

# Hatfield Peverel Draft Neighbourhood Plan

## Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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# Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, Regulation 63 Screening Report For Hatfield Peverel Draft Neighbourhood Plan

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## Report Checking and Version Control

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

This report is a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (*The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any European Site, in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of European sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites.

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to support the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan which is being produced by Hatfield Peverel Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The area covered by the Plan is shown in Appendix 1.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA screening report; this is necessary to ensure the making of the neighbourhood plan is not 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.

### 1.2 Natura 2000 (N2K) Sites

Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature and biodiversity policy. It is an EU wide network of nature protection areas. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The sites are designated under the **European Union (EU) Birds Directive** (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) and the **EU Habitats Directive** (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).

The Birds Directive requires the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds. The Habitats Directive similarly requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species, and for habitats. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) are also part of the Natura 2000 network. 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 Natura 200 network in England.

## 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: Abberton Reservoir SPA is one of the most important reservoirs in the country for overwintering waterfowl. *Legislation: EU Birds Directive.*

### 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: Essex Estuaries SAC has Atlantic salt meadows, mudflats and sandflats. *Legislation: EU Habitats Directive.*

### Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

Ramsar Sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl habitats. For example, Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) Ramsar site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh and the site supports 12 species of nationally scarce plants and at least 38 Red Data Book invertebrate species. 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.*

## 1.3 Report Aims

This report aims to:

- Identify the European sites within 20km of Hatfield Peverel.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Hatfield Peverel draft Neighbourhood Plan for its potential to impact upon a European site.
- 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.

## 2.0 Neighbourhood Plan Information

### 2.1. European Sites to be considered

There are nine European sites (SPA/SAC/Ramsar) which lie within 20 km of Hatfield Peverel. These were identified by Braintree District Council Local Development Framework Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report and are shown on the map in Appendix 2. The parish is buffered at 8km as this is the Zone of Influence for the Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar sites.

**Table 2.1 European Sites within 20km of the development to be considered in this assessment**

SPA	SAC	Ramsar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crouch and Roach Estuaries</li> <li>• Abberton Reservoir</li> <li>• Colne Estuary</li> <li>• Blackwater Estuary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex Estuaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crouch and Roach Estuaries</li> <li>• Abberton Reservoir</li> <li>• Colne Estuary</li> <li>• Blackwater Estuary</li> </ul>

Hatfield Peverel lies with the Zones of Influence of Five European Sites as recently revised by Natural England to consider potential impacts on statutory sites. However only 4 of them are listed by Natural England as in scope for residential developments are - Essex Estuaries SAC (24km), Blackwater Estuary SPA and Blackwater Estuary Ramsar (8km), Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar 24km, and the Crouch and Roach Estuaries (10km)

After consideration of the Braintree District Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy HRA report: Appropriate Assessment (2017) and Natural England advice on the Regulation 16 consultation response on this NDP (2017), it was concluded that these 5 European sites should be assessed for 'likely significant effects' from this draft Neighbourhood Plan.

## 2.2 Conservation Objectives

Information on each of the above European sites has been taken from the Braintree District Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy HRA (2009).

Appendix 3 indicates the reason why each N2K site is important and has been designated; the relevant SSSI compartments; and the Conservation Objectives for each site. This information has been obtained from the Natural England website.

## 3. METHOD AND APPROACH

### 3.1 Introduction

An assessment under the Habitats Regulations for NDPs can be split into three stages:

**First stage – HRA Screening** - The process, which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

**Second stage - Assessment of alternative solutions** - The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.

**Third stage – Compensatory measures** - An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should proceed.

The three stages and their outcomes are described in more detail in Table 3.1. This document relates only to Stage 1 of the HRA screening process.

**Table 3.1 Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening process**

Stage	Tasks	Outcome
<b>Stage 1 HRA Screening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of the policies or projects</li> <li>• Identification of potential effects on a European site</li> <li>• Assessing the effects on a</li> </ul>	<p>Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect' report.</p> <p>Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, go to Stage 2.</p>

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	European site	
<b>Stage 2 Assessment of alternative solutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options.</li> <li>• If no alternatives available, define and evaluate mitigation measures</li> </ul>	If effects remain after alternative solutions been considered, consider whether the policies (and projects) should proceed with compensatory measures or the policies (and projects) be removed from the plan (Stage 3).
<b>Stage 3 Compensatory measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify compensatory measures to maintain site integrity</li> </ul>	Plan approved.

### 3.2 Stage 1: HRA Screening

The screening stage identifies if an 'Appropriate Assessment' is needed because any policies or projects will have an impact on a European Site.

Section 4 considers each policy or projects and the results of the screening exercise recorded.

### 3.3 Stage 2: Assessment of alternative solutions

This part of the assessment process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the policy or project that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.

### 3.4 Stage 3: Compensatory Measures

In the unlikely event that it is not possible to adapt policies (and projects) sufficiently to avoid any adverse impact on the integrity of a European Site, then it would be necessary to establish whether there are any imperative reasons of overriding public interest that mean the policies (and projects) should progress. The next stage is to notify the Secretary of State who will consider this and what compensatory measures will be required for the adverse impacts

### 3.5 Potential impacts of Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan on Natura 2000 sites

As identified in the Sustainability Appraisal scoping report for Braintree Local Plan, there is a wide range of potential impacts from development which can be summarised as -

- Land take by developments;
- Impact on protected species found within but which travel outside the protected sites may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Natura 2000 or Ramsar site, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- Increased disturbance, for example from recreational use resulting from new housing development and / or improved access due to transport infrastructure projects;

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- Changes in water availability, or water quality as a result of development and increased demands for water treatment, and changes in groundwater regimes due to increased impermeable areas;
- Changes in atmospheric pollution levels due to increased traffic, waste management facilities etc. Pollution discharges from developments such as industrial Developments, quarries and waste management facilities.

Each policy in the neighbourhood plan will therefore be assessed against the above criteria in the table below

**Table 3.5 Assessment of potential impacts**

<b>Nature of potential impact</b>	<b>How the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Natura 2000 (N2K) site?</b>	<b>Why these effects are/ not considered significant?</b>
Land take by development	Hatfield Peverel is outside the boundaries of the 5 N2K sites within scope of this HRA.	N/A
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	Hatfield Peverel does not contain any land for functional use by designated features of the SPA/Ramsar sites.	N/A
Recreational pressure and disturbance	Hatfield Peverel parish lies within the Zone of Influence of the Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar, Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar and Essex Estuaries SAC. Natural England considers therefore that visitors may travel to these European Sites for recreation.	<p>While Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan alone is not likely to have a significant effect, potential in-combination effects cannot be ruled out.</p> <p>In the absence of mitigation there are potential in-combination effects on the Blackwater Estuary and Colne Estuaries Special Protection Areas (SPAs) from the effects of increased recreational pressure from the effects of the Local Plan.</p> <p>Measures need to be incorporated into this Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that any likely significant effects are avoided in order to secure compliance with the UK Habitats Regulations. This will be particularly important if the Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan is to progress <b>before</b> the Local Plan has been adopted.</p>

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		<p>Braintree District Council is committed to developing and implementing a Recreation disturbance and Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS); the main components will include improvements and provision of greenspace and recreational routes, access and visitor management at European Sites and commitments to regular monitoring. Developer contributions to funding visitor management measures, in line with the emerging RAMS, will be therefore required for any residential development which is consented under the HPNP and considered by project level HRA.</p>
Water quantity and quality	<p>There is a potential pathway for development at Hatfield Peverel to impact on the SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites within scope of this HRA as the parish lies within the Zones of Influence.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures must be embedded in developments to avoid significant impacts. Policy safeguards need to include a commitment to ensure that phasing of development does not exceed infrastructure capabilities and that the necessary upgrades are in place prior to development coming forward) will ensure that a given development will not proceed until the necessary infrastructure upgrades have been provided as necessary in accordance with Anglian Water and Environment Agency advice.</p>
Changes in pollution levels	<p>There is a potential pathway for development to impact on the SPA/SAC/Ramsar sites as Hatfield Peverel lies within the Zones of Influence of the SPA/Ramsar/SACs within scope of this HRA. It is considered that there is no pathway for development to result in pollution impacts.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

#### 4 RESULTS FROM HRA SCREENING OF DRAFT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

Each of the policies in the Hatfield Peverel draft Neighbourhood Plan have been screened to identify whether they would have any impact on a European Site.

**Table 4.1 Screening categorisation**

<b>Category A : No negative effect</b>
Policies or projects that will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site.
<b>Category B : No Likely Significant Effect</b>
Policies or projects that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a <i>significant</i> negative effect on a European site alone or in combination. This conclusion could only be reached if the effects, even in combination and taking the precautionary principle into account, are considered trivial.
<b>Category C Likely Significant Effect</b>
Policies or projects which are predicted to have a likely significant effect on their own or in combination with other plans and projects and require Appropriate Assessment.

**Table 4.2 Summary of findings from the HRA screening.**

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the European Sites?	Recommendations
ECN1 Support for Local Businesses	New business uses defined as offices, light industrial units, tourism and hospitality uses and leisure, health and education related activities , and the expansion of existing businesses will be supported throughout the Parish provided that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The business employs no more</li> </ul>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>than 20 people on site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no unacceptable impact on residential amenity</li> <li>• Any new buildings are of a scale and design that respects the landscape character of the area in which it is located</li> <li>• Any historic, cultural or architectural features are retained or enhanced</li> <li>• There is an acceptable impact on the local road network including the management of vehicular movements on the surrounding road network to prevent congestion and damage to road surfaces and verges</li> <li>• Satisfactory access and egress arrangements and vehicular parking and covered, secure cycle parking provision can be made</li> <li>• Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the containment and disposal of any waste</li> </ul>		
ECN2 Working from Home	Any new or redesigned dwellings should include provision to enable a home office to be accommodated. This could be achieved through the design of the building to allow conversion of roof space or similar area into an office or workspace area or by providing space within the internal layout.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>New larger housing schemes should, where appropriate, make provision for work hubs which are readily accessible by foot or by bicycle from new homes and can provide business and social facilities with services for the community</p>		
ECN3 Broadband and Mobile Connectivity	<p>The development of new, superfast broadband and mobile infrastructure to serve the Parish will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals for new development must demonstrate how they will contribute to, and be compatible with, superfast broadband and high quality internet connectivity. This could be through a 'connectivity statement' accompanying a planning application. Such statements should consider land use, the anticipated connectivity requirements, their speed, and known data networks, including a realistic assessment of connection potential or need to contribute to any such networks.</p> <p>Where no internet provider is available, as a minimum (subject to viability), suitable ducting that can accept superfast broadband should be provided to the public highway, a community led local access network or another suitable location.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>Where possible additional ducting should be provided that contributes to a local access network for the wider community. The costs associated with this can be considered alongside any other requirements and be subject to viability testing.</p>		
ECN4 Protection of Commercial Premises	<p>Change of Use Proposals for the change of use of commercial premises from employment or community activity in the Parish will only be supported if it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The use is no longer viable and the premises has been appropriately marketed for at least six months at a reasonable market rate or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is no longer a need for the facility or a suitable replacement has been provided in a suitably convenient location elsewhere</p> <p>Any new proposals for commercial premises are likely to have permitted development rights removed to retain a supply of commercial premises.</p> <p>Commercial Zones Three commercial zones have been identified in Hatfield Peverel and are</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>shown on Map of Central Commercial Zones in Hatfield Peverel (page 19). Within these areas, growth and diversity of economic activity is encouraged to continue to provide small scale shops, services and community facilities to meet the needs of the local population.</p>		
ECN5 Public Realm	<p>Businesses will be expected to consider the visual impact they make on the area and to take every opportunity to enhance it through reference to guidance such as the Essex Design Guide and the Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley Character Assessment or other relevant guidance as it becomes available.</p> <p>This will include elements of the streetscape such as well-designed street furniture and signage, lighting, landscaping, and open spaces. The purpose of any enhancements would be to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists moving around the village and help to create focal points for business activity and community interaction.</p> <p>Development (including a bypass) should include provision of sensitive enhancements to the Public Realm along existing roads where appropriate such as: widening of pavements, improved</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	surfacing, tree planting, improved crossing points, traffic calming and the creation of areas of shared surface.		
HPE1 Prevention of Coalescence	<p>A green wedge will be created along the eastern development boundary of Hatfield Peverel and at the eastern boundary of the Parish with Woodend Farm to avoid coalescence with Witham. (See map page 25)</p> <p>A similar green wedge will be created that will preserve the open space between the built area of Hatfield Peverel and the hamlet of Nounsley.</p> <p>In these areas the following development will be permitted provided it maintains the open nature of the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Agricultural purposes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Outdoor recreation and sports facilities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Cemeteries</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Replacement of existing building</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Redevelopment of previously developed land</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Transport infrastructure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Utilities (e.g. power, water, gas, sewage)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/>Developments brought forward under a <b>Community Right to Build Order</b></li> </ul>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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<p>HPE2 Natural Environment and Biodiversity</p>	<p>Development should retain and enhance existing trees, hedgerows and habitats which are important for their historic, visual or biodiversity value unless the need for, and the benefits of the development in that location clearly outweigh any loss. Any such loss will be appropriately mitigated.</p> <p>Strong support will be given to the retention of natural boundary treatments and the provision of new areas of natural planting and habitat as part of new developments. This will help to promote wildlife corridors and, where appropriate, provide natural screening to help integrate development with existing built-up areas.</p> <p>Development should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Restrict planting on a development to locally native species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Protect the best and most versatile agricultural land</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Have regard to and respect the character of the landscape and its sensitivity to change</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Enhance the locally distinctive character of the landscape in accordance with the Hatfield Peverel Landscape Character Assessment (2015)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take account of the potential impacts of climate change and ensure the protection</li> </ul>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
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	<p>and enhancement of the natural environment, habitats, biodiversity and geo-diversity of the Parish</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Proposals to develop a network of wildlife corridors alongside public rights of way will be supported</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Where revisions to existing rights of way are necessary to accommodate planned development alternative routes should avoid the use of estate roads for the purpose wherever possible. Proposals that include appropriately designed and surfaced footpaths through landscaped and open areas will be supported</p>		
HPE3 Protection of Local Green Space	<p>Proposals for development which would result in the loss of the identified Local Green Spaces within this plan will not be permitted.</p> <p>The identified areas are:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>The Green</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>The Duck Pond</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
HPE4 Strutt Memorial Ground	<p>No building will be allowed on the Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground (the Rec) unless it is to provide for clearly identified and evidenced needs directly associated with recreational use.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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<p>HPE5 Sport and Recreation Provision</p>	<p>Proposals for development which would result in the loss of any recreational facilities will be permitted only in circumstances where a replacement facility of equal or enhanced quality will be provided.</p> <p>The provision of additional sports and recreation facilities will be encouraged in appropriate locations.</p> <p>Support will be given to proposals that improve and extend the existing footpath network and create a cycle path and bridleway network, allowing greater access to housing, village centres, green spaces and the open countryside.</p> <p>The loss of existing footpaths and cycle paths will be resisted.</p> <p>The current allotment sites will be protected.</p> <p>The Dannatt's quarry site will be protected for recreation use.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Amend text to support daily recreational route of 2.6km to avoid Likely Significant Effect on N2k sites from development alone.</p>
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<p>HPE6 Protection of Landscape Setting</p>	<p>The Plan seeks to protect the landscape setting of the village through preservation and enhancement of views identified by the community (see pages 33-37) and the Hatfield Peverel Landscape Character Assessment (2015).</p> <p>Any proposed development, or alterations to an area within these views, must ensure their key features can continue to be enjoyed including distant buildings, areas of landscape and open agricultural countryside.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>HPE7 Flooding and SuDS</p>	<p>Any proposed development will include mitigation measures against future risk to properties, residents and wildlife from flash flooding and by keeping development away from areas prone to flooding.</p> <p>The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will be expected where an engineering and ground assessment indicates feasibility.</p> <p>Where a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is proposed consideration of the site and the positive benefits it could have for the environment should be demonstrated in the planning application.</p> <p>Should it be demonstrated that infiltration</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

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	is not possible then water should be discharged to a watercourse or a sewer with appropriate attenuation and treatment to ensure that flood and pollution risk is not increased and where possible betterment is provided.		
<b>HPE8 Heritage</b>	<p>Any development will enable the conservation and sustainability of the historic environment to maximise the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits such conservation can bring while developing opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the local character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>An appropriate assessment of the significance of any heritage asset(s) in the Parish, including the contribution made by their setting, the impact of a development on the asset(s) and how such development could conserve and enhance the asset(s) will need to be included in any planning application that effects the asset(s) using information from the Essex Historic Environment Record, guidance from relevant experts and where appropriate using the Building in Context Toolkit (Historic England).</p> <p>Developers will be expected to respect</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>these areas and buildings, whatever their state of repair, and to ensure no harm comes to them as a result of their plans. This will include the setting of the asset.</p> <p>The Parish will be open and receptive to innovative but sensitive uses of a heritage asset in order to support its conservation, enhancement and future use.</p>		
<p>F11 Transport and access</p>	<p>Development proposals must be supported by a Transport Statement or Assessment which must reference ECC Development Management Policies (2011), and in particular Policy DM13, which specifies the thresholds (Appendix B) when such statements will be required.</p> <p>New development must provide appropriate safe pedestrian and cycle routes to public transport hubs e.g. bus stops and the railway station and recreational, educational and retail facilities. Where possible these routes should link to other local and national networks. Safe links from Maldon Road to Keith Bigden Memorial Ground and Bury Lane to the station are required.</p> <p>Access for all should be the standard. Where possible, shared use cycle ways/footpaths should be provided. The</p>	<p>Category C Likely Significant Effect</p>	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Any roads will require control measures to avoid pollution of watercourses which could potentially reaching the N2K sites.</p> <p>Policy wording should reflect this risk and add pollution control measures.</p>

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	<p>needs of those with mobility problems and visual impairment should be considered e.g. dropped kerbs, textured surfaces. This will also meet the needs of people with pushchairs.</p> <p>Developments will be required to implement 'shared spaces' or 'living streets' to reduce both the speed and dominance of motorised transport, by removing unnecessary street furniture/road markings, introducing specific materials and a speed limit of 20 mph. Church Road from The Street to De Vere Close and New Road are seen as suiting shared spaces.</p> <p>Any new public parking areas should provide secure covered cycle bays or storage. Increased secure cycle parking will be provided at local amenities e.g. school and station to meet demand, encouraging residents to use cycles instead of cars.</p>		
F12 Parking	<p>Development will be required to provide vehicular and cycle parking in accordance with the current adopted Essex County Council Parking Standards.</p> <p><b>Residential parking</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Off street parking for each dwelling with</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>provision for deliveries and services, guests, healthcare personnel e.g. patient transport pick up/drop off and other transient visitors.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>The use of tandem parking on properties or large parking courts to the front part of developments will be discouraged.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Where garages are provided they must be designed to reflect the style of the house they serve and set back from the street frontage.</p> <p><b>General parking</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>When proposals for development and planning applications are being considered opportunities to provide public car parking near to community services will be identified.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Any existing public parking areas e.g. Railway Station, Hatfield Square will be retained unless an equivalent or improved facility is provided nearby.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Proposals that improve parking facilities enhancing safe and suitable access to the train station will be supported.</p> <p><b>Business parking</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Business developments will be required to provide appropriate off road parking for customers, deliveries and staff.</p> <p><b>Electric Charging Points</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>New public car parking provision should</p>		
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	<p>include charging points as standard. The provision of charging points in existing public car parks will be encouraged and supported.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New developments will show that they have made or have the potential to have provision for electric vehicle charging for each dwelling.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New developments should include provision of a public charging point/s in communal parking areas.</p>		
FI3 Education and Health Infrastructure	<p>The provision of education facilities for all ages within the Parish will be encouraged in appropriate locations.</p> <p>The provision of new physical and mental healthcare services within the Parish will be encouraged in appropriate locations.</p> <p>Loss or degradation of education or healthcare services will be resisted.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
FI4 Retention of Assets of Community Value	<p>Proposals that will result in the loss of or substantial harm to, an ACV will be strongly resisted.</p> <p>Loss of an ACV will only be permitted when there is no longer a need for that facility or a replacement facility of equal or enhanced quality is available or can be provided as part of any scheme.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

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<p>FI5 Developer Contribution</p>	<p>Any planning applications for new development within the Plan Area must demonstrate how they can contribute towards the delivery of community development. This may be via a Section 106 Agreement or through payment of any future CIL or payment contribution method.</p> <p>Provision towards infrastructure, either through direct provision of new facilities or through financial contributions, will be expected from all development subject to the guidance set out in the National Planning Policy Framework including the ability for development to be delivered viably.</p> <p>Any contribution secured as a result of development within the Plan Area shall be prioritised towards the delivery of targeted community objectives wherever possible. If any unilateral undertaking is proposed to directly deliver any of the Parish Council objectives, the acceptability of any scheme must first be agreed in writing by the Parish Council. Otherwise, it is intended that the Parish Council will prioritise any general financial contribution towards provision of a specific project.</p>	<p>Category C, Likely Significant Effect</p>	<p><b>Recommendation:</b> Greenspace provision, either within a development or offsite, must be included in the infrastructure. Depending on the design of residential developments, greenspace provision may require a Developer Contribution towards management of local public open spaces and the PROW network. Reference in the policy should be made to this legal requirement to avoid impacts on the Natura 2K sites.</p> <p>The likely in combination effects of residential development will trigger a Developer Contribution towards visitor monitoring at the Natura 2K sites. Reference should be made to this legal requirement to avoid impacts on the N2K sites.</p>
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<p>HO1 Design of New Developments</p>	<p><b>This applies to all development whether it is a new site or an addition to an existing development.</b>          The Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley Character Assessment along with Building for Life 12 and the Essex Design Guide should inform the design of new proposals.          New residential developments will be considered appropriate if they can demonstrate that the following have been addressed within the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Provision of a mix of housing types for a socially inclusive community</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Density of development must have regard to that within the immediate and surrounding area. Where there may be an impact on the natural environment a lower density may be considered acceptable or a higher density where the design is both innovative and of a high standard and in a highly sustainable location</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Layout, height and overall elevation design should be in harmony with the character and appearance of the surrounding area, including views into and out of the site. Materials should reflect the development's context</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Developments on unallocated sites should be for small numbers of houses of up to 30 houses or bungalows</li> </ul>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
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	<p><input type="checkbox"/> On developments of 10 or more mixed housing types at least 1 wheelchair unit will be provided per 10 dwellings. (e.g. 27 dwellings = 2 units )</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Good connection and permeability – short, safe and direct routes for pedestrians, wheelchair users, cyclists and mobility scooters connecting through the development to the rest of the village</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The changing needs and lifestyles of the population have been considered, building to Lifetime Homes Standard in accordance with current national guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Innovation to achieve low carbon sustainable design that meets the BREEAM Home Quality Mark Standard Excellent where viable (see Appendix 3)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New development will be encouraged to adopt a ‘fabric first’ approach to reduce energy demand and provide energy in the most cost effective way</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The creation of shared spaces for all users, alternatives to the car and streets that encourage low speeds are encouraged</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The use of high quality surface materials are expected in order to help with marking out parking areas and shared spaces</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The provision of a well-designed landscaping scheme to soften the impact of the development, provide new wildlife habitats and enable cohesion with the</p>		
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	<p>existing settlements</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Careful consideration should be given to the materials used in marking boundaries on those plots bordering the public realm for visual appearance, safety and security</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Allowance for the efficient functioning of the BDC waste and recycling scheme with convenient, well screened storage space for bins and recycling</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Provision of new facilities incorporated into the scheme or through developer contribution should be available for use by the general public</p>		
HO2 Retirement Housing	<p>Proposals for bungalows will be supported.</p> <p>Proposals for retirement housing that respects and enhances the character of the Parish will be considered appropriate providing they can meet the following criteria:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The development must provide an appropriate landscaping scheme which incorporates acceptably designed outside communal amenity areas for occupiers of the development whilst protecting the amenity of neighbouring residents</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Accessibility – unobstructed safe footpaths to cater for mobility scooters and wheelchairs. Easy access to public transport options and communal facilities</p>	No , Category A	No specific recommendations

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	<p>such as Doctor's Surgery, Library and food shops</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>All accommodation must be suitable for wheelchair users</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Properties should be built to Lifetime Homes Standards</p>		
<p><b>HO3 Affordable Housing</b></p>	<p>Any residential development 11 or more dwellings will be expected to provide 40% affordable homes.</p> <p>Housing type should reflect that identified as being required by applicants with a local connection on the Housing Register.</p> <p>In order to promote social inclusion, the affordable housing provision must be integrated within the market housing and not located on the periphery of the development.</p> <p>Tenure will be on an 80/20 split of rented and intermediate housing, unless it can be demonstrated that the ratios should be adjusted to meet local demand.</p> <p>First occupation of any dwelling will be specifically for people with a local connection to the Parish of Hatfield Peverel with a housing need in accordance with the prevailing Allocations Policy of the Local Authority. This</p>	<p>No , Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

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	<p>requirement will form part of the Section 106 Agreement.</p> <p>Local connection is defined by:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have lived in the Parish for 5 years of the last 8 years and/or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have immediate family (parents, children, siblings) that have lived in the Parish for 5 years or more</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Employed in the Parish for 5 or more years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Must be registered on the District Housing Register</p>		
<p><b>HO4 Minimum Garden Sizes</b></p>	<p>Houses when built will have a minimum private garden size of 100m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Exceptions to this requirement will be:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> One and two bedroom dwellings – a minimum private garden area of 50m<sup>2</sup> will be required</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Three bed terrace dwellings – private gardens shall be a minimum depth of 2.5m x the width of the house (except where the provision exceeds the 100m<sup>2</sup>) to a minimum private garden size of 100m<sup>2</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> For flats and apartments - minimum balcony area of 5m<sup>2</sup> where appropriate with a similar size private area for the ground floor dwelling and a private communal area for all which shall be to a high specification design, hard and soft landscaped garden area of 25m<sup>2</sup> per flat</p>	<p>No , Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

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	or apartment.		
HO5 Creating Safe Communities	<p>Developments will provide safe play spaces and design out crime.</p> <p>Children's play space must be located centrally within a development, where good passive surveillance from surrounding properties is achieved whilst having regard to the residential amenity of properties close by.</p> <p>Secured by Design methods will be incorporated into any new residential development to design out crime and create a feeling of a safe place to live and move through.</p>	No , Category A	No specific recommendations
HO6 Redevelopment of the former Arla site	<p>The redevelopment of the former Arla site (HATF608) (see map page 55) will be supported provided that it includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bungalows</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Retirement housing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apartments/starter homes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Small business units e.g. workshops, offices, gym facilities, nursery</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work hub/Café/tea room</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Safer access onto Station Road</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contributions towards highways enhancements on Bury Lane including safer access from the A12 slip road, to be agreed with the relevant Highways</li> </ul>	<p>No, Category A</p> <p>A project level HRA has already prepared for this site and Natural England consultation response (ref 220785 1 Aug 2017) agrees that the mitigation secured is sufficient to avoid any Likely Significant Effect on a N2K site.</p>	No specific recommendations

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	<p><b>Authorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Contributions towards enhanced pedestrian and cycle access on Station Road and Bury Lane, linking up to The Street</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Contributions to improved access to and from The Street via Bury Lane</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide improvements to the unsafe access onto Station Road from the station car park</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mitigates adverse noise and air pollution from the A12 and railway</li></ul>		
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## 5. Recommendations

Whilst most of the policies in this NDP are Category A (no negative effect), there are recommendations for amending the policy text where there is a risk of a Likely Significant Effect on a Natura 2000 site (see actions in Table 4.2 above).

The In-combination effects from other plans and projects are considered in in Section 6.

## 6. Other Plans and Projects – In-combination effects

There are two relevant Plan level HRAs that have been carried out by Braintree DC or other organisations (NEA Shared Strategic Part 1 Local Plan Appropriate Assessment and Braintree DC Local Development Framework Part 2) Appropriate Assessment and both have been found to have an *in combination* likely significant effect on the European sites being assessed: Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar and Essex Coast SAC.

In the context of this HRA, the relevant other plans to be considered are listed below in combination with Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Plan HRA (Table 6.1).

**Table 6.1: Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects**

Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
North Essex Authorities	HRA: Shared Strategic Part 1 Local Plan Appropriate Assessment (2017)	North Essex Authorities are committed to implementing a Recreation and Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are predicted unless similar mitigation measures are secured.
Braintree District Council	Habitat Regulations Assessment : Part 2 Braintree DC Local Development Framework (2017)	Braintree District Council is committed to implementing a Recreation and Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).	As there is no specific mitigation identified in the HPNDP nor any mechanism for delivery, a conclusion of no likely significant effect cannot be reached.
	Stonepath Drive HRA and AA (2017)	With mitigation for recreational disturbance, no likely significant effect	Natural England advice is that the submission for this Neighbourhood Plan should be deferred so it can then rely on mitigation measures in the Local Plan. If the HPNDP does not proceed ahead of emerging Braintree Local Plan it would allow the HPNDP to sit within the framework agreed by the North Essex Authorities to prepare and
	Gleneagles Way HRA (2017)	With mitigation for recreational disturbance, no likely significant effect	
	Arla Dairy HRA (2017)	With mitigation for recreational disturbance, no likely significant effect	
	Bury Farm HRA (2017)	With mitigation for recreational disturbance, no likely significant effect	
	Sorrells Field	With mitigation for recreational disturbance, no likely significant effect	

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	North Essex Authorities Shared Strategic Local Plan part 1 Habitat Regulations Assessment (2017)		implement a Recreation and Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). This would allow the HPNDP to rely on the implementation of the RAMS as part of the Braintree Local Plan.
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## 7. Summary and Conclusions

Subject to Natural England’s review, this HRA screening report indicates that the Hatfield Peverel draft Neighbourhood Plan is predicted to have likely significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

A telephone conversation was held on 31 October 2017 between Natural England (Sarah Fraser) and Braintree DC (Alan Massow, Amanda Turburville and Sue Hooton) to consider how the neighbourhood plan could avoid a Likely Significant Effect ahead of the Braintree Local Plan and the strategic mitigation scheme for recreational disturbance (RAMS). The only mechanism considered available is to add a new policy to the NDP

**“Any residential development subsequently coming forward will need to be subject to a project level HRA and secure sufficient mitigation measures, to avoid a Likely Significant Effect “**

If Natural England accepts the recommendations of this HRA screening, then the next stage will be to change the Neighbourhood Plan, the SEA will be re-done and consulted upon with the three statutory consultees for the five week period and then the new round of consultation can be carried out once that period expires.

## 8. References

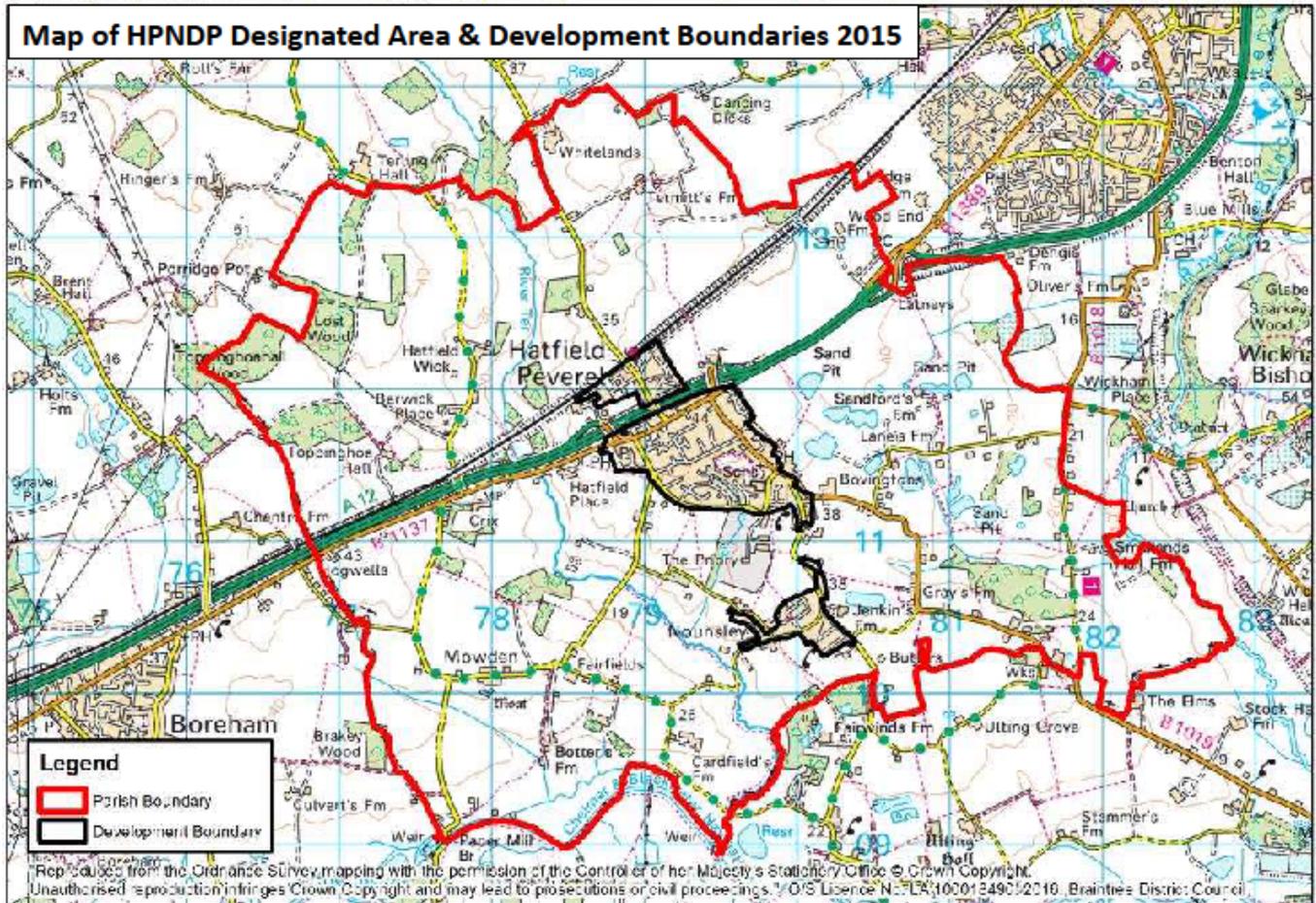
- Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Hatfield Peverel, Hatfield Peverel Parish Council (2017)
- Braintree District Council Local Plan: Proposed Submission (2017)
- Braintree District Council Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and Site Specific Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) HRA screening Appropriate Assessment (2017)
- Braintree DC (2017) Land at Station Road, Hatfield, Hatfield Peverel (Arla Dairy site) Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Land Use Consultants (Aug 2016) HRA screening report for Braintree District Draft Local Plan
- Land Use Consultants (May 2017) HRA Report for North Essex Authorities Shared Strategic Part 1 for Local Plans Pre-submission (Regulation 19)
- Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6581547796791296#content>
- Natural England Site Improvement Plans: East of England <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/4873023563759616>
- Natural England letter to Braintree DC (Tim Havers from Steve Roe, 28 March 2017 ref.211523) Land off Stonepath Drive, Hatfield Peverel

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- Natural England letter to Braintree DC (David Green cc Gary Sung from Steve Roe, 29 June 2017 ref.216876) Braintree Local Plan Part 2.
- Natural England letter to Braintree DC (Gary Sung from Steve Roe, 14 July ref:217393) Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Natural England letter to Braintree DC (Tim Havers from Francesca Shapland, 1 August 2017 ref 220785) Land at Station Road, Hatfield, Hatfield Peverel (Arla Dairy site)
- Natural England tel conversation with Braintree DC (Alan Massow, Amanda Turburville and Sue Hooton) with Sarah Fraser, 31 October 2017)

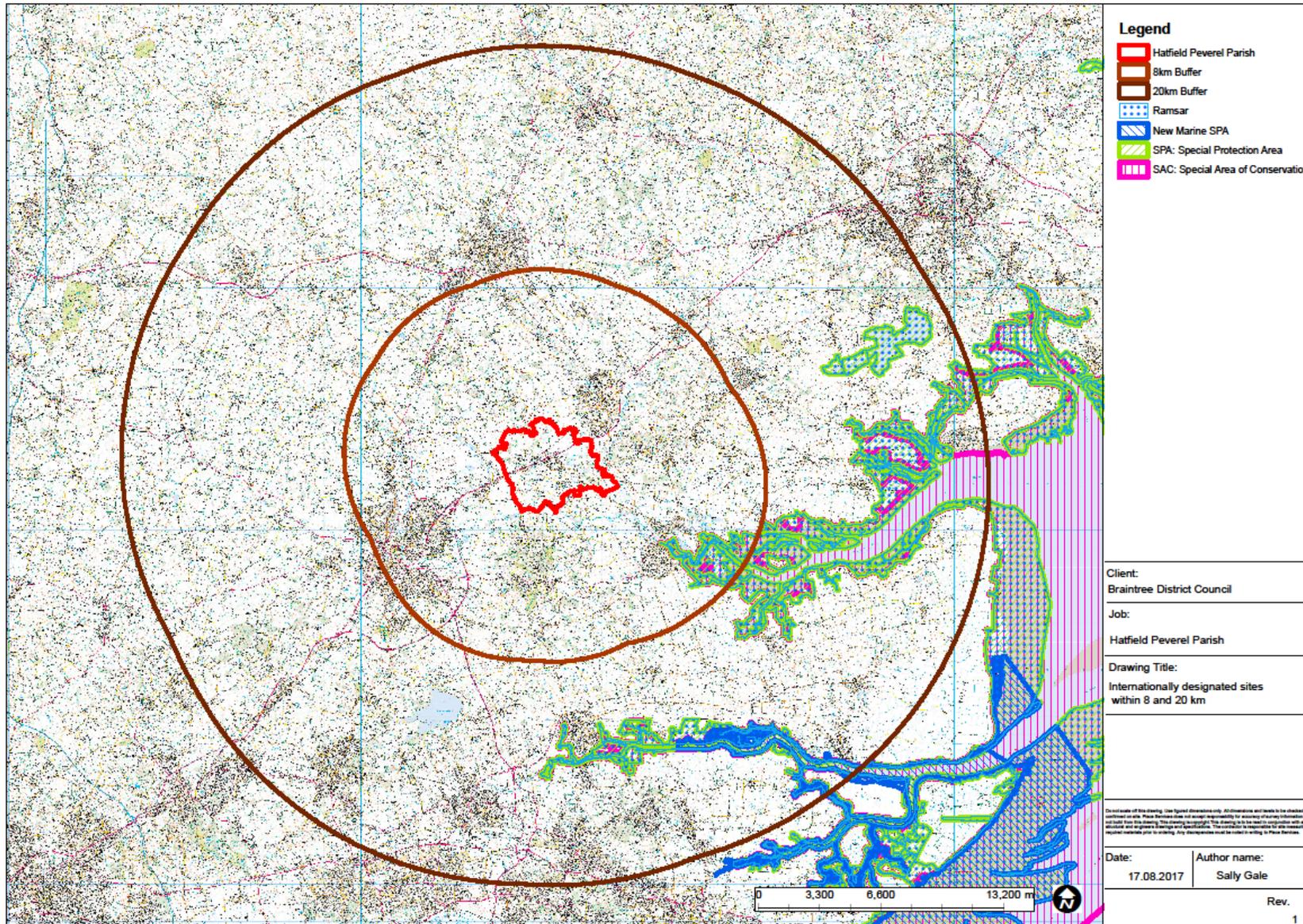
## Appendix 1

### The Neighbourhood Plan area for Hatfield Peverel



## Appendix 2

### Hatfield Peverel Parish and Locations of the European (Natura 2000) sites within 8km and 20km



## Appendix 3 Characteristics of European Sites (taken from LUC Aug 2016)

This appendix contains information about the European sites included in the scoping for this HRA. Information about each site's area, the site descriptions, qualifying features and pressures and threats are drawn from Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the Standard Data Forms or Ramsar Information Sheets available from the JNCC website. Site conservation objectives are drawn from Natural England's website and are only available for SACs and SPAs.

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p><b>Abberton Reservoir</b> is a large water storage reservoir close to the Essex coast. It is one of the most important reservoirs in the country for overwintering waterfowl and also supports substantial aggregations of moulting birds in early autumn and a large colony of tree-nesting cormorants. Causeways divide the reservoir into three sections.</p>				
Abberton Reservoir SPA	726.2	<p>Supports the following internationally important waterbird assemblage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>; Great crested grebe (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>; Great cormorant (Breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Cygnus olor</i>; Mute swan (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Anas penelope</i>; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Anas strepera</i>; Gadwall (Non-breeding) <i>Anas crecca</i>; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Anas clypeata</i>; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Aythya ferina</i>; Common pochard (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Aythya fuligula</i>; Tufted duck (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Bucephala clangula</i>; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Fulica atra</i>; Common coot (Non-breeding)</li> <li>• <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding)</li> </ul>	<p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying</li> </ul>	<p><b>Siltation</b> – high sediment load in reservoir inflow due to agricultural practices within catchment.</p> <p><b>Public access / disturbance</b> – designated waterbirds are vulnerable to human disturbance but well controlled by Essex &amp; Suffolk Water; occasional trespassing and disturbance by low flying aircraft.</p> <p><b>Planning permission: general</b> - potential future threat to designated waterbirds if farmland providing supporting habitat close to the SPA were lost to development; requires further study.</p> <p><b>Changes in species distributions</b> – unexplained decline in designated population of cormorant.</p> <p><b>Bird strike</b> – death of designated mute swans and possibly other species from collision with overhead powerlines near reservoir.</p> <p><b>Water pollution</b> - Water stored in the reservoir is high in nutrients (eutrophic) as it comes from intensively farmed catchment areas. Resulting algal blooms may include toxic blue-green algae that can kill wildfowl, though no significant mortality has been recorded.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</b> - The site is identified as at risk from air pollution as Nitrogen deposition levels exceed the site-</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
			features within the site.	<p>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> <p>Historically, increased water from the reservoir led to low water levels although no decrease in wildfowl was attributed to this. Currently the water level of the main, eastern section is being raised by 3 metres to increase storage capacity. As part of the level-raising scheme, the original concrete banks have been removed and the shoreline re-profiled, creating extensive new areas of shallow wetland habitat for the site's waterfowl.</p> <p>The Water Company has a consultative committee which addresses conservation issues at all its sites, and the Abberton Reserve Committee (involving Essex Wildlife Trust and EN) addresses local issues.</p>
Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site	726.2	<p>Supports 23787 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003) including the following internationally important waterbird assemblage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i></li> <li>• Northern shoveler , <i>Anas clypeata</i></li> <li>• Eurasian wigeon , <i>Anas Penelope</i></li> <li>• Mute swan , <i>Cygnus olor</i></li> <li>• Common pochard , <i>Aythya farina</i></li> <li>• Great cormorant , <i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>,</li> <li>• Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i>,</li> <li>• Tufted duck , <i>Aythya fuligula</i></li> <li>• Common coot , <i>Fulica atra atra</i></li> <li>• Pied avocet , <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>,</li> <li>• Ruff , <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>,</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>,</li> <li>• Spotted redshank , <i>Tringa</i></li> </ul>	None available.	Similar to Abberton Reservoir SPA (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"> <li><i>erythropus</i>,</li> <li>Common greenshank , <i>Tringa nebularia</i>,</li> <li>Common goldeneye , <i>Bucephala clangula</i></li> </ul>		
The Blackwater Estuary is a large estuary between the Dengie peninsula and Mersea Island on the Essex coast. It stretches from immediately adjacent to Maldon and about 8 km south of Colchester.				
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4) SPA	4395.15	<p>Qualifying Features (Waterbird assemblage):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Aythya ferina</i>; Common pochard (Breeding)</li> <li><i>Circus cyaneus</i>; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover (Breeding)</li> <li><i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>; Grey plover (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>; Dunlin (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Sterna albifrons</i>; Little tern (Breeding)</li> </ul> <p>Additional Qualifying Features Identified by the 2001 UK SPA Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Tadorna tadorna</i>; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>; Ringed plover (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>; European golden plover (Non-breeding)</li> <li><i>Philomachus pugnax</i>; Ruff (Non-</li> </ul>	<p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Coastal squeeze</b> - 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 area of the Mid Essex Coast SPAs are 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><b>Public access /disturbance</b> - 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.</p> <p><b>Planning permission: general</b> - 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.</p> <p><b>Changes in species distributions</b> - Declines have occurred in the numbers of some of the waterbird species using the Essex Estuaries SIP area but these</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>breeding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tringa totanus</i>; Common redshank (Non-breeding)</li> </ul>		<p>may be due to changes in their distributions or population levels at a national or continental scale, possibly linked to climate change.</p> <p><b>Invasive species</b> - 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 access and utilise as feeding grounds for overwintering birds. Other non-native invasive species such as the American whelk tingle <i>Urosalpinx cinerea</i> and Slipper limpet <i>Crepidula fornicata</i> are known to occupy subtidal muddy habitats, potentially impacting native communities through competition for resources and predation. Invasive common cord grass may adversely affect plant species for which the Essex Estuaries SAC is designated, as well as other species and habitats, including feeding and roosting areas of SPA bird species.</p> <p><b>Fishing</b> - Recreational bait digging may impact waterbirds e.g. by reducing prey availability, or damaging the intertidal mudflats and sandflats and associated communities. The extent of the activity and potential impacts on site features are not currently well understood. Certain forms of commercial fishing, e.g. bottom towed fishing gear, can be very damaging to inshore marine habitats and the bird species dependent on the communities they support.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</b> - 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. However, on the Essex estuaries declines in the numbers of breeding terns appear to be due mainly to erosion of a man-made cockle-shingle bank (at Foulness) and to disturbance (elsewhere), rather than to over-vegetation of breeding areas caused by nitrogen deposition.</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 4) Ramsar site	4395.15	<p>Represents 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and 7% of the total area of saltmarsh in Britain. Invertebrate fauna includes at least 16 British Red Data Book species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water beetle <i>Paracymus aeneus</i>;</li> <li>• damselfly <i>Lestes dryas</i>,</li> <li>• flies <i>Aedes flavescens</i>, <i>Erioptera bivittata</i>, <i>Hybomitra expollicata</i> ;</li> <li>• spiders <i>Heliophanus auratus</i> and <i>Trichopterna cito</i>;</li> <li>• beetles <i>Baris scolopacea</i>, <i>Philonthus punctus</i>, <i>Graptodytes bilineatus</i> and <i>Malachius vulneratus</i>,</li> <li>• flies <i>Campsicemus magius</i>, <i>Myopites eximia</i>,</li> <li>• moths <i>Idaea ochrata</i> and <i>Malacosoma castrensis</i>;</li> <li>• spider <i>Euophrys</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Supports a full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.</p> <p>Supports the following internationally important wildfowl assemblage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>, Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>,</li> <li>• Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>,</li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>,</li> <li>• European golden plover , <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> <li>• <i>apricaria</i></li> <li>• Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus tetanus</i></li> </ul>	None available.	Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p>The Colne Estuary is located on the coast of Essex in eastern England. It is a comparatively short and branching estuary, with five tidal arms that flow into the main channel of the River Colne. The estuary has a narrow intertidal zone predominantly composed of flats of fine silt with mud-flat communities typical of south-eastern English estuaries. The estuary is of importance for a range of wintering wildfowl and waders, in addition to breeding Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> which nest on shell, sand and shingle spits. There is a wide variety of coastal habitats which include mud-flat, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, sand and shingle spits, disused gravel pits and reedbeds which provide feeding and roosting opportunities for the large numbers of waterbirds that use the site.</p>				
<p>The Colne Estuary is an integral component of the phased Mid-Essex Coast SPA</p>				
<p>Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA</p>	<p>2701.43</p>	<p>Annex I populations of the following species:</p> <p>During the breeding season -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i></li> </ul> <p>Over winter -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i></li> <li>• Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> <li>• Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> </ul> <p>This site also qualifies under <b>Article 4.2</b> of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:</p> <p>Over winter -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li> </ul> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).</p>
<p>Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) Ramsar site</p>	<p>2701.43</p>	<p>Ramsar criterion 1</p> <p>The site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh present.</p>	<p>None available.</p>	<p>Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).</p>

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>The site supports 12 species of nationally scarce plants and at least 38 British Red Data Book invertebrate species.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3</p> <p>This site supports a 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:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>32041 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6</p> <p>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>,</li> <li>• Common redshank, <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i></li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Black-tailed godwit, <i>Limosa</i></li> </ul>		

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<i>limosa islandica</i>				
The River Crouch and the River Roach are between the Dengie Peninsula and Southend-on-Sea in Essex, south-east England				
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3) SPA	1735.58	Site regularly supports over winter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Hen harrier, <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> </ul>	With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).
Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3) Ramsar site	1735.58	Supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered including 13 nationally scarce plant species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• slender hare's ear <i>Bupleurum tenuissimum</i>,</li> <li>• divided sedge <i>Carex divisa</i>,</li> <li>• sea barley <i>Hordeum marinum</i>,</li> <li>• golden-samphire <i>Inula crithmoides</i>,</li> </ul>	None available.	Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (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"> <li>• laxflowered sea-lavender <i>Limonium humile</i>,</li> <li>• curved hard-grass <i>Parapholis incurva</i>,</li> <li>• Borrer's saltmarsh grass <i>Puccinellia fasciculata</i>,</li> <li>• stiff saltmarsh grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i>,</li> <li>• spiral tasselweed <i>Ruppia cirrhosa</i>,</li> <li>• one-flowered glasswort <i>Salicornia pusilla</i>,</li> <li>• small cord-grass <i>Spartina maritima</i>,</li> <li>• shrubby seablite <i>Suaeda vera</i></li> <li>• sea clover <i>Trifolium squamosum</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Several important invertebrate species also present including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scarce emerald damselfly <i>Lestes dryas</i>,</li> <li>• the shorefly <i>Parydroptera discomyzina</i>,</li> <li>• the rare soldier fly <i>Stratiomys singularior</i>,</li> <li>• the large horsefly <i>Hybomitra expollicata</i>,</li> <li>• beetles <i>Graptodytes bilineatus</i>, <i>Malachus vulneratus</i>,</li> <li>• the ground lackey moth <i>Malacosoma castrensis</i> and <i>Eucosoma catoprana</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Also supports the following internationally important waterbird assemblage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>.</li> </ul>		

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p>Dengie is located on the coast of Essex in eastern England. It is a large and remote area of tidal mud-flats and saltmarshes at the eastern end of the Dengie peninsula, between the adjacent 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 is of importance for wintering populations of Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>, wildfowl and waders. The formation of cockleshell spits and beaches is of geomorphological interest.</p>				
<p>Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 1) SPA</p>	<p>3127.23</p>	<p>This site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:</p> <p>Over winter -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i></li> <li>• Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> </ul> <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:</p> <p>Over winter -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li> </ul> <p>Assemblage qualification: A wetland of international importance.</p> <p>The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p> <p>Over winter, the area regularly supports 31,452 individual waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1991/2 - 1995/6) including:</p>	<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"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features.</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features.</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely.</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features.</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).</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"> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li> <li>• Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>, Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i></li> <li>• Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i></li> <li>• Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i></li> <li>• Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li> <li>• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>.</li> </ul>		
Dengie (Mid-Essex Phase 1) Ramsar site	3127.23	<p>Ramsar criterion 1:</p> <p>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 7% of the total area of saltmarsh in Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 2:</p> <p>Dengie supports a number of rare plant and animal species. The Dengie has 11 species of nationally scarce plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea kale <i>Crambe maritime</i></li> <li>• Sea barley <i>Hordeum marinum</i></li> <li>• Golden samphire <i>Inula</i></li> <li>• <i>Crithmoides</i></li> <li>• Lax flowered sea lavender <i>Limonium humile</i></li> <li>• The glassworts <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i> and <i>Salicornia pusilla</i></li> <li>• Small cord-grass <i>Spartina</i></li> </ul>	None available.	Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).

Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p><i>maritime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shrubby sea-blite <i>Suaeda vera</i></li> <li>• The eelgrasses <i>Zostera angustifolia</i>, <i>Z. marina</i> and <i>Z. noltei</i>.</li> <li>• The invertebrate fauna includes the following Red Data Book species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a weevil <i>Baris scolopacea</i></li> <li>• a horsefly <i>Atylotus latistriatus</i></li> <li>• a jumping spider <i>Euophrys browni</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Ramsar criterion 3: This site supports a full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43828 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar criterion 6: Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Red knot <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i></li> </ul>		

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"> <li>Bar-tailed godwit <i>Limosa lapponica lapponica</i></li> </ul>		
<p>Large estuarine site in south-east England. The site comprises the major estuaries of the Colne, Blackwater, Crouch and Roach river.</p>				
Essex Estuaries SAC	46140.82	<p>Annex 1 habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estuaries</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>Salicornia and other animals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)</li> <li>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> <li>Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs</li> </ul> <p>Annex 1 habitats present as a qualifying feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time</li> </ul>	<p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above).

The Stour and Orwell 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 *Enteromorpha*, *Zostera* and *Salicornia* 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 *Recurvirostra avosetta*, 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.

The site has close ecological links with the Hamford Water and Mid-Essex Coast SPAs, lying to the south on the same coast.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA	3676.92	<p>Annex I species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over winter: Hen Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i></li> </ul> <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</p>	<p>With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which 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</p>	<p><b>Coastal squeeze</b> – 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><b>Public access/disturbance</b> – Stour and Orwell Estuaries is subject to land- and water-based activities, including boating and water sports; walking; bait-</p>
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Site Name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
		<p>species:</p> <p>Over winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li> <li>• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>• Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i></li> <li>• Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>• Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></li> <li>• Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i></li> </ul> <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"> <li>• Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i></li> <li>• Pintail <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>• Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i></li> <li>• Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li> <li>• Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i></li> <li>• Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i></li> <li>• Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i></li> <li>• Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i></li> <li>• Dark-bellied Brent Goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i></li> <li>• Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i></li> <li>• Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i></li> <li>• Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i></li> <li>• Knot <i>Calidris canutus</i></li> <li>• Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>Birds Directive.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul>	<p>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 required to ensure the Estuaries are appropriately managed.</p> <p><b>Changes in species distribution</b> – 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><b>Invasive species</b> – 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><b>Planning permission: General</b> – 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, species and location to different types of development is required. Difficult issues highlighted by the SIP include; 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><b>Air pollution: impact from atmospheric nitrogen deposition</b> – 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><b>Inappropriate coastal management</b> – Due to the presence of existing hard sea defences, such as sea</p>

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				<p>walls there 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><b>Fisheries: Commercial and estuarine</b> – 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 European Marine 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>
Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site	3676.92	<p>Ramsar criterion 2</p> <p>Contains seven nationally scarce plants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stiff saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia rupestris</i></li> <li>• Small cord-grass <i>Spartina maritime</i></li> <li>• Perennial glasswort <i>Sarcocornia perennis</i></li> <li>• Lax-flowered sea lavender <i>Limonium humile</i></li> <li>• Eelgrasses <i>Zostera angustifolia</i>, <i>Z. marina</i> and <i>Z. noltei</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter; 63,017 waterfowl.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 species/ populations occurring at levels of international</p>	None available.	<p>Similar to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (See above).</p> <p>A key threat identified by RIS was erosion.</p> <p><b>Erosion:</b> 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>

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		<p>importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i></li> </ul> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dark-bellied brent goose, <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i></li> <li>• Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i></li> <li>• Grey plover , <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i></li> <li>• Red knot , <i>Calidris canutus islandica</i></li> <li>• Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i></li> <li>• Black-tailed godwit , <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i></li> <li>• Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i></li> </ul>		