

**Barningham Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats  
Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This screening report is to determine whether the content of the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan 2024-2040 (pre-submission draft July 2024) requires a strategic environmental assessment in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2. This report also contains a habitats regulations assessment (HRA) screening to determine whether the plan would have a likely significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects as required by the Habitats Directive.
- 1.3. This draft has been prepared to inform consultation with the statutory consultees, Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency.
- 1.4. Barningham is defined in the existing development plan (St Edmundsbury Core Strategy 2010 former SEBC area) as a Local Service Centre – these provide some small-scale housing and employment growth dependent upon local environmental constraints and infrastructure capacity. This Local Service Centre designation is continued in the new emerging Submission West Suffolk Local Plan (January 2024). The village is located close to the Norfolk border some 12 miles northeast of Bury St Edmunds, eight miles southeast of Thetford and 10 miles west of Diss. The Barningham Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared by Barningham Parish Council (a qualifying body as defined by the Localism Act 2011).
- 1.5. The plan is in the pre-submission consultation stage and this screening is based on the information within the neighbourhood plan and accompanying documents on pre-submission consultation and as requested by the neighbourhood plan group on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The information on the plan is in section two.
- 1.6. The legislative background, set out in section three, outlines the regulations that require this screening exercise. Section five provides a screening assessment of the significant environmental effects of the neighbourhood plan, section six is the habitats regulations assessment (HRA) screening and section seven is the screening outcome.

## 2. Key information on the emerging neighbourhood plan

### Vision, aims and objectives of neighbourhood plan

- 2.1 The vision for Barningham is set out in paragraph 4.1 of the neighbourhood plan as follows:

In 2040 Barningham will remain an attractive and desirable place to live where the character and distinctiveness of the village has been maintained. Growth has been at a rate which has reflected past growth and been supported by appropriate infrastructure.

- 2.2 To deliver the vision, the neighbourhood plan has the following objectives in six themes that have provided a framework for the preparation of its planning policies.

<b>Development Location</b>	1. Locate new development that is well related to the existing built-up area of the village minimising the loss of the best quality agricultural land and avoiding areas at risk from flooding.
<b>Housing</b>	2. Ensure that new housing development provides a range of types, sizes, prices and tenures that meets the needs of all age groups and incomes within the locality. 3. Ensure that new housing is located where it is safely accessible by foot to the village's services and facilities.
<b>Natural environment</b>	4. Protect and enhance the rural setting of the Parish and minimise the impact of development on the natural environment. 5. Maximise opportunities to improve natural habitats and biodiversity particularly Aggies Piece, a County Wildlife Site.
<b>Built environment</b>	6. Conserve and enhance the village's heritage assets in particular listed buildings, important views and the Special Character Area in the centre of the village. 7. Support development that is of a high-quality design, eco-friendly, 'fit for life' and of a scale (size/height) and type that reinforces local character

<b>Services and facilities</b>	<p>8. Balance Barningham's housing growth with maintaining and growing the level of services and facilities in the village.</p> <p>9. Protect the range of existing community facilities and improve public transport.</p>
<b>Highways and travel</b>	<p>10. Ensure that new development has the minimum impact on the existing road network bearing in mind local concerns.</p> <p>11. Protect, maintain and improve the Public Rights of Way network.</p>

### **Neighbourhood area**

- 2.3 The Barningham Neighbourhood Plan area was originally designated by West Suffolk Council on April 18, 2017. The neighbourhood plan area, which reflects the parish boundary of Barningham can be seen in appendix three of this document.
- 2.4 This is the area that the neighbourhood plan covers. The plan area includes the whole of the parish of Barningham defined by the parish boundary and is shown in the plan.

### **Approach to development**

- 2.5 The neighbourhood plan for Barningham does not seek to allocate land for development but recognises that there may be a limited amount of new development in compliance with existing and the emerging development plan allocations and policies. As additional sites come forward, they could be supported in principle within the housing settlement boundary subject to according with other policies within the development plan. The plan seeks to ensure that new housing development and any other forms of development are of a scale and in locations to minimise the impact on the character of the village and its services, facilities and infrastructure in addition to safeguarding the countryside.

### **Policies**

- 2.6 The neighbourhood plan includes 15 draft policies as set out in table 1 below. All the policies address the types of development that would be supported, and the mitigation or enhancement measures required to protect the character and environment of the parish.

Table 1: summary of policies in the Barningham Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Policy BARN 1 - Spatial strategy</b>	Within the housing settlement boundary new development of an appropriate scale in line with

Policy	Summary
	<p>the adopted local plan settlement hierarchy will be supported where they do not have a detrimental impact on residential amenity, the natural and historic environment, infrastructure and highways.</p> <p>Outside the settlement boundary priority will be given to protecting and enhancing the countryside. Proposals will be supported in principle for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agriculture, horticulture or forestry;</li> <li>• affordable housing on a rural exception site that meets a meet a proven local need;</li> <li>• equine related activities;</li> <li>• small scale facilities for outdoor sport and recreation, community uses, leisure and tourism;</li> <li>• an agriculture, forestry or equine business key worker dwelling where an essential need is proven;</li> <li>• the replacement of an existing dwelling on a one for one basis of a similar scale and floor area</li> <li>• small-scale residential development in accordance with other policies on housing in the countryside;</li> </ul> <p>New buildings outside the Housing Settlement Boundary must be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, or other appropriate and proportionate evidence.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 2 - Housing design</b>	<p>New dwellings should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make provision for storage of wheelie bins and bicycles.</li> <li>• Be adaptable to meet the needs of those with restricted mobility, the aging population, and young families.</li> <li>• Have regard to the Building for a Healthy Life toolkit and needs of homeworking.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy BARN 3 – Low Energy and Energy Efficient Housing Design</b>	<p>Proposals that incorporate current best practice in energy conservation will be supported where such measures are designed to be integral to the building design and minimise any detrimental impact on the building or its surroundings.</p> <p>Proposals for new dwellings must demonstrate how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise the benefits of solar gain in site layouts and orientation of buildings, and</li> <li>• incorporate best practice in energy conservation and design to achieve maximum achievable energy, and</li> <li>• Avoid fossil fuel-based heating systems; and</li> </ul>

Policy	Summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>incorporate sustainable design and construction measures and water and energy efficiency measures.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy BARN 4 - Protecting Barningham's Landscape Character</b>	Development proposals should respond positively to the landscape characteristics of the site and its vicinity, conserving or enhancing the landscape, heritage, and rural character of the parish. It should be demonstrated there is not an unacceptable impact on the key features of the important views identified on the Policies Map.
<b>Policy BARN 5 - Biodiversity and habitats</b>	<p>Development proposals must protect and avoid loss of distinctive trees, hedgerows, and other natural features wherever possible.</p> <p>If loss is unavoidable, the benefits of development must clearly outweigh the impacts.</p> <p>Mitigation measures must provide biodiversity net gain and be integral to the design concept.</p> <p>Design should be landscape led and developments will be supported where biodiversity net gain is an outcome.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 6 - Local green spaces</b>	<p>Eight local green spaces have been designated and identified on the policies map:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aggies Piece</li> <li>2. Cricket Meadow</li> <li>3. Bishops Croft open spaces</li> <li>4. Church Gardens open space</li> <li>5. Cemetery</li> <li>6. Hopton Road/Millfields open space</li> <li>7. Mill Road / Hopton Road verges.</li> <li>8. Children's Play Area</li> </ol> <p>Development proposals in these areas will only be supported in very special circumstances.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 7 - Special character area</b>	<p>A special character area has been identified around the villages historic core where there are a number of heritage assets. Proposals should respond positively to the distinctive characteristics of the area.</p> <p>Development proposals which would cause unacceptable harm to the character of this area will not be supported.</p>

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Policy BARN 8 - Development design considerations</b>	<p>All new development must reflect local character and contribute to a high quality, safe and sustainable environment.</p> <p>A development design checklist is included within the plan, and design considerations are set out.</p> <p>Designs that take account of listed criteria a – l, are supported.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 9 - Sustainable construction practices</b>	<p>All new developments should incorporate current best practice in terms of energy conservation measures including building layout and orientation, energy efficiency, heating systems, construction and renewable energy and water management.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 10 - Flooding and sustainable drainage</b>	<p>New development in flood zones two or three will only be supported if National Planning Policy Framework flood risk assessment requirements are met.</p> <p>All proposals must demonstrate how water will be managed to avoid flooding, surface water and runoff.</p> <p>Development should aim to include above ground sustainable drainage systems as appropriate.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 11 - Dark skies</b>	<p>New developments should minimise light pollution, having regard to security, and impacts on the local environment and wildlife whilst taking account of highway safety, the security of the development and minimising energy consumption.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 12 - Community facilities</b>	<p>The provision and enhancement of community facilities and services that serve the needs of Barningham are supported where they meet stated criteria.</p> <p>Existing local facilities are listed.</p> <p>The loss of existing community facilities is only supported if the current use is demonstrated financially unviable and unlikely to become viable; there is no local demand for the use, or alternative community uses; or suitable alternative or replacement provision is made available.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 13 - Farm diversification</b>	<p>Diversification will be supported where it is demonstrated redundant traditional farm buildings are no longer viable or needed for farming.</p>



Policy	Summary
	<p>Proposals should respond positively to the character of the building and its setting in the wider landscape.</p> <p>Support will not be given if development would cause detriment to the rural economy, highway capacity and safety, local infrastructure and residential amenity.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 14 - Public rights of way</b>	<p>Improvements to public rights of way will be supported where their value as biodiversity corridors are safeguarded and enhanced and where the extension is fit for purpose. Development Proposals should enhance biodiversity.</p>
<b>Policy BARN 15 - Parking Standards</b>	<p>All vehicle parking should be integrated into the site without creating an environment dominated by vehicles. On curtilage standards are set out for residential developments.</p>

### **3. Legislative background**

- 3.1. The basis for strategic environmental assessment (SEA) legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC which requires a strategic environmental assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA regulations.
- 3.2. To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation nine of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.
- 3.3. Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.
- 3.4. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, a strategic environmental assessment needs to be carried out and an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs two and three of Regulation 12 of those regulations.
- 3.5. In accordance with Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations 2004, Barningham Parish Council (the qualifying body) has requested West Suffolk District Council to consider whether a strategic environmental assessment of the emerging neighbourhood plan is required due to significant environmental effects.
- 3.6. Sustainability appraisal is not legally required for neighbourhood plans, but it must be demonstrated how the neighbourhood plan contributes to the achievement of sustainable development in the area. It is down to the qualifying body to demonstrate how its neighbourhood plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development.
- 3.7. Strategic environmental assessment is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. A habitats regulations assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out based on objective information.
- 3.8. European sites are defined in Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 and include special areas of conservation and special protection areas, potential special protection

areas, and possible special areas of conservation. The National Planning Policy Framework requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to listed or proposed Ramsar sites. The sites collectively are referred to as habitats sites in this document.

- 3.9. If the conclusion of the habitats regulations assessment screening is that the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site then an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for the site, in view of the conservation objectives of the site, must be undertaken. If a plan has been determined to require an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Directive, then it will normally also require a strategic environmental assessment.

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#### **4. Screening process**

- 4.1. The environmental constraints of the plan area are set out in appendix one of this document.
- 4.2. The criteria from schedule one of the strategic environmental assessment regulations have been used in the consideration of environmental effects.

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## 5. Screening assessment

- 5.1. A neighbourhood plan may have a significant effect on the environment depending on the proposals within it and a case-by-case assessment is required. The criteria for undertaking this assessment are drawn from Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 as set out in table two below:

Table two: consideration of likely significant effects, using the criteria from schedule one of the strategic environmental assessment regulations.

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
<b>The characteristics of the plan having regard to:</b>	
The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The Barningham Neighbourhood Plan contains a vision, objectives, and a spatial strategy for development to be assessed against.</p> <p>It supports the delivery of development of an appropriate design and scaled to meet identified local needs within the settlement boundary.</p> <p>It provides a framework for the consideration of proposals affecting the countryside, wider landscape setting, biodiversity and protected species; in addition to consideration of climate change, sports, recreation, infrastructure, water, services, transport and maintaining a dark sky.</p> <p>Detailed design considerations are provided for all development.</p>
The degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	The neighbourhood plan provides policies for the plan area, relevant to a local level only. The Barningham Neighbourhood Plan must be in conformity with the strategic policies of the current local plan for the former St Edmundsbury area of West Suffolk. It also has regard to the emerging West Suffolk local plan. It does not influence other plans but will become a development plan document if made.
The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental	A neighbourhood plan should require development proposals to contribute to

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
<b>The characteristics of the plan having regard to:</b>	
<p>considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>the achievement of sustainable development. The plan includes a strong emphasis on increasing biodiversity and protecting the existing natural environment and habitats. A landscape character and dark skies policy will help protect and enhance the rural setting of the village. The neighbourhood plan seeks to safeguard areas of the parish that have a special character and a concentration of historic assets and allocates areas of local green space. Other policies seek to protect existing and support new community facilities, sustainable construction, including renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as consideration of sustainable drainage and safeguarding against flood risk. Policy BARN14 aims to enable public rights of way in the parish to be improved, allowing greater opportunities for local leisure and recreation, and reaffirming possibilities to enhance green corridors and biodiversity.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan.</p>	<p>The environmental impact of the proposals within the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan is likely to be minimal due to the scale of development that would come forward in line with existing and emerging policy. The location and form of any development will be restricted by the settlement boundary.</p> <p>Any potential environmental problems associated with pollution (including noise, smell, vibration, light, traffic) are likely to be of a minor and of a local scale and can be tackled through the implementation of the plan. The policy content of the adopted local plan for the district will also apply to any proposals within the neighbourhood plan area. These policies have been subject to sustainability appraisal and</p>

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
<b>The characteristics of the plan having regard to:</b>	
	habitats regulations assessment screening.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	The neighbourhood plan is in conformity with the strategic policies of the local plan. The neighbourhood plans design policies and checklists address waste and water protection. The local plan has had regard to European community legislation on the environment.
<b>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Development that could come forward through the plan would in general be of such a small scale that any effects are unlikely to be significant in terms of duration, frequency, and reversibility. No allocations for development have been made in the plan.
The cumulative nature of the effects	Other plans and projects in the vicinity of the plan area have been reviewed. Policy themes in the plan and policies in other local plan documents that would continue to be relevant protect local environmental assets; cumulative effects are unlikely to be significant. The neighbourhood plan policies seek to safeguard the plan area from inappropriate development, individually and in combination.
The transboundary nature of the effects	The plan will not lead to transboundary effects. No allocations for development are proposed and any proposals that arise as windfall development or incidentally will not lead to transboundary effects on interests of acknowledged importance.
The risks to human health or the environment (for example due to accidents)	The plan does not propose additional development and is unlikely to lead to additional risks to human health or the environment.
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area	The potential development that could occur as a result of the plan is limited in its geographical area; any effects are

Significant effect criteria	Assessment
<b>The characteristics of the plan having regard to:</b>	
and size of the population likely to be affected)	likely to be local and are unlikely to be significant.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p>special natural characteristics or cultural heritage exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values intensive land-use</p>	<p>The environmental sensitivities in the plan area and immediate vicinity are listed in appendix one. The plan proposes to include policies that protect and enhance local environmental assets; other local plan documents would also continue to be relevant. The environmental effects arising from the plan are unlikely to be significant.</p>
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>Local, national and internationally designated nature conservation sites are listed in appendix one. None of these actually form part of the plan area.</p> <p>The West Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment identifies that Barningham is predominantly located in the <a href="#">Stanton Clay Farmlands landscape character Area</a> which is a gently rolling farmland landscape. A plateau of thick boulder clay deposits which is drained by small tributaries, which flow eastwards towards the Little Ouse and westwards towards the Black Bourn.</p> <p>The plan seeks to maintain and enhance the areas landscape characteristics.</p> <p>There would be no direct effects on nearby sites. Policies in the plan or in the local plan protect landscape features, and the level of development is unlikely to pose a risk to these sites or landscapes.</p> <p>Habitats regulations assessment screening below has screened out likely significant effects on any international sites. There are no designated landscapes in the vicinity of the plan area.</p>



## **6. Habitats regulations assessment screening**

- 6.1. Barningham Neighbourhood plan area has no Natura 2000 (European Sites). However, there are sites outside the neighbourhood plan area within 15 kilometres radius including:
1. Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA)-5 km
  2. Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC)- 8 km
  3. Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)- 0.2km (<https://sac.incc.gov.uk/site/UK0012882>)
  4. Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar - 6km
- 6.2. Recent habitats regulations assessment (HRA) work in West Suffolk (West Suffolk Local Plan (Regulation 19) Habitats Regulations Assessment 2023) has highlighted possible effects associated with the international sites as follows:
- Urbanisation (changes in species distribution)
  - Recreational pressure
  - Loss of functionally linked land
  - Hydrological changes and water pollution
  - Atmospheric Pollution (atmospheric nitrogen deposition)
- 6.3. Since the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan does not in itself intend to allocate any sites for development, there are no likely potential pathways for impacts on the habitats sites that are all located a distance from the plan boundary. The plan area is over five kilometres from Breckland SPA and does not propose development within the 1500 metres buffers around Breckland SPA or 400 metres of Breckland SPA components.
- 6.4. In addition, the potential for effects to occur in combination with the development in the local plan and with other projects has been considered. However, it is judged that the scale of additional development likely to occur as a result of the plan is unlikely to lead to in-combination effects.
- 6.5. It is concluded that likely significant effects on any European site can be screened out.

## **7. Screening outcome**

- 7.1. This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan to be subject to strategic environmental assessment as required by Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) and appropriate assessment as required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The assessment for these requirements has been undertaken on the basis of the low level of growth set out in the local plan and summarised in section two of this report. Based on the environmental information, and the scope of the policies in the Barningham Neighbourhood Plan, the preliminary outcome of the assessment is:
- In respect of strategic environmental assessment, significant environmental effects can be screened out (section five).
  - In respect to habitats regulations assessment, likely significant effects can be screened out (section six).
- 7.2. This report has been prepared to inform consultation with the following statutory consultees: The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. Following consultation, the screening will be reviewed in light of any comments received.

## Appendix 1 – environmental constraints

### Biodiversity

There are no internationally important sites within the plan area. The closest habitats site to the plan boundary, including special areas of conservation (SAC), special protection area (SPA) and Ramsar sites are listed in the table below.

SAC	SPA	Ramsar
Breckland (8km) Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens (0.2km)	Breckland (5 km)	Redgrave & South Lopham Fens (6 km)

There are no nationally important sites within the plan area. Nationally important sites in the vicinity include:

- Weston Fen Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (236m)
- Hopton Fen SSSI (2.25 km)
- Bugg's Hole Fen SSSI (2.95 km)
- Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fens SSSI (3.6 km)
- Knettishall SSSI (2.3 km)
- Fakenham Wood and Sapiston Great Grove SSSI (1.3 km)
- Bangrove Wood, Ixworth SSSI (4.4 km)
- Stanton Woods SSSI (3 km)
- Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI-2.32km

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) risk zones of Natural England give an indication of the types and scale of development that might have an effect on these SSSI. The criteria listed are in the following table.

Development category	Description	Comment
All planning applications	All planning applications except householder applications	There are no such proposals or policies proposed in the plan
All planning applications	All planning applications outside or extending outside existing settlements or urban areas affecting greenspace, farmland, semi natural habitats or landscape features such as trees, hedges, streams, rural buildings and structures.	There are no such proposals or policies proposed in the plan
Infrastructure	Airports, helipads and other aviation proposals.	There are no such proposals or policies proposed in the plan

Air pollution	Livestock and poultry units with floorspace more than 500 square metres (m <sup>2</sup> ), slurry lagoons more than 750 m <sup>2</sup> and manure stores more than 3500 tonnes.	There are no such proposals or policies proposed in the plan
Combustion	General combustion processes more than 50 megawatts energy input. Including energy from waste incineration, other incineration, landfill gas generation plant, pyrolysis or gasification, anaerobic digestion, sewage treatment works, other incineration or combustion.	There are no such proposals or policies proposed in the plan
Discharge	Any discharge of water or liquid waste of more than 20 cubic metres per day to ground (for example to seep away) or to surface water, such as a beck or stream (please note: This does not include discharges to mains sewer which are unlikely to pose a risk at this location).	There are no such proposals or policies proposed in the plan

#### **Designated county wildlife sites within the plan boundary:**

- Aggies Piece Pocket Park (species-rich grassland)

#### **Ancient woodland:**

There are no sites in the plan area.

#### **Soil:**

The land within the plan area is classified a mixture of grade 3 (towards the north-west, around the settlement and south-east) and grade 2 (a strip centred on Bardwell Road to the south-west of the settlement and an area to the northeast of Hopton Road to the north-east of the settlement) agricultural land.

#### **Water**

A tributary of the Black Bourn crosses into the parish in the far south and a drain / tributary leading to the little Ouse River flowing north-east from Moat Plantation in the north of the parish have associated flood zones two and three.

There are two source protection zones within the plan area.

Notable ponds are located at Barningham House and Moat Plantation.

## **Air quality**

There are no air quality management areas within the plan area.

## **Noise**

There are no known sources of major noise pollution in the plan area.

## **Access and recreation**

There are only a few public rights of way within the plan area to the west and east of the village, and from Hollow Lane past Moat Plantation to Coney Weston Road and then north-northeast to The Street in Coney Weston.

The recreation ground provides formal and informal recreation sport facilities (Cricket Field) and other facilities include a Children's play area and Aggies Piece a County Wildlife Site.

## **Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage**

There are no scheduled ancient monuments in the plan area. The nearest is a Length of Roman road NE of Barningham Park (0.67 km), a Roman villa at Stanton Clair (1.5 km) and a Ringwork in Burnthall Plantation to the west (3.65 km).

There are 19 listed buildings in the parish with the Church of St Andrew being listed Grade I and the others Grade II. These are concentrated around the historic core of the village at the junction of Bardwell Road, Mill Road and Church Road.

There are no registered historic parks or gardens, or buildings on the at-risk register within the plan area.

There is no conservation area in the village, but the neighbourhood plan proposes designation of a Special Character Area around the historic buildings and their curtilages in the villages historic core. The parish has some 18 known archaeological sites ranging from a flint axe to Second World War airfield.

## **Landscape**

The Suffolk Landscape Character Appraisal identifies that most of the parish is located within the Ancient Plateau Claylands. These are characterised by arable farmland divided by an irregular sinuous field pattern and scattered with ancient and plantation woodland. Settlements are scattered widely throughout this landscape, with parishes tending to have multiple built clusters of various sizes.

The West Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment looked at a more local level and places Barningham in the Stanton Clay Farmlands landscape character area.

The characteristics of this area are defined as:

- Gently rolling plateau clay farmland; boulder clay predominates, with pockets of more sandy soils to the north.
- Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, linear hamlets and isolated farmsteads.
- Diverse and strongly contrasting field pattern; large arable fields contrast with ancient co-axial pattern of small pastures and woodland blocks surrounding settlements.
- Network of winding enclosed narrow lanes and green lanes.
- Mature hedgerow oak trees and small ancient woodlands, with a mix of oak, lime, cherry and hazel.
- Farmsteads are predominantly timber-framed thatched cottages are locally distinctive.
- Striking contrast between large scale, relatively expansive farmland landscape and intimate enclosed village lanes.

## Appendix 2 – Internationally designated sites

Barningham sits some 8 km east of the Breckland Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and 5 km east of the Breckland Special Protection Area (SPA). The nearest element of the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fen SAC is 180m north of the parish boundary and the Redgrave & South Lopham Fen Ramsar site some 6km to the west.

Site	Conservation objectives of the international site
Breckland Special Protection Area	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features.</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features.</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely.</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features.</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualifying features:</b>  A133 <i>Burhinus oedichnemus</i>; Stone curlew (breeding).  A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>; European nightjar (breeding).  A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i>; Woodlark (breeding).</p>
Breckland Special Area of Conservation	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the favourable conservation status of its qualifying features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species.</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats.</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species.</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely.</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species.</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualifying Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H2330. Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands; Open grassland with grey-hair grass and common bent grass of inland dunes.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H3150. Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation; Naturally nutrient-rich lakes or lochs which are often dominated by pondweed.</li> <li>• H4030. European dry heaths.</li> <li>• H6210. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone.</li> <li>• H91E0. Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae); Alder woodland on floodplains. (Important orchid site.)</li> <li>• S1166. <i>Triturus cristatus</i>; Great crested newt.</li> </ul>
Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fen Special Area of Conservation	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats.</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species.</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely.</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qualifying Features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H6410. <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>); Purple moor-grass meadows.</li> <li>• H7210. Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of the <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; Calcium-rich fen dominated by great fen sedge (saw sedge)</li> <li>• S1016. <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>; Desmoulin's whorl snail</li> </ul> <p><b>Improvement Plan Priorities and Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>• Inappropriate water levels</li> <li>• Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>• Water pollution</li> </ul>



<p>Redgrave &amp; South Lopham Fen Ramsar site</p>	<p><b>Qualifying Features:</b></p> <p>Redgrave and Lopham Fen is an extensive area of spring-fed valley fen in the headwaters of the river Waveney. It is the largest fen in lowland England. The reserve has a range of distinct habitats including the internationally important saw sedge beds and purple-moor grasslands.</p> <p>The site is an extensive example of lowland base-rich valley, remarkable for its lack of fragmentation. The diversity of the site is due to the lateral and longitudinal zonation of the vegetation types characteristic of valley mires, such as dry birch woodland, scrub and carr, floristically-rich fen grassland, mixed fen, wet heath and areas of reed and saw sedge. The site supports many rare and scarce invertebrates, including a population of the fen raft spider <i>Dolomedes plantarius</i>.</p> <p><b>Environmental Vulnerabilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dredging</li> <li>• Eutrophication</li> <li>• Pollution – agricultural fertilisers</li> <li>• Pollution – pesticides/agricultural run off</li> </ul>
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## Appendix 3 – plan area

