



# Colchester City Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

## Colchester City Council

### **Final report**

Prepared by LUC

August 2026

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Colchester City Council Regulation 19 Local Plan

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** Colchester is a City and serves as an important regional centre. It is a historic market town in Essex, located on the River Colne, approximately 50 miles northeast of London. The city 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 2.

**1.3** This iteration of the HRA assesses the impacts of the Regulation 19 Colchester Local Plan and it should be read in conjunction with this document.

## The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

**1.4** 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 1]**; the currently applicable version is the Habitats Regulations 2017 **[See reference 2]**, 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 3]** only progress a plan if it considers that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity **[See reference 4]** 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 5]**.

**1.5** 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 6]**. 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 [\[See reference 7\]](#)) 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 [\[See reference 8\]](#)), and for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I.

**1.6** The term 'European Sites' was previously commonly used in HRA to refer to 'Natura 2000' sites [\[See reference 9\]](#) and Ramsar sites (internationally designated under the Ramsar site Convention). However, a Government Policy Paper [\[See reference 10\]](#) 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.

**1.7** Although Ramsar sites do not form part of the new national site network, a Government Guidance [\[See reference 11\]](#) 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.”

**1.8** Furthermore, the NPPF [See reference 12] and practice guidance [See reference 13] 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.

**1.9** For simplicity, this report uses the term 'Habitats Site' to refer to all types of designated site for which Government guidance [See reference 14] requires an HRA.

**1.10** 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**

**1.11** 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.

**1.12** 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.

**1.13** 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**

**1.14** 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

**1.15** This section summarises the stages involved in carrying out an HRA, based on various guidance documents [\[See reference 15\]](#) [\[See reference 16\]](#). 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 [\[See reference 17\]](#).
- 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 [\[See reference 18\]](#).

#### 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 [\[See reference 19\]](#)).
- 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.

**1.16** 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.

**1.17** 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.

**1.18** 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**

**1.19** 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).

**1.20** 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."

**1.21** 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.

**1.22** The approach to this HRA is also consistent with the *Holohan v An Bord Pleanála* (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.

**1.23** 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.

**1.24** 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.”

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

**1.26** *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.

**1.27** 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.

**1.28** 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”

**1.29** 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**

**1.30** This chapter (Chapter 1) 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 2: Colchester Local Plan summarises the content of the Colchester Local Plan, which is the subject of this report.
- Chapter 3: Method sets out the approach used and the specific tasks undertaken during the Screening and Appropriate Assessment stages of the HRA.
- Chapter 4: Screening Assessment describes the findings of the screening stage of the HRA.
- Chapter 5: Appropriate Assessment describes the findings of the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA.
- Chapter 6: 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

**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 Submission Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) includes strategic and development management policies and site allocations (Figure 1, Appendix A) for Colchester, covering the plan period 2026 to 2043.

**2.2** The Colchester City Submission Draft Local Plan (Regulation 19) comprises the following main components:

- Local Plan Vision, Themes 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.
- Topic-based policies 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, and water
  - Homes
  - Economy
  - Community and social infrastructure
  - Place and connectivity
- Site-specific 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 (Figure 1, Appendix A).

## 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 and is presented in Chapter 4. The tasks that were undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA and the conclusions reached are described in detail below. Chapter 4 of the HRA report sets out policies and impact types for which likely significant effects are predicted or cannot be ruled out prior to considering 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 20]. HRA therefore considers whether any qualifying species 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 2 (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 21] and Ramsar site Information Sheets for the SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites. Natural

England's conservation objectives [See reference 22] 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) [\[See reference 23\]](#), 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 4.

## Interpretation of ‘likely significant effects’

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

**3.19** In the Waddenzee case [\[See reference 24\]](#), 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 [\[See reference 25\]](#).

**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 26]**. 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 27]**

**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** 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. Where Place Policies have been screened out, this is on the basis of five or fewer dwellings proposed:

- ST1: Health and Wellbeing
- ST2: Environment and the Green Network and Waterways
- ST3: Spatial Strategy
- ST4: Development in the Countryside
- ST7: Infrastructure and connectivity
- ST7a: Sustainable transport and connectivity
- ST8: Place Shaping Principles
- EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites
- EN2: Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Environmental Net Gain
- EN3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- EN4: Irreplaceable Habitats
- EN5: Canopy cover and new and existing trees
- EN6: Conserving and enhancing the Historic Environment
- EN7: Archaeology

- EN8: Flood risk
- EN8a: Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- EN9: Pollution and contaminated land
- GN1: Open Space and green network and waterways principles
- GN2: Strategic green spaces and nature recovery
- GN3: Local green spaces
- GN5: Suitable alternative natural greenspace
- GN6: Retention of open space
- LC1: Landscape
- LC2: Dedham Vale national landscape
- LC3: Coastal areas
- LC4: Islands
- NZ1: Operational Energy and Carbon (Net Zero) in Homes and Buildings
- NZ2: Embodied Carbon and Circular Economy in Homes and Buildings
- NZ4: Renewable energy
- H1: Housing mix
- H2: Affordable housing
- H3: Student accommodation
- H4: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and Co Living Housing
- H5: Supported and specialist housing
- 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
- 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
- PC9: Play and child-friendly places
- CC1: City Centre
- PP8: Land at Lakelands Crescent
- PP22: Telephone Exchange, Tiptree
- PP23a: Mersea Island Caravan Parks
- PP47: Land at Picketts Farm, Fingringhoe
- PP49b: Land west of Malting Road, Peldon

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
- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area
- PP1: Britannia Car Park, Colchester
- PP2: Vineyard Gate, Colchester
- PP3: St Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester
- PP4: Braiswick, Colchester
- PP5: Land at Chesterwell, Colchester
- PP6: Land at Colchester Station, Colchester
- PP7: Land at Bakers Lane, Colchester
- PP9: North-East Colchester
- PP10: Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP11: Europit Site, Colchester
- PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site, Colchester
- PP15: Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP19: Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree
- PP20: Land at Bonnie Blue Oak, Tiptree
- PP21: Highlands, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree
- PP22b: Land at New Park Cottage, Maypole Road, Tiptree
- PP23: Land East Dawes Lane, West Mersea
- PP24: Land Northwest 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
- PP29a: Land East of School Road, Copford
- PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford
- PP29c: Queensbury Avenue, Copford
- PP30: Land South of Long Road, Dedham
- PP32: Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green
- PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, 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
- PP36a: Land East of Brook 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
- PP40a: Maltings Green Road, 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
- PP45: Land off New Road, Aldham
- PP46: Land at Birch Green, Birch
- PP48: Kelvedon Road, Messing
- PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road, Peldon

- PP50: BT Site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP51: Former Land Rover site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP52: BT Repeater Station, Guildford Road
- PP53: Land at Chapmans Farm, Nayland Road
- PP54: Sheepen Place
- PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove, Colchester
- UE1: University of Essex
- PEP1: Colchester Business Park
- PEP2: Knowledge Gateway
- PEP4: Maldon Road, Colchester
- PEP6: Anderson's Site, Marks Tey
- PEP7: Highland Nursery, Tiptree – this is a Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan employment allocation (TIP15) **[See reference 28]**, therefore there is no associated site allocation. This site needs consideration at the Neighbourhood Plan level, however it is screened into 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
- PEP13: Coal Yard Site, Hythe Station Road
- PEP15: Land at Former Mill Race Nursery, Aldham
- PEP16: Land South of Tower Business Park, Tiptree

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 qualifying 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 qualifying species, including most notably, golden plover, lapwing and curlew, a greater distance of 15km may be appropriate [See **reference 29**]. 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** Figure 4 (Appendix A) shows the extent of the above buffers applied to the relevant Habitats Sites. 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 eight residential site allocations within 2km of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site:

- PP10    Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP25    View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP39    Land at The Furze, Layer de la Haye
- PP40    Land West of The Folley, Layer de la Haye
- PP40a   Maltings Green Road, Layer de la Haye
- PP46    Land at Birch Green, Birch
- PP49a   Land South of Mersea Road, Peldon
- PP55    Land adjacent Lethe Grove

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 49 residential sites within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- OA1      King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA2      Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area
- OA3      Magdalen Street Opportunity Area
- OA5      Marks Tey Growth Area
- PP1      Britannia Car Park, Colchester
- PP2      Vineyard Gate, Colchester
- PP3      St Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester
- PP4      Braiswick, Colchester
- PP5      Land at Chesterwell
- PP6      Land at Colchester Station
- PP7      Land at Bakers Lane
- 
- PP9      North-East Colchester
- PP10      Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP11      Europit Site, Colchester
- PP14      Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site
- PP15      Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP19      Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree
- PP20      Land at Bonnie Blue Oak, Tiptree

- PP21    Highlands, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree
- PP22b   Land at New Park Cottage, Maypole Road, Tiptree
- PP23    Land East Dawes Lane, West Mersea
- PP24    Land Northwest of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP25    View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP29a   Land East of School Road, Copford
- PP29b   Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford
- PP29c   Land East of Queensbury Avenue, Copford
- PP32    Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood Eight Ash Green
- PP32a   Land South of Halstead Road, 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
- PP36a   Land East of Brook Road, Great Tey
- PP39    Land at The Furze, Layer de la Haye
- PP40    Land West of The Folley, Layer de la Haye
- PP40a   Maltings Green Road, 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
- PP45    Land off New Road, Aldham
- PP46    Land at Birch Green, Birch
- PP48    Kelvedon Road, Messing
- PP49a   Land South of Mersea Road, Peldon
- PP50    BT site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP51    Former Land Rover Site, Cowdray Avenue

- PP52    BT Repeater Station, Guildford Road
- PP53    Land at Chapman's Farm, Nayland Road
- PP54    Sheepen Place
- PP55    Land adjacent Lethe Grove

**4.18** There were also 14 employment site allocations located within 15km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- OA4    Northern Gateway
- OA5    Marks Tey Growth Area
- PEP1    Colchester Business Park
- PEP2    Knowledge Gateway
- PEP4    Maldon Road, Colchester
- PEP6: Anderson's Site, Marks Tey (safeguarded for employment development)
- PEP8    Land South of Factory Hill, Tiptree
- PEP9    Bullbanks Farm, Eight Ash Green
- PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham (safeguarded for employment development)
- PEP11    Land at Pattens Yard, West Bergholt
- PEP12    Land at Wakes Hall Business Centre
- PEP13    Coal Yard Site, Hythe Station Road, Colchester
- PEP15    Land at Former Mill Race Nursery, Aldham
- PEP16    Land South of Tower Business Park, Tiptree

**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)

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 four residential sites within 2km of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:

- PP23    Land East Dawes Lane, West Mersea
- PP24    Land Northwest of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP25    View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP49a   Land South of Mersea Road, Peldon

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 33 residential sites within 15km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- OA1      King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA2      Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area
- OA3      Magdalen Street Opportunity Area
- PP1      Britannia Car Park, Colchester
- PP10     Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP11     Europit Site, Colchester
- PP14     Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site
- PP15     Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP2      Vineyard Gate, Colchester
- PP24     Land Northwest of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP25     View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP26     Land North of Boxted Straight Road
- PP3      St Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester
- PP30     Land South of Long Road, Dedham
- PP33     Land East of Plummers, Fordham



- PP34    Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley
- PP35    The Old School, Great Horkesley
- PP37    Land north of Park Lane, Langham
- PP38    Land opposite Wick Road, Langham
- PP4     Braiswick, Colchester
- PP41    Rowhedge Business Park, Rowhedge
- PP42    Land at White Hart Lane, West Bergholt
- PP43    Land North of Colchester Road, West Bergholt
- PP5     Land at Chesterwell
- PP50    BT site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP51    Former Land Rover Site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP52    BT Repeater Station, Guildford Road
- PP53    Land at Chapman's Farm, Nayland Road
- PP54    Sheepen Place
- PP55    Land adjacent Lethe Grove
- PP6     Land at Colchester Station
- PP7     Land at Bakers Lane
- PP9     North-East Colchester

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

- OA4     Northern Gateway
- PEP1    Colchester Business Park
- PEP2    Knowledge Gateway
- PEP4    Maldon Road, Colchester
- PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham (safeguarded for employment development)
- PEP11   Land at Pattens Yard, West Bergholt
- PEP13   Coal Yard Site, Hythe Station Road, Colchester

**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 policy also proposes development on land within 15km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site:

- University of Essex (Policy UE1)

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 include qualifying invertebrate species 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 qualifying 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 (see Figure 5, Appendix A) 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 eight residential sites, which are all within the 2km buffer considered for physical and damage and loss. There are no addition allocations within 2.5km of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these allocations.

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**

**4.49** A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified 49 residential sites which are within the 15km buffer considered for physical and damage and loss. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these allocations.

**4.50** In addition, there were a further three sites located between 15 and 15.5km from Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. There is potential for non-physical disturbance impacts upon birds as a result of development at the following additional allocation sites in relation to non-physical disturbance:

- PP27    Swan Grove
- PP37    Land north of Park Lane
- PP38    Land opposite Wick Road

**4.51** There were also 14 employment site allocations, which are within the 15km buffer considered for physical and damage and loss. There are no additional allocations within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these allocations.

**4.52** The infrastructure allocation, Anglian Water Recycling Centre, also lies within the 15km buffer considered for physical damage and loss. There are no additional infrastructure allocations within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for this allocation.

The policies E5 and UE1 also propose development on land within the 15km buffer considered for physical damage and loss. There are no additional policies proposing development within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these policies.: 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**

**4.53** A review of site allocations being considered for inclusion in the Local Plan identified four residential sites, which are all within the 2km buffer considered for physical and damage and loss. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these allocations.

**4.54** In addition, PP41: Rowhedge Business Park, Rowhedge, lies between 2km and 2.5km of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, requiring assessment of potential for impacts upon FLL as a result of non-physical disturbance and loss.

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, which are all within the 15km buffer considered for physical and damage and loss. There are no additional allocations within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these allocations.

**4.56** There were also seven employment allocation sites, which are within the 15km buffer considered for physical and damage and loss. There are no additional allocations within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these allocations.

**4.57** The infrastructure allocation, Anglian Water Recycling Centre, also lies within the 15km buffer considered for physical damage and loss. There are no additional infrastructure allocations within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for this allocation.

The policy UE1 also proposes development on land within the 15km buffer considered for physical damage and loss. There are no additional policies proposing development within 15.5km of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, FLL assessment is required both for physical damage and loss and non-physical disturbance for these policies. 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)

**4.58** 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.

**4.59** 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.

**4.60** The following Habitats Sites are located within the Colchester district 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

**4.61** 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)

**4.62** 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.

**4.63** In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>, i.e. NO and NO<sub>2</sub>) are considered to be the key pollutants, although ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) can also arise from increases in traffic. Deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and NO<sub>x</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> can cause eutrophication of soils and water.

**4.64** The JNCC's 'Guidance on decision-making thresholds for air pollution' [See reference 30] 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.

**4.65** Habitats Sites that are within 10km of the plan area that have qualifying features (i.e. habitats and plant, bird, mammals or invertebrate species) susceptible to impacts from air pollution are:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
  - Bird assemblage
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:
  - Saltmarsh
  - Bird assemblage
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site:
  - Saltmarsh

- Bird assemblage
- Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA and 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.
  - Bird assemblage
- Dengie SPA and 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*
  - Bird assemblage
- 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 SPA and 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*.
  - Bird assemblage

**4.66** 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.

**4.67** 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 [\[See reference 31\]](#); or
- Road carriageway alignment will change by 5m or more.

**4.68** In line with the Wealden judgment [\[See reference 32\]](#), 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.

**4.69** Strategic roads that lie within 10km of the Plan area and within 200m of a Habitats Site are shown on Figure 3 (Appendix A).

**4.70** These Habitats Sites have been subject to further screening assessment using vehicle traffic modelling data provided by Jacobs [\[See reference 33\]](#) (based on a 2025 model of the Regulation 18 Local Plan). The results of this traffic modelling are presented in Table 4.1. The data is based on 2023 baseline AADT for daily traffic flows and heavy-duty vehicle flows as well as predicted future AADT taking account of growth proposed in the Local Plan (i.e. all of the policies in the plan resulting in development, including windfall) and neighbouring authorities' Local Plans (to consider in-combination effects). The future traffic flows are forecast for 2041 for Colchester and 2042 for the neighbouring authorities, Tendring and Braintree. These will all be updated to 2043 in emerging Regulation 19 AADT traffic model. The Regulation 18 traffic model data has been used as the currently available data.

**4.71** All other Habitats Sites not listed above are situated over 200 metres from a road or are located over 10 kilometres from Plan area. As such, they are not considered to be susceptible to impacts from air pollution from vehicle emissions and are therefore screened out of the assessment. Additionally, marine sites, such as Outer Thames Estuary SPA, are not considered to be susceptible to impacts of nitrogen deposition from traffic and have been screened out.

**Table 4.1: Changes in traffic flow (AADT) for all vehicles, due to the Local Plan alone and in combination**

| Habitats Site                                  | Road           | Road Link (in traffic model) | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | A137           | 769156815_625700_626049      | 7866                         | 1626                                  | 4039                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | A137           | 769156815_626049_625700      | 6905                         | 1720                                  | 3270                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | A137           | 955283711_626049_1070210944  | 3599                         | No exceedance                         | 2612                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | A137           | 955283711_1070210944_626049  | 2959                         | No exceedance                         | 1739                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | A137/<br>B1070 | 955269849_626049_10015851    | 4509                         | No exceedance                         | 1661                                           |

| Habitats Site                                                                                        | Road           | Road Link (in traffic model)  | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site                                                       | A137/<br>B1070 | 955269849_10015851_626049     | 4053                         | No exceedance                         | 1635                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Essex Estuaries SAC | B1025          | 955247100_1070000802_10008384 | 6122                         | No exceedance                         | 1069                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Essex Estuaries SAC | B1025          | 955249647_10008381_618927     | 6122                         | No exceedance                         | 1069                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Essex Estuaries SAC | B1025          | 955249648_10008384_10008381   | 6122                         | No exceedance                         | 1069                                           |

| Habitats Site                                                                                        | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)  | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Essex Estuaries SAC | B1025 | 955247100_10008384_1070000802 | 5489                         | No exceedance                         | 1237                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Essex Estuaries SAC | B1025 | 955249647_618927_10008381     | 5489                         | No exceedance                         | 1237                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Essex Estuaries SAC | B1025 | 955249648_10008381_10008384   | 5489                         | No exceedance                         | 1237                                           |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site,<br>Blackwater Estuary                                        | B1026 | 955263258_98309_10008303      | 4271                         | No exceedance                         | 1162                                           |

| Habitats Site                                                                                       | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)    | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC                                                            |       |                                 |                              |                                       |                                                |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1026 | 955263259_10008303_10012884     | 4271                         | No exceedance                         | 1162                                           |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1026 | 955263262_10012883_98307        | 4271                         | No exceedance                         | 1162                                           |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1026 | 955273146_1070194122_10012883   | 4271                         | No exceedance                         | 1162                                           |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site,                                                             | B1026 | 955273154_1070194136_1070194122 | 4271                         | No exceedance                         | 1162                                           |

| Habitats Site                                                                                       | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)  | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC                                         |       |                               |                              |                                       |                                                |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1026 | 955273155_10012884_1070194136 | 4271                         | No exceedance                         | 1162                                           |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1026 | 955278788_1070203489_10008356 | 2299                         | No exceedance                         | 1207                                           |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1026 | 955278788_10008356_1070203489 | 1853                         | No exceedance                         | 1057                                           |



| Habitats Site                                          | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)    | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1027 | 955278914_1070203696_1070203690 | 7039                         | 1038                                  | 2027                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1027 | 955278915_1070000864_1070203696 | 7039                         | 1038                                  | 2027                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1027 | 955278914_1070203690_1070203696 | 6940                         | No exceedance                         | 2228                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1027 | 955278915_1070203696_1070000864 | 6940                         | No exceedance                         | 2228                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1027 | 955246512_1070000864_10009631   | 5910                         | No exceedance                         | 2133                                           |

| Habitats Site                                          | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)    | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1027 | 955246512_10009631_1070000864   | 5702                         | No exceedance                         | 1369                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1029 | 955274824_1070197663_1070197658 | 7178                         | No exceedance                         | 1147                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1029 | 955274826_1070197668_1070197663 | 7178                         | No exceedance                         | 1147                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1029 | 955274828_1070197673_1070197668 | 7178                         | No exceedance                         | 1147                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1029 | 955274824_1070197658_1070197663 | 6320                         | No exceedance                         | 1542                                           |

| Habitats Site                                          | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)    | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1029 | 955274826_1070197663_1070197668 | 6320                         | No exceedance                         | 1542                                           |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC | B1029 | 955274828_1070197668_1070197673 | 6320                         | No exceedance                         | 1542                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site         | B1352 | 955271248_1070176090_1070190328 | 3990                         | No exceedance                         | 1240                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site         | B1352 | 955271249_1070190328_98658      | 3990                         | No exceedance                         | 1240                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site         | B1352 | 955274531_1070197106_98561      | 3961                         | No exceedance                         | 1385                                           |

| Habitats Site                                  | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)    | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955274531_98561_1070197106      | 3558                         | No exceedance                         | 1458                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955271248_1070190328_1070176090 | 3303                         | No exceedance                         | 1385                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955271249_98658_1070190328      | 3303                         | No exceedance                         | 1385                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955274537_98561_1070197114      | 3228                         | No exceedance                         | 1366                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955274537_1070197114_98561      | 2812                         | No exceedance                         | 1565                                           |

| Habitats Site                                  | Road  | Road Link (in traffic model)    | Baseline traffic flow (2023) | Change due to Local Plan alone (2041) | Change due to Local Plan in-combination (2042) |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955274530_98658_1070197106      | 2480                         | No exceedance                         | 1239                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955274530_1070197106_98658      | 2144                         | No exceedance                         | 1321                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955279117_1070203981_1070001805 | 1324                         | No exceedance                         | 1271                                           |
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | B1352 | 955279117_1070001805_1070203981 | 909                          | No exceedance                         | 1390                                           |

**4.72** Vehicle traffic flow data (Regulation 18 model) determined that there is potential for exceedance of these thresholds along the following roads due to the plan either alone or in-combination:

- B1026 – within 200m of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- B1025 and B1026 – within 200m of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- B1025, B1027, B1029 – within 200m of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- B1025, B1026, B1027, B1029 – within 200m of Essex Estuaries SAC
- A137, B1070 and B1352 – within 200m of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

**4.73** These Habitats Sites are considered to support habitats and/or species which are sensitive to air pollution impacts.

Therefore, there is potential for LSE to occur as a result of air pollution from vehicle emissions upon Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, and 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)**

**4.74** Air pollution may also adversely affect qualifying species 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. In some cases, where the type and extent of supporting habitat is limited, or the habitat is particularly rare and sensitive then consideration for the effects of air pollution on FLL is required. The potential areas of FLL, which may support overwintering birds present in the Colchester Local Plan area are predominantly agricultural land, neutral grasslands and floodplain meadows.

These are commonly found habitats less sensitive to air pollution impacts such as nitrogen deposition. Therefore, impacts of vehicle emissions on FLL are not considered. 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

**4.75** 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.

**4.76** 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.

**4.77** 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.

## Essex Coast RAMS

**4.78** The Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) (2018-2038) was initially adopted in 2019, and updated in 2026 [See reference 34] 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 inform a Zone of Influence (ZOI) for which coastal sites could be subject to recreational impact as a result of development of new housing and accommodation across local authorities in Essex. The whole of Colchester District lies within the Essex RAMS ZOI. The ZOI was originally derived separately for each Habitats Site and then merged, with values for each separate SPA ranging from 4.5 to 22km. Recent postcode data from the 2025 visitor survey carried out as evidence to inform the RAMS review, demonstrated that the zone works to capture the majority of visitors and remains fit for purpose. Therefore, all 58 residential site allocations are subject to further consideration in regards to recreational impacts at Appropriate Assessment stage. The Habitats Sites which are represented by the Essex RAMS are listed below (Figure 6 (Appendix A)):

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

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

**4.79** Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site is not included within the Essex RAMS. Therefore, 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.



**4.80** 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 to 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.

### **Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site**

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

**4.82** A review of the site allocations identified the following 54 residential sites which fall within the ZOI, and will need to be considered further at Appropriate Assessment:

- OA1      King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA2      Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area
- OA3      Magdalen Street Opportunity Area
- OA5      Marks Tey Growth Area
- PP1      Britannia Car Park, Colchester
- PP10      Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP11      Europit Site, Colchester
- PP14      Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site
- PP15      Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP19      Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree
- PP2      Vineyard Gate, Colchester
- PP20      Land at Bonnie Blue Oak, Tiptree
- PP21      Highlands, Kelvedon Road, Tiptree
- PP22b      Land at New Park Cottage, Maypole Road, Tiptree
- PP23      Land East Dawes Lane, West Mersea

- PP24    Land Northwest of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP25    View Park, Abberton and Langenhoe
- PP26    Land North of Boxted Straight Road
- PP27    Swan Grove, Chappel
- PP28    Land West of Station Road, Wakes Colne
- PP29a   Land East of School Road, Copford
- PP29b   Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford
- PP29c   Land East of Queensbury Avenue, Copford
- PP3     St Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester
- PP32    Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood Eight Ash Green
- PP32a   Land South of Halstead Road, 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
- PP36a   Land East of Brook 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
- PP4     Braiswick, Colchester
- PP40    Land West of The Folley, Layer de la Haye
- PP40a   Maltings Green Road, 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
- PP45    Land off New Road, Aldham
- PP46    Land at Birch Green, Birch

- PP48    Kelvedon Road, Messing
- PP49a   Land South of Mersea Road, Peldon
- PP5     Land at Chesterwell
- PP50    BT site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP51    Former Land Rover Site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP52    BT Repeater Station, Guildford Road
- PP53    Land at Chapman's Farm, Nayland Road
- PP54    Sheepen Place
- PP55    Land adjacent Lethe Grove
- PP6     Land at Colchester Station
- PP7     Land at Bakers Lane
- PP9     North-East Colchester

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.

## **Outer Thames Estuary SPA**

**4.83** 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 water based 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**

**4.84** 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.

**4.85** Much of the Council's administrative boundary follows watercourses or roads. The northern boundary broadly runs along the River Stour. The eastern boundary follows the River Colne estuary at the south, as well as sections of Salary Brook and Shir Burn. Anglian Water Services (AWS) and Affinity Water supply water to Colchester City Council area. The majority of the area is in Anglian Water's Essex South Water Resource Zone (WRZ). Affinity Water provide to a small area of Colchester 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. This is largely due to the reliance on imports of water from outside of Essex as it does not have sufficient resources within the surface water catchments and groundwater locally to provide its water needs.

**4.86** The intrinsic water resources within Essex South WRZ includes the River Colne, Salary Brook, Roman River/ Layer Brook, Sixpenny Brook and Tenpenny Brook. The Essex South WRZ is currently 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).

**4.87** A Water Cycle Study (WCS) has been prepared to identify any constraints on housing and employment growth that may be imposed by water supply or water treatment. The WCS is used to inform any subsequent requirements or solutions, such as infrastructure, to resolve constraints and support proposed development and the planning policy required to deliver it through the Local Plan (AECOM, 2026) [\[See reference 35\]](#). The Environment Agency encourage WCS' to be 'live' documents, updated over time to reflect changes. A WCS interim report was published in February 2025 and a detailed WCS report was published in October 2025 to support the Preferred Options Local Plan. The WCS has been updated to support the Submission Draft Local Plan and the draft findings were made available to LUC in carrying out this HRA on behalf of the Council.

**4.88** The WCS has reviewed the amount of growth allowed for within the two statutory Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP) which cover the Colchester Local Plan area and have been produced by Anglian Water Services

and Affinity Water for the period to 2050. While the housing figures are not exactly the same due to the timing of WRMP production and the Local Plan progress, the WRMPs provide information on whether there will be sufficient water in relevant Water Resource Zones (WRZs) to supply the planned level of growth within those zones.

**4.89** The Affinity Water WRMP10 [See reference 36] informing AMP8 shows that the Brett WRZ which covers Dedham and Wivenhoe would have a surplus for most of the Local Plan period, until 2040; as there is only a small amount of allocated growth (215 homes) within the Affinity Water supply area from the Colchester area and they have a forecast surplus of supply, therefore the water supply assessment for the Colchester WCS is focused on Anglian Water's supply area.

**4.90** The Anglian Water Services WRMP3 [See reference 37] informing AMP8, shows that the Essex South WRZ (covering the majority of the Colchester Local Plan area) 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 Colchester would not have sufficient potable water to meet Anglian Water's minimum supply standards of service without the implementation of water resource management measures.

**4.91** The WCS summarises the future shortfall in supply of potable water (domestic water supply) to the Essex South WRZ, as expected, due to planned reductions in abstraction volumes for existing water sources which supply Essex, and notes the following solutions:

**4.92** *"In relation to further adjusting potable water imports, the flexibility of AWS' strategic grid (improved in the last AMP7) and the potable transfer network, means the longer term sources of these imports is likely to come from a wider range of existing sources within other WRZs. This includes the potential for input from the longer-term delivery of new strategic resources such as the proposed Fens and Lincolnshire Reservoirs as demand increases and existing abstractions are reduced or changed.*

**4.93** *However, in order to address the short to medium-term shortfall of supply for the Essex South WRZ, a new supply-side option is required before the reservoirs are available. AWS have little opportunity to utilise any surplus ground or surface water locally or more widely, therefore AWS are progressing with plans for an advanced water recycling plant in Colchester. Effluent received*

*at Colchester WRC [Water Recycling Centre] is treated to a high standard before it is discharged to the estuary. AWS will further treat some of the already treated effluent again using membrane technology before transferring it to Ardleigh Reservoir where it will mix with river water. This option would provide up to 15.2 Ml/d into Ardleigh Reservoir for supply across the WRZ.”*

**4.94** Further information identified on Anglian Water’s website [\[See reference 38\]](#), notes that “At Ardleigh Reservoir, the water will mix with waters from the River Colne, before being treated again to meet strict water quality standards and sent into supply. Providing high-quality drinking water for customers. This scheme is forecast to provide 24% of Colchester’s forecast new water needs. Demonstrating how vital these new supply options will be in coming years.”

**4.95** Ardleigh Reservoir is hydrologically connected to the River Colne and Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. This will be subject to additional abstraction in future. However, this will be balanced by the additional water supplied to Ardleigh Reservoir through the transfer of treated water from the advanced Colchester Water Recycling Centre (WRC). Therefore, there should be no overall reductions in water quantity of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

**4.96** The surface waterbodies supplying Essex South WRZ, which are under existing stress due to abstraction, include:

- River Colne and Salary Brook, which are hydrologically connected to Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.
- Roman River/ Layer Brook, which are hydrologically connected to Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and downstream to Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.
- Sixpenny Brook and Tenpenny Brook, which are hydrologically connected to Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

Due to the impacts of abstraction on surface water bodies and the water stress experienced in the Essex South WRZ, requiring additional solutions (mitigation) to address the growth set out in the Plan and prevent impacts upon surface waterbodies which have hydrological connectivity to Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, likely significant effects cannot be ruled out. This requires further investigation at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

## Water quality

### **Water treatment and discharge**

**4.97** 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.

**4.98** 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.

**4.99** 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.

**4.100** 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.

**4.101** Colchester does not lie within a catchment identified by Natural England as being at risk due to excessive nutrients [\[See reference 39\]](#). Therefore, development is not required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality. However, the Water Cycle Study identified that there are WRCs which are at risk of posing water quality issues due to sewer overflows.



**4.102** 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 WRC is fed by the sewerage system which drains wastewater generated by properties to the treatment works; this is defined as the WRC's 'catchment'. The WRC catchments which serve Colchester and within which there are site allocations 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

**4.103** The WCS identifies several water dependent Habitats Sites, which lie within or downstream of Colchester and the WRC catchments which serve it, and are therefore at risk of water quality impacts if there is inadequate wastewater treatment infrastructure. These include the following Habitats Sites which are also sensitive to water quality issues, and therefore screened in for further consideration in the Appropriate Assessment:

- Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site – connected via Layer Brook to Tiptree WRC.
- Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (part of Essex Estuaries SAC) – connected via Virley Brook and River Colne to West Mersea WRC.
- Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site (part of Essex Estuaries SAC) – connected via River Colne to nine WRCs – Birch, Earls Colne, Eight Ash



Green, Copford, Tiptree, Layer de-la-Haye, West Bergholt, Fingringhoe and Colchester.

- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site – connected via River Stour to Dedham WRC and Langham WRC.

**4.104** Although not listed in the WCS, Essex Estuaries SAC has also been screened in, due to the overlap with the other coastal and estuarine Habitats Sites.

### **Direct pollution/ run off**

**4.105** 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

**4.106** 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**

**4.107** There are no site allocations located 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 for direct pollution/run off.

### **Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site**

**4.108** There are no direct hydrological connections via rivers to Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site however, it is hydrologically connected to Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and therefore, the proximity of site allocations to the River Colne and downstream Colne Estuary, could have an impact upon Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. Therefore, this section screens in site allocations in relation to potential for direct pollution of both Habitats Sites.

**4.109** Although the following residential site allocations are over 500m from the Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, 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 these Habitats Sites, due to hydrological connectivity via Salary Brook, St Botolph's Brook, the Roman River and the River Colne:

- PP5: Land at Chesterwell
- PP6: Land at Colchester Station
- PP7: Land at Bakers Lane
- PP9: North-East Colchester
- PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site
- PP15: Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP28: Land West of Station Road, Wakes Colne
- PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford
- PP35: The Old School, Great Horkesley
- PP42: Land at White Hart Lane, West Bergholt
- PP50: BT site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP51: Former Land Rover Site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP54: Sheepen Place
- PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove
- OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA4: Northern Gateway
- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area

- PEP13: Coal Yard Site, Hythe Station Road, Colchester
- PEP15: Land at Former Mill Race Nursery, Aldham

**4.110** Additionally, the land allocated as an extension to Anglian Water Services Colchester WRC within the Local Plan has potential to result in direct pollution or run off impacts upon these Habitats Sites, due to hydrological connectivity via the River Colne.

### **Essex Estuaries SAC**

**4.111** 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 Salary Brook, St Botolph's Brook, the Roman River and the River Colne:

- PP5: Land at Chesterwell
- PP6: Land at Colchester Station
- PP7: Land at Bakers Lane
- PP9: North-East Colchester
- PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard Site
- PP15: Hawkins Road, Colchester
- PP28: Land West of Station Road, Wakes Colne
- PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford
- PP35: The Old School, Great Horkesley
- PP42: Land at White Hart Lane, West Bergholt
- PP50: BT site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP51: Former Land Rover Site, Cowdray Avenue
- PP54: Sheepen Place
- PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove
- OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area
- OA4: Northern Gateway

- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area
- PEP13: Coal Yard Site, Hythe Station Road, Colchester
- PEP15: Land at Former Mill Race Nursery, Aldham

**4.112** Additionally, the land allocated as an extension to Anglian Water Services Colchester WRC within the Local Plan 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**

**4.113** There are no site allocations located 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 the Blackwater Estuary 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**

The Screening conclusions reached in this HRA are detailed in Table 4.2 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 5.

**Table 4.2: 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                  | Potential LSE | Potential LSE | Potential LSE  | Potential LSE (due to water treatment and discharge only) |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site       | Potential LSE (Offsite only) | Potential LSE (Offsite only) | No LSE                  | Potential LSE | Potential LSE | No LSE         | Potential LSE                                             |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site            | Potential LSE (Offsite only) | Potential LSE (Offsite only) | No LSE                  | Potential LSE | Potential LSE | Potential LSE  | Potential LSE                                             |
| Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | No LSE                       | No LSE                       | No LSE                  | No LSE        | Potential LSE | No LSE         | No LSE                                                    |

| Habitats site                        | Physical damage and loss | Non-physical disturbance | Non-toxic Contamination | Air Pollution | Recreation    | Water Quantity | Water Quality |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Dengie SPA and Ramsar site           | No LSE                   | No LSE                   | No LSE                  | No LSE        | Potential LSE | No LSE         | No LSE        |
| Essex Estuaries SAC                  | No LSE                   | No LSE                   | No LSE                  | Potential LSE | Potential LSE | No LSE         | Potential LSE |
| Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | No LSE                   | No LSE                   | No LSE                  | No LSE        | Potential LSE | No LSE         | No LSE        |
| Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site    | No LSE                   | No LSE                   | No LSE                  | No LSE        | Potential LSE | No LSE         | No LSE        |
| Hamford Water SAC                    | No LSE                   | No LSE                   | No LSE                  | No LSE        | No LSE        | No LSE         | No LSE        |
| Outer Thames Estuary SPA             | No LSE                   | No LSE                   | No LSE                  | No LSE        | Potential LSE | No LSE         | No LSE        |

| Habitats site                                  | Physical damage and loss     | Non-physical disturbance     | Non-toxic Contamination | Air Pollution | Recreation    | Water Quantity | Water Quality                                             |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Potential LSE (Offsite only) | Potential LSE (Offsite only) | No LSE                  | Potential LSE | Potential LSE | No LSE         | Potential LSE (due to water treatment and discharge only) |

## 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 [\[See reference 40\]](#) 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 are already included or could 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) – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, and Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site.
- Recreation – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site, Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Water Quantity – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, and Colne Estuary 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, and 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 (AEoI).

## **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

**5.7** 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.

**5.8** 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**

**5.9** 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 **Error! Reference source not found.**, 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.

**5.10** The review of habitat types located within the site allocations, in light of individual bird species preferences (**Error! Reference source not found.**), 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**

**5.11** 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 desk-based assessment. 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**

**5.12** Site allocations were assessed for their suitability to provide functionally linked land for each of the Habitats Sites. The results are included in **Error! Reference source not found.** 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**

**5.13** The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, seven of eight 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.

**5.14** One site allocation, PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road (arable and grassland), was identified with moderate potential to support the qualifying bird species.

**5.15** There were no site allocations identified with high potential to support the qualifying bird species.

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 1.66km 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**

**5.16** The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, 50 out of the 64 site allocations within the 15km dispersal distance 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.

**5.17** The following 11 site allocations were identified with moderate potential to support the qualifying bird species:

- PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road (arable and grassland)
- PP23: Land east Dawes Lane (arable fields and grassland)
- PP24: Land Northwest of the Fire Station (arable fields)
- PP29a: Land East of School Road (arable fields)
- PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall (arable fields)
- PP32: Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green (arable fields)
- PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green (arable fields and grassland)
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road (arable fields with woodland and large pond in north-east)
- PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road (arable field)
- PP36a: Land East of Brook Road (arable field)
- PP48: Land at Kelvedon Road (arable field)

**5.18** The following three site allocations were identified with high potential to support the qualifying bird species:

- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area (approximately 22 arable fields)
- PP9: North-East Colchester (arable fields with a pocket of woodland in north-east corner)

- PP19: Land of North Oak Road (arable fields)

**5.19** Additionally, policies E5 and UE1 which propose development within 15km of Blackwater Estuary were assessed for their suitability to provide FLL. E5: Colchester Zoo was determined to provide moderate suitability. However, UE1: University of Essex was deemed to provide low suitability to support the qualifying bird species.

A total of 14 site allocations and one other policy proposing development, 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**

**5.20** The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, two of four 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.

**5.21** The following two site allocations were identified with moderate potential to support the qualifying bird species:

- PP23: Land east Dawes Lane (arable fields and grassland)
- PP24: Land Northwest of the Fire Station (arable fields)

**5.22** There were no site allocations identified with high potential to support the qualifying bird species.

The two site allocations above, 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**

**5.23** The desk-based review of the site allocations identified that based on a precautionary approach, 37 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.

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

- PP26: Land North Boxted Straight Road (an arable field)
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road (arable fields)
- PP37: Land north of Park Lane (arable fields)

**5.25** The site allocation, PP9: North-East Colchester (arable fields with a pocket of woodland in north-east corner), was identified with high potential to support the qualifying bird species.

**5.26** Additionally, policy UE1 which proposes development within 15km of Blackwater Estuary was assessed for its suitability to provide FLL, and determined to provide low suitability to support the qualifying bird species and therefore it does not require further consideration.

The four site allocations above, 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 20 site allocations, and one policy proposing development (Policy E5), with potential to affect the 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.

**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.

## Policy mitigation already included in Local Plan

**5.30** There is an overarching Policy within the Plan which provides protection for Habitats Sites. Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, outlines protection for Habitats Sites and will ensure that no development is supported where there is potential for adverse effects to integrity to arise.

**5.31** Further to this, in order to avoid loss or damage of offsite functionally linked habitat and prevent 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, the specific Place Policies which have been identified as moderate and high suitability have additional safeguards set out within the Local Plan. The Place Policies listed below set out the requirement that *“Before granting planning consent, wintering bird surveys will be undertaken to identify any offsite functional habitat. Wintering bird surveys should comprise two winter seasons, and both diurnal and nocturnal surveys. Natural England should be contacted for advice on how to determine whether mitigation is required based on the strength of the functional link. In the unlikely event that significant numbers are identified, development must firstly avoid impacts. Where this is not possible, development must be phased to deliver habitat creation and management either on or off-site to mitigate any significant*

*impacts. Any such habitat must be provided and fully functional before any development takes place which would affect significant numbers of SPA birds.”:*

- Policy E5: Colchester Zoo
- PP9: North East Colchester
- PP10: Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
- PP19: Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree
- PP23: Land East of Dawes Lane, West Mersea
- PP24: Land Northwest of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe
- PP26: Land North of Boxted Straight Road
- PP29a: Land East of School Road, Copford
- PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford
- PP32: Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood Eight Ash Green
- PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road, Great Tey
- PP37: Land north of Park Lane, Langham
- PP48: Kelvedon Road, Messing

**5.32** Additional policies within the Local Plan that will provide safeguards and mitigation measures to prevent physical damage and loss of habitats are as follows:

- E3: Agricultural development and diversification – provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.
- CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage - this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.

### **Additional sites requiring mitigation in the Local Plan**

**5.33** This assessment of the Regulation 19 Local Plan, has considered new sites which have been added to the Plan since Reg 18, and boundary changes which may have resulted in a change in additional site allocations requiring further project-level consideration of FLL.

**5.34** Therefore, to ensure that surveys are carried out of all relevant sites identified as having high or moderate suitability to support FLL, the following sites should also be subject to wintering bird surveys, with appropriate policy wording as quoted above in the section ‘Policy mitigation already included in Local Plan’:

- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area
- PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road
- PP36a: Land East of Brook Road

## Conclusion

Providing the mitigation measures recommended for the relevant additional site allocations 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 offsite 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 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 those site allocations within the dispersal distance, plus an additional 500m.

**5.37** The assessment below provides a summary of the FLL assessment for all site allocations, between 2km and 2.5km and between 15km and 15.5km of each Habitats Site, dependent on the qualifying species present. The

assessment of site suitability to support FLL undertaken for 'physical damage and loss of functionally linked land and non-physical disturbance' is set out in **Error! Reference source not found..**

## Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

**5.38** There were a total of eight site allocations within 2.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment.

**5.39** Within 2.5km distance, there was only one site allocation, **PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road**, which was identified as having moderate suitability to support significant numbers of qualifying bird species.

**5.40** 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.

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 1.66km 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

**5.41** There were a total of 64 site allocations within 15.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment. 14 site allocations were identified as having moderate or high suitability to provide functionally linked land, listed as follows.

- High suitability:
  - OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area
  - PP9: North-East Colchester
  - PP19: Land of North Oak Road

■ Moderate suitability:

- PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road
- PP23: Land east Dawes Lane
- PP24: Land North of the Fire Station
- PP29a: Land East of School Road
- PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall
- PP32: Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green
- PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road
- PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road
- PP36a: Land East of Brook Road
- PP48: Land at Kelvedon Road

**5.42** All other site allocations were deemed to be of low or negligible suitability and therefore, do not require further consideration.

**5.43** Additionally, policies E5 and UE1, which were considered in relation to their suitability to support FLL within the assessment undertaken for ‘physical damage and loss of functionally linked land’ applies to the assessment for ‘non-physical disturbance’, as these policies propose development within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary. E5: Colchester Zoo was determined to provide moderate suitability. However, UE1: University of Essex was deemed to provide low suitability to support the qualifying bird species.

Based on the large number of site allocations and Policy E5, which could provide FLL, 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

**5.44** There were a total of five site allocations within 2.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment. The assessment of site suitability to support FLL undertaken for ‘physical damage and loss of functionally linked land’ applies to

the assessment for 'non-physical disturbance' too. Two site allocations were identified as having moderate suitability to provide functionally linked land:

- PP23: Land east Dawes Lane
- PP24: Land North of the Fire Station

**5.45** All other site allocations were deemed to be of low or negligible suitability and therefore, do not require further consideration.

Based on the large number of site allocations which could provide FLL, there is potential for adverse effects 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 41 site allocations within 15.5km, identified in the Screening Assessment. Three site allocations were identified as having moderate suitability, and one site allocation was identified to have high suitability to provide functionally linked land, as follows:

- Moderate Suitability
  - PP26: Land North Boxted Straight Road
  - PP34: Land North of Coach Road
  - PP37: Land north of Park Lane
- High Suitability
  - PP9: North-East Colchester

**5.47** Additionally, policy UE1 which proposes development within 15.5km of Blackwater Estuary was assessed for its suitability to provide FLL, and determined to provide low suitability to support the qualifying bird species and therefore it does not require further consideration.

Based on the large number of site allocations which could provide FLL, there is potential for adverse effects on integrity of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site in relation to non-physical disturbance of functionally linked land.

**5.48** The potential for the non-physical disturbance 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 20 site allocations, and one policy proposing development (Policy E5), with potential to affect the 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.

**5.49** Therefore, there is potential for non-physical disturbance 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.

**5.50** 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.

## Policy mitigation already included in Local Plan

**5.51** 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.

**5.52** As described within the 'Policy mitigation already included in Local Plan' section for the impact physical damage and loss above, there is a safeguard set out within the Place Policies identified as moderate and high suitability to provide offsite foraging habitat for qualifying bird species. This will also help to mitigate non-physical disturbance of qualifying bird species.

**5.53** Further to this, there are other policies within the Local Plan that will provide safeguards and mitigation measures to prevent non-physical disturbance, including:

- Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land, will ensure that development will avoid pollution (including air, light, noise, and water pollution).

- 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. There are also several Place Policies with specific requirements for SANGs (PP9, PP19, PP34 and PP37).
- LC3: Coastal areas – provides protection of nature conservation designations through an integrated approach to coastal management.
- CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage - this provides safeguard by refusing proposals which may have adverse impact on the integrity of Habitats Sites.

### **Additional sites requiring mitigation in the Local Plan**

**5.54** In order to ensure that surveys are carried out of all relevant sites, identified as having high or moderate suitability to support FLL. The following sites should also be subject to wintering bird surveys:

- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area
- PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road
- PP36a: Land East of Brook Road

## **Conclusion**

Providing the mitigation measures recommended for the relevant site allocations 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)**

**5.55** The updated Regulation 19 Local Plan traffic model is required in order to confirm the AADT forecasted for the Local Plan. Based on the results of this model, further air quality assessment may be required in relation to nitrogen, nutrient nitrogen and acid deposition for the relevant qualifying features. An air pollution dispersion model may be required to fully understand the impacts of increased development resulting from the Local Plan alone and in-combination with other plans and projects. This would be used to determine the potential for exceedance of pollutant Critical Loads and Critical Levels. With the exception of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, the Habitats Sites comprise intertidal estuaries which are subject to regular flushing by the tides and as such are typically resilient to localised affects relating to air pollution. Therefore, the requirement for further evidence to determine potential for impact is considered to be highly precautionary. This information will be presented as an addendum to the HRA. In the absence this further evidence, it is not possible to conclude no adverse effects on integrity.

### **Policy mitigation already included in Local Plan**

**5.56** The following measures outlined in the Local Plan provide some safeguarding and mitigation of air pollution impacts. Specifically, Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land, which will ensure that development will avoid and reduce air pollution, especially where there could be impact upon Habitats Sites.

**5.57** 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, appropriate to the scale of development and its location”.

## **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 Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site as air pollution from vehicle emissions are uncertain. Dependant on the results of the Regulation 19 Local Plan traffic model, air pollution modelling may be required to inform the assessment. This information will be presented as an addendum to the HRA.

## **Recreation**

**5.58** 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;
- Crouch and Roach SPA and Ramsar site;
- Dengie SPA and Ramsar site;
- Essex Estuaries SAC;
- Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site;
- Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site;
- Outer Thames Estuary SPA; and
- Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site.

**5.59** Further assessment of the impacts 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 RAMS.

### **Abberton Reservoir SPA**

**5.60** 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. However, it should be noted that no dogs are permitted within the SPA and such disturbance impacts would arise from humans only. This is

notable as typically one of the key causes for disturbances to bird species is as a result of dogs / dog walking.

**5.61** 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 which vary during the year. In addition, there is an educational visitor centre at the site.

Based on this level of management of recreation pressures at the site, it can be concluded that adverse effect on the integrity of the Abberton Reservoir SPA will not occur as a result of proposed development in the Colchester Local Plan.

## Outer Thames Estuary SPA

**5.62** 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 species.

**5.63** Given the specialist nature of these water-based activities, which is likely to attract visitors from greater distances, it is expected that any increase in this type of recreational activity is likely to be relatively minor, in relation to increased development and the planned growth as a result of the Local Plan within Colchester itself. In addition, the extent of the SPA spans across an area of open sea covering nearly 380,000 ha and extending 1,200km from the coastline.

**5.64** The qualifying species of the SPA primarily uses 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.

Based on this assessment, it can be concluded that adverse effects on the integrity of the Outer Thames Estuary SPA will not occur as a result of proposed development in the Colchester Local Plan.

## Habitats Sites covered by Essex Coast RAMS

**5.65** The following SAC, SPAs and Ramsar sites (covered by the Essex Coast RAMS) are located along the coastline of Essex and were screened in for likely significant effects due to recreation pressure:

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

**5.66** The effects of recreational disturbance on coastal habitats and/or those with sensitive bird populations have been studied and recognised throughout the UK.

**5.67** 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.

**5.68** In Essex, it has been identified that in the absence of mitigation, adverse effects on the integrity of these coastal Habitats Sites cannot be avoided, either from individual Local Plans alone, or in-combination with other plans and projects as a result of increased housing growth. As such, a mitigation strategy has been developed in order to enable Local Plans to be adopted, and this is discussed further below. The site allocations, for which there is potential for alone impacts are strategic sites with 500 or more dwellings. These are as follows:

- PP9: North-East Colchester (2,000 dwellings)
- PP19: Land North of Oak Road, Tiptree (650 dwellings)
- PP10: Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester (875 dwellings)
- PP34: Land North of Coach Road, Great Horkesley (800 dwellings)
- PP37: Land north of Park Lane, Langham (850 dwellings)
- OA4: Northern Gateway (650 dwellings)
- OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area (2,500 dwellings)

**5.69** Whilst, the overall level of growth within the Colchester Local Plan, has potential for recreational impact upon these Essex coastal sites in-combination with the growth proposed across Greater Essex.

## Mitigation

**5.70** The following initiatives provide mitigation to help ensure that proposed development in the Colchester Local Plan will not result in an adverse effect in the integrity of the Habitats Sites covered by the Essex Coast RAMS.

### **Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy**

**5.71** The Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS), was first adopted in 2018. 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 and qualifying development.

**5.72** As detailed in the Screening Assessment in Chapter 4, the Essex Coast RAMS ZOI for Habitats Sites in Essex includes the whole of Colchester District. Therefore, all housing growth set out within the Local Plan will require mitigation in line with the RAMS. The RAMS applies to any future development that results in a net increase in residential units (i.e. Use Class C3) located within the ZOI, which includes all 58 residential site allocations within Colchester. It also includes other residential accommodation which could give rise to Likely Significant Effects, such as Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and gypsy and traveller pitches. Other types of overnight accommodation which have to be assessed on a case by case basis to determine potential for Likely Significant Effects include residential institutions such as hospitals and care homes, schools, training centres and student accommodation and tourism accommodation including hotels, caravan sites (especially within 1.5km of the coast) and attractions.

**5.73** The Essex Coast RAMS was updated in 2026 following review of the effectiveness of strategic mitigation measures in light of the expected growth in Greater Essex and to ensure that mitigation is delivered in perpetuity. The review included visitor surveys at various points around the coast to assess visitor motivations, recreational activities and gain an understanding of behaviours. Visitor surveys took place in spring and winter 2025. The review of the RAMS was supported by Natural England and included 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.

**5.74** The updated RAMS sets out a detailed programme of strategic mitigation measures which are to be funded by developer contributions from residential development schemes. Colchester City Council is one of the partners of this strategy and is responsible for the delivery of the Essex Coast RAMS. The updated RAMS Strategy document was adopted by the Council in June 2026 and the new tariff applied from 1 August 2026. Table 4 of the RAMS sets out the per dwelling tariff model, of contribution required for each development type. However, it states that for development types not falling within the standard per dwelling tariff model, the potential for LSEs must be assessed through project level HRA.

**5.75** The strategy proposes the following measures to avoid and mitigate in-combination impacts arising from increased recreational pressure in Greater Essex. These are funded through the tariff and include:

- An expanded and strengthened strategic access management and monitoring programme.
- Coastal ranger teams engaging with visitors.
- Education and community awareness campaigns.
- Clear signage and information.
- Responsible dog walking and responsible recreation initiatives.
- Seasonal protection for sensitive bird species.
- Improvements to paths, parking and access.
- Monitoring to understand visitor use and target action.

**5.76** The Essex Coast RAMS is endorsed within the Local Plan within Policy EN1, as described in the section ‘Policy mitigation already included in the Local Plan’ below.

### **Watercraft – Code of Conduct**

**5.77** In addition to the above, Essex Police support a Watercraft Code of Conduct [See reference 41], 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 already included in the Local Plan**

**5.78** In relation to the potential for alone impacts of recreation due to large-scale growth at strategic sites (of 500 or more dwellings), the Local Plan Policy GN5: Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace, outlines the requirement for Suitable Alternative Greenspace (SANG) to provide alternative greenspace to divert visitors from visiting sensitive sites.

**5.79** The delivery of the Essex RAMS is supported by Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, which describes the role of the Essex RAMS in providing mitigation for the in-combination effects of developments, stating the following:



- *“Contributions will be secured from qualifying residential development, within the Zones of Influence as defined in the adopted Essex Coast Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS, or brand name Bird Aware Essex Coast), towards avoidance and mitigation measures identified in the adopted strategy and any updates to the strategy or successor strategy. If an applicant pursues an alternative approach to mitigation, information to support the Council in preparing a Habitats Regulations Assessment will be required, including support from Natural England on the effectiveness of the proposed bespoke mitigation.*
- *Reference to Bird Aware Essex Coast must be included on any signage or interpretation that relates to a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) required in accordance with the Habitats Regulations Assessment. Signage and interpretation boards should explain the natural features of the open space and include places to rest within and throughout the SANG.”*

**5.80** 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, and in Policy GN5 which provides mitigation for the alone effects of development upon Habitats Sites.

**5.81** 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.

**5.82** In summary, the following Local Plan policies support provision of strategic measures and/ or delivery of alternative greenspace to divert recreation pressure and avoid impacts of the Local Plan alone and in-combination:

- Policy EN1: Nature conservation designated sites, also outlines specific requirement for provision of SANG required in accordance with the Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- 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.



**5.83** Additional policies that are relevant in providing mitigation include:

- Policy GN2: Strategic Green Spaces and Nature Recovery
- Policy GN3: Local Green Spaces
- Policy GN6: Retention of Open Space

## Conclusion

In light of the above, it can be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on integrity 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, Crouch and Roach SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site, Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site, Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Outer Thames Estuary SPA.

## Water quantity

**5.84** The Screening Assessment concluded that population growth associated with the Local Plan will result in additional abstraction from surface water bodies, with potential for likely significant effects on Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site.

**5.85** As detailed within the Screening Assessment, Colchester district lies within the Essex South WRZ. There is potential for the supply of water to result in impact upon these Habitats Sites as they are hydrologically connected to rivers which are abstracted from to supply the Essex South WRZ, and therefore are susceptible to changes in water quantity as a result of proposed development within the Colchester Local Plan.

**5.86** The additional abstraction proposed for the River Colne will be balanced by additional treated water supplied from Ardleigh Reservoir into the River Colne. Therefore, there should be no AEoI on Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. In addition, in relation to existing abstractions and the water stress in the region, Anglian Water Services [See reference 42] and Affinity Water [See reference 43] 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.

**5.87** Additionally, the WCS for Colchester determined that there would be adequate supply over the short and medium term to long term through a range of solutions proposed by Anglian Water Services in their WRMP and Demand Strategy.

## Mitigation

**5.88** The WRMPs provide detail on abstraction within the Essex South WRZ. The published Anglian Water WRMP plans to overcome predicted deficit in the Essex South 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.

**5.89** The Anglian Water 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.

**5.90** 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 amount of new dwellings within the Colchester 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 (215) to be allocated at Dedham and Wivenhoe is in line with the assumptions for the Brett WRZ and adequately accounted for.

**5.91** A HRA of the Anglian Water WRMP 2024 was undertaken [\[See reference 44\]](#), 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.

**5.92** A HRA of the Affinity Water WRMP 2024 was undertaken [See reference 45], which concluded that with proposed mitigation measures in place, the WRMP will have no adverse effects on any Habitats Sites, alone or in combination.

### **Policy mitigation already included in the Local Plan**

**5.93** The following measures outlined in the Local Plan will provide safeguarding and mitigation and as such will need to be adhered to and implemented successfully. Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites, which will ensure that development related impacts resulting in Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEol) of Habitats Sites and SSSIs is avoided and/ or appropriately mitigated.

**5.94** Additionally, Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply, 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), to enable the advanced water treatment required to supply additional water to Ardleigh Reservoir for further treatment to increase potable water supply.

### **5.95**

**5.96** In addition, in response to the water supply concerns and issues with capacity in water recycling and treatment raised in the WCS, Policy NZ3 sets out the following requirement *“Development proposals should demonstrate that a water supply connection can be provided. To achieve greater water efficiencies and support demand management, all development must demonstrate water efficient design. Residential development must be designed to utilise no more than 85 litres per person per day of mains supplied water / potable water per person per day (l/p/d). Proposals should submit a water efficiency calculator report to demonstrate compliance and include clear evidence on the approach to water conservation.”* This will improve water supply, including for potable water and domestic water uses over the long term up to 2050. Considering water supply and demand as a circular system, it will also reduce overall demand for water recycling and wastewater treatment, which is addressed in the ‘Water quality’ section of the Appropriate Assessment.

**5.97** The recommendations of the WCS have been included within the Local Plan to address additional supply needs associated with the growth in the Local Plan.

## Conclusion

In light of the above, it can be concluded that no adverse effects on the integrity of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site and Colne Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, will occur as a result of impacts from water quantity. In line with the findings and recommendations of the WCS and the recommendations of the Anglian Water WRMP, it is concluded that there will be no AEol.

## Water quality

### Water treatment and discharge

**5.98** As presented within the Screening Assessment, likely significant effects could not be screened out for Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, due to potential water quality impacts arising from insufficient wastewater treatment capacity within some of the WRCs which serve Colchester and have site allocations within their catchments.

### Mitigation

**5.99** The Water Cycle Study (WCS) provides an assessment of the capacity of each supplying WRC to meet the demands of the growth expected during the Plan period, and the required mitigation as set out below.

■ Birch WRC

- There is capacity within this WRC (46% at end of Plan period) to serve the proposed growth without requiring WRC upgrades.

■ Colchester WRC:

- The cumulative effect of existing commitments, site allocations and the dwelling and employment contribution from the Tendring Colchester

Borders Garden Community to 2043, would result in the WRC exceeding its capacity before the end of the Plan period in 2037. Therefore, Colchester WRC is planned to receive infrastructure upgrades beyond AMP8 (post 2030).

- Policy Mitigation/ Infrastructure allocation:
  - The infrastructure upgrade is referred to within Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply and the infrastructure allocation “Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre”.
  - Additionally, Anglian Water Services (AWS) has developed an approach to strategic sites (more than 500 dwellings) to ensure collaborative work enables coordinated and timely delivery of required infrastructure to ensure no impact on the environment. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
  - The WCS recommends for Local Plan development coming forward until 2030, to demonstrate that capacity is available for connection before submitting their planning application. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
  - Due to the long-term capacity issue resulting in lack of capacity to support growth beyond 2037, the WCS recommends that an 85 l/p/d per capita consumption be imposed for allocated sites in this catchment to improve available capacity, especially within the first half of the Plan period. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
- Copford WRC
- Despite the baseline capacity within this WRC, the growth expected within the plan would result in the WRC exceeding its capacity before the end of the Plan period, in 2037. However, this is due to be addressed through planned investment in the WRC during AMP8 and phasing of development, as well as an improvement in efficiencies of potable water to new developments of 85 l/p/d per capita consumption.
  - Policy Mitigation:
  - Due to the long term capacity issue resulting in lack of capacity to support growth beyond 2037, the WCS recommends that an 85 l/p/d per capita consumption limit be imposed for allocated sites in this catchment to improve available capacity, especially within the first half of the Plan period. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
- Dedham WRC
- This WRC is at capacity.

- Policy Mitigation:
  - The WCS sets out the recommendation for an 85 l/p/d per capita consumption limit be imposed for allocated sites in this catchment to improve available capacity, especially within the first half of the Plan period. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
- Earls Colne WRC
  - This WRC is likely to exceed its capacity before the end of the Plan period in 2037, due to the cumulative effect of existing commitments and allocations.
  - There are planned investments in the WRC in AMP8, which should accommodate the level of growth expected.
- Eight Ash Green WRC
  - This WRC is likely to exceed its capacity before the end of the Plan period in 2039, due to the cumulative effect of existing commitments and allocations. This exceedance is due to occur at the end of the Plan period, when a solution can be sought through AMP9.
  - Policy Mitigation:
    - The WCS sets out the recommendation for an 85 l/p/d per capita consumption limit be imposed for allocated sites in this catchment to improve available capacity. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
- Fingringhoe WRC
  - This WRC is almost at capacity.
  - There is planned investment in AMP8 into this WRC, which should ensure that the growth is achievable in the longer term, however the allocations are due to be delivered early on in the Plan period.
  - Policy Mitigation:
    - The WCS recommends for Plan policy for development coming forward until 2030, to demonstrate that capacity is available for connection before submitting their planning application. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
- Great Tey WRC
  - This WRC has capacity currently, but the cumulative effect of existing commitments and allocations would result in the WRC exceeding its capacity before the end of the plan period in 2039. The assessment of

capacity has identified that there is likely to be scope to connect new dwellings to the WRC for treatment until at least 2037. This gives time for any required growth scheme to be developed and considered in AMP9 or AMP10.

- Policy Mitigation:
- The WCS recommends for Plan policy for development coming forward until 2030, to demonstrate that capacity is available for connection before submitting their planning application. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.

■ **Langham WRC**

- This WRC and local network are at capacity and the AMP8 works will not address the full quantum of the allocations within the new Local Plan and a growth scheme in subsequent AMPs may be required to accommodate this. Water quality modelling reported in the WCS demonstrates a new solution via later AMP investment is feasible within environmental limits, but it would require investment to provide improved quality and additional flow, and this is unlikely to be feasible before 2030.
- Policy Mitigation:
- The WCS recommends that an 85 l/p/d PCC be imposed for the allocated sites in this catchment given the limited current capacity of the WRC and the likely delivery of the sites early in the Plan period. This recommendation is captured in Policy NZ3, which sets out a blanket requirement for all developments to meet this water efficiency standard. It also recommends that phasing of housing in Langham's WRC catchment is limited until 2030. The WCS recommends for Plan policy for development coming forward until 2030, to demonstrate that capacity is available for connection before submitting their planning application. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.

■ **Layer-de-la-Haye WRC**

- There is capacity within this WRC (13% at end of Plan period) to serve the proposed growth without requiring WRC upgrades.

■ **Tiptree WRC**

- There is capacity within this WRC (2% at end of Plan period) to serve the proposed growth without requiring WRC upgrades.
- Policy Mitigation:



- Due to the limited capacity remaining, the WCS recommends that an 85 l/p/d PCC be imposed for the allocated sites in this catchment given the limited current capacity of the WRC and the likely delivery of the sites early in the Plan period. This recommendation is captured in Policy NZ3.
- **West Bergholt WRC**
  - This WRC is at capacity. There is not any planned investment in AMP8 into this WRC, and the allocations are due to be delivered early on in the Plan period.
  - **Policy Mitigation:**
  - The WCS recommends for Plan policy for development coming forward until 2030, to demonstrate that capacity is available for connection before submitting their planning application. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3.
- **West Mersea WRC**
  - There is capacity within this WRC (24% at end of Plan period) to serve the proposed growth without requiring WRC upgrades.

**5.100** Colchester WRC was identified in the WCS to have Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) where baseline (before growth) spill frequency exceeds the long-term improvement plan targets. Anglian Water Services has considered measures to address this in order to meet the future target. The WCS was unable to fully assess capacity at Colchester WRC due to lack of flow monitoring data. This is due to be rectified and reassessed by Anglian Water to understand capacity for the developments coming forward in the first 5 years of the Plan. Therefore, the WCS recommends for Local Plan development coming forward until 2030, to demonstrate that capacity is available for connection before submitting their planning application. This and additional policy recommendations within the WCS have been addressed in the Local Plan as set out in the 'Policy Mitigation' section below.

**5.101** Dedham, Fingringhoe, Great Tey, Langham, West Bergholt and Colchester WRCs 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 help meet the early phase of growth expected in the Local Plan period and additional policy mitigation is set out to ensure that developers determine capacity ahead of planning.



**5.102** In conclusion, the WCS summarised that *“the preferred AWS plan to balance supply and demand in the medium to long term relies on new supply-side solutions which have medium to long lead-in times, and hence there is a need to ensure that early phase new dwellings are designed to reduce water demand prior to these new sources being connected to the Essex South WRZ. Finally, the WCS has set out that reducing PCC (to as low as 85 l/p/d) would have significant benefit in maintaining treatment headroom at many of the WRCs because less wastewater would be generated. This may delay or prevent the need for upgrades to WRCs within the Local Plan period and would have the effect of reducing impact on waterbodies through reduced storm spills and reduced treated discharges from WRC.”*

### **Policy mitigation already included in the Local Plan**

**5.103** The following measures outlined in the Local Plan will provide safeguarding and mitigation and as 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. This extension 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.

**5.104** Additionally, Policy EN8: Flood Risk sets out the requirement that all new development will be required to incorporate water management measures to reduce surface water run-off and adverse impact to water quality, to ensure flood risk is not increased elsewhere. It also sets out the requirement for surface water to be managed in accordance with the drainage hierarchy and be managed close to its source, at the surface and mimic natural drainage as much as possible. Further to this, Policy EN8a: Sustainable Drainage Systems requires all surface and foul water flows should be separated. No surface water is to be discharged to a foul sewer or a combined sewer via a new connection. This is another recommendation in the WCS and the requirement in Policy EN8a will apply to all development in Colchester district.

**5.105** Overarching Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites will also ensure that development related impacts resulting in Adverse Effect on Integrity (AEoI) of Habitats Sites and SSSIs is avoided and/ or appropriately mitigated.

**5.106** The WCS recommended policy requirement is incorporated within the Local Plan to ensure allocated development prevents surface water generated

from sites from being discharged to the foul sewer network. This recommendation is captured within Policy NZ3, and Policy EN8 and EN8a, drainage hierarchy for discharge of surface water. This policy recommendation is incorporated specifically in relation to potential water quality issues due to sewer overflows from Copford WRC, Dedham WRC, Eight Ash Green WRC, Fingringhoe WRC, Langham WRC, Tiptree WRC, West Bergholt WRC and West Mersea WRC.

**5.107** The WCS recommended that a policy is also included to ensure that developers demonstrate they have agreed available capacity at the WRC (and the associated sewer network) with Anglian Water prior to submitting planning applications, to address additional capacity needs at Colchester WRC, Dedham WRC, Fingringhoe WRC, Great Tey WRC, Langham WRC, West Bergholt WRC. This has been incorporated within the Local Plan Policy NZ3, which states *“Developers are required to engage early with Anglian Water Services to confirm water supply availability and wastewater capacity. Developers should safeguard suitable access for the maintenance of existing water supply and sewerage infrastructure when considering the design and layout of development proposals.”* Many of the Place policies also include criteria and supporting text in relation to ensuring that there is wastewater capacity.

**5.108**

## **Conclusion**

In light of the above, it can be concluded that there will be no AEoI upon Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. This conclusion has been reached in line with the recommendations outlined in the WCS and based on the policies set out within the Local Plan.

## **Direct pollution/ run off**

**5.109** Likely significant effects could not be screened out for Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site and Essex Estuaries SAC, due to potential for direct run-off or deposition of pollutants, for example during construction, as a result of hydrological connectivity between upstream allocation sites and downstream Habitats Sites.

## **Policy mitigation already included in the Local Plan**

**5.110** The following measures outlined in the Colchester 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 sets out the requirement for sites that include watercourses or waterbodies, construction activities to be managed to minimise pollution risks from runoff and other pathways.

**5.111** 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.

**5.112** The recommendations of the WCS have been included within the Local Plan to address capacity needs at Colchester WRC, Dedham WRC, Fingringhoe WRC, Great Tey WRC, Langham WRC, West Bergholt WRC. These policy recommendations have been incorporated within the Local Plan to require developers to demonstrate they have agreed available capacity at the WRC (and the associated sewer network) with Anglian Water prior to submitting planning applications.

## **Conclusion**

In light of the above, it can be concluded that no AEol of Blackwater Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, Colne Estuary Ramsar site and SPA, and Essex Estuaries SAC, will occur as a result of impacts from water quantity.

## **Summary of Appropriate Assessment**

**5.113** The conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment are summarised in Table 5.1 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 in the Local Plan as described above are successfully implemented.

- The Habitats Sites highlighted in amber cannot be concluded to have no AEoI as further air quality modelling data is needed.

**Table 5.1: 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            | Potential Adverse Effect on Integrity | No AEol    | No AEol        | No AEol       |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site       | No AEol                  | No AEol                  | Screened out            | Potential Adverse Effect on Integrity | No AEol    | No AEol        | No AEol       |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site            | No AEol                  | No AEol                  | Screened out            | Potential Adverse Effect on Integrity | No AEol    | No AEol        | No AEol       |
| Crouch & Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | Screened out             | Screened out             | Screened out            | Screened out                          | No AEol    | Screened out   | Screened out  |

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

| Habitats site                                  | Physical damage and loss | Non-physical disturbance | Non-toxic Contamination | Air Pollution                         | Recreation | Water Quantity | Water Quality |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site | No AEol                  | No AEol                  | Screened out            | Potential Adverse Effect on Integrity | No AEol    | No AEol        | No AEol       |

## Chapter 6

### Conclusion and Next Steps

**6.1** At the Screening stage, likely significant effects could not be ruled out in relation to the potential for Plan policies to result in LSE on Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

**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 – 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) – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, and Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site.
- Recreation – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site, Dengie SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SAC, Foulness Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Hamford Water SPA and Ramsar site, Outer Thames Estuary SPA, and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site.
- Water Quantity – Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, and Colne Estuary 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, and 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 impact pathways 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 as a result of safeguards and policy protection provided in the Local Plan, including Policies EN1, ST2, E3, and CS5.
- 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 as a result of safeguards and policy protection provided in the Local Plan, including Policies EN1, EN9, ST2, GN1, GN5, LC3 and CS5.
- Recreation – The Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of recreation as a result of mitigation provided through the Essex Coast RAMS, the Watercraft – Code of Conduct and policy protection measures in the Local Plan including Policies EN1, ST2 and GN5.
- Water Quantity – The Appropriate Assessment concluded no adverse effect on integrity as a result of water quantity as a result of mitigation provided through the Water Resource Management Plans and through safeguarding and policy protection in the Local Plan including Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply and the associated water recycling infrastructure improvements and extension to Anglian Water Services Colchester Water Recycling Centre (land is allocated in the Local Plan), accompanied with additional transfers of water to Ardleigh Reservoir to increase available supply.
- Water Quality (water treatment/discharge) – The Appropriate Assessment concluded no AEoI as a result of mitigation provided through safeguarding and policy protection in the Local Plan Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply and relevant Place policies., which ensure development will not take place unless there is capacity in the relevant WRC.
- Water Quality (direct pollution/ run off) - With regards to the impact of direct pollution and run-off from site allocations, the Appropriate Assessment concluded no AEoI as a result of mitigation provided through Local Plan Policy EN9 and EN1.

**6.5** Once the Regulation 19 traffic model is available, this will be used to inform updated assessment of potential for air pollution impacts and requirements for further pollutant dispersion modelling data (if necessary). 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 Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site, Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site, Essex Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site and Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site. This is due to forecast increases in traffic flows above the screening threshold for the following roads due to the (Regulation 18) Plan either alone or in-combination:

- B1026 – within 200m of Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site
- B1025 and B1026 – within 200m of Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- B1025, B1027, B1029 – within 200m of Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site
- B1025, B1026, B1027, B1029 – within 200m of Essex Estuaries SAC
- A137, B1070 and B1352 – within 200m of Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site

## Next steps

**6.6** 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 19 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.

**6.7** The updated AADT data for the Regulation 19 Plan will be incorporated once available, alongside the additional evidence, such as pollution dispersion model data, which may be required to inform the assessment of air quality impacts. This will be incorporated into the HRA as an addendum during the examination of the Local Plan.

LUC

August 2026

# Appendix A

## Figures



Figure A.1: Site Allocations

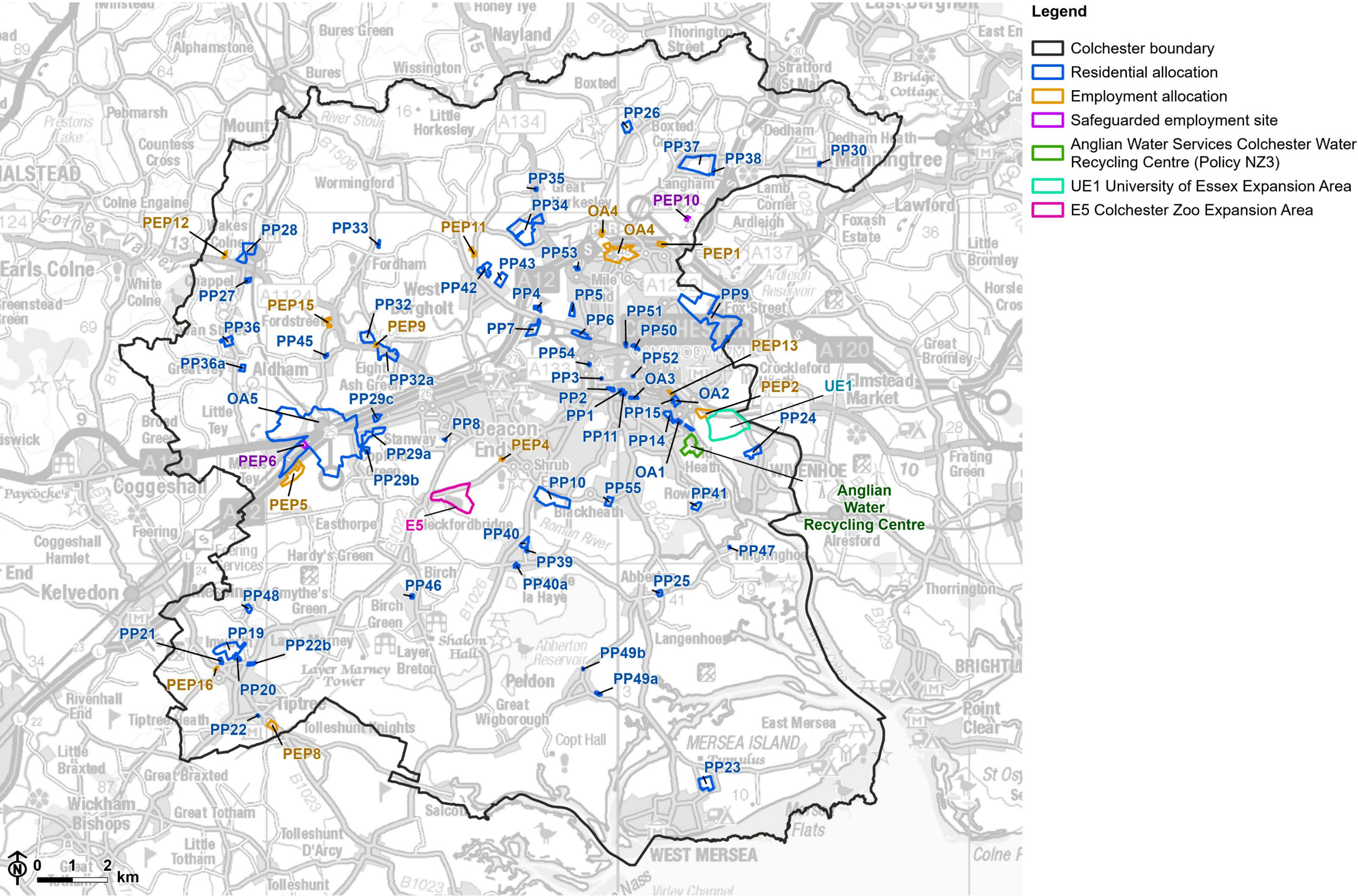
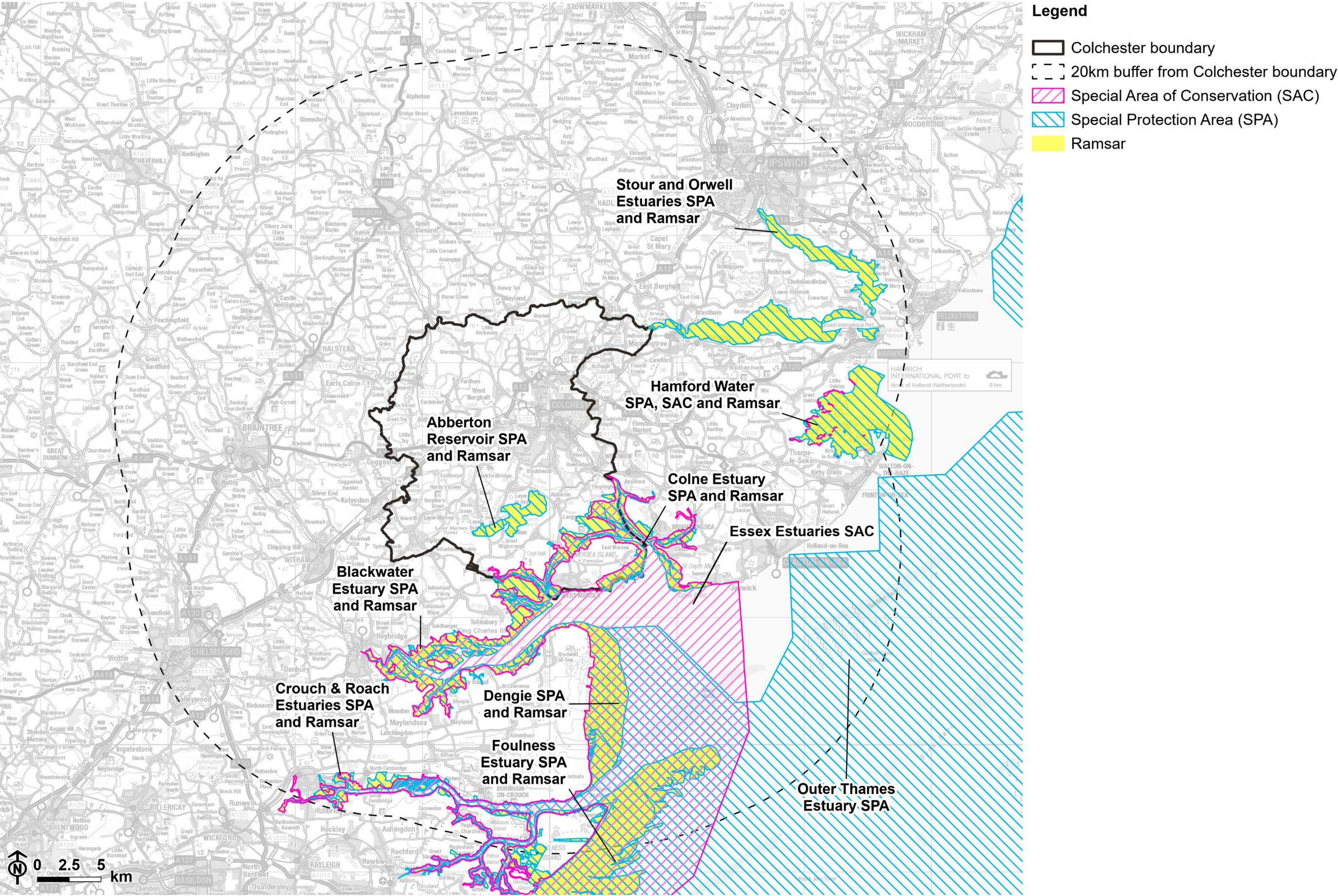




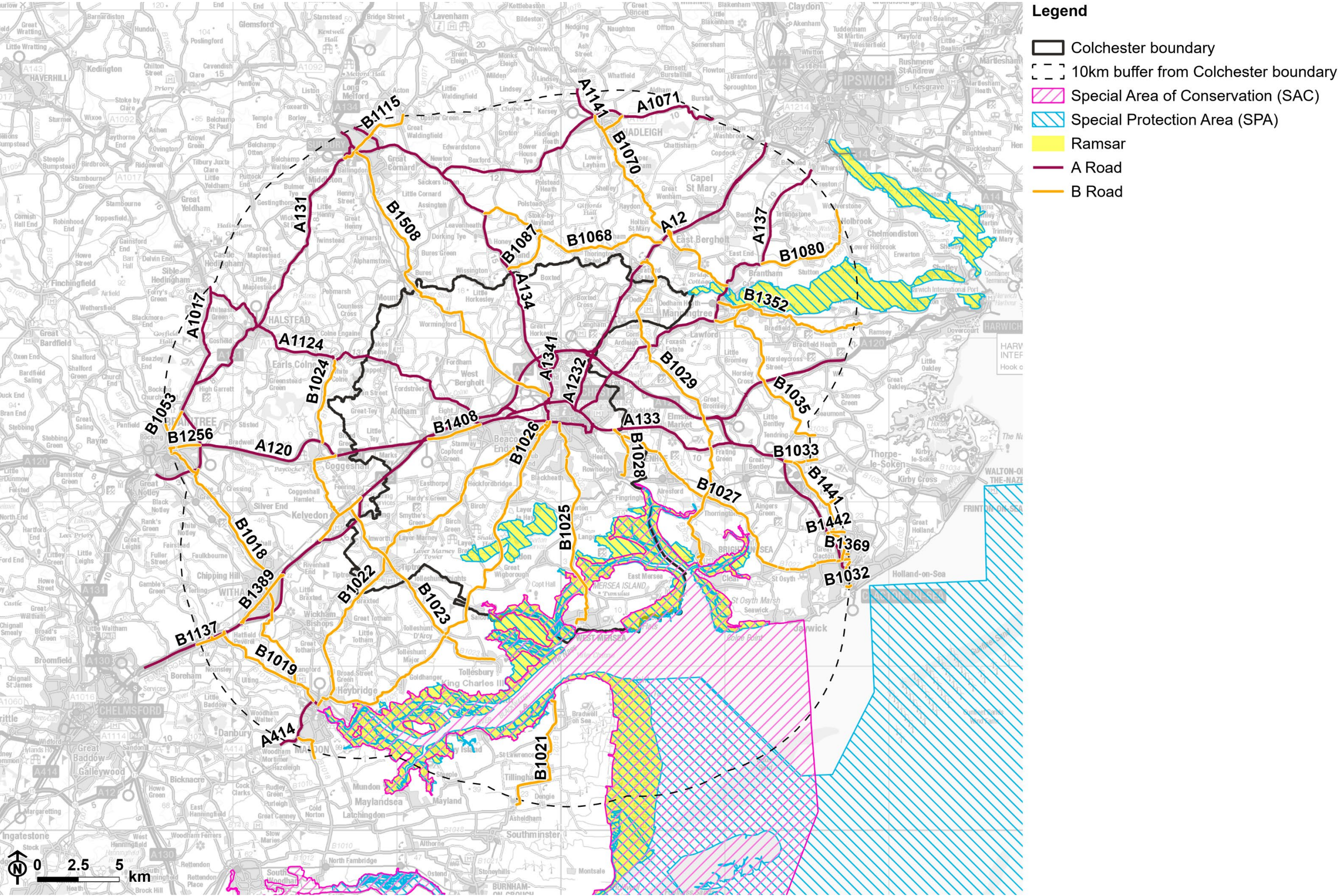
Figure A.2: Habitats Sites within 20km of Colchester



Created by LUC - Figure 2: Habitat sites within 20km of Colchester 14/08/2026  
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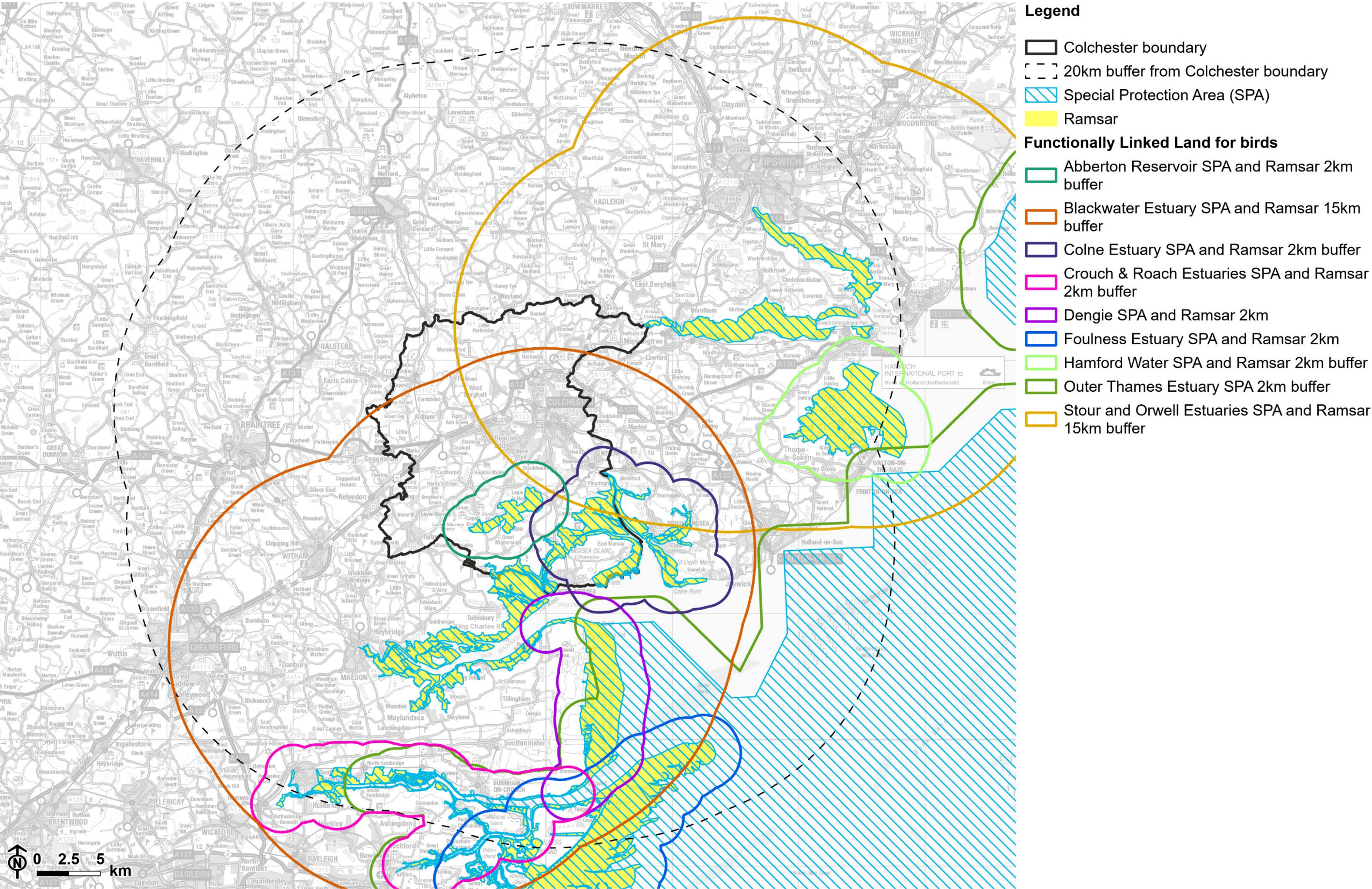
Figure A.3: Strategic Roads



Created by LUC - Figure 3: Strategic Roads within 10km of Colchester 14/08/2026  
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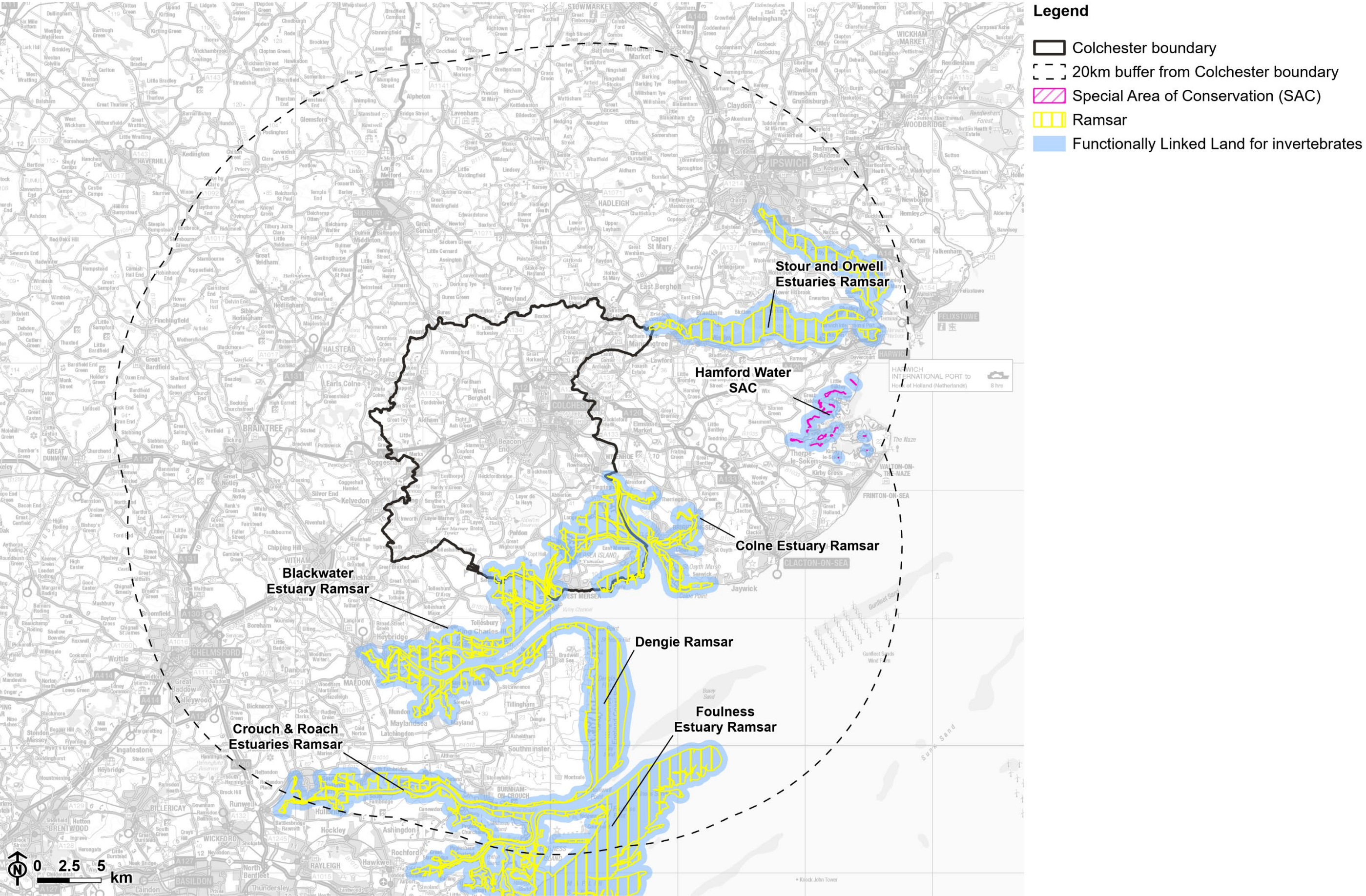
Figure A.4: Functionally Linked Land for Bird



Created by LUC - Figure 4: Functionally Linked Land for Birds 14/08/2026  
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Figure A.5: Functionally Linked Land for Invertebrates

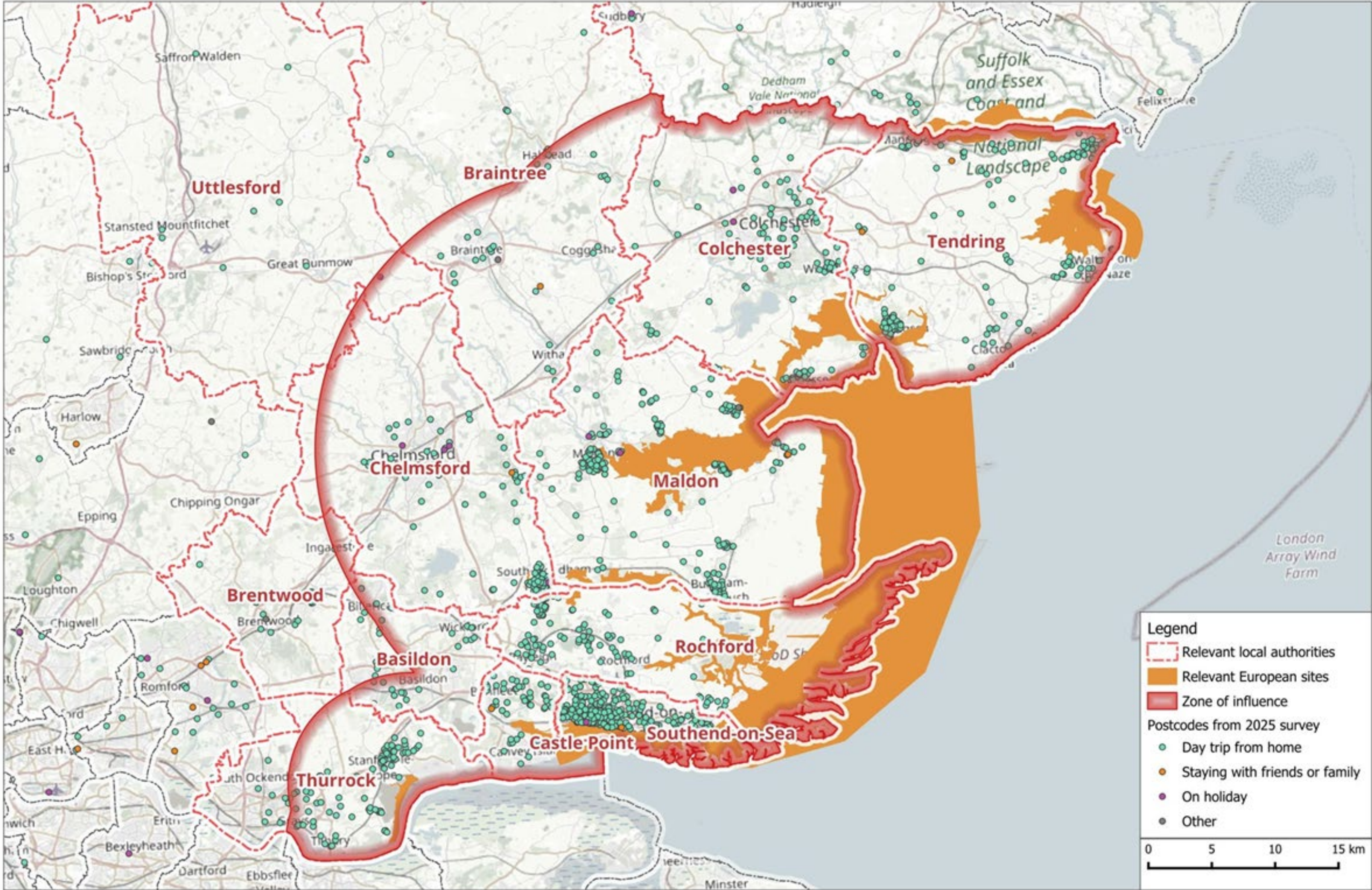


Created by LUC - Figure 5: Functionally Linked Land for Invertebrates 14/08/2026  
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Figure A.6: Recreational Zones of Influence [See reference 46]

Map 5: Zone of Influence and interviewee postcodes from visitor survey



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## Appendix B

### Habitats Sites Information

#### Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

##### Essex Estuaries 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 Estuaries 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 Estuaries 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.
  - 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)
  - 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*
    - 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.
- 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.
- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 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*
  - 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.
    - 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.
    - 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:
  - 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.
- 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*
  - 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 Delivery and Impact Mitigation**

**C.18** This policy sets out the requirement for developers to deliver required infrastructure associated with proposed development and make contributions to such infrastructure, including Green Infrastructure, active travel and SANGs.

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

**C.19** This 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 ST7a: Sustainable Transport and Connectivity**

**C.22** This policy sets out the requirement for development to be planned and designed to promote the use of sustainable and active travel.

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

**C.23** This policy does not result in development.

**Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.24** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.25** No LSE

**Policy ST8: Place Shaping Principles**

**C.26** 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.27** This policy relates to the design principles for new development but will not result in development itself.

**Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.28** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.29** No LSE

**Policy EN1: Nature Conservation Designated Sites**

**C.30** 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.31** 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.32** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.33** No LSE

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

**C.34** 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.35** 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.36** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.37** No LSE



## Policy EN3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity

**C.38** This policy ensures that new development conserves and enhances biodiversity and geodiversity e.g. development proposals will be supported where the principal 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.39** 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.40** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.41** No LSE

## Policy EN4: Irreplaceable Habitats

**C.42** 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.43** This policy relates to the protection of irreplaceable habitats and therefore will not directly result in development.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.44** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.45** No LSE

**Policy EN5: Canopy Cover and New and Existing Trees**

**C.46** 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.47** This policy relates to the protection of existing trees within new development and the requirement for new trees to be planted within major developments. Sets a minimum canopy coverage of 10% for all developments where the baseline is less than 10%.

**Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.48** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.49** No LSE

**Policy EN6: Conserving and enhancing the Historic Environment**

**C.50** 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.51** 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.52** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.53** No LSE

## **Policy EN7: Archaeology**

**C.54** 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.55** This policy relates to the protection of archaeological features 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 EN8: Flood Risk**

**C.58** 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.59** 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.60** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.61** No LSE

## **Policy EN8a: Sustainable Drainage Systems**

**C.62** This policy sets out the requirements for developments to incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based solutions.

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

**C.63** This policy will not directly result in development but seeks to manage to surface water flood risk within new developments.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.64** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.65** No LSE

## **Policy EN9: Pollution and Contaminated Land**

**C.66** 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.67** 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.68** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.69** No LSE

**Policy GN1: Open Space and Green Network and Waterways Principles**

**C.70** 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.71** 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.72** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.73** No LSE

## Policy GN2: Strategic Green Spaces and Nature Recovery

**C.74** 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.75** 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.76** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.77** No LSE

## Policy GN3: Local Green Spaces

**C.78** This policy ensures the protection of designated Local Green Spaces as identified on the policies map.

**C.79** 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.80** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.81** No LSE



## Policy GN5: Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

**C.82** 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.83** 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.84** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.85** No LSE

## Policy GN6: Retention of Open Space

**C.86** 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.87** This policy relates to protection of open space and therefore, it 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 LC1: Landscape**

**C.90** This policy sets out the protection for landscape character.

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

**C.91** 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.92** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.93** No LSE

**Policy LC2: Dedham Vale National Landscape**

**C.94** 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.95** 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.96** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.97** No LSE

**Policy LC3: Coastal Areas**

**C.98** This policy sets out the protection for coastal areas.

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

**C.99** 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.100** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.101** No LSE

**Policy LC4: Islands**

**C.102** This policy sets out the requirements for developments on Mersea Island in terms of design and access in recognition of the island constraints.

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

**C.103** This policy will not directly lead to development. It aims to protect Mersea Island from inappropriate development and prevent urban sprawl along Colchester's coastline.

**Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.104** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.105** No LSE

Policy NZ1: Operational Energy and Carbon (Net Zero) in Homes and Buildings (Policy options 1 and 2 both assessed as no LSE)

**C.106** 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.107** 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.108** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.109** No LSE

Policy NZ2: Embodied Carbon and Circular Economy in Homes and Buildings

**C.110** 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.111** 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.112** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.113** No LSE

## **Policy NZ4: Renewable Energy**

**C.114** 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.115** 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.116** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.117** No LSE

## **Policy H1: Housing Mix**

**C.118** 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.119** 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.120** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.121** No LSE

## **Policy H2: Affordable Housing**

**C.122** 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.123** 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.124** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.125** No LSE

### Policy H3: Student Accommodation

**C.126** 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.127** The policy relates to proposals for purpose built student accommodation. It does 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 H4: Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and Co Living Housing

**C.130** This policy sets out the requirements for proposals for HMOs.

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

**C.131** The policy relates to proposals for HMOs. It does 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 H5: Supported and Specialist Housing

**C.134** 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.

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

**C.135** This policy relates to proposals for specialist housing. It will not directly result in development.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.136** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.137** No LSE

## Policy H6: Self and Custom Build

**C.138** This policy sets out the requirements for self and custom build housing and provision of space on developments of 100 dwellings or more to provide serviced plots to minimum 5% 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.139** This policy relates to self and custom build housing but it will not directly 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 H8: Rural Workers Dwellings**

**C.142** 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.143** 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.144** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.145** No LSE

## **Policy E1: Protection of employment**

**C.146** This policy sets out the protection of existing employment land and premises.

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

**C.147** The policy relates to the protection of employment land and will not 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 E2: Economic Development in Rural Areas and the Countryside**

**C.150** 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.151** 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.152** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.153** No LSE

**Policy E3: Agricultural Development and Diversification**

**C.154** 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.155** 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.156** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.157** No LSE

**Policy E4: Retail and Centres**

**C.158** This policy sets out the hierarchy of town, district and local centres.

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

**C.159** 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.160** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.161** No LSE

**Policy CS1: Retention of community facilities**

**C.162** The policy sets out the protection of existing community facilities.

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

**C.163** The policy relates to the protection of community 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 CS2: Enhancement of and provision for new Community Facilities**

**C.166** 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.167** 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.168** N/A

**Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.169** No LSE

## Policy CS3: Education facilities

**C.170** 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.171** The policy relates to the protection of education facilities and therefore, it will not 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 CS4: Sports provision

**C.174** 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.175** 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.176** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.177** No LSE

## Policy CS5: Tourism, leisure, arts, culture and heritage

**C.178** 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.179** 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.180** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.181** No LSE

## Policy PC1: Healthier food environments

**C.182** 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.183** 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.184** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.185** No LSE



## Policy PC2: Active and sustainable travel

**C.186** 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.187** The policy relates to active travel and sustainable transport and therefore, it will not 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 PC3: Parking Standards

**C.190** The policy sets out car parking standards and guidance.

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

**C.191** The policy relates to parking standards and guidance 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 PC4: Development density

**C.194** 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.195** 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.196** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.197** No LSE

## Policy PC5: Domestic Development

**C.198** 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.199** 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.200** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.201** No LSE

## Policy PC6: Design and amenity

**C.202** The policy sets out the design requirements for development proposals.

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

**C.203** 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.204** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.205** No LSE

## Policy PC7: Residential schemes on greenfield sites

**C.206** 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.207** 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.208** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.209** No LSE

## Policy PC8: Private amenity space

**C.210** 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.211** The policy relates to the standard requirements for residential amenity space. It will not 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

## Policy PC9: Play and Child-Friendly Places

**C.214** This policy sets out the principles in the design of play so that developments can create healthy, inclusive and safe places for play.

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

**C.215** The policy will not directly result in development but will ensure that development contributes to the creation of child-friendly and playable neighbourhoods.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.216** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.217** No LSE

## Policy CC1: City Centre

**C.218** 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.219** 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.220** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.221** No LSE

## Policy PP8: Land at Lakelands Crescent

**C.222** This policy sets out the delivery of small scale development of only five new dwellings.

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

**C.223** The policy relates to the delivery of a small-scale development. Therefore, due to the scale of development there should be no LSE.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.224** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.225** No LSE

## Policy PP22: Telephone Exchange, Tiptree

**C.226** This policy sets out the delivery of small scale development of only five new dwellings.

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

**C.227** The policy relates to the delivery of a small-scale development. Therefore, due to the scale of development there should be no LSE.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.228** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.229** No LSE

## Policy PP23a: Mersea Island Caravan Parks

**C.230** This policy sets out the criteria that will be used to assess the suitability of any new or extensions to existing or intensification of caravan parks on Mersea Island, addressing landscape, environmental and infrastructure constraints.

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

**C.231** The policy relates to criteria used to assess the suitability of caravan parks and will not directly lead to development.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.232** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.233** No LSE

## Policy PP47: Land at Picketts Farm, Fingringhoe

**C.234** This policy sets out the delivery of small scale development of only five new dwellings.

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

**C.235** The policy relates to the delivery of a small-scale development. Therefore, due to the scale of development there should be no LSE.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.236** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.237** No LSE

## Policy PP49b: Land west of Malting Road, Peldon

**C.238** This policy sets out the delivery of small scale development of only five new dwellings.

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

**C.239** The policy relates to the delivery of a small-scale development. Therefore, due to the scale of development there should be no LSE.

### **Potential Effects if proposal is implemented**

**C.240** N/A

### **Is the policy likely to have significant effects?**

**C.241** No LSE



## **Policies screened in**

**C.242** 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 Need**

**C.243** This policy sets out the level of housing growth required as part of the Local Plan. It sets out the required delivery of 21,692 new homes between 2026 and 2043. The annual housing requirement is 1,276 new homes per year. The housing supply is as follows:

- Existing Commitments (sites with planning permission) – 5,435
- Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (Through the Development Plan Document) – 1,875
- Windfall Allowance – 2,929
- Local Plan Allocations – 12,188
- Total supply – 22,357

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

**C.244** 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.245** 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.246** 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 49.8ha of employment land to 2043. The employment allocations provide a total 49.8ha of safeguarded and new employment development land.

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

**C.247** 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.248** 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.249** 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 2043 the Garden Community will deliver approximately 3,750 of the total 7,500 new homes with development continuing beyond 2043. Approximately 25 ha of employment land will also be delivered. 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.250** 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.251** Yes. This policy will result in development, which has potential to result in impact upon Habitats Sites.

## **Policy NZ3: Wastewater and Water Supply**

**C.252** 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 85 litres per person per day.

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

**C.253** 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.254** 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.255** This policy sets out the provision of 15 new pitches required in Colchester up to 2043. 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.256** 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.257** Yes. This policy defines the overall quantum Gypsy and Traveller sites required until 2043. 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.258** 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.259** 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.260** 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

**C.261** 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.262** 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.263** 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

**C.264** 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.265** 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.266** 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

**C.267** This policy sets out the development of approximately 65 new homes within this area.

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

**C.268** 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.269** 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**

**C.270** 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 3.4ha of employment land north of Axial Way.

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

**C.271** This policy will result in the development of 650 new homes, supporting community facilities and open space, a new local centre and 3.4ha 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
- 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.272** 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 OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area**

**C.273** This policy sets out the mixed-use development of approximately 2,500 homes within the Plan period (as part of an expected larger to be delivered beyond 2043 and 18ha of employment land within the Plan period (as part of an expected overall total of at least 40 hectares of employment land to be delivered beyond 2043).

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

**C.274** This policy will result in the development of approximately 2,500 new homes and 18ha of employment land, open space and education, health 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.275** 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**

**C.276** 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.277** 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.278** 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**

**C.279** 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.280** 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.281** 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: St Runwald Street Car Park, Colchester**

**C.282** 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.283** 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.284** 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**

**C.285** 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.286** 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.287** 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

**C.288** 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.289** 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.290** 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

**C.291** 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.292** 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.293** 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 at Bakers Lane, Colchester**

**C.294** This policy sets out the development of approximately 120 new homes within this area.

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

**C.295** This policy will result in the development of 120 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.296** 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**

**C.297** 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.298** 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.299** 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 South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester**

**C.300** 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.301** 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.302** 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**

**C.303** 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.304** 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.305** 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**

**C.306** 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.307** 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.308** 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**

**C.309** 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.310** 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.311** 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**

**C.312** This policy sets out the development of approximately 650 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.313** This policy will result in the development of 650 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.314** 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

**C.315** 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.316** 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.317** 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

**C.318** 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.319** 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.320** 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 PP22b: Land at New Park Cottage, Maypole Road, Tiptree**

**C.321** This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes.

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

**C.322** 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.323** 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**

**C.324** 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.325** 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.326** 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 Northwest of the Fire Station, Wivenhoe**

**C.327** This policy sets out the development of approximately 200 new homes within this area. It also sets out the provision of active travel connections and pedestrian access to the adjacent allotments.

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

**C.328** 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.329** 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**

**C.330** 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.331** 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.332** 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**

**C.333** 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.334** 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.335** 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**

**C.336** 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.337** 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.338** 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**

**C.339** 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.340** 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.341** 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 PP29a: Land East of School Road, Copford**

**C.342** This policy sets out the development of approximately 300 new homes within this area plus community facilities, a new local centre and 10% of the allocation as open space

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

**C.343** 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.344** 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 PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall, Copford**

**C.345** This policy sets out the development of approximately 50 new homes.

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

**C.346** 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.347** 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 PP29c: Land East of Queensbury Avenue, Copford

**C.348** This policy sets out the development of approximately 70 new homes.

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

**C.349** This policy will result in the development of 70 new homes, access routes and a permanent diversion and/or upgrade to the existing Public Right of Way.

### **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.350** 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

**C.351** 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.352** 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.353** 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 and West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green**

**C.354** 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.355** 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.356** 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 PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green**

**C.357** 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.358** This policy will result in the development of 250 new homes and the provision of a safe crossing across the A1124.

### **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.359** 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**

**C.360** 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.361** 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.362** 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**

**C.363** This policy sets out the development of approximately 800 new homes within this area, the provision of a local centre for retail, commercial and community facilities and open space in excess of 10% of the allocation area

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

**C.364** This policy will result in the development of 800 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.365** 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**

**C.366** 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.367** 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.368** 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**

**C.369** 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.370** 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.371** 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 PP36a: Land East of Brook Road, Great Tey**

**C.372** 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.373** 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.374** 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**

**C.375** This policy sets out the development of approximately 850 new homes and a strategic open space within this area.

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

**C.376** This policy will result in the development of 850 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.377** 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**

**C.378** 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.379** 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.380** 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

**C.381** 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.382** 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.383** 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

**C.384** This policy sets out the development of approximately 75 new homes within this area.

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

**C.385** This policy will result in the development of 75 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.386** 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 PP40a: Maltings Green Road, Layer de la Haye**

**C.387** 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.388** 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.389** 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**

**C.390** 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.391** 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.392** 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**

**C.393** This policy sets out the development of approximately 185 new homes within this area.

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

**C.394** This policy will result in the development of 185 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.395** 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**

**C.396** This policy sets out the development of approximately 185 new homes within this area.

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

**C.397** This policy will result in the development of 185 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.398** 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**

**C.399** 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.400** 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.401** 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**

**C.402** 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.403** 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.404** 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**

**C.405** This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes within this area and a minimum of 1.7ha of open space.

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

**C.406** 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.407** 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 PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road, Peldon**

**C.408** 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.409** 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.410** 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 PP50: BT Site, Cowdray Avenue**

**C.411** This policy sets out the development of approximately 40 new homes.

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

**C.412** 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.413** 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 PP51: Former Land Rover Site, Cowdray Avenue

**C.414** This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes.

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

**C.415** 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.416** 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 PP52: BT Repeater Station, Guildford Road

**C.417** This policy sets out the development of approximately 25 new homes.

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

**C.418** 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.419** 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 PP53: Land at Chapman's Farm, Nayland Road**

**C.420** This policy sets out the development of approximately 35 new homes.

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

**C.421** This policy will result in the development of 35 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.422** 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 PP54: Sheepen Place**

**C.423** This policy sets out the development of approximately 100 new homes.

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

**C.424** 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.425** 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 PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove**

**C.426** This policy sets out the development of approximately 75 new homes and Development for housing for MOD personnel connected to an operational MOD establishment.

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

**C.427** This policy will result in the development of 75 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.428** 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.429** This policy sets out the support for development associated with the 32.75ha 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.430** 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.431** 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**

**C.432** This policy sets out the allocation of 2.4ha employment land.

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

**C.433** 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.434** 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.435** 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.436** 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.437** 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 PEP4: Maldon Road**

**C.438** 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.439** 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.440** 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**

**C.441** This policy sets out the safeguarding of 3.2ha employment land.

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

**C.442** 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.443** 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

**C.444** This policy sets out the safeguarding of 1.1ha employment land.

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

**C.445** 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.446** 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

**C.447** This policy sets out the allocation of 4.7ha employment land.

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

**C.448** 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.449** 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

**C.450** This policy sets out the allocation of 0.8ha employment land.

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

**C.451** 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.452** 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

**C.453** This policy sets out the safeguarding of 1ha employment land.

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

**C.454** 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.455** 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**

**C.456** This policy sets out the allocation of 2.0ha employment land and 0.7ha of open space.

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

**C.457** 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.458** 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**

**C.459** This policy sets out the allocation of 0.9ha employment land.

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

**C.460** 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.461** 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.

### **Policy PEP13: Coal Yard Site**

**C.462** This policy sets out the safeguarding of 0.9ha employment land.

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

**C.463** This policy will result in the development of 0.9ha 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.464** 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 PEP15: Mill Race Nurseries, Aldham**

**C.465** This policy sets out the safeguarding of 2.5ha employment land.

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

**C.466** This policy will result in the development of 2.5ha 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.467** 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 PEP16: Land South of Tower Business Park, Tiptree**

**C.468** This policy sets out the safeguarding of 0.5ha employment land.

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

**C.469** This policy will result in the development of 0.5ha 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.470** 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.

## Appendix D

# Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance 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
  - 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

## Appendix D **Assessment** of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- 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.
- 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.

## Appendix D **Assessment** of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- 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.
  - 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.

## Appendix D **Assessment** of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

- 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.
  - 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.
- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.



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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 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. 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 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

## Appendix D **Assessment** of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

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 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

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- 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: 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.
  - 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*

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- 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, lagoons, muddy arms or deltas, and estuaries, and sheltered muddy tidal flats. Suitable habitat sometimes formed by artefacts such as salt pans, 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

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- 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. 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.
- 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. 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.

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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: 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

**D.1** Site-by-site assessment of the suitability for providing FLL is provided within this section. A summary of the sites in terms of their categories (high, moderate, low or negligible) is provided at the end of the section in Table D.1.

#### Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site

**D.2** All site allocations lying within 2.5km:

- PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.66km north at the closest point

Size: ~30.44ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Site is comprised of a large arable field with two small parcels of grassland to the west and 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 Layer Road 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

- PP25: View Park



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Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.36km east at the closest point

Size: ~2.07ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One field with a house on the western side and surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees. A large arable field sits to the north of the site, and the eastern boundary is adjacent to three smaller fields which contain two residential properties. Abberton Road borders the southern and western side of the site and the site is sit within a larger network of arable fields. The field is used for pasture but relatively small and there is the 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

### ■ PP39: The Furze

Distance from Habitats 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 new residential development 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

### ■ PP40: Land west of The Folley

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.17km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~3.97ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Two pasture fields intersected by a small hedgerow and surrounded by hedgerows and tree lines. The site is surrounded by residential areas to the west and east and arable fields in the wider northeast area. Woodland also features past the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. Potential disturbance from a public footpath running to the south of the site and limited sight lines from within the site.



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Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP40a: Malting Green Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~0.92km north at the closest point

Size: ~1.33ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A field situated south of Malting Green Road on the southern edge of Layer-de-la-Haye village. The site encompasses a residential property and a garden in the north, with a small grassland and several outbuildings in the southwest separated by a small section of hedgerow. Rye Lane forms the western boundary, and the rest of the site is bounded by hedgerows. A large arable field sits along the southern boundary. Potential disturbance from the residential properties in the north and southwest and limited site lines from within the site due to hedgerows.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP46: Land at Birch Green

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.54km southeast at the closest point

Size: ~1.22ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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A small section of an arable field on the southeastern edge of Peldon village. Bordered by a hedgerow on the northern, eastern and western sides whilst the arable field continues uninterrupted to the south. Residential properties sit to the west and north of the site as well as Mersea Road to the north. The wider area consists of large arable fields. Disturbance likely from adjacent road and residential properties.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.85km north east at the closest point

Size: ~3.91ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A grassland bordered by hedgerows on all sides and adjacent to the residential area of Berechurch to the north and east. Berechurch Hall Road forms the northern boundary whilst Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre is situated to the west, separated by a small road and a strip of woodland. To the south, the area consists of woodland and heathland with trees. Disturbance likely from adjacent residential properties for recreational purposes and limited sight lines from within the site due to hedgerow and woodland to the south.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

## Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

### D.3 Site allocations lying within 15km:

#### ■ PP1: Britannia Car Park

Distance from Habitats 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

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the urban area of Colchester and limited areas of open space and grassland nearby.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP2: Vineyard Gate

Distance from Habitats 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 car parks 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

### ■ PP3: St Runwald Street Car Park

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP4: Braiswick

Distance from Habitats Site : ~11.50km north at the closest point

Size: ~2.02ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One medium size grassland on the eastern side with a smaller grassland on the western side, intersected by a strip of woodland and scrub. Pockets of woodland are present at the northwest and northeast of the site, and these are joined to larger areas of woodland. Bordered by residential areas and a bowling green to

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the south and east. Colchester golf course sits to the north of the site on the other side of St Botolph's Brook which runs along the northern boundary through the area of woodland. The western boundary of the site is bordered by a new residential development.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP5: Land at Chesterwell

Distance from Habitats 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 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

### ■ PP6: Land at Colchester Station

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP7: Land at Bakers Lane, Colchester

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.85km north at the closest point

Size: ~8.18ha

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Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Three arable fields separated by a hedgerow and line of trees and a residential property and garden in the north. 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

### ■ PP9: North-East Colchester

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.51km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~99.62ha

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 ecological connectivity to the Habitats Site are hindered by the urban centre of Colchester. However, the rivers and tributaries to the east, the large reservoir to the north and expanse of arable and pasture fields in the surrounding area to the east and south-east provide ecological connectivity to the estuary.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

High

### ■ PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~5.80km north at the closest point

Size: ~30.45ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Site is comprised of a large arable field with two small parcels of grassland to the west and 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

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areas and a building site to the north, Bounstead Road to the east, further fields and a golf course to the south, and Layer Road 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

### ■ PP11: Europit Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8.94km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.90ha

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

### ■ PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard

Distance from Habitats 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 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

### ■ PP15: Hawkins Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8.77km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~0.33ha

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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

### ■ PP19: Land North of Oak Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~7.18km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~22.35ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Approximately two large arable fields situated on the northern edge of Tiptree village. The site is surrounded by further large arable fields on all sides. A small pocket of woodland and wood pasture and parkland is situated on the northeastern edge of the site. The fields are surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees and a couple of scattered trees are present within the site. There is a PRow through the centre of the site, however, long sight lines exist given the large size of the fields which surrounding the site boundary.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

High

### ■ PP20: Land at Bonnie Blue Oak

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP21: Highlands

Distance from Habitats Site : ~7.30km northwest at the closest point

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Size: ~1.30ha

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.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP22b: Land at New Park Cottage

Distance from Habitats Site : ~6.47km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~1.14ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Grassland with a residential property in the northeast corner. Located on the northeast edge of Tiptree with residential properties and gardens forming the western boundary. Large arable fields make up the northern boundary interrupted by a tree line whilst the eastern and southern boundary are formed from a school and sports facilities.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP23: Land east Dawes Lane

Distance from Habitats Site : ~0.86km southeast at the closest point

Size: ~11.97ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The site comprises, two arable fields and an area of long grassland containing scrub and scattered trees. The fields are relatively large and have open sight lines due to an absence of large hedgerow or tree line along the adjacent roads. The site is bordered by Dawes Lane and a new residential development to the west, East Road and an area of allotments to the south, small pasture fields and allotments to the east and is therefore subject to localised human disturbance. The site forms an extension to the urban area of West Mersea, on Mersea Island. However, it also lies to the west of a large network of arable fields and pasture, which are likely to be seasonally inundated and may contain overland



## Appendix D **Assessment** of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

flow paths, which are likely to provide suitable foraging habitat for overwintering waders.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP24: Land North of the Fire Station

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8.00km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~8.56ha

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 ecological connectivity to the Habitats Site are hindered by residential areas.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP25: View Park

Distance from Habitats Site : ~3.36km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~2.07ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One field with a house on the western side and surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees. A large arable field sits to the north of the site, and the eastern boundary is adjacent to three smaller fields which contain two residential properties. Abberton Road borders the southern and western side of the site and it is set within a larger network of arable fields. The field is used for pasture but relatively small and there is the 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

### ■ PP29a: Land East of School Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.81km north at the closest point

Size: ~11.40ha

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Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One half of a large arable field bound by the small village of Copford on the north and west side. The south side is the other half of the arable field which lies adjacent to a woodland. The site is set to the west of Colchester in a landscape dominated by arable land and lies just west of the Roman River. A public footpath runs from Copford through a small section of the northeast of the site where development appears to be occurring.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.51km north at the closest point

Size: ~2.21ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A section of a large arable field located on the southern edge of Copford village in a landscape dominated by arable farming. The village hall and playground form the northern boundary and residential properties and School Road form the western boundary. A public footpath runs close to the southern and eastern boundary. Absence of hedgerows and trees within the site provide open sight lines.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP29c: Queensberry Avenue

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.34km north at the closest point

Size: ~2.84ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The southern section of a large arable field featuring several linear parcels of woodland on the western side, limiting site lines into the site. It is located on the northern edge of Copford village and in proximity to the Roman River and the A12 Road to the north. Residential properties form the southern and western boundary of the site.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

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### ■ PP32: Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.45km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~9.83ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Two arable fields situated north of Halstead Road and surrounded by further arable fields to the west and north. The northeast corner is bounded by a woodland, and a new residential development forms the eastern boundary. Long sight lines within the site given the short hedgerows around the margins but there is likely disturbance from the public footpath which intersects the site from north to south and the main road to the south.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green

Distance from Habitats Site : ~11.67km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~15.98ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One large arable field joined to three smaller grasslands situated south of Halstead Road. Residential properties form the northern and eastern boundaries, but the site sits within a largely arable landscape to the south and west. A small parcel of woodland is located on the southern corner of the site but generally the sight lines within the largest western arable field are long. The presence of hedgerows with the eastern grasslands reduces the sight lines within this part of the site and likely some disturbance from residential dwellings.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP33: Land East of Plummers Road

Distance from Habitats 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 a

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new residential development to the east. Set within a larger area of farmland and pasture but further from the Habitats Site .

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP34: Land North of Coach Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~13.39km north at the closest point

Size: ~39.07ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Approximately seven arable fields demarcated by hedgerows and lines of trees. Situated north of the large urban area of Colchester in a landscape dominated by farmland to the north, south and west. The northeastern corner of the site features a woodland and a large pond. Residential properties and The Causeway Road form the eastern boundary. A public footpath leads from this residential area to the northwestern boundary. Although the site is situated far from the Habitats Site, the presence of several large fields adjoining onto further farmland to the south west and north offers considerable habitat.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP35: The Old School

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~13.90km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~5.99ha

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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 despite the distance to the Habitats Site.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP36a: Land East of Brook Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~13.10km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~2.17ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The northernmost part of a large arable field on the southern edge of the small village of Great Tey. A residential property with a large moat forms the northern boundary and a new residential development forms the western boundary. Large arable fields and grasslands continue from the site to the east and south providing open sight lines.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP39 - Land at The Furze

Distance from Habitats 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 residential development 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

### ■ PP40: Land West of The Folley

Distance from Habitats Site : ~4.92km north at the closest point

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Size: ~3.97ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Two pasture fields intersected by a small hedgerow and surrounded by hedgerows and tree lines. The site is surrounded by residential areas to the west and east and arable fields in the wider northeast area. Woodland also features past the northern and eastern boundaries of the site. 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

### ■ PP40a: Malting Green Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~4.8km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~1.33ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A field situated south of Malting Green Road on the southern edge of Layer-de-la-Haye village. The site encompasses a residential property and a garden in the north, with a small grassland and several outbuildings in the southwest separated by a small section of hedgerow. Rye Lane forms the western boundary, and the rest of the site is bounded by hedgerows. A large arable field sits along the southern boundary. Potential disturbance from the residential properties in the north and southwest and limited site lines from within the site due to hedgerows.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP41: Rowhedge Business Park

Distance from Habitats 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.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

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Negligible

### ■ PP42: Land at White Hart Lane

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.75km north at the closest point

Size: ~7.50ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Several orchards bordered by grasslands in the south and lines of trees and pockets of woodlands in the north. The site sits to the north of the residential area of West Bergholt and there are houses with gardens on the western and southern boundaries. The site features mainly fruit trees and several individual trees and patches of scrub.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP43: Land north of Colchester Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.38km north at the closest point

Size: ~7.21ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Two grasslands intersected by a hedgerow and bordered by hedgerows to the south and east. An orchard and a small parcel of woodland sits to the northwest of the site and large arable fields dominate the landscape to the northeast. Residential properties in the village of West Bergholt sit to the south and east of the site. The large urban area of Colchester sits between the site and the Habitats Site.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP45: Land off New Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.53km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~0.87ha

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.

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Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP46: Land at Birch Green

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP48: Land at Kelvedon Road

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.54km southeast at the closest point

Size: ~1.22ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A small section of an arable field on the southeastern edge of Peldon village. Bordered by a hedgerow on the northern, eastern and western sides whilst the arable field continues uninterrupted to the south. Residential properties sit to the west and north of the site as well as Mersea Road to the north. The wider area



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consists of large arable fields. Disturbance likely from adjacent road and residential properties.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP50: BT Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.15km north at the closest point

Size: ~1.47ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site comprised predominantly of hardstanding car parks with several commercial buildings and a tree line in the southeast corner. Residential properties form the southern boundary and a small strip of scrub adjacent to a railway forms the northern boundary. Sits on the northern edge of the urban area of Colchester leading to high levels of human disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP51: Former Land Rover Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.25km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.74ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site comprised solely of hardstanding and buildings bordered by commercial properties to the east, Cowdray Avenue Road to the south, residential properties to the west and a small tree line before the railway line to the north. Sits on the northern edge of the urban area of Colchester leading to high levels of human disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP52: Land at Guildford Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.40km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.29ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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Small parcel of land comprised predominantly of hardstanding for car parking featuring a small hedgerow / tree line on the western and southern edge. Surrounded by residential properties within the urban area of Colchester leading to high levels of human disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP53: Land at Chapman's Farm, Nayland Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~14.05km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.99ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Three parcels of land comprised of an arable field in the north, a residential property with a garden in the centre and a farmyard and associated buildings to the southeast. Surrounded by residential properties on all sides. Situated a long distance from Habitats Site and on the northwest edge of the urban area of Colchester.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP54: Sheepen Place

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.62km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.57ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site comprised solely of hardstanding and buildings with a main road forming the southern boundary and commercial properties forming the eastern and western boundaries. Some individual trees are present, and the River Colne forms the northern boundary. Sits within the urban area of Colchester. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.85km north east at the closest point

Size: ~3.91ha

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Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A grassland bordered by hedgerows on all sides and adjacent to the residential area of Berechurch to the north and east. Berechurch Hall Road forms the northern boundary whilst Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre is situated to the west, separated by a small road and a strip of woodland. To the south, the area consists of woodland and heathland with trees. Disturbance likely from adjacent residential properties for recreational purposes and limited sight lines from within the site due to hedgerow and woodland to the south.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PEP1: Colchester Business Park

Distance from Habitats Site : ~13.13km northeast 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

### ■ PEP2: Knowledge Gateway

Distance from Habitats 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.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

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Negligible

### ■ PEP4: Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester

Distance from Habitats Site : ~7.68km north 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

### ■ PEP6: Anderson Site

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PEP8: Land south of Factory Hill, Tiptree

Distance from Habitats 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,

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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

### ■ PEP9: Bullbanks Farm, Eight Ash Green

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PEP13: Coal Yard Site

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PEP15: Land at Former Mill Race Nursery, Aldham

Distance from Habitats Site : ~13.24km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~2.51ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A former garden centre consisting mainly of hardstanding car parks and buildings with scattered individual trees and small sections of grassland and

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growing plots. The River Colne forms the northern boundary and New Road forms the southern boundary. Small industrial yards sit on the western and eastern side of the site, which adjoins to the small village of Aldham.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PEP16: Land South of Tower Business Park

Distance from Habitats Site : ~7.38km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~0.46ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Small parcel of land featuring scrub which sits between a business park in the north and new residential development in the south. Sits on the northwest edge of Tiptree. Large arable fields form the southwest boundary, but this is interrupted by a hedgerow and a public footpath reducing the flight lines into the site and increasing likelihood of disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8.70km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~3.38ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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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

### ■ OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8.80km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~1.02ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site consisting of three parcels of hardstanding and buildings. Bordered by buildings and roads on all sides and within the urban area of Colchester.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ OA4: Northern Gateway

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.62km north at the closest point

Size: ~30.35ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Approximately eight parcels of land, the largest being Mill Road Sports Ground grassland bordered by hedgerows and featuring several tree lines. Other parcels of land feature arable crops, scrub and rough grassland. The site sits at the north of the urban area of Colchester and is surrounded by large roads to the north, west and south. Residential properties form the eastern boundary. High levels of human disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.03km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~204.95ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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A large area of land comprising approximately 22 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. The Roman River intersects the site east-west in the north, indicating likely inundated grasslands, and floodplain habitat, especially in winter. There are several ponds within the site and immediately surrounding area. Despite the presence of PRow, the site is likely to be subject to limited human disturbance due to the semi-rural area and there are open sight lines due to the size of fields within the site.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

High

### ■ Anglian Water Recycling Centre

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ E5: Colchester Zoo

Distance from Habitats Site : ~7.46km north at the closest point

Size: ~32ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The Site lies immediately adjacent to Colchester Zoo, which is likely to be subject to significant noise and human activity. The site comprises, two large arable fields, divided into north and south by a field track. There is a broad band of grassland, to the west of the southern arable field, which is utilised as additional parking for the zoo, and a broad band of arable margin comprising grassland to the south and east of the southern arable field. The arable northern arable field, has three small private gardens, associated with residential houses, to the west. Each garden is bound by hedgerows and treelines. The site



boundary consists of woodland to the south and east and Maldon Road to the north, which is lined by hedgerows with trees. The Zoo buildings and areas of hardstanding and parking continue from the areas of grassland to the west, with additional areas of parking on grassland lying west of the site. A treeline or hedgerow forms a boundary feature between the band of grassland used for parking and the arable land to the east. However, there are no other boundary features present between the arable fields.

The habitats immediately adjacent to the site include, quarry pits with pools to the north of Maldon Road and woodland to the north-east and south. The Roman River flows just south of the site boundary, through a large network of arable and pasture land which surrounds the site. The area of grassland along the south of the site boundary and fields beyond the site boundary are likely to be seasonally inundated and may contain overland flow paths, which are likely to provide suitable foraging habitat for overwintering waders.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

■ UE1: University of Essex

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8km at the closest point

Size: ~69ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The site comprises, the grounds of the University, including sports fields, amenity grassland areas surrounding buildings, woodland and parkland areas, including two large lakes and buildings and car parks. Roads form the boundary to the site with blocks of trees along the periphery of the site, extending into a large area of semi-continuous canopy around the lakes at the centre of the site. The scattered trees and woodland blocks cover a large proportion of the site, with only the sports fields forming open areas of grassland. The site lies on the urban edge of Colchester to the south-east of Colchester City between Old Heath and Wivenhoe Cross. Surrounding habitats comprise floodplain grasslands with scrapes, lagoons and ditches along the River Colne to the west and arable fields and agricultural grasslands elsewhere. Whilst the floodplains to the west are likely to provide foraging habitat, the site itself does not comprise grasslands suitable to support large numbers of birds, and are likely to be subject to human disturbance year-round.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

**D.4** Site allocations lying between 15km and 15.5km:

■ PP27: Swan Grove, Chappel

Distance from Habitats Site : ~15.29km north at the closest point

Size: ~1.7ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The site comprises, a small single arable field surrounded by tree lines to the north, east and south and Swan Street to the west. North of the site there is a residential street with houses and gardens backing onto the tree lined site boundary. Additionally, to the south there are a series of gardens with scattered trees associated with a private house. The surrounding landscape forms agricultural land, grasslands and pasture.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

■ PP37: Land north of Park Lane

Distance from Habitats Site : ~15.34km north-east at the closest point

Size: ~39.61ha

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. However, due to its distance, and lack of direct ecological connectivity, due to the location of Colchester City between the site allocation and Habitats Site, it is unlikely to provide habitats of high suitability to provide functionally linked land for the qualifying species.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

■ PP38: Land opposite Wick Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~15.38km north-east at the closest point

Size: ~0.78ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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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

## Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site

### D.5 Site allocations lying within 2km:

#### ■ PP23: Land east Dawes Lane

Distance from Habitats Site : ~0.91km southeast at the closest point

Size: ~11.97ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The site comprises, two arable fields and an area of long grassland containing scrub and scattered trees. The fields are relatively large and have open sight lines due to an absence of large hedgerow or tree line along the adjacent roads. The site is bordered by Dawes Lane and a new residential development to the west, East Road and an area of allotments to the south, small pasture fields and allotments to the east and is therefore subject to localised human disturbance. The site forms an extension to the urban area of West Mersea, on Mersea Island. However, it also lies to the west of a large network of arable fields and pasture, which are likely to be seasonally inundated and may contain overland flow paths, which are likely to provide suitable foraging habitat for overwintering waders.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

#### ■ PP24: Land North of the Fire Station

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.99km north at the closest point

Size: ~8.56ha

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

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land and fields sit to the north of the site but direct ecological connectivity to the Habitats Site are hindered by residential areas.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP25: View Park

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.47km northwest at the closest point

Size: ~2.07ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One field with a house on the western side and surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees. A large arable field sits to the north of the site, and the eastern boundary is adjacent to three smaller fields which contain two residential properties. Abberton Road borders the southern and western side of the site and it is set within a larger network of arable fields. The field is used for pasture but relatively small and there is the 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

### ■ PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.39km west at the closest point

Size: ~1.22ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A small section of an arable field on the southeastern edge of Peldon village. Bordered by a hedgerow on the northern, eastern and western sides whilst the arable field continues uninterrupted to the south. Residential properties sit to the west and north of the site as well as Mersea Road to the north. The wider area consists of large arable fields. Disturbance likely from adjacent road and residential properties.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

## **D.6** Site allocations lying between 2km and 2.5km:

PP41: Rowhedge Business Park

Distance from Habitats Site : ~2.2km north at the closest point

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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

### Negligible Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site

#### **D.7** All site allocations lying within 15.5km:

##### ■ PP1: Britannia Car Park

Distance from Habitats 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.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

##### ■ PP2: Vineyard Gate

Distance from Habitats 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 car parks and industrial units. A few scattered trees are present on site, but vegetation is

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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

### ■ PP3: St Runwald Street Car Park

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP4: Braiswick

Distance from Habitats Site : ~11.32km north at the closest point

Size: ~2.02ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One medium size grassland on the eastern side with a smaller grassland on the western side, intersected by a strip of woodland and scrub. Pockets of woodland are present at the northwest and northeast of the site, and these are joined to larger areas of woodland. Bordered by residential areas and a bowling green to the south and east. Colchester golf course sits to the north of the site on the other side of St Botolph's Brook which runs along the northern boundary through the area of woodland. The western boundary of the site is bordered by a new residential development.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP5: Land at Chesterwell

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.53km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~3.37ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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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 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

### ■ PP6: Land at Colchester Station

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP7: Land off Bakers Lane

Distance from Habitats Site : ~11.67km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~8.18ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Three arable fields separated by a hedgerow and line of trees and a residential property and garden in the north. 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

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### ■ PP9: North-East Colchester

Distance from Habitats Site : ~7.15km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~99.62ha

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 ecological connectivity to the Habitats Site are hindered by the urban centre of Colchester. However, the rivers and tributaries to the east, the large reservoir to the north and expanse of arable and pasture fields in the surrounding area to the east and south-east provide ecological connectivity to the estuary.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

High

### ■ PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~14.25km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~30.45ha

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 Habitats Site by the large urban area of Colchester.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP11: Europit Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.87km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~0.70ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:



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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

### ■ PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.12km southwest 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 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

### ■ PP15: Hawkins Road

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP24: Land North of the Fire Station

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.07km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~8.56ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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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

### ■ PP25: View Park

Distance from Habitats Site : ~14.89km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~2.07ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

One field with a house on the western side and surrounded by hedgerows and lines of trees. A large arable field sits to the north of the site, and the eastern boundary is adjacent to three smaller fields which contain two residential properties. Abberton Road borders the southern and western side of the site and it is set within a larger network of arable fields. The field is used for pasture but relatively small and there is the 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

### ■ PP26: Land North Boxted Straight Road

Distance from Habitats 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 Habitats 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

### ■ PP30: Land South of Long Road, Dedham

Distance from Habitats Site : ~2.42km southwest at the closest point

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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 Habitats Site but relatively small and with tall edge features.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP33: Land East of Plummers Road

Distance from Habitats 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 south, and a new residential development to the east. Set within a larger area of farmland and pasture but further from the Habitats Site .

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP34: Land North of Coach Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~13.39km north at the closest point

Size: ~39.07ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Approximately seven arable fields demarcated by hedgerows and lines of trees. Situated north of the large urban area of Colchester in a landscape dominated by farmland to the north, south and west. The northeastern corner of the site features a woodland and a large pond. Residential properties and The Causeway Road form the eastern boundary. A public footpath leads from this residential area to the northwestern boundary. Although the site is situated far from the Habitats Site, the presence of several large fields adjoining onto further farmland to the southwest and north offers considerable habitat.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

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### ■ PP35: The Old School

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP37: Land north of Park Lane

Distance from Habitats Site : ~5.12km west at the closest point

Size: ~39.61ha

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 Habitats Site.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Moderate

### ■ PP38: Land opposite Wick Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~5.25km west 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:

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Low

### ■ PP41: Rowhedge Business Park

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PP42: Land at White Hart Lane

Distance from Habitats Site: ~12.75km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~7.50ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Several orchards bordered by grasslands in the south and lines of trees and pockets of woodlands in the north. The site sits to the north of the residential area of West Bergholt and there are houses with gardens on the western and southern boundaries. The site features mainly fruit trees and several individual trees and patches of scrub.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP43: Land north of Colchester Road

Distance from Habitats Site: ~11.97km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~7.21ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Two grasslands intersected by a hedgerow and bordered by hedgerows to the south and east. An orchard and a small parcel of woodland sits to the northwest of the site and large arable fields dominate the landscape to the northeast.

Residential properties in the village of West Bergholt sit to the south and east of

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the site. The large urban area of Colchester sits between the site and the Habitats Site.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PP50: BT Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.15km north at the closest point

Size: ~1.47ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site comprised predominantly of hardstanding car parks with several commercial buildings and a tree line in the southeast corner. Residential properties form the southern boundary and a small strip of scrub adjacent to a railway forms the northern boundary. Sits on the northern edge of the urban area of Colchester leading to high levels of human disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP51: Former Land Rover Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.25km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.74ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site comprised solely of hardstanding and buildings bordered by commercial properties to the east, Cowdray Avenue Road to the south, residential properties to the west and a small tree line before the railway line to the north. Sits on the northern edge of the urban area of Colchester leading to high levels of human disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP52: Land at Guildford Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.40km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.29ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

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Small parcel of land comprised predominantly of hardstanding for car parking featuring a small hedgerow / tree line on the western and southern edge. Surrounded by residential properties within the urban area of Colchester leading to high levels of human disturbance.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP53: Land at Chapman's Farm, Nayland Road

Distance from Habitats Site : ~14.05km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.99ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Three parcels of land comprised of an arable field in the north, a residential property with a garden in the centre and a farmyard and associated buildings to the southeast. Surrounded by residential properties on all sides. Situated a long distance from Habitats Site and on the northwest edge of the urban area of Colchester.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP54: Sheepen Place

Distance from Habitats Site : ~9.62km north at the closest point

Size: ~0.57ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site comprised solely of hardstanding and buildings with a main road forming the southern boundary and commercial properties forming the eastern and western boundaries. Some individual trees are present, and the River Colne forms the northern boundary. Sits within the urban area of Colchester. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove

Distance from Habitats Site : ~1.85km north east at the closest point

Size: ~3.91ha

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Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A grassland bordered by hedgerows on all sides and adjacent to the residential area of Berechurch to the north and east. Berechurch Hall Road forms the northern boundary whilst Colchester Military Corrective Training Centre is situated to the west, separated by a small road and a strip of woodland. To the south, the area consists of woodland and heathland with trees. Disturbance likely from adjacent residential properties for recreational purposes and limited sight lines from within the site due to hedgerow and woodland to the south.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PEP1: Colchester Business Park

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PEP2: Knowledge Gateway

Distance from Habitats 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.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:



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Negligible

### ■ PEP4: Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham

Distance from Habitats Site : ~6.40km southwest 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.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ PEP11: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt

Distance from Habitats 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:

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Low

### ■ PEP13: Coal Yard Site

Distance from Habitats Site : ~10.59km southwest at the closest point

Size: ~0.92ha

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

### ■ OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area

Distance from Habitats 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

### ■ OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area

Distance from Habitats 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.

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Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8.80km northeast at the closest point

Size: ~1.02ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

A site consisting of three parcels of hardstanding and buildings. Bordered by buildings and roads on all sides and within the urban area of Colchester.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Negligible

### ■ OA4: Northern Gateway

Distance from Habitats Site : ~12.62km north at the closest point

Size: ~30.35ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

Approximately eight parcels of land, the largest being Mill Road Sports Ground grassland bordered by hedgerows and featuring several tree lines. Other parcels of land feature arable crops, scrub and rough grassland. The site sits at the north of the urban area of Colchester and is surrounded by large roads to the north, west and south. Residential properties form the eastern boundary. High disturbance likely from adjacent roads and urban areas.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ Anglian Water Recycling Centre

Distance from Habitats 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.

## Appendix D **Assessment** of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

### ■ UE1: University of Essex

Distance from Habitats Site : ~8km at the closest point

Size: ~69ha

Review of Site parameters/ habitats present/ land use:

The site comprises, the grounds of the University, including sports fields, amenity grassland areas surrounding buildings, woodland and parkland areas, including two large lakes and buildings and car parks. Roads form the boundary to the site with blocks of trees along the periphery of the site, extending into a large area of semi-continuous canopy around the lakes at the centre of the site. The scattered trees and woodland blocks cover a large proportion of the site, with only the sports fields forming open areas of grassland. The site lies on the urban edge of Colchester to the south-east of Colchester City between Old Heath and Wivenhoe Cross. Surrounding habitats comprise floodplain grasslands with scrapes, lagoons and ditches along the River Colne to the west and arable fields and agricultural grasslands elsewhere. Whilst the floodplains to the west are likely to provide foraging habitat, the site itself does not comprise grasslands suitable to support large numbers of birds, and are likely to be subject to human disturbance year-round.

Assessment of suitability for SPA and Ramsar qualifying birds:

Low

**Table D.1: Summary of Screening Assessment**

| Habitats Site                          | Suitability of site allocations                          |                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                               |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
|                                        | High                                                     | Moderate                                                               | Low                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Negligible                                    |
| Abberton Reservoir SPA and Ramsar site | N/A                                                      | PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road                               | PP25: View Park<br>PP39: Land at The Furze<br>PP40: Land West of The Folley<br>PP40a: Malting Green Road<br>PP46: Land at Birch Green<br>PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road<br>PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove | N/A                                           |
| Blackwater Estuary SPA and Ramsar site | OA5: Marks Tey Growth Area<br>PP9: North-East Colchester | PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road<br>PP23: Land east Dawes Lane | PP4: Braiswick<br>PP5: Land at Chesterwell<br>PP7: Land off Bakers Lane                                                                                                                                      | PP1: Britannia Car Park<br>PP2: Vineyard Gate |

Appendix D **Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land**

| Habitats Site | Suitability of site allocations |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | High                            | Moderate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Low                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Negligible                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|               | PP19: Land North Oak Road       | PP24: Land North of the Fire Station<br><br>PP29a: Land East of School Road<br><br>PP29b: Land South of Copford Village Hall<br><br>PP32: Land North of Halstead Road and West of Fiddlers Wood, Eight Ash Green<br><br>PP32a: Land South of Halstead Road, Eight Ash Green<br><br>PP34: Land North of Coach Road<br><br>PP36: Land at Earls Colne Road | PP20: Land at Bonnie Blue Oak<br><br>PP22b: Land at New Park Cottage<br><br>PP25: View Park<br><br>PP27: Swan Grove, Chappel<br><br>PP29c: Queensberry Avenue<br><br>PP33: Land East of Plummers Road<br><br>PP35: The Old School<br><br>PP37: Land north of Park Lane<br><br>PP38: Land opposite Wick Road<br><br>PP39: Land at The Furze<br><br>PP40: Land West of The Folley<br><br>PP40a: Malting Green Road<br><br>PP42: Land at White Hart Lane<br><br>PP43: Land north of Colchester Road | PP3: St Runwald Street Car Park<br><br>PP6: Land at Colchester Station<br><br>PP11: Europit Garage Site<br><br>PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard<br><br>PP15: Hawkins Road<br><br>PP21: Highlands<br><br>PP41: Rowhedge Business Park<br><br>PP50: BT Site<br><br>PP51: Former Land Rover Site<br><br>PP52: Land at Guildford Road<br><br>PP53: Land at Chapman's Farm<br><br>PP54: Sheepen Place |

Appendix D **Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land**

| Habitats Site | Suitability of site allocations |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | High                            | Moderate                                                                                    | Low                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Negligible                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|               |                                 | PP36a: Land East of Brook Road<br><br>PP48: Land at Kelvedon Road<br><br>E5: Colchester Zoo | PP45: Land off New Road<br><br>PP46: Land at Birch Green<br><br>PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road<br><br>PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove<br><br>PEP1: Colchester Business Park<br><br>PEP4: Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester<br><br>PEP8: Land south of Factory Hill, Tiptree<br><br>PEP9: Bullbanks Farm, Eight Ash Green<br><br>PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham<br><br>PEP11: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt<br><br>OA4: Northern Gateway<br><br>Anglian Water Recycling Centre | PEP2: Knowledge Gateway<br><br>PEP6: Anderson Site<br><br>PEP13: Coal Yard Site<br><br>PEP15: Land at Former Mill Race Nursery, Aldham<br><br>PEP16: Land South of Tower Business Park<br><br>OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area<br><br>OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area<br><br>OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area |

Appendix D **Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land**

| Habitats Site                        | Suitability of site allocations |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                      | High                            | Moderate                                                                                                         | Low                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Negligible                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                      |                                 |                                                                                                                  | UE1: University of Essex                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Colne Estuary SPA and Ramsar site    | N/A                             | PP23: Land east Dawes Lane<br><br>PP24: Land North of the Fire Station                                           | PP25: View Park<br><br>PP49a: Land South of Mersea Road                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PP41: Rowhedge Business Park                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Stour and Orwell SPA and Ramsar site | PP9: North-East Colchester      | PP26: Land North Boxted Straight Road<br><br>PP34: Land North of Coach Road<br><br>PP37: Land north of Park Lane | PP4: Braiswick<br><br>PP5: Land at Chesterwell<br><br>PP7: Land off Bakers Lane<br><br>PP10: Land south of Berechurch Hall Road<br><br>PP24: Land North of the Fire Station<br><br>PP25: View Park<br><br>PP30: Land South of Long Road, Dedham<br><br>PP33: Land East of Plummers Road | PP1: Britannia Car Park<br><br>PP2: Vineyard Gate<br><br>PP3: St Runwald Street Car Park<br><br>PP6: Land at Colchester Station<br><br>PP11: Europit Site<br><br>PP14: Gas Works and Hythe Scrap Yard<br><br>PP15: Hawkins Road<br><br>PP41: Rowhedge Business Park |



Appendix D **Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land**

| Habitats Site | Suitability of site allocations |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | High                            | Moderate | Low                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Negligible                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|               |                                 |          | PP35: The Old School<br>PP38: Land opposite Wick Road<br><br>PP42: Land at White Hart Lane<br><br>PP43: Land north of Colchester Road<br><br>PP55: Land adjacent Lethe Grove<br><br>PEP1: Colchester Business Park<br><br>PEP4: Land North of Maldon Road, Colchester<br><br><br>PEP10: Lodge Lane, Langham<br><br>PEP11: Land at Pattens Yard West Bergholt<br><br>OA4: Northern Gateway<br><br>Anglian Water Recycling Centre<br><br>UE1: University of Essex | PP50: BT Site<br><br>PP51: Former Land Rover Site<br><br>PP52: Land at Guildford Road<br><br>PP53: Land at Chapman's Farm<br><br>PP54: Sheepen Place<br><br>PEP2: Knowledge Gateway<br><br>PEP13: Coal Yard Site<br><br>OA1: King Edward Quay Opportunity Area<br><br>OA2: Land East of Hawkins Road Opportunity Area<br><br>OA3: Magdalen Street Opportunity Area |

**Appendix D    Assessment of Physical Damage and Loss, and Non-physical  
Disturbance of Offsite Functionally Linked Land**

## References

- 1 The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (2007) SI No. 2007/1843. TSO (The Stationery Office), London.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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)
- 5 Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>
- 6 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.
- 7 Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the 'Habitats Directive')
- 8 Directive 2009/147/EC of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the 'Birds Directive')
- 9 The network of protected areas identified by the EU:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/index_en.htm)
- 10 Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017/changes-to-the-habitats-regulations-2017>
- 11 Defra and Natural England (2021) Guidance - Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a Habitats Site,  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>
- 12 NPPF para 18776, available from  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

- 13** The HRA Handbook, Section A3. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document:  
<https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>
- 14** Defra and Natural England (2021) Guidance - Habitats regulations assessments: protecting a Habitats Site,  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>
- 15** UK Government Planning Practice Guidance, available from  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>
- 16** The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/>
- 17** Conservation objectives are published by Natural England for SACs and SPAs.
- 18** 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.
- 19** 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>
- 20** CHAPMAN, C. & TYLDESLEY, D. 2016. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to Habitats Sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects - a review of authoritative decisions. Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number 207
- 21** Obtained from the Natural England website ([www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk))
- 22** Obtained from Natural England website  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>
- 23** SI No. 2017/2012
- 24** ECJ Case C-127/02 “Waddenzee” Jan 2004.
- 25** The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document [online] Available at:  
<https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

- 26** Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Habitats Sites.
- 27** Ibid.
- 28** Tiptree Parish Council (2023) Tiptree Neighbourhood Plan 2022 – 2033. Available at: <https://www.tiptreeparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/230517-Tiptree-NP-2022-Adopted.pdf>
- 29** These distances (with the exception of curlew) were originally derived through consultation with Natural England as part of the HRA undertaken to inform the North Essex Shared Strategic Plan, which includes Colchester local planning authority.
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- 31** A range of categories for which outputs from the traffic model are grouped into to describe their emissions.
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- 33** Jacobs (2025) Colchester Local Plan Regulation 18 Transport Evidence
- 34** Liley, D., Rush, E., Saunders, P. (2026) Essex Coast Recreational Disturbance Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy (RAMS). Report by Footprint Ecology.
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- 36** Affinity Water (2024) Water Resources Management Plan. Available at: <https://affinitywater.uk.engagementhq.com/wrmp>
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- 38** Available online: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/investing-in-the-future-of-water/colchester-advanced-water-recycling>
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- 40** Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Habitats Sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the

- Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.
- 41** Available at: <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/marine-unit/pwc-code-of-conduct/#:~:text=Personal%20Water%20Craft%20Code%20of%20Conduct%201%20Public,ride%20responsibly%20...%204%20Reduce%20your%20impact%20>
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