



# Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2036: Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA): Screening Report – October 2020**



Essex County Council





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# Glossary of Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
BDC	Babergh District Council
DC	District Council
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
Ha	Hectare
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IFCA	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone (for SSSIs)
Km	Kilometre
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NDP/NP	Neighbourhood Development Plan / Neighbourhood Plan
NE	Natural England
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RAMS	Recreational disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SIP(s)	Site Improvement Plans(s)
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Specific Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
ZOI	Zone of Influence



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 The Purpose of This Report

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This report screens to determine whether the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A Stage 1 HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected Habitats (European) Sites as a result of the implementation of a plan/project, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

## 1.2 The Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft

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The main purpose of the Plan is to set out and identify the best ways to direct local planning towards community wants and needs, while protecting the natural environment and cultural assets, ensuring a more sustainable future for the community. The Regulation 14 draft Neighbourhood Plan will set out planning policies for Redgrave Parish and within the confines of the Neighbourhood Plan boundary as defined (see Appendix 1).

Once formally 'made' or 'adopted', a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same legal weight as Local Development Plans adopted up by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in this case Mid-Suffolk District Council.



## 2. Legislative Background

### 2.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (*The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended*), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any Habitats Site, in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of Habitats sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites and Habitats Sites in the NPPF (2019).

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to support the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan which is being produced by Redgrave Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The area covered by the Plan is shown in Appendix 1.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA.

In line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats Site.

On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom (UK) held a referendum and voted to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017 the Prime Minister triggered Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union, which commenced a period of negotiations regarding the UK's exit from the EU. On 26 June 2018 The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 received Royal Assent and work to prepare the UK statute book for Brexit has begun. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 will make sure that UK laws continue to operate following the UK's exit. There is no immediate change to legislation or policy affecting national infrastructure. Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into UK law and those are unchanged until amended by Parliament. There the requirements for HRA under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain in place.



## 3. HRA Screening

### 3.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

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This section forms a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

This section of this Report aims to:

- Identify the Habitats sites within 20km of the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan for its potential to impact upon a Habitats site.
- Assess the potential for in combination effects from other projects and plans in the area.
- Identify if there are any outstanding issues that need further investigation.

### 3.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report

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#### 3.2.1 CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17

As previously mentioned, in line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats Site.

This HRA Screening Report does not therefore consider mitigation measures within the assessment of Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan.

#### 3.2.2 CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

This Court judgement now imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority for any plans or projects at Appropriate Assessment stage:

1. [...] 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.
2. [...] 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.

3. [...] 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.

Within this Stage 1 HRA Screening report, the assessment will determine the requirement for whether or not a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is needed for the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan.

### 3.3 Habitats (European) Sites

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'Habitats sites' is the term used in the (revised) NPPF (2019) to describe the network of sites of nature protection areas. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and Habitats.

The sites are designated under the European Union (EU) Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) and the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).

The Birds Directive requires the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs). The Habitats Directive similarly requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species, and for Habitats. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) are also part of the Habitats (Sites) network. This is because all SPAs and SACs are comprised of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all Ramsar sites in England are SSSIs. Together, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites make up the Habitats Sites in England. The following offers a description and explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites.

#### 3.3.1 Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites

##### Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds found within EU countries. Example: Deben Estuary SPA is internationally important for wintering waterfowl. *Legislation: EU Birds Directive.*

##### Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas designated to protect habitat types that are in danger of disappearance, have a small natural range, or are highly characteristic of the region; and to protect species that are endangered, vulnerable, rare, or endemic. Example: Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens for calcareous fens, *Molinia* meadows and Desmoulin's whorl snail *Legislation: EU Habitats Directive.*



### Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance)

Ramsar Sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl Habitats. Example: Redgrave and South Lopham Fens is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation which supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*. Ramsar sites often overlap with SACs and SPAs and UK planning policy determines that they should be accorded the same importance when developments are proposed. *Legislation: Ramsar Convention (1971) – Wetlands of International Importance.*

## 3.3.2 Habitats Sites to be considered

There are 5 Habitats sites (SPA/SAC/Ramsar) which lie within 20 km of Redgrave parish and are shown on the map in Appendix 2.

Table 1: Habitats Sites within 20km of the development

SPA	SAC	Ramsar
Breckland	Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens	Redgrave & South Lopham Fens
	Breckland	
	Norfolk Valley Fens	

After consideration of the Zones of Influence as shown on MAGIC website [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk), the Plan area lies within the 5km Impact Risk Zone for Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site, the Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC but not the Impact Risk Zone for Breckland SAC, Breckland SPA or Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. It was therefore concluded that two Habitats sites (Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site, and Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC), should now be assessed for any likely significant effects resulting from the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft.

## 3.3.3 Conservation Objectives

Information on each of the above Habitats sites has been obtained from the Natural England website.

The justification for the importance of each Habitats site and the reasons for designation-the Conservation Objectives and Designation Features- for each site are included in Appendix 3. It also reflects the Supplementary Advice for Conservation Objectives which describes the range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity and key vulnerabilities to consider within Habitats Regulations assessments.



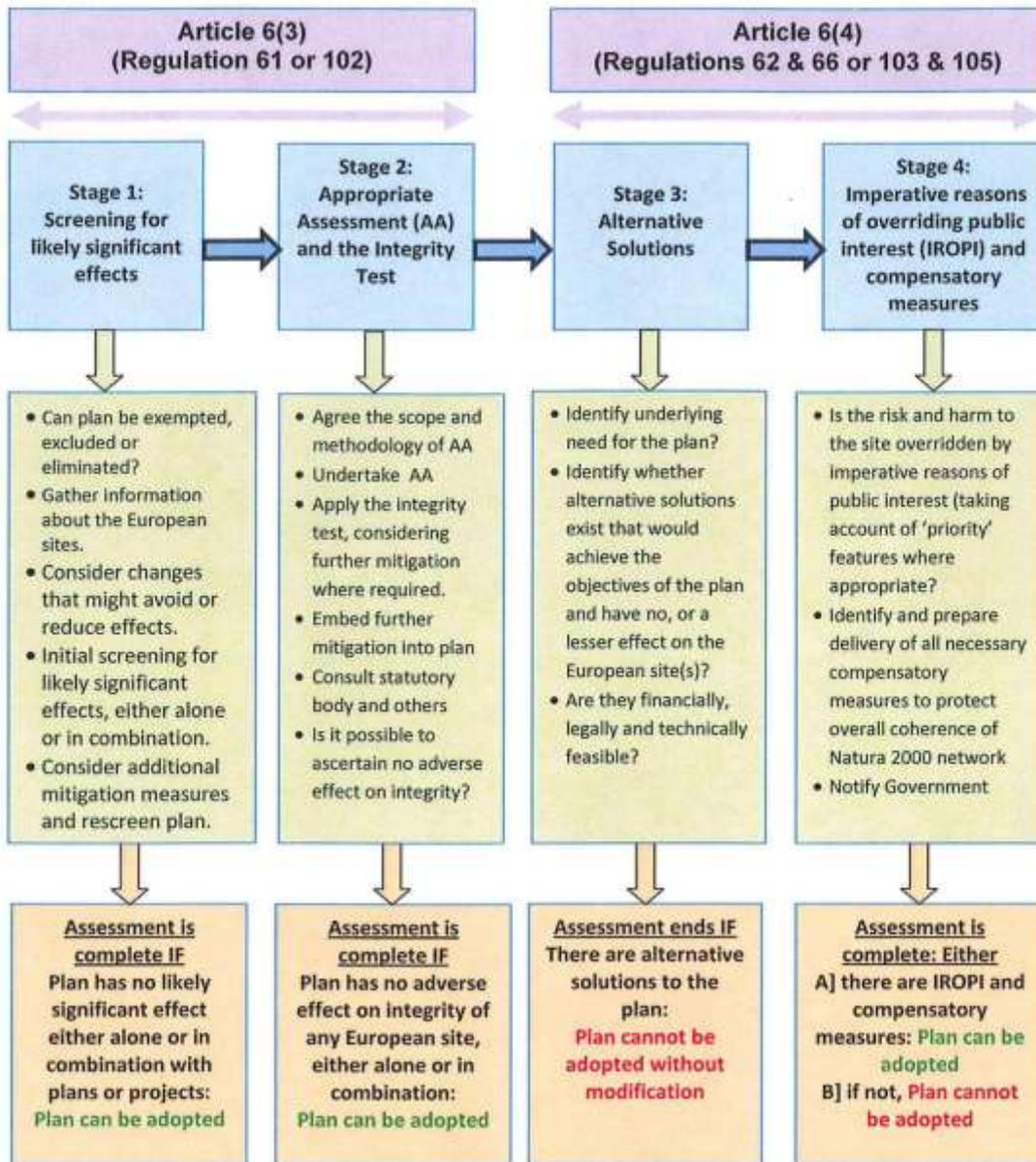
## 3.4 Method and Approach

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The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA screening report; this is necessary to ensure the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats (European site or a European offshore marine site), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.



### Outline of the four stage approach to the assessment of plans under the Habitats Regulations



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Figure 1: Outline of the Four Stage Approach to the Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations



### 3.4.1 Stage 1: HRA screening

This screening stage identifies if alternatives are needed because any policies or projects will have an impact on a Habitats Site, amendments need to be made in Neighbourhood Development Plans. Table 4 identifies the different categories assigned to each policy in the plan: Category A identifies those policies or projects that may not result in a Likely Significant Effect and are considered to have No Negative Effect. Category B identifies those policies or projects that will have No Likely Significant Effect. Category C identifies those policies or projects that might have Likely Significant Effect and thus upon a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Each of the policies in the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan has been screened to identify whether they would have any impact on a Habitats Site and allocated to a category as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Screening categorisation

<b>Category A: No negative effect</b>
Policies or projects that will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Habitats site.
<b>Category B: No Likely Significant Effect</b>
Policies or projects that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a likely significant effect on a Habitats site alone or in combination. This conclusion could only be reached if the effects, even in combination and taking the precautionary principle into account, are considered trivial.
<b>Category C: Likely Significant Effect</b>
Policies or projects which are predicted to have a likely significant effect on a Habitats Site either on its own or in combination with other plans and projects and require revision or further assessment (Appropriate Assessment).

### 3.4.2 Potential impacts of the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan on Habitats Sites

There are a wide range of potential impacts from development which can be summarised as -

- Land take by developments;
- Impact on protected species found within but which travel outside the protected sites (functionally linked land) may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Habitats site, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.
- Increased disturbance, for example from recreational use resulting from new housing development and / or improved access due to transport infrastructure projects;
- Changes in water availability, or water quality as a result of development and increased demands for waste water treatment, and changes in groundwater regimes due to increased impermeable areas;



- Changes in atmospheric pollution levels due to increased traffic, waste management facilities etc. Pollution discharges from developments such as industrial Developments, quarries and waste management facilities.

Each policy in the neighbourhood plan will therefore be assessed against the above criteria in the table below.

Table 3: Assessment of potential impacts

Nature of potential impact	How the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Habitats site?	Why these effects are/ not considered likely to be significant?
Land take by development	Although the Plan area contains land within the boundaries of the 2 Habitats sites within scope of this HRA screening report, no development is allocated on designated land.	N/A.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The Redgrave plan area is within the 5km Impact Risk Zone of the Waveney Valley Fens SAC and Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site.	<p>The development land within the plan area does not act as Functionally Linked Land for any designated features of the wetland Habitats sites within scope as it is used as recreational land.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that this impact pathway can be screened out from further assessment. No significant effects from the Neighbourhood Plan impacts on protected species outside the Habitats sites are considered likely.</p>
Recreational pressure and disturbance	The Redgrave plan area is within the Impact Risk Zone of the 5km Waveney Valley Fens SAC and Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site.	<p>Although the Plan allocations are within an Impact Risk Zone as shown on Magic maps, they are not within an evidenced Zone of Influence for recreational disturbance. However, the emerging Norfolk GI and RAMS suggests that residential development could result in effects in combination with other plans and projects. This scale of development does not currently trigger consultation with Natural England with regard to any likely significant impacts on the designated features of the wetland Habitats sites within scope.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that this impact pathway can be screened out from further assessment. No significant effects from the Neighbourhood Plan</p>



Nature of potential impact	How the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Habitats site?	Why these effects are/ not considered likely to be significant?
		impacts on water quantity or quality are considered likely.
Water quantity and quality	The Redgrave plan area is within the 5km Impact Risk Zone of the Waveney Valley Fens SAC and Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site. The Parish is served by the Redgrave-Crackthorne Bridge STW which has capacity for additional wastewater treatment. It is therefore considered that this impact pathway can be screened for further assessment.	<p>The Plan allocations are within an Impact Risk Zone as shown on Magic maps but residential development of this scale does not trigger consultation with Natural England with regard to any significant impacts on the designated features of the wetland Habitats sites within scope.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that this impact pathway can be screened out from further assessment. No significant effects from the Neighbourhood Plan impacts on water quantity or quality are considered likely.</p>
Changes in air & noise pollution levels	The Redgrave plan area is within the 5km Impact Risk Zone of the Waveney Valley Fens SAC and Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site. It is considered that there is no pathway for development to result in pollution impacts.	<p>The Plan allocations are within the Impact Risk Zone as shown on Magic maps but residential development does not trigger consultation with Natural England with regard to any significant impacts on the designated features of the wetland Habitats sites within scope.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that this impact pathway can be screened out from further assessment. No significant effects from the Neighbourhood Plan impacts on air and noise pollution are considered likely.</p>

### 3.5 Results of HRA Screening of Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Policies

The HRA Screening exercise explores whether there will be any Likely Significant Effect resulting from the Plan's policies. These Policies are:

- Policy RED1 - New Housing
- Policy RED2 - Housing Development
- Policy RED3 - Housing Type



- Policy RED4 - Existing Community Facilities
- Policy RED5 - New or Improved Community Facilities
- Policy RED6 - Landscape Quality and Sensitivity
- Policy RED7 - Protection of Important Public Local Views
- Policy RED8 - Protection of Natural Assets
- Policy RED9 - Protection of Local Green Spaces
- Policy RED10 - Protecting Redgrave's Historic Assets
- Policy RED11 - The Design of New Development
- Policy RED12 - Low Carbon and Future Sustainability
- Policy RED13 - New and Existing Business
- Policy RED14 - Traffic and Highways Safety
- Policy RED15 - Walking and Cycling
- Policy RED16 - Heritage Assets
- Policy RED17 - Design Considerations
- Policy RED18 - Sustainable Construction Practices
- Policy RED19 - Protecting existing services and facilities
- Policy RED20 - Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities
- Policy RED21 - Public Rights of Way

This section considers each policy in turn and the results of the screening exercise is recorded in Table 4.

Table 4: Summary of findings from the HRA screening

Policy	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
<p><b>Policy RED1 - Housing</b></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will accommodate new housing development in Redgrave commensurate with its classification in the Local Plan settlement hierarchy as a 'hinterland village'.</p> <p>This plan provides for up to 24 dwellings to be developed in the Neighbourhood Plan area between April 2018 and March 2036 of which 16 already have the benefit of planning permission<sup>10</sup> but are not yet constructed. The housing target will be met through a combination of the existing commitment together with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Allocation of a site at Churchway for up to 8 dwellings;</li> <li>2) small 'windfall' 11 sites and infill 12 plots within the Settlement Boundary that come forward during the Plan period and are not specifically identified in the Plan;</li> <li>3) conversions and new development opportunities outside the Settlement Boundary where it can be demonstrated that there is a need for the dwelling which is essential for the operation of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation and other exceptional uses.</li> </ol>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



<p><b>Policy RED2 - Housing Development</b></p> <p>A site of approximately 1 acre (0.50 hectares) at Churchway is allocated for new housing development of up to 8 dwellings. The site is indicated on Map A1 and A2 and the Policies Map (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan).</p> <p>Mitigation for the loss of existing recreational open space will be required in the form of a financial contribution to improving and enhancing overall open space and biodiversity provision on the remaining area of adjacent open space in accordance with the District Council's Open Space Standards. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement to existing children's play area.</li> <li>• Enhanced or additional playing pitch provision.</li> <li>• Enhanced youth provision.</li> <li>• Establishment of community orchard and wildflower meadow in south eastern corner of the site to benefit wildlife and provide informal recreation.</li> <li>• Retention of existing footpath and Rights of Way.</li> </ul> <p>Detailed proposals for the allocated site should provide for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Access from Churchway,</li> <li>ii. Existing hedge on the northern boundary to be retained as much as possible.</li> <li>iii. Provision of new footway on south side of Churchway to link with rest of the village.</li> <li>iv. Dwelling mix to meet identified village needs and to consist of bungalows and small units including affordable housing in accordance with Policy RED3.</li> <li>v. Dwelling layout to be predominantly frontage development.</li> <li>vi. Creation of 5m landscaping belt between the development and existing adjacent residential properties to the west of the site.</li> </ol> <p><b>See also Policies RED4 – Existing Community Facilities and RED9 – Local Green Spaces.</b></p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p><b>Policy RED3 – Housing Type</b></p> <p>Support will be given to the provision of a wide range of types of housing that meet local needs and achieves a better balance of housing to enable the creation of a mixed, balanced and inclusive community.</p> <p>In line with the latest evidence of need 15, new developments* should provide a broad range of homes</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>



<p>suitable for first time buyers, families and older people, where appropriate, and should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family housing - 2 &amp; 3 bedrooms.</li> <li>• Low cost market homes suitable for first time buyers and Shared Ownership- 1-2 bedrooms.</li> <li>• Bungalows and housing for older people.</li> <li>• Affordable Housing16.</li> </ul> <p>It should be noted that the above housing types may not be suitably accommodated on every site.</p>		
<p><b>Policy RED4 – Existing Community Facilities</b></p> <p>Proposals for change of use involving a potential loss of an existing community facility (such as Church, Shop, Pub or Redgrave Activities Centre), will only be supported where an improved or equivalent facility can be located elsewhere in the parish in an equally convenient, safe and accessible location or where there is no reasonable prospect of continued viable use and this can be sufficiently demonstrated through:</p> <p>i) Twelve months of marketing in appropriate publications for the permitted and similar uses, using an appropriate agent; and</p> <p>ii) Confirmation that it has been offered on a range of terms (including price) agreed to be reasonable on the advice of an independent qualified assessor.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Policy RED5 – New or Improved Community Facilities</b></p> <p>New housing development will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that sufficient supporting infrastructure (physical, medical, educational, green and digital) is available to meet the needs of that development. Where an infrastructure deficit currently exists, new housing development should not exacerbate that deficit. Where the need for new infrastructure is identified to meet the needs of that development, developments should provide or support the delivery of it in order to enhance the quality of life for the community.</p> <p><b>Redgrave Activities Centre</b></p> <p>Support is given by the community for maintaining, developing and improving the services and facilities offered in the village. This includes the creation of a new or improved 'Village Hall' facility, on the site of the existing Redgrave Activities Centre or an alternative site. Any new facility on the Redgrave Activities Centre site should provide safe and convenient access, sufficient</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>



parking and outside amenity green space for community use.		
<p><b>Policy RED6 – Landscape Quality and Sensitivity</b></p> <p>Development within the Area of Important Local Landscape Quality as defined on Map C and the Policies Map Outer (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan), will only be supported provided that the proposal:</p> <p>a) conserves or enhances the special qualities of the landscape.<sup>17</sup></p> <p>b) is designed and sited to be sympathetic to the scenic beauty of the landscape setting.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations.
<p><b>Policy RED7 – Protection of Important Public Local Views</b></p> <p>The following views and vistas (as shown on Map D and the policies Map (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan)) are identified as Important Public Local Views.</p> <p>1) View approaching the village from the north, along The Street looking south.</p> <p>2) View from the footpath leaving Fen Street from the entrance to Redgrave &amp; Lopham Fen to Churchway, looking southeast.</p> <p>3) View from same footpath looking east towards St Mary’s Church.</p> <p>4) View along Churchway looking east towards St. Mary’s Church.</p> <p>5) View from the Playing Field looking east towards Hall Farm.</p> <p>6) View from B1113 leaving Redgrave towards the south, looking towards Botesdale.</p> <p>7) View from the footpath leaving Green Farm looking west towards Hinderclay.</p> <p>8) View across “Norman’s Field” public footpath looking west.</p> <p>9) View from stile at north-west corner of “Norma’s Field” looking west.</p> <p>10) View from footpath on west of village looking west towards Hinderclay Farm.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations.



<p>11) View from footpath on west of village looking towards Hinderclay Church.</p> <p>Also views within the Conservation Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) View towards and including 'The Knoll' from Churchway.</li> <li>ii) View towards and including 'The Knoll' from Hall Lane.</li> <li>iii) View towards and including 'The Knoll' from The Street.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals for development within an important view or that would affect an important view, should ensure that they respect and take account of the view concerned. Developments which would have unacceptable adverse impacts on the landscape or character of the view or vista will not be supported.</p>		
<p><b>Policy RED8 – Protection of Natural Assets</b></p> <p><u>Natural Features and Biodiversity</u>          Within the Neighbourhood Area, sensitive natural features typical of the Ancient Plateau Claylands Character Area 18 will be protected from development that would have a significant adverse impact upon their character, appearance and wildlife value.</p> <p>Development proposals will be expected to retain existing features of landscape and biodiversity value (including ponds, trees, woodland, including ancient woodland, hedgerows including ancient field boundaries and verges) and where practical to do so, provide a net gain in biodiversity through, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the creation of new natural habitats.</li> <li>b) the planting of additional trees and hedgerows and restoring and repairing fragmented biodiversity networks.</li> <li>c) repairing and connecting fragmented habitats to create wildlife corridors.</li> </ul> <p>Where loss or damage is unavoidable, the benefits of the development proposals must be demonstrated clearly to outweigh any impacts and the development shall provide for appropriate replacement planting on site together with a method statement for the ongoing care and maintenance of that planting.</p> <p>Where development proposals cause damage to identified natural features, wildlife corridors around the interruption will be constructed.</p> <p><u>Redgrave and Lopham Fens</u></p> <p>The highest level of protection will be given to sites of international wildlife importance with development only</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations except the reference in the policy text for Redgrave and <b>South</b> Lopham Fens to Habitats Regulations should be shown as:</p> <p>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (<b>as amended</b>).</p>



permitted where the proposal is in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Development likely to have an adverse effect (either directly or indirectly) on Redgrave and Lopham Fens, will not be permitted unless:

- a. it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the proposal that outweigh the need to safeguard the special ecological / geological interest of the site, and;
- b. it has been demonstrated, where development would result in significant harm, that it cannot be reasonably located on an alternative site that would result in less or no harm, and;
- c. residual harm, after all measures to prevent and adequately mitigate have been applied, will be adequately compensated for.

Where it is considered that a designated site, protected species or any species or habitat, particularly where listed as a Priority Habitat or Species under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006), may be adversely affected by a development proposal, an ecological assessment (EcIA) will be required to be submitted with the planning application to assess effects on flora and fauna, commensurate with the scale of the impact and the importance of the species.

In accordance with the stepwise approach to protecting biodiversity (the mitigation hierarchy), all development with the potential to affect biodiversity should demonstrate how such effects have been considered, by firstly demonstrating how effects have been avoided, and then how effects that cannot be avoided have been minimised. Residual harm, after all measures to prevent and adequately mitigate have been applied, must be adequately compensated for.

All development should demonstrate how net gains for biodiversity are being secured as part of the development, proportionate to the scale of development and potential impacts (if any).

Where development is permitted, the authority will consider the need for conditions or planning obligations to ensure the protection and enhancement of the site's nature conservation and / or geological interest. Wherever a proposed development may have a detrimental impact upon a designated site or protected species, appropriate conditions and/or planning obligations will be used to ensure that the appropriate



<p>mitigation measures incorporated within the proposal are fully implemented and monitored where required.</p> <p><b>See Map E (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan)</b></p>		
<p><b>Policy RED9 – Protection of Local Green Spaces</b></p> <p>The following areas are designated as Local Green Space for special protection (as shown on Map D (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan) on page 61 and the Policies Map).</p> <p>a) Land known as ‘The Flat Iron’ between Half Moon Lane and Hall Lane.  b) Land known as ‘The Knoll’ in front of the Cross Keys Public House, Churchway.  c) The Playing Field Including the Children’s Play Area) adjacent to the Redgrave Activities Centre on Churchway.</p> <p>Development on designated Local Green Spaces will only be permitted in very special circumstances. Development adjacent to a Local Green Space, that would adversely impact upon its special qualities, will not be supported.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Policy RED10 – Protecting Redgrave’s Historic Assets</b></p> <p>The established special character of Redgrave Park and Redgrave Conservation Area and their settings will be protected and reinforced.</p> <p>This will be achieved by:</p> <p>a) Encouraging the retention and maintenance of buildings which contribute to the overall character of Redgrave Park and the Conservation Area.  b) Ensuring that new development is sympathetic to the special qualities and character of Redgrave Park and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.  c) Protecting the setting of the Conservation Area from development which affects it, in relation to views into or out of the area.</p> <p>Proposals for new development that may affect the character, value or setting of Redgrave Park or the Conservation Area or other historic asset should be accompanied by sufficient information in the form of a Heritage Statement to be able to demonstrate how the proposal will:</p> <p>d) preserve or enhance the significance of the heritage asset including the contribution made by its setting;</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>



<p>e) retain buildings and spaces, the loss of which would cause harm to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area;</p> <p>f) contribute to Redgrave’s Local Distinctiveness as described in the Redgrave Conservation Area Appraisal;</p> <p>g) demonstrate a clear understanding of the significance of the heritage asset and the wider context in which it sits;</p> <p>h) impact upon the heritage asset and its context and</p> <p>i) provide clear justification for any works that would result in harm to any heritage asset, and where the proposal will lead to less than substantial harm, this should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal.</p> <p>Where clear and convincing justification for the harm caused as a result of the proposal cannot be given, proposals will not be supported.</p> <p>The level of detail of the Heritage Statement should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the Heritage Statement should identify the significance of the asset, undertake an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the historic asset including the, the works proposed and any proposed mitigation. It should provide sufficient information to allow an understanding of the potential impact of the proposal on the asset’s significance and its setting.</p> <p><b>See Map F (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan)</b></p>		
<p><b>Policy RED11 – The Design of New Development</b></p> <p>The design of all new development should reflect Redgrave’s local distinctiveness and character and seek to enhance its quality.</p> <p>All proposals for new development should respect the scale, materials and character of the existing and surrounding buildings in the area, reinforcing local development patterns, the form, scale, massing and character of adjacent properties where this provides a positive contribution.</p> <p>Proposals for new housing development should be of a high standard of design and include the following, where appropriate:</p> <p>Density and Design</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>



<p>a) High quality and sustainable local materials, such as Suffolk Red brick and Suffolk White Brick;</p> <p>b) provide for a density compatible with that existing in the immediate locality;</p> <p>c) ensure that the proposed heights of buildings are appropriate to the character of the area and do not impact upon the amenity of adjoining residents through overlooking;</p> <p>Layout and parking</p> <p>d) integrate with the existing footway network and prioritise the movement of pedestrians and cyclists;</p> <p>e) avoid overdevelopment by ensuring that a residential plot can accommodate the needs of modern dwellings with usable garden space;</p> <p>f) provide sufficient external amenity space for refuse and recycling storage;</p> <p>g) accommodate parking consistent with the Suffolk Guidance for Parking 2019 or successor documents;</p> <p>h) where garages are proposed ensure that they are of sufficient dimensions to accommodate an average car and open the car doors;</p> <p>i) include built in crime reduction measures consistent with the guidance in Secure by Design 20 to minimise the likelihood and fear of crime;</p> <p>Landscaping and environmental features</p> <p>j) include soft well landscaped boundary edges and where adjacent to open countryside or edge of settlement include a 5m landscape strip;</p> <p>k) minimise the loss of trees and hedgerows to enable necessary road access and visibility splays;</p> <p>l) include features to encourage and attract wildlife, create new habitats and enhance and extend existing wildlife corridors;</p> <p>m) retain existing tree belts and hedgerows making a feature of them as part of the development;</p> <p>n) Include features that allow for increased energy efficiency performance and renewable energy provision;</p> <p>o) the use of SuDS wetland and water features to protect against pollution, provide drainage and wider amenity, recreational and biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>Outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area will be encouraged.</p>		
<p><b>Policy RED12 – Low Carbon and Future Sustainability</b></p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>



<p>Proposals that incorporate energy saving measures into new development which help to mitigate or offset climate change and minimise visual impact will be supported</p> <p>Support will be given to proposals that include (but are not limited to) one or more of the following technologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) passive solar gain;</li> <li>b) grey water recycling and rainwater capture;</li> <li>c) biomass/wood pellet boilers;</li> <li>d) air source and ground source heat pumps;</li> <li>e) Passive ventilation 21;</li> <li>f) thermal mass 22;</li> <li>f) on-site energy generation from renewable sources such as solar panels;</li> <li>g) include a layout and massing that takes account of local climatic conditions, including daylight and sunlight, wind, temperature and frost pockets;</li> <li>h) electric vehicle charging points.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Policy RED13 – New and Existing Business</b></p> <p>Proposals for the expansion of existing businesses at Redgrave Business Centre (as identified on Map G and the Policies Map (Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan)), including small scale extensions will be supported where they do not have a significant adverse impact upon the character of the area, adjoining uses, or the amenity of local residents either through their built form, proposed use or traffic generated.</p> <p>Proposals for change of use involving a potential loss of existing land or premises currently in employment use will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) there is no reasonable prospect of continued viable use and no alternative viable employment use can be found or is likely to be found in the foreseeable future or;</li> <li>b) the existing use has generated significant environmental problems (e.g. traffic, noise or odour) and the permitting of an alternative use would be a substantial environmental benefit that would outweigh the loss of an employment site.</li> </ul> <p>Where a site currently in employment use is considered to have no reasonable prospect of continued viable use this will be demonstrated through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Twelve months of marketing in appropriate publications, for the permitted and similar uses, using an appropriate agent; and</li> <li>ii) Confirmation that it has been offered on a range of terms (including price) agreed to be</li> </ul>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>



<p>reasonable on the advice of an independent qualified assessor.</p> <p>New small scale businesses appropriate to a rural area, particularly those that result in the reuse of redundant or unused historic or farm buildings, and new buildings to accommodate new business or agricultural uses will be positively encouraged, provided that they do not have a significant adverse impact upon the character of the area, the amenity of residents or result in an unacceptable increase in traffic generation.</p>		
<p><b>Policy RED14 – Traffic and Highway Safety</b></p> <p>Proposals should maximise opportunities for sustainable transport, prioritising these modes as far as possible. Development that would result in a significant impact upon the function or safety of the transport network should be effectively mitigated.</p> <p>Development impacts that cannot be mitigated and would result in an unacceptable increase in traffic generation or would be detrimental to highway safety will not be permitted.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendation.</p>
<p><b>Policy RED15 – Walking and Cycling</b></p> <p>All new developments should seek to improve levels of walking and cycling within the Neighbourhood Plan area through the provision of safe and attractive pedestrian and cycle links that connect to existing networks and allow for access to the wider countryside and which are appropriate to the scale and location of the development.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way should be protected and enhanced. Enhancement can take the form of new routes, connections, improved surfaces and/or signage increasing access to the countryside and connectivity between communities. Where Public Rights of Way may be unavoidably impacted or lost, appropriate diversions or new routes should be provided that are safe and convenient for users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. built-up areas as identified by the Settlement Boundaries; and</li> <li>ii. conserves and enhances the unique landscape and scenic beauty within the parish, having regard to the Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Appraisal.</li> </ul>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Policy RED16 – Drainage and Floodrisk</b></p> <p>All new development (including minor development) is required to use appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), wetland and water features to protect</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations.</p>



<p>against pollution, provide drainage and wider amenity, recreational and biodiversity benefits.</p>		
<p>All development will be expected to demonstrate how it can mitigate its own flooding and drainage impacts, avoid increase of flooding elsewhere and seek to achieve lower than greenfield runoff rates. No development will be supported in areas of significant flood risk.</p>		

### 3.5.1 Recommendations

There are no recommendations for the policies in this draft Neighbourhood Plan as they have all been assigned to Category A (no negative effect) with no need to amend policy text.

As the Churchway site is not allocated for development in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan, it has not been covered by the HRA screening for that Plan. However, this HRA report to assess likely significant effects on the Habitats sites within scope has screened out impact pathways for recreational disturbance and water quality & quantity. It therefore has no predicted likely significant effects on designated features from the Plan alone.

However, there will be a need for any development subsequently coming forward to be subject to a project level HRA and secure sufficient mitigation measures, to avoid a Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats sites at planning application stage.

The in-combination effects from other plans and projects are considered in the following section.

## 3.6 Other Plans & Projects: In-Combination Effects

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There are five relevant Plan level HRAs that have been carried out by Mid Suffolk DC, or other organisations, and these have been found not to have an adverse effect on the integrity of Habitats sites when being assessed in-combination with other plans and projects. There are no Projects considered to be relevant to this section.

Although the Plan allocates sites for development, the parish does not lie within an evidenced Zone of Influence for recreational disturbance impacts on Habitats sites in combination with other plans and projects. There is therefore no requirement for any mitigation measures to be embedded in the Plan to avoid any likely significant effects. Monitoring of recreational disturbance impacts is not currently required but may be requested in the future from Norfolk LPAs from Mid Suffolk DC.



Table 5: Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects

Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan	Babergh and Mid Suffolk Local Plan Reg 18: Habitat Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment (Place Services, 2019)	The HRA report including Appropriate Assessment indicates that the Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan is not predicted to have any adverse effect on integrity (AEOI) on any Habitats Sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.	N/A
Mid Suffolk District Council	Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) October 2007)	The HRA found no likely significant effects from the Plan on the Breckland SAC or SPA and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC.	N/A
St Edmundsbury Borough Council	Core Strategy HRA screening (2010)	The HRA found no potential for in combination effects as no other current plans or projects that are likely to lead to significant effects on the Breckland SAC or SPA or the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC have been identified, or where impacts have been identified they have been adequately mitigated.	N/A
Breckland Council	Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Breckland Local Plan Part 1 Main Modifications Stage. Footprint Ecology, unpublished report for Breckland Council (2019).	The Norfolk wide GI and RAMS, once implemented by Breckland Council, will act to ensure that in-combination effects of residential development would not have an adverse impact on the integrity of	N/A



		any Habitats site, in combination with other plans and projects.	
Greater Norwich Development Partnership (including South Norfolk Council)	Habitats Regulations Assessment of Greater Norwich Regulation 18 Draft Plan (2019)	The Norfolk wide GI and RAMS, once implemented by South Norfolk Council, will act to ensure that in-combination effects of residential development would not have an adverse impact on the integrity of any Habitats site, in combination with other plans and projects.	N/A

As there is currently no potential for any likely significant effects in combination with other plans and projects, there is no requirement for this HRA screening of the draft Redgrave Neighbourhood Development Plan to progress to Appropriate Assessment.



## 4. Conclusion

Subject to Natural England's review, this HRA Screening Report concludes that the Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft is not predicted to have any Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

The content of the modification draft Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan has therefore been **screened out** for any further assessment and Mid Suffolk DC can demonstrate its compliance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).



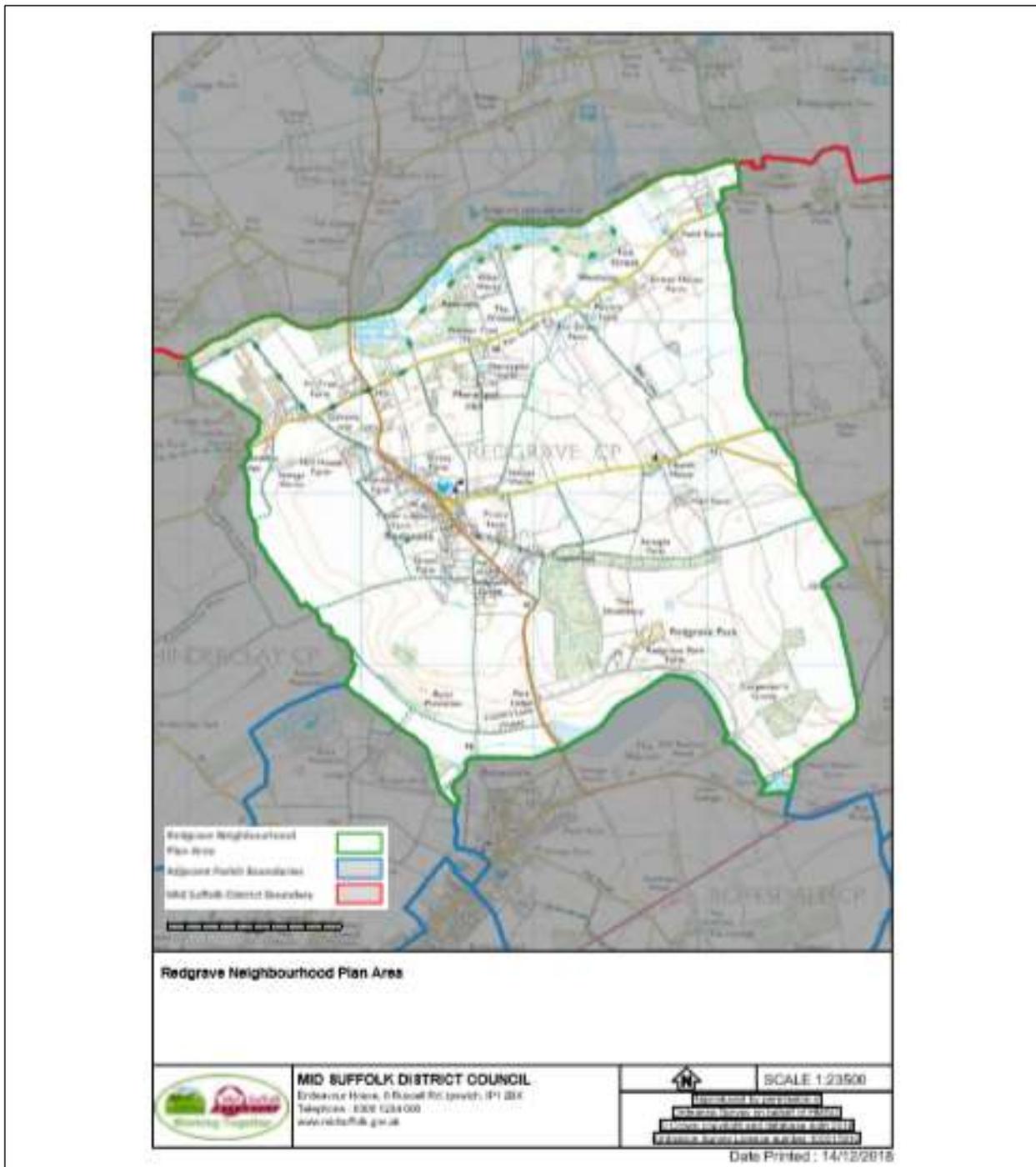
## 5. References

- Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan (2018)
- Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6581547796791296#content>
- Natural England Site Improvement Plans: East of England <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/4873023563759616>
- Place Services (June 2019) Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Joint Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment including Appropriate Assessment
- Redgrave Parish Council (2020) Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft)



# Appendix I

## Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Area



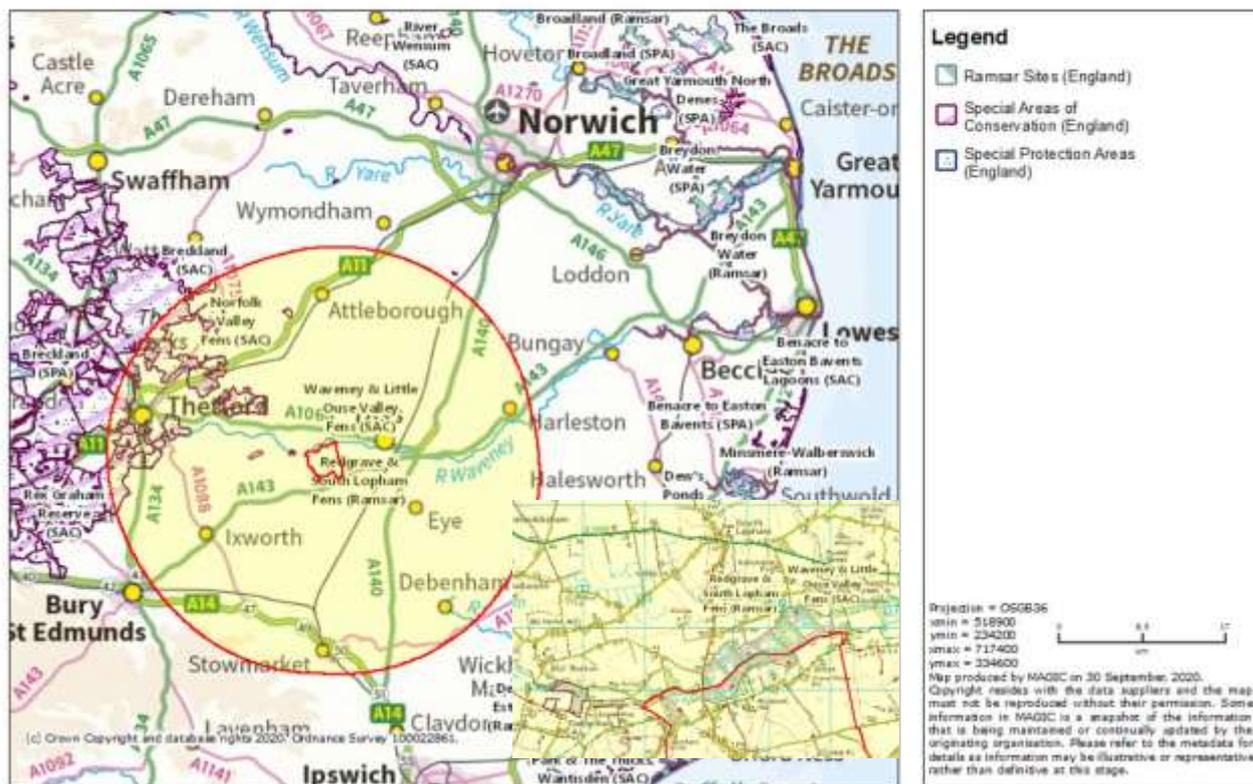
Source: Redgrave Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft.



# Appendix II

## Redgrave parish and Habitats Sites within 20km

### MAGiC Habitat Sites within 20km of Redgrave Parish



Map: Habitat Sites within 20km of Redgrave Parish – inset map showing close-up of Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens (SAC) and Redgrave & South Lopham Fens (Ramsar) sites.

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# Appendix III

## Characteristics of Habitats Sites

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This appendix contains information about the Habitats Sites included in the scoping for this HRA. Information about each site's area, the site descriptions, qualifying features and pressures and threats are drawn from Natural England's Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) and the Standard Data Forms or Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) available from the JNCC website. Site conservation objectives are drawn from Natural England's website and are only available for SACs and SPAs. Supplementary Advice has also been added to describe the range of ecological attributes that are most likely to contribute to a site's overall integrity and key vulnerabilities to consider within Habitats Regulations assessments. The notes in the RIS for Ramsar sites of factors affecting site's ecological character are not considered as necessary for HRA screening purposes and noteworthy features are not treated as qualifying features in the application of HRA tests. The assessment under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations is strictly limited to the qualifying features which meet the Ramsar criteria.



Site name	Area (ha)	Qualifying Features	Conservation objectives (only available for SACs & SPAs)	Key vulnerabilities / factors affecting site integrity
<p><b>Waveney &amp; Lt Ouse Valley Fens</b></p> <p>This site which lies predominantly within the South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands Natural Character Area (NCA Profile 83) occurs in the East Anglian centre of distribution of calcareous fens and contains very extensive great fen-sedge <i>Cladium mariscus</i> beds, including managed examples, as well as stands in contact zones between small sedge mire and species-poor <i>Cladium</i> beds. The habitat type here occurs in a number of spring-fed valley fens in the headwaters of the Little Ouse and Waveney rivers.</p> <p>Purple moor-grass – meadow thistle (<i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>) fen-meadows are associated with the spring-fed valley fen systems. The <i>Molinia</i> meadows occur in conjunction with black bog-rush – blunt-flowered rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i> – <i>Juncus subnodulosus</i>) mire and calcareous fens with great fen-sedge. Where the fen-meadow is grazed it is more species-rich, with frequent southern marsh-orchid <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i>.</p>				
<p><u>Waveney &amp; Lt Ouse Valley Fens SAC</u></p> <p>EU Code: UK0012882</p>	192.37	<p><u>H6410</u>. <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows</p> <p><u>H7210</u>. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)*</p> <p><u>S1016</u>. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>; <i>Desmoulin's whorl snail</i></p>	<p>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;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation</p>	<p><b>Inappropriate Scrub Control:</b> Historically sections of the fen have been allowed to scrub over. These now form wet woodland and scrub with glades containing the remnants of the qualifying features.</p> <p>The aim is to ensure the site includes the same area of <i>Cladium</i> fen (H7210 Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)) present at the time of designation.</p>



			<p>Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</p> <p>The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</p> <p>The populations of qualifying species, and,</p> <p>The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</p>	<p><b>Inappropriate Water Levels:</b> Concerns have been expressed about water levels in the SAC. Some areas such as Redgrave and Lopham Fens have already been worked on. Others (Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fens) are currently being investigated through the Water Level Management Plan process. Historical evidence suggests that water levels have significantly dropped over time and as a result habitats and features have been damaged. Parts of the fen supported swingmoor habitats and these are a poor representation of their former selves.</p> <p><b>Air Pollution - impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition:</b> Nitrogen deposition exceeds site relevant critical loads.</p> <p><b>Water Pollution:</b> Poor water quality arising from agricultural run-off particularly from nearby outdoor poultry and pig units causes nutrient enrichment and can lead to a reduction in biodiversity.</p>
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### Redgrave and South Lopham Fens

Redgrave and South Lopham Fens. The site is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires, such as dry birch woodland, scrub and carr, floristically-rich fen grassland, mixed fen, wet heath and areas of reed and saw sedge. The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider *Dolomedes plantarius*.

<p>Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar</p> <p>Site No. 513</p> <p>EU Code: UK11056</p>	<p>127.09</p>	<p><b>Ramsar criterion 1</b> – The site is an extensive example of spring-fed lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 2</b> – The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>. This spider is also considered vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.</p> <p><b>Ramsar criterion 3</b> - The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires.</p>	<p>None</p>	
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## Breckland SPA

The Breckland of Norfolk and Suffolk lies in the heart of East Anglia on largely sandy soils of glacial origin. In the nineteenth century the area was termed a sandy waste, with small patches of arable cultivation that were soon abandoned. The continental climate, with low rainfall and freedraining soils, has led to the development of dry heath and grassland communities. Much of Breckland has been planted with conifers throughout the twentieth century, and in part of the site, arable farming is the predominant land use.

The remnants of dry heath and grassland which have survived these recent changes support heathland breeding birds, where grazing by rabbits and sheep is sufficiently intensive to create short turf and open ground. These breeding birds have also adapted to live in forestry and arable habitats. Woodlark *Lullula arborea* and nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* breed in clear-fell and open heath areas, whilst stone curlews *Burhinus oedicephalus* establish nests on open ground provided by arable cultivation in the spring, as well as on Breckland grass-heath.

Breckland SPA EU Code: UK9009201	39432.55	A224, b - Nightjar, <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> A133, b - Stone-curlew, <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i> A246, b - Woodlark, <i>Lullula arborea</i>	<p>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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Current pressures</b></p> <p>Lack of ground disturbance, under grazing, inappropriate scrub and weed control, inappropriate cutting/mowing.</p> <p>Water pollution: There has been a considerable loss of aquatic species in Ringmere and high nutrient levels recorded in previous water analysis suggest nutrients are impacting the mere. Langmere too shows signs of nutrient enrichment. Changes in species distributions.</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely;</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species; and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Potential future threats</b></p> <p>Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition.</p> <p>Public access / disturbance – SAC features may be affected through eutrophication (dog fouling, unauthorised fires) and disturbance of soils.</p> <p>Climate change.</p> <p>Habitat fragmentation.</p>
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**Norfolk Valley Fens SAC**

This SAC comprises a series of 14 valley-head spring-fed fens scattered across 200km<sup>2</sup> of central and north Norfolk; and falling within a number of National Character Areas (NCA) including Mid Norfolk NCA, North West Norfolk NCA, The Brecks NCA, South Norfolk & High Suffolk Claylands NCA; and Central North Norfolk NCA.

Norfolk Valley Fens is one of two sites selected in East Anglia, in eastern England, where the main concentration of lowland Alkaline fens occurs. This site comprises a series of valley-head spring-fed fens. Such spring-fed flush fens are very rare in the lowlands. Most of the vegetation at this site is of the small sedge fen type, mainly referable to M13 Schoenus nigricans – Juncus subnodulosus mire, but there are transitions to reedswamp and other fen and wet grassland types.

The individual fens vary in their structure according to intensity of management and provide a wide range of variation. There is a rich flora associated with these fens, including species such as grass-of-Parnassus Parnassia palustris, common butterwort Pinguicula vulgaris, marsh helleborine Epipactis palustris and narrow-



leaved marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza traunsteineri*. Six other Annex I habitats are present as qualifying features, but are not a primary reason for the selection of this site.

Two Annex II species are present, narrow-mouthed whorl snail and Desmoulin's whorl snail are also a primary reason for the selection of the site.

<p>Norfolk Valley Fens SAC UK0012892</p>	<p>616.21</p>	<p>H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath H4030. European dry heaths H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>FestucoBrometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone H6410. <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows H7210. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)*</p>	<p>These Conservation Objectives are those referred to in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as amended from time to time (the "Habitats Regulations"). They must be considered when a competent authority is required to make a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment', including an Appropriate Assessment, under the relevant parts of this legislation.</p> <p>These Conservation Objectives and the accompanying Supplementary Advice (where available) will also provide a framework to inform the measures needed to conserve or restore the European Site and the prevention of deterioration or</p>	<p><b>Current pressures</b></p> <p>Inappropriate water levels. Inappropriate scrub control. Hydrological changes. Water Pollution. Inappropriate cutting/mowing. Water abstraction. Undergrazing. Invasive species. Change in land management. Changes in species distribution.</p>
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	<p>H7230. Alkaline fens; Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens</p> <p>H91E0. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i>, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>); Alder woodland on floodplains*</p> <p>S1014. <i>Vertigo angustior</i>; Narrow-mouthed whorl snail</p> <p>S1016. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>; Desmoulin`s whorl snail.</p> <p><b>*Priority natural habitats or species</b></p> <p>Some of the natural habitats and species for which UK SACs have been selected are considered to be particular priorities for conservation at a European scale and are subject to special provisions in the Habitats Regulations. These priority natural habitats and species are denoted by an asterisk (*) in Annex I and II of the Habitats Directive. The term 'priority' is also used in other contexts, for example with reference to particular habitats or</p>	<p>significant disturbance of its qualifying features.</p> <p>These Conservation Objectives are set for each habitat or species of a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Where the objectives are met, the site will be considered to exhibit a high degree of integrity and to be contributing to achieving Favourable Conservation Status for that species or habitat type at a UK level. The term 'favourable conservation status' is defined in regulation 3 of the Habitats Regulations.</p>	<p>Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen desposition.</p> <p>Climate change.</p>
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		species that are prioritised in UK Biodiversity Action Plans. It is important to note however that these are not necessarily the priority natural habitats or species within the meaning of the Habitats Regulations.		
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## Place Services

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