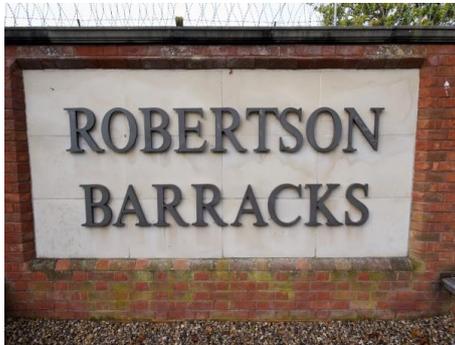


# *Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan*

*2017-2037*



**HABITAT REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT**

**Consisting of Screening Report and Screening Opinion**

# *Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan*

*2017 – 2037*



Habitat Regulations Assessment(HRA)

Screening

May 2017

Prepared on behalf of Swanton Morley Parish Council by

ABZAG Ltd

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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# Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment has been undertaken in order to support the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan which has been produced by Swanton Morley Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and subsequent updates.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Screening Report is to assess whether there are likely to be any significant effects on European Sites as a result of policies set out in the draft Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan that would necessitate the production of a full Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- 1.3 This report assesses, as far as is practicable, whether there are any likely significant impacts on European Designated Sites within or relative proximity to the designated Neighbourhood Area for the purposes of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.4 The designated Neighbourhood Area comprises the civil parish of Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan.

## 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 (HRA) is therefore to ensure the protection of European Designated Sites (Natura 2000) wherever practicable. These sites are designed to form an ecologically coherent network of designated spaces across the whole of Europe.

2.3 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.

2.4 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 state submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement, which explains 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, this includes the requirement of a HRA.

### **3. Approach**

- 3.1 The first step in the screening process is the identification of European Designated Sites that are in, or considered within close proximity of the designated Neighbourhood Area.
- 3.2 Breckland District lies in an area of considerable importance for nature conservation with number of European sites located within and just outside the District. A list of Natura 2000 sites was compiled as part of the Breckland Core Strategy Screening Report considering sites within 20 kilometres of the potential zone of influence around the Core Strategy area. This was subsequently agreed by Natural England. Within this perimeter, seven sites have been identified within relative proximity of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Area. These are as follows:
- a. Breckland Special Protection Area
  - b. Broadland Special Protection Area
  - c. Breckland Special Area of Conservation
  - d. Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation
  - e. River Wensum Special Area of Conservation
  - f. The Broads Special Area of Conservation
  - g. Broadland Ramsar
- 3.3 Of the above listed sites only part of the River Wensum Special Area of Conservation is in the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Area. The River Wensum flows into the Broads and, therefore, significantly contributes to its ecosystem. Any negative impact from the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan policies could have a detrimental impact of the Broads.
- 3.4 Although remaining six sites do not lie within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Area as designated for the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan each one has been included and considered due to their importance to the wider area.
- 3.5 Full details of the seven identified sites are given in Appendix 1.

- 3.6 The second step in the assessment is to appraise the extent to which the proposed policies of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan could have a significant effect on the European Designated Sites. The assessment specifically considers any potential effect that the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan policies may have on the 'qualifying features' of each European Designated Site. In support of the Core Strategy, the Appropriate Assessment produced set out the 'qualifying features'. These have been included with Appendix 1.
  
- 3.7 The table in Section 4 sets out the assessment of any likely significant effect of each Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan policy on the European Designated Sites.
  
- 3.8 The Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan does support sites for future development, as identified the Breckland Local Plan Preferred Options & Settlement Boundaries (September 2016) document. The remaining eighteen policies within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan are predominately seen as development management policies.

## 4. Screening Assessment

4.1 Natura 2000 sites within relative proximity of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Area:

- a. Breckland Special Protection Area
- b. Broadland Special Protection Area
- c. Breckland Special Area of Conservation
- d. Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation
- e. River Wensum Special Area of Conservation
- f. The Broads Special Area of Conservation
- g. Broadland Ramsar

4.2 Key:

**Likely Significant Effect**

**No Likely Significant Effect**

**Uncertainty of Effect**

Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan	Likely Significant Effect
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Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
1	<p><b>Protecting the Identity of Swanton Morley</b></p> <p><b>Development will not be supported outside of the built up area (settlement boundary), individually or cumulatively, if it would result in increasing the coalescence between Swanton Morley and neighbouring towns and villages (in particular Dereham) or reducing the separate identity of Swanton Morley by:</b></p> <p><b>1) Reducing the openness and visual break between Swanton Morley and Dereham, or</b></p> <p><b>2) Increasing the intensification of development within existing curtilages that would lead to an increased sense of coalescence.</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to maintain Swanton Morley as a distinct and separate village with its own identity.</p> <p>This should help to preserve Swanton Morley's appearance, character and identity as a Norfolk village. It aims to stop Swanton Morley becoming just a suburb of Dereham.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
2	<p><b>Growth in the Right Places</b></p> <p><b>The primary focus of new residential development in the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan area will be within the three allocated housing sites identified on the Map 5 as:</b></p> <p>1) LP(098)013;</p> <p>2) LP(098)014; and</p> <p>3) LP(098)016</p> <p><b>Planning applications for these three allocated residential sites will be supported where they comply with the other policies within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan and the requirements of other development plan policies.</b></p>	<p>This Policy seeks to guide the location of the allocated growth identified for Swanton Morley in the emerging Breckland Local Plan.</p> <p>The ambition is to achieve, needs based, growth that will guide the location of new development in Swanton Morley in a holistic manner. Enhancing the village, making it ‘more joined up’, providing better connectivity and access whilst enabling the infrastructure to be improved.</p> <p>As all three locations are seen in the emerging Breckland Local Plan as ‘acceptable alternatives’ and located between current built areas to the north and south. None of the sites will have a significant impact on the River</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
		<p>Wensum Special Area of Conservation located to the north of the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							
3	<p><b>Enabling Growth on Sites LP(098)014 and LP(098)016</b></p> <p><b>Development on sites LP(098)014 and LP(098)016 is to be in conjunction with site LP(098)13, where proposals enable:</b></p> <p><b>a. provision will be made within site LP(098)014 for a ‘pick up and drop off’ area with at least 40 car spaces and with a safe road crossing point located along Manns Lane as close to the school as is deemed safe by Norfolk County Council Highways</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to see sustainable growth of Swanton Morley whilst providing specific benefit to the local community associated with sites LP(098)014 and LP(098)016.</p> <p>The requirements listed will provide the necessary additional community benefit and facilities to off set the</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>Authority;</b></p> <p><b>b. provision will be made within site LP(098)016 for a lay-by style parking facility, to accommodate at least six cars;</b></p> <p><b>c. the northern border of site LP(098)016 will be screened by hedging and landscaping and with any new dwellings positioned along this border being of a maximum height of 1.5 storeys;</b></p> <p><b>d. a continued vehicle, cycle and pedestrian access from Rectory Road to Manns Lane; and/or</b></p> <p><b>e. Hoe Road East is widened to include provision for two-way traffic with traffic calming measures, a footpath and cyclepath from Rectory Road to Manns Lane.</b></p>	<p>potential effect of these sites being developed.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							
4	<p><b>Housing for the Local Community (Local Lettings)</b></p> <p><b>Any new developments that</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>incorporate an element of affordable housing to include, within the section 106 Agreement, up to 33% of the affordable housing will be made available to people on Breckland District Council's Housing Register with a local connection to Swanton Morley, in perpetuity, using the following cascade criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Residents of Swanton Morley parish for the last three years.</b></li> <li><b>b. Households who need to move to Swanton Morley parish to give or receive support from or to close family or relatives who are residents of Swanton Morley.</b></li> <li><b>c. Former residents of Swanton Morley parish for at least 3 years of the last 6 years.</b></li> <li><b>d. People who work in Swanton Morley parish for three years.</b></li> <li><b>e. Other residents of</b></li> </ul>	<p>The ambition is to create the opportunity for Swanton Morley residents or those with connections to Swanton Morley to have the ability to access affordable housing should any be built in Swanton Morley.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>Swanton Morley parish.</b></p> <p><b>f. Residents of the adjacent parishes Bylaugh, Elsing, Hoe and Worthing.</b></p> <p><b>g. Residents of Breckland District.</b></p> <p><b>h. Any other person.</b></p>								
5	<p><b>Affordable Housing on Exception Sites</b></p> <p><b>Development of affordable housing on an exception site may be permitted where it satisfies the requirements of Policy DC5 of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies and the following additional requirements:</b></p> <p><b>a. local support for the proposed site is given by the Swanton Morley Parish Council;</b></p> <p><b>b. 100% of dwellings will be allocated to those with a connection with Swanton Morley, in perpetuity, as defined in the cascade in the Swanton Morley</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to create clarity of outcome for 'exception site' development if or when it occurs in Swanton Morley.</p> <p>Creating the mechanism to demonstrate whether there is local support or not should proposals come forward.</p> <p>Should this type of development occur the policy ensures local people can access the</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<b>Neighbourhood Plan Policy 4 Local Lettings.</b>	affordable housing.  It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.							
6	<b>Delivery of Planning Obligations</b>  <b>The Local Planning Authority and Swanton Morley Parish Council will work together on any proposed planning obligations to be committed to under a section 106 agreement in the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Area; to be consulted on 'heads of terms', specific specifications and delivery requirements.</b>  <b>Swanton Morley Parish Council will be a signatory to all section 106 agreements within the parish of Swanton Morley (relating to the delivery of open and recreational space and any additional community requested benefits) in addition</b>	This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.  The ambition of this policy is to enable local involvement, by Swanton Morley Parish Council to deliver better outcomes for local residents of Swanton Morley through the delivery of planning obligations.  The policy creates a framework to provide the accountability for actions.  It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<b>to Breckland District Council and, where appropriate, Norfolk County Council.</b>	of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.							
7	<p><b>Local Green Space</b></p> <p><b>The Neighbourhood Plan designates the following three locations as Local Green Spaces (as shown on Map 8: Local Green Space)</b></p> <p><b>1) Gray Drive;</b></p> <p><b>2) Thompson Close; and</b></p> <p><b>3) Middleton Avenue.</b></p> <p><b>Applications for development on the identified local green spaces, which would adversely affect their function, as open green spaces will not be permitted.</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to provide special protection for three key areas of green space through its designation as 'Local Green Space', as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 76, 77 and 78, which the local community has identified of particular importance to them.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
8	<p><b>Protection of Open Space</b></p> <p>Proposals for development, which would result in the loss of part or all of an Area of Important Open Space, as defined in Table 3 [Areas of Important Open Space within Swanton Morley] and Location Maps in Appendix 3, will not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the benefit to the local community outweighs the loss.</p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition is to recognise through this policy is the importance of these areas to the village and as areas of recreational and visual value. The policy is not seeking 'Local Green Space' designation.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						
9	<p><b>Management of Open Space</b></p> <p>Where new developments provide elements of green infrastructure (such as open space, natural green space, recreational areas, allotments, community woodland and orchards) the Developer will be required to demonstrate an effective and sustainable</p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to provide longevity for the management of open</p>							

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p>management programme for them by having:</p> <p>a) an effective transition to the Swanton Morley Parish Council ownership with suitable funding to cover projected future upkeep costs for at least the next ten years; or</p> <p>b) an effective transition to the Local Authority ownership; or</p> <p>c) an appropriate legally binding arrangement for management by an established management company with a viable and sustainable business case and operating model.</p>	<p>space in a sustainable way, with option (a) as the preference.</p> <p>With the delivery of sustainable open space and community assets, conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</p> <p>Seeking appropriate steps are taken to ensure open spaces (play areas, etc...) are managed and maintained in a sustainable way.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						
10	<p><b>Important Views</b></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to protect and enhance the views to the northeast from the top of Primrose Hill, from the Church of All Saints (Grade 1),</p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to protect and retain the outstanding</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p>from Town Street Bowling Green and northerly from Worthing Road as identified on Map 9.</p> <p>Any development or alterations to an area within these views must ensure that key features of the view can continue to be enjoyed including areas of landscape and open agricultural countryside.</p>	<p>views enjoyed across open landscapes to the north east of Swanton Morley as visual amenities.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							
11	<p><b>Accessibility &amp; Biodiversity</b></p> <p>Where green infrastructure is provided as part of any new development it should aim to improve biodiversity and connections with existing open spaces in and around Swanton Morley.</p> <p>All new development should maximise opportunities to enhance connectivity and encourage the use of existing footpath and cycleway links to the wider parish and countryside.</p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to enhance the rural setting and provide habitats for wildlife whilst improving countryside and woodland access.</p> <p>It is intended that any new development that comes to the Parish will improve biodiversity and connectivity.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

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		to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.							
12	<p><b>Design of Development</b></p> <p><b>New development, including infill development and residential extensions, should preserve and enhance the village of Swanton Morley and be in accordance with all of the following criteria:</b></p> <p><b>1) Respecting and protecting local heritage assets and their settings whilst protecting natural assets, enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity;</b></p> <p><b>2) Recognising and reinforcing the distinct local character in relation to height, scale, density, spacing, layout orientation, features and materials of buildings;</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to improve any new development that comes to Swanton Morley. Ensuring it is designed to a high standard with the provision of better quality houses for residents to live in. Whilst promoting a village community that is vibrant and diverse.</p> <p>Any development should be sympathetic to the natural and built environment of Swanton Morley.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>3) Provide a mix of house types and tenures, with an emphasis on local needs; first time buyers, starter homes and good quality accommodation for elderly people;</b></p> <p><b>4) Designing housing proposals to reflect existing residential densities in the locality of the scheme;</b></p> <p><b>5) Design of roads and parking areas within any site should minimise the effects on pedestrians, in particular safeguarding children in areas where they walk or play, and avoid the opportunity for indiscriminate parking by residents and visitors and design in measures to avoid it;</b></p> <p><b>6) Incorporating adequate landscaping to mitigate the visual impact of the development and to ensure that proposals merge into the existing rural village context and respond to the wider</b></p>	<p>negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>countryside setting;</b></p> <p><b>7) Ensuring boundary treatments reflect the distinct local character in relation to materials, layout, height and design. In areas where there is no boundary treatment and gardens are unenclosed, new development should seek to replicate this openness;</b></p> <p><b>8) Landscape proposals should form an integral part of the site's design, with particular trees and hedgerows retained unless their value is deemed low following surveys in accordance with established practice;</b></p> <p><b>9) Where sites contain or abut a watercourse or land drainage ditch, provision must be made for maintenance by ensuring appropriate access for clearing silt and controlling vegetation.</b></p> <p><b>10) Incorporation of appropriate methods of</b></p>								

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p>energy generation and conservation in all new builds;</p> <p>11) New development should provide sufficient external amenity space, refuse and recycling storage facilities; and</p> <p>12) Where street lighting is provided it should meet the configuration and standard of the parish.</p> <p>13) All planning applications for developments of 10 or more dwellings and all commercial development to undertaken a sewage capacity assessment.</p>								
13	<p><b>Parking Provision</b></p> <p><b>New residential developments must provide the following minimum number of off-street car parking spaces per dwelling:</b></p> <p><b>1 or 2 bedrooms</b> ..... <b>2 spaces</b></p> <p><b>3 bedrooms</b> ..... <b>3 spaces</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to ensure adequate off-road parking is available to residents to prevent the mistakes of a recent development and generally to reduce</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>4 or more bedrooms</b> ..... <b>4 spaces</b></p> <p><b>Accessible communal car parking areas of an equivalent provision will be considered as an acceptable alternative in appropriate locations.</b></p>	<p>pavement parking.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							
14	<p><b>Flooding</b></p> <p><b>Any new development (residential or commercial) or significant alteration to an existing building within the Swanton Morley area should be accompanied by an appropriate assessment which gives adequate and appropriate consideration to all sources of flooding and proposed surface water drainage; demonstrating that it would:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Not increase the flood risk to the site or wider area from fluvial, surface water, groundwater, sewers or artificial sources following, if necessary, the installation</b></li> </ul>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to ensure that new development does not cause flood related problems, especially associated with surface water run-off. There is recognition that some open land can perform many functions, such as recreation, biodiversity, wildlife and flood risk mitigation.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>of appropriate mitigation measures;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Have a neutral or positive impact on surface water drainage; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Any water drainage solution to be implemented prior to any occupation.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Proposals must demonstrate engagement with relevant agencies and seek to incorporate appropriate mitigation measures manage flood risk and to reduce surface water run-off to the development and wider area such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inclusion of appropriate measures to address any identified risk of flooding (in the following order or priority: assess, avoid, manage and mitigate flood risk);</b></li> <li>• <b>Where appropriate undertake sequential and /or exception tests;</b></li> <li>• <b>Locate only compatible</b></li> </ul>	<p>features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p>development in areas at risk of flooding, considering the proposed vulnerability of land use;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of appropriate allowances for climate change;</li> <li>• Inclusion of Sustainable Drainage System with an appropriate discharge location;</li> <li>• Priority use of source control Sustainable Drainage Systems such as permeable surfaces, rainwater harvesting and storage or green roofs and walls. Other Sustainable Drainage Systems components which convey or store surface water can also be considered;</li> <li>• To mitigate against the creation of additional impermeable surfaces, attenuation of greenfield (or for redevelopment sites as close to greenfield as possible) surface water runoff rates and runoff</li> </ul>								

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p>volumes within the development site boundary; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide clear maintenance and management proposals of structures within the development, including Sustainable Drainage Systems elements, riparian ownership of ordinary watercourses or culverts, and their associated funding mechanisms.</li> </ul>								
15	<p><b>Housing Mix</b></p> <p>Developments of ten or more dwellings must provide a mix of dwelling sizes in both market and affordable that fall within the following ranges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1-bedroom dwellings: range 10% to 15% of all dwellings</b></li> <li><b>2-bedroom dwellings: range 25% to 30% of all dwellings</b></li> <li><b>3-bedroom dwellings: range 30% to 40% of all</b></li> </ul>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to address the imbalance in the existing housing stock and to enable a greater number of smaller dwellings to be built in Swanton Morley to meet local needs.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
	<p><b>dwelling</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>4-bedroom and larger dwellings: range 15% to 20% of all dwellings</b></li> </ul> <p>Developments that wish to provide a higher percentage of 1 and 2 bedroom dwellings in lieu of larger (3 plus bedroom dwellings) will be seen as acceptable.</p> <p>In instances where the proportion of a particular dwelling size does not reach an exact number of dwellings, then the developer has the choice of whether to deliver the lower 'whole dwelling' figure or the higher 'whole dwelling' figure.</p>	<p>features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							
16	<p><b>Broadband and Mobile Communications</b></p> <p>Enhancement of mobile communications and implementation of new 'superfast broadband' infrastructure that serves the Parish will be supported.</p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to facilitate the improvement of modern communications and enable greater access to on-line services.</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
		It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.							
17	<p><b>Employment and Local Shops</b></p> <p><b>The Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan supports planning applications that seek the creation of employment opportunities in new small commercial and office units that fit within the surroundings, which are appropriate both in scale and environmental impact and new local shops that enhances and increases the range and type of shop. Where they comply with the other policies within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan and the requirements of other development plan policies.</b></p>	<p>This Policy may deliver new development in seeking to support local business and employment.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to see the continuation of a thriving local community, supporting local business and employment.</p> <p>Any development will be in keeping and of small scale.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects,</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
		with other projects and plans.							
18	<p><b>Additional Community Facilities</b></p> <p><b>Planning applications relating to the provision of additional community facilities, especially parking near the school, additional recreational space, play space and sports facilities will be supported where they comply with the requirements of other policies within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan and the requirements of other development plan policies.</b></p> <p><b>The Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan seeks to ensure that additional provision of additional local facilities meets the growing local community needs.</b></p>	<p>This Policy may deliver new development in seeking to the delivery of additional community facilities.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is the provision of additional facilities and amenities that support village life for residents.</p> <p>Any development will need to comply with the requirements of other policies within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan and the requirements of other development plan policies .</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>	<b>No Likely Significant Effect</b>						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
19	<p><b>Traffic Impact</b></p> <p><b>New development (of 10 or more residential dwellings and all commercial) proposals will be expected to quantify the level of traffic movements they are likely to generate and its cumulative effect with other developments in Swanton Morley and surrounding parishes.</b></p> <p><b>They will also be expected to assess the potential impact of this traffic and include appropriate and proportionate measures to mitigate any negative impacts on road safety, pedestrians, safe road crossings, cyclists, parking and congestion within Swanton Morley.</b></p>	<p>This Policy does not seek to deliver new development.</p> <p>The ambition of this policy is to maintain and, where possible, improve road safety. Where potential additional traffic levels are identified then appropriate measures are implemented to mitigate any likely impact.</p> <p>This policy is focused on practical solutions to improve road safety throughout Swanton Morley by seeking to reduce the negative impacts of traffic, speed and congestion.</p> <p>It seeks to understand and address the accumulative effect of development on local traffic movements.</p> <p>It is hoped, through mitigation measures,</p>	No Likely Significant Effect						

Policy	Policy Detail	Comment	Breckland SPA	Broadland SPA	Breckland SAC	Norfolk Valley Fens SAC	River Wensum SAC	Broads SAC	Broadland Ramsar
		<p>that traffic impacts can be reduced with less reliance on motorised transport and more sustainable transport methods are introduced.</p> <p>It is, therefore, unlikely to have a significant negative effect on any of the qualifying features or any in-combination effects, with other projects and plans.</p>							

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The assessment suggests that there is likely to be **no significant negative effects on the European Designated Sites** resulting from the Policies detailed within the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.2 It is our view, therefore, that a full Habitat Regulations Assessment is not required.

## Appendix 1: Details of Relevant European Sites

The information relating to each site has been taken from the reports produced in support of the Breckland Core Strategy, Breckland Site Specific Policies and Proposals or the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk or directly from Natural England.

### a. Breckland Special Protection Area

#### (i) Site Description and Qualifying Features

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 free-draining 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 oedicnemus*) establish nests on open ground provided by arable cultivation in the spring, as well as on Breckland grass-heath.

The Breckland Special Protection Area SPA covers an area of 39,434 ha. and encompasses all or parts of the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of:

- Barnham Heath;
- Barnhamcross Common;
- Berner's Heath, Icklingham;
- Breckland Farmland;
- Breckland Forest;
- Bridgham and Brettenham Heaths;
- Cavenham-Icklingham Heaths;
- Cranberry Rough, Hockham;
- Cranwich Camp;
- Deadman's Grave, Icklingham;
- East Wretham Heath;
- Eriswell Low Warren;
- Field Barn Heaths, Hilborough;
- Foxhole Heath, Eriswell;

- Gooderstone Warren;
- Grimes Graves;
- How Hill Track;
- Lakenheath Warren;
- Little Heath, Barnham;
- Old Bodney Camp;
- Rex Graham Reserve;
- Stanford Training Area;
- Thetford Golf Course and Marsh;
- Thetford Heaths;
- Wangford Warren and Carr;
- Weather and Horn Heaths, Eriswell;
- Weeting Heath; and
- West Stow Heath.

### Breckland Special Protection Area Qualifying Features

Qualifying species: The site qualifies under article 4.1 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the Great Britain populations of the following species listed in Annex I in any season:

Annex I species	Count & Season	Period	Percentage of GB Population
Stone curlew <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	115 pairs – breeding	5 year mean (1994 – 98)	60.1%
Nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	415 males – breeding	Count as at 1998	12.2%
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	430 pairs – breeding	Count as at 1997	28.7%
<i>Noteworthy: Breckland regularly supports small numbers (less than 1% of the GB population) of wintering Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) and breeding Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>), both of which are listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive.</i>			

### (ii) 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;
- structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- population of each of the qualifying features; and,

- distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### (iii) Vulnerability

External pressures overwhelming the natural balance of the eco-system and habitat disturbance.

- Intensification of farming techniques, as arable farming is the predominant land use; and
- Pressure from tourism and recreation.

## b. Broadland Special Protection Area

### (i) Site Description and Qualifying Features

Broadland is a low-lying wetland complex straddling the boundaries between east Norfolk and northern Suffolk in eastern England. The Broads are a series of flooded medieval peat cuttings. The area includes the river valley systems of the Bure, Yare and Waveney and their major tributaries. The distinctive open landscape comprises a complex and interlinked mosaic of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh and fen meadow, forming one of the finest marshland complexes in the UK. The differing types of management of the vegetation for reed, sedge and marsh hay, coupled with variations in hydrology and substrate, support an extremely diverse range of plant communities.

### Broadland Special Protection Area Qualifying Features

<b>Article 4.1</b>	<b>Breeding</b>	<b>Over Winter</b>	<b>Passage</b>
Bewick's Swan		X	
Whooper Swan		X	
Bittern	X		
Marsh Harrier	X		
Hen Harrier		X	
Ruff		X	
<i>Noteworthy: Gadwall</i>			

## **(ii) Conservation Objectives**

To restore to favourable condition, if the feature is not currently in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 bird species of European importance (Bewick's swan, whooper swan, bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, marsh harrier, hen harrier, ruff), migratory bird species of European importance (pink-footed goose, gadwall, shoveler) and populations of waterfowl that contribute to the wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance with particular reference to:

- Open water
- Swamp
- Fen
- Reed Bed
- Fen meadow with ditches and water bodies, and
- Lowland wet grassland with ditches and water bodies.

## **(iii) Vulnerability**

The site has suffered from management neglect and natural succession during this century. Sea level rise and reduced summer flows in the river Bure brought about by abstraction are resulting in increasing saline intrusion into the site and generally drier summer conditions. The site also suffers from eutrophication, brought through the build up of nutrients over a long period, primarily through sewage outfalls and, to a lesser degree, agriculture. The region as a whole is a centre for tourism and recreation, however this pressure is now starting to be brought under control by the Broads Authority via the Broads Plan. Efficient drainage within much of the reclaimed parts of the wetland has reduced the wildlife value.

## **c. Breckland Special Area of Conservation**

### **(i) Site Description and Qualifying Features**

Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands for which this is the only known outstanding locality in the United Kingdom and is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1,000 hectares.

Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. They are examples of hollows within glacial outwash deposits and are fed by water from the underlying chalk aquifer. Natural fluctuations in groundwater tables mean that these lakes occasionally dry out. The flora is dominated by stonewort – pondweed *Characeae* – *Potamogetonaceae* associations.

European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Breckland has an average annual precipitation of only 600 mm, relatively hot summers and cold winters. Frosts can occur in any month of the year. The sand sedge-dominated *Carex arenaria* sub-community (H1d) is typical of areas of blown sand – a very unusual feature of this location. The highly variable soils of Breckland, with underlying chalk being largely covered with wind-blown sands, have resulted in mosaics of heather-dominated heathland, acidic grassland and calcareous grassland that are unlike those of any other site.

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. The grassland is rich in rare species typical of dry, winter-cold, continental areas, and approaches the features of grassland types in central Europe more than almost any other found in the United Kingdom. The terrain is relatively flat, with few physical variations, but there are mosaics of calcareous grassland and heath/acid grassland, giving rise to patterns of structural variation.

Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

### **Breckland Special Area of Conservation Qualifying Features – Habitats**

- Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands
- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition type vegetation
- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies.

### **Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Species (although not a primary reason for site selection)**

- Great crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*)

## **(ii) Conservation Objectives**

The conservation objectives are to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat features of the designation, and to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the qualifying species, with particular reference to:

- Dunes and grassland;
- Open water and lakes; and
- Heaths and scrublands.

## **(iii) Vulnerability**

Breckland is most vulnerable to the impact of changes in the biotic conditions and modifications to the ecosystem. These are most likely to occur as a result of: -

- forest and plantation management and use
- air-borne pollutants
- livestock grazing.

# **d. Norfolk Valley Fens Special Area of Conservation**

## **(i) Site Description and Qualifying Features**

Norfolk Valley Fens contains one of the main concentrations of lowland alkaline fens and is one of two sites selected in East Anglia. 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*.

### **Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Habitats**

- Alkaline fens
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*) (important orchid sites)
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

### **Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Species**

- Narrow-mouthed whorl snail
- Desmoulin's whorl snail

### **(ii) Conservation Objectives**

The conservation objectives are to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat features of the designation, and to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the qualifying species, with particular reference to:

- Alkaline fens
- Marshes and swamps
- Water quality with suitable levels of dissolved oxygen, un-ionised ammonia, pH, and metals
- Water table close to surface layer so ground remains moist throughout year.

### **(iii) Vulnerability**

The Norfolk Valley Fens are most vulnerable to the impact of water levels, pH levels and insufficient moisture to maintain habitats and flora.

- Habitat management: reduction in traditional cutting and grazing causing scrub and woodland to encroach on open habitats.
- Water quantity: vulnerable to reductions in water table due primarily to groundwater abstraction. This is being addressed by the Environment Agency's review of the AMP3 programme.

## e. River Wensum Special Area of Conservation

### (i) Site Description & Qualifying Features

The River Wensum represents an example of an enriched, calcareous lowland river and represents sub-type 1 in lowland eastern England. Although extensively regulated by weirs, the River has over 100 plant species including *Ranunculus* vegetation occurring sporadically throughout much of the river's length. The River It supports a rich invertebrate assemblage and together with its relatively natural corridor, represents the best whole river of its type in conservation terms. Stream water-crowfoot *R. penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* is the dominant *Ranunculus* species but thread-leaved water-crowfoot *R. trichophyllus* and fan-leaved water-crowfoot *R. circinatus* also occur.

The River Wensum is a chalk-fed river in eastern England, and is an eastern example of riverine white-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* populations. As with most of the remaining crayfish populations in the south and east of England, the threats from non-native crayfish species and crayfish plague are severe. Designation of the river as a SAC provides as much protection as can be afforded to such vulnerable populations.

### **Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Habitats**

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

### **Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Species**

- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana*
- Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- Bullhead *Cottus gobio*

### (ii) Conservation Objectives

The conservation objectives are to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat features of the designation, and to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the qualifying species, with particular reference to:

- Maintain the Water courses of plain to montane levels
- Habitats for bullhead, brook lamprey, white-clawed crayfish.

### **(iii) Vulnerability**

The River Wensum is most vulnerable to the impact of intensive farming with the 'run-off' of chemicals and the spread of the urban footprint.

- Water quality: input of silt and agricultural chemicals as a result of agriculture has been a problem and a strategy is required to control eutrophication. Reversion of arable fields to low input grassland should be encouraged.
- Water quantity: further development of the floodplain has the potential to alter the flow regime and river ecology is threatened by water abstraction. Bullhead and brook lamprey are vulnerable to the modification of riffle habitats through changes in water level.
- Habitat loss: desmoulines whorl snail is vulnerable to interference with bankside vegetation.
- Introduced/invasive species: the further spread of the signal crayfish would threaten the long term viability of the white-clawed crayfish whilst may be vulnerable to the introduction of non-native fish species.

## **f. The Broads Special Area of Conservation**

### **(i) Site Description & Qualifying Features**

The Broads Special Area of Conservation covers roughly the same area as the Broadland SPA and Ramsar sites. The Broads Special Area of Conservation is the richest area for charophytes in Britain. The core of this interest is the Thurne Broads and particularly Hickling Broad, which is the richest site in the UK. Sixteen species have been recorded within Hickling Broad, a large shallow brackish lake. Within the Broads examples of Chara vegetation are also found within fen pools (turf ponds) and fen and marsh ditch systems.

The Broads also contain several examples of southern natural eutrophic lakes for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. The lakes are artificial and originated from peat digging in

medieval times support relict vegetation of the original Fenland flora, and collectively this site contains one of the richest assemblages of rare and local aquatic species in the UK.

This flood plain mire site in East Anglia has the largest example of calcareous fens in the UK and possibly the largest occurrence in the EU outside Sweden. The *Cladium* habitat occurs in a diverse set of conditions that maintain its species-richness and forms a large-scale mosaics with other fen types, open water and woodland, and important associated plant species including the fen orchid, *Liparis loeselii*.

The Broads is one of two sites selected for alkaline fens in East Anglia, where a main concentration of lowland fen occurs. The fens are principally of the flood plain mire type. The site contains a range of rare and local plant species, including the Annex II fen orchid *Liparis loeselii*, lesser tussock-sedge *Carex diandra*, and slender sedge *C. lasiocarpa*.

The complex of sites in the Broads of East Anglia contains the largest blocks of alder *Alnus glutinosa* wood in England containing a complex complete successional sequence from open water through reedswamp to alder woodland, which has developed on fen peat.

The Broads is the main stronghold of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* in East Anglia and is one of several sites selected in this part of its range. Several large populations are known, associated with standing and flowing water and ditch systems. This is a very important area for its wetland invertebrate fauna, and many Red Data Book and nationally scarce species occur here.

Also present in the Broads with significant numbers is the otter, *Lutra lutra*.

### ***Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Habitats***

- Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of *Chara* spp.;
- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation;
- Transition mires and quaking bogs;
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the Caricion davallianae, Priority feature;
- Alkaline fens;
- Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) Priority feature, and;
- *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*).

### **Special Area of Conservation Qualifying features- Species**

- Desmoulin`s whorl snail *Vertigo moulińska*, and;
- Otter *Lutra lutra*.

### **(ii) Conservation Objectives**

The conservation objectives are to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat features of the designation, and to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of the qualifying species, with particular reference to:

- Open water;
- Swamp; and
- Fen.

### **(iii) Vulnerability**

The Broads are most vulnerable to sea level rise and reduced summer flows, due to abstraction in the northern rivers and drier summer conditions. The major consequence of these pressures is the saline intrusion into the site.

Eutrophication due to nutrients increase from sewage outfalls and agriculture is also considered a problem. Measures to reverse trophic state include phosphate stripping in some of the sewage works and mud-pumping to remove enriched material from lakes, followed by biomanipulation.

Pressure from tourism and recreation is being considered by the Broads Authority through the Broads Plan. Water levels are being addressed through the Water Level Management Plans and the Environmentally Sensitive Area scheme. Appropriate standards of flood defence are necessary for the wetland, and works are currently proceeding under the Environment Agency Broads Strategy.

## **g. Broadland Ramsar**

### **(i) Site Description & Qualifying Features**

Broadland is a low-lying wetland complex straddling the boundaries between east Norfolk and northern Suffolk. The area includes the river valley systems of the Bure, Yare and Waveney and their major tributaries. The open

distinctive landscape comprises a complex and interlinked mosaic of wetland habitats including open water, reedbeds, carr woodland, grazing marsh and fen meadow. The region is important for recreation, tourism, agriculture and wildlife.

### Broadland Ramsar Qualifying Features

Criterion 6	Breeding	Over Winter	Passage
Bewick's Swan		X	
Wigeon		X	
Gadwall		X	
Shoveler		X	
<p>Noteworthy: Bean goose (<i>fabalis</i>), white-fronted goose (<i>albifrons</i>), teal, Pochard, smew, cormorant (<i>carbo</i>), bittern, marsh harrier, hen harrier, water rail, coot, ruff.</p>			

### Ramsar criteria for designation:

#### *Criterion 2:*

The site supports a number of rare species and habitats within the biogeographical zone context, including the following Habitats Directive Annex I features: Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae*; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge); Alkaline fens Calcium-rich springwater-fed fens; Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnionincanae*, *Salicion albae*) and Alder woodland on floodplains.

It includes also the Annex II species: *Vertigo moulinsiana* Desmoulin's whorl snail; *Lutra lutra* Otter; *Liparis loeselii* Fen orchid. The site supports outstanding assemblages of rare plants and invertebrates including nine British Red Data Book plants and 136 British Red Data Book invertebrates.

#### *Criterion 6:*

The site supports bird species and populations at levels of international importance.

### (ii) Vulnerability

Broadland Ramsar vulnerability is similar to The Broads Special Area of Conservation, please see section f (iii) above.

If you would like this document in large print  
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please contact  
Parish Clerk, Swanton Morley Parish Council,  
[parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@swantonmorley.org.uk)  
or telephone 01362 637166

# Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan

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# *Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan*

*2017 – 2037*



Habitat Regulations Assessment(HRA)

Screening Opinion

June 2017

Prepared on behalf of Swanton Morley Parish Council by

ABZAG Ltd

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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or telephone 01362 637166

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# Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion

## 1.0 Introduction

The Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan is assessed by Natural England to evaluate the impact of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan on the natural environment, especially the internationally designated sites, and the contribution made to sustainable development.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body whose 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.

The Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report was assessed by Natural England to provide their 'opinion' on the likely impact of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan and to establish whether there is a requirement to undertake a full Habitat Assessment.

## 2.0 Consultation Response & Actions

Natural England's opinion is summarised below:-

- *Can confirm that Natural England agrees with the conclusion of your HRA screening report for the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan; and*
- *has no issues to raise regarding the SEA.*

The full response received from Natural England can be seen in Appendix 1.

## 3.0 Conclusion

The 'opinion' expressed by Natural England is that the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out from further stages of assessment and there is no need to undertake a full Habitat Assessment.

## Appendix 1: Natural England's Full Response

**From:** Shapland, Francesca (NE) Francesca.Shapland@naturalengland.org.uk  
**Subject:** 216625 Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan: Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening  
**Date:** 8 June 2017 at 15:47  
**To:** shaun.vincent@ABZAG.com



Dear Shaun

Thank you for your email and sorry to have missed your calls earlier. I can confirm that Natural England agrees with the conclusion of your HRA screening report for the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan and has no issues to raise regarding the SEA.

Best wishes

Francesca

Francesca Shapland  
Lead Adviser, Planning & Conservation  
Norfolk & Suffolk Team  
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**We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.**

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

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**From:** ABZAG [<mailto:shaun.vincent@ABZAG.com>]  
**Sent:** 25 May 2017 16:34  
**To:** Consultations (NE); Plan Cons Area Team (Norfolk, Suffolk) (NE)  
**Cc:** Swanton Morley Parish Council  
**Subject:** Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan: Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you to consult and request your opinion on the HRA Screening of the Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan (SMNP). Please find attached the HRA Screening document and draft Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan Examination Version.

Also attached are the final version of the SMNP Sustainability Appraisal Report and Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. In your response, date 20 February 2017 from Francesca Shapland, to the Regulation 14 consultation you said you had no further issues to raise. Please could you kindly confirm this also applies to the SEA in Appendix T of the SA Final Report.

I look forward to receiving your 'opinion' and response in the near future. If you have any questions or require any further clarification please let me know.

# Swanton Morley Neighbourhood Plan

Swanton Morley Parish Council  
Swanton Morley Village Hall  
Manns Lane  
Swanton Morley  
NR20 4NP

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