

05 Area-wide policies

Policies 1 to 8 apply to the whole plan area

Policy 1: Addressing climate change and protecting environmental assets

To address climate change and promote sustainability, all development will be located and designed to use resources efficiently, minimise greenhouse gas emissions and be adapted to a changing climate and more extreme weather.

Development will therefore:

- ▣ be energy efficient
- ▣ provide for recycling of materials
- ▣ use locally sourced materials wherever possible
- ▣ be located to minimise flood risk, mitigating any such risk through design and implementing sustainable drainage
- ▣ minimise water use and protect groundwater sources
- ▣ make the most efficient appropriate use of land, with the density of development varying according to the characteristics of the area, with the highest densities in centres and on public transport routes
- ▣ minimise the need to travel and give priority to low impact modes of travel
- ▣ be designed to mitigate and be adapted to the urban heat island effect in Norwich
- ▣ improve the resilience of ecosystems to environmental change

The environmental assets of the area will be protected, maintained, restored and enhanced and the benefits for residents and visitors improved.

Development and investment will seek to expand and link valuable open space and areas of biodiversity importance to create green networks. Where there is no conflict with biodiversity objectives, the quiet enjoyment and use of the natural environment will be encouraged and all proposals should seek to increase public access to the countryside.

All new developments will ensure that there will be no adverse impacts on European and Ramsar designated sites and no adverse impacts on European protected species in the area and beyond including by storm water runoff, water abstraction, or sewage discharge. They will provide for sufficient and appropriate local green infrastructure to minimise visitor pressures. Development likely to have any adverse effect on nationally designated sites and species will be assessed in accordance with national policy and legislation.

In areas not protected through international or national designations, development will:

- ▣ minimise fragmentation of habitats and seek to conserve and enhance existing environmental assets of acknowledged regional or local importance. Where harm is unavoidable, it will provide for appropriate mitigation or replacement with the objective of achieving a long-term maintenance or enhancement of the local biodiversity baseline
- ▣ contribute to providing a multi-functional green infrastructure network, including provision of areas of open space, wildlife resources and links between them, both off site and as an integral part of the development

- ▣ help to make provision for the long-term maintenance of the green infrastructure network
- ▣ protect mineral and other natural resources identified through the Norfolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework

The built environment, heritage assets, and the wider historic environment will be conserved and enhanced through the protection of buildings and structures which contribute to their surroundings, the protection of their settings, the encouragement of high-quality maintenance and repair and the enhancement of public spaces.

Contributes to spatial planning objectives 1 and 9

5.1 Government and regional policy places considerable emphasis on the need to minimise emissions and respond to the effects of climate change. It will be important to ensure that development fulfils this requirement and meets the challenge. Policies 2 and 3 below, promoting high quality design and water and energy efficiency will have a key role in addressing climate change and the theme finds expression in several other policies in the JCS.

5.2 Higher development densities support public transport, local services and resource efficiency. In appropriate urban locations car-free development will be promoted. However, consideration of density will also need to take account of local characteristics and other design criteria including the need for open space.

5.3 While subsequent policies in this strategy maximise the level of development on brownfield land the opportunities for new allocations are limited. Only a very limited proportion of new employment allocations and fewer than 20% of new housing allocations are likely to be on brownfield land. When added to existing commitments the proportion of total housing development on brownfield land is likely to be between 25% and 30%.

5.4 The area has a wealth of environmental assets ranging from international and national status, to those of local importance. These must be safeguarded and enhanced for the benefit of current and future generations. These assets include biodiversity (wildlife and habitats), built heritage and the wider historic environment, ancient monuments and archaeological assets, geodiversity (geological features), landscape and historic landscape character; as well as more general aspects such as the countryside and rural character, the setting of Norwich, towns and villages and the Broads. Assets of local importance, such as County Wildlife Sites are valuable in their own right, and in combination provide a significant resource.

5.5 Investment and development will provide a multi-functional network of green spaces and green links, having regard to factors such as accessibility, existing and potential open spaces, natural and semi-natural areas, protection of the water environment, landscape, geodiversity and the fundamental need to contribute to ecological networks. More detailed delivery of green infrastructure will be taken forward through delivery plans and other elements of LDFs.

5.6 Many of Norfolk's natural habitats have been lost and fragmented with once extensive areas of habitat reduced to small remnants isolated from each other and surrounded by

relatively inhospitable land uses, reducing biodiversity and increasing vulnerability. To address these concerns, the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership accords high priority to the development of an ecological network, as illustrated by the map on page 28, which includes:

- core areas, formed of existing clusters of high value wildlife sites
- enhancement areas, where there is a need for habitat improvement and creation
- corridors and stepping stones through green infrastructure improvements

5.7 The overall aim of the network is to promote connectivity between core areas and through the wider landscape, thus allowing wildlife to move in response to environmental change and other factors. To achieve this, enhancement of habitats outside of the core and designated areas will also be required. The creation of ecological networks is fundamental to meeting local and regional biodiversity targets but will be a long-term process that is likely to take several decades to complete.

5.8 Sufficient high quality green infrastructure will be required to provide buffer zones and alternative destinations to help manage visitor pressure on the Broads and other nearby areas of national and international importance for biodiversity. It is particularly important that all proposals and policies in this strategy are read in conjunction with this policy and the need to have no detrimental effects on Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. These internationally designated sites are protected under the Habitats Regulations. To reflect the findings of the Habitats Regulation Assessment of the JCS, the policy places a particular focus on their protection in relation to water quality, water resource and visitor pressures.

5.9 A proposed green infrastructure network (see map on page 29) for the whole Greater Norwich area has been identified to inform more detailed policies elsewhere in LDFs and the green infrastructure priority areas supporting growth locations set out on page 62.

References

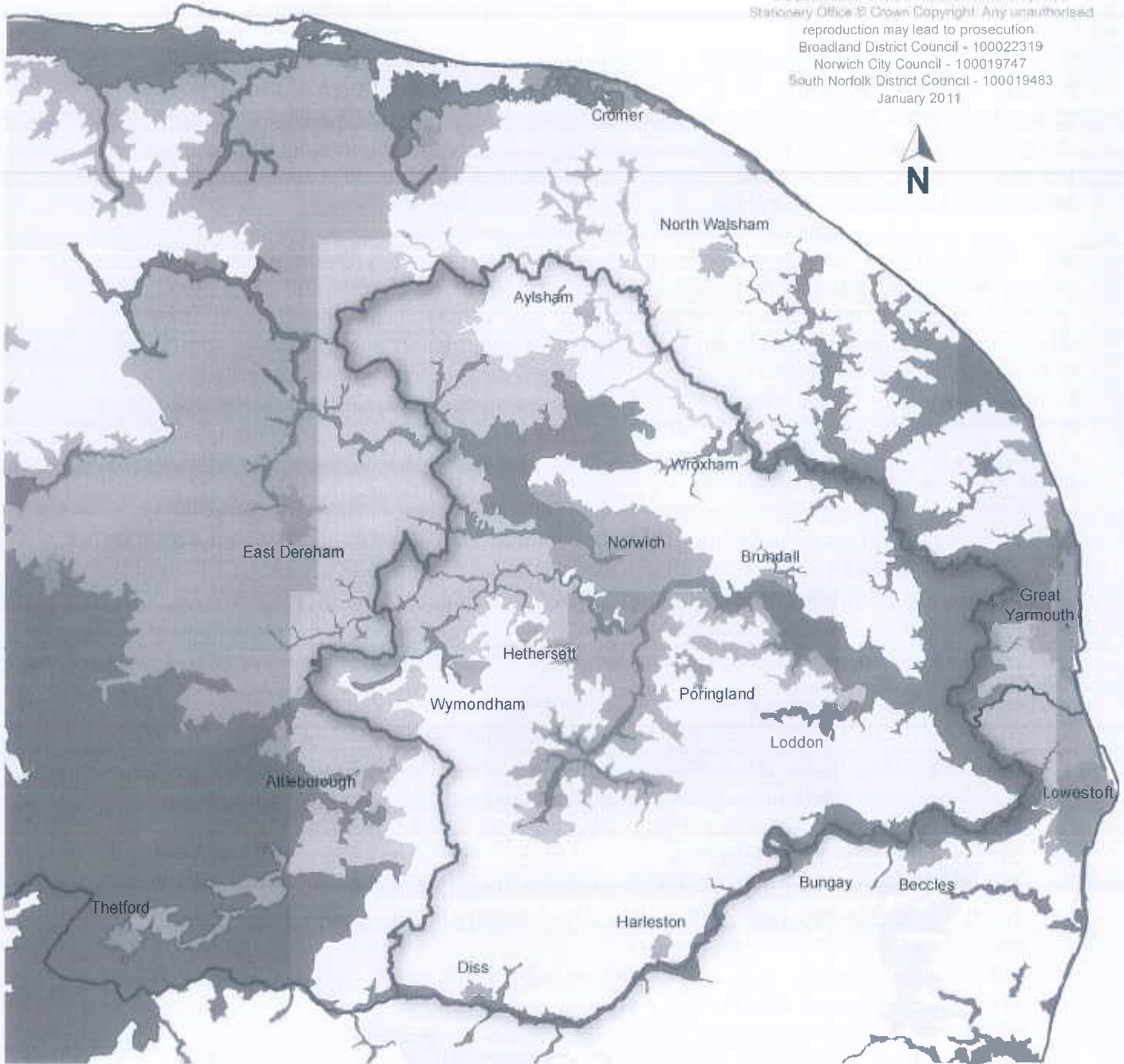
05 Area-wide policies, Policy 1







- Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1) Delivering Sustainable Development
- Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5) Planning for the Historic Environment
- Planning Policy Statement 9 (PPS 9) Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- East of England Plan Policies ENG1, ENG2, WAT1, WAT4 and ENV1-7
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
- Greater Norwich Integrated Water Cycle Study Stage 2b (2009)
- Sustainable Energy Study for the Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich, and South Norfolk (2009)
- Historic Characterisation and Sensitivity Assessment (Norfolk County Council 2009)
- The Code for Sustainable Homes
- BREEAM: the Environmental Assessment Method For Buildings
- Greater Norwich Development Partnership Green Infrastructure Study (2007)
- Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2009)
- Appropriate Assessment of the JCS of Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk
- Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership: Norfolk Ecological Network (2007)
- CNC Building Control

Biodiversity Enhancement Areas

Source: Report of Ecological Mapping Network for Norfolk
 The biodiversity areas information shown on this map is indicative only. The map illustrates information about opportunities at a strategic level and does not indicate a constraint on development.

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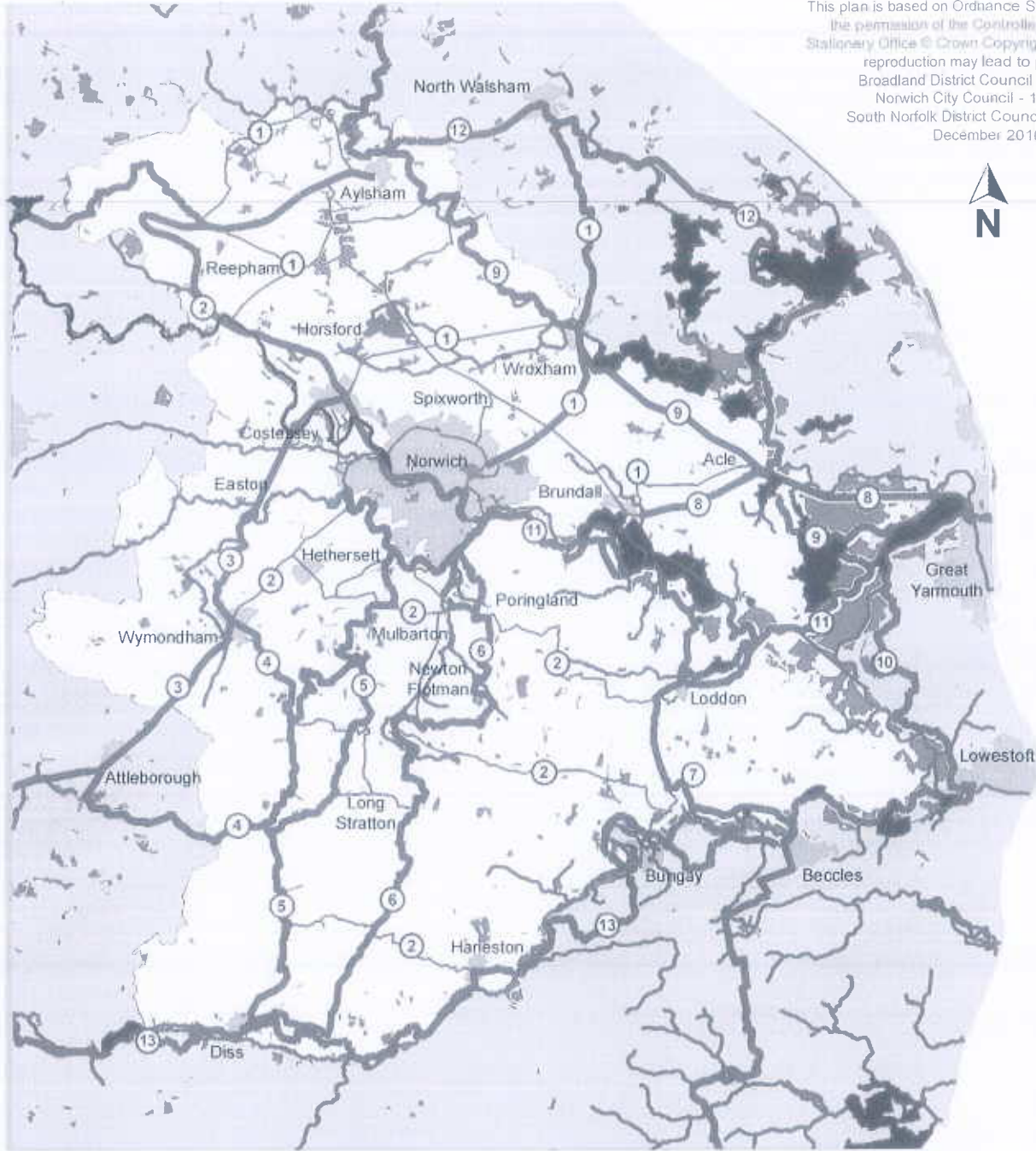
-  Norfolk County Boundary
-  Greater Norwich Boundary
-  Urban Areas
-  Core Area
-  Buffer fragmented habitats
-  Extend & link fragmented habitats







Proposed Green Infrastructure Network for the Greater Norwich Area

Source: Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Study 2007

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-  Local Green Infrastructure Corridors
-  Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Corridor
-  Existing Main Urban Areas
-  River Valleys & Wetlands
-  Existing Green Infrastructure Sites
(Strategic Open Spaces & Core Biodiversity Areas, including SSSIs)
-  European & International Designated Wildlife Sites

- ① North East Norwich - Wroxham - North Walsham Corridor
- ② Norwich - Reepham - Aylsham Corridor
- ③ North West Norwich - Wymondham - Attleborough - Thetford Corridor
- ④ South West Norwich - Wymondham - Attleborough Corridor
- ⑤ South Norwich - Mulbarton - Diss Corridor
- ⑥ South Norwich - East Diss Corridor
- ⑦ Loddon - Beccles - Lowestoft Corridor
- ⑧ Aylsham - Wroxham - Acle - Great Yarmouth Corridor
- ⑨ East Norwich - Brundall - Acle - Great Yarmouth Corridor
- ⑩ Great Yarmouth - Lowestoft Corridor
- ⑪ East Norwich - The Broads - Great Yarmouth Corridor
- ⑫ Acle - North Walsham - Aylsham - Cromer Corridor
- ⑬ Lowestoft - Beccles - Bungay - Harleston - Diss - Thetford Corridor
- ① Northern Greater Norwich Area Green Infrastructure Corridor Network
- ② Southern Greater Norwich Area Green Infrastructure Corridor Network

