



# Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk

Habitats Regulations Assessment: Addendum

August 2013

Greater Norwich development Partnership



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# Issue and revision record

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# 1 Addendum

## **Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk – Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum to Supplementary Note in relation to the parts of the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk to be re-published under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations, 2012**

This document is an addendum to the Supplementary Note on the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) produced in July 2012 to support the re-adoption of the remitted parts of the JCS.

The addendum concludes that new policies proposed as modifications to the JCS are highly unlikely to have a significant direct or indirect impact on European and Ramsar designated sites and thus no further HRA work is required at present. However, should there be a need for a Norwich Policy Area Local Plan; this plan would need to be subject to HRA.

### [2012 Supplementary Note](#)

The 2012 note is available at:

<http://www.gndp.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/02/SDJCS10.1-HRA-Supplementary-Statement-and-Report-v1.pdf>

Through the Supplementary Note, all parties (Natural England, Environment Agency and Anglian Water) agreed that the conclusion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment dated February 2010 remains unchanged, subject to the progress noted in the document on working towards a resolution of the longer term water resource requirement. Work has been on-going on this front since 2012, most notably through the publication of Anglian Water's draft Water Resources Management Plan in 2013. However, this issue is not the subject of this addendum, as water resource issues are covered by adopted JCS policies which have not been remitted.

### [2010 JCS Habitats Regulations Assessment](#)

The Supplementary Note updated the 2010 HRA. The 2010 HRA concluded that with the revision of JCS policies and the inclusion of specific mitigation measures, it was highly unlikely that the JCS policies would have a significant direct or indirect impact on European and Ramsar designated sites.

The 2010 HRA is available at:

<http://www.gndp.org.uk/content/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2010/03/3.-Habitats-Regulation-Assessment-Feb-2010.pdf>.



## August 2013 Addendum

This addendum addresses the main modifications proposed to the plan as a result of the Examination in Public of the remitted parts of the JCS in May and July 2013.

These modifications consist firstly of amendments to text which do not reflect a policy approach or are minor points of clarification not directly related to protected sites. Most of these are therefore not considered further.

Secondly, it should be noted that modifications MM4 and MM5 delete the previously assumed housing trajectory for delivery in the Broadland part of the Norwich Policy Area and introduce a revised appendix 6a updating the trajectory. The new appendix shows a lower expected rate of housing delivery in the period up to 2015, a broadly similar rate from 2015 to 2020 and a higher rate of delivery post 2020, from 750 units to around 900 units per annum. This will lead to a slightly reduced delivery over the entire plan period. This will result in a greater proportion of the housing being delivered after the mitigation measures for the River Wensum SAC are delivered. These measures are scheduled for delivery during 2015 to 2020 in the Anglian Water draft 2014 Water Resources Management Plan. This will lead to an overall reduction in the effects of housing development on the SAC.

Thirdly, the modifications include two new policies to be consulted on in September 2013:

Policy 21, which is a sustainable development policy for the part JCS as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. This policy would not have a significant direct or indirect adverse impact on European and Ramsar designated sites since it refers to existing adopted policies in the JCS such as policy 1 that restrict development where necessary to protect of European and Ramsar designated sites.

Policy 22, which requires a Norwich Policy Area (NPA) Local Plan to be produced two years after adoption of the part JCS if the housing targets set in the part JCS are not met. The purpose of this NPA Local Plan would be to identify and allocate additional locations within the whole NPA area for immediately deliverable housing land to remedy the shortfall in housing. At present, this policy is unlikely to have any significant effect on European sites since it does not in itself provide for additional housing. However, should there be a need for a Norwich Policy Area Local Plan as a result of this policy; the new plan would need to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment.

## Conclusion

As a consequence we are satisfied that the main modifications will not lead to any effects on a European Site which have not already been assessed in the February 2010 report and the 2012 Supplementary Note. It is our opinion, therefore, that the February 2010 report and the 2012 Supplementary Note can be relied upon as a sound assessment under the Habitats Regulations.