hare Green GV | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category C |
| MSA1 - Durite Works, Valley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH1 - Vicarage Farm, Main Road, Harwich and Dovercourt | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAMU5 - Land South of Oakley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category C |
| SAMU9 - Horsley Garden Community, Horsley Cross GV | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA5 - Brightlingsea Telephone Exchange, 16 New Street, Brightlingsea | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|--|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| MSA6 - Land at Pannell Palce, Brightlingsea | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH4 - Land East of Church Road, Brightlingsea | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA2 - Land adjacent Branscombe Close, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH2 - Land north of Thorpe Road, Kirby Cross, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH3 - Land off Arthur Ransome Way, Walton, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross | | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category C |
| MSA3 - Affinity Water, Mill Hill, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category C |
| MSA4 - Crisp Malting, School Lane, Mistley, | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category C |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|---|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford | | | | | | | |
| SAMU7 - Saltings Quarter, Riverside Avenue, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Screen In, Category C |
| MSA7 - Land south-west of Colchester Main Road, Alresford | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH6 - Land east of Cockaynes Lane, Alresford | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA10 - Land south of Weeley Road | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH7 - Land east of Admirals Green and north of Weeley Road | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA21 - Land east of Heckfords Road | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|---|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| SAH8 - Land east of Amerells Road, Little Clacton | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH9 - Land south of Clacton Road, St Osyth | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH10 - Land south of Colchester Road | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAH11 - Land North of Lifehouse Spa & Hotel, Thorpe-le-Soken/Thorpe Station and Maltings | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| SAMU6 - Land South of Colchester Road, Weeley | | Yes | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA8 - Land adj Village Hall, Harwich Road, Beaumont | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA9 - Land south of Windmill Road and east of Straight Road, Bradfield | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category B |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|--|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| MSA11 - Land west of Parsons Hill, Great Bromley | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category C |
| MSA12 - Land south of Hall Road, Great Bromley | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category C |
| MSA13 - Land west of Main Road, Great Holland | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA14 - Land east of Kirby Road, Great Holland | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA15 - Land north east of Wix Road, Great Oakley | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA16 - Land south of Orchard Close, Great Oakley | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA17 - Land north of Walton Road, Kirby-le-Soken | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA18 - Land north of Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church, Kirby-le-Soken | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|--|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| MSA19 - Land west of Manningtree Road, Little Bentley | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA20 - Land south of Shop Road, Little Bromley | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA22 - Haulage Depot, Heath Road, Tendring Village | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA23 - Land at Avocet Place, Thorrington | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA24 - Land east of Bentley Road, Weeley Heath | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA25 - Land south of Mill Lane, Weeley Heath | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA26 - Land south of Colchester Road, Wix | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |
| MSA27 - Abbey Bottom Farm, Wix | | | Yes | Yes | | | Screen In, Category B |



| Policy Reference | Land take | Impacts on protected species outside the designated site | Disturbance | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Air Pollution | Screening Categorisation |
|---|-----------|--|-------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| MSA28 - Land North of Rectory Road, Wrabness | | | Yes | | | | Screen In, Category B |

3.4 Policies carried forward to Appropriate Assessment Stage

- 3.5.1 All policies are shown in the HRA Screening Table in Appendix 2 and those marked red or amber are screened in as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, before taking mitigation into account and therefore require Appropriate Assessment (AA).

3.6 Habitats sites Screened in for Appropriate Assessment

- 3.6.1 The screening assessment has identified 8 policies and 43 proposed allocation sites which will need to be taken forward to AA should they be considered for incorporation as preferred sites in the next stage of the Local Plan.

Land take

- 3.6.2 There are no policies or allocations sites which will result in a direct land take of a Habitats site.

Impacts on protected species outside the designated site

- 3.6.3 There are 4 policies and 8 allocations sites, which have the potential to support qualifying bird species outside of the Habitats site for which they are listed.

- 3.6.4 This includes the following proposed policies:

- LP1 - Housing Supply
- PP7 - Employment Allocations
- PP16 - St Osyth Village Centre
- SAE3 - Collierswood Farm A120 Strategic Business Park



3.6.5 This includes the following proposed allocations sites:

- SAMU5 - Land South of Oakley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt
- SAMU9 - Horsley Garden Community, Horsley Cross GV
- SAH3 - Land off Arthur Ransome Way, Walton, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross
- MSA7 - Land south-west of Colchester Main Road, Alresford
- SAH6 - Land east of Cockaynes Lane, Alresford
- SAH10 - Land east of Station Road, Thorpe-le-Soken/Thorpe Station and Maltings
- SAH11 - Land North of Lifehouse Spa & Hotel, Thorpe-le-Soken/Thorpe Station and Maltings
- SAMU6 - Land South of Colchester Road, Weeley

3.6.6 This is because the policies and allocation sites may potentially include development located in areas which may contain habitat which is suitable for foraging overwintering birds which are listed as qualifying features of the relevant Habitats sites. Therefore, a Likely Significant Effect cannot be ruled out for the policies and allocations.

Disturbance

3.6.7 There are 6 policies which have the potential to result in disturbance (including recreational disturbance) upon a Habitats site based on their proximity. This includes:

- LP1 - Housing Supply
- LP9 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites
- PP6a - Extensions to Existing Employment Sites in the Countryside
- PP7 - Employment Allocations
- PP8 -Tourism
- PP16 - St Osyth Village Centre

3.6.8 It is indicated that policies 'LP1 – Housing Supply' and 'LP9 – Gypsy Travellers Sites' have been screened in due to potentially containing development which will result in an increased recreational disturbance, within consideration of the Essex Coast RAMS. This is because all development will likely fall within the Essex Coast RAMS Zone of Influence and will meet the criteria of the strategic mitigation measures.

3.6.9 Policy 'PP8 – Tourism' has also been screened in as a Likely Significant Effect from increased recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites within Tendring could not be ruled out. This is because the policy wording actively promotes tourism to coastal



Habitats sites, which could result in impacts without further measures to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations.

- 3.6.10 The Policies 'PP6a - Extensions to Existing Employment Sites in the Countryside', 'PP7 - Employment Allocations' and 'PP16 - St Osyth Village Centre' have been screened in, as it is not certain whether the policies will result in visual or noise disturbance impacts, due to the potential development being located in close proximity of coastal Habitats Sites within Tendring.
- 3.6.11 All 42 proposed allocations sites have been screened in, as the proposals will result in an increased recreational disturbance, within consideration of the Essex Coast RAMS, as the developments fall within the Essex Coast RAMS Zone of Influence. Furthermore, development which is over 99 residential units will likely result in impacts from increased recreational disturbance from the development alone.
- 3.6.12 Only the proposed employment area (SAMU7) 'Saltings Quarter - Manningtree' is considered to potentially result in a Likely Significant Effect from visual or noise disturbance, due it being located immediately adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

Water Quality

- 3.6.13 There are 3 policies and 13 allocations sites, which have the potential to result in adverse water quality upon a Habitats site based on their proximity to potential impact pathways.
- 3.6.14 This includes the following proposed policies:
- LP1 - Housing Supply
 - PP6a - Extensions to Existing Employment Sites in the Countryside
 - PP7 - Employment Allocations
- 3.6.15 This includes the following proposed allocations sites:
- SAMU8 - Tendring Central, Hare Green GV
 - SAMU5 - Land South of Oakley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt
 - SAH9 - Land south of Clacton Road, St Osyth
 - SAH3 - Land off Arthur Ransome Way, Walton, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross
 - MSA3 - Affinity Water, Mill Hill, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford
 - MSA4 - Crisp Malting, School Lane, Mistley, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford
 - SAMU7 - Saltings Quarter, Riverside Avenue, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford
 - MSA6 - Land at Pannell Palce, Brightlingsea



- MSA9 - Land south of Windmill Road and east of Straight Road, Bradfield
- MSA11 - Land west of Parsons Hill, Great Bromley
- MSA12 - Land south of Hall Road, Great Bromley
- SAH9 - Land south of Clacton Road, St Osyth
- MSA27 - Abbey Bottom Farm, Wix

3.6.16 These policies and allocations sites have been screened in because they may include development which contains a potential impact pathway to a coastal Habitats site due to being in close proximity to main rivers. Alternatively, they screen in if they include development which is within Great Bromley WRC, Manningtree WRC or St Oysth WRC, as these Wastewater Recycling Centres feed into the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and the Essex Estuaries SAC and do not have sufficient headroom capacity to cope within new development within the catchment.

3.6.17 It is considered that 'SAMU5 – Land South of Oakley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt' could have impacts from adverse water quality upon Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC due to the close proximity of the development to the Habitats sites.

Water Quantity

3.6.18 There are no policies or allocations sites which will result will cause a direct land take of a Habitats site. None of the Habitats sites within the scope of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, which have hydrological impact pathways, are considered sensitive to increased water usage or increased water input, as they are all estuarine habitats.

Air Quality

3.6.19 There are 4 policies and 4 allocation sites which have the potential to result in a Likely Significant Effect from adverse air quantity upon a Habitats site based on their proximity to potential impact pathways.

3.6.20 This includes the following proposed policies:

- LP1 - Housing Supply
- PP6a - Extensions to Existing Employment Sites in the Countryside
- PP7 - Employment Allocations
- SAE 2 - Freeport East, Bathside Bay and the A120 Corridor

3.6.21 This includes the following proposed allocations sites:

- SAMU5 - Land South of Oakley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt



- SAH3 - Land off Arthur Ransome Way, Walton, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross
- MSA4 - Crisp Malting, School Lane, Mistley, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford
- SAMU7 - Saltings Quarter, Riverside Avenue, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford

3.6.22 These policies and allocation sites have been screened in for potential impacts from air quality, as they include development within 200m of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as well as the Essex Estuaries SAC.

3.7 HRA Screening Conclusion and Considering the Next Stage

- 3.7.1 The range of potential impacts on Habitats sites has been considered and assessed. In line with the *recent Court judgment (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17)*, mitigation measures can no longer be taken into account when carrying out a HRA screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in Likely Significant Effects on a Habitats site. Consequently, HRA screening has concluded that it is not possible to rule out the potential for Likely Significant Effects without further assessment and possible mitigation for the indicated policies.
- 3.7.2 An Appropriate Assessment is therefore required under the UK Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). The Local Plan may only be adopted after having ascertained that it will not result in adverse effect on integrity of the Habitats sites within scope of this assessment.
- 3.7.3 The screening stage is an iterative process as measures can be incorporated in order to be able to ascertain that there is no significant adverse effect on the integrity, before re-screening and making a final assessment.
- 3.7.4 The Appropriate Assessment stage shall also consider impacts in combination with other plans and projects, thus no detailed consideration on cumulative effects have been considered as part of this screening assessment.



4. Conclusion

- 4.1.1 This Habitats Regulations Assessment considers the impacts arising from the Tendring District Local Plan – Preferred Options (Reg 18).
- 4.1.2 As a result, 8 policies and 42 proposed allocated sites which have been screened in for further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
- 4.1.3 This due to potential to result in a Likely Significant Effect from functionally linked land and disturbance of qualifying features upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as well as Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- 4.1.4 It is also due to potential impacts from visual and noise disturbance during the construction and operation phases upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC, and the Essex Estuaries SAC, as well as potential impacts from recreational disturbance from coastal Habitats Sites where development falls within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS.
- 4.1.5 It is also due to potential impacts from water quality and air quality impacts upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC, and the Essex Estuaries SAC.
- 4.1.6 The potential impacts from these policies and allocations will be considered as part of an Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) to support the Tendring District Council Local Plan - Regulation 19 stage. This shall confirm whether impacts will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats sites within scope of this assessment, from alone or in combination with other plans and projects and allow the Local Plan to demonstrate compliance under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).



5. References

- AECOM (2025) Tendring Water Cycle Study
- Air Pollution Information System - www.apis.ac.uk
- Anglian Water (December 2022) Draft WRMP24 Main Document. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp/draft-wrmp24-main-report.pdf>
- Anglian Water (December 2022) Draft WRMP24 Non-technical Summary. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/wrmp/draft-wrmp24-non-technical-summary.pdf>
- Anglian Water (June 2022) Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan. Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft.pdf>
- Anglian Water (June 2022) Draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (Technical Document). Available at: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/dwmp-draft-technical-document.pdf>
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (2019). Sustainability & Environment Appraisal LA 105 Air quality. Available at: <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb/search/10191621-07df-44a3-892e-c1d5c7a28d90>
- Gov.uk (May 2019) Pollution Prevention for Businesses. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>
- IAQM (June 2019). Available from <https://iaqm.co.uk/text/guidance/air-quality-impacts-on-nature-sites-2019.pdf>
- Hemingway, K & Spencer, J (2013) Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning & Construction Projects, Institute of Estuarine & Coastal Studies (IECS) University of Hull
- Natural England (2014) Conservation objectives for European Sites. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6581547796791296>
- Place Services (2018) Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Habitats Regulations Assessment Strategy document 2018-2038. Available at: https://legacy.tendringdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/planning/Planning_Policy/RAMS/Essex-Coast-Recreational-disturbance-Avoidance-and-Mitigation-Strategy_AC.pdf



- Stevens, C.J.; Maskell, L.C. ; Smart, S.M.; Caporn, S.J.M. ; Dise, N.B.; Gowing, D.J. 2009 Identifying indicators of atmospheric nitrogen deposition impacts in acid grasslands Biological Conservation 142 2069-2075
- Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond: North Essex Authorities' - Shared Strategic Section 1 (Adopted January 2021). Available at: https://legacy.tendringdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/planning/Planning_Policy/Section_1/Tendring%20District%20Local%20Plan%202013-2033%20and%20Beyond%20-%20Section%201_AC.pdf
- Tendring Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond - Section 2 (Adopted 25th January 2022). Available at: https://legacy.tendringdc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/planning/Planning_Policy/Section_2/Tendring%20District%20Local%20Plan%202013-2033%20and%20Beyond%20-%20Section%202_AC.pdf
- The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB (2018). The Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Management Plan 2018-2023. Available at: <https://www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/SCH-AONB-Management-Plan-2018-23.pdf>



6. Appendices

Appendix 1. HRA Screening of Individual Policies

Where mitigation is necessary to avoid Likely Significant Effects (LSE), then in line with CJEU *People over Wind* court ruling, this cannot be taken into consideration at HRA Screening Stage 1. Any policies providing mitigation are therefore also carried forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| SPL1a - Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy provides confirmation that the Council will be in favour of sustainable development which improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| SPL1 - Managing Growth | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy outlines the settlement hierarchy to manage growth across District.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| SPL2 - Settlement Development Boundaries | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy outlines that development will be favoured within a defined 'Settlement Development Boundary', with development relating to Policy LP6 and LP7 exempt from this position.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| SPL3 - Sustainable Design | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out sustainable design for new development, with consideration to design, |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>practical requirements, impacts and compatibility.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| HP1 - Improving Health and Wellbeing | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy aims to ensure availability for healthy and active lifestyles and long-term prevention of avoidable illness, as well as health services and infrastructure.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| HP1a - Managing the location of hot food takeaways | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the criteria for where hot food takeaways will be supported.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| HP2 - Community Facilities | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets where the provision of new community centres or the loss of change of use of existing community centres will be supported.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| HP4 - Safeguarded Open Space | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out where the loss of open space may be |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>permitted, in line with specified criteria.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| HP5 - Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out measures to maintain, expand and improve the quality and accessibility of public open space, sports and recreational facilities of different types.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP1 - Housing Supply | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The policy sets out strategic development areas and housing allocations, with a commitment to deliver 18,071 (net) new homes between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2042.</p> <p>Therefore, a LSE is predicted on Habitats sites from numerous impact pathways (recreational disturbance, visual or noise disturbance, loss of functionally linked land, air quality and water</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | quality. Therefore, this policy must be screened in . |
| LP2 - Housing Choice | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy relates to housing types to reflect the needs of the District.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP3 - Housing Density and Standards | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy relates to housing densities and standards.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP4 - Development Layout and Design | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out design expectations for new residential and mixed-use developments.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| LP5 - Affordable Housing | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the requirements for affordable housing in new developments.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP6 - Rural Exception Sites | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out where affordable housing may be permitted on site adjoining Settlement Development Boundaries of a 'Rural Service Centre' or 'Smaller Rural Settlement', as defined by the settlement hierarchy.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP7 - Self-build and Custom-built homes | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the requirements for self-build and Custom House buildings within the District.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| LP8 - Backland Residential Development | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the criteria for new residential development in the back of residential gardens.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP9 - Gypsy and Traveller Sites | | | | | | | | | New gypsy and traveller accommodation could result in increased impacts from recreational disturbance. |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, there is potential for a LSE from this impact pathway. As a result, this policy must be screened in . |
| LP10 - Care, Independent and Assisted Living, Secure Institutions | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the criteria of care homes, extra-care housing and other forms of specialist accommodation.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| LP11 - HMO and Bedsits | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out criteria for where house in multiple occupation or bedsits within |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>defined town centres may be permitted by the Council.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP1 - New Retail Development | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy encourages new retail development within town centres.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PP2 - Retail Hierarchy | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out a retail hierarchy for new retail development.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP3 - Village and Neighbourhood Centres | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out where small scale retail development will be permitted within villages and neighbourhood centres. |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP4 - Local Impact Threshold | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets when an impact assessment will be required where development is over specified floorspace thresholds.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| PP5 - Town Centre Uses | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out where development or changes of use will be permitted within Town Centre boundaries or Primary Shopping Areas.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP6 - Employment Sites | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PP6a - Extensions to Existing Employment Sites in the Countryside | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | <p>The policy does not mention how any potential employment extensions will ensure impacts upon Habitats sites will be avoided.</p> <p>As existing employment areas are in close proximity of Habitats sites, notably the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, there is existing impact pathways (air quality, water quality and visual or noise disturbance) to these Habitats sites and a potential for LSE.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy must be screened in . |
| PP7 - Employment Allocations | | | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The policy includes employment areas which may result in LSE from loss of Functionally linked land or water quality and air quality impacts.</p> <p>As a result, a LSE cannot be ruled out. Therefore, this policy must be screened in.</p> |
| PP8 -Tourism | | | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The policy actively promotes tourism to coastal Habitats sites, but references that any development must be subject to other policies of the Local Plan, which includes PPL4 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity).</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>Nevertheless, the policy alone has the potential to result in LSE.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy must be screened in.</p> |
| PP9 - Hotels and Guesthouses | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP10 - Camping and Touring Caravan Sites | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy clearly states that new camping and / or touring caravan/motorhome sites and extensions to existing camping and/or touring caravan/motorhome sites, will</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>only be supported where compliance under the Habitats Regulations can be demonstrated.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is not expected, and this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP11 - Holiday Parks | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy clearly states that extensions or improvements of Holiday parks will only be supported where compliance under the Habitats Regulations can be demonstrated.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is not expected, and this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| PP12 - Improving Education and Skills | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP13 - The Rural Economy | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PP14 - Priority Areas for Regeneration | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PP15 - Walton Mere | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy includes works adjacent to Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC. However, the policy clearly states that wider proposals will need to comply with the Habitats Regulations to allow applications to be permitted, even if the wider works are supported in principle.</p> <p>Therefore, with these measures embedded, a LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PP16 - St Osyth Village Centre | | | Yes | | Yes | | | | The policy indicates the Councils support for a new car park within St Osyth village centre, as well as within the Coastal Protection Belt, in exceptional circumstances. The Coastal Protection Belt includes Habitats sites and is not just related to landscape character. Therefore, based on the policy wording there is a risk of LSE upon the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar and Essex Estuaries SAC due to uncertainty of the location of the proposed car park. |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy must be screened in . |
| PPL1 - Development and Flood Risk | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy relates to ensuring appropriate measures to respond to flood risks are incorporated into the development.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL2 - Coastal Protection Belt | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out the Council's to development within the Coastal Protection Belt, as well |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>as an adaptive approach to coastal protection.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL3 - The Rural Landscape | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL4 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy set outs the Councils approach to Biodiversity and Geodiversity, which includes</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>measures to ensure that developments comply with the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL4a - Biodiversity in Tendring | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the Councils approach to Biodiversity Net Gains and habitat banks.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PPL5 - Water Conservation, Drainage and Sewerage | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy, the text ensures that development will be required to deliver appropriate SUDs and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Therefore, a LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL6 - Strategic Green Gaps | | | | | | | | | No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy, as the policy relates to ensuring |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>separate identities for new or existing settlements.</p> <p>Therefore, a LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL7 - Archaeology | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy relates the protection of designated or non-designated assets.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PPL8 - Conservation Area and Registered Parks and Gardens | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy relates to where new development of works which may affect its setting may be permitted.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL9 - Listed Buildings | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out where development affect a listed building or its setting may be permitted. |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL9a - Non-Designated Heritage Assets | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out the Councils approach for the protection and enhancement of non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| PPL10a - Operational Energy and Carbon (Net Zero) in Homes and Buildings | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets the Council's approach to ensure that new development must Net Zero Energy and Carbon in operation.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL10b - Embodied Carbon and Circular Economy in Homes and Buildings | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets the approach to minimise embodied carbon and circular economy in homes and buildings.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL10c - Renewable Energy Installations | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets the principle that the Council will support proposals for renewable and low carbon energy generation and distribution networks.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PPL11 - The Avenues Area of Special Character, Frinton on Sea | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out measures that development will conserve and enhance the character and appearance of 'The Avenues' of Frinton-On-Sea.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL12 - The Gardens Area of Special | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out measures that development will conserve and enhance the character and |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Character, Clacton on Sea | | | | | | | | | <p>appearance of 'The Gardens' Clacton-On-Sea.</p> <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. A LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL12a - Thorpe Station and Maltings | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| PPL12b - St Osyth Priory | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL12c – Protection of the Naze | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy promotes the protection of the Naze at Walton from coastal erosion, whilst supporting measures which will enhance the heritage, geology and biodiversity of the site or provide flood defence.</p> <p>An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| PPL13 - Ardleigh Reservoir Catchment Area | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy sets out that the Council will support proposals which support the role, function and operation of Ardleigh Reservoir and its treatment works.</p> <p>An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL14 - Safeguarding of Civil Technical Site, North East of Little | | | | | | | | | The policy sets out that restrictions will be imposed to development within a |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Clacton/South of Thorpe-le-Soken | | | | | | | | | <p>safeguarded area around civil technical site in north east of Little Clacton and south of Thorpe-le-Soken.</p> <p>An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| PPL15 - Safeguarding of Hazardous Substance Site, South East of Great Oakley/South West of Harwich | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy relates to the hazardous substance site located at Bramble Island to the east of Great Oakley and south west of Harwich. This site is located immediately adjacent to Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC. However, the</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>policy works states that any new development at Bamble Island will be required to demonstrate no harmful effects upon the national, European and international environmental designations which exist.</p> <p>Therefore, the policy wording ensures embedded mitigation to ensure compliance under the Habitats regulations and this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| CP1 - Sustainable Transport and Active Travel | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this policy can be screened out . |
| CP2 - Improving and Maintaining the Transport Network | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| CP3 - Improving the Telecommunications Network | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| SAE1 - Carless Extension, Harwich | | | | | | | | | <p>The policy wording ensures that any new extension to the existing refinery must ensure compliance with the Habitats regulations to allow it to be permitted. Therefore, an appropriate mitigation strategy has been embedded as part of the policy.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |
| SAE 2 – Freeport East, Bathside Bay and the A120 Corridor | | | | | | | | Yes | <p>Bathside Bay has received planning consent for the construction of an operational container terminal alongside a new small boat harbour, so the policy primarily considers impacts upon improvements upon A120 corridor. There are</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>points in which the A120 corridor is within 200m of the Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar. Therefore, there is potential for a LSE from air quality from any improvements and upgrades to the A120, which may increase overall traffic along the A-Road.</p> <p>Therefore, a LSE can not be ruled out and this policy must be screened in.</p> |
| Policy SAE3 – Collierswood Farm A120 Strategic Business Park | | | Yes | | | | | Yes | <p>The proposed employment area includes a large area of arable land, which could provide functionally linked land for qualifying features of the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar and</p> |



| Policy | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>The Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in</p> |
| DI1 - Infrastructure Delivery and Impact Mitigation | | | | | | | | | <p>No impact pathways identified from the proposed policy. An LSE is not predicted on Habitats sites within the scope of the HRA.</p> <p>Therefore, this policy can be screened out.</p> |



Appendix 2. HRA Screening of allocation sites

Where mitigation is necessary to avoid Likely Significant Effects (LSE), then in line with CJEU *People over Wind* court ruling, this cannot be taken into consideration at HRA Screening Stage 1. Any site allocations providing mitigation are therefore also carried forward to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denigie SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| Adopted Strategic Housing Allocations from Tendring Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond - Section 2 (Adopted 25th January 2022) | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy SAMU1 - Development And Delivery Of Tendring/Colchester Borders Garden Community | | | | | | | | | The strategic housing allocation has been adopted as part of the previous Local Plan. No changes have been identified and embedded mitigation remains the same. |
| Policy SAMU2 – Development at Hartley Gardens, Clacton | | | | | | | | | The strategic housing allocation has been adopted as part of the previous Local Plan.c No changes have been identified and embedded mitigation remains the same. |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| Policy SAMU3 – Development at Oakwood Park, Clacton | | | | | | | | | The strategic housing allocation has been adopted as part of the previous Local Plan. No changes have been identified and embedded mitigation remains the same. |
| Policy SAMU4 – Development at Rouses Farm, Jaywick Lane, Clacton | | | | | | | | | The strategic housing allocation has been adopted as part of the previous Local Plan. No changes have been identified and embedded mitigation remains the same. |
| Proposed Housing Allocations | | | | | | | | | |
| SAMU8 - Tendring Central, Hare Green GV | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. There |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>are also potential impacts upon functionally linked land, as the majority of the habitat on-site is arable land. Furthermore, the site is located within Great Bromley WRC, which does not have the headroom capacity to deal with increased housing demand. Therefore, there could result in water quality impacts as unmanaged wastewater or other water quality impacts could be caused due to the hydrological links of Tenpenny Brook and Bentley Brook to the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as well as the Essex</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA1 - Durite Works, Valley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt | | | | | | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAH1 - Vicarage Farm, Main Road, Harwich and Dovercourt | | | | | | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAMU5 - Land South of Oakley Road, Harwich and Dovercourt | | | | | | Yes | | Yes | <p>This allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS. In addition, it is located immediately adjacent to Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC. Therefore, the proposals could result in adverse impacts from impacts upon functionally linked land, disturbance during the construction and operation phase, recreational disturbance,</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>water quality and air quality impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAMU9 - Horsley Garden Community, Horsley Cross GV | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>This strategic site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS. There are also potential impacts upon functionally linked land, as well as water quality impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| MSA5 - Brightlingsea Telephone Exchange, 16 New Street, Brightlingsea | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | <p>This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA6 - Land at Pannell Palce, Brightlingsea | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | <p>This strategic site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new recreational disturbance is predicted to result in residential developments</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>upon coastal Habitats sites. In addition, the site is within the catchment of the St Oysth WRC, so capacity issues will need to be addressed to ensure no water quality impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAH4 - Land East of Church Road, Brightlingsea | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | <p>This strategic site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites. There is also a potential for impacts upon</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>functionally linked land, as well as water quality as the site is adjacent to a Statutory Main River which feeds into the Colne Estuary.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA2 - Land adjacent Branscombe Close, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| SAH2 - Land north of Thorpe Road, Kirby Cross, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| SAH3 - Land off Arthur Ransome Way, Walton, Frinton, Walton, Kirby Cross | | | | | | Yes | | Yes | This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites. The site allocation is located within 200m of Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC. Therefore, the proposals could result in adverse impacts from impacts upon functionally linked land, disturbance during the construction and operation phase, recreational disturbance, water quality and air quality impacts. |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA3 - Affinity Water, Mill Hill, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites. The development is also within the Manningtree WRC, which has no headroom capacity for new development. As a result, the development may also result in water quality impacts.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA4 - Crisp Malting, School Lane, Mistley, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites.</p> <p>The development is also located within 100m of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. In addition, it is within Manningtree WRC which contains no headroom capacity. Therefore, there is considered potential impacts upon the Habitats sites from water quality, air quality and</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>disturbance during the construction and operation phases.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAMU7 - Saltings Quarter, Riverside Avenue, Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>This site allocation is located within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, where new residential development is predicted to result in recreational disturbance upon coastal Habitats sites.</p> <p>The allocation is also located within an employment area of Manningtree, which is located</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>immediately adjacent to the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Furthermore, the development is within the Manningtree WRC catchment, which does not have the headroom capacity to deal with increased growth. Therefore, there is considered potential impacts upon the Habitats sites from water quality, air quality and disturbance during the construction and operation phases.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| MSA7 - Land south-west of Colchester Main Road, Alresford | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. There is also a potential for impacts upon functionally linked land.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAH6 - Land east of Cockaynes Lane, Alresford | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. There</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>is also a potential for impacts upon functionally linked land.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA10 - Land south of Weeley Road | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| SAH7 - Land east of Admirals Green and north of Weeley Road | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA21 - Land east of Heckfords Road | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| SAH8 - Land east of Amerells Road, Little Clacton | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAH9 - Land south of Clacton Road, St Osyth | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. The site could also result in impacts from adverse water quality, due its proximity to a Statutory Main River, which feeds into the Colne Estuary. In addition, there is capacity issues within the St Oysth WRC which must be addressed.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAH10 - Land south of Colchester Road | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>recreational disturbance. There is also a potential for impacts upon functionally linked land within the on-site arable land.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| SAH11 - Land North of Lifehouse Spa & Hotel, Thorpe-le-Soken/Thorpe Station and Maltings | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. There is also a potential for impacts upon functionally linked land within the on-site arable land.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| SAMU6 - Land South of Colchester Road, Weeley | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. There is also a potential for impacts upon functionally linked land within the on-site arable land.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| MSA8 - Land adj Village Hall, Harwich Road, Beaumont | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA9 - Land south of Windmill Road and east of Straight Road, Bradfield | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. The site is also within the</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>Manningtree WRC, which contains no headroom capacity. As a result, impacts from water quality upon the Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA11 - Land west of Parsons Hill, Great Bromley | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. In addition, the development is within the Great Bromley WRC, which does not have sufficient</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>capacity to deal with increased housing. Great Bromley WRC feeds into Tennypenny Brook, which provides an impact pathway to the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Essex Estuaries SAC.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA12 - Land south of Hall Road, Great Bromley | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. In addition, the development is within the Great Bromley WRC,</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>which does not have sufficient capacity to deal with increased housing. Great Bromley WRC feeds into Tennypenny Brook, which provides an impact pathway to the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Essex Estuaries SAC.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA13 - Land west of Main Road, Great Holland | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA14 - Land east of Kirby Road, Great Holland | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA15 - Land north east of Wix Road, Great Oakley | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA16 - Land south of Orchard Close, Great Oakley | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA17 - Land north of Walton Road, Kirby-le-Soken | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA18 - Land north of Kirby-le-Soken Evangelical Church, Kirby-le-Soken | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| MSA19 - Land west of Manningtree Road, Little Bentley | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA20 - Land south of Shop Road, Little Bromley | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA22 - Haulage Depot, Heath Road, Tendring Village | | Yes | | | Yes | | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA23 - Land at Avocet Place, Thorrington | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | | | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA24 - Land east of Bentley Road, Weeley Heath | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA25 - Land south of Mill Lane, Weeley Heath | | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites.</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in . |
| MSA26 - Land south of Colchester Road, Wix | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA27 - Abbey Bottom Farm, Wix | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. The site is also immediately adjacent to a Statutory Main River, which feeds into the Stour Estuary. Therefore, there is potential for impacts from adverse water quality upon the relevant Habitats sites.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |
| MSA28 - Land North of Rectory Road, Wrabness | | Yes | | | Yes | Yes | | Yes | <p>The allocation site is location within the Zone of Influence of the Essex Coast RAMS, so the proposals could result in adverse impacts from recreational disturbance. No</p> |



| Proposed allocation sites | Abberton Reservoir SPA & Ramsar site | Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | Denige SPA and Ramsar site | Essex Estuaries SAC | Hamford Water SPA, Ramsar site and SAC | Outer Thames Estuary SPA | Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on Habitats sites? |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--|--------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | <p>other impact pathways have been identified by the proposals.</p> <p>Therefore, an LSE is predicted on the listed Habitats sites. Therefore, this site allocation must be screened in.</p> |



Appendix 3. Characteristics of Habitats sites within 20km

| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| Abberton Reservoir Abberton Reservoir is a large storage reservoir built in a long shallow valley. It is the largest freshwater body in Essex and is one of the most important reservoirs in Britain for wildfowl. It is less than 8 km from the coast and its primary role is as a roost for the local estuarine wildfowl population. | | | | |
| <u>Abberton Reservoir SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009141 | 718.31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A005 <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>; Great crested grebe (Non-breeding) A017 <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>; Great cormorant (Breeding) A036 <i>Cygnus olor</i>; Mute swan (Non-breeding) A050 <i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding) A051 <i>Anas strepera</i>; Gadwall (Non-breeding) | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, | 1. Siltation Silt entering the reservoir via Layer Brook is gradually accumulating in the western and central sections. This increases water turbidity and reduces light penetration, limiting the growth of the submerged aquatic plants on which the reservoir's fauna – including many of the waterbirds – largely depends. Siltation also reduces the water depth and increases the already high nutrient load. Now that concrete banks have been removed as part of the water-level raising scheme, siltation in the eastern section might also increase as a result of wave action until the earth banks have become vegetated. Essex and Suffolk |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A052 <i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding) A056 <i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding) A059 <i>Aythya ferina</i>; Common pochard (Non-breeding) A061 <i>Aythya fuligula</i>; Tufted duck (Non-breeding) A067 <i>Bucephala clangula</i>; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding) A125 <i>Fulica atra</i>; Common coot (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. | <p>Water is monitoring water quality, aquatic vegetation and bird numbers and carrying out a programme of work to accelerate vegetation colonisation of the new earth banks.</p> <p>2. Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>Human disturbance to feeding and resting waterbirds reduces their energy intake and increases energy expenditure. This can be critical if the birds are already stressed by severe weather or other factors. Disturbance at ground level is well controlled by Essex & Suffolk Water, though there is occasional trespassing. Disturbance from the air by low-flying civilian and military aircraft occurs several times each year and is more difficult to manage</p> <p>3. Changes in species distributions</p> <p>The reservoir's breeding colony of tree-nesting cormorants has declined from a peak of over 500 pairs in the</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | | <p>mid-1990s to about 160 pairs in 2010. Reasons for the decline are unknown. Possibilities include a reduction in suitable nest sites, predation (possibly linked to lower water levels in the central section), cormorant control measures at fisheries, or a decline in summer food supply within foraging distance of the colony</p> <p>4. Bird strike</p> <p>Mute swans, and possibly other species, have been killed as a result of colliding with overhead powerlines near the reservoir</p> <p>5. Water Pollution</p> <p>Water stored in the reservoir is high in nutrients (eutrophic) as it comes from intensively farmed catchment areas. As a result, algal blooms are regular in summer. In some years these may include toxic blue-green algae that can kill wildfowl, though no significant mortality has been recorded.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | | | <p>6. Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>The site is identified as at risk from air pollution as Nitrogen deposition levels exceed the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection. However the site's Nitrogen load is likely to be dominated by levels in the water entering the reservoir (mainly from the distant Ouse catchment) rather than direct deposition.</p> |
| <u>Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site</u> RIS Code: UK11001 | 726.2 | Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 23787 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. | Not applicable. | None present. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gadwall, <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> Northern shoveler, <i>Anas clypeata</i> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eurasian wigeon, <i>Anas Penelope</i>. <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mute swan, <i>Cygnus olor</i>, | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common pochard, <i>Aythya ferina</i> | | |
| Alde–Ore Estuary The site comprises the estuary complex of the rivers Alde, Butley and Ore, including Havergate Island and Orfordness. There are a variety of habitats including, intertidal mudflats, saltmarsh, vegetated shingle (including the second-largest and best-preserved area in Britain at Orfordness), saline lagoons and grazing marsh. The Orfordness/Shingle Street landform is unique within Britain in combining a shingle spit with a cusped foreland. The site supports nationally-scarce plants, British Red Data Book invertebrates, and notable assemblages of breeding and wintering wetland birds. | | | | |
| <u>Ald-Ore Estuary SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009112 | 2403.5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A081 – <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> – Western Marsh Harrier A183 – <i>Larus fuscus</i> – Lesser Black-backed Gull A151 – <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> – Ruff A132 – <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> – Pied Avocet A195 – <i>Sterna albifrons</i> – Little Tern | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 7. Hydrological changes Flood wall breaches in December 2013 (due to tidal surge) has led to flooding of Hazelwood Marshes and Lantern Marshes south (both currently intertidal). This has led to a loss of nesting habitat and saline lagoons 8. Public Access/Disturbance Human disturbance to nesting birds on beaches, notably on Orfordness and Shingle Street, by people accessing the southern end of the ness by boat, plus walkers along beach from Aldeburgh, and |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A191 – <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> – Sandwich Tern A162 – <i>Tringa totanus</i> – Common Redshank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The population of each of the qualifying features, and, The distribution of the qualifying features within the site. | <p>recreational beach users at Shingle Street. Human trampling affects vegetated shingle habitat. Military and private aircraft (paramotors, helicopters and planes) regularly fly low over the site leading to disturbance of SPA features, wintering and breeding birds.</p> <p>9. Inappropriate coastal management</p> <p>Maintaining coastal defences at Bawdsey and Slaughden is leading to increased shingle recharge requirements at Slaughden, and loss of shingle beach at southern end of SAC at Bawdsey.</p> <p>10. Coastal squeeze</p> <p>Seawalls afford little scope for natural adaption of the estuary to sea level rise through roll back of habitat. Saltmarsh is at risk of being squeezed in the future (although currently the estuary is perceived as in balance) and limited areas of natural habitat</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | | <p>transition within the site could be lost. The developing policy of the Alde and Ore Estuary Partnership should consider scope for natural adaption to sea level rise.</p> <p>11. Inappropriate pest control</p> <p>Fox predation/disturbance is a key issue for breeding birds on Orfordness, particularly Lesser black backed gulls. Foxes can cause gulls and other breeding birds to abandon nesting sites, and predate adult birds and chicks.</p> <p>12. Changes in species distributions</p> <p>There are negative population trends in bird species using the site. Breeding locations are moving within and away from the designated site, possibly due to habitat change on site, as a reaction to other species and due to draw of other adjacent hinterland habitat. This requires further investigation and possible mitigation.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | <p>13. Invasive species</p> <p>Spartina is encroaching on estuarine muds. With Spartina at the front, and reed encroaching at the back, saltmarsh could be squeezed out.</p> <p>14. Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Air pollution impacts on vegetation diversity. Aerial deposits of nitrogen may exceed the site relevant critical load (20 – 30 kg N ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹) above which the diversity of saltmarsh vegetation begins to be altered (possibly to reed) and adversely impacted. Many land use practices contribute to this problem locally including land spreading, outdoor pigs, high nutrient inputs on fields</p> <p>15. Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine</p> <p>There are many different fishing pressures close to shore that may include bycatch of juvenile fish and</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | | | disturbance of fish nursery areas that could potentially have an impact on Little tern <i>Sterna Albifrons</i> by reducing suitable feeding areas. |
| <u>Alde-Ore Estuary Ramsar</u> RIS Code: UK11002 | 2546.99 | Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species regularly supported during the breeding season: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser black-backed gull, <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pied avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>. • Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> | Not applicable. | 1. Erosion English Nature provides advice to the Environment Agency and coastal local authorities in relation to flood and coastal protection management. This will inform the development of the Suffolk Estuaries strategies and the second generation shoreline management plan. A Management Scheme is required, taking into account the effects of erosion. A Coastal Habitat Management Plan will be produced for this site. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| <u>Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC</u> EU Code: UK0030076 | 1632.63 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H1130. Estuaries H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) | 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | Same as Alde-Ore Estuary SPA (See above) |

Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4)

The Blackwater Estuary is the largest estuary in Essex north of the Thames and, is one of the largest estuarine complexes in East Anglia. Its mudflats, fringed by saltmarsh on the upper shores, support internationally and nationally important numbers of overwintering waterfowl. Shingle and shell banks and offshore islands are also a feature of the tidal flats. The surrounding terrestrial habitats; the sea wall, ancient grazing marsh and its associated fleet and ditch systems, plus semi-improved grassland are also of high conservation interest. This rich mosaic of habitats supports an outstanding assemblage



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| of nationally scarce plants and a nationally important assemblage of rare invertebrates. There are 16 British Red Data Book species and 94 notable and local species. | | | | |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA UK9009245 | 4395.15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A046a <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding) A059 <i>Aythya ferina</i>; Common pochard (Breeding) A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding) A137 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover (Breeding) A141 <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover (Non-breeding) A149 <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding) | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | Same as Essex Estuaries SAC (see below) |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A156 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding) • A195 <i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding) • Waterbird assemblage | | |
| <u>Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site</u> UK11007 | 4395.15 | <u>Ramsar criterion 1</u> Qualifies by virtue of the extent and diversity of saltmarsh habitat present. This site, and the four others in the Mid-Essex Coast complex, includes a total of 3,237 ha that represent 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and 7% of the total area of saltmarsh in Britain. <u>Ramsar criterion 2</u> The invertebrate fauna is well represented and includes at least 16 British Red Data Book | Not applicable. | None present. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>species. In descending order of rarity these are: Endangered: a water beetle <i>Paracymus aeneus</i>; Vulnerable: a damselfly <i>Lestes dryas</i>, the flies <i>Aedes flavescens</i>, <i>Erioptera bivittata</i>, <i>Hybomitra expollicata</i> and the spiders <i>Heliophanus auratus</i> and <i>Trichopterna cito</i>; Rare: the beetles <i>Baris scolopacea</i>, <i>Philonthus punctus</i>, <i>Graptodytes bilineatus</i> and <i>Malachius vulneratus</i>, the flies <i>Campsicemus magius</i> and <i>Myopites eximia</i>, the moths <i>Idaea ochrata</i> and <i>Malacosoma castrensis</i> and the spider <i>Euophrys</i>.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 3</u></p> <p>This site supports a full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p><u>Ramsar criterion 5</u></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 105061 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 6</u></p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover • <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin • <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| | | <p>possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank | | |
| Colne Estuary <p>Colne Estuary is a comparatively short and branching estuary, with five tidal arms which flow into the main river channel. The estuary has a narrow intertidal zone predominantly composed of flats of fine silt with mudflat communities typical of south-eastern estuaries. The estuary is of European / international importance for wintering Brent Geese and Black-tailed Godwit and of national importance for breeding Little Terns and five other species of wintering waders and wildfowl. The variety of habitats which include mudflat, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, sand and shingle spits, disused gravel pits and reedbeds, support outstanding assemblages of invertebrates and plants</p> | | | | |
| <u>Colne Estuary SPA</u> | 2,719.93 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>) | Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to | Same as Essex Estuaries SAC |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|---|--|
| EU Code: UK9009243 | | <i>bernicle</i>), Non-breeding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hen harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>), Non-breeding Little tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>), Breeding Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>), Breeding Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>), Non-breeding Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>), Breeding Waterbird assemblage, Non-breeding | achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| <u>Colne Estuary</u> <u>Ramsar site</u> RIS Code: UK11015 | 2,719.93 | <p><u>Ramsar criterion 1</u></p> <p>The site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh present. This site, and the four other sites in the Mid-Essex Coast complex, includes a total of 3,237 ha, that represent 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and 7% of the total saltmarsh in Britain</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 2</u></p> <p>The site supports 12 species of nationally scarce plants and at least 38 British Red Data Book invertebrate species.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 5</u></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance. species with peak counts in winter: 32041 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> | Not applicable. | Not present. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <p><u>Ramsar criterion 6</u></p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Branta bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied Brent Goose - 3165 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank - 1624 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit - 402 individuals, representing an average of 1.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) | | |

Crouch & Roach Estuaries

The Rivers Crouch and Roach are situated in South Essex. The River Crouch occupies a shallow valley between two ridges of London Clay, whilst the River Roach is set predominantly between areas of brick earth and loams with patches of sand and gravel. The intertidal zone along the Rivers Crouch and Roach is 'squeezed' between the sea walls of both banks and the river channel. This leaves a relatively narrow strip of tidal mud unlike other estuaries in the county, which, nonetheless, is used by significant numbers of birds. One species is present in internationally important numbers, and three other species of wader and wildfowl occur in nationally important numbers. Additional interest is provided by the aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and by an outstanding assemblage of nationally scarce plants



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| <u>Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009244 | 1735.58 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark-bellied brent goose; Branta bernicla bernicla (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage | The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely the populations of qualifying features the distribution of qualifying features within the site | Same as Essex Estuaries SAC (see below) |
| <u>Crouch & Roach Estuaries Ramsar site</u> RIS Code: | 1735.58 | Ramsar criterion 2 Supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plant | Not applicable. | Not present. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| UK11058 | | <p>and animal including 13 nationally scarce plant species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slender Hare's Ear <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i> • Divided Sedge <i>Carex divisa</i> • Sea Barley <i>Hordeum marinum</i> • Golden-Samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i>, • Lax Flowered Sea-Lavender <i>Limonium humile</i> • Curved Hard-Grass <i>Parapholis incurva</i> • Borrer's Saltmarsh grass <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stiff Saltmarsh Grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i> Spiral Tasselweed <i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i> One-Flowered Glasswort <i>Salicornia pusilla</i> Small Cord-Grass <i>Spartina maritima</i> Shrubby Seablite <i>Suaeda vera</i> Sea Clover <i>Trifolium squamosum</i> <p>Several important invertebrate species are also present on the site, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarce Emerald Damselfly <i>Lestes dryas</i>, Shorefly <i>Parydroptera disco-myzina</i>, | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare Soldier Fly <i>Stratiomys singularior</i>, • Large Horsefly <i>Hybomitra expollicata</i>, • Beetles <i>Graptodytes bilineatus</i> and <i>Malachius vulneratus</i>, • Ground Lackey Moths <i>Malacosoma castrensis</i> and <i>Eucosoma catoprana</i>. <p>Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 16970 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| | | <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied brent goose; <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> | | |
| <p>The Deben Estuary</p> <p>The Deben Estuary lies within Suffolk Coastal District at the southern border of Suffolk. The estuaries include extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The mud-flats hold <i>Enteromorpha</i>, <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Salicornia</i> spp. In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Avocet while in winter they hold major concentrations of waterbirds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and waders roost, in surrounding areas of agricultural land outside the SPA.</p> | | | | |
| <p><u>Deben Estuary SPA</u></p> <p>EU Code:</p> <p>UK9009261</p> | 978.93 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A046a Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> (Non-breeding); • A132 Pied avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (breeding) | <p>The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features | <p>1. Coastal squeeze</p> <p>The Deben Estuary coastline is undergoing widespread decline in the quality of saltmarsh, and an increase in lower marsh habitats at the expense of mid and upper marsh vegetation communities. This is likely due to impacts from climate change, such as rising sea level. Unless changes are</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely the populations of qualifying features the distribution of qualifying features within the site | <p>made to the management of the coastline, Habitats supporting qualifying SPA birds will be lost or degraded through coastal squeeze, sedimentation and reduced exposure.</p> <p>2. Public access/disturbance</p> <p>The Deben Estuary is subject to land and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; wildfowling; and low flying aircrafts. These activities are likely to impact Habitats supporting breeding and overwintering water birds. A better understanding of which species and Habitats are most susceptible; which types of activity are most disturbing; and which locations and times of year are most sensitive is required to ensure the Estuaries are appropriately managed</p> <p>3. Changes in species distribution</p> <p><i>Spartina anglica</i> is encroaching onto estuarine muds. This may reduce bird</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | | <p>roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.</p> <p>4. Air Pollution: Impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Modelled aerial deposits of nitrogen within Deben Estuary exceed the threshold limit above which the diversity of saltmarsh vegetation begins to be altered (possibly to reed) and adversely impacted. This is likely being caused by in combination impacts from land spreading and land use practices with high nutrient inputs e.g. outdoor pig farms.</p> <p>5. Water Pollution</p> <p>Inappropriate water quality may impact on the supporting habitats of SPA birds. Eutrophication may be having an influence on reed growth and saltmarsh composition. Increased flood events could lead to habitat change/loss of diversity. Nutrient run off from farming operations could</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | | | <p>exacerbate the issue. Further monitoring and management of key issues are required.</p> <p>6. Fisheries: Commercial marine estuarine</p> <p>In combination impacts from fisheries in European Marine Sites need to be monitored and appropriately managed to avoid potential threats to site condition.</p> |
| <u>Deben Estuary Ramsar site</u> RIS Code: UK11017 | 978.93 | Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation) Ramsar criterion 2 Supports a population of the mollusc <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Habitats Directive Annex II (S1014); British Red Data Book Endangered). Martlesham Creek is one of only about fourteen sites in | Not applicable. | <p>1. Erosion</p> <p>English Nature provides advice to the Environment Agency and coastal local authorities in relation to flood and coastal protection management. This will inform the development of the Suffolk Estuaries strategies and the second generation shoreline management plan.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>Britain where this species survives</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, <p>Species currently occurring at levels of national importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>. • Bean goose, <i>Anser fabalis fabalis</i>. • Common shelduck, <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>. • Pied avocet, <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> • Spotted redshank, <i>Tringa erythropus</i>, | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>, <p>Species Information</p> <p>Nationally important species occurring on the site.</p> <p>Invertebrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Vertigo angustior</i> (Nationally Scarce) & <i>Vertigo pusilla</i> (Nationally Scarce) | | |
| Dengie <p>Dengie is a large and remote area of tidal mudflat and saltmarsh at the eastern end of the Dengie peninsula, between the Blackwater and Crouch Estuaries. The saltmarsh is the largest continuous example of its type in Essex. Foreshore, saltmarsh and beaches support an outstanding assemblage of rare coastal flora. It hosts internationally and nationally important wintering populations of wildfowl and waders, and in summer supports a range of breeding coastal birds including rarities. The formation of cockleshell spits and beaches is of geomorphological interest</p> | | | | |
| <u>Dengie SPA</u> (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1) | 3127.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Branta bernicla</i> <i>bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding) | The objectives are to ensure that, subject to natural change, the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring: | Same as Essex Estuaries SAC |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|
| EU Code: UK9009242 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover (Non-breeding) <i>Circus cyaneus</i> Hen harrier (Non-breeding) <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Knot (Non-breeding) Waterbird assemblage (Non-breeding) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features the structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features the supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely the populations of qualifying features the distribution of qualifying features within the site | |
| <u>Dengie Ramsar Site</u> (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1) RIS Code: UK11018 | 3127.23 | <u>Ramsar criterion 1</u> Qualifies by virtue of the extent and diversity of saltmarsh habitat present. Dengie, and the four other sites in the Mid-Essex Coast Ramsar site complex, includes a total of 3,237 ha, that represent 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and | Not applicable. | None available. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>7% of the total area of saltmarsh in Britain.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 2</u></p> <p>Dengie supports a number of rare plant and animal species. The Dengie has 11 species of nationally scarce plants: sea kale <i>Crambe maritima</i>, sea barley <i>Hordeum marinum</i>, golden samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i>, lax flowered sea lavender <i>Limonium humile</i>, the glassworts <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> and <i>Salicornia pusilla</i>, small cord-grass <i>Spartina maritima</i>, shrubby sea-blite <i>Suaeda vera</i>, and the eelgrasses <i>Zostera angustifolia</i>, <i>Z. marina</i> and <i>Z. noltei</i>. The invertebrate fauna includes the following Red Data Book species: a weevil <i>Baris scolopacea</i>, a horsefly <i>Atylotus latistriatus</i> and a</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>jumping spider <i>Euophrys browningi</i>.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 3</u></p> <p>This site supports a full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 5</u></p> <p>Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 43828 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p><u>Ramsar criterion 6</u></p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i>; Common redshank <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus</i>; Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i>; Bar-tailed godwit | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Calidris canutus</i>; Red knot | | |
| Essex Estuaries The Mid-Essex Coast comprises an extensive complex of estuaries and intertidal sand and silt flats, including several islands, shingle and shell beaches and extensive areas of saltmarsh. The proposed SPA follows the boundaries of five SSSIs: the Colne Estuary, the Blackwater Estuary, Dengie, the River Crouch Marshes and Foulness. | | | | |
| <u>Essex Estuaries SAC</u> UK0013690 | 46109.95 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>H1110</u> Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks <u>H1130</u> Estuaries <u>H1140</u> Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats. <u>H1310</u> Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand; Glasswort and | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 1. Coastal Squeeze: Coastal defences along much of the Essex coastline prevent intertidal habitats from shifting landward in response to rising sea levels. As a result, these habitats are being gradually degraded and reduced in extent, with knock-on effects on the waterbirds and other species they support. 'managed realignment' schemes and additional intervention measures to create new areas of intertidal habitat and reduce erosion rates are being implemented but more will be needed to offset future losses. Grazing marshes in the SIP area are |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>other annuals colonising mud and sand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>H1320</u> Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>); Cord-grass swards • <u>H1330</u> Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) • <u>H1420</u> Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>) | | <p>important for waterbirds and are also threatened by sea level rise because most are near or below mean high tide level, currently protected behind seawalls.</p> <p>2. Public Access/Disturbance:</p> <p>Breeding and overwintering waterbirds are susceptible to human disturbance from a range of land- and water-based activities - including boating and watersports, walking, bait-digging, fishing and wildfowling - as well as low-flying aircraft. Some activities, such as powerboating, may produce physical disturbance to habitats. Moderate levels of disturbance in less sensitive locations may have no significant effect on the numbers of birds using the SIP area but the types, levels and locations of potentially disturbing activities are constantly changing. Managing the changes to minimise the risk of disturbance impacts will require a</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | <p>better understanding of which species and habitats are most susceptible, which types of activity are most disturbing, and which locations and times of year are most sensitive.</p> <p>3. Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine</p> <p>Commercial fishing activities categorised as Amber or Green under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in EMSs are being assessed by Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (KEIFCA) to determine whether management is required. For activities categorised as Amber and Green these assessments should take account of any relevant in-combination effects with other fishing activities. Shellfish dredging over subtidal habitats has been identified as an Amber activity and is considered a high priority for assessment and</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | <p>development of possible management for the site.</p> <p>4. Planning Permission: general</p> <p>Several of the issues affecting the Essex Estuaries and the management of disturbance effects on the sites are related to each other, and addressing them is likely to require an improved overview of the relative sensitivities of different habitats, species and locations to different types of development (perhaps summarised as sensitivity maps and matrices for the SIP area). Difficult issues include: (a) Assessing the cumulative effects of numerous, small and often 'non-standard' developments (b) Development outside the SPA/SAC boundaries can have negative impacts, particularly on the estuaries' birds (c) Assessing the indirect, 'knock-on' effects of proposals (d) Pressure to relax planning conditions on existing developments.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | | <p>5. Changes in species distributions</p> <p>Declines in the numbers of some of the waterbird species using the Essex Estuaries SIP area may be due to changes in their distributions or population levels at a national or continental scale, possibly linked to climate change. For example, milder winters may be allowing birds to overwinter closer to their northern breeding grounds, or changes on the breeding grounds may be reducing breeding success. When assessing SPA condition, distinguishing these types of large-scale effect from effects produced by changes within the site itself is important.</p> <p>6. Invasive Species:</p> <p>An increase in Pacific oyster <i>Crassostrea gigas</i> settlement and colonisation within the European Marine Site (EMS) may result in areas of foreshore being covered in such numbers as to make them difficult to</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | <p>access and utilise as feeding grounds for overwintering birds. The importance of Pacific oysters for the local shellfish industry is recognised, however Natural England would not like to see an overall increase in the extent of foreshore across the EMS populated by Pacific oysters. Other non-native invasive species such as the American whelk tingle Urosalpinx cinerea and Slipper limpet Crepidula fornicata are known to occupy subtidal muddy habitats, potentially impacting native communities through competition for resources and predation.</p> <p>7. Fisheries: Recreational marine and estuarine</p> <p>Recreational bait digging may impact waterbirds by reducing prey availability and creating disturbance in intertidal feeding areas. It could also damage the intertidal mudflats and sandflats and associated sub-features</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | | <p>and communities, such as eelgrass beds. The extent of the activity and potential impacts on site features are not currently well understood.</p> <p>8. Fisheries: Recreational marine and estuarine</p> <p>Bottom towed fishing gear (i.e. any fishing instrument designed to take sea fisheries resources from the seabed) has been categorised as a 'Red' for the interest features listed, specifically the seagrass beds <i>Zostera</i> spp, a sub-feature of the SAC, as part of Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries management in European Marine Sites (EMS). Appropriate management measures will be implemented and enforced by Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) who have put in place the 'Bottom Towed Fishing Gear Byelaw' within the SAC to prohibit the above fishing gear</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | | | being used over the majority of known seagrass beds. |
| Foulness Foulness is part of an open coast estuarine system comprising grazing marsh, saltmarsh, intertidal mudflats and sandflats which support nationally rare and nationally scarce plants, and nationally and internationally important populations of breeding, migratory and wintering waterfowl | | | | |
| <u>Foulness SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009246 | 10968.9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hen harrier; <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Non-breeding) Dark-bellied brent goose; <i>Branta bernicla</i> (Non-breeding) Eurasian oystercatcher; <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> (Non-breeding) Grey plover; <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> (Non-breeding) Bar-tailed godwit; <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> (Non-breeding) Red knot; <i>Calidris canutus</i> (Non-breeding) | <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, | Same as Essex Estuaries SAC (see above) |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|--|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pied avocet; <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (Breeding) • Ringed plover; <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; (Breeding) • Common redshank; <i>Tringa totanus</i> (Non-breeding) • Sandwich tern; <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> (Breeding) • Common tern; <i>Sterna hirundo</i> (Breeding) • Little tern; <i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Breeding) • Waterbird assemblage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The distribution of the qualifying features within the site | |
| <u>Foulness Ramsar site</u> RIS Code: UK11026 | 10968.9 | Ramsar criterion 2 The site supports a number of nationally-rare and nationally-scarce plant species, and British Red Data Book invertebrates. Ramsar criterion 3 | Not applicable. | None present. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <p>The site contains extensive saltmarsh habitat, with areas supporting full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 82148 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied brent goose; <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> | | |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey plover; <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Red knot; <i>Calidris canutus</i> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bar-tailed godwit; <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i> | | |
| Hamford Water Hamford Water is a large, shallow estuarine basin comprising tidal creeks and islands, intertidal mud and sand flats, and saltmarsh supporting rare plants and invertebrates, as well as internationally important species/populations of migratory waterfowl. | | | | |
| <u>Hamford Water SPA</u> EU Code: UK9009131A | 3,532.56 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A046a <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; <i>Dark-bellied brent goose</i> (Non-breeding) A048 <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; <i>Common shelduck</i> (Non-breeding) A052 <i>Anas crecca</i>; <i>Eurasian teal</i> (Non-breeding) | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features | 1. Coastal squeeze Areas of intertidal saltmarsh, mudflats, sand and shingle used by overwintering and breeding birds for feeding, roosting and/or nesting are under threat from coastal squeeze. The consequences of climate change, including sea level rise and an increased frequency in coastal storms and tidal surges, are likely to be contributing factors in coastal |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A132 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; <i>Pied avocet</i> (Non-breeding) A137 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; <i>Ringed plover</i> (Non-breeding) A141 <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; <i>Grey plover</i> (Non-breeding) A156 <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; <i>Black-tailed godwit</i> (Non-breeding) A162 <i>Tringa totanus</i>; <i>Common redshank</i> (Non-breeding) A195 <i>Sternula albifrons</i>; <i>Little tern</i> (Breeding) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>squeeze. Tectonic subsidence along the east coast of England and hard sea defences are also likely to exacerbate the issue.</p> <p>2. Changes in species distributions</p> <p>The decline in numbers of some species of bird in Hamford Water may be related to international changes in distribution and/or population levels related to climate change. This includes climatic variables and habitat quality issues at breeding grounds outside of the UK.</p> <p>3. Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>There is some unauthorised public access on foot, from boats and by quad bike/motorbike to sensitive localised areas in Hamford Water.</p> <p>4. Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | <p>protection and hence there is a risk of harmful effects, but the sensitive features are currently considered to be in favourable condition on the site. This requires further investigation.</p> <p>5. Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine</p> <p>Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites require assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment will be undertaken by Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA). For activities categorised as 'green', these assessments should take account of any in-combination effects of amber activities, and/or appropriate plans or projects, in the site.</p> |
| <u>Hamford Water Ramsar site</u> | 2187.21 | Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring | Not applicable. | 1. Erosion |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--|--|---|
| RIS Code: UK11028 | | <p>at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ringed plover, <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> • Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla</i> • Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>, Iceland/W Europe <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> | | <p>There is a programme of recharge of dredged material from off-site that has alleviated some of the habitat loss on site. The Essex Coast and Estuaries Coastal Habitat Management Plan (CHaMP) (Anon. 2002) covers the site and it is expected to inform the shoreline management plan as well as local plan policies. The possibility of managed realignment schemes to address erosion impacts may be considered</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| | | Species with peak counts in winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | | |
| <u>Hamford Water SAC</u> EU Code: UK0030377 | 50.34 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S4035. <i>Gortyna borelii lunata</i>; Fisher's estuarine moth | 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, | Same as Hamford Water SPA (See above) |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|--|---|--|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The distribution of the qualifying features within the site | |
| <p>Orfordness - Shingle Street</p> <p>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 <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i> and false oat-grass <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> grassland occur. Locally these are nutrient-enriched by the presence of a gull colony; elsewhere they support rich lichen communities.</p> <p>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 <i>Beta vulgaris ssp. maritima</i> and orache <i>Atriplex spp.</i></p> <p>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 <i>Cerastoderma glaucum</i>, the ostracod <i>Cyprideis torosa</i> and the gastropods <i>Littorina saxatilis tenebrosa</i> and <i>Hydrobia ventrosa</i>. The nationally rare starlet sea anemone <i>Nematostella vectensis</i> is also found at the site. The adjacent estuarine and intertidal habitats are designated separately as the Alde, Ore and Butley Estuaries SAC.</p> | | | | |
| <u>Orfordness - Shingle Street SAC</u> EU Code: UK0014780 | 888 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H1150. Coastal lagoons H1210. Annual vegetation of drift lines H1220. Perennial vegetation of stony banks; | 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; | Sames as Alde-Ore Estuaries (see above) |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <i>Coastal shingle vegetation outside the reach of waves</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | |
| Outer Thames Estuary <p>The Outer Thames Estuary SPA is located on the east coast of England between the counties of Norfolk (on the north side) and Kent (on the south side) and extends into the North Sea. The site comprises areas of shallow and deeper water, high tidal current streams and a range of mobile mud, sand, silt and gravely sediments extending into the marine environment, incorporating areas of sand banks often exposed at low tide. Intertidal mud and sand flats are found further towards the coast and within creeks and inlets inland down the Blyth estuary and the Crouch and Roach estuaries. The diversity of marine habitats and associated species is reflected in existing statutory protected area designations, some of which overlap or about the SPA.</p> | | | | |
| <u>Outer Thames Estuary SPA</u> EU Code: UK9020309 | 392451.66 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A001 <i>Gavia stellata</i>; Red-throated diver (Non-breeding) A193 <i>Sterna hirundo</i>; Common tern (Breeding) A195 <i>Sternula albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding) | 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: | 1. Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine: Commercial fishing activities categorised as 'amber or green' under Defra's revised approach to commercial fisheries in European Marine Sites (EMS) require |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <p>assessment and (where appropriate) management. This assessment will be undertaken by the Eastern IFCA and the Kent & Essex IFCA, and the Marine Management Organisation. For activities categorised as 'green', these assessments should take account of any in-combination effects of amber activities, and/or appropriate plans or projects, in the site.</p> <p>The gear types being assessed are towed demersal gear and dredges, and suction dredges for cockles as well as static/passive fishing gear methods such as set gillnets and drift netting represent potentially the most serious direct risk from fishing activity to the birds themselves. Disturbance and displacement effects may arise from boat movements associated with fishing activities. Removal of fish and larger molluscs can have a significant impact on the structure and functioning of benthic communities. Entanglement in static fishing nets is</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|---|--|
| | | | | an important cause of death for red-throated divers in the UK waters. Netting is widespread across the sandbanks but is seasonal and occurs primarily when the Red-throated diver population is not at its peak. The scale of by-catch within the site has been assessed by the Kent & Essex IFCA and was not found to be problematic and so can be deemed to be low-risk. |
| Sandlings The Sandlings SPA lies near the Suffolk Coast between the Deben Estuary and Leiston. In the 19th century, the area was dominated by heathland developed on glacial sandy soils. During the 20th 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 <i>Lullula arborea</i> and Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> 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. | | | | |
| <u>Sandlings SPA</u> EU Code: UK9020286 | 3,391.80 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>; European nightjar (Breeding) | Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to | 2. Changes in species distributions Woodlark and Nightjar populations on the Suffolk coast have declined by |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|---|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A246 Lullula arborea; Woodlark (Breeding) | <p>achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <p>65% and 66% respectively since notification in 2001.</p> <p>3. Inappropriate scrub control</p> <p>Scrub encroachment is reducing habitat suitability for Woodlark and Nightjar. Regular management is essential to maintain and restore the supporting heathland habitat to favourable condition.</p> <p>4. Deer</p> <p>A large deer population exerting grazing pressure on habitats will affect quality of nesting habitat. There is also potential for deer to trample nests</p> <p>5. Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads</p> <p>6. Public Access/Disturbance</p> <p>The need to understand recreational pressure and implement appropriate</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|---|--|---|
| | | | | management is an ongoing issue. Recreational pressure could be increased by new housing developments in the area and by the potential displacement of visitors during the construction of Sizewell C. |
| Southern North Sea | | | | |
| <u>Southern North Sea SAC</u> EU Code: UK0030395 | 3695100 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> harbour porpoise (<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>) | <p>To ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained and that it makes the best possible contribution to maintaining Favourable Conservation Status (FCS) for Harbour Porpoise in UK waters. In the context of natural change, this will be achieved by ensuring that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harbour porpoise is a viable component of the site; 2. There is no significant disturbance of the species; and 3. The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entanglement/Bycatch 2. Contaminants 3. Anthropogenic underwater sound 4. Reduction in prey resource 5. Collision with vessels or installations |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|---|---|--|
| Staverton Park and The Thicks, Wantisden This site is representative of old oak <i>Quercus spp.</i> 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 <i>Haemotomma elatinum</i> , <i>Lecidea cinnabarina</i> , <i>Thelotrema lepadinum</i> , <i>Graphis elegans</i> and <i>Stenocybe septata</i> . Part of the site includes an area of old holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> trees that are probably the largest in Britain. The site has a very well-documented history and good conservation of woodland structure and function. | | | | |
| <u>Staverton Park and The Thicks SAC</u> EU Code: UK0012741 | 84.28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H9190. Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland | 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | 1. Forestry and woodland management Dense bracken in places prevents regeneration. 2. Disease Acute Oak Dieback is found at the site, other tree disease may be present. 3. Public Access/Disturbance The site is accessed illegally, leading to an increased risk of damage and fires on the site. 4. Deer Deer browsing prevents regeneration in parts of the wood. |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | <p>5. Hydrological changes</p> <p>A change in the water table could be leading to stress in the older trees.</p> <p>6. Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads. The impact is unclear, but this could be a contributing factor to the observed thick bracken which prevents regeneration of the wood.</p> |
| <p>The Stour and Orwell estuaries</p> <p>These estuaries straddle the eastern part of the Essex/Suffolk border in eastern England. The estuaries include extensive mud-flats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches. The mud-flats hold <i>Enteromorpha</i>, <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Salicornia</i> spp. The site also includes an area of low-lying grazing marsh at Shotley Marshes on the south side of the Orwell. In summer, the site supports important numbers of breeding Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>, while in winter they hold major concentrations of water birds, especially geese, ducks and waders. The geese also feed, and 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</p> | | | | |
| <u>Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA</u> | 3676.92 | <u>Qualifying Features</u> potentially affected: | With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which | 1. Coastal squeeze |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|---|--|
| EU Code: UK9009121 | | <p>Annex I species:</p> <p>Over winter: Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></p> <p>This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species: Over winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | <p>the site has been classified ("the Qualifying Features" listed below);</p> <p>Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</p> <p>The populations of the qualifying features;</p> <p>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</p> | <p>Coastal defences are present along most of the Orwell coastline to mitigate for impacts from climate change, such as rising sea level. Unless changes are made to the management of the coastline, Habitats supporting qualifying SPA birds will be lost or degraded through coastal squeeze, sedimentation and reduced exposure.</p> <p>2. Public access/disturbance</p> <p>Stour and Orwell Estuaries is subject to land- and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; bait-digging; fishing; wildfowling; and military overflight training. These activities are likely to impact habitats supporting breeding and overwintering water birds. A better understanding of which species and habitats are most susceptible; which types of activity are most disturbing; and which locations and times of year are most sensitive is</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i> Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpine</i> Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i> Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | | <p>required to ensure the Estuaries are appropriately managed.</p> <p>3. Changes in species distribution</p> <p>Declines in the number of bird species present at Orwell coastline have occurred. This is likely to be the result of changes in population and distribution on an international scale, due to climate change.</p> <p>4. Invasive species</p> <p>An increase in <i>Spartina anglica</i> may be affecting the growth of <i>Spartina maritima</i>, a key habitat feature for qualifying bird roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.</p> <p>5. Planning permission: General</p> <p>The issue of development in combination with other factors is not fully understood. To ensure management is appropriate to the SPA a better understanding of the sensitivities relating to each habitat,</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i> • Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Wigeon <i>Mareca penelope</i> • Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> • Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> • Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> • Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> • Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | | <p>species and location to different types of development is required. Difficult issues highlighted by the SIP include;</p> <p>a) Assessing the cumulative effects of numerous, small and often 'non-standard' developments. b) Development outside the SPA boundary can have negative impacts, particularly on the estuaries' birds. c) Assessing the indirect, 'knock-on' effects of proposals. d) Pressure to relax planning conditions on existing developments.</p> <p>6. Air pollution: impact from atmospheric nitrogen deposition</p> <p>Atmospheric nitrogen deposition exceeds the relevant critical loads for coastal dune Habitats used by breeding terns and hence there is a risk of harmful effects.</p> <p>7. Inappropriate coastal management</p> <p>Due to the presence of existing hard sea defences, such as sea walls there</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--|--|
| | | | | <p>is little scope for adaptation to rising sea levels. Any freshwater habitats behind failing seawalls are likely to be inundated by seawater, which would result in the loss of this habitat within the SPA.</p> <p>8. Fisheries: Commercial and estuarine</p> <p>Commercial fishing activities can be very damaging to inshore marine habitats and the bird species dependent on the communities they support. Any 'amber or green' categorised commercial fishing activities in marine Habitats sites are assessed by Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (IFCA). This assessment takes into account any in-combination effects of amber activities and/or appropriate plans or projects.</p> |



| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|--|-----------|--|--|---|
| <u>Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site</u> RIS Code: UK11067 | 3676.92 | Ramsar criterion 2 Contains seven nationally scarce plants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stiff Saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i> • Small Cord-grass <i>Spartina maritime</i> • Perennial Glasswort <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> • Lax-flowered Sea Lavender <i>Limonium humile</i> • Eelgrasses <i>Zostera angustifolia</i>, <i>Z. marina</i> and <i>Z. noltei</i>. Ramsar criterion 5 Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 63,017 waterfowl. | There are no Conservation Objectives set for Ramsar sites. | <p>1. Erosion</p> <p>Natural coastal processes exacerbated by fixed sea defences, port development and maintenance dredging. Erosion is being tackled through sediment replacement for additional erosion that can be attributed to port development and maintenance dredging. A realignment site has been created on-site to make up for the loss of habitat due to capital dredging. General background erosion has not been tackled although a Flood Management Strategy for the site is being produced.</p> <p>The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria. Where the qualifying features</p> |

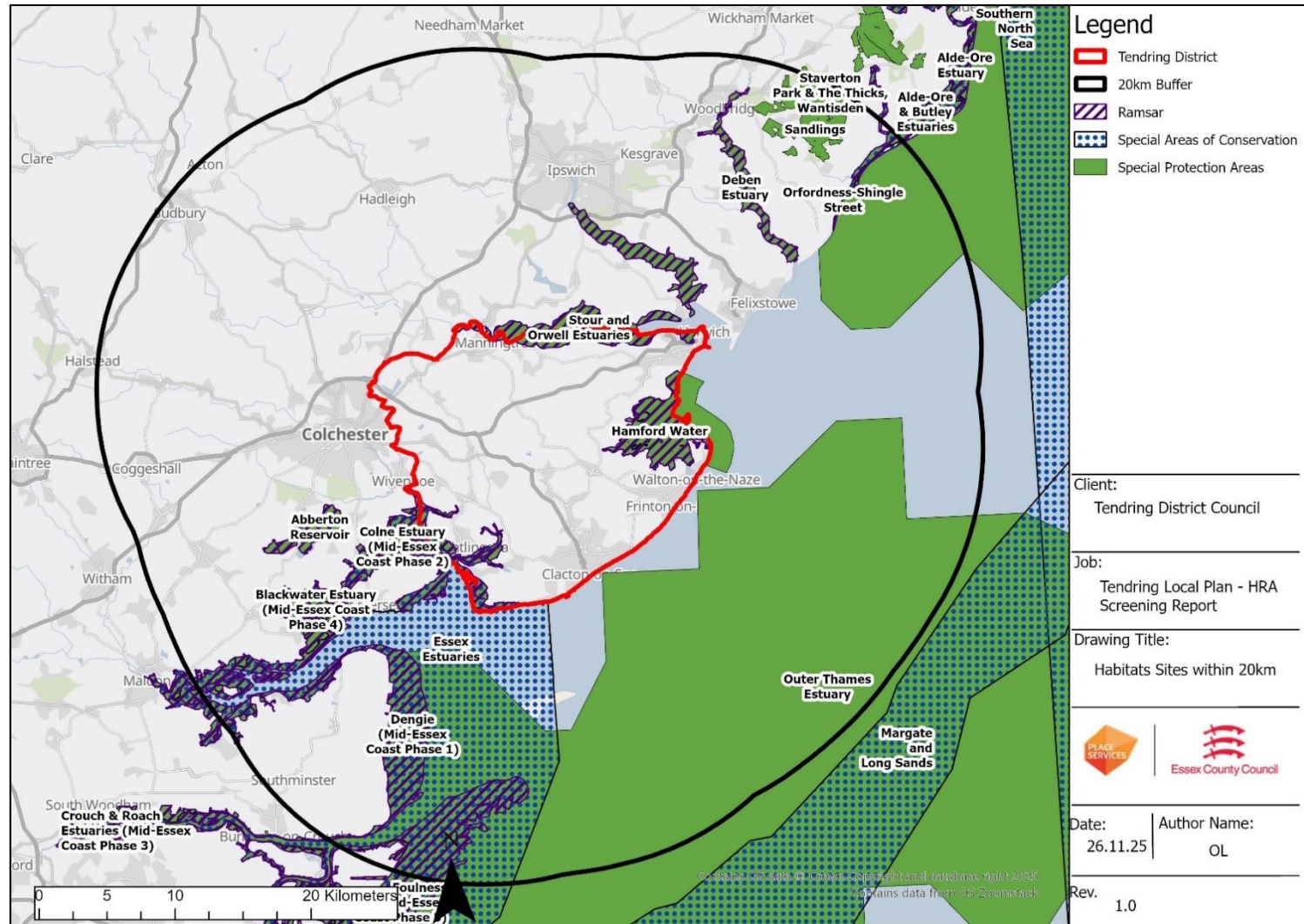


| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|---|
| | | <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species/ populations occurring at levels of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redshank, <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> • Species with peak counts in winter: • Dark-bellied Brent Goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> • Northern Pintail, <i>Anas acuta</i> • Grey Plover, <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> • Red Knot, <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i> • Dunlin, <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> • Black-tailed Godwit, <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> | | <p>of a Ramsar site would or could be adversely affected by a plan or project, the tests at Appropriate Assessment would need to be based on Article 4 of the Ramsar Convention, which allows a Contracting Party (in this case the UK government) to delete or restrict the boundaries of sites only “ in its urgent national interest”.</p> |



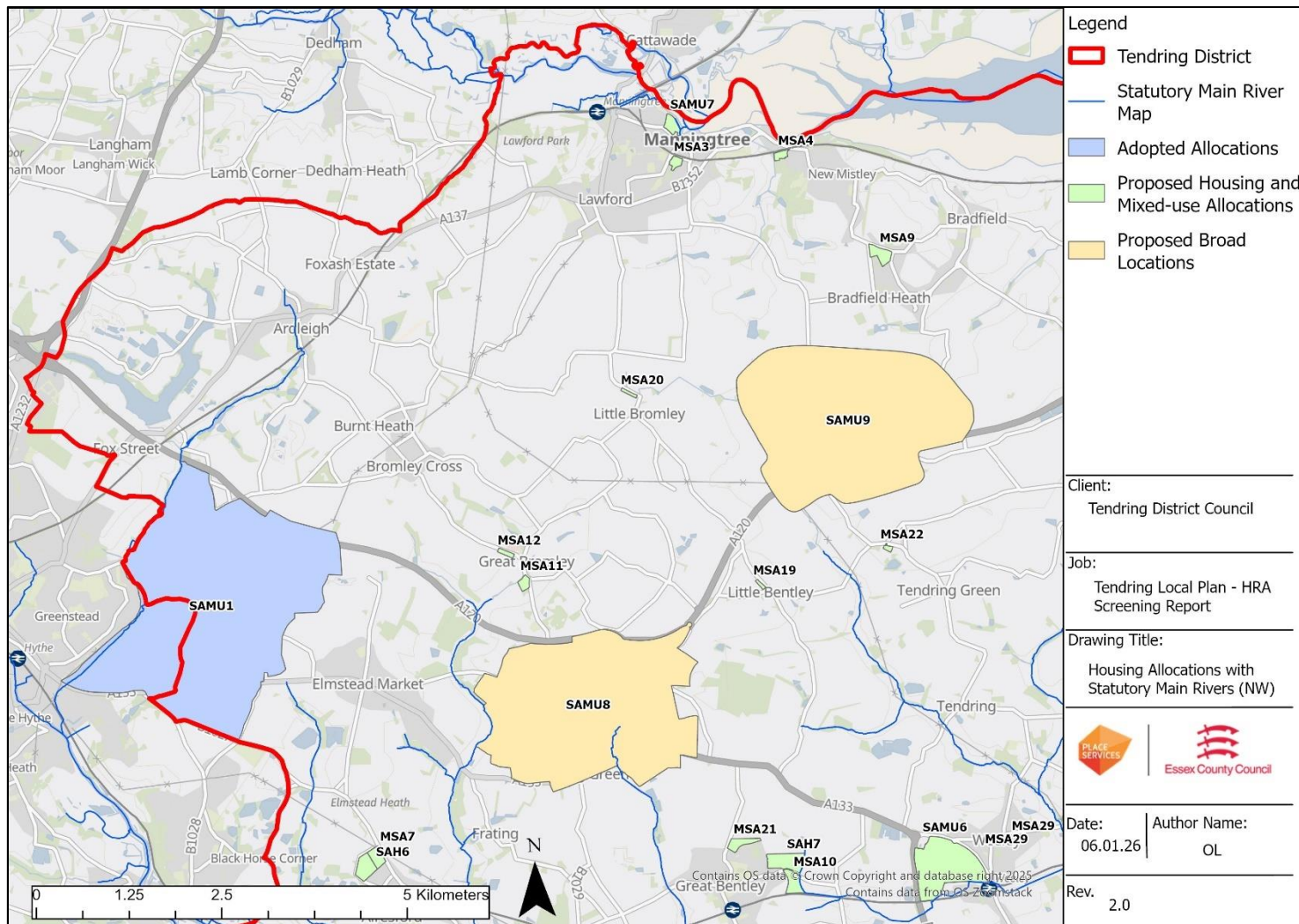
| Site name | Area (ha) | Qualifying Features | Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs) | Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i> | | |

Appendix 4. Habitats sites within 20km of the District boundaries



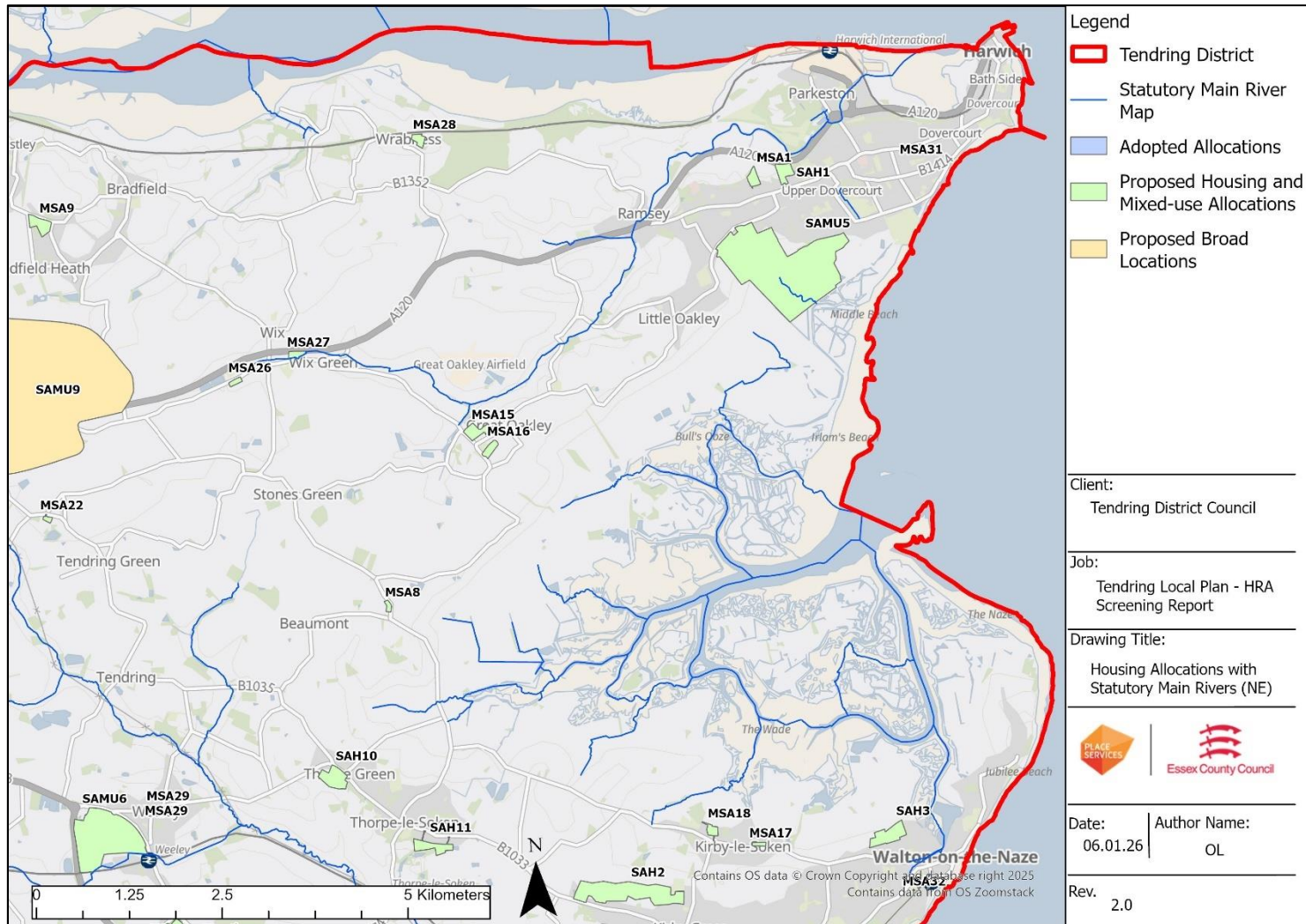


Appendix 5. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - North West



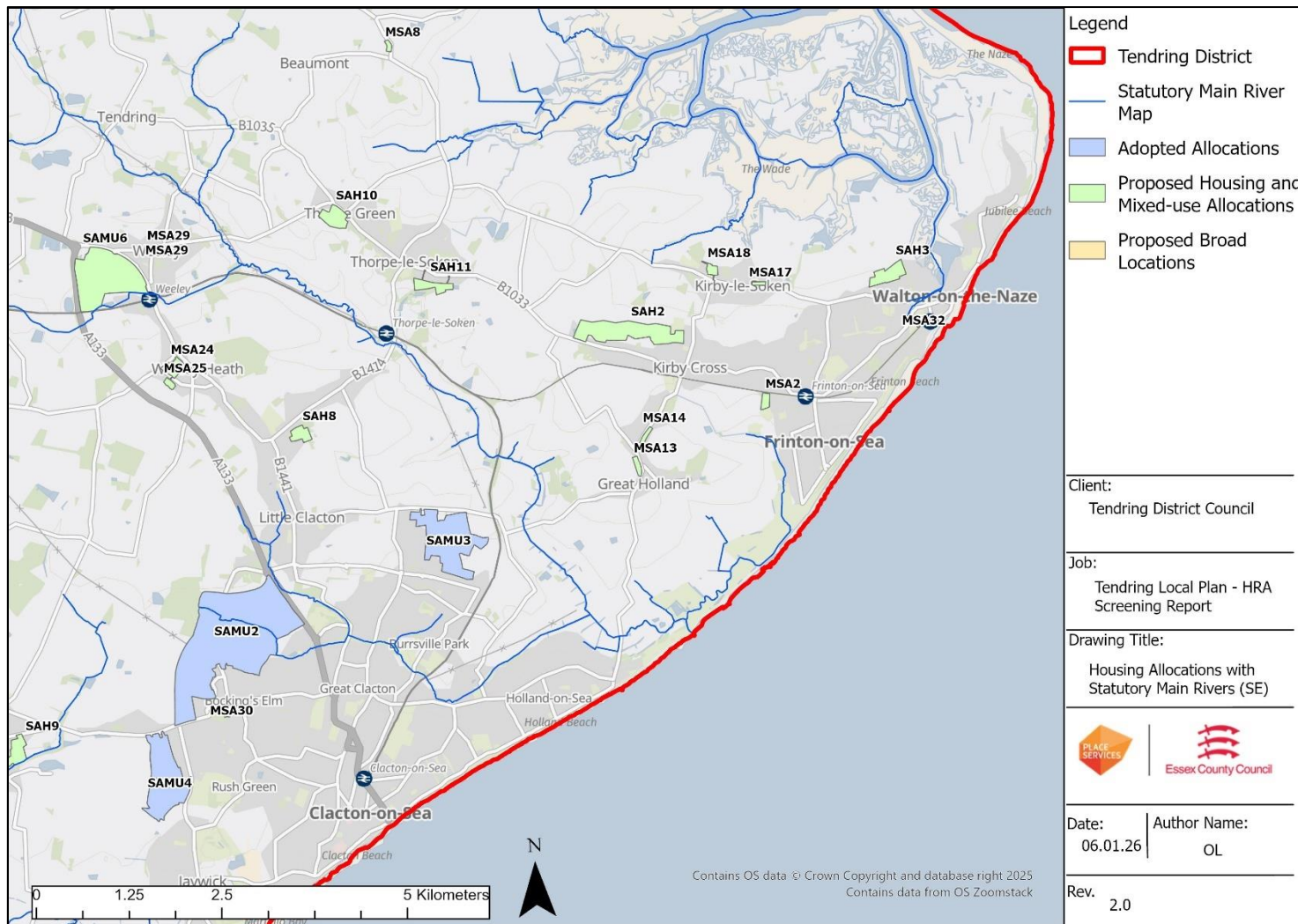


Appendix 6. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - North East



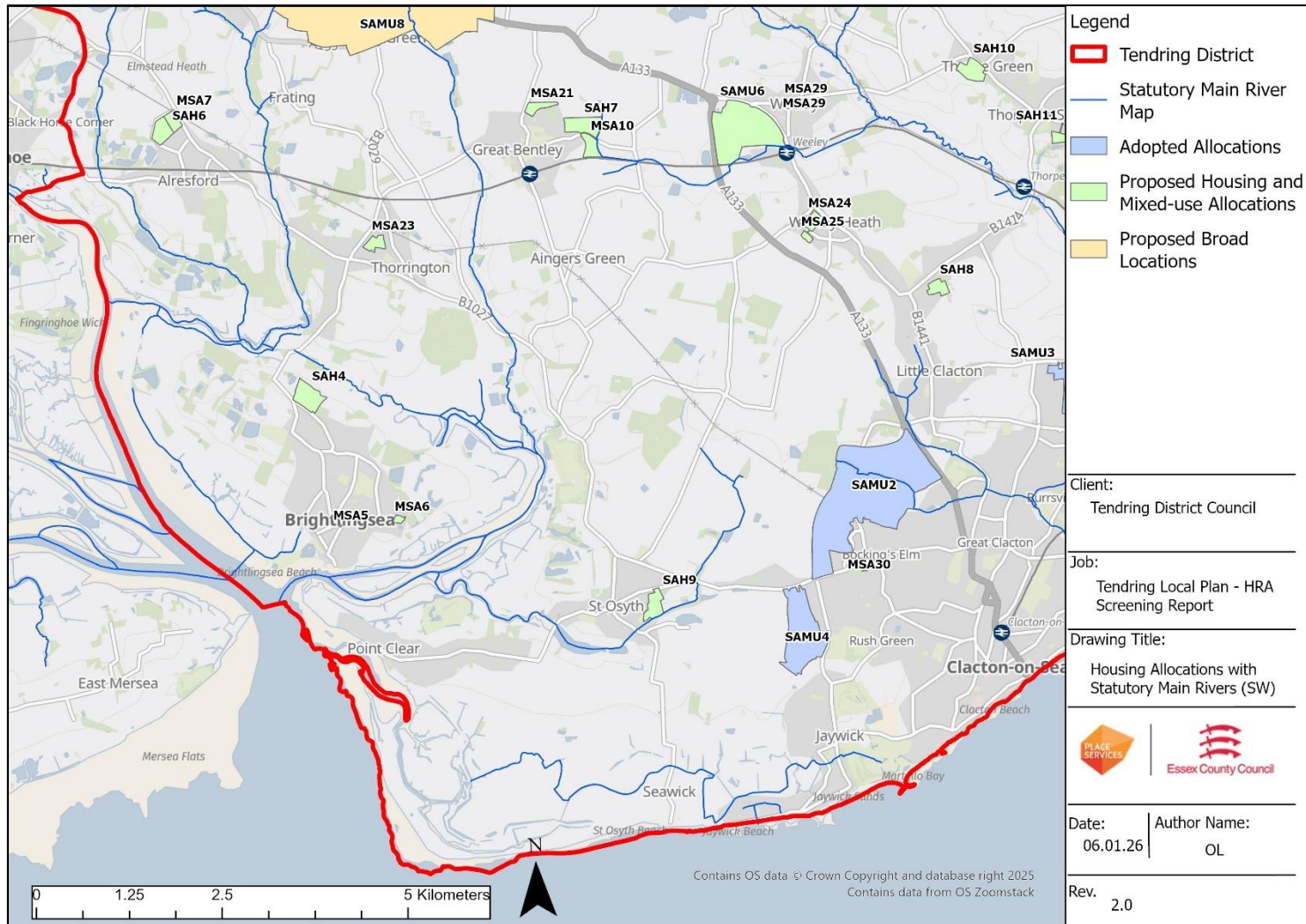


Appendix 7. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - South East





Appendix 8. Proposed Housing Allocations and Statutory Main Rivers - South West





Place Services

Essex County Council

County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

T: +44 (0)333 013 6840

E: enquiries@placeservices.co.uk

www.placeservices.co.uk

January 2026



Essex County Council