



Colchester City Council

Regulation 18 Local Plan

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Colchester City Council

Final report

Prepared by LUC

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Colchester City Council Regulation 18 Local Plan

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Colchester is a historic market town in Essex, located on the River Colne, approximately 50 miles northeast of London. It is part of the Colchester City and serves as an important regional centre. The town is surrounded by countryside and is well-connected by road and rail, with the A12 providing direct access to London and Ipswich.

1.2 Colchester City Council has commissioned LUC to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its emerging Local Plan, as described in Chapter 3.

1.3 This iteration of the HRA assesses the impacts of the Regulation 18 Colchester Local Plan and it should be read in conjunction with this document.

Previous HRA work

1.4 The currently adopted Colchester Local Plan, divided into two sections, covers the period up to 2033. Section 1, which addresses strategic and cross-boundary issues for North Essex, including housing and employment targets and the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC), was adopted on 2 February 2021. Section 2, providing the policy framework, site allocations, and development management policies across Colchester, was adopted on 4 July 2022. As mandated by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Local Plans must be reviewed every five years, necessitating the review of Section 1 by 2026 and Section 2 by 2027. The upcoming Local Plan Review will merge both sections into a single, comprehensive plan aligned with the earlier review date of 2026, setting strategic objectives and growth areas for the city.

1.5 The review aims to deliver growth while prioritising environmental enhancements and biodiversity net gain. The HRA will support the Local Plan Review, ensuring compliance with the Habitats Regulations and best practices.

HRA of the Section One Local Plan 2016

1.6 A HRA Screening of the North Essex Authorities Shared Section 1 Local Plan was undertaken by LUC in 2016 [\[See reference 1\]](#). The HRA Screening identified the following likely significant effects (LSEs) on Habitats Sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, which could not be rule out and therefore required further consideration at the AA stage:

- Loss of offsite habitat – Abberton Reservoir Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site; Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; Hamford Water Special Area of Conservation (SAC); Hamford Water SPA/Ramsar site; Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site; and Colne Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.
- Recreational impacts – Essex Estuaries SAC; Hamford Water SAC; Hamford Water SPA/Ramsar site; Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site; Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; and Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.
- Water quality – Essex Estuaries SAC; Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site; and Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar site.

1.7 The AA of the North Essex Authorities Shared Section 1 Local Plan was undertaken in May 2017 [\[See reference 2\]](#). The HRA Report identified whether the above LSE's will, in light of mitigation and avoidance measures, result in adverse effects on the integrity (AEoI) of the Habitats Sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The 2017 HRA Report concluded that, providing the mitigation safeguards identified in the AA Report are adopted and implemented, the Section 1

Local Plan will not result in AEol of Habitats Sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

1.8 An update to the HRA Report was prepared in July 2019 [\[See reference 3\]](#) to address the advice provided by the Planning Inspector relating to the HRA taking into account recent case law judgements including the People Over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (CJEU Case C-323/17) (April 2018) and Holohan v An Bord Pleanala (November 2018).

The 2019 HRA Report concluded that, in light of the People Over Wind and Holohan rulings, the findings of the HRA rely on avoidance and mitigation measures only at the AA stage and that the complex relationships between qualifying and non-qualifying habitats and species for each site have been taken into account. In conclusion, providing that key recommendations and mitigation requirements are adopted and implemented, the Section 1 Local Plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

1.9 Further HRA work was carried out in August 2020 to address the proposed Main Modifications to the Section 1 Local Plan.

The 2020 HRA Addendum Report [\[See reference 4\]](#) concluded that the Section 1 Local Plan, incorporating the proposed Main Modifications, will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

HRA of the Section Two Local Plan 2016

1.10 CBC undertook HRA Screening of the Section 2 Local Plan in December 2016 and identified LSEs on the following Habitats Sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, which could not be rule out and therefore required further consideration at the AA stage: Abberton Reservoir SPA/Ramsar site; Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; Colne Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site; Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site; and Essex Estuaries SAC.

1.11 A HRA Report, containing the AA, was prepared to accompany the Publication Draft Section 2 Local Plan [See reference 5]. The AA concluded that providing the mitigation safeguards identified in the HRA Report are adopted and implemented, the Section 2 Local Plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites either alone or in-combination.

1.12 LUC carried out an updated HRA of the Section 2 Local Plan in March 2021 [See reference 6]. This HRA Report updated the previous assessment given the time expired and replaced all previous HRA drafts. The Screening Assessment identified the following LSEs on Habitats Sites:

- Physical damage and loss (offsite) – Abberton Reservoir SPA/Ramsar site; Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.
- Recreational impacts – Essex Estuaries SAC; Abberton Reservoir SPA/Ramsar site; Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar site; Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site; Dengie SPA/Ramsar site; Outer Thames Estuary SPA.
- Water quantity and quality – Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site.

The AA concluded that, providing the mitigation safeguards identified in the HRA Report are adopted and implemented, the Section 2 Local Plan will

not result in AEoI of Habitats Sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

1.13 Further HRA work was carried out by LUC [\[See reference 7\]](#) to address the proposed Main Modifications to the Section 2 Local Plan.

1.14 The HRA Report of the Main Modifications to the Section 2 Local Plan (September 2021) also concluded that no AEoI will occur subject to the provision of safeguarding and mitigation measures as detailed in Chapter 5 of that Report.

The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

1.15 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in 2007 [\[See reference 8\]](#); the currently applicable version is the Habitats Regulations 2017 [\[See reference 9\]](#), as amended. When preparing the Colchester Local Plan, Colchester City Council is therefore required by law to carry out an HRA. The Council can commission consultants to undertake HRA work on its behalf and this (the work documented in this report) is then reported to and considered by Colchester City Council as the ‘competent authority’. The Council will consider this work and would usually [\[See reference 10\]](#) only progress a plan if it considers that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity [\[See reference 11\]](#) of any ‘Habitats Site’, as defined below. The requirement for authorities to comply with the Habitats Regulations when preparing a plan is also noted in the Government’s online Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) [\[See reference 12\]](#).

1.16 HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more sites afforded the highest level of protection in the UK: SPAs and SACs. These were classified under European Union (EU) legislation but since 1 January 2021 are protected in the UK by the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) [\[See reference 13\]](#). Although the EU Directives from which the UK's Habitats Regulations originally derived are no longer binding, the Regulations still make reference to the lists of habitats and species that the sites were designated for, which are listed in annexes to the EU Directives:

- SACs are designated for particular habitat types (specified in Annex 1 of the EU Habitats Directive [\[See reference 14\]](#)) and species (Annex II). The listed habitat types and species (excluding birds) are those considered to be most in need of conservation at a European level. Before EU exit day, designation of SACs also had regard to the coherence of the 'Natura 2000' network of Habitats Sites. After EU exit day, regard is had to the importance of such sites for the coherence of the UK's 'national site network'.
- SPAs are classified for rare and vulnerable birds (Annex I of the EU Birds Directive [\[See reference 15\]](#)), and for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I.

1.17 The term 'European Sites' was previously commonly used in HRA to refer to 'Natura 2000' sites [\[See reference 16\]](#) and Ramsar sites (internationally designated under the Ramsar site Convention). However, a Government Policy Paper [\[See reference 17\]](#) on changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 post-Brexit states that:

- Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new 'national site network'.
- The national site network includes existing SACs and SPAs; and new SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations.
- Designated Wetlands of International Importance (known as Ramsar sites) do not form part of the national site network. Many Ramsar sites overlap with SACs and SPAs and may be designated for the same or different species and habitats.

1.18 Although Ramsar sites do not form part of the new national site network, a Government Guidance [\[See reference 18\]](#) states that:

“Any proposals affecting the following sites would also require an HRA because these are protected by government policy:

- proposed SACs
- potential SPAs
- Ramsar sites - wetlands of international importance (both listed and proposed)
- areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a Habitats Site.”

1.19 Furthermore, the NPPF [\[See reference 19\]](#) and practice guidance [\[See reference 20\]](#) currently state that competent authorities responsible for carrying out HRA should treat Ramsar sites in the same way as SACs and SPAs. The legislative requirement for HRA does not apply to other nationally designated wildlife sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or National Nature Reserves.

1.20 For simplicity, this report uses the term 'Habitats Site' to refer to all types of designated site for which Government guidance [\[See reference 21\]](#) requires an HRA.

1.21 The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the Habitats Site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse effect should be assumed.

Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.22 The HRA of development plans is undertaken in stages (as described below) and should conclude whether or not a proposal would adversely affect the integrity of the Habitats Site in question.

1.23 LUC has been commissioned by Colchester City Council to carry out HRA work on the Council's behalf, and the outputs will be reported to and considered by Colchester City Council, as the competent authority, before adopting the Plan.

1.24 The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body in order to obtain the necessary information, agree the process, outcomes and mitigation proposals. The Environment Agency, while not a statutory consultee for the HRA, is also in a strong position to provide advice and information throughout the process as it is required to undertake HRA for its existing licences and future licensing of activities.

Requirements of the Habitats Regulations

1.25 In assessing the effects of a Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations'), there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a 'Significance Test', followed if necessary by an Appropriate Assessment which would inform the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not, proceed to Step 2.

- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats Site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance Test'). If yes, proceed to Step 3.
 - [Steps 1 and 2 are undertaken as part of Stage 1: HRA Screening]
- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the Habitats Site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public.
 - [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment]
- Step 4: In accordance with Reg. 105(4), but subject to Reg. 107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a Habitats Site.
 - [This step follows Stage 2 where a finding of 'no adverse effect' is concluded. If it cannot be it proceeds to Step 5 as part of Stage 3 of the HRA process]
- Step 5: Under Reg. 107, if Step 4 is unable to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of a Habitats Site and no alternative solutions exist then the competent authority may nevertheless agree to the plan or project if it must be carried out for 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI).
 - [This step is undertaken during Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation]

Typical stages

1.26 This section summarises the stages involved in carrying out an HRA, based on various guidance documents [\[See reference 22\]](#) [\[See reference 23\]](#). This HRA presents the methodology and findings of Stage 1: Screening and Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

Stage 1: Screening (the ‘Significance Test’)

Task

- Description of the development plan and confirmation that it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Habitats Sites.
- Identification of potentially affected Habitats Sites and their conservation objectives [\[See reference 24\]](#).
- Review of other plans and projects.
- Assessment of likely significant effects of the development plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects, prior to consideration of avoidance or reduction (‘mitigation’) measures [\[See reference 25\]](#).

Outcome

- Where effects are unlikely, prepare a ‘finding of no significant effect report’.
- Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (the ‘Integrity Test’)

Task

- Information gathering (development plan and data on Habitats Sites [\[See reference 26\]](#)).
- Impact prediction.

- Evaluation of development plan impacts in view of conservation objectives of Habitats Sites.
- Where impacts are considered to directly or indirectly affect qualifying features of Habitats Sites, identify how these effects will be avoided or reduced ('mitigation').

Outcome

- Appropriate Assessment report describing the plan, Habitats Site baseline conditions, the adverse effects of the plan on the Habitats Site, how these effects will firstly be avoided and secondly reduced, including the mechanisms and timescale for these mitigation measures.
- If effects remain after all alternatives and mitigation measures have been considered, proceed to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation

Task

- Identify and demonstrate 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI).
- Demonstrate no alternatives exist.
- Identify potential compensatory measures.

Outcome

- This stage should be avoided if at all possible. The test of IROPI and the requirements for compensation are extremely onerous.

1.27 In assessing the effects of the Local Plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations (as amended), there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a ‘Significance Test’, followed, if necessary, by an Appropriate Assessment which will inform the ‘Integrity Test’. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not:
- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects (the ‘Significance Test’). [These two steps are undertaken as part of Stage 1: Screening] If so:
- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the site in view of its current conservation objectives (the ‘Integrity Test’). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public. [This step is undertaken during Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment]
- Step 4: In accordance with Reg.105(4), but subject to Reg.107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of the Habitats Site.

1.28 It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the avoidance of likely significant effects at Stage 1, and through Appropriate Assessment at Stage 2 by the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with the Government.

1.29 The HRA should be undertaken by the ‘competent authority’, in this case Colchester City Council, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the

statutory nature conservation body in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals.

Case law changes

1.30 This HRA has been prepared in accordance with relevant case law findings, including most notably the ‘People over Wind’ and ‘Holohan’ rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU).

1.31 The People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (April 2018) judgment ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive should be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed as part of an Appropriate Assessment and should not be taken into account at the screening stage. The precise wording of the ruling is as follows:

“Article 6(3) must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.”

1.32 In light of the above, the HRA screening stage does not rely upon avoidance or mitigation measures to draw conclusions as to whether the Local Plan could result in likely significant effects on Habitats Sites. Instead, any such measures are considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage, as relevant.

1.33 The approach to this HRA is also consistent with the Holohan v An Bord Pleanala (November 2018) CJEU judgement which stated that:

Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that an ‘appropriate assessment’ must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that, where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the ‘appropriate assessment’ must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

1.34 In undertaking this HRA, LUC considered the potential for effects on species and habitats, including those not listed as qualifying features, to result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of Habitats Sites, including the potential for complex interactions and dependencies. In addition, the potential for offsite impacts, such as through impacts to functionally linked land, and/or

species and habitats located beyond the boundaries of Habitats Site that may be important in supporting the ecological processes of the qualifying features, has also been fully considered in this HRA.

1.35 Similarly, effects on both qualifying and supporting habitats and species on functionally linked land (FLL) or habitat have been considered in the HRA, in line with the High Court judgment in *RSPB and others v Secretary of State and London Ashford Airport Ltd* [2014 EWHC 1523 Admin] (paragraph 27), which stated that:

“There is no authority on the significance of the non-statutory status of the FLL. However, the fact that the FLL was not within a protected site does not mean that the effect which a deterioration in its quality or function could have on a protected site is to be ignored. The indirect effect was still protected. Although the question of its legal status was mooted, I am satisfied that while no particular legal status attaches to FLL, the fact that land is functionally linked to protected land means that the indirectly adverse effects on a protected site, produced by effects on FLL, are scrutinised in the same legal framework just as are the direct effects of acts carried out on the protected site itself. That is the only sensible and purposive approach where a species or effect is not confined by a line on a map or boundary fence. This is particularly important where the boundaries of designated sites are drawn tightly as may be the UK practice.”

1.36 In addition to this, the HRA takes into consideration the ‘Wealden’ judgement from the CJEU.

1.37 *Wealden District Council v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority* (2017) ruled that it was not appropriate to scope out the need for a detailed assessment for an individual plan or project based on the annual average daily traffic (AADT) figures detailed in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges or

the critical loads used by Defra or Environmental Agency without considering the in-combination impacts with other plans and projects.

1.38 In light of this judgement, the HRA therefore considers traffic growth based on the effects of development from the Local Plan in combination with other drivers of growth such as development proposed in neighbouring districts and demographic change.

1.39 The HRA also takes into account the Grace and Sweetman (July 2018) judgement from the CJEU which stated that:

“there is a distinction to be drawn between protective measures forming part of a project and intended avoid or reduce any direct adverse effects that may be caused by the project in order to ensure that the project does not adversely affect the integrity of the area, which are covered by Article 6(3), and measures which, in accordance with Article 6(4), are aimed at compensating for the negative effects of the project on a protected area and cannot be taken into account in the assessment of the implications of the project”.

"As a general rule, any positive effects of the future creation of a new habitat, which is aimed at compensating for the loss of area and quality of that habitat type in a protected area, are highly difficult to forecast with any degree of certainty or will be visible only in the future"

“A mitigation strategy may only be taken into account at AA (a.6(3)) where the competent authority is “sufficiently certain that a measure will make an effective contribution to avoiding harm, guaranteeing beyond all reasonable doubt that the project will not adversely affect the integrity of the area

Otherwise it falls to be considered to be a compensatory measure to be considered under a.6(4) only where there are “imperative reasons of overriding public interest”

1.40 The Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan therefore only considers the existence of measures to avoid or reduce its direct adverse effects (mitigation) if the expected benefits of those measures are beyond reasonable doubt at the time of the assessment.

Structure of this report

1.41 This chapter (Chapter 2) described the background to the production of Colchester Local Plan and the requirement to undertake HRA. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 3: Colchester Local Plan summarises the content of the Colchester Local Plan, which is the subject of this report
- Chapter 4: Method sets out the approach used and the specific tasks undertaken during the screening and Appropriate Assessment stages of the HRA.
- Chapter 5: Screening Assessment describes the findings of the screening stage of the HRA.
- Chapter 6: Appropriate Assessment describes the findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
- Chapter 7: Conclusions and Next Steps summarises the HRA conclusions for Colchester Local Plan and describes the next steps to be undertaken.

Chapter 2

Colchester Local Plan

Colchester City Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Local Plan

2.1 Although the current Local Plan was adopted relatively recently (2021-2022), an early review is taking place to ensure that it remains up to date and can meet future development needs. The new Local Plan will include policies and allocations for Colchester, covering the plan period 2025 to 2041.

2.2 The Colchester City Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Local Plan comprises the following main components:

- Local Plan Vision and Objectives.
- Strategic policies addressing overarching key issues of relevance to the District, including setting the spatial strategy for the plan area as well as the overall level of housing and employment growth to be delivered for the plan period.
- More specific topic-based policies set out to guide development in the District, across a number of themes. The policies included are set out below the following headings:
 - Environment
 - Green network and waterways
 - Landscape and coast
 - Net zero homes and buildings, renewable energy, water and waste
 - Homes
 - Economy

- Community and social infrastructure
- Place and connectivity
- A number of policies are also included to allocate and safeguard sites to meet the growth needs of the District. This includes a number of sites that have been carried forward from the adopted Local Plan and a number of new sites that are needed to deliver the spatial strategy. These policies are presented by the settlements at which the land in question is found.

Chapter 3

Method

3.1 The HRA of the Colchester Local Plan consists of two stages:

- Screening Assessment.
- Appropriate Assessment.

3.2 The methodology undertaken for the HRA is set out in more detail below

Screening Assessment

3.3 HRA Screening of the plan was undertaken in line with current available guidance and the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. The tasks that were undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA and the conclusions reached are described in detail below. This section of the HRA report sets out policies and impact types for which likely significant effects are predicted or cannot be ruled out prior to mitigation and avoidance measures.

3.4 The purpose of the screening stage is to:

- Identify all aspects of the plan that would have no effect on a Habitats Site. These can be eliminated from further consideration in respect of this and other plans.
- Identify all aspects of the plan that would not be likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats Site (i.e. would have some effect because of links/connectivity, but effect is not significant), either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or other plans or projects. These do not require 'Appropriate Assessment'.
- Identify those aspects of the plan where it is not possible to rule out the risk of significant effects on a Habitats Site, either alone or in combination

with other plans or projects. This provides a clear scope for the parts of the plan that will require Appropriate Assessment.

Identifying Habitats Sites that may be affected and their Conservation Objectives

3.5 As a first step to identifying Habitats Sites that could potentially be affected by a development, it is established practice in HRA to consider sites within the local planning authority area covered by the plan, and other sites that may be affected beyond this area.

3.6 A distance of 20km from the boundary of the plan area is typically used in the first instance to identify Habitats Sites with the potential to be affected by the proposals within a development plan. Consideration is then given to whether any more distant Habitats Sites may be connected to the plan area via effects pathways, for example through hydrological links or recreational visits by residents. The 20km distance has been agreed with Natural England for HRAs within this region and is considered precautionary. All Habitats Sites within 20km were assessed in this HRA. There were no Habitats Sites identified within 20km that were scoped out of the assessment due to a lack of effects pathway.

3.7 The assessment also takes into account areas that may be functionally linked to the Habitats Sites. The term ‘functional linkage’ is used to refer to the role or ‘function’ that land beyond the boundary of a Habitats Site might fulfil in terms of supporting the species populations for which the site was designated or classified. Such an area is therefore ‘linked’ to the site in question because it provides a (potentially important) role in maintaining or restoring a protected population at favourable conservation status.

3.8 While the boundary of a Habitats Site will usually be drawn to include key supporting habitat for a qualifying species, this cannot always be the case where the population for which a site is designated or classified is particularly mobile. Individuals of the population will not necessarily remain in the site all the

time. Sometimes, the mobility of qualifying species is considerable and may extend so far from the key habitat that forms the SAC or SPA that it would be entirely impractical to attempt to designate or classify all of the land or sea that may conceivably be used by the species [See reference 27]. HRA therefore considers whether any Habitats Sites make use of functionally linked habitats and the impacts that could affect those habitats.

3.9 Habitats Sites identified for inclusion in the HRA are listed below and presented in Figure 1 (Appendix A). Detailed information about each Habitats Site is provided in Appendix B, described with reference to Natural England and JNCC Standard Data Forms, Site Improvement Plans [See reference 28] and Ramsar site Information Sheets for the SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites. Natural England's conservation objectives [See reference 29] for the SPAs and SACs have also been reviewed. Conservation Objectives are generally to maintain the qualifying features in Favourable Conservation Status (FCS). Site integrity must be maintained or restored by maintaining or restoring the habitats of qualifying features, the supporting processes on which they rely, and populations of qualifying species. Natural England does not define conservation objectives for Ramsar sites, but these can often be inferred from those co-located SAC or SPA features.

3.10 The Site Improvement Plans for each site provide a high-level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the designated features on the site(s) and outline the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. An Appropriate Assessment (where required) draws on these to help to understand what is needed to maintain the integrity of the Habitats Sites.

3.11 For simplicity, Habitats Sites listed are referred to hereafter without inclusion of reference to 'Mid Essex Coast Phase'.

Habitats Sites within 20km of Colchester City

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site (entirely within Colchester);

- Blackwater Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA and Ramsar site (partially within Colchester);
- Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA and Ramsar site (partially within Colchester);
- Essex Estuaries SAC (partially within Colchester);
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site (partially within Colchester);
- Dengie (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA and Ramsar site (1.9km south);
- Outer Thames Estuary SPA (2.9km south);
- Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site (13.5km east);
- Hamford Water SAC (13.5km east);
- Foulness Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA and Ramsar site (13.7km south-east); and
- Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA and Ramsar site (15.6km south-west).

Assessment of ‘likely significant effects’ of the Colchester Local Plan

3.12 As required under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) [\[See reference 30\]](#), an assessment has been undertaken of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the plan. The assessment has been prepared in order to identify which policies or site allocations would be likely to have a significant effect on Habitats Sites. The Screening Assessment has been conducted without taking mitigation into account, in accordance with the ‘People over Wind’ judgment.

3.13 Consideration was given to the potential for the development proposed to result in significant effects associated with:

- Physical loss or damage to habitat.
- Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution).
- Air pollution.
- Recreational pressure.
- Changes to hydrology, including water quantity and quality.

3.14 This thematic/ impact category approach also allowed for consideration to be given to the cumulative effects of the site allocations rather than focussing exclusively on individual developments provided for by the plan.

3.15 A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle was adopted in the assessment, such that a conclusion of ‘no significant effect’ was only reached where it was considered unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a development plan policy or site allocation would have a significant effect on the integrity of a Habitats Site.

3.16 A detailed screening of policies was prepared (Appendix C), to document consideration of the potential for likely significant effects resulting from each policy and site allocation in the plan.

3.17 For some types of impacts, the potential for likely significant effects was determined on a proximity basis. This approach and the assumptions applied are described in more detail in Chapter 5.

Interpretation of ‘likely significant effects’

3.18 Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as a likely significant effect, when carrying out HRA of a land use plan.

3.19 In the Waddenzee case [See reference 31], the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 102 in the Habitats Regulations), including that:

An effect should be considered ‘likely’, “if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site” (para 44). An effect should be considered ‘significant’, “if it undermines the conservation objectives” (para 48). Where a plan or project has an effect on a site “but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned” (para 47).

3.20 A relevant opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union commented that:

“The requirement that an effect in question be ‘significant’ exists in order 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.”

3.21 This opinion (the ‘Sweetman’ case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in combination, can be considered ‘trivial’ or de minimis; referring to such cases as those “that have no appreciable effect on the site”. In practice such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect – they would be ‘insignificant’.

3.22 The HRA Screening Assessment therefore considers whether the Local Plan policies could have likely significant effects either alone or in combination.

Mitigation provided by the plan

3.23 Some of the potential effects of the plan could be mitigated through the implementation of other policies in the plan itself, such as the provision of green infrastructure within new developments (which could help mitigate increased pressure from recreation activities at Habitats Sites). Nevertheless, in accordance with the ‘People over Wind’ judgment, avoidance and mitigation measures cannot be relied upon at the Screening Assessment, and therefore, where such measures exist, they were considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage for impacts and policies where likely significant effects, either alone or in-combination, could not be ruled out.

Assessment of potential in-combination effects

3.24 Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an Appropriate Assessment where “a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats Site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site”. Therefore, where likely insignificant effects are identified for the Local Plan alone, it is necessary to consider whether these may become significant effects in combination with other plans or projects.

3.25 Where the Local Plan is likely to have an effect on its own e.g. due to water pollution (due to impact pathways being present), but it is not likely to be significant, the in-combination assessment at Screening stage will need to determine whether there may also be the same types of effect from other plans or projects that could combine with the Local Plan to produce a significant effect. If so, this likely significant effect (e.g. water pollution) arising from the Local Plan in combination with other plans or projects, would then need to be considered through the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine if water pollution would have an adverse effect on integrity of the relevant Habitats Site. Where the Screening Assessment has concluded that there is No LSE between development proposed in the Local Plan and the conditions necessary to maintain qualifying features of a Habitats Site, then there will be no in-

combination effects to assess at the Screening or Appropriate Assessment stage. This approach accords with recent guidance on HRA [\[See reference 32\]](#).

3.26 If impact pathways are found to exist for a particular effect but it is not likely to be significant from the Local Plan alone, the in-combination assessment will identify which other plans and programmes could result in the same impact on the same Habitats Site. This will focus on planned growth (including housing, employment, transport, minerals and waste) around the affected site, or along the impact corridor, for example, if impacts could arise as a result of changes to a waterway, then planned growth in local authorities along that waterway will be considered.

3.27 The potential for in-combination impacts will therefore focus on plans prepared by local authorities that overlap with Habitats Sites that are within the scope of this HRA. The findings of any associated HRA work for those plans will be reviewed where available. Where relevant, any strategic projects in the area that could have in-combination effects with the Local Plan will also be identified and reviewed.

3.28 The online HRA Handbook suggests the following plans and projects may be relevant to consider as part of the in-combination assessment:

- Applications lodged but not yet determined, including refusals subject to an outstanding appeal or legal challenge;
- Projects subject to periodic review e.g. annual licences, during the time that their renewal is under consideration;
- Projects authorised but not yet started;
- Projects started but not yet completed;
- Known projects that do not require external authorisation;
- Proposals in adopted plans; and
- Proposals in draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption.

3.29 The need for in-combination assessment also arises at the Appropriate Assessment stage, as discussed in the section below.

Appropriate Assessment

3.30 Following the Screening stage, if likely significant effects on Habitats Sites are unable to be ruled out, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations to make an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of the implications of the plan for Habitats Sites, in view of their conservation objectives. Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of Habitats Sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function [\[See reference 33\]](#). This includes consideration of plans and projects with the potential for in-combination effects, where relevant.

Assessing the effects on site integrity

3.31 A site’s integrity depends on it being able to sustain its ‘qualifying features’ (i.e. the habitats and species for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. The Holohan judgement also clarifies that effects on species and habitats not listed as qualifying features, but which could result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of Habitats Sites also need to be considered. The Appropriate Assessment therefore built upon the information set out in Appendix B of this report to consider the characteristics of supporting habitats and species that could be affected by impacts identified at the Screening stage.

3.32 A high degree of integrity at a site is considered to exist where the potential to meet a site’s conservation objectives is realised and where the site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

3.33 A conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not a plan would adversely affect the integrity of any Habitats Site. Assessing the effects on the site(s) integrity involves considering whether the predicted impacts of the plan policies and/or site allocations (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:

- Cause delays to the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Disrupt those factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site.
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.
- Cause changes to the vital defining aspects (e.g. nutrient balance) that determine how the site functions as a habitat or ecosystem.
- Change the dynamics of relationships that define the structure or function of the site (e.g. relationships between soil and water, or animals and plants).
- Interfere with anticipated natural changes to the site.
- Reduce the extent of key habitats or the population of key species.
- Reduce the diversity of the site.
- Result in disturbance that could affect the population, density or balance between key species.
- Result in fragmentation.
- Result in the loss of key features. **[See reference 34]**

3.34 The conservation objectives for each SAC and SPA (as set out in Appendix B) are generally to maintain the qualifying features in favourable condition. Natural England does not define conservation objectives for Ramsar sites, but these can often be inferred from those for co-located SAC or SPA features. The Site Improvement Plans for each site provide a high-level

overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the designated features on the site(s) and outline the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. An Appropriate Assessment draws on these to help to understand what is needed to maintain the integrity of the Habitats Sites.

3.35 For each Habitats Site where an uncertain or likely significant effect was identified in relation to the plan, the Appropriate Assessment sets out the potential impacts and makes a judgement (based on the information available) on whether the impact will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats Site. Consideration was given to the potential for mitigation measures to be implemented that could reduce the likelihood or severity of the potential impacts such that there would not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats Site.

Chapter 4

Screening Assessment

4.1 As described in the Method chapter, a Screening Assessment was carried out in order to identify the likely significant effects of Colchester Local Plan on the scoped-in Habitats Sites. The full screening of policies, which sets out the decision-making process used for this Screening Assessment can be found in Appendix C and the findings are summarised below.

HRA screening of policies

No 'likely significant effect' predicted

4.2 The following policies are not expected to result in development and therefore will not result in significant effects on Habitats Sites:

- Policy ST1: Health and Wellbeing
- Policy ST2: Environment and the Green Network and Waterways
- Policy ST3: Spatial Strategy
- ST4: Development in the Countryside
- ST7: Infrastructure and connectivity
- Policy ST8: Place Shaping Principles
- Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites
- Policy EN2: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Environmental Net Gain
- Policy EN3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Policy EN4: Irreplaceable Habitats
- EN5: New and existing trees

- EN6: Conserving and enhancing the Historic Environment
- EN7: Archaeology
- EN8: Flood risk and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- EN9: Pollution and contaminated land
- GN1: Green network and waterways principles
- GN2: Strategic green spaces and nature recovery
- GN3: Local green spaces
- GN4: Tree canopy cover
- GN5: Suitable alternative natural greenspace
- GN6: Retention of open space
- LC1: Landscape
- LC2: Dedham Vale national landscape
- LC3: Coastal areas
- NZ1: Net zero carbon development (in operation)
- NZ2: Net zero carbon development (embodied carbon)
- NZ4: Renewable energy
- H1: Housing mix
- H2: Affordable housing
- H3: Student accommodation
- H4: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)
- H5: Specialist Housing including housing for an ageing population
- H6: Self and custom build
- H8: Rural Workers Dwellings
- E1: Protection of employment
- E2: Economic development in rural areas and the countryside

- E3: Agricultural development and diversification
- E4: Retail and centres
- CS1: Retention of community facilities
- CS2: Enhancement of and provision for community facilities
- CS3: Education provision
- CS4: Sports provision
- CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage
- CS6: Caravan parks
- PC1: Healthier food environments
- PC2: Active and sustainable travel
- PC3: Parking standards
- PC4: Development density
- PC5: Domestic development
- PC6: Design and amenity
- PC7: Residential schemes on greenfield sites
- PC8: Private amenity space
- CC1: City Centre

The above policies will have no likely significant effect upon the Habitats Sites, and therefore they are screened out of further consideration.

Policies resulting in development or with potential pathways to Habitats Sites

Potential likely significant effects predicted

4.3 The following policies are highlighted as having potential to result in development and therefore likely significant effects cannot be ruled out:

- ST5: Colchester's housing need
- ST6: Colchester's employment need
- ST9: Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community
- NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply
- H7: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- E5: Colchester Zoo
- OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area
- OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area
- OA4: Northern Gateway
- PP1: Britannia Car Park, Colchester
- PP2: Vineyard Gate, Colchester
- PP3: Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester
- PP4: Braiswick, Colchester
- PP5: Land at Chesterwell, Colchester
- PP6 : Land at Colchester Station, Colchester
- PP7: Land off Bakers Lane, Colchester
- PP8: Land at Chesterwell, Colchester

- PP9: North East Colchester
- PP10: Land at Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP11: Europit Site, Colchester
- PP12: Robertsons Van Hire Site, Colchester
- PP13: 146 Magdalen Street Site, Colchester
- PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site, Colchester
- PP15: Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP16: Coal Yard Site, Colchester
- PP17: Land South of A12, Marks Tey
- PP18: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- PP19: Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree
- PP20: Land at Bonnie Blue Oak, Tiptree
- PP21: Highlands, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree
- PP22: Telephone Exchange, Tiptree
- PP23: Land East Dawes Lane, West Mersea
- PP24: Land North West of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP25: View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP26: Land North of Boxted Straight Road, Boxted Cross
- PP27: Swan Grove, Chappel
- PP28: Land West of Station Road, Wakes Colne
- PP29: Land East of School Road, Copford
- PP30: Land South of Long Road, Dedham
- PP31: Land North of Halstead Road East of Wood Lane, Eight Ash Green
- PP32: Land North of Halstead Road West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green

- PP33: Land East of Plummers, Fordham
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley
- PP35: The Old School, Great Horkesley
- PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road, Great Tey
- PP37: Land north of Park Lane, Langham
- PP38: Land opposite Wick Road, Langham
- PP39: Land at The Furze, Layer de la Haye
- PP40: Land West of The Folley, Layer de la Haye
- PP41: Rowhedge Business Park, Rowhedge
- PP42: Land at White Hart Lane, West Bergholt
- PP43: Land North of Colchester Road, West Bergholt
- PP44: Land off Colchester Road, West Bergholt
- PP45: Land off New Road, Aldham
- PP46: Land at Birch Green, Birch
- PP47: Land at Picketts Farm, Fingringhoe
- PP48: Kelvedon Road, Messing
- PP49: Land at St Ives Road, Peldon
- UE1: University of Essex
- PEP1: Colchester Business Park
- PEP2: Knowledge Gateway
- PEP3: Tollgate West
- PEP4: Maldon Road
- PEP5: Land South of A12 Marks Tey
- PEP6: Anderson's Site, Marks Tey

- PEP7: Highland Nursery, Tiptree – this is a Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan employment allocation (TIP15) [See reference 35], therefore there is no associated site allocation. This site needs consideration at the Neighbourhood Plan level, however it is screened in to this assessment given that development will come forward.
- PEP8: Land South of Factory Hill, Tiptree
- PEP9: Bullbanks Farm, Eight Ash Green
- PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham
- PEP11: Land at Patterns Yard, West Bergholt
- PEP12: Land at Wakes Hall Business Centre

The above policies have potential for LSE upon the Habitats Sites and are therefore screened in for further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment.

Screening of impacts

Physical damage and loss (onsite)

4.4 Any development resulting from the plan would take place within the boundary of Colchester; therefore, only Habitats Sites within the boundary could be affected by physical damage or loss of habitat within the site boundaries. The HRA identified the following Habitats Sites within the boundary of Colchester:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC

4.5 There are no development allocations proposed by the Local Plan within the boundaries of these Habitats Sites.

Therefore, there is no likely significant effect (LSE) predicted in relation to direct physical damage and loss as a result of the Local Plan and as such this has been screened out from further assessment.

Physical damage and loss – Functionally Linked Land (offsite)

4.6 Habitat loss from development in areas outside of the Habitats Site boundaries may result in likely significant effects where that habitat contributes towards maintaining the interest feature for which the Habitats Site is designated. This includes land which may provide offsite movement corridors or feeding and sheltering habitat for mobile species such as bats, birds and fish. Habitats Sites susceptible to the indirect effects of habitat loss are restricted to those sites with qualifying species that rely on offsite habitat. Of the Habitats Sites screened into the assessment, sites supporting such mobile species can be split into two categories. Those which support birds, and those which support invertebrates. Further consideration is given to these Habitats Sites below.

Birds

4.7 Natural England has advised that the recognised distance for the consideration of offsite functionally linked land in relation to birds is generally 2km, but for certain species, including most notably, golden plover, lapwing and curlew, a greater distance of 15km may be appropriate [\[See reference 36\]](#).

Increased distances may also be appropriate where significant landscape scale features provide important functional linkages within Habitats Sites, for example, where river catchment flood plains and valleys extend considerable distances from a Habitats Site. No such landscape scale features have been identified in relation to the Habitats Sites scoped into this assessment and therefore the above buffers have been applied in this assessment.

4.8 Therefore, a buffer of 2km has been applied to the following sites.

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site
- Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site
- Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site
- Outer Thames Estuary SPA

4.9 A buffer of 15km has been applied to the following sites:

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (supports golden plover)
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site (supports golden plover, lapwing and curlew)

4.10 The applied buffers of 2km or 15km were identified to overlap Colchester boundary resulting in potential for impact upon functionally linked land for the following Habitats Sites and therefore, these have been considered in more detail below:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site - 2km
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 15km
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 2km
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site – 2km

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site – 15km

4.11 All other Habitats Sites were not considered to support qualifying features susceptible to impacts from functionally linked land and/or were not considered to support qualifying species, which used functionally linked land within Colchester. Therefore, no likely significant effects were predicted in relation to these Habitats Sites as a result of physical damage and loss of functionally linked land as a result of development proposed within the Local Plan.

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

4.12 Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site are located within the south of the district boundary and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.13 Based on Natural England's recognised distances, a 2km buffer was applied to identify site allocations with potential to affect Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site.

4.14 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified six residential site allocations within 2km of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10618: View Park
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked

land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.15 Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within the district boundary to the south of Colchester and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.16 Based on Natural England's recognised distances, a 15km buffer was applied to identify site allocations with potential to affect Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

4.17 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified all 46 residential sites within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road

- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent
- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
- 10657: Land North Oak Road
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
- 10262: Highlands
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
- 10122: The Old School
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green

- 10535: Land off New Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange

4.18 There were also 11 employment site allocations located within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- 10488: Bullbanks Farm Halsted Road Eight Ash Green
- Anderson Site
- Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham Colchester
- Land South of Tollgate West, Stanway
- 10566: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt
- 10969: Colchester Business Park, The Crescent, Colchester
- Land North of Axial Way(Northern Gateway), Colchester
- 10671: Land South of A12 and north of proposed new r
- Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester
- 10527: Land south of Factory Hill, Tiptree
- Knowledge Gateway

4.19 The infrastructure allocation, Anglian Water Recycling Centre, also lies within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

4.20 The following policies also propose development on land within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- Colchester Zoo (Policy E5)
- University of Essex (Policy UE1)
- Northern Gateway Opportunity Area (Policy OA4)

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.21 Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within the district boundary to the south-east of Colchester and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.22 Based on Natural England's recognised distances, a 2km buffer was applied to identify site allocation with potential to affect Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

4.23 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified five residential sites within 2km of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10600: Picketts
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Dengie SPA and Ramsar site

4.24 Dengie SPA and Ramsar site is located 1.9km from Colchester (measured from the nearest point, as shown in Figure 4). There are no site allocations proposed within the 2km buffer and therefore, no LSE is predicted and this Habitats Site has been screened out.

Therefore, there is no likely significant effect (LSE) predicted in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked land used by birds, upon Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of the Local Plan and as such this has been screened out from further assessment.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.25 Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within the district boundary at the north-eastern most location and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.26 Based on Natural England's recognised distances, a 15km buffer was applied to identify site allocations with potential to affect Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

4.27 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified 32 residential sites within 15km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
- 10547: Land south Long Road West
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
- 10122: The Old School
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road

- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road

4.28 There were also six employment allocation sites within 15km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham Colchester
- 10566: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt
- 10969: Colchester Business Park, The Crescent, Colchester
- Land North of Axial Way(Northern Gateway), Colchester
- Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester
- Knowledge Gateway

4.29 The infrastructure allocation, Anglian Water Recycling Centre, also lies within 15km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

4.30 The following policies also propose development on land within 15km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- Colchester Zoo (Policy E5)
- University of Essex (Policy UE1)

■ Northern Gateway Opportunity Area (Policy OA4)

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Invertebrates

4.31 The Habitats Sites which support invertebrates are listed below.

- Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site
- Crouch and Roach Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary Ramsar site
- Dengie Ramsar site
- Foulness Estuary Ramsar site
- Hamford Water SAC
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site

4.32 There is potential for invertebrate species associated with these sites to use functionally linked land outside of the Habitats Site. However, this is expected to occur within close proximity to the designated site and as such a precautionary buffer of 500m is applied.

4.33 The applied buffer of 500m overlapped Colchester district boundary for the following Habitats Sites and therefore, these have been considered in more detail below:

- Colne Estuary Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site

4.34 A review of site allocations located within 500m of the above listed Habitats Sites, identified no site allocations within 500m.

Therefore, there is no likely significant effect (LSE) predicted in relation to physical damage and loss of functionally linked land used by invertebrates, as a result of the Local Plan and as such this has been screened out from further assessment.

Non-physical disturbance

4.35 Noise and vibration effects, e.g. during the construction of new housing or employment development, are most likely to disturb bird species and are thus a key consideration with respect to Habitats Sites where these species are the qualifying features. Artificial lighting at night (e.g. from streetlamps, flood lighting and security lights) has the potential to affect species where it occurs in close proximity to key habitat areas, such as key roosting sites for SPA and Ramsar site birds.

4.36 It has been assumed that the effects of noise, vibration and light are most likely to be significant within a distance of 500 metres. There is also evidence of 300 metres being used as a distance up to which certain bird species can be disturbed by the effects of noise; however, it has been assumed (on a precautionary basis) that the effects of noise, vibration and light pollution are capable of causing an adverse effect if development takes place within 500 metres of a Habitats Site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances. Habitats Sites susceptible to non-physical disturbance from proposed development were identified as:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.37 All other Habitats Sites are located over 500m from Colchester boundary at the closest point and/or do not support mobile species likely to be significantly affected as a result of non-physical disturbance (such as invertebrates).

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

4.38 Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site is located within the south of the district boundary and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.39 A review of site allocations being considered within the Local Plan, identified no site allocations within 500m of the Habitats Site.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.40 Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within the district boundary to the south of Colchester and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.41 A review of site allocations being considered within the Local Plan, identified no site allocations within 500m of the Habitats Site.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.42 Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within the district boundary to the south-east of Colchester and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.43 A review of site allocations being considered within the Local Plan, identified no site allocations within 500m of the Habitats Site.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.44 Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within the district boundary at the north-eastern most location and supports a range of qualifying bird species.

4.45 A review of site allocations being considered within the Local Plan, identified no site allocations within 500m of the Habitats Site.

Therefore, there is no likely significant effect predicted to occur as a result of non-physical disturbance upon Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site or Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of the Local Plan and as such this has been screened out from further assessment.

Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land (offsite)

4.46 Non-physical disturbance may also adversely affect qualifying species at functionally linked habitat. It was established in the Physical Damage and Habitat Loss – Functionally Linked Habitat section above that the following qualifying species may use functionally linked habitat within the Colchester boundary. As stated within the assessment of non-physical disturbance section above, disturbance impacts are considered to occur up to a distance of 500m from development. Therefore, the assessment of site allocations requires a

larger buffer distance either of 2.5km or 15.5km, dependant on the qualifying species present within that Habitats Site.

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site – in relation to birds.
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – in relation to birds.
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – in relation to birds.
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site – in relation to birds.

4.47 All other Habitats Sites, were either not considered to use functionally linked habitat within the Colchester boundary, and/ or did not support qualifying features likely to be significantly affected as a result of non-physical disturbance (such as invertebrates).

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

4.48 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified six residential sites within 2.5km of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site. There is potential for non-physical disturbance impacts upon birds as a result of development at the following allocation sites:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10618: View Park
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green

4.49 The following policy also proposes development on land within 2.5km of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site:

- Colchester Zoo (Policy E5)

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non- physical disturbance of functionally linked land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.50 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified 49 residential sites within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. There is potential for non-physical disturbance impacts upon birds as a result of development at the following allocation sites:

- 11113: Swan Grove
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road

- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent
- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
- 10657: Land North Oak Road
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
- 10262: Highlands
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
- 10122: The Old School
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green

- 10535: Land off New Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange

4.51 There were also 11 employment sites located within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- 10488: Bullbanks Farm Halsted Road Eight Ash Green
- Anderson Site
- Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham Colchester
- Land South of Tollgate West, Stanway
- 10566: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt
- 10969: Colchester Business Park, The Crescent, Colchester
- Land North of Axial Way(Northern Gateway), Colchester
- 10671: Land South of A12 and north of proposed new r
- Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester
- 10527: Land south of Factory Hill, Tiptree
- Knowledge Gateway

4.52 The infrastructure allocation, Anglian Water Recycling Centre, also lies within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

4.53 The following policies also propose development on land within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- Colchester Zoo (Policy E5)
- University of Essex (Policy UE1)
- Northern Gateway Opportunity Area (Policy OA4)

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.54 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified six residential sites within 2.5km of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. There is potential for non-physical disturbance impacts upon birds as a result of development at the following allocation sites:

- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10600: Picketts
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land used

by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.55 A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified 33 residential sites within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. There is potential for non-physical disturbance impacts upon birds as a result of development at the following allocation sites:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park

- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
- 10547: Land south Long Road West
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
- 10122: The Old School
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road

4.56 There were also seven employment allocation sites within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham Colchester
- Land South of Tollgate West, Stanway
- 10566: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt
- 10969: Colchester Business Park, The Crescent, Colchester
- Land North of Axial Way(Northern Gateway), Colchester
- Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester

■ Knowledge Gateway

4.57 The infrastructure allocation, Anglian Water Recycling Centre, also lies within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

4.58 The following policies also propose development on land within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- Colchester Zoo (Policy E5)
- University of Essex (Policy UE1)
- Northern Gateway Opportunity Area (Policy OA4)

Therefore, there is potential for LSE upon Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land used by birds, as a result of the Local Plan. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Non-toxic contamination (dust)

4.59 Non-toxic contamination can include the creation of dust which can smother habitats preventing natural processes and may also lead to effects associated with increased sediment and dust which can potentially affect the turbidity of aquatic habitats and can also contribute to nutrient enrichment which can lead to changes in the rate of vegetative succession and habitat composition.

4.60 The effects of non-toxic contamination are most likely to be significant if development takes place within 500m of a Habitats Site with qualifying features sensitive to these disturbances, such as riparian and wetland habitats, or sites designated for habitats and plant species. This is the distance that, in LUC's

experience, provides a robust assessment of effects in plan-level HRA and meets with the agreement of Natural England.

4.61 The following Habitats Sites are located within the Colchester boundary or within 500m of the boundary at the closest point and support qualifying habitats or species which rely on habitat that is susceptible to impacts from non-toxic contamination. As such there is potential for the following Habitats Sites to be significantly affected as a result of non-toxic contamination.

- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site

4.62 There are no site allocations within 500m of any of the above listed Habitats Sites.

Therefore, there is no likely significant effect predicted to occur upon Essex Estuaries SAC, Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site, Colne Estuary Ramsar site or Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site as a result of non-toxic contamination, as a result of the Local Plan and as such this has been screened out from further assessment.

Air pollution (vehicle emissions)

4.63 Air pollution is most likely to affect Habitats Sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features but some qualifying animal species may also be affected, either directly or indirectly, by deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen levels, which can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.

4.64 In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO_x, i.e. NO and NO₂) are considered to be the key pollutants, although ammonia (NH₃) can also arise from increases in traffic. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NO_x and NH₃ can cause eutrophication of soils and water.

4.65 The JNCC's 'Guidance on decision-making thresholds for air pollution' [See reference 37] states that, when assessing the air pollution impacts of a development plan, 10km should be used as a zone of influence within which the plan is likely to have significant effects on air quality, i.e. Habitat Sites beyond 10km from the plan area can be screened out in relation to air pollution.

4.66 Habitats Sites that are within 10km of the plan area that have qualifying features (i.e. habitats and plant species) susceptible to impacts from air pollution are:

- Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site:
 - Saltmarsh
- Colne Estuary Ramsar site:
 - Saltmarsh
- Crouch & Roach Estuaries Ramsar site:
 - Plant assemblage including – slender hare's ear, divided sedge, sea barley, golden samphire, lax-flowered sea lavender, curved hard grass, Borrer's saltmarsh grass, stiff saltmarsh grass, spiral tasselweed, one-flowered glasswort, small cord-grass, shrubby sea-bite, sea clover.
- Dengie Ramsar site:
 - Saltmarsh
 - 11 nationally scarce plants – sea kale, sea barley, golden samphire, lax flowered sea lavender, the glassworts *Sarcocornia perennis* and *Salicornia pusilla*, small cord-grass, shrubby sea-blite, eelgrasses *Zostera angustifolia*, *Z. marina*, and *Z. noltei*
- Essex Estuaries SAC:

- Estuaries; mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Salicornia, Spartina swards, Atlantic salt meadows, Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs, Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time.
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site:
 - Seven nationally scarce plants - stiff saltmarsh-grass, small cord-grass, perennial glasswort, lax-flowered sea lavender, eelgrasses *Zostera angustifolia*, *Z. marina*, and *Z. noltei*.

4.67 Based on the Highways England Design Manual for Road and Bridges (DMRB) LA 105 Air quality (which sets out the requirements for assessing and reporting the effects of highway projects on air quality), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts.

4.68 For highways developments within 200m of sensitive receptors, the DMRB provides the following Screening criteria to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts:

- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) or more; or
- Heavy duty vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- There will be a change in speed band **[See reference 38]**; or
- Road carriageway alignment will change by 5m or more.

4.69 Where significant increases in traffic are possible on roads within 200m of Habitats Sites, traffic forecast data may be needed to determine if increases in vehicle traffic are likely to be significant. In line with the Wealden judgment **[See reference 39]**, the traffic growth considered by the HRA should be based on the effects of development provided for by the plan in combination with other drivers of growth such as development proposed in neighbouring districts and demographic change.

4.70 Strategic roads that are within 200m of a Habitats Site are shown on Figure 3 (Appendix A):

- A137 – within 200m of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site
- A14 - within 200m of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.71 The A137, which passes near to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site is located within 2km of Colchester. Therefore, air pollution on the A137 is screened into this assessment.

4.72 The A14 lies within 200m of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, however, the location of this is over 10km from Colchester (~12km). Therefore, in line with the guidance provided by JNCC as detailed in para 4.65, air pollution on the A14 is screened out of the assessment.

4.73 All other Habitats Sites are located further than 200m from the strategic roads identified above or are marine sites (and therefore not sensitive to nitrogen deposition from traffic, due to dilution) and have therefore been scoped out of the assessment.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.74 Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site has estuarine habitats (coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, saltmarsh, mudflats and reedbeds) that are within 200m of A137. The Habitats Site is designated as it supports birds, invertebrates and vegetation communities. Direct effects on the qualifying habitats of the Ramsar site are screened into the assessment.

4.75 Effects on the qualifying bird and invertebrate species would occur through indirect impact on habitats.

4.76 A review of the Air Pollution Information Service (APIS) data [\[See reference 40\]](#) identified that some species of the SPA may be sensitive to air pollution impacts.

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur as a result of air pollution from vehicle emissions upon Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Air pollution (vehicle emissions) - Functionally Linked Land (offsite)

4.77 Air may also adversely affect qualifying features at functionally linked habitats, if the habitats deteriorate to the extent that their ability to support the qualifying species is affected. However, usually functionally linked habitats near to roads are unlikely to be affected by air pollution to the extent that there is a significant effect on the associated Habitats Site. Significant habitat degradation would have to occur for the qualifying bird, mammals or invertebrate species to cease using it, and for that to affect the resilience of the population. Effects on functionally linked habitats due to air pollution from vehicles are therefore screened out.

Therefore, there is no LSE and no further consideration for impacts of air pollution resulting from vehicle emissions upon FLL of supporting birds or invertebrates of the Habitats Sites.

Recreation

4.78 Recreational activities and human presence can result in significant effects on Habitats Sites. Habitats Sites with qualifying bird species are likely to be particularly susceptible to recreational disturbances from walking, dog walking, angling, wildfowling, and water sports. An increase in recreational pressure from development therefore has the potential to disturb bird populations of SPA and Ramsar sites as a result of both terrestrial and water-based recreation. In

addition, recreation can physically damage habitat as a result of trampling, fire or vandalism and also through erosion associated with boat wash and terrestrial activities such as use of vehicles.

4.79 The plan will result in housing growth, and associated population increase on Colchester. Where increases in population are likely to result in significant increases in recreation at a Habitats Site, either alone or in-combination, the potential for likely significant effects will require assessment.

4.80 Each Habitats Site will typically have a 'Zone of Influence' (ZOI) within which increases in population would be expected to result in likely significant effects. ZOIs are usually established following targeted visitor surveys and the findings are therefore typically specific to each Habitats Site (and often to specific areas within a Habitats Site). The findings are likely to be influenced by a number of complex and interacting factors and therefore it is not always appropriate to apply a generic or non-specific ZOI to a Habitats Site.

4.81 The Essex coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) (2018-2038) [\[See reference 41\]](#) was adopted in 2019 with the aim of delivering the mitigation necessary to avoid significant adverse effects from 'in-combination' impacts of residential development that is anticipated across Essex, thus protecting the Habitats Sites on the Essex coast from adverse effect on site integrity. As part of this, winter and summer visitor surveys were carried out, from which data was used to calculate ZOIs for Essex coast habitats sites. The calculated ZOIs are listed below:

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 22km
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 9.7km
- Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site – 4.5km
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site – 20.8km
- Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 13km
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site – 8km
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site – 13km

4.82 The Essex Estuaries SAC overlaps other SPA and Ramsar sites, comprising the Colne Estuary, Blackwater Estuary, Dengie, Crouch and Roach Estuaries and Foulness Estuary. Therefore, the respective ZOIs apply and only those ZOI which overlap with Colchester City have been included in this assessment.

4.83 Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site was not included within the Essex RAMS. A ZOI of 13km was applied, based on visitor survey data collected by Colchester Borough Council in 2013, which is understood to be the most up to date visitor survey data for this site at the time of preparing this document. Given the location of Abberton Reservoir within Colchester, recreational impacts should be screened in for further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment.

4.84 Outer Thames Estuary SPA was not included within the Essex RAMS. The SPA is designated for supporting the qualifying red throated diver. There is potential for this species to be affected by disturbance from water-based recreational activities, such as sailing and fishing. Although, recreational impacts are likely to be limited as a result of proposed development within the plan area, given the potential for people to travel great distances undertake these specialist activities and in line with a precautionary approach, it is concluded that impacts as a result of recreation should be considered in more detail at the Appropriate Assessment.

4.85 Those Habitats Sites which have recreational ZOIs that fall within Colchester boundary are presented within Figure 6 (Appendix A) (with the exception of Essex Estuaries SAC as described above) and listed as follows:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site -13km
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 22km*
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 9.7km*
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site – 20.8km*
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site – 13km

- Essex Estuaries SAC – see para 4.82 above. Habitats Sites, which overlap SAC and have ZOI that fall within the Colchester boundary are shown with an asterix.

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

4.86 Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site is located within Colchester district and has a recreational ZOI of 13km.

4.87 A review of the site allocations identified the following 51 residential sites which fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent

- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
- 10657: Land North Oak Road
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
- 10262: Highlands
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
- 11113: Swan Grove
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
- 10122: The Old School
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10649: Land west of Station Road
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road

- 10121: Land at Birch Green
- 10535: Land off New Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur in relation to Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of recreational impact. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.88 Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within Colchester district and has a recreational ZOI of 22km.

4.89 A review of the site allocations identified that all 52 residential sites fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park

- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent
- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
- 10657: Land North Oak Road
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
- 10262: Highlands
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
- 11113: Swan Grove
- 10547: Land south Long Road West
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane

- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
- 10122: The Old School
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10649: Land west of Station Road
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green
- 10535: Land off New Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur in relation to Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of recreational impact. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.90 Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site lies partially within Colchester district and has a recreational ZOI of 9.7km.

4.91 A review of the site allocations identified that 28 residential sites fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent

- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10600: Picketts
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10121: Land at Birch Green
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur in relation to Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of recreational impact. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Dengie SPA and Ramsar site

4.92 Dengie SPA and Ramsar site lies 1.9km south of Colchester district and has a recreational ZOI of 20.8km.

4.93 A review of the site allocations identified that 44 residential sites fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road

- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent
- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
- 10657: Land North Oak Road
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
- 10262: Highlands
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley

- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green
- 10535: Land off New Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur in relation to Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of recreational impact. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.94 Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA lies partially within Colchester district and has a recreational ZOI of 13km.

4.95 A review of the site allocations identified that 29 residential sites fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
- 10547: Land south Long Road West
- 10122: The Old School
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road

- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur in relation to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of recreational impact. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Essex Estuaries SAC

4.96 Essex Estuaries SAC lies partially within Colchester City. The associated ZOIs for the component SPA and Ramsar sites were applied.

4.97 A review of the site allocations identified that all 52 residential sites fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site

- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
- 10952: Braiswick
- 10941: Chesterwell
- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent
- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
- 10657: Land North Oak Road
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
- 10262: Highlands
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
- 10618: View Park
- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
- 11113: Swan Grove
- 10547: Land south Long Road West
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road

- 10122: The Old School
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
- 10600: Picketts
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
- 10649: Land west of Station Road
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green
- 10535: Land off New Road
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
- 10082: North Station
- 10616a: North East Colchester
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur in relation to Essex Estuaries SAC, as a result of recreational impact. This requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Outer Thames Estuary SPA

4.98 The Outer Thames Estuary SPA is located 2.9km to the south of Colchester. No ZOI has been defined for this Habitats Site, however it is recognised that it is susceptible to impacts from recreation and therefore has been screened in for further assessment at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

There is potential for likely significant effects to occur at Outer Thames Estuary SPA in relation to recreational impacts and therefore this effect is considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

Water quantity

4.99 An increase in demand for water abstraction resulting from the growth proposed in the plan could result in changes in hydrology at Habitats Sites. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the Habitats Sites, this could result in likely significant effects, for example, due to changes in environmental or biotic conditions, water chemistry and the extent and distribution of preferred habitat conditions.

4.100 A review of the Colchester Water Cycle Study (WCS) (AECOM, 2019) [See reference 42] is currently underway. A Technical Note has been provided by AECOM (2025) [See reference 43] which presents the outline findings of this review.

4.101 The availability of an adequate water supply has focused on comparing demand from allocated sites within the Local Plan with planned water demand increases within statutory planning undertaken by the public water supply providers. Anglian Water Services (AWS) provides public water supply to the majority of the CCC area, with Affinity Water supplying small areas in Wivenhoe and Dedham. The WCS considered the level of growth to be allocated in the Local Plan with the statutory Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) produced by AWS and Affinity Water for the period to 2050. Capacity was assessed assuming water consumption of 125 litres per person per day.

4.102 Colchester lies within the South Essex Water Resource Zone (WRZ). AWS and Affinity Water supply water to Colchester City Council area. The majority of the area is in AWS' Essex South WRZ (98% (11,049) of the allocated dwellings to be delivered within this WRZ). Affinity Water provide to a small area of CCC within Dedham Vale and Wivenhoe. These are within the Brett WRZ. Both of these WRZs are classified as under serious water stress by the Environment Agency.

4.103 Water supplies provided by both companies to the CCC administrative area are made up of a combination of groundwater abstractions from the Essex Chalk Aquifer, and surface water sources via Ardleigh Reservoir. At Ardleigh Reservoir, Affinity Water operate a shared reservoir with AWS as part of a mutual statutory arrangement.

4.104 The AWS WRMP3 informing AMP8, shows that the Essex South WRZ is predicted to go into supply deficit by 2025 if no water resource interventions are implemented. This is predominantly due to a growth in demand coupled with a fall in water supply available. The fall in water available is due to climate change and the need to reduce the existing volume of water abstracted from sensitive environments. This means the majority of the CCC area (including Colchester City) would not have sufficient potable water to meet AWS' minimum supply standards of service without the implementation of water resource management measures. The Affinity Water WRMP4 informing AMP8 shows that the Brett WRZ would have a surplus for most of the Local Plan period, until 2040.

Colchester Water Recycle Centre (WRC)

4.105 The cumulative effect of existing commitments, site allocations and the dwelling and employment contribution from the Tendring Garden Community to 2041, would result in the WRC exceeding its capacity by the end of the Plan period. Therefore, Colchester WRC is planned to receive infrastructure upgrades beyond AMP8 (post 2030). This is set out within Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply and the infrastructure allocation “Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre”.

Copford WRC

4.106 Despite the baseline capacity within this WRC, the growth expected within the plan would result in the WRC exceeding its capacity by the end of the Plan period.

Dedham WRC

4.107 This WRC is at capacity and has limited scope to serve additional allocations. One allocation of 15 dwellings is proposed in the WRC’s drainage catchment. The WCS Technical Note (AECOM, 2025) confirms that, subject to developers reaching an agreement with AWC, the WRC should manage this small increase.

Earls Colne WRC

4.108 This WRC is likely to exceed its capacity by the end of the Plan period due to the cumulative effect of existing commitments and allocations. However, this exceedance would be marginal.

Eight Ash Green WRC

4.109 This WRC is likely to exceed its capacity by the end of the Plan period due to the cumulative effect of existing commitments and allocations. However, this exceedance would be marginal.

Fingringhoe WRC

4.110 This WRC is at capacity and has limited scope for additional allocations (up to 135 dwellings) when combined with existing commitments.

Great Tey WRC

4.111 This WRC has capacity currently but the cumulative effect of existing commitments and allocations would result in the WRC exceeding its capacity by the end of the plan period.

Langham WRC

4.112 This WRC is at capacity and has limited scope for additional allocations when combined with existing commitments.

Tiptree WRC

4.113 This WRC is at capacity. The cumulative effects of existing commitments, the neighbourhood plan allocation (200 dwellings) and the Local Plan allocations would result in exceeding its capacity by the end of the Plan period.

West Bergholt WRC

4.114 This WRC is at capacity and has limited scope for additional allocations when combined with existing commitments.

4.115 The intrinsic water resources within this zone includes the River Colne, Salary Brook, Roman River/ Layer Brook, Sixpenny Brook and Tenpenny Brook. The South Essex WRZ is supplied through a combination of sources including groundwater from underlying chalk (Essex confined chalk groundwater aquifer), strata and surface water abstraction from the River Colne which is stored in Ardleigh Reservoir (a shared resource between Anglian Water Services and Affinity Water).

4.116 In some cases, abstraction licences can be sought from the Environment Agency for coastal and estuarine waterbodies. The water supply in Colchester has potential to impact upon the following Habitats Sites, which are directly linked to waterbodies that may be used to supply water:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

There is potential for LSE to occur in relation to water quantity impacts upon the Habitats Sites listed above. Therefore, this is considered further at Appropriate Assessment stage.

Water quality

Water treatment and discharge

4.117 Habitats can also be affected by changes in water quality such as nutrient enrichment, changes in salinity, smothering from dust, and run-off, discharge or spillage from industry, agriculture, or construction. Changes in water abstraction, discharge and land use can also affect water quality, for example a change in land use from agriculture to residential reduces direct nutrient run-off to watercourses but increases the volume of nutrients discharges from wastewater treatment works.

4.118 Nutrient pollution is an environmental issue for many areas across England. Increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus entering aquatic environments via surface water and groundwater can severely threaten these sensitive habitats and species within a Habitats Site. The elevated levels of nutrients can cause eutrophication, leading to algal blooms which disrupt normal ecosystem function and cause major changes in the aquatic community. These algal blooms can result in reduced levels of oxygen within the water, which in turn can affect the populations of many aquatic organism including invertebrates and fish. In freshwater habitats and estuaries, poor water quality due to nutrient enrichment from elevated nitrogen and phosphorus levels is one of the primary reasons for habitats sites being in unfavourable condition.

4.119 Nutrient neutrality is a means of ensuring that a plan or project does not add to existing nutrient burdens so there is no net increase in nutrients as a result of the plan or project. Where nutrient neutrality is properly applied and the existing land use does not undermine the conservation objectives, Natural England considers that an adverse effect on integrity alone and in combination can be ruled out during Appropriate Assessment.

4.120 Where sites are already in unfavourable condition, extra wastewater from new developments exacerbate the issue and undermine ongoing efforts to

recover these sites. However, when development is designed alongside suitable mitigation measures, that additional damage can often be avoided.

4.121 Colchester does not lie within a catchment identified by Natural England as being at risk due to excessive nutrients [\[See reference 44\]](#). Therefore, development is not required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality. However, the Water Cycle Study Technical Note (AECOM, 2025) identified that there are WRCs which are at risk of posing water quality issues due to sewer overflows. Wastewater treatment in Colchester is provided via several WRCs operated and maintained by Anglian Water Services, which discharge to either fluvial watercourses or tidally influenced estuaries. Each WRCs is fed into the sewerage system which drains wastewater generated by properties to the treatment works; this is defined as the WRCs 'catchment'. The WRC catchments which serve Colchester include:

- Birch WRC
- Colchester WRC
- Copford WRC
- Dedham WRC
- Earls Colne WRC
- Eight Ash Green WRC
- Fingringhoe WRC
- Great Tey WRC
- Langham WRC
- Layer-de-la-Haye WRC
- Tiptree WRC
- West Bergholt WRC
- West Mersea WRC
- Wormingford WRC

4.122 The previous WCS identified a risk to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, due to the confluence of discharge points for Langham East WRC and Dedham WRC, which both enter the River Stour approximately 8km upstream of the Habitats Site. Additionally, 25km downstream of the discharge point, lies Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, this Habitats Site is screened in for further consideration at appropriate assessment.

4.123 The following Habitats Sites are hydrologically connected to the District, or WRCs supplying it, and are sensitive to water quality issues, and therefore screened in for further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment:

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

Direct pollution/ run off

4.124 Pollution from direct run-off is likely to occur where Habitats sites or functionally linked land are close to development. Distances can vary depending on topography and connectivity, but 500m is used as an initial screening distance. The following Habitats Sites lie either within Colchester, or within 500m of it:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC

■ Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.125 All site allocations lie over 500m from the above Habitats Sites. However, there is potential for impact as a result of hydrological connectivity. Therefore, in order to determine those site allocations with potential to result in pollution or run off via hydrological connectivity, a review was undertaken of site allocations which lie immediately adjacent (within 50m) to a watercourse which is hydrologically connected to a Habitats Site.

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

4.126 There are no site allocations located within 500m of the Habitats Site or in close proximity to a watercourse, which is hydrologically connected to this SPA and Ramsar site, therefore there is no potential for impact as a result of direct pollution or run off upon this Habitats Site. This Habitats Site is not considered further.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.127 There are no site allocations located within 500m of the Habitats Site or in close proximity to a watercourse, which is hydrologically connected to this SPA and Ramsar site, therefore there is no potential for impact as a result of direct pollution or run off upon this Habitats Site. This Habitats Site is not considered further.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

4.128 Although the following residential site allocations are over 500m from the Colne Estuary, they are located within close proximity (50m) to a river which is hydrologically connected to the Habitats Site. Therefore they may result in direct pollution or run off impacts upon this Habitats Site, due to hydrological connectivity via the River Colne and Salary Brook:

- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10616a: North East Colchester

4.129 Additionally, the Anglian Water Recycling Centre, infrastructure allocation has potential to result in direct pollution or run off impacts upon this Habitats Site, due to hydrological connectivity via the River Colne.

Essex Estuaries SAC

4.130 Although the following residential site allocations are over 500m from Essex Estuaries SAC, they are located within close proximity (50m) to a river which is hydrologically connected to the Habitats Site. Therefore they may result in direct pollution or run off impacts upon this Habitats Site, due to hydrological connectivity via the River Colne and Salary Brook:

- 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site
- 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road
- 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard
- 10994: King Edward Quay
- 10616a: North East Colchester

4.131 Additionally, the Anglian Water Recycling Centre, infrastructure allocation has potential to result in direct pollution or run off impacts upon this Habitats Site, due to hydrological connectivity via the River Colne.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

4.132 There are no site allocations located within 500m of the Habitats Site or in close proximity to a watercourse, which is hydrologically connected to this SPA and Ramsar site, therefore there is no potential for impact as a result of direct pollution or run off upon this Habitats Site. This Habitats Site is not considered further.

There is potential for LSE upon Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site and Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Essex Estuaries SAC as a result of water quality impacts. This requires further consideration at Appropriate Assessment stage.

Summary of Screening Assessment

4.133 The Screening conclusions reached in this HRA are detailed in Table 4.1 below. Impact types for which a conclusion of no likely significant effect was reached are shown in grey. Those potential impacts where likely significant effects could not be ruled out are shown in orange and these are considered in more detail at the Appropriate Assessment stage in Chapter 6.

Table 4.1: Summary of Screening Assessment

Habitats site	Physical damage and loss	Non-physical disturbance	Non-toxic Contamination	Air Pollution	Recreation	Water Quantity	Water Quality
Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE
Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE
Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE
Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Dengie SPA and Ramsar site	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE

Chapter 4 Screening Assessment

Habitats site	Physical damage and loss	Non-physical disturbance	Non-toxic Contamination	Air Pollution	Recreation	Water Quantity	Water Quality
Essex Estuaries SAC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE
Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE
Hamford Water SAC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE
Outer Thames Estuary SPA	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	Potential LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	Potential LSE (Offsite only)	No LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE	Potential LSE

Chapter 5

Appropriate Assessment

5.1 Following the Screening stage, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to make an 'Appropriate Assessment' of the implications of the plan for Habitats Sites, in view of their conservation objectives.

5.2 European Commission Guidance [\[See reference 45\]](#) states that the Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of Habitats Sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function.

5.3 This stage seeks to determine whether implementation of the Local Plan will result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the whole Habitats Site in question (many Habitats Sites are made up of a number of fragments of habitat). It also considers the potential for in-combination effects from development proposed in neighbouring authorities' Local Plans or from major infrastructure projects. Consideration was given to mitigation measures that may be included in the Local Plan to reduce the likelihood and significance of effects on Habitats Sites.

5.4 A Habitats Site's integrity depends on it being able to sustain its 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex II species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a Habitats Site's conservation objectives is realised and where the Habitats Site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

5.5 Likely significant effects arising from the plan, either alone or in-combination, were identified for the following sites and impact types:

- Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.
- Non-physical disturbance – functionally linked land – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.
- Air pollution (vehicle emissions) – Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site only.
- Recreation – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Outer Thames Estuary SPA, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Water Quantity – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Water Quality – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

5.6 Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken for these Habitats Sites to determine whether the plan will result in Adverse Effects on Integrity.

5.7 The Appropriate Assessment focuses on those impacts that are judged likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying features of a Habitats Site, or where insufficient certainty regarding this remained at the Screening stage. As described in Chapter 2, a conclusion needs to be reached as to whether or not a policy or site allocation in the plan would adversely affect the integrity of a Habitats Site. To reach a conclusion, consideration was given to whether the predicted impacts of the proposals (either alone or in combination) have the potential to:

- Delay the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site.
- Disrupt factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site.
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site.

5.8 The conservation objectives for the above Habitats Sites are to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and to 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.
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely.
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species.
- The populations of qualifying species.
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Physical damage and loss – functionally linked land (offsite)

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site /
Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site/
Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site / Stour
and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site

5.9 The Local Plan includes site allocations in areas where qualifying SPA and Ramsar site bird species may make use of offsite habitat for foraging, roosting and loafing. Site allocations that could result in a likely significant effect as a result of physical damage and loss were identified in Chapter 4 of the Screening Assessment.

5.10 A desk-based study was undertaken to identify potential impacts from site allocations on offsite habitat used by the qualifying bird species. The desk-based study relied on a sequential approach, whereby if a site's suitability for qualifying bird species was considered negligible or low for a specific reason (e.g. distance or habitat type) no further investigations for that site were carried out. The initial desk study included the following components to inform the assessment:

- Identification of the qualifying bird species which are susceptible to the loss of the habitat types affected and ruling out those species unlikely to utilise the habitat types located within the sites (e.g. species restricted to marine habitats).
- A review of aerial imagery and Magic Map Application to identify main habitat types and land use within each site and establish their potential value for qualifying birds.
- Recognition of factors likely to affect suitability of sites for bird species, including openness, size, shape, proximity of negative factors such as tall

boundary features and urban environs, and potential existing source of disturbance.

- Consideration of the site's location within the landscape. For example, is there direct functional connectivity along flight lines between the site and the Habitats sites? Are there landscape scale features which would reduce the suitability of the site, e.g. urban areas located along flight lines?
- A review of the site's location within flood risk zones, because many of the SPA bird species favour sites which do or do not flood.

Bird Habitat Preferences

5.11 Bird habitat preferences were cross referenced against the habitat types present within each potential site to determine the suitability of site allocations for qualifying species. Known habitat preferences are summarised within Appendix D, which were taken from the RSPB and British Trust for Ornithology websites (as detailed within Appendix B). The information provided on each Habitat Site and the qualifying species, also assesses whether each bird species is susceptible to the loss of habitats located within the site allocations.

5.12 The review of habitat types located within the site allocations, in light of individual bird species preferences (Appendix D), identified the following bird species as being potentially susceptible to the loss of offsite habitat associated with site allocations listed in the Local Plan. Following a review of these species' habitat preferences and in line with previous discussions with Natural England with regards to recognised buffer zones within which these species are likely to rely on offsite habitats, a distance of 2km and 15km was applied. These included:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site - 2km buffer
 - Mute swan (non-breeding)
 - Eurasian wigeon (non-breeding)
 - Eurasian teal (non-breeding)

- Northern shoveler (non-breeding)
- Common pochard (non-breeding)
- Tufted duck (non-breeding)
- Common coot (non-breeding)
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site - 2km buffer
 - Common pochard (non-breeding)
 - Hen harrier (winter)
 - Dark-bellied brent goose (winter)
 - Black-tailed godwit (winter)
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 2km buffer
 - Dark-bellied brent goose (winter)
 - Dunlin (winter)
 - Hen harrier (winter)
 - Black-tailed godwit (winter)
 - Grey plover (winter)
 - Common pochard (non-breeding)
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 15km buffer
 - European golden plover (winter)
- Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 2km buffer
 - Northern pintail (winter)
 - Dark-bellied brent goose (winter)
 - Dunlin (winter)
 - Black-tailed godwit (winter)
 - Eurasian wigeon (winter)
- Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 15km buffer

- Lapwing (winter)
- Curlew (winter)

Assessment of Site Allocations

5.13 Following the establishment of typical habitat preferences for each species, each site allocation listed in the plan within 2km of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, and within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site was assessed for its suitability in supporting the qualifying bird species listed above. The assessment was based on a number of parameters, as described below. Typically, site allocations displayed varying combinations of the parameters outlined below and findings on suitability for SPA qualifying birds were therefore subject to professional judgement. The findings of the assessment of site allocations are set out below in relation to bird species that are qualifying features of the SPAs and Ramsar sites.

Habitat Suitability Rating

- High – Large sites; area of suitable habitat (e.g. wet grasslands, permanent pastures, arable) capable of supporting significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar site birds; absence of any notable negative factors such as PRow and edge features; land parcel functionally linked with wider habitat and directly linked to SPA and Ramsar site via green corridor; site may be prone to flooding (although note absence of flooding favoured by lapwing and golden plover); typically close to SPA and Ramsar site, and coast.
- Moderate – Sites support large areas of functionally linked suitable habitat capable of attracting numbers of SPA and Ramsar site birds which by themselves are unlikely to be significant, but which may contribute to supporting significant numbers of birds in-combination with other sites. Likely to be further from SPA and Ramsar site and coast, and with presence of some limiting factors.

- Low – Smaller or fragmented sites; habitats present may be suitable for supporting low numbers of SPA and Ramsar site birds on occasion but limited by negative factors such as size, distance from SPA and Ramsar site; absence of sight lines and reductions in ‘openness’ as a result of edge features such as trees, scrub, and buildings; edge features likely to be close to centre of site; suitability may be compromised by existing recreational use; may be isolated within urban areas.
- Negligible – Habitats present are entirely unsuitable for SPA birds, for example existing developed land or small urban infill sites.

Suitability of allocations for qualifying bird species

5.14 Site allocations were assessed for their suitability to provide functionally linked land for each of the Habitats Sites. The results are included in Appendix D. The majority of site allocations were considered low or negligible suitability to support qualifying bird species of each Habitats Site. The following Habitats Sites had site allocations which were assessed as moderate or high suitability to support the qualifying bird species. A brief summary of the main habitats of each site allocation is provided below with an assessment of the potential for adverse impact.

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

5.15 The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, five of seven site allocations were considered to have negligible or low potential to support significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and was therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.16 The following site allocations were identified with moderate potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road (arable and grassland)

5.17 The following site allocations were identified with high potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- N/A

The above site allocation, may provide suitable habitat in the form of arable field and grassland for offsite foraging. These habitats are common and widespread in the district. The site was not considered to support habitats or features of notable value, rarity or which populations are likely to be dependent on in isolation. It is located 1.6km from the Habitats Site and lies within a network of habitats of the same or higher suitability within the wider landscape. Therefore, development within this site allocation is not considered to result in adverse affect on the integrity of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, either alone or in-combination and no further assessment is required.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

5.18 The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, 49 of 61 site allocations were considered to have negligible or low potential to support significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and was therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.19 The following site allocations were identified with moderate potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road (arable and grassland)
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station (arable fields)

- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road (an arable field)
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road (an arable field)
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase (an arable field)
- 10616a: North East Colchester (arable fields with a pocket of woodland in north-east corner)
- 10226a: Land East of School Road (two arable fields separated by a house and garden)
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey (arable fields with a small pocket of woodland within western boundary)
- 10671: Land South of A12 and north of proposed new route of A12, Marks Tey (arable fields)

5.20 The following site allocations were identified with high potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village (arable fields with reservoir in adjacent land)
- 10657: Land North Oak Road (arable fields with woodland within eastern boundary)
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane (arable fields and grassland)

A total of 12 site allocations may provide suitable habitat in the form of arable fields and grassland, which could provide offsite foraging habitat for qualifying bird species of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. The site allocations lie within extensive areas of habitat of the same or greater suitability. However, due to the potential for cumulative effect of reducing the extent of feeding areas, there is potential for adverse effect on the integrity of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site due to physical damage and loss of offsite habitat (functionally linked land).

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

5.21 The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, three of five site allocations were considered to have negligible or low potential to support significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and was therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.22 The following site allocations were identified with moderate potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane (arable fields and grassland)
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station (arable fields)

5.23 The following site allocations were identified with high potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- N/A

The above site allocations, may provide suitable habitat in the form of arable fields and grassland, which are common and widespread in the district. The habitats could provide offsite foraging habitat for qualifying bird species of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. Both of these allocations lie within a network of habitats of the same or higher suitability within the wider landscape. However, due to the potential for cumulative effect of reducing the extent of feeding areas, there is potential for adverse effect on the integrity of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site due to physical damage and loss of offsite habitat (functionally linked land).

Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site

5.24 The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, 38 of 41 site allocations were considered to have negligible or low potential to support significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and was therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.25 The following site allocations were identified with moderate potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road (an arable field)
- 10664: Land north of Park Lane (arable fields)
- 10616a: North East Colchester (arable fields with a pocket of woodland in north-east corner)

5.26 The following site allocations were identified with high potential to support these qualifying bird species:

- N/A

The above site allocations, may provide suitable habitat in the form of arable fields and grassland, which are common and widespread in the district. The habitats could provide offsite foraging habitat for qualifying bird species of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. These allocations lie within a network of habitats of the same or higher suitability within the wider landscape. However, due to the potential for cumulative effect of reducing the extent of feeding areas, there is potential for adverse effect on the integrity of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site due to physical damage and loss of offsite habitat (functionally linked land).

5.27 The potential for the loss of offsite habitat to adversely affect qualifying bird species relates primarily to the cumulative effect of reducing the extent of feeding areas. There are a total of 14 site allocations with potential to affect the qualifying bird species of the above Habitats Sites.

5.28 Therefore, there is potential for physical damage and loss of offsite habitat (functionally linked land) to occur as a result of proposed development with potential for adverse effect on the integrity of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

5.29 Given the dependency of these species on offsite arable fields and grasslands, inclusion and implementation of appropriate safeguards and mitigation will be required in Local Plan to provide certainty that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

Mitigation

5.30 To provide certainty that the loss of offsite functional habitat will not adversely affect the integrity of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, it is recommended that the following safeguard measures are implemented at the project level:

- Wintering bird surveys are required for sites with high and moderate suitability to support these qualifying bird species to determine their individual and cumulative importance for these species and inform mitigation proposals. This specifically relates to sites identified in relation to Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

5.31 A commitment to mitigation is required within the Local Plan dependent on the findings of bird surveys. This will need to take into account the cumulative

numbers of SPA and Ramsar site birds affected by the allocations as they come forward for development. In the unlikely but possible event that cumulative numbers of SPA and Ramsar site birds affected are likely to exceed thresholds of significance (i.e. >1% of the associated Habitats Site), appropriate mitigation in the form of habitat creation and management in perpetuity, either on-site or through provision of strategic sites for these species elsewhere within Colchester City Council, will be required. If required, mitigation will need to create and manage suitably located habitat which maximises feeding productivity for these SPA and Ramsar site species, and such mitigatory habitat would need to be provided and be fully functional prior to development which would affect significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar site birds. Due to the common and widespread nature of the habitats present it is considered with certainty that mitigation can be easily achieved through the creation of alternative habitat of equal or greater value should a significant number of qualifying birds be found to utilise the site. This approach has previously been approved at Examination in Public for coastal Local Authorities, including North Essex Authorities as part of the current adopted plan.

Policy Mitigation

5.32 Specific wording is provided in EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, which outlines protection for Habitats Sites and will ensure that no development is supported where there is potential for adverse effects to integrity to arise.

5.33 In addition to this, policies within the Local Plan that will provide safeguards and mitigation measures to prevent physical damage and loss of habitats:

- ST2: Environment and the Green Networks and Waterways – sets out the support for healthy ecosystems and coherent ecological networks through alignment with the Essex LNRS.
- GN1: Green network and waterways principles – sets out the requirement for greenspace to provide connectivity for biodiversity and reflect and

protect the local ecology and conservation designations. It also sets out the support for active travel.

- GN5: Suitable alternative natural greenspace – sets out the provision of green space, including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) where required by project-level HRAs for developments coming forward.
- LC3: Coastal areas – provides protection of nature conservation designations through an integrated approach to coastal management.
- E3: Agricultural development and diversification – this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.
- E5: Colchester Zoo – includes statement of requirement for proposals to provide adequate mitigation if adverse impacts are identified either alone or in combination with other planned developments at the zoo or in surrounding areas.
- CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage - this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.
- CS6: Caravan parks – this sets out the requirement for proposals to help protect the integrity of Habitats Sites and minimise disturbance to designated breeding and wintering bird species. It also sets out the requirement for future extensions to existing caravan parks to conduct HRA.

5.34 Several of the place policies also set out safeguarding measures such as the inclusion of adequate open space provision, active travel opportunities to reduce reliance on cars, and adequate wastewater recycling and provision of SuDS.

Conclusion

Providing the above mitigation measures are incorporated into the Local Plan and are implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of damage and loss of habitat of functionally linked land will be avoided.

Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land (offsite)

5.35 The Local Plan includes site allocations in areas where qualifying SPA and Ramsar site bird species may make use of offsite habitat for foraging. Habitats Sites which were screened in due to potential for likely significant effect as a result of non-physical disturbance were Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

5.36 Site allocations listed in the plan which are within 500m of possible functionally linked land, identified in relation to the SPA and Ramsar sites have potential to result in adverse effect on qualifying bird species as a result of disturbance from noise and vibrations and from increased light spill. Therefore, the screening assessment considered site allocations within either 2.5km or 15.5km of each Habitats Site, dependent on the qualifying species present.

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

5.37 There were a total of seven site allocations within 2.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- 10618: View Park
- 10759: The Furze
- 10758: Land west The Folley
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
- 10121: Land at Birch Green

5.38 In light of the assessment of site suitability undertaken under the ‘physical damage and loss of functionally linked land’ section above, only site 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road, was identified as having moderate suitability to support significant numbers of qualifying bird species. However, due to the availability of land of the same or higher suitability in the surrounding landscape and the lack of notable habitat features of significant value to qualifying species within the site allocation, there would be no adverse effect on the integrity of the Habitats Site due to non-physical disturbance either alone or in-combination.

5.39 All other site allocations were considered of low or negligible potential to support significant numbers of SPA and Ramsar site qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites. Therefore, these were discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functionally linked land.

Therefore, no adverse effects on integrity are predicted in relation from non-physical disturbance upon functionally linked land of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

5.40 There were a total of 64 site allocations within 15.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment. In light of the assessment undertaken under the

Physical Damage and Loss of functionally linked land section above, 12 site allocations were identified as having moderate or high suitability to provide functionally linked land.

5.41 An additional three sites lie between 15km and 15.5km of the Habitats Site and no habitat suitability assessment was undertaken as part of the assessment of physical damage and loss of functionally linked land. Habitat suitability assessments for these additional sites is provided within Appendix E. These were considered of low potential to support significant numbers of qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.42 However, there is potential for adverse effect on integrity as a result of non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land within or in close proximity to (500m) the 12 site allocations considered to provide moderate or high suitability foraging habitat to qualifying bird species:

■ High suitability:

- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village (arable fields with reservoir in adjacent land)
- 10657: Land North Oak Road (arable fields with woodland within eastern boundary)
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane (arable fields and grassland)

■ Moderate suitability:

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road (arable and grassland)
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station (arable fields)
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road (an arable field)
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road (an arable field)
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase (an arable field)
- 10616a: North East Colchester (arable fields with a pocket of woodland in north-east corner)

- 10226a: Land East of School Road (two arable fields separated by a house and garden)
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey (arable fields with a small pocket of woodland within western boundary)
- 10671: Land South of A12 and north of proposed new route of A12, Marks Tey (arable fields)

Therefore, there is potential for adverse effects on integrity of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

5.43 There were a total of six site allocations within 12.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment. In light of the assessment undertaken under the Physical Damage and Loss of functionally linked land section above, two site allocations were identified as having moderate suitability to provide functionally linked land.

5.44 An additional site allocation lies between 2km and 2.5km of the Habitats Site and no habitat suitability assessment was undertaken as part of the assessment of physical damage and loss of functionally linked land. Habitat suitability assessments for these additional sites is provided within Appendix E. This site allocation was considered of negligible potential to support significant numbers of qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.45 However, there is potential for adverse effect on integrity as a result of non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land within or in close proximity

to (500m) the two site allocations considered to provide moderate suitability foraging habitat to qualifying bird species:

- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station

Therefore, there is potential for an adverse effect on integrity of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land.

Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

5.46 There were a total of 44 site allocations within 15.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment. In light of the assessment undertaken under the Physical Damage and Loss of functionally linked land section above, three site allocations were identified as having moderate suitability to provide functionally linked land.

5.47 An additional two sites lie between 15km and 15.5km of the Habitats Site and no habitat suitability assessment was undertaken as part of the assessment of physical damage and loss of functionally linked land. Habitat suitability assessments for these additional sites is provided within Appendix E. These site allocations were considered of low potential to support significant numbers of qualifying bird species, either alone or cumulatively with other sites, and therefore discounted from further consideration in terms of offsite functional land.

5.48 However, there is potential for adverse effect on integrity as a result of non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land within or in close proximity to (500m) the three site allocations considered to provide moderate suitability foraging habitat to qualifying bird species:

- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road (an arable field)

- 10664: Land north of Park Lane (arable fields)
- 10616a: North East Colchester (arable fields with a pocket of woodland in north-east corner)

Therefore, there is potential for an adverse effect on integrity of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land.

Mitigation

5.49 In light of the assessment of non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land, the same mitigation as was identified in the assessment of physical damage and loss of functionally linked land, is required. Wintering bird surveys of all sites of moderate and high suitability to provide offsite foraging habitat for qualifying bird species. This is required in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land for Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

Policy Mitigation

5.50 Specific wording is provided in EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, which outlines protection for Habitats Sites by ensuring that no development is supported where there is potential for adverse effects on integrity to arise.

5.51 Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land, will also ensure that development will avoid pollution (including air, light, noise, and water pollution). It also sets out the requirements for developments to demonstrate no risk to health or the environment due to contamination.

5.52 Other policies within the Local Plan that will provide safeguards and mitigation measures which prevent non-physical disturbance, including:

- ST2: Environment and the Green Networks and Waterways – sets out the support for healthy ecosystems and coherent ecological networks through alignment with the Essex LNRS.
- GN1: Green network and waterways principles – sets out the requirement for greenspace to provide connectivity for biodiversity and reflect and protect the local ecology and conservation designations. It also sets out the support for active travel.
- GN5: Suitable alternative natural greenspace – sets out the provision of green space, including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) where required by project-level HRAs for developments coming forward.
- LC3: Coastal areas – provides protection of nature conservation designations through an integrated approach to coastal management.
- E3: Agricultural development and diversification – this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.
- E5: Colchester Zoo – includes statement of requirement for proposals to provide adequate mitigation if adverse impacts are identified either alone or in combination with other planned developments at the zoo or in surrounding areas.
- CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage - this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.
- CS6: Caravan parks – this sets out the requirement for proposals to help protect the integrity of Habitats Sites and minimise disturbance to designated breeding and wintering bird species. It also sets out the requirement for future extensions to existing caravan parks to conduct HRA.

5.53 Several of the place policies also set out safeguarding measures such as the inclusion of adequate open space provision, active travel opportunities to

reduce reliance on cars, and adequate wastewater recycling and provision of SuDS.

Conclusion

Providing the above mitigation measures are incorporated into the Local Plan and are implemented successfully, adverse effects on the integrity of the Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site, as a result of on-physical disturbance of functionally linked land will be avoided

Air pollution (vehicle emissions)

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

5.54 Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site lies within 2km of the north-eastern boundary of Colchester City. The Habitats Site is designated as it supports birds, invertebrates and vegetation communities.

5.55 The Site is located immediately adjacent (within 200m) to the A137. A total land area of 13.39ha lies within 200m of the A137. This represents 0.36% of the total land within the SPA and Ramsar site. The priority habitats which lie within 200m of the A137 include Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (4.39ha), coastal saltmarsh (0.41ha) and mudflats (2.83ha), and no main habitat but additional habitats may be present (7.66ha).

5.56 A review of SSSI condition assessments was undertaken to confirm the current condition of the component SSSI units of the SPA and Ramsar site in

those areas susceptible to changes in air quality. Stour Estuary SSSI Units 1 and 2 lie within 200m of the A137. A summary of each unit is provided below:

- SSSI Unit 1 comprises littoral sediments which support marine biotopes and saltmarsh habitat which has experienced active erosion. Overall, the unit is in ‘unfavourable – declining’ condition according to the condition assessment carried out on 27/11/2010.
- SSSI Unit 2 also comprises littoral sediment (muds) with marine biotopes and various nationally scarce vascular plants, which form the reason for designation of the Ramsar site, such as perennial glasswort and lax-flowered sea lavender. There is evidence of erosion of the marsh edges in this unit. Overall, the unit is in ‘favourable’ condition according to the condition assessment carried out on 01/11/2010.

5.57 It is recognised that Common Standards Monitoring, which is used to monitor the condition of the component SSSIs, was not designed to recognise adverse effects associated with deposition of pollutants, and often habitats are slow to display visible signs of the effects of changes in air quality. Therefore, the absence of apparent adverse factors does not necessarily indicate an absence of effects associated with nutrient enrichment and airborne pollutants.

5.58 A review of the bird species which comprise the SPA was undertaken to inform understanding of the species sensitivity to pollutants. A summary is presented within Table 5.1. Information was sought from Air pollution Information Service (APIS) [See reference 46], which provides information on whether a species is sensitive to a particular pollutant.

Table 5.1: A summary of qualifying features sensitive to impacts from pollutants (APIS data)

Qualifying Feature	Nitrogen	Nutrient Nitrogen	Nitrogen Oxide	Ammonia	Acid deposition
Northern pintail <i>Anas acuta</i>	Sensitive to impacts	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts

Qualifying Feature	Nitrogen	Nutrient Nitrogen	Nitrogen Oxide	Ammonia	Acid deposition
	from nitrogen				from nitrogen
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Ruddy turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Greater scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Ringed plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Mute swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	Sensitive to impacts	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts

Qualifying Feature	Nitrogen	Nutrient Nitrogen	Nitrogen Oxide	Ammonia	Acid deposition
	from nitrogen				from nitrogen
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Golden plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Great crested grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen
Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive
Common redshank	Sensitive to impacts	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive

Qualifying Feature	Nitrogen	Nutrient Nitrogen	Nitrogen Oxide	Ammonia	Acid deposition
<i>Tringa totanus</i>	from nitrogen				
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Sensitive to impacts from nitrogen	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive	Not Sensitive

5.59 APIS identifies saltmarsh habitat, to be sensitive to impacts from air pollution with varying critical loads dependant on the location within the saltmarsh, whether upper, mid or lower.

5.60 Further consideration is therefore required in relation to nitrogen, nutrient nitrogen and acid deposition for the relevant qualifying features. To fully understand the impacts of increased development resulting from the Local Plan in-combination with other plans and projects, AADT traffic modelling data, which calculates the change in trips that would result from the Local Plan, over the plan period is required of the A137 to inform the Appropriate Assessment. If AADT exceeds the threshold of 1,000 AADT, air quality modelling will be required to understand whether the Local Plan will result in adverse effect on integrity and whether avoidance and mitigation measures can be applied which ensure that impacts are prevented. This approach is considered to be highly precautionary, given the nature of the habitats present within the SPA and Ramsar site, which support intertidal habitats that are subject to regular flushing by the tides and as such typically resilient to localised affects relating to air pollution.

Policy Mitigation

5.61 The following measures outlined in the Draft Local Plan will provide safeguarding and mitigation and will need to be adhered to and implemented successfully. Specifically, Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land, which will ensure that development will avoid pollution (including air, light, noise, and

water pollution). It also sets out the requirements for developments to demonstrate no risk to health or the environment due to contamination.

5.62 Additionally, Policy PC2: Active and sustainable travel, sets out the following requirement for new developments to maximise opportunities for active travel. It states that development should be planned around a network of safe and accessible active travel routes, to maximise opportunities for active and sustainable travel. It should also promote the use of car clubs and provide the required infrastructure where appropriate and incorporate infrastructure provision for charging electric vehicles in line with the latest guidance and standards, and make provision for charging electric bicycles.

Conclusion

In light of the above and in accordance with the precautionary principle, a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity cannot be reached in relation to the effect of air pollution on Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site either alone or in-combination and further traffic modelling is required to inform the assessment.

Recreation

5.63 The Screening Assessment concluded that population growth associated with the Local Plan has the potential to result in likely significant effects on the following Habitats Sites:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site;
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site;
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site;
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site;

- Essex Estuaries SAC;
- Outer Thames Estuary SPA; and
- Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site.

5.64 Further detail on these sites has been presented below. It should be noted that the Abberton Reservoir and Outer Thames Estuary SPA are considered separately from the remainder of the Habitats Sites as these sites are not included within the Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site / Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site / Dengie SPA and Ramsar site / Essex Estuaries SAC / Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site

5.65 The SAC, SPAs and Ramsar sites are located along the north coastline of Essex. The effects of recreational disturbance on coastal habitats and/or those with sensitive bird populations have been studied and recognised throughout the UK.

5.66 Key threats from recreational pressure to these Habitats Sites include:

- The SAC is designated for qualifying coastal and inter-tidal habitats, which are susceptible to impacts from physical damage caused by trampling and erosion associated with terrestrial recreation and wave damage from water-based recreational activities. In addition, the SAC is also vulnerable to impacts from localised nutrient enrichment and other negative factors associated with recreation such as littering, fire and vandalism, albeit the qualifying habitats, which are regularly inundated by tidal waters are not particularly sensitive to such factors.

- The SPAs and Ramsar sites are designated for qualifying bird species, which are primarily sensitive to impacts from direct physical damage and loss of habitat from trampling and erosion and disturbance of wetland birds from recreational activities, such as walking, dog walking, exercise and wildlife watching.

5.67 In Essex, it has been identified that in the absence of mitigation adverse effects on the integrity of Habitats Sites cannot be avoided either alone or in combination with other plans and projects as a result of increased housing growth within this region of the UK. As such, a mitigation strategy has been developed known as the Essex Coast RAMS, which was adopted in 2019 with the associated SPD was adopted in 2020. This strategy has been developed alongside Natural England and endorsed by them. This strategy identifies a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which are to be funded by developer contributions from residential development schemes.

5.68 As detailed in the Screening Assessment, the Essex RAMS has identified site-specific ZOIs for Habitats Sites in Essex. The following Habitats sites were identified as having ZOI, which overlap the borough, and as such will require mitigation in line with the strategy. A summary of site allocations within the overlapping ZOI for each Habitats site is presented below. The complete list of site allocations is provided within the Screening Assessment section on Recreation within Chapter 4.

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 52 residential site allocations
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site – 28 residential site allocations
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site – 44 residential site allocations
- Essex Estuaries SAC – 52 residential site allocations
- Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site – 29 residential site allocations

5.69 In light of the above information, mitigation measures will be required to ensure sufficient level of certainty that no adverse effects on integrity arise in relation to these Habitats Sites as a result of proposed development in the Local Plan. Further detail of this is presented below.

Abberton Reservoir SPA

5.70 The SPA is located in the south of Colchester. Key threats from recreation primarily relate to disturbance of bird populations for which the site is designated for. Albeit it should be noted that no dogs are permitted within the SPA and such disturbance impacts relate to humans only. This is notable as typically one of the key causes for disturbances to bird species is as result of dogs / dog walking.

5.71 The SPA is controlled by Essex and Suffolk Water and managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust. The Site Improvement Plan specifically states that “Disturbance at ground level is well controlled by Essex & Suffolk Water, though there is occasional trespassing”. Further to this, the Essex Wildlife Trust implements a strong visitor management regime with measures including designated footpaths, provision of screens, hides and areas, which are restricted to the public. There is access seven days a week throughout the year, however this is limited to specific times during the day and vary during the year. In addition, there is an educational visitor centre at the site.

5.72 In light of the information above, it can therefore be concluded that adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA will not occur as a result of proposed development in Colchester.

Outer Thames Estuary SPA

5.73 The SPA is located along the east coastline of Essex. Key threats from recreation to this SPA primarily relate to water-based activities, including sailing and fishing, which have potential to result in physical disturbance of the qualifying red-throated diver.

5.74 Given the specialist nature of these activities, which is likely to attract visitors from greater distances, it is expected that increased development within Colchester itself is likely to be relatively minor. In addition, the extent of the SPA

span across an area of open sea covering nearly 380,000 ha and extending 1200km from the coastline.

5.75 The qualifying species of the SPA primarily use the SPA for foraging at sea and will cover vast distances to do so whereas recreational boats would be expected to remain relatively close to the coast. Given the mobility of these species and the visibility afforded to them while feeding and loafing at sea they are unlikely to be disturbed by watercraft, which would result in an adverse effect on integrity. Furthermore, the increase in usage of watercraft is unlikely to result in any discernible increase in the numbers, distribution or frequency of watercraft navigating these waters.

5.76 In light of the information above, it can therefore be concluded that adverse effect on the integrity of the SPA will not occur as a result of proposed development in Colchester.

Mitigation

5.77 It is recommended that the following mitigation measures are implemented to ensure that there is a sufficient level of certainty that proposed development in the Local Plan will not result in an adverse effect in the integrity of these Habitats sites. These measures have been designed to ensure that the cumulative effect of increased recreational pressure is addressed for each potential site, which has potential to contribute to the increased recreational pressure on each Habitats site through the provision of specific mitigation measures.

Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy

5.78 As detailed above, an Essex Coast RAMS and SPD has been adopted, which has identified a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures

which are to be funded by developer contributions from residential development schemes. Colchester City Council has been listed as one of the partners of this strategy and is responsible for the delivery of the Essex Coast RAMS.

5.79 This strategy proposes the following measure to avoid and mitigate for impacts arising from increased recreational pressure in the district. This includes:

- Education and communication, including provision of information and awareness raising.
- Habitat based measures, including:
 - Directing visitors away from sensitive areas and/or provide a screen to minimise their impact
 - Establishing zones, prohibited areas and restricted access at specific times for walkers and their dogs to minimise disturbance.
 - Promote appropriate routes for cyclists to avoid disturbance at key locations.
 - Audit of car parks and capacity to identify hotspots and opportunities for “spreading the load”.
 - Enforcement of measures through rangers.
 - Habitat creation, such as saltmarsh recharge, regulated tidal exchange and artificial islands.
 - Project delivery through partnership working, monitoring and review process. This includes the monitoring and review of birds and visitor surveys to ensure that mitigation measures remain effective.

5.80 The delivery of this strategy is supported by Policy EN1: Nature conservation designated sites, which outlines the requirement for development within the ZOI identified by the adopted Essex Coast RAMS must secure contributions towards the strategy. This is further supported by Policy ST2: Environment and the Green Network and Waterways, which requires proposals to have regard for the aims and objectives of the Essex Coast RAMS.

5.81 A Review of the Essex Coast RAMS has commenced. The review will include visitor surveys at various points around the coast to assess visitor motivations, recreational activities and gain an understanding of behaviours. Visitor surveys will take place in spring and winter 2025. The Review of the RAMS is supported by Natural England. It will include a review of predicted housing growth in Essex, the tariff, relationship with SANGs, tourist accommodation, and measures to ensure that it is delivered in perpetuity. The review may inform revised recreational ZOIs. The outcomes of the review, if available, will be incorporated within the Regulation 19 HRA.

Provision of Open Space and Green Infrastructure

5.82 It is recognised that given the unique nature and attraction of the coastal Habitats Sites identified in this assessment, the provision of open spaces is less effective as a mitigation measure for these sites. However, it is considered to provide an additional mechanism to contribute to reducing recreational pressure of these Habitats sites. To maximise the effectiveness of its role in contributing to mitigating for impacts associated with recreational pressure, it is recommended that the design and management of open space and green infrastructure will need to be focused towards attracting those groups of visitors, such as walkers and dog walkers, who regularly visit these Habitats sites.

5.83 This is supported by Policy GN5: Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, which outlines the requirement for Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG) where the Habitat Regulations Assessment identifies a need for it to provide alternative greenspace to divert visitors from visiting Habitats Sites. Policy EN1: Nature conservation designated sites, also outlines specific requirement for provision of SANG required in accordance with the Habitat Regulations Assessment.

5.84 Additional policies that are relevant and provide a degree of safeguarding include Policy GN2: Strategic Green Spaces and Nature Recovery, Policy GN3: Local Green Spaces and Policy GN6: Retention of Open Space.

Watercraft – Code of Conduct

5.85 In addition to the above, Essex Police support a Watercraft Code of Conduct [See reference 47], which provides details on appropriate code of conduct on the water and how to reduce impact to wildlife in Essex waters. A code of conduct does not guarantee the avoidance of adverse effects on integrity on its own, it provides an important role in encouraging people to undertake recreational activities responsibly, particularly if promoted by RAMS rangers and linked to penalties and enforcement.

Policy Mitigation

5.86 Specific wording is provided in EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, which outlines protection for Habitats Sites and will ensure that no development is supported where there is potential for adverse effects to integrity to arise.

5.87 In addition to this, policies within the Local Plan that will provide safeguards and mitigation measures to prevent physical damage and loss of habitats:

- GN5: Suitable alternative natural greenspace – sets out the provision of green space, including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) where required by project-level HRAs for developments coming forward.
- CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage - this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.
- CS6: Caravan parks – this sets out the requirement for proposals to help protect the integrity of Habitats Sites and minimise disturbance to designated breeding and wintering bird species. It also sets out the requirement for future extensions to existing caravan parks to conduct HRA.

Conclusion

In light of the above, providing the Essex Coast RAMS and policy protection measures are implemented and delivered successfully, no adverse effects on integrity can be concluded in relation to recreational pressure as a result of increased development resulting from the Local Plan in relation to Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site, Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Outer Thames Estuary SPA.

Water quantity

5.88 The Screening Assessment concluded that population growth associated with the Local Plan has the potential to result in likely significant effects on the following Habitats Sites:

- Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site and SPA
- Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site and SPA
- Colne Estuary Ramsar site and SPA
- Dengie Ramsar site and SPA
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site and SPA

5.89 As detailed within the Screening Assessment, Colchester lies within the South Essex WRZ. There is potential for the supply of water to result in impact upon the above listed Habitats Sites as these are hydrologically connected to rivers and groundwater, which are abstracted from to supply the South Essex WRZ, including Colchester district plan area, and therefore are susceptible to

changes in water quantity as a result of proposed development within the Local Plan.

Catchment Abstraction Licencing

5.90 The Environment Agency is responsible for managing water resources in England. The Environment Agency controls how much water is abstracted with a permitting system, regulating existing licences and granting new ones. It uses the CALS process and abstraction licensing strategies to do this. The CALS process aims to aid the meeting of the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive by:

- Providing a water resource assessment of rivers, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries and groundwater referred to as water bodies under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).
- Identifying water bodies that fail flow conditions expected to support good ecological status.
- Preventing deterioration of water body status due to new abstractions.
- Providing results which inform River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

5.91 The Habitat Sites identified within this assessment are located within the Essex Catchment. The CALS process has developed a classification system in order to inform the abstraction process. This classification provides an indication of:

- The relative balance between the environmental requirements for water and how much is licensed for abstraction.
- Whether water is available for further abstraction.
- Areas where abstraction may need to be reduced.

5.92 In terms of water resource availability, this has been calculated at four different flows with Q30 being higher flows and Q90 being lower flows. The findings are presented below for each flow rate and each sub-catchment area:

■ Stour System

- Q30 (higher flows) - This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in any of the catchments in the Stour system with exception to small number of catchments where water was noted to be available.
- Q50 (moderate flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in any of the catchments in the Stour system area with exception to one catchment, which was noted as having water not available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q70 (below moderate flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in any of the catchments in the Stour system with exception to one catchment, which was noted as having water not available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q95 (low flows) - This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in any of the catchments in the Stour system.

■ Colne and Tendring System

- Q30 (higher flows) - This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in the easternmost catchments in the Colne and Tendring System. The majority of the catchment was comprised of catchments with water available and no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q50 (moderate flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in the catchments in the east in the Colne and Tendring System. In the east, the majority of the catchments were identified with water available with a small number noted to have no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q70 (below moderate flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in the catchments in the east in the Colne and Tendring System and a mixture of no water available (fully licence flows < EFI) and water available in catchments in the west.
- Q95 (low flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in the catchments in the east in the Colne and Tendring

System and no water available (fully licence flows < EFI) in catchments in the west.

■ Blackwater System

- Q30 (higher flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) for the majority of catchments in the Blackwater System with exception to a small number of catchments in the east which had water available.
- Q50 (moderate flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) for the majority of catchments in the Blackwater System with exception one catchment in the east, which had water available and a small number of catchments in the east with no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q70 (below moderate flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) for the majority of catchments in the Blackwater System with exception one catchment in the east, which had water available and a small number of catchments in the east with no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q95 (low flows) – This identified no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI) in all catchments in the Blackwater System with exception to one catchment in the east, which had no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).

■ Dengie System

- Q30 (higher flows) – This identified the majority of the Dengie System to have water available with a smaller area to the north with no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q50 (moderate flows) – This identified the majority of the Dengie System to have water available with smaller areas to the north and west with no water available (fully licence flows < EFI).
- Q70 (below moderate flows) – This identified the majority of the Dengie System to have a mixture of no water available (fully licence flows < EFI) and water available.

- Q95 (low flows) – This identified the majority of the Dengie System to have no water available (fully licence flows < EFI) with smaller areas to the west with no water availability (recent actual flows < EFI).

5.93 A review of water resource reliability found that in an average year resource there was consumptive abstraction available of less than 30% of the time with areas to the west of the catchment identified a mixture of at least 30-70% of the time.

Mitigation

5.94 Anglian Water Services [See reference 48] and Affinity Water [See reference 49] have prepared Water Resources Management Plans for 2024 (WRMP24), which will ensure that a sufficient supply of water can be secured, and that the environment will be protected over at least a 25-year planning period. WRMPs are updated every five years and reviewed by regulators, such as Environment Agency. This takes into account growth within the supply area, including growth within Colchester as part of the Local Plan.

5.95 The WRMPs provides detail on abstraction within the Essex WRZ. The published AWS WRMP plans to overcome predicted deficit in the South Essex WRZ through a demand management strategy (reducing water use by the existing users in the WRZ) as well as new or changes to existing water supply sources. The preferred demand management strategy includes a smart metering programme, leakage reductions and water efficiency measures. The raw water resource improvements include changes to imports and exports to, or from the Essex South WRZ (coupled with greater connectivity of WRZs to each other which allow sources to be shared), and the Colchester WRC indirect re-use and transfer to Ardleigh Reservoir.

5.96 The AWS WRMP shows that the combined impact of the proposed demand management measures and current and future raw water improvements in the Essex South WRZ results in a forecast balance of supply and demand by the end of the Local Plan period (and beyond to 2050). The

Affinity Water WRMP shows that current and future demand management and changes to supply volume from Ardleigh Reservoir would enable the current surplus of supply to continue beyond the Local Plan period.

5.97 AWS has assumed an increase in approximately 22,200 homes in the Essex South WRZ to 2050. Braintree is the only other significant urban centre within this WRZ, demonstrating that the 11,049 dwellings within the CCC Local Plan that would be in the Essex South WRZ is allowed for in the WRMP process. Affinity Water has indicated that the small number of dwellings (less than 200) to be allocated at Dedham and Wivenhoe is in-line with the assumptions for the Brett WRZ and adequately accounted for.

5.98 A HRA of the Anglian Water WRMP 2024 was undertaken, which included consideration of the potential impacts of the options put forward as part of the Best Value Plan in the WRMP. The HRA concluded that with proposed mitigation measures in place, the WRMP will have no adverse effects on any Habitats sites, alone or in combination.

5.99 A HRA of the Affinity Water WRMP 2024 was undertaken, which concluded that with proposed mitigation measures in place, the WRMP will have no adverse effects on any Habitats sites, alone or in combination.

5.100 The Water Cycle Study is currently in development. Once available, this will inform the assessment of the impact of growth upon water quantity. However, given the findings of the WRMP no AEoI is considered at this stage in the process.

Policy Mitigation

5.101 The following measures outlined in the Draft Local Plan will provide safeguarding and mitigation and such will need to be adhered to and implemented successfully. Specifically, EN1: Nature conservation designated sites, which will ensure that development related impacts resulting in Adverse

Affect on Integrity (AEol) of Habitats Sites and SSSIs is avoided and/ or appropriately mitigated.

5.102 Additionally, Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply, which sets out the requirements for adequate water supply and wastewater infrastructure to serve new development. The policy refers to the land allocated as an extension to Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre (infrastructure site allocation, screened into assessment). It also promotes the efficient use of water setting out the water efficiency standard required for all new residential development to meet the water efficiency standard of 80 litres per person per day.

5.103 The WCS recommends that a policy is included within the Local Plan to address additional capacity needs at Dedham WRC, Fingringhoe WRC, Great Tey WRC, Langham WRC, West Bergholt WRC. The policy should require developers located within these WRC's drainage catchments to demonstrate they have agreed available capacity at the WRC (and the associated sewer network) with AWS prior to submitting planning applications.

Conclusion

In light of the above, provided the recommendations for the demand management strategy identified in the AWS WRMP, are taken forward and that safeguard measures, including those identified as recommended mitigation within the associated HRA reports, are implemented successfully, it can be concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site and SPA, Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Colne Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Essex Estuaries SAC, or Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site and SPA, will occur as a result of impacts from water quantity. The complete WCS is in development and will be reviewed as part of the HRA for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. However, given the findings and recommendations of the WCS Technical Note and

the recommendations of the AWS WRMP, it is concluded that there will be no AEoI.

Water quality

Water treatment and discharge

5.104 As presented within the Screening Assessment, likely significant effect could not be screened out for Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, due to potential impact of water discharge and inadequate water treatment affecting water quality.

5.105 Colchester WRC was identified to have Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) where baseline (before growth) spill frequency exceeds the long-term improvement plan targets. AWS are considering measures to address this in order to meet the future target. A policy is recommended within the 'Policy Mitigation' section below. With regards to the future upgrades of the Colchester WRC, the capacity in the sewer network will be assessed as part of the updated WCS document.

5.106 Copford WRC, Eight Ash WRC, Fingringhoe WRC, Great Tey WRC and Langham WRC were identified to be at risk of water quality non-compliance due to future capacity exceedance. However, improvement works are planned towards the end of the AMP8 period to accommodate both water quality improvements and flow compliance to meet the early phase of growth expected in the Local Plan period. The detailed WCS which is currently underway, will confirm any solutions for water quality required for the end of the Local Plan period.

Policy Mitigation

5.107 The following measures outlined in the Draft Local Plan will provide safeguarding and mitigation and such will need to be adhered to and implemented successfully. Specifically, Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply, which sets out the requirements for adequate water supply and wastewater infrastructure to serve new development. The policy refers to the land allocated as an extension to Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre (infrastructure site allocation, screened into assessment). This expansion aims to increase the capacity of the wastewater treatment facility. This will be important in providing increased capacity to treat wastewater demand as a result of growth within the Local Plan.

5.108 Additionally, Policy EN1: Nature conservation designated sites, which will ensure that development related impacts resulting in Adverse Affect on Integrity (AEoI) of Habitats Sites and SSSIs is avoided and/ or appropriately mitigated.

5.109 An additional policy is required to be incorporated within the Local Plan, as informed by the WCS Technical Note. A policy is required to enable CSO spills to be managed in the long-term, the WCS recommends a policy for allocated development in the Colchester WRC's drainage catchment to significantly reduce the volume of surface water generated from sites being discharged to the combined sewer network.

5.110 A further policy is also required with regards to potential water quality issues due to sewer overflows from Copford WRC. This policy should require allocated development within Marks Tey, Stanway, Easthorpe, Mulberry Green and Copford Green to prevent surface water generated from sites being discharged to the foul sewer network. This same policy is also recommended with regards to sewer overflows from Eight Ash Green WRC and Tiptree WRC, requiring allocated development within Eight Ash Green, Ford Street, Fordham, Tiptree, Messing, and Tolleshunt Knights to prevent surface water discharge to the foul sewer network. Additionally, development within West Bergholt, Tye Green and Great Horkesley served by West Bergholt WRC must also prevent

surface water generated from sites being discharged into the foul sewer network.

5.111 The WCS also recommends that a policy be implemented which requires developers located within this Dedham WRC and Fingringhoe WRC drainage catchments to demonstrate they have agreed available capacity at the WRC (and the associated sewer network) with AWS prior to submitting planning applications. The same policy is required for Great Tey WRC, Langham WRC and West Bergholt WRC and the allocated developments in the following settlements, Great Tey, Langham, Hornestreet, Boxted, West Bergholt, Tye Green and Great Horkesley.

Conclusion

An updated WCS is currently in development and the results of this will be used to inform the HRA of the Regulation 19 Local Plan. The impacts of proposed growth and potential for water quality impacts as a result of water treatment and discharge on Habitats Sites can be concluded as no having AEol provided the recommendations outlined in the WCS Technical Note are incorporated within the Local Plan policy and implemented successfully.

Direct pollution/ run off

5.112 Likely significant effect could not be screened out for Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Essex Estuaries SAC, due to potential for direct pollution and run-off as a result of hydrological connectivity between upstream allocation sites and downstream Habitats Sites.

Policy Mitigation

5.113 The following measures outlined in the Draft Local Plan will provide safeguarding and mitigation and will need to be adhered to and implemented successfully. Specifically, Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land, which will ensure that development will avoid pollution (including air, light, noise, and water pollution). It also sets out the requirements for developments to demonstrate no risk to health or the environment due to contamination.

5.114 Additionally, Policy EN1: Nature conservation designated sites, will ensure that development related impacts with the potential to result in Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEol) of Habitats Sites will be avoided.

Conclusion

In light of the above, provided the recommendations for the demand management strategy identified in the AWS WRMP, are taken forward and that safeguard measures, including those identified as recommended mitigation within the associated HRA reports, are implemented successfully, it can be concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site and SPA, Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Colne Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Essex Estuaries SAC, or Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site and SPA, will occur as a result of impacts from water quantity. The complete WCS is in development and will be reviewed as part of the HRA for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. However, given the findings and recommendations of the WCS Technical Note and the recommendations of the AWS WRMP, it is concluded that there will be no AEol.

Summary of Appropriate Assessment

5.115 The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment are summarised in Table 5.2 below.

- The Habitats Sites that are shown as screened out with no colour indicate sites that were considered to have no likely significant effect at the Screening stage.
- The Habitats Sites highlighted in grey were found to have no adverse effect on integrity (AEol) provided the mitigation measures detailed in Chapter 6 are implemented.

Table 5.2: Summary of Appropriate Assessment

Habitats site	Physical damage and loss	Non-physical disturbance	Non-toxic Contamination	Air Pollution	Recreation	Water Quantity	Water Quality
Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site	No AEol	No AEol	Screened out	Screened out	No AEol	No AEol	No AEol
Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	No AEol	No AEol	Screened out	Screened out	No AEol	No AEol	No AEol
Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	No AEol	No AEol	Screened out	Screened out	No AEol	No AEol	No AEol
Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Dengie SPA and Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEol	Screened out	No AEol

Chapter 5 Appropriate Assessment

Habitats site	Physical damage and loss	Non-physical disturbance	Non-toxic Contamination	Air Pollution	Recreation	Water Quantity	Water Quality
Essex Estuaries SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	No AEoI	No AEoI
Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out
Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI
Hamford Water SAC	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI
Outer Thames Estuary SPA	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	Screened out	No AEoI	Screened out	Screened out
Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site	No AEoI	No AEoI	Screened out	Potential Adverse Effect on Integrity	No AEoI	No AEoI	No AEoI

Chapter 6

Conclusion and Next Steps

6.1 At the Screening stage, likely significant effects on Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination with other policies and proposals, were identified for plan policies:

- Colchester's housing need
- ST6: Colchester's employment need
- ST9: Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community
- NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply
- H7: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- E5: Colchester Zoo
- OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area
- OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area
- OA4: Northern Gateway
- PP1: Britannia Car Park, Colchester
- PP2: Vineyard Gate, Colchester
- PP3: Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester
- PP4: Braiswick, Colchester
- PP5: Land at Chesterwell, Colchester
- PP6 : Land at Colchester Station, Colchester
- PP7: Land off Bakers Lane, Colchester
- PP8: Land at Chesterwell, Colchester
- PP9: North East Colchester

- PP10: Land at Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP11: Europit Site, Colchester
- PP12: Robertsons Van Hire Site, Colchester
- PP13 : 146 Magdalen Street Site, Colchester
- PP14 : Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site, Colchester
- PP15 : Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP16 : Coal Yard Site, Colchester
- PP17: Land South of A12, Marks Tey
- PP18: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
- PP19: Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree
- PP20 : Land at Bonnie Blue Oak, Tiptree
- PP21: Highlands, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree
- PP22: Telephone Exchange, Tiptree
- PP23: Land East Dawes Lane, West Mersea
- PP24: Land North West of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP25: View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP26: Land North of Boxted Straight Road, Boxted Cross
- PP27: Swan Grove, Chappel
- PP28 : Land West of Station Road, Wakes Colne
- PP29 : Land East of School Road, Copford
- PP30: Land South of Long Road, Dedham
- PP31: Land North of Halstead Road East of Wood Lane, Eight Ash Green
- PP32: Land North of Halstead Road West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green
- PP33 : Land East of Plummers, Fordham

- PP34: Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley
- PP35: The Old School, Great Horkesley
- PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road, Great Tey
- PP37: Land north of Park Lane, Langham
- PP38: Land opposite Wick Road, Langham
- PP39: Land at The Furze, Layer de la Haye
- PP40: Land West of The Folley, Layer de la Haye
- PP41: Rowhedge Business Park, Rowhedge
- PP42: Land at White Hart Lane, West Bergholt
- PP43: Land North of Colchester Road, West Bergholt
- PP44: Land off Colchester Road, West Bergholt
- PP45: Land off New Road, Aldham
- PP46: Land at Birch Green, Birch
- PP47: Land at Picketts Farm, Fingringhoe
- PP48: Kelvedon Road, Messing
- PP49: Land at St Ives Road, Peldon
- UE1: University of Essex
- PEP1: Colchester Business Park
- PEP2: Knowledge Gateway
- PEP3: Tollgate West
- PEP4: Maldon Road
- PEP5: Land South of A12 Marks Tey
- PEP6: Anderson's Site, Marks Tey
- PEP7: Highland Nursery, Tiptree - Tiptree – this is a Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan employment allocation (TIP15), therefore there is no

associated site allocation. This site needs consideration at the Neighbourhood Plan level, however it is screened in to this assessment given that development will come forward.

- PEP8: Land South of Factory Hill, Tiptree
- PEP9: Bullbanks Farm, Eight Ash Green
- PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham
- PEP11: Land at Patterns Yard, West Bergholt
- PEP12: Land at Wakes Hall Business Centre

6.2 The findings of the HRA Screening determined that impacts could result in a likely significant effect in relation to:

- Physical damage and loss (offsite functionally linked land only) – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Non-physical disturbance (offsite functionally linked land only) – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Air pollution – Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Recreation – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Outer Thames Estuary SPA, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Water Quantity – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Water Quality – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,

Essex Estuaries SAC, Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.

6.3 The Appropriate Assessment stage identified whether the above likely significant effects will, in light of mitigation and avoidance measures, result in adverse effects on integrity of the Habitats Sites either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment are detailed below.

6.4 It can be concluded that no adverse effect on integrity will occur for the following Habitats Sites subject to the provision of safeguarding and mitigation measures as detailed in Chapter 5.

- Physical damage and loss (offsite functionally linked land only) – the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of offsite physical damage and loss in relation to Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site. However, mitigation is required for Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Wintering bird surveys are required for site allocations with high and moderate suitability to support qualifying bird species of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. This is required to determine the potential individual and cumulative importance of site allocations for these species and inform mitigation proposals. Safeguards and policy protection will also be provided in the Local Plan, including Policies EN1, ST2, GN1, GN5, LC3, E3, E5, CS5 and CS6, provided these are implemented successfully.
- Non-physical disturbance (offsite functionally linked land only) – the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of offsite non-physical disturbance in relation to Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site. However, mitigation is required for Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Wintering bird surveys are required for site allocations with high and moderate suitability to support qualifying bird species of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and

Ramsar site. This is required to determine the potential individual and cumulative importance of site allocations for these species and inform mitigation proposals. Safeguards and policy protection will also be provided in the Local Plan, including Policies EN1, ST2, GN1, GN5, LC3, E3, E5, CS5 and CS6, provided these are implemented successfully.

- Recreation – The Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of recreation in relation to Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site, Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Outer Thames Estuary SPA. Mitigation is provided through the Essex Coast RAMS, as well as through open space provision and the watercraft – Code of Conduct and policy protection measures in the Local Plan including Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, GN5: Suitable alternative natural greenspace (SANGs), CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage and CS6: Caravan parks.
- Water Quantity – The Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of water quantity in relation to Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Mitigation will be provided through the Water Resource Management Plans and through safeguarding and policy protection in the Local Plan provided this is implemented successfully including Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply and the associated water recycling infrastructure improvements proposed as part of the Local Plan at Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre. Additionally, the recommendations of the Water Cycle Study Technical Note should be implemented, and an additional policy is required as follows:
 - To address additional capacity needs at Dedham WRC, Fingringhoe WRC, Great Tey WRC, Langham WRC, West Bergholt WRC. A policy should require developers located within these WRC's drainage catchments to demonstrate they have agreed available capacity at the WRC (and the associated sewer network) with AWS prior to submitting planning applications.

- **Water Quality (water treatment/ discharge)** – With regards to the impact of water quality resulting from water treatment/ discharge upon Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity provided that the recommendations of the WCS Technical Note, and WRMPs, along with the policy mitigation set out within this HRA, are implemented and delivered successfully. Policy mitigation include Policies NZ3, EN1 and additional policies required to ensure the following:
 - Allocated development in the Colchester WRC's drainage catchment to significantly reduce the volume of surface water generated from sites being discharged to the combined sewer network.
 - Allocated development within specific WRC catchments to prevent surface water generated from sites being discharged to the foul sewer network.
 - Allocated development within specific WRC catchments to prevent surface water generated from sites being discharged to the foul sewer network.
- **Water Quality (direct pollution/ run off)** - With regards to the impact of direct pollution and run-off from site allocations, upon Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Essex Estuaries SAC, the Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity with provided that policy protection measures are implemented and delivered successfully, such as Policies EN9, and EN1.

6.5 In the absence of AADT traffic modelling data and in line with a precautionary approach, a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity cannot be reached in relation to the effect of air pollution on Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. The conclusion cannot be reached due to the potential vehicle emissions from the A137. Therefore, further traffic modelling is required to inform the assessment of air pollution.

6.6 The complete WCS will be reviewed as part of the HRA for the Regulation 19 Local Plan. However, in light of the recommendations set out within the WCS Technical Note, it can be concluded that there will be no AEoI as a result of impacts on water quantity and water quality, as described above.

Next steps

6.7 HRA is an iterative process and as such is expected to be updated in light of newly available evidence and comments from key consultees. As part of consultation on the Regulation 18 Colchester Local Plan, this report should be subject to consultation with Natural England, as well as the Environment Agency, to confirm that the conclusions of the assessment are considered appropriate at this stage of plan-making.

6.8 At the next stage of plan-making, the HRA report will be updated to reflect the contents of the updated Local Plan, including specific site allocations. AADT traffic modelling data and information from the complete Water Cycle Study.

LUC

February 2025

Appendix A

Figures





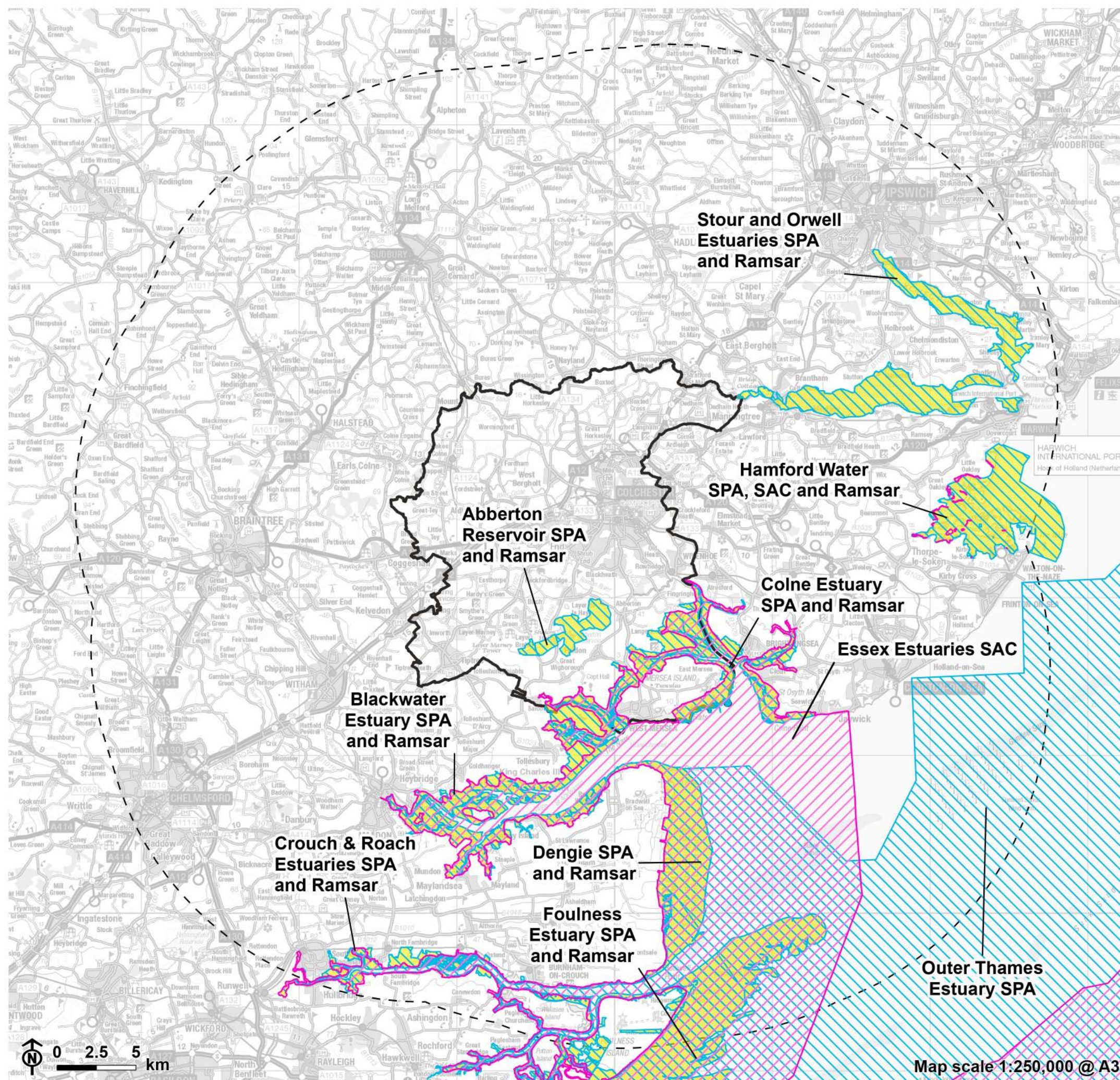






-  Colchester boundary
-  Preferred options residential allocations
-  Preferred options employment allocations
-  Infrastructure allocation



Figure 2: Habitat sites within 20km of Colchester



-  Colchester boundary
-  10km interval buffer from Colchester boundary
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Special Protection Area (SPA)
-  Ramsar
-  A Road



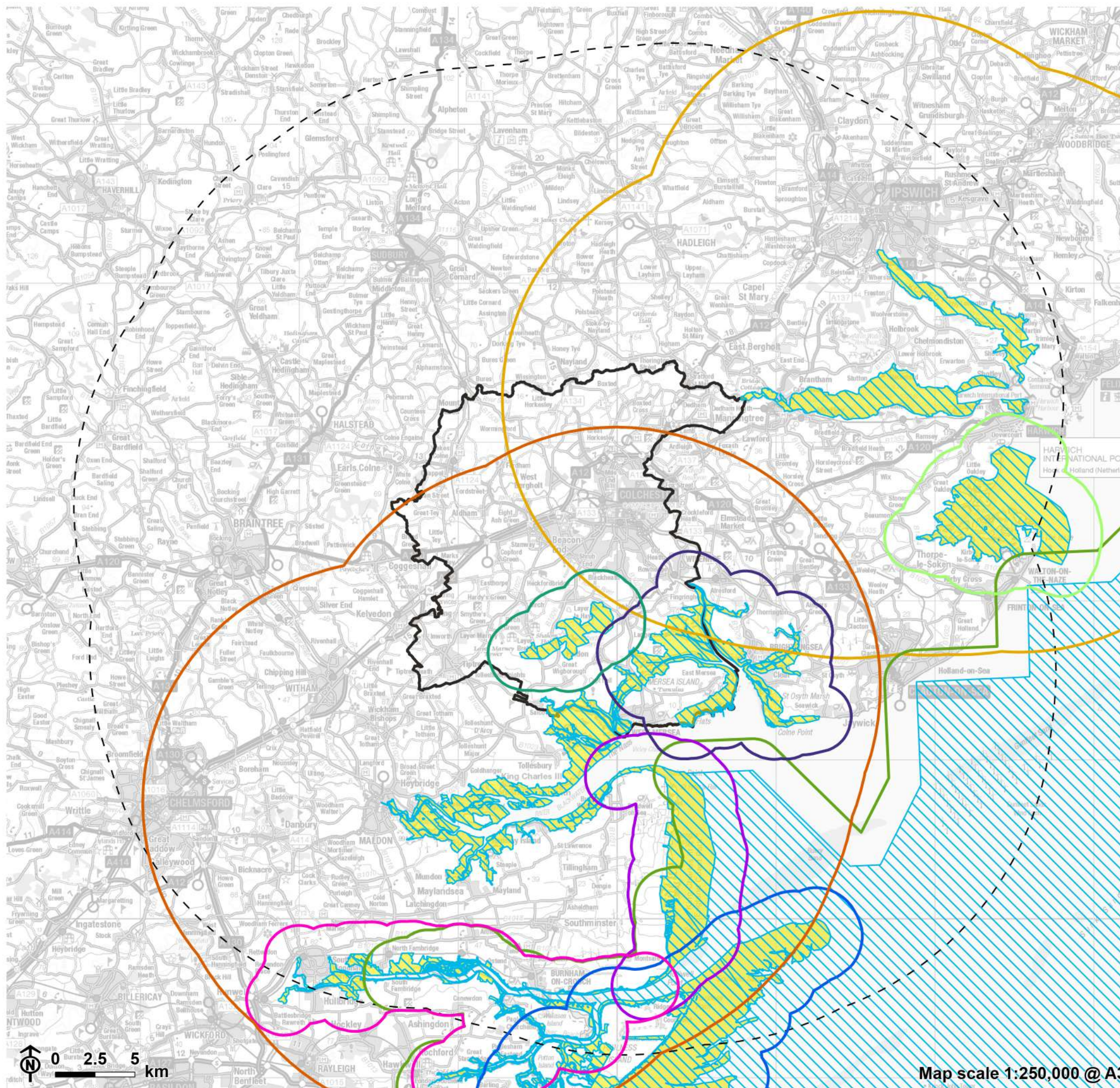
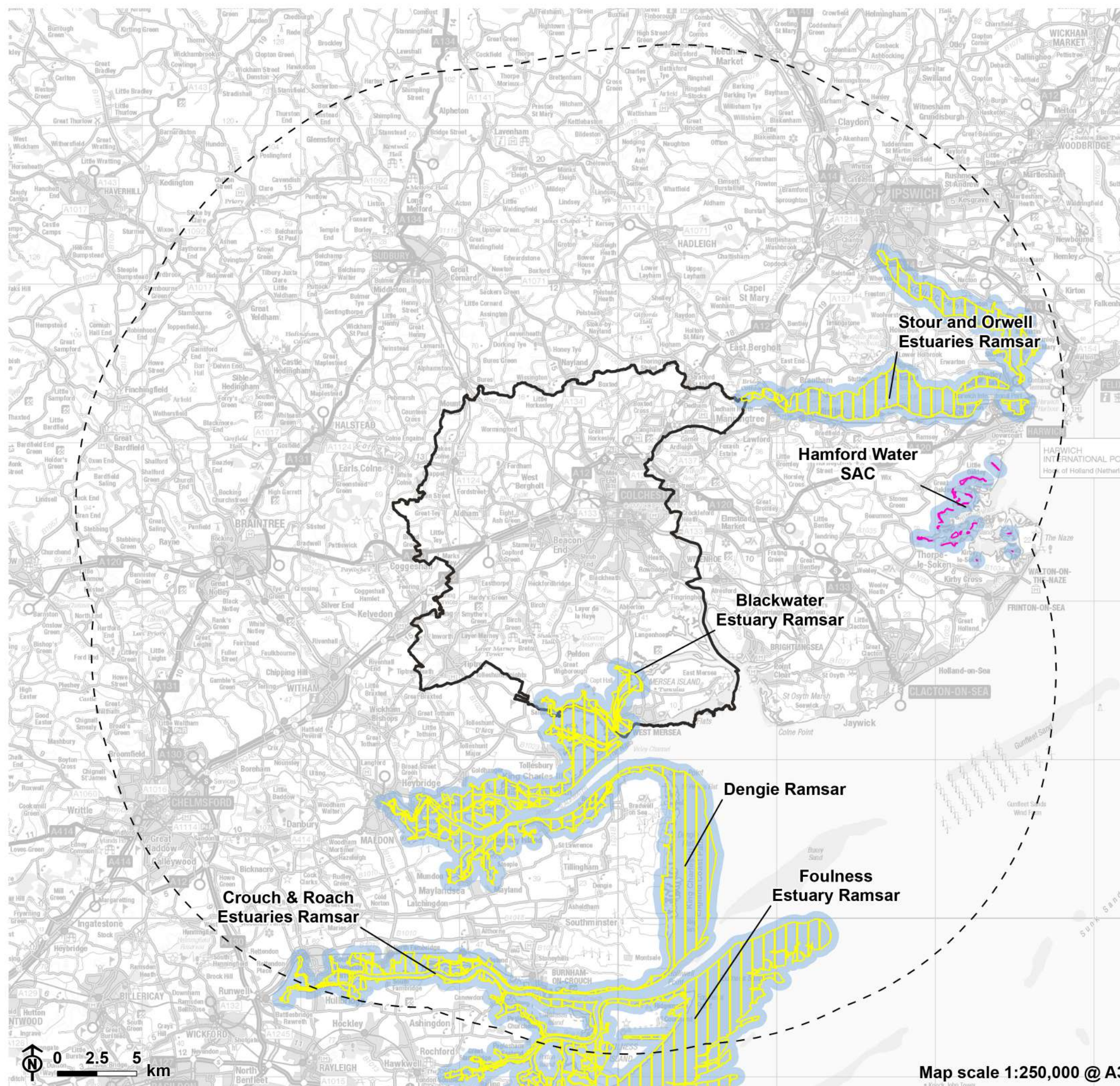


Figure 4: Functionally Linked Land for Birds

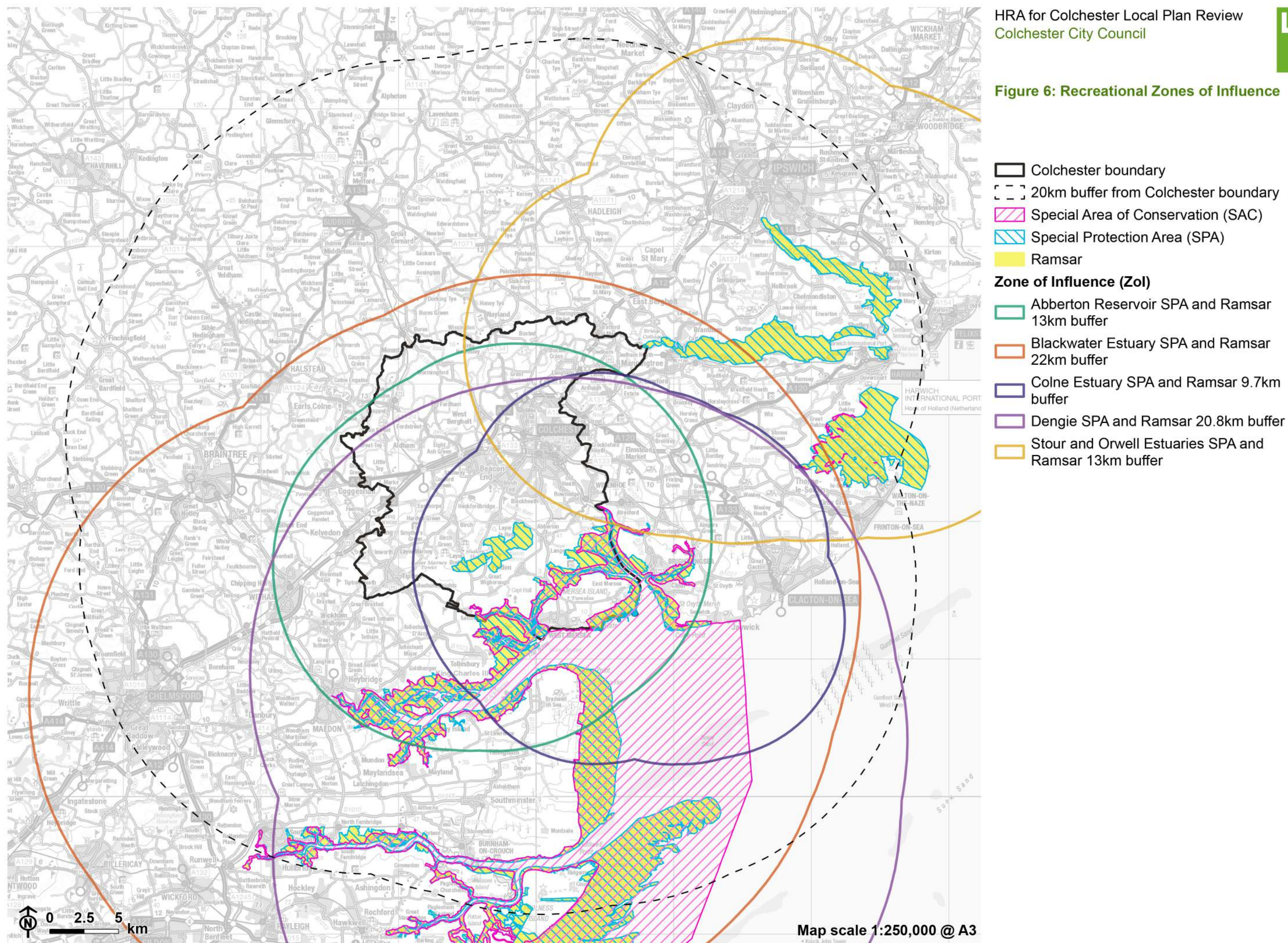
- Colchester boundary
 - 20km buffer from Colchester boundary
 - Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - Ramsar
- Functionally Linked Land for birds**
- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar 2km buffer
 - Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar 15km buffer
 - Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar 2km buffer
 - Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar 2km buffer
 - Dengie SPA and Ramsar 2km
 - Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar 2km
 - Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar 2km buffer
 - Outer Thames Estuary SPA 2km buffer
 - Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar 15km buffer

Figure 5: Functionally Linked Land for Invertebrates



- Colchester boundary
- 20km buffer from Colchester boundary
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Ramsar
- Functionally Linked Land for invertebrates

Figure 6: Recreational Zones of Influence



Appendix B

Habitats Sites Information

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

Essex Estuary SAC

- Area (ha)
 - 46111.42

Qualifying Features

- Annex 1 habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site:
 - Estuaries
 - Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
 - *Salicornia* and other animals colonising mud and sand
 - *Spartina* swards (*Spartinion maritimae*)
 - Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
 - Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs
- Annex 1 habitats present as a qualifying feature:
 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time

Key Vulnerabilities

- Coastal squeeze – Coastal defences along much of the Essex coastline prevent intertidal habitats from shifting landward in response to rising sea

levels. As a result, these habitats are being gradually degraded and reduced in extent. '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.

- Public access/ disturbance – Disturbance can have an impact upon the bird species of the associated SPA and Ramsar sites that lie within the area of the Essex Estuary SAC.
- Changes in species distributions – There have been declines in many of the qualifying species of the associated SPA sites which lie within the area of the Essex Estuary SAC.
- Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine – Shellfish dredging over subtidal habitats has been identified as an Amber activity and is considered a high priority for assessment and development of possible management for the site. Bottom towed fishing gear has been categorized as a 'Red' for the interest features listed, specifically the seagrass beds *Zostera* spp, a sub feature of the SAC.
- Planning Permission: general – 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.
- Invasive species – Non-native invasive species such as the Pacific oyster, American whelk tingle *Urosalpinx cinerea* and Slipper limpet *Crepidula fornicata* are known to occupy subtidal muddy habitats, potentially impacting native communities through competition for resources and predation. Invasive common cord grass may adversely affect plant species for which the Essex Estuaries SAC is designated.
- Fisheries: Recreational marine and estuarine – Recreational bait digging may damage the intertidal mudflats and sandflats and associated subfeatures and communities, such as eelgrass beds. The extent of the activity and potential impacts on site features are not currently well understood.

- Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition - 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.

Conservation Objectives

- With regard to the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified:
 - 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.
- Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:
 - The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
 - The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
 - The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
 - The populations of the qualifying features;
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Habitat - The qualifying habitats of the SAC are reliant on a range of coastal factors, including salinity, sedimentation, tide, sea level, turbidity, and elevation. These factors influence the complex interdependent intertidal, subtidal, and terrestrial habitats present along the coast.

- Additional factors are provided below for each habitat (where relevant):
 - Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time.
 - Reef-building species such as *Sabellaria spinulosa* help to stabilize the sediment, allowing the colonization of sessile animals.

Hamford Water SAC

- Area (ha)
 - 50.34ha

Qualifying Features

- Annex 2 Species that are a primary reason for selection of the site:
 - Fisher's estuarine moth *Gortyna borelii lunata*. Hamford Water supports 70% of the majority of the Essex population and is the UK's most important site for this species.

Key Vulnerabilities

- Inappropriate scrub control. Habitat management to maintain important grassland with Hog's Fennel plant for Fisher's estuarine moth, through clearance of blackthorn scrub.

Conservation Objectives

- 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.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Hamford Water provides a large shallow estuarine basin comprising tidal creeks, islands, intertidal mud, sand flats and saltmarshes. The saltmarshes comprise unimproved and improved grassland (including grazing marsh), scrub, woodland, hedges, ditches, ponds and reedbeds. Grassland habitats are of most importance for this species. Especially where the moth's food plant, hog's fennel (*Peucedanum officinale*) grows and where there is an abundance of the grasses required by the species for egg laying.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

Hamford Water SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 2187.21

Qualifying Features

- Annex I species present as a qualifying feature:
 - During the breeding season:
 - Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
 - Over winter:

- Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
- Common redshank *Tringa totanus*
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
- Teal *Anas crecca*

Key Vulnerabilities

- Coastal squeeze – The Essex coastline is subject to rising sea levels and increasing frequency in coastal and tidal surges, as a result of climate change. To prevent intertidal habitats from shifting landward, hard sea defences have been implemented. The combination of climate change, sea defences, and subsidence are likely to contribute to coastal squeeze, which will lead to the degradation and reduction of suitable habitat used by overwintering and breeding birds for feeding, roosting, and/or nesting.
- Changes in species distribution – Declines in the number of bird species present at Hamford Water SPA have occurred. This is likely to be the result of changes in population and distribution on an international scale, due to climate change.
- Public access/disturbance – Hamford Water attracts a large number of yachts and accompanying watersports. Sensitive areas of the SPA are threatened by unauthorized access on foot, from boats, and by quad bike/motorbike.
- Air pollution: Risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition – 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.

- Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine – 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' categorized 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.

Conservation Objectives

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:
 - The site's ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below).
 - Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below).
 - Off-site habitat, which provides foraging habitat for these species.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Open landscape with unobstructed line of sight within nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat.
- Eurasian teal (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Lakes, marshes, ponds & shallow streams.
 - Diet: Omnivorous, mostly seeds in winter, feeds mostly at night in shallow water.
- Dark-bellied brent goose (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration marshes and estuaries.
 - Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.
- Ringed plover (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Sandy areas with low vegetation, and on migration estuaries.
 - Diet: Mostly invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans.
- Black-tailed godwit (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: coastal estuaries and marshes and inland shallow waters.
 - Diet: Insects, worms and snails.
- Grey plover (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration pasture and estuaries.
 - Diet: In summer, invertebrates and in winter primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.
- Pied avocet (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Coastal lagoons, estuaries and mudflats.
 - Diet: Invertebrates, especially aquatic insects, crustaceans, worms.
- Little tern (Breeding)

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Habitat preference: Breeds exclusively along coasts with sand and shingle beaches and in shallow scrapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits and inshore islets.
- Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.
- Shelduck (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Coasts, estuaries, and lakes.
 - Diet: Mostly invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans.
- Redshank (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Rivers, wet grassland, moors, and estuaries.
 - Diet: Invertebrates, especially earthworms, crane fly larvae (inland) crustaceans, molluscs, marine worms (estuaries).

Dengie (Mid Essex Coast Phase 1) SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 3127.23

Qualifying Features

- The site supports the following Annex 1 species over-winter:
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
 - Red knot *Calidris canutus*
- The area regularly supports over 20,000 individual waterfowl over winter. Comprising the following species:

- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Red knot *Calidris canutus*

Key Vulnerabilities

- The vulnerabilities for Dengie SPA are the same as for Essex SAC above. The vulnerabilities listed for the Essex SAC are relevant to the qualifying species of the associated SPA and Ramsar sites which lie within the area of the SAC.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:
 - The site's ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below).
 - Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below).
 - Off-site habitat, which provides foraging habitat for these species.
 - Open landscape with unobstructed line of sight within nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat.
- Hen harrier (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: coastal marshes and fields.
 - Diet: Mainly small birds and mammals.
- Dark-bellied brent geese (Wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration marshes and estuaries.
 - Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.
- Grey plover (Wintering)
 - Habitat preference: Tundra, and on migration pasture and estuaries.
 - Diet: In summer, invertebrates and in winter primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.
- Red knot (Wintering)
 - Habitat preference: Coastal habitat.
 - Diet: Insects and plant material during the summer; and inter-tidal invertebrates, especially molluscs during the winter.

Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 1735.58

Qualifying Features

- The site regularly supports dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, over winter.
- The site is also regularly used by over 20,000 waterbirds including dark-bellied brent goose over winter.

Key Vulnerabilities

- The vulnerabilities for Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA are the same as for Essex SAC above. The vulnerabilities listed for the Essex SAC are relevant to the qualifying species of the associated SPA and Ramsar sites which lie within the area of the SAC.

Conservation Objectives

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Dark-bellied brent goose
 - Habitat preference: Tundra, and on migration marshes and estuaries.
 - Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.

Foulness Estuary SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 10968.9

Qualifying Features

- 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:
 - During the breeding season:
 - Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 - Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
 - Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*
 - Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
 - Ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Over winter:
 - Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
- Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
- Red knot *Calidris canutus*
- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Redshank *Tringa tetanus*
- The area regularly supports over 20,000 waterfowl over winter, including:
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
 - Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 - Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Red knot *Calidris canutus*
 - Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
 - Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Key Vulnerabilities

- The vulnerabilities for Foulness Estuary SPA are the same as for Essex SAC above. The vulnerabilities listed for the Essex SAC are relevant to the qualifying species of the associated SPA and Ramsar sites which lie within the area of the SAC.

Conservation Objectives

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Avocet (Breeding)
 - Habitat preference: shallow coastal lagoons on the east coast in summer.
 - Diet: aquatic insects, worms and crustaceans.
- Common tern (Breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Breeds along coasts, in dunes and on shingle beaches and rocky islands, on rivers with shingle bars, and at inland gravel pits and reservoirs, feeding along rivers and over freshwater.
 - Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.
- Little tern (Breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Breeds exclusively along coasts with sand and shingle beaches and in shallow scrapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits and inshore islets.
 - Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

■ Sandwich tern (Breeding)

- Habitat preference: Breeds along coasts and intertidal habitats including shingle beaches and rocky islands, on rivers with shingle bars, and at inland gravel pits and reservoirs, feeding along rivers and over freshwater.
- Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.

■ Ringed plover (Breeding)

- Habitat preference: Sandy areas with low vegetation, and on migration estuaries.
- Diet: mostly invertebrates.

■ Avocet (Wintering)

- Habitat Preference: Coastal lagoons, estuaries and mudflats.
- Diet: Invertebrates, especially aquatic insects, crustaceans, worms.

■ Hen harrier (Wintering)

- Habitat Preference: coastal marshes and fields.
- Diet: Mainly small birds and mammals.

■ Dark-bellied brent goose (Wintering)

- Habitat preference: Tundra, and on migration marshes and estuaries.
- Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.

■ Oystercatcher (Wintering)

- Habitat preference: Sandy, muddy, and rocky beaches.
- Diet: Mussels and cockles on the coast, mainly worms inland.

■ Grey plover (Wintering)

- Habitat preference: Tundra, and on migration pasture and estuaries.
- Diet: In summer, invertebrates and in winter primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

■ Red knot (Wintering)

- Habitat preference: Coastal habitat.
- Diet: Insects and plant material during the summer; and inter-tidal invertebrates, especially molluscs during the winter.

■ Bar-tailed godwit (Wintering)

- Habitat preference: Estuaries and coastlines.
- Diet: Mainly shellfish, marine snails, worms, and shrimps.

■ Redshank (Wintering)

- Habitat preference: Rivers, wet grassland, moors, and estuaries.
- Diet: Invertebrates, especially earthworms, crane fly larvae (inland), crustaceans, molluscs, and marine worms (estuaries).

Outer Thames Estuary SPA

■ Area (ha)

- 392451.66ha

Qualifying Features

- Red throated diver *Gavia stellata* (wintering)
- Little tern *Sterna albifrons* (breeding)
- Common tern *Sterna hirundo* (breeding)

Key Vulnerabilities

- Commercial fisheries and impact of this on prey.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Red throated diver *Gavia stellata* (wintering)
 - Habitat preferences: shallow waters off the coast.
 - Diet: small fish
- Little tern *Sterna albifrons* (breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Breeds exclusively along coasts with sand and shingle beaches and in shallow scrapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits and inshore islets.
 - Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.
- Common tern *Sterna hirundo* (breeding)

- Habitat preference: Breeds along coasts, in dunes and on shingle beaches and rocky islands, on rivers with shingle bars, and at inland gravel pits and reservoirs, feeding along rivers and over freshwater.
- Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.

Abberton Reservoir SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 718.31ha

Qualifying Features

- Supports the following wintering populations of internationally important waterbird assemblage:
 - *Phalacrocorax carbo*; Great cormorant (Breeding)
 - *Podiceps cristatus*; Great crested grebe (Non-breeding)
 - *Cygnus olor*; Mute swan (Non-breeding)
 - *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
 - *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)
 - *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
 - *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)
 - *Aythya ferina*; Common pochard (Non-breeding)
 - *Aythya fuligula*; Tufted duck (Non-breeding)
 - *Bucephala clangula*; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding)
 - *Fulica atra*; Common coot (Non-breeding)
- In late summer there are substantial concentrations of five migratory wildfowl species: mute swan; gadwall; shoveler pochard; and tufted duck

- The site also supports an internationally important assemblage of waterfowl in winter, (comprising the same wintering species listed above but excluding mute swan), including Great crested grebe, Eurasian wigeon, Gadwall, Eurasian teal, Northern shoveler, Common pochard, Tufted duck, Common goldeneye, Common coot.

Key Vulnerabilities

- Siltation: Silt entering the reservoir via Layer Brook is gradually accumulating in the western and central sections. This increases water turbidity and reduces light penetration, limiting the growth of the submerged aquatic plants on which the reservoir's fauna – including many of the waterbirds – largely depends, among other issues.
- Public access and human disturbance to feeding and resting waterbirds reduces their energy intake and increases energy expenditure. This can be critical if the birds are already stressed by severe weather or other factors.
- Planning permission: The reservoir's waterbirds often fly over surrounding farmland on their way to and from the nearby Blackwater and Colne estuaries. Some species also use the surrounding fields for feeding. Inappropriate development in the vicinity could therefore have adverse effects on them.
- Changes in species distribution: The reservoir's breeding colony of tree-nesting cormorants has declined from a peak of over 500 pairs in the mid-1990s to about 160 pairs in 2010. Reasons for the decline are unknown. Possibilities include a reduction in suitable nest sites, predation (possibly linked to lower water levels in the central section), cormorant control measures at fisheries, or a decline in summer food supply within foraging distance of the colony.
- Bird strike: Mute swans, and possibly other species, have been killed as a result of colliding with overhead powerlines near the reservoir.
- Water pollution: Water stored in the reservoir is high in nutrients (eutrophic) as it comes from intensively farmed catchment areas. As a result, algal blooms are regular in summer.

- Air Pollution: risk of atmospheric nitrogen deposition. The site is identified as at risk from air pollution as Nitrogen deposition levels exceed the site-relevant critical load for ecosystem protection. However the site's Nitrogen load is likely to be dominated by levels in the water entering the reservoir (mainly from the distant Ouse catchment) rather than direct deposition.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:
 - The site's ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below).
 - Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below).
 - Off-site habitat, which provides foraging habitat for these species.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Open landscape with unobstructed line of sight within nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat.
- *Phalacrocorax carbo*; Great cormorant (Breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Larger lakes and coastal habitat.
 - Diet: Fish, mostly by diving from surface.
- *Podiceps cristatus*; Great crested grebe (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Reed-bordered lakes, gravel pits, reservoirs, and rivers. In the winter, they are also found along the coast.
 - Diet: Mostly fish, some aquatic invertebrates especially in summer.
- *Cygnus olor*; Mute swan (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Lakes, ponds & rivers.
 - Diet: Aquatic vegetation (to 1m deep), also grazes on land; occasionally takes insects, molluscs, small amphibians.
- *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Marsh, lakes, open moor, and on migration also estuaries.
 - Diet: Mostly leaves, shoots, rhizomes, also some seeds.
- *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Marshes, lakes, and on migration also rivers and estuaries.
 - Diet: Leaves, shoots, mostly while swimming with head under water.
- *Anas crecca*; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Lakes, marshes, ponds & shallow streams.
 - Diet: Omnivorous, mostly seeds in winter, feeds mostly at night in shallow water.
- *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Shallow lakes, marsh, reedbed & wet meadow.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Diet: Omnivorous, especially small insects, crustaceans, molluscs, seeds; filters particles with sideways sweeping of bill.
- *Aythya ferina*; Common pochard (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Lakes & slow rivers, and on migration also estuaries.
 - Diet: Mostly plant material, also small animals.
- *Aythya fuligula*; Tufted duck (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Marshes, lakes, and on migration also rivers, estuaries.
 - Diet: Omnivorous, feeds on mud bottom mostly by diving.
- *Bucephala clangula*; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Lakes, rivers, and on migration also seacoasts.
 - Diet: Insects, molluscs and crustaceans, mainly by diving.
- *Fulica atra*; Common coot (Non-breeding)
 - Habitat preference: Lakes, marsh, rivers, and seacoast.
 - Diet: Omnivorous, but mostly aquatic plants.

Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 2719.93

Qualifying Features

- Annex I populations of the following species:
 - During the breeding season:
 - Little Tern, *Sterna albifrons*

- Common pochard, *Aythya ferina*
- Common ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
- Over winter:
 - Hen Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
- This site also qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species:
 - Over winter:
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Redshank, *Tringa totanus*
- The area qualifies under Article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl during winter including dark-bellied brent goose and redshank.

Key Vulnerabilities

- The vulnerabilities for Colne Estuary SPA are the same as for Essex SAC above. The vulnerabilities listed for the Essex SAC are relevant to the qualifying species of the associated SPA and Ramsar sites which lie within the area of the SAC.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:
 - The site's ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below).
 - Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below).
 - Off-site habitat, which provides foraging habitat for these species.
 - Open landscape with an unobstructed line of sight within nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat.
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose (Non-breeding); *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration, marshes and estuaries.
 - Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.
- Common Pochard (Breeding); *Aythya ferina*
 - Habitat Preference: Lakes and slow rivers, and on migration, also estuaries.
 - Diet: Mostly plant material, also small animals.
- Hen Harrier (Non-breeding); *Circus cyaneus*
 - Habitat Preference: coastal marshes and fields.
 - Diet: Mainly small birds and mammals.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Ringed Plover (Breeding); *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Habitat Preference: Sandy areas with low vegetation, and on migration, estuaries.
 - Diet: In summer, invertebrates, and in winter, primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.
- Common Redshank (Non-breeding); *Tringa totanus*
 - Habitat Preference: Rivers, wet grassland, moors, and estuaries.
 - Diet: Invertebrates, especially earthworms, crane fly larvae (inland), crustaceans, molluscs, and marine worms (estuaries).
- Little Tern (Breeding); *Sterna albifrons*
 - Habitat preference: Breeds exclusively along coasts with sand and shingle beaches and in shallow scrapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits and inshore islets.
 - Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 3667.37

Qualifying Features

- Over winter:
 - Northern pintail *Anas acuta*
 - Dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Red knot *Calidris canutus*

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Redshank *Tringa totanus*
- On passage the area regularly supports
 - Redshank *Tringa totanus*;
- During the breeding season the area regularly supports
 - Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
- During the winter the area regularly supports an assemblage of international importance of overwintering waterfowl (63017 waterfowl 5 year peak mean 19/05/2005). Species include great crested grebe, great cormorant, dark-bellied brent goose, common shelduck, wigeon, gadwall, northern pintail, goldeneye, common ringed plover, grey plover, lapwing, red knot, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, curlew, redshank and ruddy turnstone.

Key Vulnerabilities

- Coastal squeeze: Coastal defences are present along most of the Orwell coastline to mitigate impacts from climate change, such as rising sea levels. 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.
- Public access/disturbance: The Stour and Orwell Estuaries are subject to land- and water-based activities, including boating and water sports, walking, bait-digging, fishing, wildfowling, and military overflight training. These activities are likely to impact habitats supporting breeding and overwintering water birds. A better understanding of which species and habitats are most susceptible, which types of activity are most disturbing, and which locations and times of year are most sensitive is required to ensure the estuaries are appropriately managed.
- Changes in species distribution: Declines in the number of bird species present at the Orwell coastline have occurred. This is likely the result of

changes in population and distribution on an international scale due to climate change.

- Invasive species: An increase in *Spartina anglica* may be affecting the growth of *Spartina maritima*, a key habitat feature for qualifying bird roosting and feeding areas of saltmarsh and mudflat.
- Planning permission: General: 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.
- Air pollution: impact from atmospheric nitrogen deposition: Atmospheric nitrogen deposition exceeds the relevant critical loads for coastal dune habitats used by breeding terns, hence there is a risk of harmful effects.
- Inappropriate coastal management: Due to the presence of existing hard sea defences, such as sea 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.
- Fisheries: Commercial and estuarine: 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' categorized 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.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:
 - The site's ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below).
 - Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below).
 - Off-site habitat, which provides foraging habitat for these species.
 - Open landscape with an unobstructed line of sight within nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat.
- Over winter:
 - Pintail *Anas acuta*
 - Habitat Preference: Lakes, rivers, marsh, and tundra.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Diet: A variety of plants and invertebrates.
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration, marshes and estuaries.
 - Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, moor, heath, and on migration, estuaries, and coastal habitat.
 - Diet: Invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans.
- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
 - Habitat Preference: Marshy grassland and steppe, and on migration, mudflats.
 - Diet: Insects, worms, and snails, but also some plants, beetles, grasshoppers, and other small insects during the breeding season.
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration, pasture and estuaries.
 - Diet: In summer, invertebrates, and in winter, primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.
- During the winter the site supports a wintering waterfowl assemblage of international importance.
 - Habitat Preference: coastal habitats, saltmarshes, mudflats, lowland fields, inland waterbodies and rivers.
 - Diet: Mostly invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans, small fish and plants.
- In winter and on passage:
 - Redshank *Tringa totanus*
 - Habitat Preference: Rivers, wet grassland, moors, and estuaries.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Diet: Invertebrates, especially earthworms, crane fly larvae (inland), crustaceans, molluscs, and marine worms (estuaries).
- During the breeding season:
 - Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 - Habitat preference: shallow coastal lagoons on the east coast in summer.
 - Diet: aquatic insects, worms and crustaceans.

Blackwater Estuary SPA

- Area (ha)
 - 4403.38ha

Qualifying Features

- Over winter
 - Dark bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*
 - Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
 - Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Over winter the site also regularly supports an internationally important assemblage of waterfowl including *Branta bernicla bernicla*, *Charadrius hiaticula*, *Pluvialis squatarola*, *Calidris alpina alpina*, *Limosa limosa islandica*.
- During breeding season
 - Common pochard *Aythya farina*

- Common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
- Little tern *Sterna albifrons*

Key Vulnerabilities

- The vulnerabilities for Blackwater Estuary SPA are the same as for Essex SAC above. The vulnerabilities listed for the Essex SAC are relevant to the qualifying species of the associated SPA and Ramsar sites which lie within the area of the SAC.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified, 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 populations of the qualifying features.
 - The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- In general, the qualifying bird species of the SPA rely on:

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- The site's ecosystem as a whole (see list of habitats below).
- Maintenance of populations of species that they feed on (see list of diets below).
- Off-site habitat, which provides foraging habitat for these species.
- Open landscape with an unobstructed line of sight within nesting, foraging, or roosting habitat.
- Over winter the following birds are supported:
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration, marshes and estuaries.
 - Diet: Vegetation, especially eel-grass.
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, moor, heath, and on migration, estuaries, and coastal habitat.
 - Diet: Invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans.
 - Common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Habitat Preference: Sandy areas with low vegetation, and on migration, estuaries.
 - Diet: Mostly invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans.
 - Hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*
 - Habitat Preference: coastal marshes and fields.
 - Diet: Mainly small birds and mammals.
 - Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
 - Habitat Preference: coastal estuaries and marshes and inland shallow waters.
 - Diet: Insects, worms, and snails.

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Habitat Preference: Tundra, and on migration, pasture and estuaries.
 - Diet: In summer, invertebrates, and in winter, primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.
- During breeding season the following birds are supported:
 - Common pochard *Aythya farina*
 - Habitat Preference: Lakes and slow rivers, and on migration, also estuaries.
 - Diet: Mostly plant material, also small animals.
 - Common ringed plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Habitat preference: Sandy areas with low vegetation, and on migration estuaries.
 - Diet: In summer, invertebrates and in winter primarily marine worms, crustaceans, and molluscs.
 - Little tern *Sterna albifrons*
 - Habitat preference: Breeds exclusively along coasts with sand and shingle beaches and in shallow scrapes on sand and shingle beaches, spits and inshore islets.
 - Diet: small fish such as sandeels, sprats, and whiting and small invertebrates.

Ramsar Sites

Abberton Reservoir Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 726.2

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 5 – species with peak counts in winter:

- 23787 waterfowl including gadwall, Eurasian teal, and northern shoveler.

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

- Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation):
 - Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:
 - Gadwall, *Anas strepera strepera*, NW Europe: 550 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
 - Northern shoveler, *Anas clypeata*, NW & C Europe: 377 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
 - Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope*, NW Europe: 2888 individuals, representing an average of 1.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1991/92-1995/96)
- Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6:
 - Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:
 - Mute swan, *Cygnus olor*, Britain: 387 individuals, representing an average of 1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
 - Common pochard, *Aythya ferina*, NE & NW Europe: 4373 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Abberton Reservoir SPA (above).

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Refer to Abberton Reservoir SPA above.

Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 4395.15ha

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 1:

- The site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh present.

Ramsar criterion 2:

- The site supports 16 species of red data book invertebrates. In descending order of rarity these are: Endangered: a water beetle *Paracymus aeneus*; Vulnerable: a damselfly *Lestes dryas*, the flies *Aedes flavescens*, *Erioptera bivittata*, *Hybomitra expollicata* and the spiders *Heliophanus auratus* and

Trichopterna cito; Rare: the beetles *Baris scolopacea*, *Philonthus punctus*, *Graptodytes bilineatus* and *Malachius vulneratus*, the flies *Campsicemus magius* and *Myopites eximia*, the moths *Idaea ochrata* and *Malacosoma castrensis* and the spider *Euophrys*.

Ramsar criterion 3:

- This site supports a full and representative sequence of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance:

- Species with peak counts in winter:
 - 105,061 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

- Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation):
 - Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.
 - Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Common shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
 - European golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*

- Common redshank *Tringa totanus totanus*

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Blackwater Estuary SPA (above)

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Habitat: Saltmarsh habitat is reliant on a range of coastal factors, particularly sedimentary and tidal processes which influence the pattern and development of vegetation. These factors influence the complex interdependent intertidal, subtidal, and terrestrial habitats present along the coast.
- Plants: Plant communities are reliant on the coastal habitats within the Ramsar site. These habitats are dependent on a range of coastal factors and processes, including salinity, sedimentation, sea level, turbidity, and elevation.
- Invertebrates: These species are reliant on the saltmarsh habitat and characteristic flora and fauna present within the Habitats Site. Key sources of food range from flowering plants and organic matter to other invertebrate species.
- Birds: Refer to Blackwater Estuary SPA above. Consideration also needs to be given to other birds, for which this Ramsar site is designated:
- Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*
 - Habitat Preference: Coasts, estuaries, and lakes.

- Diet: Mostly invertebrates, especially insects, molluscs, and crustaceans.
- European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*
 - Habitat preferences: lowland grassland, farmland and sheltered coasts.
 - Diet: invertebrates and worms
- Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*
 - Habitat Preference: Rivers, wet grassland, moors, and estuaries.
 - Diet: Invertebrates, especially earthworms, crane fly larvae (inland) crustaceans, molluscs, marine worms (estuaries).

Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2)

Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 2719.93

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 1:

- The site is important due to the extent and diversity of saltmarsh present.

Ramsar criterion 2:

- The site supports 12 species of nationally scarce plants and at least 38 British Red Data Book invertebrate species.

Ramsar criterion 3:

- This site supports a full and representative sequence of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance:

- Species with peak counts in winter:
 - 32,041 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

- Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation):
 - Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Dark-bellied Brent Goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Common Redshank, *Tringa totanus tetanus*
- Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6:
 - Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica* (wintering)

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Colne Estuary SPA (above)

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Habitat: Saltmarsh habitat is reliant on a range of coastal factors, particularly sedimentary and tidal processes which influence the pattern and development of vegetation. These factors influence the complex interdependent intertidal, subtidal, and terrestrial habitats present along the coast.
- Plants: Plant communities are reliant on the coastal habitats within the Ramsar site. These habitats are dependent on a range of coastal factors and processes, including salinity, sedimentation, sea level, turbidity, and elevation.
- Invertebrates: These species are reliant on the saltmarsh habitat and characteristic flora and fauna present within the Habitats Site. Key sources of food range from flowering plants and organic matter to other invertebrate species.
- Birds: Refer to Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA above. Consideration also needs to be given to the black-tailed godwit, for which this Ramsar site is designated:
- Black-tailed Godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica* (wintering)
 - Habitat Preference: coastal estuaries and marshes and inland shallow waters.
 - Diet: Insects, worms and snails.

Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 3676.92

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 2:

- Contains seven nationally scarce plants:
 - Stiff saltmarsh-grass, *Puccinellia rupestris*
 - Small cord-grass, *Spartina maritima*
 - Perennial glasswort, *Sarcocornia perennis*
 - Lax-flowered sea lavender, *Limonium humile*
 - Eelgrasses, *Zostera angustifolia*, *Z. marina*, and *Z. noltei*
- Contains five British Red Data Book invertebrates the muscid fly *Phaonia fusca*; the horsefly *Haematopota grandis*; two spiders, *Arctosa fulvolineata* and *Baryphema duffeyi*; and the Endangered swollen spire snail *Mercuria confuse*.

Ramsar criterion 5:

- Assemblages of international importance; species with peak counts in winter: 63,017 waterfowl.

Ramsar criterion 6:

- Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance:
 - Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:
 - Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*
 - Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Northern pintail, *Anas acuta*
 - Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*

- Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*
- Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*
- Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA (See above).
- A key threat identified by RIS was erosion.
- Erosion – 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.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Plants: Plant communities are reliant on the coastal habitats within the Ramsar site. These habitats are dependent on a range of coastal factors and processes, including salinity, sedimentation, sea level, turbidity and elevation.
- Birds: Refer to Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA above.

Hamford Water Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 2187.21

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 6

- Species/ populations occurring at levels of international importance
 - Species/populations with peak counts in spring/autumn:
 - Ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Common redshank, *Tringa totanus tetanus*
 - Species/populations with peak counts in winter:
 - Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*
- Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6:
 - Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*

Key Vulnerabilities

- Refer to Hamford Water SPA above.

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Refer to Hamford Water SPA above.

Dengie Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 3127.23

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 1

- 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, representing 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and 7% of the total area of saltmarsh in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 2

- Dengie supports a number of rare plant and animal species. The Dengie has 11 species of nationally scarce plants:
 - Sea kale *Crambe maritima*
 - Sea barley *Hordeum marinum*
 - Golden samphire *Inula crithmoides*
 - Lax flowered sea lavender *Limonium humile*
 - The glassworts *Sarcocornia perennis* and *Salicornia pusilla*
 - Small cord-grass *Spartina maritima*

Appendix B Habitats Sites Information

- Shrubby sea-blite *Suaeda vera*
- The eelgrasses *Zostera angustifolia*, *Z. marina*, and *Z. noltei*.
- The invertebrate fauna includes the following Red Data Book species:
 - A weevil *Baris scolopacea*
 - A horsefly *Atylotus latistriatus*
 - A jumping spider *Euophrys browning*

Ramsar criterion 3

- This site supports a full and representative sequence of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 5

- Assemblages of international importance:
 - Species with peak counts in winter: 43,828 waterfowl (5-year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

- Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):
 - Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Grey plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Red knot *Calidris canutus islandica*
- Species/ populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.
 - Species with peak counts in winter:

- Bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica lapponica*

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Dengie Estuary SPA (above).

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Habitat: Saltmarsh habitat is reliant on a range of coastal factors, particularly sedimentary and tidal processes which influence the pattern and development of vegetation. These factors influence the complex interdependent intertidal, subtidal, and terrestrial habitats present along the coast.
- Invertebrates: These species are reliant on the saltmarsh habitat and the characteristic flora and fauna that are present within the Habitats Site. Key sources of food range from flowering plants, organic matter, and other invertebrate species.
- Birds: Refer to Dengie (Mid- Essex Phase 1) SPA above for details on qualifying bird species.

Crouch and Roach Estuaries Ramsar site

- Area (ha)
 - 1735.58

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 2

- Supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable or endangered species or subspecies of plant and animal, including 13 nationally scarce plant species:
 - Slender hare's ear *Bupleurum tenuissimum*
 - Divided sedge *Carex divisa*
 - Sea barley *Hordeum marinum*
 - Golden-samphire *Inula crithmoides*
 - Lax-flowered sea-lavender *Limonium humile*
 - Curved hard-grass *Parapholis incurva*
 - Borrer's saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia fasciculata*
 - Stiff saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia rupestris*
 - Spiral tasselweed *Ruppia cirrhosa*
 - One-flowered glasswort *Salicornia pusilla*
 - Small cord-grass *Spartina maritima*
 - Shrubby sea-blite *Suaeda vera*
 - Sea clover *Trifolium squamosum*
- Several important invertebrate species are also present on the site:
 - Scarce emerald damselfly *Lestes dryas*
 - The shorefly *Parydroptera discomyzina*
 - The rare soldier fly *Stratiomys singularior*
 - The large horsefly *Hybomitra expollicata*
 - The beetles *Graptodytes bilineatus* and *Malachius vulneratus*

- The ground lackey moth *Malacosoma castrensis*
- *Eucosoma catoprana*

Ramsar criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance:

- Species with peak counts in winter: 16,970 waterfowl

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance

- Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):
 - Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*, 2,103 individuals

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA (above).

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Habitat: The habitats within the site are reliant on a range of coastal factors, particularly sedimentary and tidal processes which influence the pattern and development of vegetation. These factors influence the complex interdependent intertidal, subtidal, and terrestrial habitats present along the coast.

- Invertebrates: These species are reliant on the wetland habitats and the characteristic flora and fauna that are present within the Habitats Site. Key sources of food range from flowering plants, organic matter, and other invertebrate species.
- Birds: Refer to Crouch and Roach Estuaries (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 3) SPA above for details on qualifying bird species.

Foulness Estuary Ramsar

- Area (ha)
 - 10932.95

Qualifying Features

Ramsar criterion 1

- This site qualifies by virtue of the extent and diversity of saltmarsh habitat present. This and four other sites in the Mid-Essex Coast Ramsar site complex include a total of 3,237 ha, representing 70% of the saltmarsh habitat in Essex and 7% of the total area of saltmarsh in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 2

- The site supports a number of nationally-rare and nationally-scarce plant species, and British Red Data Book invertebrates.

Ramsar criterion 3

- The site contains extensive saltmarsh habitat, with areas supporting full and representative sequences of saltmarsh plant communities covering the range of variation in Britain.

Ramsar criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance

- Species with peak counts in winter:
 - 82,148 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)

Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance

- Species with peak counts in winter:
 - Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Eurasian oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*
 - Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*
 - Bar-tailed godwit, *Limosa lapponica lapponica*

Key Vulnerabilities

- Similar to Foulness Estuary SPA (above).

Conservation Objectives (only available for SACs and SPAs)

- None available.

Non-qualifying habitats and species upon which the qualifying Habitats and/or species depend

- Habitat: Saltmarsh habitat is reliant on a range of coastal factors, particularly sedimentary and tidal processes which influence the pattern

and development of vegetation. These factors influence the complex interdependent intertidal, subtidal, and terrestrial habitats present along the coast.

- Invertebrates: These species are reliant on the saltmarsh habitat and the characteristic flora and fauna that are present within the Habitats Site. Key sources of food range from flowering plants, organic matter, and other invertebrate species.
- Birds: Refer to Foulness (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 5) SPA above for details on qualifying bird species.

Appendix C

Screening of Policies

Policies screened out – no likely significant effect

C.1 The following policies have been screened out as they will not result in new development or activities that could have a likely significant effect:

Policy ST1: Health and Wellbeing

C.2 This policy sets out the requirements for the design of places and developments to provide opportunities for healthy lifestyles.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.3 This policy relates to the design of places and will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.4 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.5 No LSE

Policy ST2: Environment and the Green Network and Waterways

C.6 This policy sets out the requirement for development proposals to conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment and to have due regard to other policies and strategies including Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS).

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.7 This policy relates to the protection and enhancement of the natural and historic environment and therefore, will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.8 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.9 No LSE

Policy ST3: Spatial Strategy

C.10 This policy sets out the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy for growth across Colchester.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.11 The policy does not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.12 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.13 No LSE

Policy ST4: Development in the Countryside

C.14 This policy sets out the design requirements and considerations for development in the countryside.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.15 The policy does not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.16 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.17 No LSE

Policy ST7: Infrastructure and Connectivity

C.18 This policy sets out the requirement for new development to provide appropriate infrastructure.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.19 The policy does not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.20 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.21 No LSE

Policy ST8: Place Shaping Principles

C.22 This policy sets out the design requirements for new development to ensure that it is enhancing the natural landscape and setting.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.23 This policy relates to the design principles for new development but will not result in development itself.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.24 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.25 No LSE

Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites

C.26 This policy sets out the avoidance of development related impacts upon Habitats Sites and SSSIs, and the mitigation in place in relation to recreational impacts which might arise from development. It references the Essex Coast RAMS (Bird Aware Essex Coast) which includes avoidance and mitigation measures.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.27 The policy ensures that development related impacts resulting in Adverse Affect on Integrity (AEol) of Habitats Sites and SSSIs is avoided and/ or appropriately mitigated. Therefore, the policy it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.28 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.29 No LSE

Policy EN2: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Environmental Net Gain

C.30 This policy sets out the requirement for development to deliver a minimum of 10% BNG and to maximise opportunities for delivery of onsite BNG. It also sets out the Council's preferred offsite BNG sites as identified within the policies map. It also sets out the opportunity maps within the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy which identify areas that have 'strategic significance'.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.31 This policy ensures that mandatory 10% BNG is delivered where required of developments by legislation. Therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.32 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.33 No LSE

Policy EN3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

C.34 This policy ensures that new development conserves and enhances biodiversity and geodiversity e.g. development proposals will be supported where the principle objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity and geodiversity including protected species, Species/ Habitats of Principle Importance and local importance and nationally or other designated areas.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.35 This policy relates to protection and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.36 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.37 No LSE

Policy EN4: Irreplaceable Habitats

C.38 This policy sets out the protection of irreplaceable habitats and the requirement to provide detailed explanation as to the exceptional reasons that may justify a loss with an associated compensation strategy required.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.39 This policy relates to the protection of irreplaceable habitats and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.40 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.41 No LSE

Policy EN5: New and Existing Trees

C.42 This policy ensures that opportunities for new tree planting as part of major development are sought and the existing trees are incorporated within new development.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.43 This policy relates to the protection of existing trees within new development and the requirement for new trees to be planted within major developments.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.44 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.45 No LSE

Policy EN6: Conserving and enhancing the Historic Environment

C.46 This policy sets out the requirement for development to protect and enhance the historic environment.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.47 This policy relates to the protection of the historic environment and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.48 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.49 No LSE

Policy EN7: Archaeology

C.50 This policy sets out the requirement for development to conduct adequate assessment of the potential impacts to archaeological features.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.51 This policy relates to the protection of archaeological features and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.52 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.53 No LSE

Policy EN8: Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

C.54 This policy sets out the requirement for development to ensure no risk of flooding to affect the development, nor to increase flood risk on or off site as a result of development.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.55 This policy relates to the avoidance of development within flood risk areas, and the requirement for development not to increase flood risk and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.56 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.57 No LSE

Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land

C.58 This policy sets out the requirements for development to avoid pollution (including air, light, noise, and water pollution). It also sets out the requirements for developments to demonstrate no risk to health or the environment due to contamination.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.59 This policy related to the avoidance of risks of pollution and contaminated land, however it does not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.60 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.61 No LSE

Policy GN1: Green Network and Waterways Principles

C.62 This policy sets out the requirement for major residential development to provide multifunctional open space of a minimum size of 10% of the gross site area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.63 This policy relates to the requirement for multifunctional open space as part of major residential development. It will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.64 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.65 No LSE

Policy GN2: Strategic Green Spaces and Nature Recovery

C.66 This policy sets out the Council's support for large scale strategic open spaces, habitat creation and restoration as part of the Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS).

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.67 This policy relates to the Council's support for the delivery of the LNRS. Therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.68 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.69 No LSE

Policy GN3: Local Green Spaces

C.70 This policy ensures the protection of designated Local Green Spaces as identified on the policies map.

C.71 This policy relates to designation and protection of Local green Spaces and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.72 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.73 No LSE

Policy GN4: Tree Canopy Cover

C.74 This policy sets out the requirement for a Tree Canopy Cover Assessment to be carried out for all major applications and for such developments to seek opportunity to increase the level of canopy cover on site by a minimum of 10%. New and existing trees must be incorporated into new developments and new streets should be tree lined.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.75 This policy relates to the provision of new trees within major new developments. Therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.76 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.77 No LSE

Policy GN5: Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

C.78 This policy sets out the requirement for Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) to be provided where the HRA identifies a need to provide alternative greenspace to divert visitor pressure away from sensitive Habitats sites such as the Colne and Blackwater Estuaries Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Essex Estuaries Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.79 This policy relates to the protection of sensitive Habitats sites through the requirement to provide SANGs. Therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.80 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.81 No LSE

Policy GN6: Retention of Open Space

C.82 This policy sets out the protection and enhancement of the existing green network and the Council's ambition to secure additional areas where deficiencies are identified.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.83 This policy relates to protection of open space and therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.84 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.85 No LSE

Policy LC1: Landscape

C.86 This policy sets out the protection for landscape character.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.87 This policy relates to the protection of landscape character through the requirement for developments to demonstrate that they will have no impact upon landscape character. This policy will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.88 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.89 No LSE

Policy LC2: Dedham Vale National Landscape

C.90 This policy sets out the protection of the Dedham Vale National Landscape through specific requirements for developments which lie on land within.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.91 This policy relates to the protection of the Dedham Vale National Landscape, however it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.92 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.93 No LSE

Policy LC3: Coastal Areas

C.94 This policy sets out the protection for coastal areas .

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.95 This policy relates to the protection of coastal areas through the requirement for developments to demonstrate that they will have no impact upon the coast. This policy will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.96 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.97 No LSE

Policy NZ1: Net Zero Carbon Development (In Operation)

C.98 This policy sets out the requirement for all new buildings to be designed and built to be net zero carbon in operation through being fossil fuel free and through generating renewable energy to match the annual energy usage.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.99 This policy relates to the design of ultra low energy buildings. Therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.100 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.101 No LSE

Policy NZ2: Net Zero Carbon Development (Embodied Carbon)

C.102 This policy sets out the requirement for development to demonstrate measures taken to minimise embodied carbon and utilise circular economy principles.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.103 This policy relates to the minimisation of embodied carbon as part of development proposals. Therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.104 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.105 No LSE

Policy NZ4: Renewable Energy, Waste and Recycling

C.106 This policy sets out the requirements for all proposals for renewable energy schemes to avoid environmental impacts and to maximise biodiversity enhancements and tree canopy cover.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.107 This policy relates to the requirements for renewable energy developments to ensure protection and enhancement of the environment and sustainability, however it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.108 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.109 No LSE

Policy H1: Housing Mix

C.110 This policy sets out the requirement for developments to provide a suitable housing mix to provide a range of sizes and types and both affordable home ownership and affordable rented housing.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.111 This policy relates to the proportion of housing types which are required. However, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.112 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.113 No LSE

Policy H2: Affordable Housing

C.114 This policy sets out the requirement for developments to provide affordable housing at a proportion of 30% of all new dwellings for developments with 10 or more dwellings on a site or an area of 0.5ha or more in urban areas, and developments of five dwellings or more in designated rural areas. The development of affordable dwellings will be delivered on site, except in exceptional circumstances where off site provision or financial contribution in lieu may be accepted, as determined on a case-by-case basis. It also sets out the support of affordable housing in villages on rural exception sites in certain circumstances.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.115 This policy relates to the proportion of affordable housing as part of developments. It does not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.116 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.117 No LSE

Policy H3: Student Accommodation

C.118 This policy sets out the requirements for proposals for purpose built student accommodation.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.119 The policy relates to proposals for purpose built student accommodation. It does not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.120 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.121 No LSE

Policy H4: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)

C.122 This policy sets out the requirements for proposals for HMOs.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.123 The policy relates to proposals for HMOs. It does not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.124 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.125 No LSE

Policy H5: Specialist Housing Including Housing for an Aging Population

C.126 This policy sets out the requirements for proposals for residential care homes, nursing homes and extra care housing. It sets out the requirement to provide specialist housing as part of development proposals within the Colchester Urban Area of 500 dwellings or more. It sets out the support of development proposals for hospices through expansion of existing sites or development of new sites within settlements. It also sets out the requirement for 80% of dwellings, 5% of all new market homes and 10% of all affordable homes to be built to accessible and adaptable standards.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.127 This policy relates to proposals for specialist housing. It will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.128 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.129 No LSE

Policy H6: Self and Custom Build

C.130 This policy sets out the requirements for self and custom build housing and provision of space on developments of 150 dwellings or more to provide serviced plots to minimum 2% of the total number of dwellings on site for self build and custom build homes. This is required where the Council's self build register identifies a need at the time an application is submitted.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.131 This policy relates to self and custom build housing but it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.132 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.133 No LSE

Policy H8: Rural Workers Dwellings

C.134 This policy sets out the requirements for proposals to create new permanent rural workers' dwellings and temporary workers' dwellings in the form of caravans/ mobile homes for a period of up to three years as part of existing businesses. The policy also sets out the requirements for applications for the removal of occupancy restrictions for existing rural dwellings which are no longer needed in certain circumstances.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.135 This will result in small scale development of new housing for rural workers, however it will be located within existing businesses and be of a small scale and nature.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.136 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.137 No LSE

Policy E1: Protection of employment

C.138 This policy sets out the protection of existing employment land and premises.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.139 The policy relates to the protection of employment land and will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.140 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.141 No LSE

Policy E2: Economic Development in Rural Areas and the Countryside

C.142 This policy sets out the protection of existing and proposed employment land and premises within rural areas.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.143 The policy relates to the protection of employment land in rural areas and will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.144 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.145 No LSE

Policy E3: Agricultural Development and Diversification

C.146 This policy sets out the requirements of proposals for diversification which support the rural economy.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.147 The policy relates to the requirements of proposals for diversification. However, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.148 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.149 No LSE

Policy E4: Retail and Centres

C.150 This policy sets out the hierarchy of town, district and local centres.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.151 The policy relates to the types of retail and centres and the proposals which are permitted within different types of retail areas and centres. However, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.152 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.153 No LSE

Policy CS1: Retention of community facilities

C.154 The policy sets out the protection of existing community facilities.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.155 The policy relates to the protection of community facilities and therefore, it will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.156 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.157 No LSE

Policy CS2: Enhancement of and provision for new Community Facilities

C.158 This policy sets out the support of proposals to enhance and provide new community facilities where they are delivered in compliance with the other policies in the plan.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.159 The policy relates to the enhancement of existing and creation of new community facilities, however it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.160 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.161 No LSE

Policy CS3: Education facilities

C.162 The policy sets out the protection of existing education facilities and the support for re-development of such land which may have recently ceased to be used for educational purposes.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.163 The policy relates to the protection of education facilities and therefore, it will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.164 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.165 No LSE

Policy CS4: Sports provision

C.166 The policy sets out the protection of existing and enhancement and delivery of new sports facilities.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.167 The policy relates to the protection of and requirements for provision of new sports facilities and therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.168 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.169 No LSE

Policy CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage

C.170 The policy sets out the requirements of proposals for new and extended visitor attractions and facilities including accommodation.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.171 The policy relates to the requirements of all new and extended visitor facilities and accommodation and therefore, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.172 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.173 No LSE

Policy CS6: Caravan parks

C.174 The policy sets out the requirements of proposals at caravan parks.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.175 The policy relates to the protection of community facilities and therefore, it will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.176 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.177 No LSE

Policy PC1: Healthier food environments

C.178 The policy sets out the requirement of new developments to safeguard, create or enhance the role of community food growing and food markets and sets restrictions on locations for fast food outlets.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.179 The policy relates to the protection and enhancement or creation of community food growing facilities and it will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.180 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.181 No LSE

Policy PC2: Active and sustainable travel

C.182 The policy sets out the requirement for development to have active travel routes and sustainable transport.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.183 The policy relates to active travel and sustainable transport and therefore, it will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.184 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.185 No LSE

Policy PC3: Parking Standards

C.186 The policy sets out car parking standards and guidance.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.187 The policy relates to parking standards and guidance and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.188 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.189 No LSE

Policy PC4: Development density

C.190 The policy sets out the support of proposals which make efficient use of land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.191 The policy relates to making efficient use of land when planning and designing development proposals and therefore will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.192 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.193 No LSE

Policy PC5: Domestic Development

C.194 This policy sets out the requirements for residential alterations, extensions, outbuildings, residential annexes and flat conversions.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.195 This will result in small scale alterations of existing dwellings, however it will be located within existing settlements and be of a small scale and nature.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.196 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.197 No LSE

Policy PC6: Design and amenity

C.198 The policy sets out the design requirements for development proposals.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.199 The policy relates to the design requirements for development proposals. However it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.200 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.201 No LSE

Policy PC7: Residential schemes on greenfield sites

C.202 This policy sets out the design requirements of residential developments on greenfield sites.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.203 The policy relates to the design requirements of development proposals on greenfield sites. However, it will not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.204 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.205 No LSE

Policy PC8: Private amenity space

C.206 This policy sets out the requirements of residential proposals to provide private amenity space.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.207 The policy relates to the standard requirements for residential amenity space. It will not result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.208 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.209 No LSE

Policy CC1: City Centre

C.210 This policy sets out the types of development proposals which will be supported within the City Centre.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.211 The policy relates to the types of development which will be supported within the City Centre, but does not directly result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

C.212 N/A

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.213 No LSE

Policies screened in

C.214 The following policies have the potential for likely significant effects and have therefore been considered further in the Appropriate Assessment:

Policy ST5: Colchester's Housing Needs

C.215 This policy sets out the level of housing growth required as part of the Local Plan. It sets out the required delivery of 20,800 new homes between 2025 and 2041. The annual housing requirement is 1,300 new homes per year. The housing supply is as follows:

- Existing Commitments (sites with planning permission) – 6,117
- Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (Through the Development Plan Document) – 1,700

- Windfall Allowance – 2,200
- Local Plan Allocations - 11,089
- Total supply - 21,106

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.216 This policy will result in the development of housing.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.217 Yes. This policy will result in new housing development, which has potential to result in impact upon Habitats Sites.

Policy ST6: Colchester's Employment Needs

C.218 This policy sets out the level of new employment land required as part of the Local Plan. It sets out the required delivery of at least 41.7ha of employment land to 2041. The employment allocations provide a total 46.9ha of safeguarded and new employment development land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.219 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.220 Yes. This policy will result in the development of employment land, which has potential to result in impact upon Habitats Sites.

Policy ST9: The Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community

C.221 This policy sets out the administrative boundary of the Tendring District Council and Colchester City Council. Within the area development will occur and it is expected that up to 2041 the Garden Community will deliver approximately 3,400 of the total 7,500 new homes with development continuing beyond 2041. In addition, there will be development of 9 new pitches for Gypsies and Travellers. There are other developments which will come forward within the Garden Community that are assessed according to the relevant place policies.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.222 This policy relates to the provision for housing, employment and infrastructure growth within the Garden Community. Therefore, it will result in development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.223 Yes. This policy will result in development, which has potential to result in impact upon Habitats Sites.

Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply (infrastructure site allocation Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre)

C.224 This policy sets out the requirements for adequate water supply and wastewater infrastructure to serve new development. The policy also sets the land allocated as an extension to Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre. The policy sets out the water efficiency standard required for all new residential development to meet the water efficiency standard of 80 litres per person per day.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.225 This policy relates to the requirements for developments to ensure adequate water supply and wastewater infrastructure. It also sets out the extension of Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre, which will result in small scale development.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.226 Yes. This policy sets out the extension to the Water Recycling Centre. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, non-toxic contamination and water quantity and quality.

Policy H7: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

C.227 This policy sets out the provision of 15 new pitches required in Colchester up to 2041. The Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community will provide nine pitches to Colchester. The remaining six will be provided by the expansion of an existing site at Severalls Lane. Strategic allocations are due to be finalised through Masterplanning. If no sites can be identified then proposals for new sites will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.228 This policy will result in small scale development of land to provide 15 new pitches.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.229 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum Gypsy and Traveller sites required until 2041. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, non-toxic contamination, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy E5: Colchester Zoo

C.230 This policy sets out the safeguarding of land to support the future expansion of Colchester Zoo.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.231 The policy relates to the safeguarding of land for any future expansion of the Zoo. Therefore, it has potential to result in development during the Local Plan period.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.232 Yes. This policy may result in development and expansion of Colchester Zoo. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, and water quality.

Policy OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area (residential site allocation 10994: King Edward Quay)

C.233 This policy sets out the development of approximately 200 new residential moorings within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.234 This policy will result in the development of 200 new residential moorings.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.235 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area (residential site allocation 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road)

C.236 This policy sets out the mixed-use development of approximately 150 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.237 This policy will result in the development of 150 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site

- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Outer Thames Estuary SPA
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.238 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area (residential site allocation 10987: Ford Car Showroom)

C.239 This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.240 This policy will result in the development of 100 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)

- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.241 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy OA4: Northern Gateway Opportunity Area (employment allocation Land North of Axial Way)

C.242 This policy sets out the mixed-use development of approximately 650 new homes and sets out the mix and type of housing required and supporting needs including open space and community facilities within this area. It also sets out the provision for a new local centre and for 2.3ha of employment land north of Axial Way.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.243 This policy will result in the development of 650 new homes, supporting community facilities and open space, a new local centre and employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.244 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. It also sets out the requirement for supporting development including community facilities, a new local centre and employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP1: Britannia Car Park, Colchester (residential site allocation 10976: Britannia Car Park)

C.245 This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.246 This policy will result in the development of 100 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.247 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP2: Vineyard Gate, Colchester (residential site allocation 10950: Vineyard Street Development)

C.248 This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.249 This policy will result in the development of 100 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.250 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP3: Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester (residential site allocation 10951 St Runwald Car Park)

C.251 This policy sets out the development of approximately 40 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.252 This policy will result in the development of 40 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.253 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP4: Braiswick, Colchester (residential site allocation 10952: Braiswick)

C.254 This policy sets out the development of approximately 30 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.255 This policy will result in the development of 30 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.256 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP5: Land at Chesterwell, Colchester (residential site allocation 10941: Chesterwell)

C.257 This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.258 This policy will result in the development of 50 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.259 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP6: Land at Colchester Station, Colchester (residential site allocation 10082: North Station)

C.260 This policy sets out the mixed use development of approximately 250 new homes and commercial land within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.261 This policy will result in the development of 250 new homes and commercial floorspace.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity

- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.262 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP7: Land off Bakers Lane, Colchester (residential site allocation 10761: Land off Bakers Lane)

C.263 This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.264 This policy will result in the development of 100 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.265 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP8: Land at Lakelands Crescent, Colchester (residential site allocation 10617: Lakelands Crescent)

C.266 This policy sets out the development of approximately 5 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.267 This policy will result in the development of 5 new homes. Given the small scale and nature of the development proposed this is unlikely to result in impacts upon the Habitats Sites, however it has been screened in on a precautionary basis.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation

- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.268 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP9: North East Colchester (residential site allocation 10616a: North East Colchester)

C.269 This policy sets out the mixed-use development of approximately 2,000 new homes and sets out the mix and type of housing required and supporting needs including community facilities and a new local centre within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.270 This policy will result in the development of 2,000 new homes, supporting community facilities and new local centre.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.271 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. It also sets out the requirement for supporting development including community facilities, and new local centre. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP10: Land at Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester (residential site allocation 10687: Land at Berechurch Hall Road)

C.272 This policy sets out the mixed-use development of approximately 875 new homes and sets out the mix and type of housing required and supporting needs including community facilities and new local centres within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.273 This policy will result in the development of 875 new homes, supporting community facilities and new local centres.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation

- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.274 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. It also sets out the requirement for supporting development including community facilities, and local centres. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP11: Europit Site, Colchester (residential site allocation 10984: Europit Site)

C.275 This policy sets out the development of approximately 40 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.276 This policy will result in the development of 40 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.277 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP12: Robertsons Van Hire, Colchester (residential site allocation 10988: Robertsons Van Hire)

C.278 This policy sets out the development of approximately 6 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.279 This policy will result in the development of 6 new homes. Given the small scale and nature of the development proposed this is unlikely to result in impacts upon the Habitats Sites, however it has been screened in on a precautionary basis.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation

- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.280 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP13: 146 Magdalen Street Site, Colchester (residential site allocation 10989: 146 Magdalen Street Site)

C.281 This policy sets out the development of approximately 15 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.282 This policy will result in the development of 15 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.283 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site, Colchester (residential site allocation 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site)

C.284 This policy sets out the development of approximately 200 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.285 This policy will result in the development of 200 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.286 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP15: Hawkins Road, Colchester (residential site allocation 10980: Hawkins Road)

C.287 This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.288 This policy will result in the development of 50 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.289 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP16: Coal Yard Site, Colchester (residential site allocation 10982: Coal Yard Site)

C.290 This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.291 This policy will result in the development of 50 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.292 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP17: Land South of A12, Marks Tey (residential site allocation 10690: Land South of A12)

C.293 This policy sets out the development of approximately 1,500 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.294 This policy will result in the development of 1,500 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.295 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP18: Land North of A120, Marks Tey (residential site allocation 10747a: Land North of A120)

C.296 This policy sets out the development of approximately 1,000 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.297 This policy will result in the development of 1,000 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.298 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP19: Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree (residential site allocation 10657: Land North of Oak Road)

C.299 This policy sets out the development of approximately 600 new homes within this area. It also proposes the delivery any associated infrastructure including schools, and for open space including a 27ha Tiptree Country Park.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.300 This policy will result in the development of 600 new homes, associated infrastructure and a Country Park.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.301 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes, infrastructure and open space proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP20: Land at Bonnie Blue Oak, Tiptree (residential site allocation 10261: Land at Bonnie Blue Oak)

C.302 This policy sets out the development of approximately 30 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.303 This policy will result in the development of 30 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.304 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP21: Highlands, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree (residential site allocation 10262: Highlands, Kelvedon Road)

C.305 This policy sets out the development of approximately 10 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.306 This policy will result in the development of 10 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.307 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP22: Telephone Exchange, Tiptree (residential site allocation 10991: Telephone Exchange)

C.308 This policy sets out the development of approximately 5 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.309 This policy will result in the development of 5 new homes. Given the small scale and nature of the development proposed this is unlikely to result in impacts upon the Habitats Sites, however it has been screened in on a precautionary basis.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation

- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.310 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP23: Land East of Dawes Lane, West Mersea (residential site allocation 10627: Land East of Dawes Lane)

C.311 This policy sets out the development of approximately 300 new homes within this area. It also sets out the provision for open space of at least 5ha.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.312 This policy will result in the development of 300 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.313 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP24: Land North West of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe (residential site allocation Land North West of the Fire Station)

C.314 This policy sets out the development of approximately 175 new homes within this area. It also sets out the provision for a new community space and pedestrian access to the adjacent allotments.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.315 This policy will result in the development of 175 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity

- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.316 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP25: View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe (residential site allocation 10618: View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe)

C.317 This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.318 This policy will result in the development of 50 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.319 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP26: Land North of Boxted Straight Road, Boxted Cross (residential site allocation 10676: Land North of Boxted Straight Road)

C.320 This policy sets out the development of approximately 150 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.321 This policy will result in the development of 150 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.322 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP27: Swan Grove, Chappel (residential site allocation 11113: Swan Grove)

C.323 This policy sets out the development of approximately 35 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.324 This policy will result in the development of 35 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.325 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP28: Land West of Station Road, Wakes Colne (residential site allocation 10649: Land West of Station Road)

C.326 This policy sets out the development of approximately 200 new homes within this area plus an area of approximately 8ha of new green infrastructure.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.327 This policy will result in the development of 200 new homes and 8ha of green infrastructure .

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.328 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP29: Land East of School Road, Copford (residential site allocation 10226a: Land East of School Road)

C.329 This policy sets out the development of approximately 300 new homes within this area plus community facilities and potential for a new local centre.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.330 This policy will result in the development of 300 new homes and community facilities.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.331 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP30: Land South of Long Road, Dedham (residential site allocation 10547: Land South of Long Road West)

C.332 This policy sets out the development of approximately 15 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.333 This policy will result in the development of 15 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.334 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP31: Land North of Halstead Road East of Wood Lane, Eight Ash Green (residential site allocation 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane)

C.335 This policy sets out the development of approximately 180 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.336 This policy will result in the development of 180 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.337 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP32: Land North of Halstead Road West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green (residential site allocation 10090: Land West of Brood Chase)

C.338 This policy sets out the development of approximately 250 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.339 This policy will result in the development of 250 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity

- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.340 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP33: Land East of Plummers, Fordham (residential site allocation 10508: Land East of Plummers)

C.341 This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.342 This policy will result in the development of 25 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.343 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP34: Land North of Coach Road Great Horkesley (residential site allocation 10691a: Land North of Coach Road)

C.344 This policy sets out the development of approximately 400 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.345 This policy will result in the development of 400 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.346 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP35: The Old School, Great Horkesley (residential site allocation 10122: The Old School)

C.347 This policy sets out the development of approximately 13 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.348 This policy will result in the development of 13 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.349 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road, Great Tey (residential site allocation 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road)

C.350 This policy sets out the development of approximately 125 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.351 This policy will result in the development of 125 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.352 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP37: Land North of Park Lane, Langham (residential site allocation 10664: Land North of Park Lane)

C.353 This policy sets out the development of approximately 900 new homes and a strategic open space within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.354 This policy will result in the development of 900 new homes and a strategic open space.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.355 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP38: Land Opposite Wick Road, Langham (residential site allocation 10291: Land opposite Wick Road)

C.356 This policy sets out the development of approximately 10 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.357 This policy will result in the development of 10 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.358 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP39: Land at The Furze, Layer de la Haye (residential site allocation 10759: The Furze)

C.359 This policy sets out the development of approximately 10 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.360 This policy will result in the development of 10 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.361 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP40: Land West of The Folley, Layer de la Haye (residential site allocation 10758: Land West of The Folley)

C.362 This policy sets out the development of approximately 60 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.363 This policy will result in the development of 60 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.364 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP41: Rowhedge Business Park, Rowhedge (residential site allocation 10956: Rowhedge Business Park)

C.365 This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.366 This policy will result in the development of 50 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.367 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP42: Land at White Hart Lane, West Bergholt (residential site allocation 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road)

C.368 This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.369 This policy will result in the development of 50 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.370 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP43: Land North of Colchester Road, West Bergholt (residential site allocation 10229: Land North of Colchester Road)

C.371 This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.372 This policy will result in the development of 100 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.373 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP44: Land off Colchester Road, West Bergholt (residential site allocation 10749: Land off Colchester Road)

C.374 This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.375 This policy will result in the development of 100 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.376 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP45: Land off New Road, Aldham (residential site allocation 10535: Land off New Road)

C.377 This policy sets out the development of approximately 15 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.378 This policy will result in the development of 15 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.379 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP46: Land at Birch Green, Birch (residential site allocation 10121: Land at Birch Green)

C.380 This policy sets out the development of approximately 15 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.381 This policy will result in the development of 15 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.382 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP47: Land at Picketts Farm, Fingringhoe (residential site allocation 10600: Land at Picketts Farm)

C.383 This policy sets out the development of approximately 5 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.384 This policy will result in the development of 5 new homes. Given the small scale and nature of the development proposed this is unlikely to result in impacts upon the Habitats Sites, however it has been screened in on a precautionary basis.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.385 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP48: Kelvedon Road, Messing (residential site allocation 10634: Kelvedon Road)

C.386 This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.387 This policy will result in the development of 25 new homes.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.388 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy PP49: Land at St Ives Road, Peldon (residential site allocation 10621: Land at St Ives Road)

C.389 This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes and associated open space within this area.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.390 This policy will result in the development of 25 new homes and associated open space.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Recreation
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.391 Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum of new homes proposed within the area. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution, recreation and water quantity and quality.

Policy UE1: University of Essex

C.392 This policy sets out the support for development associated with the expansion of the University. The Policy is also related to Policies PEP2: Knowledge Gateway and ST9: Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) to allow for provision of a range for additional jobs and to accommodate expansion of the existing research and technology uses.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.393 This policy will result in development associated with the expansion of the University.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.394 Yes. This policy defines the area safeguarded for the expansion of the University. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, non-toxic contamination, air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Policy PEP1: Colchester Business Park (employment site allocation 10969: Colchester Business Park)

C.395 This policy sets out the allocation of 2.4ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.396 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.397 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quality.

Policy PEP2: Knowledge Gateway

C.398 This policy sets out the safeguarding of 4.5ha employment land and supports the growth of the area to support economic growth.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.399 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.400 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and

loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Policy PEP3: Tollgate West (employment site allocation Land South of Tollgate West)

C.401 This policy sets out the safeguarding and development of 3.7ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.402 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.403 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quality.

Policy PEP4: Maldon Road (employment site allocation Land North of Maldon Road)

C.404 This policy sets out the safeguarding and development of 0.7ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.405 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.406 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Policy PEP5: Land South of A12 Marks Tey (employment land 10671: Land South of A12)

C.407 This policy sets out the allocation of 16ha of employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.408 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution

- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.409 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Policy PEP6: Anderson's Site, Marks Tey (employment allocation site Andersons Site)

C.410 This policy sets out the safeguarding of 3.2ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.411 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.412 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quality.

Policy PEP7: Highland Nursery, Tiptree (no site allocation as it is a Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan employment allocation)

C.413 This policy sets out the safeguarding of 1.1ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.414 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quantity
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

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

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.415 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and

loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Policy PEP8: Land South of Factory Hill, Tiptree (employment site allocation 10527: Land South of Factory Hill)

C.416 This policy sets out the allocation of 4.7ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.417 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.418 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Policy PEP9: Bullbanks Farm, Eight Ash Green (employment site allocation 10488: Bullbanks Farm)

C.419 This policy sets out the allocation of 0.8ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.420 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.421 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quality.

Policy PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham (employment site allocation Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham)

C.422 This policy sets out the safeguarding of 1ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.423 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.424 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quality.

Policy PEP11: Land at Pattens Yard, West Bergholt (employment site allocation Land at Pattens Yard)

C.425 This policy sets out the allocation of 2.1ha employment land and 0.7ha of open space.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.426 This policy will result in the development of employment land and open space.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Physical damage and loss – Functionally linked land (offsite)
- Non-physical disturbance – Functionally Linked Land
- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.427 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land and open space. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including physical damage and loss to functionally linked land (offsite), non-physical disturbance to functionally linked land, air pollution and water quality.

Policy PEP12: Land at Wakes Hall Business Centre (employment site allocation 10647: Land at Wakes Hall Business Centre)

C.428 This policy sets out the allocation of 0.9ha employment land.

Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the proposal

C.429 This policy will result in the development of employment land.

Potential Effects if proposal is implemented

- Air pollution
- Water quality

Habitats Sites potentially affected

- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- Essex Estuaries SAC
- Hamford Water SAC, SPA and Ramsar site
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

Is the policy likely to have significant effects?

C.430 Yes. This policy defines the area allocated for employment land. Therefore, the policy may contribute to effects, including air pollution and water quantity and quality.

Appendix D

Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

Bird habitat preferences

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

- Bird species: Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*
 - Season: Breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found around the coast and on lakes, reservoirs and rivers inland.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Great crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*
 - Season: Non-breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found on open waters such as reed-bordered lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Can be found in urban and suburban settings, in marine, intertidal and wetland environments.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Mute swan, *Cygnus olor*
 - Season: Non-breeding

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- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Can be found in urban, suburban, and countryside settings, on canals, ponds, lakes and rivers, farmland and grassland.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – can be found in urban and rural settings and may use farmland and grasslands.
- Bird species: Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope*
 - Season: Non-breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Lowland and largely maritime, especially along coasts in shallow, sheltered waters and extensive tracts of mud, sand, or salt marsh. Freshwater and brackish lagoons and tracts of flooded grassland also often preferred.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded pasture.
- Bird species: Gadwall, *Anas strepera*
 - Season: Non-breeding, Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): In winter, tends towards shallow sheltered parts of large wetlands, marsh, lakes, deltas, estuaries, or lagoons.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Eurasian teal, *Anas crecca*
 - Season: Non-breeding, Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Frequents open habitats such as shallow tidal coasts, large estuaries, saltmarshes, and lagoons, brackish or saline, flooded fields, and artificial waters such as reservoirs devoid of vegetation.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded fields.

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- Bird species: Northern shoveler, *Anas clypeata*
 - Season: Non-breeding, Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Present mainly in lowland areas, favouring a range of inland wetland sites and some coastal estuaries. Can be found in grassland, shallow lakes, marsh, reedbed, and wet meadow.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use grassland.
- Bird species: Common pochard, *Aythya ferina*
 - Season: Non-breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Can be found in lowland areas, where waterbodies have high nutrient status. Large numbers found on lakes, rivers, reservoirs, flooded gravel pits and estuaries. Can be seen in urban and suburban areas including towns and gardens.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use urban areas including gardens.
- Bird species: Tufted duck, *Aythya fuligula*
 - Season: Non-breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found on lakes, marshes, rivers, reservoirs and flooded gravel pits. Can be seen in urban and suburban areas including towns and gardens.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use urban areas including gardens.
- Bird species: Common goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*
 - Season: Non-breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Occupies coastal areas and inland sites, including river valleys, wetland networks, lakes and reservoirs.

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- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Common coot, *Fulica atra*
 - Season: Non-breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Often seen on park lakes, ponds and rivers and found in urban areas including towns and gardens. Will also use wetland, marsh, marine, and grassland areas close to waterbodies.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use grassland and urban areas including gardens.

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- Bird species: Dark bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Resorts to shallow seacoasts and estuaries, especially with extensive mudflats rich in sea grass. Strongly attached to intertidal feeding zones but increasing numbers have moved inland to feed on grass and cultivated crops. When not feeding, prefers to rest or sleep on sea surface.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – this species may use pasture and arable fields.
- Bird species: Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Attracted to broad coastal beaches, especially mudflats rich in invertebrate food accessible as tide ebbs, but also occurs regularly on lagoons, estuaries, tidal rivers, margins of lakes and other freshwater bodies as well as sewage farms.

Appendix D Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may utilise pasture where regular flooding occurs.
- Bird species: Common ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Season: Winter, Summer
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): A bird of seacoasts. Secondly occupies adjoining hinterlands up to substantial distance inland, where estuaries, rivers, lakes, tundra, gravel beds, sand bars, grasslands of spare and low growth, or other suitable well-drained terrain exists. Most numerous and concentrated on wide sandy or shingle tidal beaches.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Often on arable farmland or rough pastures, or on heathland, coastal sand-dunes, and marshy areas. Habitat selection governed by availability of prey species; otherwise, not discriminating but choosing spacious, relatively undisturbed landscapes rather than areas in intensive human use.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may utilise arable and pasture in areas away from existing human settlements.
- Bird species: Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Favoured habitats include sewage farms, lake margins, tidal marshes, mudflats and sheltered coastal inlets. Grasslands managed as meadows, especially when grazed and hay-cut and flooded in winter are used.

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- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES
– despite a preference for coastal habitat outside the breeding period this species may use flooded pasture and other grasslands for feeding.
- Bird species: Grey Plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Some use of inland areas, often by lakes on sand bars, mudflats, pools, and moist places, including short grassy fields/pasture and floodlands. Most, however, use the seacoast where they concentrate in the intertidal zone, on broad mudflats or sandy beaches, and to lesser extent on saltings, islets subject to occasional submergence, and neighbouring freshwater pools.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES
– may use pasture and short grassy fields.
- Bird species: Common pochard, *Aythya farina*
 - Season: Summer
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Can be found in lowland areas, where waterbodies have high nutrient status. Large numbers found on lakes, rivers, reservoirs, flooded gravel pits and estuaries. Can be seen in urban and suburban areas including towns and gardens.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES
– may use urban areas including gardens.
- Bird species: Little tern, *Sterna albifrons*
 - Season: Summer
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Frequently coast dwelling, more along mainland than on islands, but spreads freely up suitable reaches of major rivers and to some lakes where suitable conditions occur. Strongly prefers linear strips of bare shingle, shell beach, or sand.

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- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): A coastal species, ranging only 1-2km out to sea and a little further inland. Choice of wetland governed by attachment to salt or brackish water, either shallow coasts and estuaries or inland seas and lakes. Uses foraging areas of high productivity, especially sands and mud flats over which shallow water alternates with drying out. Freshwater habitats distant from the sea are used only sporadically.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.
- Bird species: European golden plover, *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Attracted to mown grass or close-grazed pastures, and to stubbles, fallows, harvest fields, and other farmlands of open character, including floodlands. On coast, tends to neglect tidal flats of mud and sand and to prefer open ground above the foreshore. Preference for short permanent pasture for feeding where invertebrate abundance is highest. Will also utilise bare tilled ground.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may utilise arable and pasture.
- Bird species: Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Predominately coastal, feeding mainly on unvegetated tracts of mud on estuaries, marine inlets, and sheltered bays, tending to avoid cliffed and rocky or shingly sectors, and beaches of pure sand. When remaining inland, concentrates at sewage farms and watersides.

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- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

■ Bird species: Little tern, *Sterna albifrons*

- Season: Breeding
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Frequently coast dwelling, more along mainland than on islands, but spreads freely up suitable reaches of major rivers and to some lakes where suitable conditions occur. Strongly prefers linear strips of bare shingle, shell beach, or sand, only just above normal tide or flood limits, and often only a few metres from shallow clear water, saline or fresh.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.

■ Bird species: Common pochard, *Aythya farina*

- Season: Breeding
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Can be found in lowland areas, where waterbodies have high nutrient status. Large numbers found on marshes, lakes, reservoirs, flooded gravel pits and estuaries. Can be seen in urban and suburban areas including towns and gardens.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use urban areas including gardens.

■ Bird species: Common ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*

- Season: Breeding
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): A bird of seacoasts. Secondarily occupies adjoining hinterlands up to substantial distance inland, where estuaries, rivers, lakes, tundra, gravel beds, sand bars, grasslands of spare and low growth, or other

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suitable well-drained terrain exists. Most numerous and concentrated on wide sandy or shingle tidal beaches.

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.

■ Bird species: Hen harrier, *Circus cyaneus*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Often on arable farmland or rough pastures, or on heathland, coastal sand-dunes, and marshy areas. Habitat selection governed by availability of prey species which can be seized in the open; otherwise, not discriminating but choosing spacious, relatively undisturbed landscapes rather than areas in intensive human use.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may utilise arable and pasture in areas away from existing human settlements.

■ Bird species: Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Lowland and largely maritime, especially along coasts where shallow, fairly sheltered waters and extensive tracts of mud, sand, or salt marsh offer sustenance and security for gatherings. Freshwater and brackish lagoons and tracts of flooded grassland also attractive and may be used in preference to coastal waters.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded pasture.

■ Bird species: Redshank, *Tringa totanus*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Predominately coastal, feeding mainly on unvegetated tracts of mud on estuaries, marine inlets, and sheltered bays, tending to avoid cliffed

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and rocky or shingly sectors, and beaches of pure sand. When remaining inland, concentrates at sewage farms and watersides.

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.
- Bird species: Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Favoured habitats include sewage farms, lake margins, tidal marshes, mudflats and sheltered coastal inlets. Grasslands managed as meadows, especially when grazed and hay-cut and flooded in winter are used.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – despite a preference for coastal habitat outside the breeding period this species may use flooded pasture and other grasslands for feeding.

Stour and Orwell Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- Bird species: Northern pintail, *Anas acuta*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Prefers sheltered coastal habitats, especially on estuaries, floodlands and inland waters nearby. Also feeds on farmland including stubble.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use farmland including stubble fields for feeding.
- Bird species: Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Lowland and largely maritime, especially along coasts where shallow, fairly sheltered waters and extensive tracts of mud, sand, or salt marsh offer sustenance and security for gatherings. Freshwater and brackish

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lagoons and tracts of flooded grassland also attractive and may be used in preference to coastal waters.

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded pasture.

■ Bird species: Dunlin, *Calidris alpina alpina*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Strongly attracted to broad coastal beaches, especially mudflats rich in invertebrate food accessible as tide ebbs, but also occurs regularly on lagoons, estuaries, tidal rivers, and margins of lakes and other freshwater bodies as well as sewage farms.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may utilise pasture where regular flooding occurs.

■ Bird species: Red knot, *Calidris canutus*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Marine intertidal habitat used, normally where large flat muddy, sandy, and pebbly beaches uncovered. At high water, often resists being driven back to vegetated zone behind foreshore and so forced to pack densely at certain spots.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.

■ Bird species: Black-tailed godwit, *Limosa limosa islandica*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Favoured habitats include sewage farms, lake margins, tidal marshes, mudflats and sheltered coastal inlets. Grasslands managed as meadows, especially when grazed and hay-cut and flooded in winter are used.

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- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – despite a preference for coastal habitat outside the breeding period this species may use flooded pasture and other grasslands for feeding.
- Bird species: Grey plover, *Pluvialis squatarola*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Some use of inland areas, often by lakes on sand bars, mudflats, pools, and moist places, including short grassy fields and floodlands. Most, however, use the seacoast where they concentrate mainly in the intertidal zone, on broad mudflats or sandy beaches, and to lesser extent on saltings, islets subject to occasional submergence, and neighbouring freshwater pools.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – may utilise a range of terrestrial habitats but is primarily a marine feeding bird and the importance of habitats within the site allocations is low.
- Bird species: Redshank, *Tringa totanus*
 - Season: Winter, Passage
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Predominately coastal, feeding mainly on unvegetated tracts of mud on estuaries, marine inlets, and sheltered bays, tending to avoid cliffed and rocky or shingly sectors, and beaches of pure sand. When remaining inland, concentrates at sewage farms and watersides.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.
- Bird species: Avocet, *Recurvirostra avosetta*
 - Season: Breeding
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found in lowland maritime regions. A taste for extensive highly saline tracts of still shallow water and flat bare sand, clay, or mud forming islands, ridges, spits, or margins. Also favours smaller and less saline pools,

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lagoons, muddy arms or deltas, and estuaries, and sheltered muddy tidal flats. Suitable habitat sometimes formed by artefacts such as saltpans, irrigation waters, polders, floodlands, and even purpose-made scrapes and flashes of water on nature reserves.

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.

■ Bird species: Lapwing, *Vanellus vanellus*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Requires soil carrying appreciable biomass of surface or subsurface organisms, not arid and preferably moist or near saturation. Chooses unenclosed terrain affording unbroken all-round views. Can be found in farmlands and wetlands as well as grassland, marine, and intertidal environments.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded grasslands and arable fields.

■ Bird species: Curlew, *Numenius arquata*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found mainly in coastal habitats, especially mudflats and sands well exposed at low tide, saltmarshes, foreshores, and floodlands. Rocky beaches with many pools, muddy estuaries and comparable habitats beside large inland waters, including riverside and swamp edges are also favoured. May also utilise coastal grasslands and arable fields.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded grasslands and arable fields.

■ Bird species: Great crested grebe, *Podiceps cristatus*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found on open waters such as reed-bordered lakes, reservoirs, and rivers.

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Can be found in urban and suburban settings, in marine, intertidal and wetland environments.

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.

■ Bird species: Great Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax carbo*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Found around the coast and on lakes, reservoirs and rivers inland.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.

■ Bird species: Common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): A coastal species, ranging only 1-2km out to sea and a little further inland. Choice of wetland governed by attachment to salt or brackish water, either shallow coasts and estuaries or inland seas and lakes. Uses foraging areas of high productivity, especially sands and mud flats over which shallow water alternates with drying out. Freshwater habitats distant from the sea are used only sporadically.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.

■ Bird species: Eurasian wigeon, *Anas penelope*

- Season: Winter
- Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Lowland and largely maritime, especially along coasts in shallow, sheltered waters and extensive tracts of mud, sand, or salt marsh. Freshwater and brackish lagoons and tracts of flooded grassland also often preferred.
- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: YES – may use flooded pasture.

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- Bird species: Gadwall, *Anas strepera*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): In winter, tends towards shallow sheltered parts of large wetlands, marsh, lakes, deltas, estuaries, or lagoons.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Common goldeneye, *Bucephala clangula*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Occupies coastal areas and inland sites, including river valleys, wetland networks, lakes and reservoirs.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Common ringed plover, *Charadrius hiaticula*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): A bird of seacoasts. Secondarily occupies adjoining hinterlands up to substantial distance inland, where estuaries, rivers, lakes, tundra, gravel beds, sand bars, grasslands of spare and low growth, or other suitable well-drained terrain exists. Most numerous and concentrated on wide sandy or shingle tidal beaches.
 - Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are not suitable for this species.
- Bird species: Ruddy turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*
 - Season: Winter
 - Species Habitat Preferences (relative to season of designation): Almost entirely coastal, preferring shores which are stony, rocky, or covered with seaweed, and similar artefacts such as sea walls and breakwaters, harbours, and jetties.

- Susceptible to loss of offsite habitat as a result of the Local Plan: NO – habitat types affected are of low importance for this species.

Suitability of allocations for qualifying bird species

Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.66km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~27.59ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large arable field at the north and a smaller area of grassland at the south, with lines of trees and hedgerows at the edges. A small strip of scrub and trees runs through the northwest of the site. Bordered by residential areas and a building site to the north, Bounstead Road to the east, further fields and a golf course to the south, and grassland to the west. Disturbance likely from the golf course but surrounded by a larger network of fields and woodland to the south, east, and west.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- 10618: View Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.36km east at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.20ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Approximately four small fields surrounded by lines of trees and hedgerows. Scattered trees are present in the northeastern field. Three houses sit at the western, northeastern, and southeastern edges of the site. Bordered by Abberton Road to the east, Fingringhoe Roe to the south and west, and a larger arable field to the north. Set within a larger network of

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arable fields. Fields are arable and used for pasture but relatively small and potential for disturbance from dwellings and a public footpath which runs to the north of the site.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10759: The Furze

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.08km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~0.68ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of scattered trees and scrub. Trees and hedgerow run along the edges of the site. Bordered by The Folley road to the east, a house and garden to the south and north, and a large arable field to the west. Potential disturbance from a public footpath running to the north of the site and limited sight lines from within the site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10758: Land west The Folley

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.17km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~3.14ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An arable field surrounded by tree lines. The site is surrounded by residential areas to the west, arable fields to the north and south, and The Folley road to the east. The wider area consists of woodland and residential areas, with a few arable fields. Potential disturbance from a public footpath running to the south of the site and limited sight lines from within the site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10621: Land at St Ives Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.04km southeast at the closest point
- Size: ~1.69ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field containing long grass and scrub. Surrounded by tree lines and hedgerows on all sides and bordered by St Ives Road to the east, houses and gardens to the south, a small area of grassland to the north, and Peldon Park to the west. Set within the small village of Peldon. The wider area consists of large arable fields.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10121: Land at Birch Green
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.72km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.84ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field containing scrub and surrounded by trees. Bordered by Mill Lane and a few houses and gardens to the south, houses and gardens to the west, an area of grassland with a play park to the north, and a small pocket of woodland to the east. Set within the small village of Birch Green. The wider area consists of large arable fields. Disturbance likely from adjacent play park and limited sight lines from within the site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Colchester Zoo
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~2.5km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~53.1ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site which formed of two areas. The existing zoo to the west comprises hard standing for car parking and buildings, and several lakes and ponds which form the animal enclosures. There are trees present throughout including tree lines and avenues along footpaths. There are also areas of grassland and bare ground within animal enclosures. The area which is safeguarded for future expansion of the zoo lies to the east and comprises three large arable fields bound by woodland along the south and east. The zoo boundary lies along the north bank of the Roman River. To the north of the zoo, is a large minerals site, likely a sand quarry with large pools of water.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.80km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~27.59ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large arable field at the north and a smaller area of grassland at the south, with lines of trees and hedgerows at the edges. A small strip of scrub and trees runs through the northwest of the site. Bordered by residential areas and a building site to the north, Bounstead Road to the east, further fields and a golf course to the south, and grassland to the west. Disturbance likely from the golf course but surrounded by a larger network of fields and woodland to the south, east, and west.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- 10976: Britannia Car Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.93km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~1.01ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area mostly comprising a car park for a train station. A small area of grassland and shrub sits at the northwest of the site and another small area of hardstanding sits at the northeast of the site. Bordered by a railway to the south, and residential areas and roads to the north, east, and west. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site

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- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.94km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.70ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of land consisting of hardstanding, scattered trees and buildings. Bordered by a railway line to the north, and further buildings, hardstanding, and roads to the south, east and west. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~9.36km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.22ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small hardstanding area consisting of a car park. Bordered by hardstanding and buildings on all sides. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.84km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.06ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area consisting of hardstanding and buildings. Bordered by further buildings, hardstanding, and roads on all sides. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street

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- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.83km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.15ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small hardstanding area consisting of a car park. Bordered by hardstanding and buildings on all sides with a few scattered trees and shrubs to the east and west. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible
- 10952: Braiswick
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.50km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.51ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields separated by an area of grassland and scattered trees. Pockets of woodland are present at the northwest and northeast of the site, and these are joined to larger areas of woodland. Bordered by woodland and trees to the north and west, and residential areas and a sports pitch to the south and east. A golf course sits to the north of the site St Botolph's Brook runs to the west in an area of woodland. Sits to the north of the urban area of Colchester and south of a larger area of farmland. The site is potentially now a building site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10941: Chesterwell
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.24km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.37ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field within a larger area of grassland likely used as a park. The field is surrounded on all sides by trees and scrub and several scattered trees are present in the centre of the site. Bordered on all sides by areas of grassland. A pond and a golf course sit to the west of the site and a footpath runs adjacent to the west of the site. Sits to the north of the

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urban area of Colchester. Disturbance likely from the footpath and limited site lines due to vegetation surrounding the site.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.99km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~2.76ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A derelict site consisting mainly of hardstanding with tall ruderal vegetation scattered throughout. Lines of trees and scrub are present on the edges of the site. Bordered by the River Colne to the west, a train line to the east and north, and a road to the south. Sits within the urban area of Colchester and high disturbance likely from an adjacent train station.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.77km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~0.33ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two areas of hardstanding and building. Bordered by the River Colne to the west, and further areas of hardstanding, building, and road to the north, south and east. Sits within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.25km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~4.38ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of hardstanding with several buildings in the northeast of the site. Limited scattered vegetation including scrub and trees is present throughout

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the site and small pockets of woodland are present at the south and northwest of the site. Bordered by roads to the east and south, woodland and allotments to the west and a stretch of woodland to the north. Set within the urban area of Colchester.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible

■ 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.70km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~3.38ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large hardstanding car park with industrial buildings. A line of trees and scrub runs through the southeast of the site and scattered vegetation is present at the edges. Bordered by a railway line to the east, and further areas of hardstanding and building to the south, west, and north. Sits within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible

■ 10944: King Edward Quay

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.15km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~2.49ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A site consisting of three areas of hardstanding and buildings. Bordered by roads and further hardstanding and buildings on all sides. Small areas of scrub vegetation are scattered throughout the site. Set within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible

■ 10987: Ford Car Showroom

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.76km north at the closest point
- Size: ~1.01ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three areas of hardstanding and buildings comprising mostly car parks. Bordered by a row of houses and gardens to the south and east, further hardstanding and buildings to the west, and a road to the north. Limited vegetation on site. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible
- 10617: Lakelands Crescent
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.75km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.35ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of grassland a scrub. Bordered by Warren Road to the southeast, houses to the northeast and northwest, and further grassland to the southwest. Forms a small part of a larger field but this is bordered by a large road to the south which has the potential to cause high disturbance. The urban area of Colchester sits to the east of the site and more fields sit to the west. A pond at the centre of a residential area sits to the northwest of the site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10690: Land South of Marks Tey Village
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.99km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~92.16ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large area of land comprising approximately 13 arable fields. Scattered trees and hedges border the fields, and a number of buildings are present in the northwestern and northern corners of the site. Bordered by arable fields to the west, south, and east and by houses and shops to the north. A reservoir sits adjacent to the eastern side of the site. Limited disturbance likely and good sight lines as fewer edge features.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: High
- 10657: Land North Oak Road

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- Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.18km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~50.80ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Approximately four arable fields with an area of woodland at the east of the site. The fields are surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees and a couple of scattered trees are present within the site. Bordered by Kelvedon Road to the west, and fields to the south, north and east. The village of Tiptree sits to the south of the site and a larger network of farmland sits to the north, east and west. Limited disturbance through the centre of the site and good sight lines present in larger fields.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: High
- 10261: Land Adjacent Bonnie Blue Oak
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~6.91km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~1.86ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field potentially used for pasture or hay bales. Surrounded by lines of trees in the north, east and west, and by houses and gardens to the south. The village of Tiptree sits to the south of the site and a larger network of farmland sits to the north. Disturbance possible from track running to the north of the site and gardens to the south.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10262: Highlands
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.30km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~1.29ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area comprising hardstanding and buildings in the south and grassland and lines of trees in the north. Bordered by a large field to the north and west, a small field to the east, and a road to the south. The village of Tiptree sits to the south of the site and a larger network of farmland sits to the north.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10627: Land east Dawes Lane
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~0.86km southeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~16.62ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields and an area of long grassland containing scrub and scattered trees. The fields are relatively large and contain good sight lines due to an absence of large hedgerow or tree line along the adjacent roads. Bordered by Dawes Lane to the west, East Road and an area of allotments to the south, small pasture fields and allotments to the east, and the northern section of the field to the north. Sits on Mersea Island, to the east of a large residential town and to the west of a larger network of arable fields and pasture.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: High
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.00km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~8.05ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three arable fields. Bordered by the residential areas of Wivenhoe to the east and south, and fields to the west and north. The site is surrounded by hedgerows and scattered trees but is relatively open. Further areas of arable land and fields sit to the north of the site but direct corridors to the habitat site are hindered by residential areas.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Moderate
- 10618: View Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~3.36km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.20ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Approximately four small fields surrounded by lines of trees and hedgerows. Scattered trees are present in the northeastern field. Three houses sit at the western, northeastern, and southeastern edges of the site. Bordered by Abberton Road to the east, Fingringhoe Roe to the south and west, and a larger arable field to the north. Set within a larger network of arable fields. Fields are arable and used for pasture but relatively small and potential for disturbance from dwellings and a public footpath which runs to the north of the site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10686: Land at Earls Colne Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.90km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~5.96ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An arable field. Bordered by a house and gardens to the west, a row of houses and gardens to the east, Earls Colne Road to the north, and a line of trees and two fields to the south. Set within a larger network of arable fields and pasture and to the north of the small village of Great Tey. Relatively open field with limited edge features but further from the habitat site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.84km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~7.99ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An arable field surrounded by lines of trees and hedgerow and a smaller field. The two fields are separated by a row of houses and gardens. A house and garden sit just outside of the larger arable field to the south and a small area of woodland sits at the north of the site. Bordered by Halstead Road to the south, houses and gardens to the east and west, and two

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arable fields to the north. Set within a larger network of farmland and to the northwest of Colchester.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10508: Land East of Plummers Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~14.77km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.88ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Part of a field used for pasture. Low hedgerows surround the field. Bordered by Plummers Road to the west, houses and gardens to the north and south, and horse pasture to the east. Set within a larger area of farmland and pasture but further from the habitat site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10122: The Old School

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~14.84km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.64ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area comprising multiple buildings, a driveway and some garden/amenity grassland. Lines of trees are present in the northeastern corner of the site. Bordered by School Lane to the south, houses and gardens to the east and west, and an arable field to the north. Set within a larger area of farmland to the north of Colchester
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10759: The Furze

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.04km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.68ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of scattered trees and scrub. Trees and hedgerow run along the edges of the site. Bordered by The Folley road to the east, a house and garden to the south and north, and a large arable field to the west. Potential

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disturbance from a public footpath running to the north of the site and limited sight lines from within the site.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10758: Land west The Folley

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~4.92km north at the closest point
- Size: ~3.14ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An arable field surrounded by tree lines. The site is surrounded by residential areas to the west, arable fields to the north and south, and The Folley road to the east. The wider area consists of woodland and residential areas, with a few arable fields. Potential disturbance from a public footpath running to the south of the site and limited sight lines from within the site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.82km north at the closest point
- Size: ~3.34ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Part of a field used for a plantation/orchard. Surrounded by the rest of the field. A line of trees is present at the southwest of the site. Bordered by White Hart Lane to the northwest, further plantation/orchard fields to the northeast and east, and grassland to the south. Houses and gardens are present to the southwest of the site. The site sits to the north of the residential area of West Bergholt and to the south of patches of woodland and fields. The large urban area of Colchester sits between the site and the habitat site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10229: Land north of Colchester Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.36km north at the closest point
- Size: ~3.69ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field surrounded by lines of trees. Bordered by houses to the south, a road to the east, another field to the north, and houses to the west. A small pocket of woodland sits to the north of the site. The site sits to the north of the residential area of West Bergholt and to the south of patches of woodland and fields. The large urban area of Colchester sits between the site and the habitat site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10600: Picketts
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.39km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.39ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: The southern section of a field used for pasture of animals. Bordered by Church Road to the south, a farmyard to the east, a house and garden to the west, and the rest of the field to the north. The field is surrounded by small pockets of woodland and hedgerow and the Roman River runs to the north.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10634: Land at Kelvedon Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.45 km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.71ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: The eastern section of an arable field. A small line of trees sits at the south of the site. Bordered by a row of houses and gardens to the east and south, the rest of the field to the west, and Kelvedon Road to the north. The site sits within a larger area of farmland and pockets of woodland.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- 10621: Land at St Ives Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~0.99km northwest at the closest point

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- Size: ~1.69ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field containing long grass and scrub. Surrounded by tree lines and hedgerows on all sides and bordered by St Ives Road to the east, houses and gardens to the south, a small area of grassland to the north, and Peldon Park to the west. Set within the small village of Peldon. The wider area consists of large arable fields.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10090: Land West of Brood Chase
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.41km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~9.78ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large arable field with a single tree at the centre. Surrounded by hedgerows. Bordered by houses and woodland to the east, Halstead Road to the south, and fields to the west and north. The wider area consists of farmland but disturbance likely from a public footpath which runs through the centre of the site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.85km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~7.15ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields separated by a hedgerow and line of trees. A pocket of woodland is present in the southeast of the site and borders the eastern edge of the site. Lines of trees are present at the northern and southern edges of the site. The site is bordered by Baker's Lane to the west, a railway line to the south, grassland and gardens to the north, and a park to the east. Set to the northwest of Colchester and the wider area contains urban and residential areas and farmland. No disturbance likely

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through the site but sight lines will be obstructed by trees and woodland.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10691a: Land North of Coach Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.37km north at the closest point
- Size: ~8.47ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three arable fields surrounded by lines of trees. Bordered by fields to the north, grassland and trees to the west, Coach Road, a pocket of woodland and a row of houses to the south, and a strip of grassland to the east. Set to the north of Colchester and within a larger area of farmland. Tall edge features run through the centre of the site, limiting sight lines and the site is far from the habitat site and separated by the large urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10121: Land at Birch Green

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.22km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.84ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field containing scrub and surrounded by trees. Bordered by Mill Lane and a few houses and gardens to the south, houses and gardens to the west, an area of grassland with a play park to the north, and a small pocket of woodland to the east. Set within the small village of Birch Green. The wider area consists of large arable fields.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10535: Land off New Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.53km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~0.85ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: The southern part of an arable field surrounded by tree lines and hedgerow. Bordered by fields to the west and north, a house and garden and small pocket of woodland to the south, and New Road to the east. Set within a larger area of farmland.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10950: Vineyard Street Development
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.99km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~1.46ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area consisting of hardstanding and buildings comprising carparks and industrial units. A few scattered trees are present on site, but vegetation is limited. Bordered by areas of hardstanding and buildings on all sides and set within the urban area of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible
- 10082: North Station
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.49km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~5.47ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of hardstanding and buildings comprising a large carpark. Limited scattered vegetation is present on site. Bordered by a railway line to the south, a large building to the east, a small area of grassland and line of trees to the north, and allotments to the west. Set within the urban area of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible
- 10616a: North East Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.51km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~99.02ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large area of land comprising arable fields. Bordered by farmland to the north and east and urban areas to the south and west. A train line runs through the centre of the site and lines of trees and hedgerow separate the fields. A small pocket of woodland is present in the northeastern corner of the site. Direct corridors to the habitat site are hindered by Colchester and disturbance is likely from the train line but the arable fields provide larger areas of suitable habitat for qualifying species.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Moderate
- 10226a: Land East of School Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~9.52km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~12.35ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields separated by a house and garden. Bordered by residential houses to the west and north, fields to the east and south, and an area of woodland to the east. Set to the west of Colchester and within a larger area of farmland and scattered villages. A public footpath runs through the centre of the site adjacent to the house.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Moderate
- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~6.04km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.74ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising hardstanding storage area/car showroom in the north, and a house, garden and areas of grass and scattered trees in the south. Bordered by woodland to the east, Rectory Road to the south, Fingringhoe Road to the west, and scattered trees and fields to the north. Areas of grassland are small, and edge features surround the majority of the site.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10747a: Land North of A120, Marks Tey
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.63km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~31.69ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three large arable fields surrounded by low hedgerows and lines of trees. A very small pocket of woodland sits at the western side of the site. Bordered by Coggeshall Road to the south, Houses and gardens to the west, fields to the north and Church Lane to the east. Sits to the north of the village of Marks Tey and to the south of a large area of farmland.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Moderate
- 10749: Land off Colchester Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.91km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.99ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two fields surrounded by lines of trees and woodland. A stretch of woodland runs between the two fields and at the south of the site. Bordered by a field to the south, a row of houses and gardens to the west, Colchester Road to the north, and gardens to the east. Sits next to the village of West Bergholt and to the northwest of Colchester. Further areas of farmland and arable field are present to the south of the site. Edge features are high and there are limited sight lines present.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10991: Former Telephone Exchange
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.79km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.54ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area consisting of a building and patch of grassland. An area of

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hardstanding sits next to the building and comprises car parking. A few trees line the site at the east and west. Bordered by houses and gardens to the east, west and south and Station Road to the north. Set within the residential areas of Tiptree.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible

■ 10488: Bullbanks Farm Halstead Road Eight Green Ash

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.41km north at the closest point
- Size: ~0.82ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small northern section of a field. A single barn is present within the site and several trees are present on the western edge. Bordered by an arable field to the east, the rest of the field to the south, a farmyard to the west, and Halstead Road to the north. Sits within a larger area of farmland and scattered villages.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ Anderson Site

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.27km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~3.17ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of grassland and scrub with scattered trees. Lines of trees surround the edges of the site, and an area of hardstanding is present in the eastern corner. Bordered by a park and skate park to the east, London Road to the south, and industrial park to the west, and a railway line to the north. The site sits next to the village of Marks Tey and within a larger area of farmland and arable fields. Scrub and trees hinder site lines and disturbance likely from adjacent areas.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible

■ Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham Colchester CO4 5NE

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- Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.96km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~1.00ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising grassland and small pockets of woodland at the south and northeast of the site. The site is surrounded by hedgerows. Bordered by a field to the east and north, Lodge Lane to the south, and an industrial/commercial park to the west. Set within a larger network of farmland but the urban area of Colchester sits between the site and the habitat site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Land South of Tollgate West, Stanway
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~9.85km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.65ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of unused grassland and scattered scrub at the western edge of Colchester. Bordered by a retail park to the north and east, residential housing to the south, and Stanway Western Bypass to the east.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10566: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.52km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.06ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two areas of grassland surrounded by hedgerow and lines of trees. Bordered by Nayland Road to the east and fields to the north, west, and south. Set within an area of farmland to the north of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10969: Colchester Business Park, The Crescent, Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.13km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.41ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of scrub, tall vegetation, grassland, and scattered trees. Bordered by a business park to the south, east and west, and a large road to the north. Sits at the north of the urban area of Colchester. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Land North of Axial Way (Northern Gateway), Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.03km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.41ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of tall grass, vegetation, and scrub with scattered trees. Bordered by large roads to the north, west, and south and an industrial park to the east. Sits at the north of the urban area of Colchester. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10671: Land South of A12 and north of proposed new route of A12, Marks Tey
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~9.61km north at the closest point
 - Size:
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising four arable fields surrounded by hedgerows and scattered trees. Bordered by arable fields to the south and west, London Road to the north and houses and gardens to the east. Set within a larger area of farmland.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.68km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.71ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of grassland used as pasture for horses. A line of trees runs to the southeast of the site and a small pocket of woodland sits at the northwest. Bordered by a recycling centre to the north and a house and garden to the south. Set to the south of Colchester and to the north of a network of farmland. Disturbance likely from use as pasture and sight lines limited due to tree lines and woodland.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10527: Land south of Factory Hill, Tiptree
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.16km northwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~4.69ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising tall grassland, a pond, a hardstanding path, and scattered trees and scrub. Surrounded by hedgerows and bordered by Factory Hill to the northeast, Tudwick Road to the southeast, a pond and arable field to the south, and a business park to the northwest. Sits to the south of Tiptree and to the north of a larger network of farmland and scattered villages.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Knowledge Gateway
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.56km northeast at the closest point
 - Size: ~10.54ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large area comprising hardstanding car parks, storage areas and a business park. Lines of trees, scattered trees and areas of grassland are present throughout the site and multiple roads and a roundabout are present. The north of the site comprises mostly developed land and the south of the site comprises mostly grassland and scattered trees. Bordered by Saint Andrew's Avenue to the north, further urban areas of hardstanding and grassland to the southeast and west, and grassland and scattered trees to the east and south. Sits to the east of Colchester.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ Anglian Water Recycling Centre

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.41km northeast at the closest point
- Size: ~18.70ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site comprising a recycling centre in the north and areas of grassland and scrub in the south. Scattered trees are present throughout the vegetated areas of the site. Bordered by the River Colne to the east, large areas of grassland to the south, and urban areas to the west and north. Sits at the south of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ Colchester Zoo

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~6.8km north at the closest point
- Size: ~53.1ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site which formed of two areas. The existing zoo to the west comprises hard standing for car parking and buildings, and several lakes and ponds which form the animal enclosures. There are trees present throughout including tree lines and avenues along footpaths. There are also areas of grassland and bare ground within animal enclosures. The area which is safeguarded for future expansion of the zoo lies to the east and comprises three large arable fields bound by woodland along the south and east. The zoo boundary lies along the north bank of the Roman River. To the north of the zoo, is a large minerals site, likely a sand quarry with large pools of water.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ University of Essex

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~6.6km north-east at the closest point
- Size: ~69.2ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site hard standing and buildings with small woodland blocks, tree lines and avenues along footpaths. There is a lake at the centre of the site surrounded by woodland, and areas of parkland comprising grassland and scattered trees at the north of the site. In the south-east of the site there is a large open sports field, which is heavily managed. The site is bound by roads and lined by trees. The surrounding habitats comprise arable fields, pasture and lowland flood meadows along the River Colne. The site is separated from the River Colne by a train line. The site is separated from the adjacent flood meadows by the Boundary Road of the University.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Northern Gateway
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.6km north-east at the closest point
 - Size: ~28.8ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site comprising nine grassland fields. The fields within the western side of Cuckoo Farm Way and Via Urbis Romanae are rough grassland with areas of scattered scrub throughout and blocks of dense scrub and trees around the field edges. The fields to the east of these roads are predominately open grasslands which appear to be intensively managed with dense hedgerow boundaries. The entire site is bound by the A12 to the north, and residential areas of Highwood to the south-east and Mile End to the south-west. There is an industrial park to the north of Axial Way and retail area to the east adjacent to the Stadium. The site is also intersected by United Way, Axial Way and Via Urbis Romanae and there are wide hardstanding tracks which run between the fields in the east. High Wood Country Park lies beyond the residential area to the south and beyond the rugby club and Colchester Sports Park to the north of the A12, there is a large area of arable and pasture, made up of several small fields. Ardleigh Reservoir lies 1.4km to the east of the Northern Gateway which may provide offsite habitat for qualifying bird species. However, there is no ecological connectivity

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between the Northern Gateway and Ardleigh Reservoir, due to the Severalls Industrial Park and residential area of Highwoods.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

■ 10627: Land east Dawes Lane

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~0.82km south at the closest point
- Size: ~16.62ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields and an area of long grassland containing scrub and scattered trees. The fields are relatively large and contain good sight lines due to an absence of large hedgerow or tree line along the adjacent roads. Bordered by Dawes Lane to the west, East Road and an area of allotments to the south, small pasture fields and allotments to the east, and the northern section of the field to the north. Sits on Mersea Island, to the east of a large residential town and to the west of a larger network of arable fields and pasture.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate

■ 10755: Land North of the Fire Station

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.97km north at the closest point
- Size: ~8.05ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three arable fields. Bordered by the residential areas of Wivenhoe to the east and south, and fields to the west and north. The site is surrounded by hedgerows and scattered trees but is relatively open. Further areas of arable land and fields sit to the north of the site but direct corridors to the habitat site are hindered by residential areas.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate

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■ 10618: View Park

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.50km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~3.20ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Approximately four small fields surrounded by lines of trees and hedgerows. Scattered trees are present in the northeastern field. Three houses sit at the western, northeastern, and southeastern edges of the site. Bordered by Abberton Road to the east, Fingringhoe Road to the south and west, and a larger arable field to the north. Set within a larger network of arable fields. Fields are arable and used for pasture but relatively small and potential for disturbance from dwellings and a public footpath which runs to the north of the site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10600: Picketts

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~1.24km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~0.39ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: The southern section of a field used for pasture of animals. Bordered by Church Road to the south, a farmyard to the east, a house and garden to the west, and the rest of the field to the north. The field is surrounded by small pockets of woodland and hedgerow and the Roman River runs to the north.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10621: Land at St Ives Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~0.94km northwest at the closest point
- Size: ~1.69ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field containing long grass and scrub. Surrounded by tree lines and hedgerows on all sides and bordered by St Ives Road to the east, houses and gardens to the south, a small area of grassland to the

north, and Peldon Park to the west. Set within the small village of Peldon. The wider area consists of large arable fields.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

■ 10687: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~14.25km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~27.59ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large arable field at the north and a smaller area of grassland at the south, with lines of trees and hedgerows at the edges. A small strip of scrub and trees runs through the northwest of the site. Bordered by residential areas and a building site to the north, Bounstead Road to the east, further fields and a golf course to the south, and grassland to the west. Disturbance likely from the golf course but surrounded by a larger network of fields and woodland to the south, east, and west. Separated from the habitat site by the large urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10976: Britannia Car Park

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.88km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~1.01ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area mostly comprising a car park for a train station. A small area of grassland and shrub sits at the northwest of the site and another small area of hardstanding sits at the northeast of the site. Bordered by a railway to the south, and residential areas and roads to the north, east, and west. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10984: Europit & Magdalen Garage Site
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.87km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.70ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of land consisting of hardstanding, scattered trees and buildings. Bordered by a railway line to the north, and further buildings, hardstanding, and roads to the south, east and west. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10951: St Runwald Car Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.08km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.22ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small hardstanding area consisting of a car park. Bordered by hardstanding and buildings on all sides. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10988: Robertson Van Hire
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.00km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.06ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area consisting of hardstanding and buildings. Bordered by further buildings, hardstanding, and roads on all sides. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10986: 146 Magdalen Street
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.79km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.15ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small hardstanding area consisting of a car park. Bordered by hardstanding and buildings on all sides with a few scattered trees and shrubs to the east and west. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10952: Braiswick
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.32km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.51ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields separated by an area of grassland and scattered trees. Pockets of woodland are present at the northwest and northeast of the site, and these are joined to larger areas of woodland. Bordered by woodland and trees to the north and west, and residential areas and a sports pitch to the south and east. A golf course sits to the north of the site St Botolph's Brook runs to the west in an area of woodland. Sits to the north of the urban area of Colchester and south of a larger area of farmland. The site is potentially now a building site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10941: Chesterwell
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.53km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.37ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field within a larger area of grassland likely used as a park. The field is

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surrounded on all sides by trees and scrub and several scattered trees are present in the centre of the site. Bordered on all sides by areas of grassland. A pond and a golf course sit to the west of the site and a footpath runs adjacent to the west of the site. Sits to the north of the urban area of Colchester. Disturbance likely from the footpath and limited site lines due to vegetation surrounding the site.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10982: Derelict Coal Yard Site

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.59km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~2.76ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A derelict site consisting mainly of hardstanding with tall ruderal vegetation scattered throughout. Lines of trees and scrub are present on the edges of the site. Bordered by the River Colne to the west, a train line to the east and north, and a road to the south. Sits within the urban area of Colchester and high disturbance likely from an adjacent train station.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ 10980: Land West of Hawkins Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.00km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~0.33ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two areas of hardstanding and building. Bordered by the River Colne to the west, and further areas of hardstanding, building, and road to the north, south and east. Sits within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ 10979: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.12km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~4.38ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of hardstanding with several buildings in the northeast of the site. Limited scattered vegetation including scrub and trees is present throughout the site and small pockets of woodland are present at the south and northwest of the site. Bordered by roads to the east and south, woodland and allotments to the west and a stretch of woodland to the north. Set within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10981: Land East of Hawkins Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.02km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.38ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large hardstanding car park with industrial buildings. A line of trees and scrub runs through the southeast of the site and scattered vegetation is present at the edges. Bordered by a railway line to the east, and further areas of hardstanding and building to the south, west, and north. Sits within the urban area of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10994: King Edward Quay
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.49km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.49ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A site consisting of three areas of hardstanding and buildings. Bordered by roads and further hardstanding and buildings on all sides. Small areas of scrub vegetation are scattered throughout the site. Set within the urban area of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible
- 10987: Ford Car Showroom

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- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.73km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~1.01ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three areas of hardstanding and buildings comprising mostly car parks. Bordered by a row of houses and gardens to the south and east, further hardstanding and buildings to the west, and a road to the north. Limited vegetation on site. Sits at the centre of the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible
- 10755: Land North of the Fire Station
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.07km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~8.05ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three arable fields. Bordered by the residential areas of Wivenhoe to the east and south, and fields to the west and north. The site is surrounded by hedgerows and scattered trees but is relatively open. Further areas of arable land and fields sit to the north of the site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10618: View Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~14.89km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.20ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Approximately four small fields surrounded by lines of trees and hedgerows. Scattered trees are present in the northeastern field. Three houses sit at the western, northeastern, and southeastern edges of the site. Bordered by Abberton Road to the east, Fingringhoe Roe to the south and west, and a larger arable field to the north. Set within a larger network of arable fields. Fields are arable and used for pasture but relatively small and potential for disturbance from dwellings and a public footpath which runs to the north of the site.

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- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10676: Land North Boxted Straight Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.41km west at the closest point
 - Size: ~6.09ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A single arable field bordered by hedgerows and lines of trees. Bordered by Boxted Straight Road to the south, a small residential area to the east, woodland and a field to the north, and woodland to the west. Sits within a large area of farmland and with a direct green corridor to the habitat site. Sight lines are limited by woodland to the west but clear through the north of the site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate
- 10547: Land south Long Road West
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~2.42km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.55ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small arable field surrounded by lines of trees. Bordered by a house and garden to the east, fields to the south and west, and Lond Road to the north. Sits within a larger network of farmland adjacent to the village of Dedham Heath. Site close to the habitat site but relatively small and with tall edge features.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10508: Land East of Plummers Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~14.96km west at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.88ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Part of a field used for pasture. Low hedgerows surround the field. Bordered by Plummers Road to the west, houses and gardens to the north and

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south, and horse pasture to the east. Set within a larger area of farmland and pasture but further from the habitat site.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10122: The Old School

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.29km west at the closest point
- Size: ~0.64ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area comprising multiple buildings, a driveway and some garden/amenity grassland. Lines of trees are present in the northeastern corner of the site. Bordered by School Lane to the south, houses and gardens to the east and west, and an arable field to the north. Set within a larger area of farmland to the north of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ 10664: Land north of Park Lane

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.12km west at the closest point
- Size: ~40.74ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three large arable fields surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees. A track runs through the eastern end of the site which could cause potential disturbance. Bordered by grassland and houses to the east, Park Lane to the south, grassland and houses to the west, and fields, woodland and a large yard to the north. Sits within a larger network of farmland and direct green corridor to habitat site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Moderate

■ 10291: Land opposite Wick Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~5.25km west at the closest point
- Size: ~0.78ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of grassland potentially used for pasture and surrounded by hedgerows. Bordered by Wick Road to the east, houses and gardens to the north, a large arable field to the west, and a garden to the south.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10526: Land between White Hart Lane & Manor Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.34km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.34ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Part of a field used for a plantation/orchard. Surrounded by the rest of the field. A line of trees is present at the southwest of the site. Bordered by White Hart Lane to the northwest, further plantation/orchard fields to the northeast and east, and grassland to the south. Houses and gardens are present to the southwest of the site. The site sits to the north of the residential area of West Bergholt and to the south of patches of woodland and fields.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10229: Land north of Colchester Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.97km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.69ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small field surrounded by lines of trees. Bordered by houses to the south, a road to the east, another field to the north, and houses to the west. A small pocket of woodland sits to the north of the site. The site sits to the north of the residential area of West Bergholt and to the south of patches of woodland and fields.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10600: Picketts
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~13.02km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.39ha

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- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: The southern section of a field used for pasture of animals. Bordered by Church Road to the south, a farmyard to the east, a house and garden to the west, and the rest of the field to the north. The field is surrounded by small pockets of woodland and hedgerow and the Roman River runs to the north.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10761: Land off Bakers Lane
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.67km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~7.15ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two arable fields separated by a hedgerow and line of trees. A pocket of woodland is present in the southeast of the site and borders the eastern edge of the site. Lines of trees are present at the northern and southern edges of the site. The site is bordered by Baker's Lane to the west, a railway line to the south, grassland and gardens to the north, and a park to the east. Set to the northwest of Colchester and the wider area contains urban and residential areas and farmland. No disturbance likely through the site but sight lines will be obstructed by trees and woodland.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10691a: Land North of Coach Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.63km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~8.47ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three arable fields surrounded by lines of trees. Bordered by fields to the north, grassland and trees to the west, Coach Road, a pocket of woodland and a row of houses to the south, and a strip of grassland to the east. Set to the north of Colchester and within a larger area of farmland. Tall edge features run through the centre of the site, limiting sight lines.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

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■ 10950: Vineyard Street Development

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~11.06km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~1.46ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area consisting of hardstanding and buildings comprising carparks and industrial units. A few scattered trees are present on site, but vegetation is limited. Bordered by areas of hardstanding and buildings on all sides and set within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ 10082: North Station

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.67km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~5.47ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of hardstanding and buildings comprising a large carpark. Limited scattered vegetation is present on site. Bordered by a railway line to the south, a large building to the east, a small area of grassland and line of trees to the north, and allotments to the west. Set within the urban area of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ 10616a: North East Colchester

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.15km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~99.02ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large area of land comprising arable fields. Bordered by farmland to the north and east and urban areas to the south and west. A train line runs through the centre of the site and lines of trees and hedgerow separate the fields. A small pocket of woodland is present in the northeastern corner

Appendix D Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

of the site. Disturbance is likely from the train line but the arable fields provide larger areas of suitable habitat for qualifying species.

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Moderate

■ 10956: Rowhedge Business Park

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.23km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~3.74ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising hardstanding storage area/car showroom in the north, and a house, garden and areas of grass and scattered trees in the south. Bordered by woodland to the east, Rectory Road to the south, Fingringhoe Road to the west, and scattered trees and fields to the north. Areas of grassland are small, and edge features surround the majority of the site.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:
Negligible

■ 10749: Land off Colchester Road

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.11km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~3.99ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two fields surrounded by lines of trees and woodland. A stretch of woodland runs between the two fields and at the south of the site. Bordered by a field to the south, a row of houses and gardens to the west, Colchester Road to the north, and gardens to the east. Sits next to the village of West Bergholt and to the northwest of Colchester. Further areas of farmland and arable field are present to the south of the site. Edge features are high and there are limited sight lines present.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ Land at, Lodge Park, Lodge Lane, Langham Colchester CO4 5NE

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~6.40km southwest at the closest point

Appendix D Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- Size: ~1.00ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising grassland and small pockets of woodland at the south and northeast of the site. The site is surrounded by hedgerows. Bordered by a field to the east and north, Lodge Lane to the south, and an industrial/commercial park to the west. Set within a larger network of farmland.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10566: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~12.51km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.06ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Two areas of grassland surrounded by hedgerow and lines of trees. Bordered by Nayland Road to the east and fields to the north, west, and south. Set within an area of farmland to the north of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10969: Colchester Business Park, The Crescent, Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~7.42km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.41ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of scrub, tall vegetation, grassland, and scattered trees. Bordered by a business park to the south, east and west, and a large road to the north. Sits at the north of the urban area of Colchester. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Land North of Axial Way (Northern Gateway), Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.79km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~2.41ha

Appendix D Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of tall grass, vegetation, and scrub with scattered trees. Bordered by large roads to the north, west, and south and an industrial park to the east. Sits at the north of the urban area of Colchester. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~14.69km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.71ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of grassland used as pasture for horses. A line of trees runs to the southeast of the site and a small pocket of woodland sits at the northwest. Bordered by a recycling centre to the north and a house and garden to the south. Set to the south of Colchester and to the north of a network of farmland. Disturbance likely from use as pasture and sight lines limited due to tree lines and woodland.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Knowledge Gateway
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~9.94km southwest at the closest point
 - Size: ~10.54ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large area comprising hardstanding car parks, storage areas and a business park. Lines of trees, scattered trees and areas of grassland are present throughout the site and multiple roads and a roundabout are present. The north of the site comprises mostly developed land and the south of the site comprises mostly grassland and scattered trees. Bordered by Saint Andrew's Avenue to the north, further urban areas of hardstanding and grassland to the southeast and west, and grassland and scattered trees to the east and south. Sits to the east of Colchester.

Appendix D Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

■ Anglian Water Recycling Centre

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~10.67km southwest at the closest point
- Size: ~18.70ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site comprising a recycling centre in the north and areas of grassland and scrub in the south. Scattered trees are present throughout the vegetated areas of the site. Bordered by the River Colne to the east, large areas of grassland to the south, and urban areas to the west and north. Sits at the south of Colchester.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ University of Essex

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~9.5km north-east at the closest point
- Size: ~69.2ha
- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site hard standing and buildings with small woodland blocks, tree lines and avenues along footpaths. There is a lake at the centre of the site surrounded by woodland, and areas of parkland comprising grassland and scattered trees at the north of the site. In the south-east of the site there is a large open sports field, which is heavily managed. The site is bound by roads and lined by trees. The surrounding habitats comprise arable fields, pasture and lowland flood meadows along the River Colne. The site is separated from the River Colne by a train line. The site is separated from the adjacent flood meadows by the Boundary Road of the University.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

■ Northern Gateway

- Distance from Habitat Site: ~8.2km south-west at the closest point
- Size: ~28.8ha

Appendix D Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A large site comprising nine grassland fields. The fields within the western side of Cuckoo Farm Way and Via Urbis Romanae are rough grassland with areas of scattered scrub throughout and blocks of dense scrub and trees around the field edges. The fields to the east of these roads are predominately open grasslands which appear to be intensively managed with dense hedgerow boundaries. The entire site is bound by the A12 to the north, and residential areas of Highwood to the south-east and Mile End to the south-west. There is an industrial park to the north of Axial Way and retail area to the east adjacent to the Stadium. The site is also intersected by United Way, Axial Way and Via Urbis Romanae and there are wide hardstanding tracks which run between the fields in the east. High Wood Country Park lies beyond the residential area to the south and beyond the rugby club and Colchester Sports Park to the north of the A12, there is a large area of arable and pasture, made up of several small fields. Ardleigh Reservoir lies 1.4km to the east of the Northern Gateway which may provide offsite habitat for qualifying bird species. However, there is no ecological connectivity between the Northern Gateway and Ardleigh Reservoir, due to the Severalls Industrial Park and residential area of Highwoods.
- Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

Appendix E

Assessment of Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- 1113: Swan grove
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~ 15.3km north at the closest point
 - Size: ~ 1.71ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small arable field surrounded by tree lines and hedgerows. The site lies to the west of a train line, with a woodland belt between the site and the train line. There is a residential estate to the north and residential gardens to the south comprising grassland and scattered trees. Large areas of pasture and arable fields lie in the wider landscape.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- 10291: Land opposite Wick Road
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~15.4km north-east at the closest point
 - Size: ~0.78ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: A small area of grassland potentially used for pasture and surrounded by hedgerows. Bordered by Wick Road to the east, houses and gardens to the north, a large arable field to the west, and a garden to the south.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

Appendix E Assessment of Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- 10664: Land north of Park Lane
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~15.35km west at the closest point
 - Size: ~40.74ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: Three large arable fields surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees. A track runs through the eastern end of the site which could cause potential disturbance. Bordered by grassland and houses to the east, Park Lane to the south, grassland and houses to the west, and fields, woodland and a large yard to the north. There is no continuous green corridor between the site and Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, as it lies north of the urban centre of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

- 10956: Rowhedge Business Park
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~ 2.2km north-west at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.74ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area comprising hardstanding storage area/car showroom in the north, and a house, garden and areas of grass and scattered trees in the south. Bordered by woodland to the east, Rectory Road to the south, Fingringhoe Road to the west, and scattered trees and fields to the north. Areas of grassland are small, and edge features surround the majority of the site.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Negligible

Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

- 10656: Land north of Halstead Road east of Wood Lane
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~15.1km south-west at the closest point
 - Size: ~7.99ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An arable field surrounded by lines of trees and hedgerow and a smaller field. The two fields are separated by a row of houses and gardens. A house and garden sit just outside of the larger arable field to the south and a small area of woodland sits at the north of the site. Bordered by Halstead Road to the south, houses and gardens to the east and west, and two arable fields to the north. Set within a larger network of farmland and to the northwest of Colchester.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low
- Land South of Tollgate West, Stanway
 - Distance from Habitat Site: ~15.3km south-west at the closest point
 - Size: ~3.65ha
 - Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use: An area of unused grassland and scattered scrub at the western edge of Colchester. Bordered by a retail park to the north and east, residential housing to the south, and Stanway Western Bypass to the east.
 - Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds: Low

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- 8 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (2007) SI No. 2007/1843. TSO (The Stationery Office), London.
- 9 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (2017) SI No. 2017/1012, as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (SI 2019/579), TSO (The Stationery Office), London.
- 10 The exception to this would be where 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' can be demonstrated; see paragraph on IROPI within section on Requirements of the Habitats Regulations.
- 11 The integrity of a site is the coherence of its ecological structure and function, across its whole area, that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or the levels of populations of the species for which it was designated. (Source: UK Government Planning Practice Guidance)
- 12 Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>
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- 19 NPPF para 18776, available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>
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- 22 UK Government Planning Practice Guidance, available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>
- 23 The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/>
- 24 Conservation objectives are published by Natural England for SACs and SPAs.
- 25 In line with the CJEU judgment in Case C-323/17 People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta, mitigation must only be taken into consideration at this stage and not during Stage 1: HRA Screening.
- 26 In addition to SAC and SPA citations and conservation objectives, key information sources for understanding factors contributing to the integrity of the sites include (where available) conservation objectives supplementary advice and Site Improvement Plans prepared by Natural England: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5458594975711232>

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