



**Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review
(Pre-submission Draft)**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment
Screening Report**

Updated January 2025

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report has been undertaken by Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority in order to support the emerging Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review which has been produced by a working group on behalf of Strumpshaw Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 1.2 The aim of this screening is to assess whether there will be any likely significant impacts on designated European sites either within or in relative proximity to the designated neighbourhood area of the Neighbourhood Plan Review (i.e. the civil parish of Strumpshaw).
- 1.3 This updated version of the report has been produced following consultation with Natural England on the screening conclusion. The response from Natural England is included as Appendix 3 to this report and the report conclusion has been updated accordingly.

2. Legislative Basis

- 2.1 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive states that:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

- 2.2 The purpose of the Habitat Regulations Assessment is therefore to ensure the protection of European (Natura 2000) sites. These sites are designed to form an ecologically coherent network of designated sites across the whole of Europe. Referred to as 'European Designated Sites', Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas for Conservation (SAC). As a matter of policy the Government also expect authorities to treat Ramsar sites, candidate SAC (cSAC) and proposed SPAs (pSPA) as if they are European sites for the purpose of considering development proposals that may affect them.
- 2.3 One of the basic conditions of Neighbourhood Plans, prescribed by Regulation 32 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) is that the plan:

...is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

2.4.1 Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (CHSR) puts into effect the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (see 2.1 above) and requires that:

(1) *Where a land use plan –*

(a) *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,*

the plan-making authority must before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

2.5 Regulation 106 of the CHSR requires that:

A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment under regulation 102 or to enable them to determine whether that assessment is required.

2.6 As the 'competent authority' for these purposes, Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority have produced this screening report to determine whether a full Habitats Regulations Assessment is required.

3. Screening Approach

- 3.1 The first step of the screening process involves the identification of European Sites that are either within or in close proximity to the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review area.
- 3.2 A list of European sites within, near or partially within the Greater Norwich area (i.e. the land within Broadland District Council, South Norfolk Council and Norwich City Council areas, outside the Broads Authority area) is set out in the HRA that was produced to support the submission of the Greater Norwich Local Plan, and which was approved by Natural England.
- 3.3 Of this list, one particular site (which has three designations) has been identified within the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Area. This is the wetland complex known as the Broads, which has the following designations:

Site Name	Site Designation
Broadland	SPA
Broadland	Ramsar
The Broads	SAC

- 3.4 The Broads extends within the Neighbourhood Area of the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan. A map showing the location of the above designations in relation to Strumpshaw parish can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. Full details of the particular European designations, including conservation objectives, can be found in Appendix 2.
- 3.5 Whilst the aforementioned site extends within the Strumpshaw neighbourhood area, the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan Review is not seeking to allocate any sites for future development means it is not expected that there would be any significant impacts on the EU designated site as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan Review policies.

4. Assessment

- 4.1 The table below sets out a summary of the proposed policies within the pre-submission draft Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review and provides an assessment as to whether there is likely to be a significant impact from these policies on the EU designated site.
- 4.2 This assessment has been carried out in relation to the proposed draft policies of the Neighbourhood Plan Review, produced in November 2024.

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>STR1: New housing</p> <p>Strumpshaw will accommodate single dwellings and small-scale infill development that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent with its position within the Local Plan settlement hierarchy, • reflects and complements the rural character of the parish, • is sensitive to the natural environment and history of the area. <p>Location and scale</p> <p>All new single dwellings and small-scale infill must integrate with existing development and be located near community facilities. Outside the defined settlement boundary, development proposals will only be permitted where they are in accordance with national and district level policies.</p> <p>Strategic gaps</p> <p>Proposals within the strategic gaps that would clearly lead to the erosion of local distinctiveness and the character of Strumpshaw, or to the coalescence of settlements, will not be supported.</p> <p>Housing mix</p> <p>Proposals for new housing should take into account local needs, as identified in the Strumpshaw Housing Needs Assessment. New development should principally comprise dwellings of 3-bedrooms or fewer. Any Affordable Housing should include affordable rent and home ownership (First Homes, Shared Ownership, Rent to Buy). Specialist housing for older people in Strumpshaw is encouraged.</p>	<p>This policy looks to influence the location of development and to provide a suitable housing mix to meet housing needs. This is a generic development management policy and, as such, it is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>STR2: Design guidelines and codes</p> <p>The design of all new development in Strumpshaw parish must reflect the local distinctiveness and character of the area, as outlined in Chapter 2 'Local character' of the Strumpshaw Design Codes and Guidance and be physically integrated where possible.</p> <p>As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, proposals for new development should accord with guidelines and codes set out in the Strumpshaw Design Codes and Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village and settlement layout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patterns of growth ○ Settlement boundaries and development edges ○ Building density ○ Building setback and orientation ○ Building heights and roofline ○ Infill development and back of plot development ○ Housing extensions and conversions • Maintaining the rural character <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Materials and architectural details ○ Heritage and landmarks ○ Continuity and enclosure ○ Boundary treatments • Traffic and mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Options for traffic calming ○ People-friendly streets ○ Walking connectivity and wayfinding ○ Parking 	<p>This policy looks to influence the design of development in the parish, reflecting local distinctiveness and character referring to the design guidelines and codes document. The policy also seeks to ensure that suitable public realm enhancements are provided within future developments. It is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability and eco-housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Biodiversity ○ Water management and SuDS ○ Domestic water management ○ Minimising energy use ○ Photovoltaic panels ○ Electric vehicle charging points 	(As above)	(As above)
<p>STR3: Business premises</p> <p>Small scale employment premises appropriate to the character of Strumpshaw parish will be encouraged, especially those that contribute to local amenity. Businesses that have a detrimental impact on the quiet, natural and built environment of Strumpshaw will not be supported.</p>	<p>This policy looks to support new or expanded business and employment uses where those proposals meet the various conditions within the policy. It is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>
<p>STR4: Heritage assets</p> <p>In addition to the Listed Buildings in Strumpshaw, the following are heritage assets that are considered to be locally important to Strumpshaw in terms of their architectural, historical, or cultural significance and these will be treated as Non-designated Heritage Assets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The old Strumpshaw primary school 2. Marshman’s cottages*: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Marsh Cottage, Low Road (SE) b. Carr Cottage, Low Road (SE) c. Wood Cottage, Low Road (SE) d. Grove Cottage, Low Road (SE) e. Meadow Croft Cottage, Low Road f. Spruce Cottage, Low Road (SE) g. Marsh House, Tinkers Lane h. RSPB marshman's cottage 	<p>This policy identifies several non-designated heritage assets for protection as part of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stromessaga, Low Road j. Tumbleweed, Low Road 3. Buckenham Railway Station 4. Oakleigh Cottage 5. Buckenham Ferry Drainage Mill 6. Strumpshaw Steam Engine House 7. WW2 Pill box 8. Hassingham Hall 9. The Old School, Buckenham 10. White Cottage 11. Broad House 12. Broad Farm 13. The Hollies 14. Holly Lodge 15. Thatchers, Hollies Cottage, Buckenham Road 16. Houses along Hemblington Road a. The Cedars b. Brandon House 17. The Huntsman's Pub 18. Remuera, Chapel Road 19. Beech Drive barns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Little Barn, Beech Drive b. South Barn, Beech Drive c. Thatch Barn, Beech Drive 20. Run Cottage * Groupings of properties. SE: Strumpshaw Estate. 	<p>(As above)</p>	<p>(As above)</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>Development proposals should conserve these heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. Proposals affecting a Non-designated Heritage Asset should give consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The character, distinctiveness and important features of the heritage asset; ii. The setting of the heritage asset and its relationship to its immediate surroundings; iii. The contribution that the heritage asset makes to the character of the area. 	<p>(As above)</p>	<p>(As above)</p>
<p>STR5: Natural assets and biodiversity</p> <p>In addition to the Broads National Park, and designated areas within it, which include the Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI and Cantley Marshes SSSI, the following are recognised as important natural assets of the parish due to their landscape and/or biodiversity value, and should be conserved and enhanced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. County Wildlife Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2162 Strumpshaw Wood b. 2146 Buckenham Wood c. Long Meadow, Buckenham Carrs d. Farm Carr e. Highnoon Farm, Braydeston (small part in Strumpshaw parish) 2. Ancient woodland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strumpshaw Wood b. Buckenham Wood 3. Roadside Nature Reserve 61 at Long Lane 4. Candidate County Geodiversity sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Buckenham Station Pit b. Strumpshaw Pit c. The Sandpit <p>The provision of improved public access to natural assets will be encouraged where it is practical and appropriate to do so and is sensitive to the environment.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to designate a series of sites for special protection. Although several of these areas lie within designated areas, the policy does not encourage development and instead relates to the protection of these areas. On this basis, it is not expected to have any significant detrimental effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>Enhancing biodiversity</p> <p>As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals should retain existing features of biodiversity value (including hedgerow and field margins, trees, woodlands, grass verges, meadows, rivers, streams, ponds and drainage ditches). Development proposals must identify how they will provide a minimum 10 percent net gain in biodiversity (on site in the first instance), for example through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The creation of new natural habitats and improvements to, or connections between, fragments of habitats identified above. b. The planting of additional native trees and hedgerows, for wildlife, screening and landscaping purposes. c. Linked wildlife habitat areas between, and in new developments, e.g. gardens, roadside verges, hedges, green and blue corridors. d. Soft site boundaries (e.g. hedges and trees) where development is adjacent to agricultural land, open spaces or the settlement edge. e. Integrated bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog highways, and bee- and butterfly-friendly planting on the site. 	<p>The policy also looks to reflect and reinforce biodiversity net gain requirements and enhance green corridors and other natural assets within the neighbourhood area. It is a development management policy and is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>
<p>STR6: Ecological corridors</p> <p>Proposals for new development will be expected to retain, protect and enhance existing ecological corridors within the parish.</p> <p>Opportunities should be taken to enhance and connect the ecological network including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Linear features such as the Yare River and streams and their associated habitats; hedgerows, mature trees and ditch networks. b. Links between hedgerow and field margins, trees, woodlands, grass verges, meadows, ancient grasslands, rivers, streams, ponds and drainage ditches. 	<p>This policy seeks to enhance green corridors within the neighbourhood area. It is a development management policy and is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>STR7: Local Green Spaces</p> <p>The following areas are designated as Local Green Spaces for special protection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buckenham and Hassingham Social Club recreational area 2. Old Rectory Snowdrop Wood 3. Allotments 4. Small copse 5. Stone Pit 6. Footpath to Stone Pit and former land fill site 7. Triangular piece of land that is adjacent to Low Road, Stone Road and Long Lane 8. Woodland adjacent to the railway line 9. Railway Wood 10. Corner of Mill Road and Norwich Road <p>The management of development within areas of Local Green Space will be consistent with that of development within Green Belts as set out in national policy.</p> <p>To enhance biodiversity, developers should seek opportunities to connect Local Green Spaces with existing green corridors.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to designate a series of sites as Local Green Spaces for special protection. Although this policy is site specific, it does not encourage development and instead relates to the protection of these areas. On this basis, it is not expected to have any significant detrimental effects on EU designated sites.</p>	

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>STR8: Important local views</p> <p>Development proposals should respect their landscape setting, including any identified important local views within which they are located or which they affect. The following views are identified as important in Strumpshaw parish:</p> <p>A. Continuous views from multiple points along Wood Lane looking south across the Yare Valley.</p> <p>B. View from high point of Barn Hill looking south towards the River Yare and beyond to Poringland south of the river.</p> <p>C. View from Hassingham Church Road towards Buckenham.</p> <p>D. View from footpath to St Peter’s Church, Strumpshaw.</p> <p>E. View from Buckenham Road looking west towards Norwich.</p> <p>Development proposals within or affecting an important local view should demonstrate how they have responded positively to the view concerned and safeguarded its integrity and local importance.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that development proposals respect their landscape setting including the identified important local views, as well as protecting vistas within development to the surrounding countryside. This is a generic development management policy and, as such, it is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>
<p>STR9: Dark skies</p> <p>Development proposals should take account of the existing dark skies in Strumpshaw parish and limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light. Street lighting will not be supported on any development.</p> <p>For new individual dwellings and businesses, lighting necessary for security or safety should be designed to minimise the impact on dark skies by, for example, minimal light spillage, use of downlighting, movement sensitive lighting and restricting hours of lighting. Lighting likely to cause disturbance or risk to wildlife will not be supported.</p>	<p>This policy looks to limit the impact on the night sky from street lighting with exception of necessary security or safety reasons. This is a generic development management policy and, as such, it is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>STR10: Localised surface water flooding and sewage management</p> <p>Development proposals within the immediate vicinity of the areas below, should take account of all relevant evidence of flooding. Development must not cause or contribute to new flooding or drainage issues and should mitigate its own drainage impacts.</p> <p>There are a number of locations that have surface water drainage issues. The following locations within the parish are identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opposite the Huntsman public house, Norwich Road. 2. Norwich and Stone Road junction, opposite Kelcrow Engineering. 3. Hemblington Road, between Norwich Road and the railway bridge. 4. Lackford Run, at end of Long Lane on parish boundary. 5. Bend/junction of Stone Road and School Road, Buckenham. <p>Any new development must contribute to an improved sewage system for the parish, and not further exacerbate the problem.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to manage and prevent flooding and drainage issues that might otherwise arise from future development within the neighbourhood area. Although it identifies localised flooding areas within the parish, it is not expected that this policy will have any significant effects on EU designated sites within the wider area.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>
<p>POLICY STR11: Highway safety (previously adopted policy)</p> <p>Development will be expected to ensure that there is no detriment to highway safety and, where possible, help to reduce existing risks.</p>	<p>This policy seeks to manage the impacts of future traffic levels arising from major development. This is a development management policy and it is not expected to have any significant effect on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>POLICY STR12: Public access</p> <p>Through any new development, opportunities will be sought to enhance and join up networks of existing Public Rights of Way and permissive paths, suitable for all users.</p> <p>The provision of improved public access will be supported, in particular where there are opportunities to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Make connections through developments and enable a cohesive village network. b. Connect to other surrounding parishes. c. Link to existing community infrastructure. d. Enable access to open countryside. 	<p>This policy looks to contribute to an enhanced and joined up network of footpaths, in order to improve access to local amenities and the countryside.</p> <p>Improving access to the countryside does have possible implications in terms of recreational pressures on protected sites. BDC's Green Infrastructure Recreation Avoidance Mitigation Strategy identifies such pressures and identifies mitigation in the case of new development within the impact zone of designated areas.</p> <p>This policy does not propose new development and the impact of improving countryside access on recreational pressures is unlikely to be significant. As such, this policy is not expected to have any significant effects on designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>POLICY STR13: Existing and new community infrastructure</p> <p>The Plan identifies the following existing community infrastructure (as shown on figure:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strumpshaw Community Hall and car park 2. Strumpshaw allotments (also a Local Green Space) 3. Strumpshaw Steam Museum at Strumpshaw Hall 4. St. Peter’s Church, Strumpshaw 5. St. Mary’s Church, Hassingham 6. St. Nicholas’ Church, Buckenham 7. Buckenham and Hassingham Social Club 8. The Shoulder of Mutton public house, Strumpshaw 9. Bus shelter, Norwich Road, Strumpshaw <p>Proposals for the improvement, adaptation or extension of existing community infrastructure will be supported where they comply with other development plan policies.</p> <p>Proposals for change of use, involving a potential loss of existing community infrastructure, will only be supported where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. an improved or equivalent facility can be located in an equally or more accessible position in the parish, or ii. it can be demonstrated that there is no reasonable prospect of continued viable use. <p>Proposals for the following new types of community infrastructure will be supported:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Central green space for community use b. Play space c. Public electric vehicle charging points d. Community car parking 	<p>This policy looks to support improvements to, and to protect existing community infrastructure and new infrastructure when provided as part of development. It also looks to avoid loss of such facilities. This is a generic development management policy and, as such, it is not expected to have any significant effects on EU designated sites.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect</p>

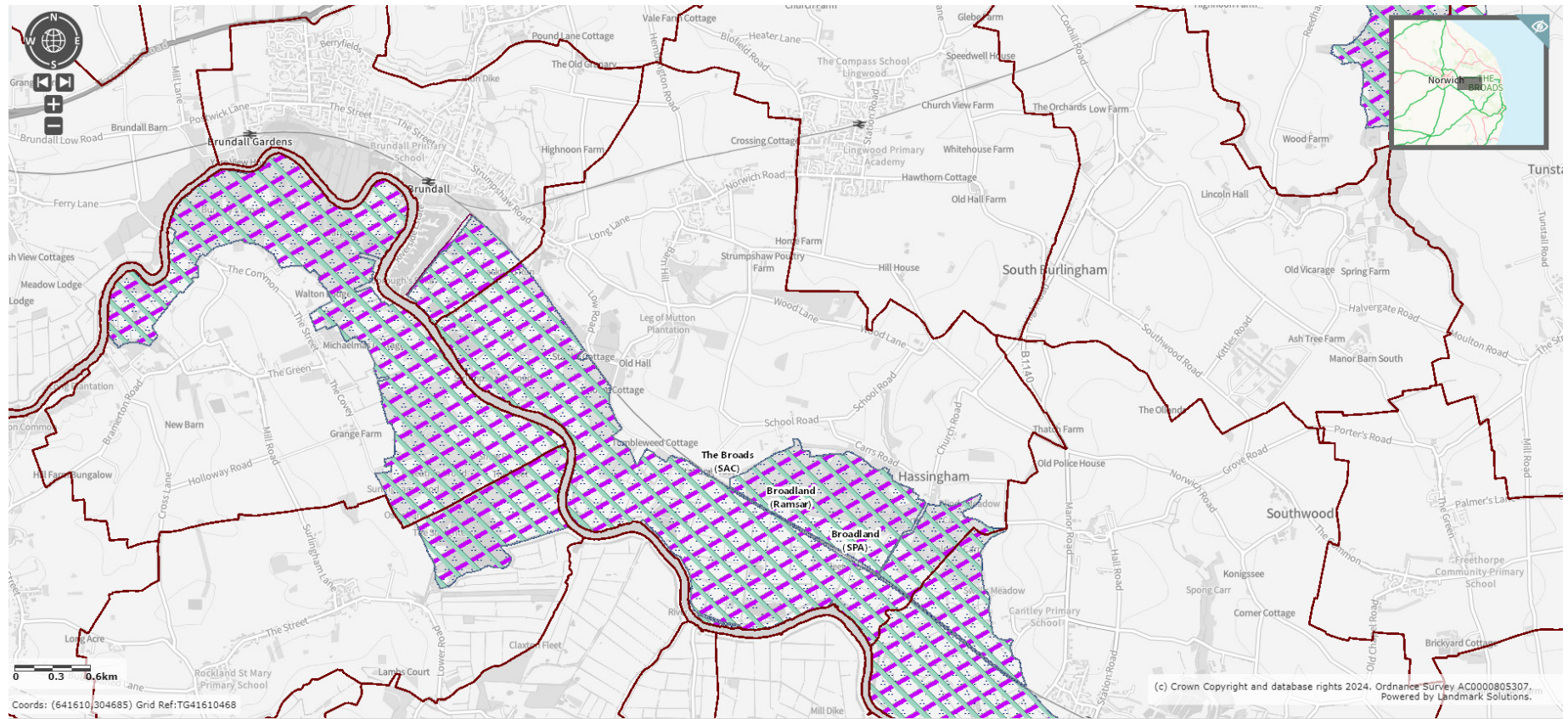
Strumpshaw Draft NP Review Policy	Analysis	Likely significant effect
<p>POLICY STR14: Former landfill site</p> <p>Proposals that would provide enhanced environmental and amenity value to the former landfill site will be supported, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small car park for the site • Increased biodiversity • Enhanced or improved information boards 	<p>This policy supports proposals which would enhance the environmental and amenity value of a former landfill site in the parish. It is currently an accessible green space with a public footpath which runs around its perimeter.</p> <p>Although this policy is site specific, it focuses on the environmental enhancement of this area. Amenity enhancements are also supported (in particular, a small car park), although the policy expresses general support and does not seek to make a specific allocation. Clearly, any future proposal for a small car park on the site would be subject to the required environmental assessments through the development management process, and it is expected that the impacts would be minimal. On this basis, it is not expected to have any significant detrimental effects on EU designated sites.</p>	

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The screening assessment suggests that there will be no likely significant effect of the proposed Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review on European designated sites, and therefore that a full Appropriate Assessment is not required.
- 5.2 None of the proposed policies within the draft Neighbourhood Plan Review allocates any sites for future development in the parish. The majority of the policies are development management policies that seek to shape and influence future proposals. Those policies that do relate to specific sites are those that seek to protect or enhance key environmental, heritage, recreation or other amenity features.
- 5.3 The Strumpshaw neighbourhood area contains three overlapping European designations. These relate to the Broads wetland complex, which extends into Strumpshaw and which accounts for more than a third of the parish, by area. Any Neighbourhood Plan should take full account of potential impacts on these designations, and the draft policies appear to demonstrate no adverse effects.
- 5.3 This screening assessment has been performed in relation to the draft version of the updated Neighbourhood Plan policies, which are intended to be subject to Reg. 14 pre-submission consultation. Once the final draft of the updated Neighbourhood Plan is submitted to Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority, the local planning authorities (LPAs) will review the policies therein to see if there have been any significant changes. If so, then the LPAs may decide to update this assessment at that time.
- 5.4 This assessment report has been sent to Natural England for comments, as the appropriate nature conservation body specified by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. The response from Natural England, dated 22nd January 2025, is that the organisation agrees there is not likely to be any significant effect from the proposed policies within the updated Neighbourhood Plan on European designated sites. The response letter is included as Appendix 3 to this report.
- 5.5 On the basis of this screening report, and the response from Natural England, Broadland District Council determines that a Habitats Regulations Assessment is not required in relation to the emerging Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review.

Appendix 1: European Designated Sites in relation to Strumpshaw

(Source: Magic Map <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> December 2024)



Appendix 2: Details of relevant European Sites

This information has been taken from the Appendix 1 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the published 'Proposed Submission Greater Norwich Local Plan', produced in July 2021 by the Landscape Partnership.

The Broads SAC/ Broadland SPA, Ramsar

Site description summary

A low-lying wetland complex connecting the Bure, Yare, Thurne, and Waveney River systems. Wetland habitats form a mosaic of open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh, and fen meadow, with an extensive network of medieval peat excavations. The Site boasts a rich array of flora and fauna.

The SPA is designated for supporting a number of rare or vulnerable (Article 4.1) Annex I bird species during the breeding season. In addition, the SPA is designated for supporting regularly occurring migratory (Article 4.2) species during the breeding season and over winter.

SAC qualifying features

- 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.
- 3150 Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition – type vegetation
- 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty, or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)
- 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs
- 7210 Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davalliana
- 7230 Alkaline fens
- 91E0 Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)
- 4056 Anisus vorticulus (Little whorlpool ram'shorn snail)
- 1903 Liparis loeselii (Fen Orchid)
- 1355 Lutra Lutra (Eurasian Otter)
- 1166 Triturus cristatus (Great Crested Newt)
- 1016 Vertigo moulinsiana (Desmoulin's whorl snail)

SPA qualifying features

- A056 Anas clypeata (Shoveler) (over winter)
- A050 Anas penelope (Wigeon) (over winter)
- A051 Anas strepera (Gadwall) (over winter)
- A021 Botaurus stellaris (Bittern) (breeding)
- A081 Circus aeruginosus (Marsh Harrier) (breeding)

- A082 *Circus cyaneus* (Hen Harrier) (over winter)
- A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* (Bewick's Swan) (over winter)
- A038 *Cygnus cygnus* (Whooper Swan) (over winter)
- A151 *Philomachus pugnax* (Ruff) (over winter)

Ramsar qualifying features

- H7210 Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge).
- H7230 Alkaline fens Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens.
- H91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) Alder woodland on floodplains, and the Annex II species
- S1016 *Vertigo moulinsiana* (Desmoulin's whorl snail)
- S1355 *Lutra lutra* (Eurasian Otter)
- S1903 *Liparis loeselii* Fen Orchid
- *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*, NW Europe (Tundra (Bewick's) Swan)
- *Anas penelope* (Eurasian Wigeon)
- *Anas strepera strepera* (Gadwall)
- *Anas clypeata* (Shoveler)

Relevant Component SSSI/s for the Neighbourhood Area

Cantley Marshes SSSI: Covers 272.11ha and contains 3 units. 100% of area in Favourable condition.

Yare Broads and Marshes SSSI: Covers 744.46ha and contains 28 units. 9.22% of area in Favourable condition, 11.30% of area in Unfavourable-Recovering condition, 47.27% of area in Unfavourable-No change condition, 2.20% of area in Unfavourable-Declining condition.

SAC Conservation Objectives

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

- The extent and distribution of 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.

SPA Conservation Objectives

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.

APPENDIX 3: Natural England response

Date: 22 January 2025
Our ref: 497713
Your ref: Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Richard Squires
South Norfolk & Broadland Councils

BY EMAIL ONLY

neighbourhoodplans@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk



Hornbeam House
Crewe Business
Park Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

Dear Mr Squires

Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan Review - SEA & HRA Screening Reports Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 20 December 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- **significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,**
- **significant effects on Habitats sites¹, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.**

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected

¹ Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites".

species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team