

Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Adoption Statement

Phil Courtier, Head of Planning
Broadland District Council

21 October 2013

This adoption statement is required by Regulation 14 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

1. The Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted by Broadland District Council on 21 October 2013
2. The following modifications made are based on:

(a) Comments received during consultation:

Designation of European sites

- Para 3.4.13 (p.41) The River Wensum is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) not a Special Protection Area (SPA).
- Para 3.4.13 (p.42) Booton Common is a component unit of the Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as well as being a SSSI (i.e. it has a European designation as well as a national designation and therefore is recognised as being of international value for biodiversity).
- Para 3.4.30 (p.49) The River Bure is not a SSSI or SAC within LC Area A2 as stated in bullet point 1. Downstream of Wroxham, the River catchment is part of the Bure Broad and Marshes SSSI/SAC but this is outside of LC Area A2.
- Para 3.5.13 (p.52) Buxton Heath SSSI is also a component unit of the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC (see comment above regarding Booton Common). Note that despite both Booton Common and Buxton Heath being part of the same Valley Fens SAC they are in different Landscape Character Areas.
- Para 3.9.9 (p.102) Bure Marshes NNR and Bure Broad and Marshes SSSI also have a number of European designations: They are part of (a) The Broad and Marshes SAC, (b) Broadland Special Protection Area (SPA) and (c) Broadland Ramsar Site. These designations are significant, recognising as they do the international importance of the area and should be stated in the text (see Section 4 below).

Local Hedgerow character

- Reference made regarding enhancing hedgerows by additional planting of native species. Including local/regional variation in hedges within the county both in species composition and diversity. : *"Planting hedges in Norfolk – maintaining regional character; A guide to restoring and planting hedges"* (available on the NBP website in ensuring that plantings to enhance hedges are appropriate to the specific local character of each of the LC Areas. The same applies to the composition of woodland belts. Paragraphs where this is applicable include
- Para 3.5.17 (p.53), 3.6.14 (p.60), 3.7.16 (p.70) and 3.8.16 (p.86).

Woodland-Heath Mosaic - Ecological character assessment:

- Para 3.5.2. (p.50) The woodland–heath mosaic should also include acid grassland (National Vegetation Classification category U4). Small pockets remain within some of the heathland mosaic but it would have been a considerably more extensive habitat in the past;
- Para 3.5.12 (p.52) There are pockets of wet heathland (as stated) some of which may have 'acidic flushes', but several are characterised by the (highly unusual) presence of alkaline flushes or fens (e.g. Buxton Heath) and hence are referred to as 'valley fens' (and which are recognised in the European designation of the Valley Fens

SAC). Because they have a European designation, it could be argued that the alkaline flushes should be considered the most significant sites.

Strengthening ecological components of landscape areas

Greater emphasis placed on aiming to buffer SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites - both those sites fully within Broadland DC and those adjacent to the district boundary - with the creation of semi-natural habitats. With regards to the LCA, this is particularly important in paras:

- Para 3.4.24 (p.46) I would like to see a specific reference made to the creation of semi-natural habitats to buffer the SAC;
- Para 3.9.12 (p.102) In the third bullet point, I would say "Seek creation of semi-natural habitats along the edge of the Broads European sites to buffer and enhance adjacent habitats";
- Para 3.9.26 (p.108) I would also refer to buffering adjoining the European sites with regards to Reedham Marshes Fringe;
- Para 3.6.14 (p.60) I would like to see the designation 'SAC' inserted after the words 'River Wensum' in bullet point 2 to reinforce the message of its European significance.
- Buffering of the SAC Valley Fen component units, Booton Common SSSI and Buxton Heath SSSI, is also desirable.

County Wildlife Sites- more detail

CWS are likely to be particularly significant in defining character areas (and their associated Landscape Planning Guidelines) where they form coherent ecological units or links.

- The Witton Run is a tributary of the River Yare SSSI near Blofield within LCA D4. Within a 2km section of the tributary south of Little Plumstead there are four CWS (No. 1421, 1422, 2071 and 2058). These CWS are largely wetland habitats and in combination form an important biodiversity resource with significant ecological links with the River Yare. The Landscape Planning Guidelines for Blofield Tributary Farmland Landscape Character area (para. 3.7.41) do not mention the importance of the Witton Run in any form – or in fact any tributaries flowing into the Yare - surely an omission. The conservation and protection of the tributary valleys and their biodiversity must be important within the Tributary Farmland Character Area. This is a pressing issue with regards to the Witton Run in particular see para 3.7.2
- As a second example, near Taverham there are 8 CWS containing a variety of habitats within 1km of the River Wensum (CWS no. 1334, 1336, 1339, 1340, 1341, 2070, 2112, and 2113). In county terms, these are important as they form a core biodiversity hotspot with coherent links to the River Wensum SAC and demonstrate the significant biodiversity character of the area. Again, no reference is made to this grouping within the LCA and little emphasis is given to the need to protect, enhance and link these county-level hotspots of significant biodiversity. Para 3.4.23, and 3.4.24

Ancient Woodland updates

The following records of ancient woodlands have been updated:

- The Wilderness (Horsford);
- Mileplain Plantation (Attlebridge);
- Primrose Grove (Ringland);
- Cobb's Hill (Ringland);
- Blyth's Wood (Taverham);
- un-named wood west of Blyth's Wood (Taverham);
- Snake Wood (Taverham).

(b) Other Factual Changes – Updates

- Section 2 – Policy Updates - page iii ,
- Section 1.4 – Planning Policy Framework – pages 3-6

3. Any person with sufficient interest in the decision to adopt the supplementary planning document may apply to the High Court for permission to apply for judicial review of that decision, and
4. That any such application must be made promptly and in any event no later than 3 months after the date on which the supplementary planning document was adopted and

Title of Document:	Landscape Character Assessment - Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
Subject Matter:	In Broadland District, the Landscape Character Assessment - Supplementary Planning Document sets out Management strategies and objectives as well as, Landscape Planning Guidelines for informing land use planning decisions. The SPD provides guidance and advice in applying the JCS Policies 1: Addressing Climate Change and Protecting Environmental Assets, which relate the environment.
Area of Document:	The LCA SPD applies to the whole area of Broadland District Council. However, the Broads Area and the build up area of the fringe parishes were excluded from the assessment as the SPD does not apply to them.
Availability:	The Landscape Character Assessment SPD is available at Broadland District Council Offices Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich NR7 0DU Opening Hours: 8.30am – 5.00pm Mon-Fri

Documents Published:

In addition, the Council has published the following Documents on the Council's website at:
http://www.broadland.gov.uk/housing_and_planning/618.asp

- Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- This Adoption Statement
- Summaries the representations received and Council's response and changes to SPD
- Sustainability Appraisal /Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Notice – confirming by environmental bodies SA/SEA was not required
- Copies of SPD are available for purchase by contacting LDF@Broadland.gov.uk or (01603) 430567