

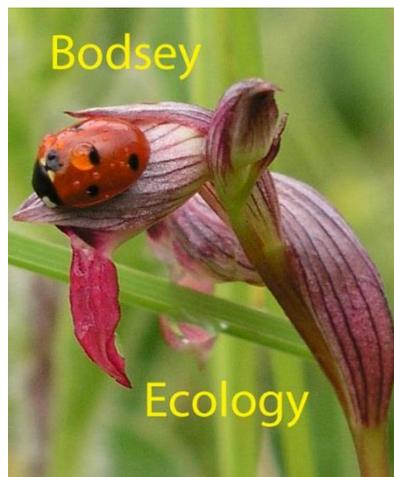


Habitat Regulations Screening for the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan

Bodsey Ecology Limited

17 January 2022

www.bodseyecology.co.uk



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Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan – Habitats Regulations Screening 2022

Issue 1: Final Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan HRA Screening (5th January 2022)

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Date: 17 January 2022

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Carey". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive hand.

Director: Bodsey Ecology Limited



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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [the Habitats Regulations] require that Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. HRA is achieved by carrying out an Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.2 Neighbourhood plans are independent of, but linked to, Local Plans. A HRA must determine whether significant effects on a National Site Network site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information and best scientific knowledge.
- 1.3 Appropriate Assessment for any development plan is a three stage process: screening; the appropriate assessment itself that identifies whether the integrity of National Site Network sites could be compromised; and alternative solutions that include avoidance and mitigation measures. Until a ruling by the European Court of Justice in 2018 it was assumed that existing planned mitigation measures against likely significant effects to National Site Network sites could allow those National Site Network sites to be 'screened out' at the first stage of the appropriate assessment process. The "People Over Wind" ruling has changed that assumption. It is no longer possible to screen out predicted adverse impacts on National Site Network sites where they are avoided or mitigated against without appropriate assessment. It is possible, however, to screen out threats that are neither likely nor significant during the screening stage. HRA allows for a fourth stage that only applies in cases where adverse impacts are predicted even after alternative solutions have been tried and where there are imperative reasons of overriding national interest that the project should go ahead. It would be extremely unlikely that a Neighbourhood Plan could ever reach this fourth stage.
- 1.4 The HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (Bodsey Ecology, 2018) identified likely significant effects on two National Site Network sites, The Ouse Washes (SAC/SPA/Ramsar) and Portholme (SAC), downstream of Bedford. Although the policies within the Local Plan should protect the National Site Network sites if followed (Bodsey Ecology, 2019), detail was not available from the emerging Neighbourhood Plans to confirm this for all developments. Further screening of the Neighbourhood Plans will ensure that there were no unforeseen likely significant effects whilst undertaking the HRA or its addendum for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030. The HRA of Neighbourhood Plans will also ensure that they all avoid or mitigate against likely significant effects identified in the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 by their own policies or by complying with those of Bedford Borough.
- 1.5 Screening of the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan (RNP) showed that the likely significant effects on the two National Site Network sites identified in the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 are not present. Appropriate assessment (AA Stage 2) was therefore not necessary.
- 1.6 This HRA screening has to assume that water quantity and quality in the River Great Ouse will not be compromised because the future strategic plans of Anglian Water will prevent this from happening. The safeguard that these future plans will protect the River Great Ouse and consequently the National Site Network sites along it is that those plans will each have their own HRA.
- 1.7 This HRA screening concludes that the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan can proceed as it will not have adverse impacts on any National Site Network sites, the qualifying features and/or the integrity of those sites itself or in combination with other plans that have currently been adopted.



2 THE LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 2.1 Paragraph 174 of the National Policy Planning Framework (July 2019)¹ (NPPF) states that to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
- Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
 - promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 2.2 In addition to the requirements of the NPPF, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [the Habitats Regulations] require that Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales, including Neighbourhood Plans. The Parish Council, as the 'plan-making' or 'relevant competent' authority, must before the plan is given effect, make a HRA through Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives where (a) the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Paragraph 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2017).
- 2.3 The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any European site designated for its nature conservation importance.
- 2.4 The Habitats Regulations transpose the requirements of the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna [The Habitats Directive] which aims to protect the habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as European sites or Natura 2000 sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated under European Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds [the Birds Directive]. In January 2021 the UK Government renamed the Natura 2000 sites, SACs and SPAs the "National Site Network".
- 2.5 SACs and SPAs were included as designations referred to in the NPPF (paragraph 2.1 above). In addition, the NPPF¹ also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within the HRA process as required by the Regulations. Ramsar sites are not included in the National Site Network but have the same protection as those sites that are within it.
- 2.6 The process of HRA is based on the precautionary principle and evidence should be presented to allow a determination of whether the impacts of a land-use plan, when considered in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a National Site Network site; would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where effects are considered uncertain, the potential for adverse impacts should be assumed. Whether those effects reach a threshold where they can be considered 'significant' has to be interpreted using objective information and best ecological knowledge. Neighbourhood plans are nested within Local Plans. HRA identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a National Site Network site's conservation objectives because it may adversely impact the qualifying features listed, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a National Site Network site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information². Neighbourhood Plans must therefore be considered in combination with the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#neighbourhood-plan-require-sustainability-appraisal>

Paragraph: 047 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209



- 2.7 It is important to recognise that this HRA deals exclusively with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations 2017, which in turn are concerned only with sites designated for their importance at the European level. It is not a comprehensive review of interactions of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 with biodiversity and important components such as SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites, Green Infrastructure and Protected Species and Habitats of Principal Importance that are included within the Sustainability Appraisal for that plan.

3 AA STAGE 1 – SCREENING METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The methodology for this Appropriate Assessment (AA) stage 1 of the Draft Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan (Version 3.1) (referred to as RNP) is an extension of that used for the HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (Bodsey Ecology 2018).
- 3.2 The HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 considered the following possible threats identified through pre-screening:
- 1 Increased public recreation, causing disturbance to birds, damage to vegetation, increased littering / flytipping or leading to management compromises (e.g. grazing being restricted).
 - 2 Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
 - 3 Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
 - 4 Invasive non-native species
 - 5 Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)
 - 6 Reduction in water quality, from increased discharges of sewage and surface water drainage, or from pollution incidents, either during or after construction.
 - 7 Disruption to the flight paths of birds and mammals.
- 3.3 The threats were assessed for a number of National Site Network sites that are geographically connected by environmental pathways to Bedford Borough. The site objectives of each National Site Network site were considered at this stage for Ravensden (Appendix 1) in order to determine if there were ecological pathways that could connect the RNP to the National Site Network sites. The seven National Site Network sites were: Portholme SAC; The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar; The Wash SPA/Ramsar; Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar; The Nene Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar; Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC; and Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. The AA stage 1 for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 demonstrated that there would be no likely significant effects on all but Portholme SAC and The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar.
- 3.4 The threat from “Air pollution, air borne pollutants” was screened out of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 because none of the National Site Network sites were close enough to Bedford Borough for there to be an effect and extra road-use would mostly avoid the main routes passing close by the Upper Nene Gravel Pits SPA because there are more direct routes from Bedford to major national routes. Therefore, this threat will not be considered in any Appropriate Assessment for Neighbourhood Plans within Bedford Borough.



3.5 The conclusions of the full appropriate assessment for the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 were:

Climate change impacts on flows and therefore flooding in the River Great Ouse catchment are predicted to be much larger than impacts from urban developments in the long-term. However, protection from urbanisation should not be omitted because of this as it is still a likely significant effect. It is assumed policies in The Local Plan will be followed and permission will only be given to development by the consenting bodies on the understanding that there will not be increased output of pollutants from water recycling centres into the River Great Ouse.

The Local Plan in isolation or in combination with the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and Central Bedfordshire "Shaping where you live 2035" should not have adverse effects on the two identified National Site Network sites on the River Great Ouse assuming policies are followed, although it should be stated that there are not HRA tasks 2 and 3 available from other Local Authorities in the catchment.

This HRA finds that as it stands The Local Plan could have significant effects on two of the sites, Portholme (SAC) and The Ouse Washes (SAC/SPA/Ramsar). Portholme (SAC) and The Ouse Washes (SAC) could be affected by a reduction in the quality of flood water. The Ouse Washes (SPA/Ramsar) could be affected by increased flooding. The effects could be avoided by rewording and subsequent adherence to policies and with Anglian Water following its commitments and any findings of future HRA of its Asset Management Plans or other plans.

The HRA concludes that, if policies identified as key in this report are retained, and/or the wording changes recommended for policies highlighted are adopted, The Local Plan will not have adverse effects on site integrity of any European site. Therefore, Bedford Borough Council can proceed with The Local Plan 2030 in the context of Habitats Regulations 2017.

3.6 Since the HRA (Bodsey Ecology, 2018), the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 has been updated, policies have been modified and the concerns of the HRA have been met. The changes made that were included in the adopted Local Plan 2030 and their impact on the HRA are covered in an addendum to the HRA (Bodsey Ecology, 2019).



4 AA STAGE 1 - RESULTS

4.1 The screening matrix between the threats listed in paragraph 3.2 and the National Site Network sites listed in paragraph 3.3 for the RNP is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Screening of National Site Network sites for likely significant effects from threats identified from the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan.

National Site Network Site	Public Recreation	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	Non-native invasive Species	Pollution of Ground Water	Reduction in water Quality	Disruption to flight paths of animals
Portholme SAC	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/RAMSAR	No	No	No	No	No	No
Nene Washes (SAC/SPA/RAMSAR)	No	No	No - not connected	No - not connected	No - not connected	No
Eversden and Wimpole Woods (SAC)	No	No	No - not connected	No - not connected	No - not connected	No
The Wash (SPA/RAMSAR)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA/RAMSAR)	No	No	No - not connected	No - not connected	No - not connected	No
Chilterns Beechwoods	No	No	No	No	No	No
Reason	1	2	3	4	5	6

4.2 The results of the screening showed that there are no likely significant effects on National Site Network sites. Subsequent analysis showed which of the qualifying features of those National Site Network sites might have been affected by the threats and whether these adverse effects would lead to a loss of site integrity (these are summarised in Table 2) and are based on the site objectives (Appendix 1). Non-native invasive species could always be a likely effect because seeds and vegetative parts of plants capable of regeneration could escape from gardens and be transported down the River Great Ouse. Cumulatively across the whole of the River Great Ouse catchment the threat that non-native invasive species (some as yet unidentified or even present in the UK) remains very small and unquantifiable using evidence or with best ecological knowledge. Arguably, the escape of non-native invasive species cannot be discounted for any plan anywhere in England, UK or even the European Union below the threshold of 1 in 500,000 per year (as suggested by DTA Publications Limited, 2018 as being *de minimis*). However, this author believes in his expert opinion that the statement from the Advocate General in Sweetman is pertinent: *'48 the requirement that the effect in question should be significant exists to lay down a de minimis threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill'*.

4.3 This is because no development anywhere could take place with the threshold of 1 in 500,000 per year for the spread of invasive non-native species. This author suggests that the criteria for a causal link between plans or projects and National Site Network sites should be based on the presence of existing



invasive non-native species in the plan or project area and/or projects that suggest non-native planting will take place as part of the project.

Table 2. Summary of potential impacts on National Site Network site integrity of the Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan and reference that removes them.

National Site Network Site	Qualifying Feature	Impacted negatively with potential loss of site integrity	Relevant to Ravensden Neighbourhood Plan
Portholme SAC	H6510 Lowland hay Meadow	Reduction in water quality	Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
		Increased spring/ summer flooding	Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
Ouse Washes SPA/ RAMSAR	A051 <i>Anas strepera</i> , Gadwal (breeding)	Increased spring/ summer flooding Increased winter flooding	Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
	A056 <i>Anas querquedula</i> , Garganey (breeding)		Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
	A119 <i>Porzana porzana</i> , Spotted Crake (breeding)		Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
	A156a <i>Limosa limosa</i> , Black-tailed Godwit (breeding)		Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
	Breeding Bird Assemblage (breeding)		Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
	A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , Hen Harrier (non-breeding)	Reduction in water quality	Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93
Ouse Washes SAC	S1149 <i>Cobitis taenia</i> (Spined Loach)	Reduction in water quality	Yes – reference to BBC Local Plan Policies 92 and 93

REASONING FOR TABLE 1 RESULTS

1. The Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 in its entirety is predicted to have no adverse impact on the integrity of the National Site Network sites in question for this threat (Bodsey Ecology, 2018).
2. The developments planned for Ravensden are not directly linked to the River Great Ouse but are linked to it via the Ravensden Brook and so may affect the hydrology which could, when combined with those of all the other developments in the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030, impact the National Site Network sites downstream. The ‘in combination’ impacts of all developments in the



River Great Ouse catchment are dependent on the plans of Anglian Water which are themselves subject to an HRA. It can only be assumed for this HRA that the plans of Anglian Water will prevent effects on the National Site Network sites in question. However, the RNP specifically mentions that the River Great Ouse will be protected under the policies of the Bedford Borough Plan and that this is in part to protect the National Site Network sites downstream.

3. It is possible that non-native species could escape from new gardens and be dispersed along the River Great Ouse to Portholme and/or The Ouse Washes. But the risk is small and is unmeasurable. The RNP is not connected by river to the Nene Washes or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits and so there is no threat. There is no tangible connection between the RNP and Eversden and Wimpole Woods or the Chilterns Beechwoods that would allow the dispersal of propagules and therefore there is no threat.
4. The same connections (or lack of them) between RNP and the River Great Ouse as for reason “3” apply for pollution incidents to ground water.
5. The same connections (or lack of them) between RNP and the River Great Ouse as for reason “3” apply for pollution incidents.
6. No dwelling in RNP will be tall enough or close enough to have an effect on flyways for birds or mammals and therefore there is no threat.

5 AA STAGE 1 - CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The RNP will have no unforeseen likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the two National Site Network sites identified in addition to those identified in the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030 (Bodsey Ecology, 2018).
- 5.2 The developments included in the RNP will not contribute further to the likely significant effects to National Site Network sites already identified as possible in the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1 There are no likely significant effects to the National Site Network sites identified as potentially being at risk because the RNP specifically mentions that they will be protected under the policies of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030.
- 9.2 The avoidance of the impacts of increased flooding and pollution in the River Great Ouse depends on the efficacy of Anglian Water’s Water Recycling Centres. The assumption has to be made that future HRAs for strategic plans of Anglian Water show that flooding and pollution are avoided or mitigated against. The future plans of Anglia Water also need to ensure that there will be an adequate supply of water for the development (and all other plans in the region) and that this will not reduce the flow of the River Great Ouse to an extent where the integrity of the National Site Network sites is affected. This HRA has to assume that the future plans relating to supply will not affect river flow.
- 9.3 With the assumptions made in paragraphs 9.2 there is no reason arising from this Habitat Regulations Assessment to prevent the RNP from being adopted in the context of the Habitat Regulations 2017.

7 REFERENCES

Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030. Accessed on 5/8/2020 at <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy-its-purpose/local-plan/>

Bodsey Ecology (2018). *Bedford Borough Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment 2018*. Accessed on 4/10/2018 at <http://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=mWdUC1eYtKneHtAkS7KPeQ%3d%3d&name=26%20-%20Habitats%20Regulations%20Assessment%202018.pdf>



Bodsey Ecology (2019). Addendum to the Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2030. Accessed on 29/8/2019 at <https://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=EOaR5U8lZ83mGGKIOyKHTw%3d%3d&name=Habitat%20Regulations%20Assessment%20Addendum.pdf>



APPENDIX 1 – EUROPEAN SITE OBJECTIVES

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR PORTHOLME SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION SITE CODE: UK0030054

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

H6510. Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR OUSE WASHES SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION SITE CODE: UK0013011

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

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

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

Qualifying Features:

S1149. *Cobitis taenia*; Spined loach



EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR OUSE WASHES SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA SITE CODE: UK9008041

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

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

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying feature;
- 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.

Qualifying Features:

A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)

A038 *Cygnus cygnus*; Whooper swan (Non-breeding)

A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)

A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Breeding)

A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)

A053 *Anas platyrhynchos*; Mallard (Breeding)

A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

A055 *Anas querquedula*; Garganey (Breeding)

A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)

A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Breeding)

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)

A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Breeding)

A156a *Limosa limosa limosa*; Black-tailed godwit (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

Breeding bird assemblage



EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR THE WASH AND NORTH NORFOLK COAST SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION SITE CODE: UK0017075

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

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

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species; and
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying Features:

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons

H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays

H1170. Reefs

H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)

H1420. Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*); Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub

S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter

S1365. *Phoca vitulina*; Common seal

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR THE WASH SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA SITE CODE: UK9008021

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

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

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying feature; and



- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying Features:

- A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)
 - A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
 - A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
 - A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
 - A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
 - A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)
 - A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
 - A065 *Melanitta nigra*; Black (common) scoter (Non-breeding)
 - A067 *Bucephala clangula*; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding)
 - A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
 - A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
 - A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
 - A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
 - A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
 - A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
 - A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
 - A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
 - A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
 - A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)
 - A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
 - A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
- Waterbird assemblage

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR EVERS DEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION SITE CODE: UK0030331

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

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

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



This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above and is found at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6736081810620416>.

Qualifying Features:

S1308. *Barbastella barbastellus*; Barbastelle bat

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR UPPER NENE VALLEY GRAVEL PITS SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA SITE CODE: UK9020296

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

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

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

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above. It is available at <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5495529882517504>

Qualifying Features:

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Non-breeding)

A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)

A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR NENE WASHES SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA SITE CODE: UK9008031

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

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

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying features; and



- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying Features:

- A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)
- A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
- A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Breeding)
- A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)
- A052 *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
- A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
- A055 *Anas querquedula*; Garganey (Breeding)
- A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)
- A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Breeding)
- A156a *Limosa limosa limosa*; Black-tailed godwit (Breeding)

EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR CHILTERN BEECHWOODS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION SITE CODE: UK0012724

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

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

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species; and
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

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

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4808896162037760>

Qualifying Features:

- H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*FestucoBrometalia*); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone
- H9130. *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests; Beech forests on neutral to rich soils
- S1083. *Lucanus cervus*; Stag beetle.