

Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for Broads Local Plan

2014

A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the sustainability appraisal process is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan being assessed. This Scoping Report sets the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and decides the scope.

**Broads
Authority**

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1. SUMMARY

This Scoping Report forms the starting point for a process of sustainability appraisal which will guide the evolution and assessment of the Broads Local Plan. A key aim of the scoping procedure is to help ensure the sustainability appraisal process is proportionate and relevant to the Local Plan being assessed.

This Scoping Report sets the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and decides the scope. It:

1. Identifies other relevant policies, plans and programmes and sustainability objectives;
2. Collects baseline information;
3. Identifies sustainability issues and problems;
4. Develops the sustainability appraisal framework; and
5. Consults the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability report.

This sustainability appraisal (SA) process incorporates a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). A Habitats Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment of the impacts upon habitats will be undertaken separately.

The Authority is undertaking consultation of the statutory environmental bodies and other selected organisations on this draft SA Scoping Report during the period 13 October 2014 to 4pm 14 November 2014.

The Authority will consult: Natural England, English Heritage and Environment Agency as well as the Marine Management Organisation, RSPB, Norfolk and Suffolk County Council, Broadland, Waveney, South Norfolk and North Norfolk District Councils, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Norwich City Council.

Comments received will be taken into account in finalising the Scoping Report and taking the SA process forward.

The Authority is particularly seeking responses to the following key questions:

- Is the proposed SA framework appropriate?
- Is the scoping and baseline information adequate?
- Have all relevant plans and programmes been identified?
- Is any significant environmental, social or economic baseline data missing or inaccurate?
- Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Broads?
- Is the scope of the SA proportionate?

2. BACKGROUND

THE BROADS AND THE BROADS AUTHORITY

The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads is Britain's largest protected wetland and third largest inland waterway, with the status of a national park. It's also home to some of the rarest plants and animals in the UK. The Broads area is an internationally important wetland and a nationally designated protected landscape of the highest order, part of the family of national parks. The designated Broads area is shown below. It includes parts of both Norfolk and Suffolk counties. This is the geographical scope of the Local Plan.

Broads Authority executive area map



The Broads Authority has a statutory duty to manage the Broads for three specific purposes. None of

these purposes takes precedence.

- *Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Broads;*
- *Promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Broads by the public; and*
- *Protecting the interests of navigation.*

Additionally, in discharging its functions, the Authority must have regard to:

- *the national importance of the Broads as an area of natural beauty and one which affords opportunities for open-air recreation;*
- *the desirability of protecting the natural resources of the Broads from damage; and*
- *the needs of agriculture and forestry and the economic and social interests of those who live or work in the Broads.*

The Broads Authority is the local planning authority for the Broads, responsible for producing and updating the Broads Local Plan which guides development in the area. The area includes parts of Broadland District, South Norfolk District, North Norfolk District, Great Yarmouth Borough, Norwich City and Waveney District. The councils for those areas do not have planning powers in the Broads area, but retain all other local authority powers and responsibilities.

THE BROADS' LOCAL PLAN

The Broads Authority is proposing to prepare a Local Plan to replace the adopted Core Strategy (adopted 2007), Development Management Policies DPD (adopted 2011) and Sites Specifics Local Plan (adopted 2014). It is also intended that the only saved 1997 Local Plan policy relating to Thorpe Island will also be reviewed. The Local Plan process will review and carry forward and update relevant policies from all these documents as well as research the potential for a policy response to some other local issues such as residential moorings, floating homes, second homes and holiday homes, green infrastructure and economic development.

Part of the Local Plan process will also involve a call for sites for development, recognising the strict environmental constraints of the Broads.

The Authority will use a sustainability appraisal to help identify and choose between potential options for the policies and site allocations. The sustainability appraisal will also encompass the Strategic Environmental Assessment required by European Directive and UK Regulations.

This Scoping Report is intended to form the basis of this sustainability appraisal and is being sent to the statutory environmental bodies Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage to obtain their views on it.

Later in the process a Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report, including any amendments to the scoping arising from the current consultation, will be the subject to further review through being published as part of consultation on the Draft Local Plan.

THE THREE PLANNING POLICY DOCUMENTS TO BE REVIEWED

The Core Strategy DPD (adopted 2007) sets out the overall vision and strategic objectives for the area (giving effect to the Broads Plan, a management plan for the Broads area). In general terms this provides for only limited development across the area (there is no strategic housing requirement or target, for instance); and encourages such development that does occur to meet local community needs, protect the environment, natural beauty, recreational potential and navigation of the area.

The Development Management Policies DPD contains policies to help guide and Determine planning applications across the whole area, or for particular types of development.

The Site Specific Policies DPD relates the policies and objectives of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPDs to identified sites and areas. It includes allocations of a limited number of sites for specific developments, development limits for some identified settlements where general development is considered acceptable in principle and areas or sites where particular considerations will apply to protect them from development or steer development towards meeting particular objectives.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) be undertaken for plans such as Local Plans. The term “sustainability appraisal” is used to describe a form of assessment that considers the social, environmental and economic effects of implementing a particular plan or planning policy document. It is intended that the SA process helps plans meet the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The results of the sustainability appraisal will inform the Authority’s decisions on the Local Plan, and the planning inspector’s judgement on the Local Plan’s legal compliance and soundness.

The process for conducting the sustainability appraisal is as follows¹. This Scoping Report is stage A of the process.

¹ <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

Sustainability appraisal process

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects

1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Stage C: Prepare the sustainability appraisal report

Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public

Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring

1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
3. Respond to adverse effects

Local Plan preparation

Evidence gathering and engagement

Consult on Local Plan in preparation (regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).

Consultation may be undertaken more than once if the Local Planning Authority considers necessary.

Stage C: Prepare the publication version of the Local Plan

Seek representations on the publication Local Plan (regulation 19) from consultation bodies and the public

Submit draft Local Plan and supporting documents for independent examination

Outcome of examination

Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

Local Plan Adopted

Monitoring

Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan

THE CONTEXT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

The Local Plan works within the context of broader strategies and policies, especially those of the:

- Broads Plan (the strategic management plan for the Broads)
- National Planning Policy Framework

The Broads local Plan SA will examine whether the effects of the specific sites/areas allocations and policies therein individually or collectively, give rise to sustainability benefits or dis-benefits.

The task of this sustainability appraisal is firstly to assess the short, medium and long-term social, environmental and economic effects of the individual policy options and assess the combined effects, in these terms, of the policies of the whole area.

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involves the systematic identification and subsequent evaluation of the environmental impacts of a strategic action such as a plan or programme. The objective of the SEA process is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment, and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. The relevant requirements and considerations are set out in the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment directive and national regulations.

Sustainability appraisals incorporate the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004², which implement the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC³ on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Sustainability appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (HABITATS)

Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora, and the UK regulations that give effect to this, require an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) or habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the potential impacts of land-use plans (this includes the Broads' Local Plan) on European designated habitat sites to ascertain whether they would adversely affect the integrity of such sites. Where significant adverse effects are identified, alternative options must be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

While any effect of the policies of the Local Plan on European Designated habitats is obviously a component of the SA/SEA of the document, the specific requirements and process of an 'appropriate assessment' differ, and so the Appropriate Assessment/Habitats Regulations

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32001L0042:EN:NOT>

Assessment will be carried out in parallel and reported separately.

ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION

The consultation runs for a period of 5 weeks from 13 October 2014 to 4pm 14 November 2014.

This Scoping Report has been sent to the following consultation bodies:

- English Heritage
- Natural England
- Environment Agency

In the spirit of Duty to Cooperate, the constituent District and County Councils have also been consulted:

- Norfolk County Council
- Suffolk County Council
- North Norfolk District Council
- Waveney District Council
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- Norwich City Council
- South Norfolk District Council
- Broadland District Council

The Authority will also consult the RSPB, New Anglia, Wild Anglia and Marine Management Organisation to ascertain their views.

The Authority is particularly seeking responses to the following key questions:

- Is the proposed SA framework appropriate?
- Is the scoping and baseline information adequate?
- Have all relevant plans and programmes been identified?
- Is any significant environmental, social or economic baseline data missing or inaccurate?
- Are there any additional sustainability problems or opportunities in the Broads?
- Is the scope of the SA proportionate?

3. OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES AND SUSTAINABILITY OBJECTIVES

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 says, at schedule 2, Information for Environmental Reports:

5. The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.

A literature review has been undertaken. Documents reviewed range from National Level documents to County level documents to Broads-specific publications.

With the area of the Broads covering many other Local Authorities, as well as numerous environmental designations, many different documents covering a plethora of topics have been reviewed. The documents are listed below and are covered in more detail in Appendix 2.

International

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of international importance, especially waterfowl habitat (1971) (amended 1982)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992
- Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- The Rio Earth Summit 1992
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, 2002
- UN Convention on Human Rights

European

- European Climate Change Programme
- Air Quality Framework Directives 1996/62/EC, 1999/30/EC, and 2008/50/EC
- Directive 2002/49/EC on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise
- Birds Directive 1979 79/409/EEC.
- The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna Directive (92/43/EC)
- Water Framework Directive 2000 2000/60/EC
- Sustainable Development Strategy (2006 and 2009)
- European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC)
- Valetta Convention (the European Convention on the protection of Archaeological heritage) (2001)
- European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention (2000))
- EC Council Directive 99/31/EC, on landfill of waste (1999)
- Bonn Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (1979)
- Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)
- European Renewable Energy Directive (2001/77/EC)
- European Spatial Development Perspective (1999)

National

- English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular (2010)
- National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
- The UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy 2005
- Sustainable Communities: People, Places and Prosperity (2005)

- Energy Security Strategy. DECC (2012).
- Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)
- The Conservation Regulations, 1994 ('Habitats Regulations')
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- UK Biodiversity Action Plan
- Localism Act (2011)
- Growth and Infrastructure Act (2013)
- Community Energy Strategy: People Powering Change. DECC 27 January 2014.
- Code for Sustainable Homes Technical Guide Code Addendum (2014) England. DCLG.
- Scheduled Monuments & nationally important but non-scheduled monuments. DCMS 2013.
- Progress report by the ministerial working group on tackling inequalities experienced by Gypsies and Travellers. DCLG 2012.
- Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services. DEFRA 2011.
- East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans. MMO. 2014.
- UK Marine Policy Statement. MMO. 2011.
- Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England. HM Government. 2011.
- Planning policy for traveller sites. CLG (2012)
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature. HM Government. 2011.
- You've got the power. A quick and simple guide to community rights. CLG. (2013).
- Water For Life White Paper. DEFRA (2011).
- The case for change – current and future water availability. Environment Agency. (2011).
- Air Pollution: Action in a Changing Climate. DEFRA. (2010).
- Noise Policy Statement for England. DEFRA. 2010.
- Climate Change Act 2008, HM Government, 26 November 2008.
- The Carbon Plan: Delivering our low carbon future, HM Government, December 2011 and The Carbon Budget Order 2011.
- Door to Door. A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration. DfT. (2013).
- Water for life and livelihoods. Managing water for people, business, agriculture and the environment – summary. Environment Agency. (2013).
- Summary of the Key Findings from the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2012 (DEFRA 2012)
- England's peatlands Carbon storage and greenhouse gases. Natural England. (2011).
- Making space for wildlife in a changing climate. Supplement. Natural England. (2014).
- Spatial planning for biodiversity in our changing climate. Natural England (2011).
- Understanding the risks, empowering communities, building resilience
- The national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England. Environment Agency and DEFRA. (2011).
- A Coastal Concordat for England. DEFRA. (2013).
- THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORFOLK'S BROADS ZONE RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING PROGRAMME - ENGLISH HERITAGE PROJECT NO: 2913. ENGLISH HERITAGE. (2007).
- HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT GOOD PRACTICE ADVICE IN PLANNING Note 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans. CONSULTATION DRAFT (11 July 2014). English Heritage.
- HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT GOOD PRACTICE ADVICE IN PLANNING Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets. CONSULTATION DRAFT (11 July 2014). English Heritage.
- Lifetime Neighbourhoods (CLG, 2011)
- Active by Design Designing places for healthy lives. Design Council. 2014.
- UK National Ecosystem Assessment Understanding nature's value to society. Synthesis of the Key Findings.
- This way to better residential streets. CABE/Design Council. 2009.
- Planning for places. Delivering good design through core strategies. CABE/Design Council. 2009.
- The Value of Public Space How high quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value. CABE/Design Council.
- Inclusion by design. Equality, diversity and the built environment. CABE/Design Council.
- Second Progress Report on the Promotion and Use of Energy from Renewable Sources for the United Kingdom. Article 22 of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. 2013.
- Public space lessons Adapting public space to climate change. CABE/Design Council. 2008.
- Anglian Water Services, Water Resource Management Plan, 2014 (draft).

- Water for life and livelihoods. River Basin Management Plan, Anglian River Basin District (Defra and EA 2009)
- Benefits of green infrastructure Report by Forest Research 2010
- UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. Published by JNCC and Defra (2012).
- The Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives.
- Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (DEFRA 2011)
- Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen (DfT 2011)
- Healthy lives, healthy people: our strategy for public health in England. (HM Government, 2010)
- Planning for climate change – guidance for local Authorities. (Planning and Climate Change Coalition, 2012)
- Future Water – The Government’s water strategy for England (DEFRA. 2008)
- Manual for Streets (DfT, 2007)
- Creating the conditions for integration (CLG 2012)
- 2013 British Social Attitudes survey: attitudes to transport ((DfT, 2014)
- Housing in later life: planning ahead for specialist housing for older people (2012)
- Reuniting Health with Planning – Healthier Homes, Healthier Communities. July 2012.
- Healthy people, healthy places briefing. Obesity and the environment: regulating the growth of fast food outlets. March 2014.
- Healthy people, healthy places briefing. Obesity and the environment: increasing physical activity and active travel. November 2013.

County

- Sustainable Community Strategies.
- Biodiversity Action Plans
- Local Transport Plans
- Climate Change Strategies.
- Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy and Traveller Strategy.
- Central Norfolk SHMA
- ‘Delivering Economic Growth in Norfolk’ The strategic role for Norfolk County Council 2012 – 2017
- Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations documents.
- Norfolk Rural Development Strategy 2013-2020.
- New Anglia Strategic Economic Plan.
- Norfolk Infrastructure Plan, NCC, 2014.
- Norfolk's Earth Heritage - valuing our geodiversity
- Suffolk Structure Plan Saved Policies. 2013.
- Education documents
- A47 - Gateway to Growth (New Anglia)
- Once in a generation – A rail prospectus for East Anglia
- Essex and Suffolk Water Draft WRMP.

Local

- North Norfolk AONB Management Plan 2009-2014. Norfolk Coast Partnership.
- Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan. Environment Agency 2009.
- Neighbouring Local Planning Authorities Core strategy, Development Management and Site Allocations documents.
- Broadland Growth Triangle Area Action Plan.
- Constituent District/Council/Borough economic strategy, environment strategy, housing strategy, business plan, sustainable communities strategy.

Broads-Specific

- Broads Sites Specifics DPD 2014.
- Broads (strategic management) Plan 2011
- Broads Integrated Access Strategy (2013)
- Broads Core Strategy (2007)
- Broads Flood Risk SPD (2008)
- Broads Development Management Policies (2011)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (2007)
- Landscape Character Assessment (2006 and 2012)
- Drainage Mills Strategy
- Broads Authority Biodiversity Action Plan and Framework (2009)
- Building at the Waterside (2004)

- Keeping the Broads Special (2007)
- Riverbank Protection Works (2004)
- A Mooring Strategy for the Broads Authority (2009)
- The Economic and Social Impact of the Broads Marine Industry (2008)
- The Trinity Broads Management Plan (2012)
- Synthesis of the Upper Thurne Research and Recommendations for Management (2008)
- Oulton Broad Study (1991)
- Former Pegasus and Hamptons Boatyards Site at Oulton Broad, Suffolk Development Brief (2007)
- East Norwich pre- application advice note
- Sustainable Tourism in the Broads (2011)
- The Broads LAG Local Development Strategy 2014 – 2020.
- Broadland Catchment Plan. Broadland Catchment Partnership, 2014.
- Broads Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Visitor Surveys (2010).
- Steam Report (2014).
- Climate Change Audit (2010)

4. BASELINE INFORMATION

The National Planning Policy Guidance says:

The term ‘baseline information’ refers to the existing environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area likely to be affected by the Local Plan, and their likely evolution without implementation of new policies.

The area likely to be affected may lie outside the local planning authority boundary and plan makers may need to obtain information from other local planning authorities.

Baseline information provides the basis against which to assess the likely effects of alternative proposals in the plan.

Wherever possible, data should be included on historic and likely future trends, including a ‘business as usual’ scenario (i.e. anticipated trends in the absence of new policies being introduced). This information will enable the potential effects of the implementation of the Local Plan to be assessed in the context of existing and potential environmental, economic and social trends.

The Broads covers nearly 303 square kilometres and has a resident population of nearly 6,300 people (2011 census). It is predominantly a rural area and includes parts of Norfolk and Suffolk counties, six districts and 93 parishes. The boundary of the Broads is very tightly drawn around the flood plains and lower reaches of the three main rivers – the Bure, Yare and Waveney. There are no major settlements wholly within the Broads, only a few hamlets and small villages, but the boundary does include parts of many villages, some towns (such as Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Beccles, and Bungay) and a city (Norwich). Appendix 3 provides more detail of the current state of the Broads.

The map on the next page is a useful summary of what the Broads is about, its extent, the settlements that form the Broads and also what the Broads offer.



5. SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

The Strategic Environment Assessment requires the assessment of:

The environment characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected and any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme.

This section identifies some of the principal sustainability challenges and opportunities in the area which are potentially relevant to the Broads Local Plan.

Strengths

- Extensive, diverse and very highly valued landscape, habitats, flora, fauna and heritage assets.
- Formal designations of the Broads and many areas within it provide relatively high levels of policy protection or conservation.
- High levels of tranquillity through much of the Broads, and particularly the tranquillity and sense of remoteness in some parts even though these are not very far from concentrations of housing and industry.
- Attractive environment, providing the basis for most of the Broads' economy, and pleasure for residents and visitors.
- High level of engagement and motivation of local residents and the parish/town councils and other organisations that represent them.
- Importance of the Broads for the identity and recreation of a much wider area caring for or promoting the value of various aspects of the Broads.
- High level of interaction with the surrounding area, with complementary provision of facilities and opportunities. For example, employment and development opportunities, community facilities, etc. in surrounding districts, towns and city serve also Broads residents; while the Broads provides recreational and business opportunities to those from a wider area.

Weaknesses

- Some of protected habitat and other designations in less than optimal condition and/or vulnerable to change as a result of fragmentation. Some areas of fen and some lakes are in decline.
- Car dependence of local communities and businesses.
- Depleted local community and/or visitor facilities, often through displacement by higher value activities (principally housing)
- Almost the whole of the Broads area subject to or at risk of flooding.
- Difficulty of modernising and adapting existing buildings and uses, and accommodating new ones, due to flood prone nature of the area.
- Tensions and perceptions of incompatibility, between interests of conservation, recreation, tourism, navigation, and local communities, and between local interests and the national value of the Broads.
- High levels of listed buildings and other heritage assets at risk, and particular problems in

finding compatible and beneficial uses that could help secure the restoration and maintenance of heritage assets such as windpumps/mills.

- Continuing (though declining) problems of water quality in the rivers. Ground water quality problems.

Opportunities

- Climate change
 - Likely Impacts
 - Changes in flora, fauna and landscape
 - Changes in patterns of recreation
 - Changes in agriculture and its practices
 - Redundancy/degradation of infrastructure and material assets
 - Unknown Impacts
 - ????
 - Adaption – potential and planned
 - Erecting, raising and strengthening flood defences
 - Retreat from more flood prone locations
 - Linking wildlife habitats to provide resilience
 - Mitigation– potential and planned
 - Evolving low carbon lifestyles, construction and patterns of land use and settlement.
- To connect wetland habitats on a landscape scale, to enhance and buffer biodiversity rich areas.
- Potential for revival in the use of the area's rivers and railways for freight and passenger traffic.
- Changes in patterns of recreation and expectations of visitors , including impacts of earlier major decline in hire boat fleet and growth of private boat ownership; higher expectation of facilities for leisure plots, holiday chalets and other accommodation.
- Potential for complementary and mutually supportive actions and benefits across environmental, recreational, navigation, and local community issues.
- Maintaining the recovery and improvement of water quality achieved over the last few decades by long term and continuing action across a range of agencies.
- Potential to put in place environmental and recreational management measures as part of the implementation of major housing and employment growth outside but close to the Broads area.
- Provide jobs, facilities, services and homes for local residents through the development plans of constituent Local Authorities.
- The status of the Broads as a National Park equivalent – held in high regard at a national level.

Threats

- Climate change
 - Likely Impacts

- Increased frequency and severity of river flooding
 - Increased risk of coastal inundation
 - Changes in water quality and quantity.
 - Increased frequency and severity of saline incursion into freshwater systems
 - Changes in flora, fauna and landscape
 - Changes in patterns of recreation
 - Changes in agriculture and its practices
 - Redundancy/degradation of infrastructure and material assets
- unknown Impacts
 - ????
- Adaption – potential and planned
 - Erecting, raising and strengthening flood defences
 - Retreat from more flood prone locations
 - Linking wildlife habitats
- Mitigation– potential and planned
 - Evolving low carbon lifestyles, construction and patterns of land use and settlement.
- Major housing and employment growth planned for nearby areas, and associated potential impacts such as
 - Water quality and quantity loss arising from effluent input and supply extraction.
 - Increased recreational pressure, on both visitor ‘honeypots’ and remoter, more tranquil and sensitive localities
 - Traffic growth
- Erosion of the special character of the area’s landscape and built heritage through, for example,
 - Passing of the economies, practices and ways of life that generated and sustained those landscapes.
 - Unsympathetic design, construction and alterations.
 - Incremental ‘suburbanisation’ and other changes, including
 - through domestic & holiday home extensions/enlargements and paraphernalia;
 - metalling of unmade tracks;
 - ‘Horsiculture’ – proliferation of pony paddocks, stables, manages, etc ;
 - road and navigation improvements/changes;
 - proliferation of advertisements.
- Loss of local community and/or visitor facilities, often through displacement by higher value activities (principally housing).
- Potential landscape and economic effects of change, including that driven by market changes (e.g. food prices, bio-fuel).
- Changes in patterns of recreation , including impacts of earlier major decline in hire boat fleet and growth of private boat ownership; higher expectation of facilities for leisure plots, holiday chalets and other accommodation.

- Displacement of uses (especially boatyards) which support the economy and recreational value of the area by higher value uses (typically housing).
- The network of riverside visitor and navigation facilities is weakened in some parts of the area. The economic and recreational importance of a comprehensive network is vulnerable to the loss of the last few facilities in some places.
- Declining funds for agricultural programmes which support Broads conservation.

6. DEVELOPING THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

The National Planning Policy Guidance says:

The sustainability appraisal should predict and evaluate the effects of the preferred approach and reasonable alternatives and should clearly identify the significant positive and negative effects of each alternative.

To help predict and evaluate effects, sustainability appraisal objectives have been produced with associated decision making criteria to assist in assessing each policy.

The Broads Authority's Executive Area covers the administrative areas of two County Councils and six District/Borough/City Councils. The SA Objectives of the Authority's constituent Council's most recent Planning Policy document were assessed to help develop the SA Objectives for the new Broads Local Plan.

Further to this, the SA Objectives used recently by three other National Parks in England were also assessed. The Lake District is a water based National Park, similar to the Broads. Northumberland is of a similar scale to the Broads. Exmoor has a stretch of coastline, similar to the Broads.

The proposed SA Objectives are set out below. More detail is provided at Appendix 4, 5 and 6.

7. SUBSEQUENT VERSIONS OF THE SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE BROADS LOCAL PLAN.

COMMENTS ON SCOPING REPORT

All comments received on the Scoping Report will be assessed and considered. A table setting out how the comments have informed the Sustainability Appraisal approach will be included in subsequent SA's. Some comments will result in changes to the SA and some comments will not. The reasons for these decisions will be set out clearly.

COMPATIBILITY OF THE SA OBJECTIVES AND LOCAL PLAN OBJECTIVES

An assessment of the SA Objectives against the local Plan objectives will check compatibility.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

If a policy area is identified, reasonable alternatives to addressing that issue need to be identified and assessed. This could include a 'do nothing' scenario. This process will assist in the identification of, and justify, the most appropriate policy response, if any.

SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM EFFECTS

Regulations require the assessment of the effects of a plan or programme over short, medium and long terms. The time periods for these are set out below.

- Short term – 0-5 years
- Medium term – 5-10 years
- Long term – longer than 10 years

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY

The process will identify if the effect of the proposed policy will be permanent or temporary.

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS

The SA process will assess the proposed policy approach or site allocation and identify any negative impacts of positive impacts relating to the SA Objectives. The process will seek to minimise any negative impacts but also seek to maximise any positive impacts.

SECONDARY EFFECTS

These effects arise not a direct result of the policy, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

An assessment of the cumulative impacts of the policies is required. This matrix will identify the impacts of the Local Plan on the various SA Objectives, taken as a whole.

SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

These are effects that interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

UPDATE TO THE LITERATURE REVIEW

During the production of the Local Plan, new relevant documents and policies will emerge as well as local planning documents being progressed to subsequent stages. New and updated documents will be reviewed at each stage for their relevance to the Broads Local Plan and Sustainability Appraisal.

BROADS LOCAL PLAN PRODUCTION

Sustainability Appraisals will be produced to assess and inform the Local Plan throughout its production:

- Interim SA – to accompany the Issues and Options version of the Local Plan.
- Preferred Options SA – to accompany the Preferred Options of the Local Plan
- Publication SA – to accompany the Publication version of the Local Plan