



WILD FRONTIER ECOLOGY

Borough Council of King's Lynn and
West Norfolk



Preliminary Habitats Regulations
Assessment of Site Specific Policies:
Issues and Options Document -
Executive Summary

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Executive Summary

This document has been produced to inform the Issues and Options stage of the Site Specific Proposals DPD. No consultation has taken place prior to the production of this document and it is intended to form a starting point of an iterative process with consultees. The Site Specific Proposals DPD forms part of a hierarchical process and draws on the policies from the Core Strategy (adopted in July 2011). The Core Strategy was subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment to ensure no negative effect of the policies on European Sites. Therefore the assessment presented within this document relates specifically to the fine-scale policies, rather than assessing the broad-scale potential effects considered within the Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment.

Likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites for each site and policy were assessed.

Likely significant effects were identified as a result of:

- disturbance of SPA species through increased recreation due to increased population local to the sites
- hydrological impacts as a result of increased nutrient input the River Wensum SAC
- direct disturbance due to housing allocation adjacent to the North Norfolk Coast SPA

For sites where increased recreation may lead to disturbance to SPA species, the policy is to stipulate a programme of monitoring in conjunction with partners to identify current visitor numbers, and to monitor any increases and to identify potential adverse effects on SPA features. Should adverse effects be identified, suitable mitigation measures will be decided between partners and implemented. The success of mitigation measures will also be monitored, and adjusted if necessary.

Potential hydrological effects on the River Wensum require thorough research to ensure no adverse effects. This includes ensuring current sewage treatment works allow capacity for the proposed housing allocation.

Housing allocation that can be viewed from the SPA (currently Thornham) should include stipulation to prevent disturbance of SPA species during construction and to allow adequate screening to prevent direct disturbance effects during occupation of the housing.

Adjustments to the current proposals and policies at this early stage have therefore been stipulated to ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites. Given these adjustments to the policies, the Site Specific Proposals will not affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, but it is recognised that policies will evolve through the LDF process and are likely to be further adjusted.