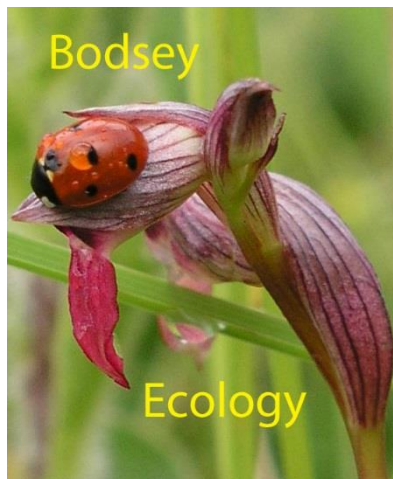


# Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan: Screening Report

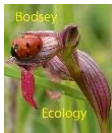
**Bodsey Ecology Limited**

**10 June 2019**

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Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan – Habitats Regulations Assessment 2019

Issue 1 – Draft Report on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

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Date: 10 June 2019

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- 1.1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [the Habitats Regulations] require that Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. HRA is achieved by carrying out an Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.1.2 Neighbourhood plans are nested within Local Plans. A HRA must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information and best scientific knowledge.
- 1.1.3 Appropriate Assessment for any development plan is a three stage process: screening; appropriate assessment itself that identifies whether the integrity of European sites could be compromised; and alternative solutions that include avoidance and mitigation measures. Until a ruling by the European Court of justice in 2018 it was assumed that existing planned mitigation measures against likely significant effects to European sites could allow those European sites to be 'screened out' at the first stage of the appropriate assessment process. The "People Over Wind" ruling has changed that assumption. It is no longer possible to screen out predicted adverse impacts on European sites where they are avoided or mitigated against without appropriate assessment. It is possible to screen out threats that are neither likely nor significant during the screening stage. HRA allows for a fourth stage that only applies in cases where adverse impacts are predicted even after alternative solutions have been tried and where there are imperative reasons of overriding national interest that the project should go ahead. It would be extremely unlikely that a Neighbourhood Plan could ever reach this fourth stage.
- 1.1.4 The HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (Bodsey Ecology, 2018) identified likely significant effects on two European sites, The Ouse Washes (SAC/SPA/Ramsar) and Portholme (SAC), downstream of Bedford. Although the policies within the Local Plan should protect the European sites if followed, detail was not available from the emerging Neighbourhood Plans to confirm this for all developments. Further screening of the Neighbourhood Plans will ensure that there were no unforeseen likely significant effects whilst undertaking the HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030. The HRA of Neighbourhood Plans will also ensure that they all avoid or mitigate against likely significant effects identified in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030. The HRA for the Neighbourhood Plans are also necessary because the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 has yet to be adopted and the policies within it are not yet in force.
- 1.1.5 Screening of the Bletsoe Draft Neighbourhood Plan (September 2018, Consultation version) identified no likely significant effects on the two European sites identified in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030. Appropriate assessment (AA Stages 2 and 3) was therefore not necessary.
- 1.1.6 This HRA concludes that the Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan can proceed as it will not have adverse impacts on any European sites, the qualifying features and/or the integrity of those sites, itself or in combination with other plans that have currently been adopted.



## 2 THE LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

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- 2.1.1 The National Policy Planning Framework (July 2018)<sup>1</sup> (NPPF) states that to protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:
- a) Identify, map and safeguard components of local wildlife-rich habitats and wider ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity; wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them; and areas identified by national and local partnerships for habitat management, enhancement, restoration or creation; and
  - b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 2.1.2 In addition to the requirements of the NPPF, the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [the Habitats Regulations] require that Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales, including Neighbourhood Plans.
- 2.1.3 The Habitats Regulations transpose the requirements of the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna [The Habitats Directive] which aims to protect the habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated under European Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds [the Birds Directive].
- 2.1.4 The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any European site designated for its nature conservation importance.
- 2.1.5 SACs and SPAs were included as designations referred to in the NPPF (paragraph 2.11 above). In addition, the NPPF<sup>1</sup> also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within the HRA process as required by the Regulations.
- 2.1.6 The Parish Council, as the 'plan-making' or 'relevant competent' authority, must before the plan is given effect, make a HRA through Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives where (a) the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Paragraph 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2017).
- 2.1.7 The process of HRA is based on the precautionary principle and evidence should be presented to allow a determination of whether the impacts of a land-use plan, when considered in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a European site; would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where effects are considered uncertain, the potential for adverse impacts should be assumed. Whether those effects reach a threshold where they can be considered 'significant' has to be interpreted using objective information and best ecological knowledge. Neighbourhood plans are nested within Local Plans. HRA identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site's conservation objectives because it may adversely impact the qualifying features listed, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information<sup>2</sup>. Neighbourhood Plans must therefore be considered in combination with the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030.
- 2.1.8 It is important to recognise that this HRA deals exclusively with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations 2017, which in turn are concerned only with sites designated for their importance at

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<sup>1</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/740441/National\\_Planning\\_Policy\\_Framework\\_web\\_accessible\\_version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#neighbourhood-plan-require-sustainability-appraisal>  
Paragraph: 047 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209

the European level. It is not a comprehensive review of interactions of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 with biodiversity and important components such as SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites, Green Infrastructure and Protected Species and Habitats of Principal Importance that are included within the Sustainability Appraisal for that plan and are covered in the Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Report (April 2018) (SEA).

- 2.1.9 The Appropriate Assessment methodology was followed when assessing the Bletsoe Draft Neighbourhood Plan (September 2018, Consultation version) (BNP). This report is the result from the Appropriate Assessment.

### 3 AA STAGE 1 – SCREENING METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

*The Local Plan in isolation or in combination with the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 and Central Bedfordshire "Shaping where you live 2035<sup>1</sup>" should not have adverse effects on the two identified European sites on the River Great Ouse assuming policies are followed, although it should be stated that there are not HRA tasks 2 and 3 available from other Local Authorities in the catchment.*

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

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

## 4 AA STAGE 1 - RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The screening matrix between the threats listed in paragraph 3.1.2 and the European sites listed in paragraph 3.1.3 for the BNP is shown in Table 1.
- 4.1.2 The results of the screening showed that there are no likely significant effects on any European site.
- 4.1.3 Arguably, the escape of non-native invasive species cannot be discounted for any plan anywhere in England, UK or even the European Union below the threshold of 1 in 500,000 per year (as suggested by DTA Publications Limited, 2018 as being *de minimis*). However, this author believes in his expert opinion that the statement from the Advocate General in Sweetman '48 the requirement that the effect in question should be significant exists to lay down a *de minimis* threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill'.
- is pertinent because no development anywhere could take place with the threshold of 1 in 500,000 per year for the spread of invasive non-native species. This author suggests that the criteria for a causal link between plans or projects and European sites should be based on the presence of existing invasive non-native species in the plan or project area and/or projects that suggest non-native planting will take place as part of the project.

## 4.1 REASONING FOR TABLE 1 RESULTS

- 4.1.3 Bletsoe is not in a very sensitive location when considering the River Great Ouse compared to many of the parishes in Bedford Borough. There are two watercourses that are tributaries of the River Great Ouse to the north of the village of Bletsoe. The SEA for the BNP demonstrates that surface water flooding does not occur in the village and therefore there is no reason to believe that the addition of 14 dwellings would affect the quality of water in the watercourses through surface run-off.
- 4.1.4 The following paragraphs provide the reasoning behind the conclusions presented in Table 1 and follow the same numbered sequence.
1. The development proposed in the BNP is too small to have a noticeable effect on the number of visitors to any of the European sites and can be considered *de minimis*. Furthermore, the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 in its entirety is predicted to have no adverse impact on the integrity of the European sites in question for this threat (Bodsey Ecology, 2018).
  2. The development proposed in the BNP is too small (approximately 14 dwellings) to have a measurable effect on the hydrology of the River Great Ouse and therefore will not significantly affect any of the European sites on its own. The in combination impacts of all developments in the River Great Ouse catchment are dependant on the plans of Anglian Water which are themselves subject to an HRA. It can only be assumed for this HRA that the plans of Anglian Water will prevent effects on the European sites in question.
  3. It is possible that non-native species could escape from new gardens and be dispersed. Because the risk is so small and is almost unmeasurable it can be considered *de minimis*. Furthermore, there is no tangible ecological connection between Bletsoe and any of the European sites.
  4. The same lack of connections between the BNP area as for reason “3” apply for pollution incidents to ground water.
  5. The same lack of connections between the BNP area as for reason “3” apply for pollution incidents.
  6. No dwelling in the Bletsoe Neighbourhood Development Plan will be tall enough or close enough to a European site to have an effect on flyways for birds or mammals and therefore there is no threat.

## 5 AA STAGE 1 - CONCLUSIONS

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- 5.1.1 The Bletsoe Draft Neighbourhood Plan (September 2018, Consultation version) (BNP) will have no unforeseen likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the two European sites identified in addition to those in the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (Bodsey Ecology, 2018).
- 5.1.2 The developments included in the BNP will not contribute to the likely significant effects on qualifying features of the European sites identified as possible in the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 as there are not ecological pathways that connect Bletsoe to them.
- 5.1.3 As all European sites are screened out at AA Stage 1 no further action is required i.e. there is no need for AA Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

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- 6.1.1 There are no likely significant effects from the BNP on any of the conservation objectives of any of the European sites investigated and therefore there will be no impact on site integrity in any of the European sites.
- 6.1.2 There is no reason arising from this Habitat Regulations Assessment to prevent the BNP from being adopted in the context of the Habitat Regulations 2017.

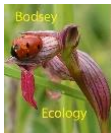


Table 1. Screening of European sites for likely significant effects from threats identified from the Bletsoe Draft Neighbourhood Plan (September 2018, Consultation version).

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

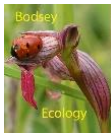


Table 2. Summary of impacts on European site integrity of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 with additional information relating to the Bletsoe Draft Neighbourhood Plan (September 2018, Consultation version).

| European Site           | Qualifying Feature                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Impacted negatively with potential loss of site integrity         | Relevant to Bletsoe Neighbourhood Development Plan | Likely impact on site integrity | Suggested Mitigation Measure in Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Portholme SAC           | H6510 Lowland hay Meadow                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Reduction in water quality                                        | No                                                 | yes                             | Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to Policy 97. Assumes Water Recycling Centres have capacity and pass their own HRA and/or upgraded as necessary upgraded.                                                      |
|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Increased spring/summer flooding                                  | No                                                 | yes                             | Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97                                                                                                                                         |
|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Non-native invasive species of plants                             | Yes                                                | possibly                        | Ensure non-native species are not included in planting of new developments.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Ouse Washes SPA/ RAMSAR | A051 <i>Anas strepera</i> , Gadwal (breeding)<br>A056 <i>Anas querquedula</i> , Garganey (breeding)<br>A119 <i>Porzana porzana</i> , Spotted Crake (breeding) A156a <i>Limosa limosa</i> , Black-tailed Godwit (breeding) Breeding Bird Assemblage (breeding) | Increased spring/summer flooding<br><br>Increased winter flooding | No                                                 | yes                             | Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97. Enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97 |
|                         | A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , Hen Harrier (non-breeding)                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Reduction in water quality                                        | No                                                 | yes                             | Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97. Assumes upgrades to Water Recycling Centres as necessary and assuming these pass their own HRA.                                        |
| Ouse Washes SAC         | S1149 <i>Cobitis taenia</i> (Spined Loach)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Reduction in water quality                                        | No                                                 | yes                             | As for SPA/Ramsar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



## 7 REFERENCES

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*Bletsoe Draft Neighbourhood Plan: Our Parish-Our Plan-Our Future.* (September 2018, Consultation version). <http://www.bletsoe.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Bletsoe-Neighbourhood-Plan-DRAFT-Consultation-Version-September-20...-2.pdf> - Accessed on 10/6/2019

*Bletsoe Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Report* (April 2018). <http://www.bletsoe.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/BLETSOE-NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.-DRAFT-SEA-v3.pdf> - Accessed on 10/6/2019

Bodsey Ecology (2018). *Bedford Borough Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment 2018.* <http://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=mWdUC1eYtKneHtAkS7KPeQ%3d%3d&name=26%20-%20Habitats%20Regulations%20Assessment%202018.pdf> – Accessed on 10/6/2109



## APPENDIX 1 – EUROPEAN SITE OBJECTIVES

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

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

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

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

#### Qualifying Features:

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

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

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

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

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

#### Qualifying Features:

S1149. *Cobitis taenia*; Spined loach

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

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

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

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



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

### Qualifying Features:

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

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

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

A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Breeding)

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

A053 *Anas platyrhynchos*; Mallard (Breeding)

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

A055 *Anas querquedula*; Garganey (Breeding)

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

A056 *Anas clypeata*; Northern shoveler (Breeding)

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

A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Breeding)

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

Waterbird assemblage

Breeding bird assemblage

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

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

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

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

### Qualifying Features:

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



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

H1150. Coastal lagoons\*

H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays

H1170. Reefs

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

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

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

S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter

S1365. *Phoca vitulina*; Common seal

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

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

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

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

### Qualifying Features:

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

A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)

A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)

A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

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

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

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

A065 *Melanitta nigra*; Black (common) scoter (Non-breeding)

A067 *Bucephala clangula*; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding)

A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)

A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)

A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)

A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)

A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)



A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)

A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)

A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)

Waterbird assemblage

## **EUROPEAN SITE CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES FOR EVERSDEEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION SITE CODE: UK0030331**

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

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

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

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

### **Qualifying Features:**

S1308. *Barbastella barbastellus*; Barbastelle bat

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

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

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

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



- The population of each of the qualifying features, and, 2 The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

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

### Qualifying Features:

A021 Botaurus stellaris; Great bittern (Non-breeding)

A051 Anas strepera; Gadwall (Non-breeding)

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

Waterbird assemblage

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

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

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

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

### Qualifying Features:

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

A050 Anas penelope; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)

A051 Anas strepera; Gadwall (Breeding)

A051 Anas strepera; Gadwall (Non-breeding)

A052 Anas crecca; Eurasian teal (Non-breeding)

A054 Anas acuta; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)

A055 Anas querquedula; Garganey (Breeding)

A056 Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler (Non-breeding)

A056 Anas clypeata; Northern shoveler (Breeding)

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



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

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

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

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

This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above. This is available at  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4808896162037760>

### Qualifying Features:

H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (FestucoBrometalia);  
Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone

H9130. Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests; Beech forests on neutral to rich soils

S1083. *Lucanus cervus*; Stag beetle

