# Statement on the Role of the <u>Anglian</u> Regional Habitat Creation Programme in the compliance of the SMP2 with the Habitats Regulations



## For information

## Part A

Regional Habitat Creation Programme manager to complete this section

#### Name of the SMP Sites of international importance within the SMP

- Essex and South SuffolkEssex Estuaries SAC
- Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site
- Hamford Water SPA/Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar site
- Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site
- Dengie SPA/Ramsar site
- · Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site
- Benfleet and Southend Marshes SPA/Ramsar site
- Foulness SPA and Ramsar site

#### Conclusion of the Habitats Regulation Assessment

The assessment concluded that the SMP2 policies may have an adverse effect on the integrity of the following international sites:

- Essex Estuaries SAC
- · Stour and Orwell Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site
- Hamford Water SPA/Ramsar site
- Colne Estuary SPA/Ramsar site<sup>1</sup>
- Blackwater Estuary SPA/Ramsar site<sup>1</sup>
- Dengie SPA/Ramsar site<sup>1</sup>
- Crouch and Roach Estuaries SPA/Ramsar site<sup>1</sup>
- Foulness SPA and Ramsar site

How the compensatory habitat will be delivered (as described by the Statement of Case ) RHCP programme manager The Statement of Case for IROPI confirms that the compensation habitat requirements arising from the SMP2 will be delivered by the Environment Agency's Anglian Region Habitat Creation Programme (ARHCP).

Paul Miller

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Colne Estuary, Blackwater Estuary, Dengie, Crouch and Roach Estuary and Foulness SPA/Ramsar sites are all part of the wider Mid-Essex Coast SPA/Ramsar site

#### Part B

The Role of the RHCP in delivering the compensatory habitat

#### What is an RHCP

A Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP) provides a strategic approach to identifying and addressing potential losses of internationally protected habitats, thus helping to ensure that our flood risk management activities are compliant with the Habitats and Birds Directives.

A Regional Habitat Creation Programme has three distinct phases or elements:

- PHASE A Habitat Account Assessment involves the identification of future losses to European Sites due to flood risk management activities and where habitat has to be created to compensate for those losses. It also involves the identification of losses of BAP habitat as well as gains that offset these losses and contribute to the target of creating 200ha of new BAP habitat a year.
   PHASE B Finding and Securing Habitat Site involves the identification and
- PHASE B Finding and Securing Habitat Site involves the identification and investigation of suitable sites on which compensatory habitat can be created. It also involves identifying schemes where there may be opportunities for BAP habitat creation.
- PHASE C Creating the Habitat involves gaining control over those sites and the creation and long-term management of appropriate habitat.

The programme has a cyclical nature. In each phase a series of actions need to be completed, and each phase needs to be revisited at regular intervals.

## How the RHCP works

The ARHCP is managed and run by the National Capital Programme Management Service (ncpms) on behalf of the Regional Flood and Coastal Risk Manager.

To ensure high-level buy in, it also has a Steering Group. Its members are Natural England, the RSPB, the county wildlife trusts, National Trust and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

The ARHCP maintains a database to record and update information on all the relevant strategies and projects within the flood risk management long-term plan and revenue works. The database is updated annually to ensure all needs are captured. This allows reprioritisation to take account of changes in Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) and strategies or particular events (for example, the impact of storms).

A major element of the ARHCP project is identifying potential areas for creating new habitats. To help with this task, a GIS search tool has been developed to help identify suitable land. Suitable areas are visited by area staff that make contact with landowners and undertake initial site assessments.

To help in finding suitable areas, partnerships have been developed with landowners and conservation NGOs who are actively involved in developing habitat creation projects.

The ARHCP has an approved land acquisition strategy, which confirms the approach to purchasing land or otherwise acquiring the rights to habitat creation. Among other things, this seeks to ensure the most cost effective approach is taken to meeting requirements.

Land purchase is often necessary to meet compensation and replacement requirements in compliance with the Habitats Regulations, but the project works closely with Natural England and their Countryside Stewardship programme to fulfil BAP commitments.

The ARHCP budget forms part of the Agency's capital programme. Funds are bid for against the national Flood and Coastal Risk Management projects. Creation of some BAP habitat is funded through the Flood Defence Grant In Aid revenue budget.

The current level of funding for the ARHCP generally allows for one new area to be secured each year and for habitat development work to continue on all the sites in the programme. This is considered to be sufficient to develop the habitats required for this SMP.

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SAC	Essex Estua	rice			
	100000000000000000000000000000000000000				A
Predicted Losses	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats likely to be lost/gained during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares	Additional area of habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time, in hectares
	Colne Estuary	Saltmarsh	-12	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan
	Blackwater Estuary	Saltmarsh	-3	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan
	Dengie Peninsula	Saltmarsh	-28	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan.
	Crouch and Roach Estuary	Saltmarsh	+10	Unknown but potential loss. Area will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan.	Unknown but potential loss. Area will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan.
	Foulness Peninsula	Saltmarsh	-17	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan.	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan.
	Totals	Saltmarsh	-50	Unknown	Unknown
SPA/Ramsar site	Stour and O	rwell			
Predicted Losses	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats likely to be lost/gained during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares	Additional area of habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time) in hectares
	A8a Shotley Marshes west	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitats	-50	0	0
	A2 Trimley Marsh, A3a Loom Pit Lake, A8b Shotley Marshes	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitats		-145	0

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	Intertidal areas in front of defences	Saltmarsh	+27	Unknown, but potential loss mitigated by 145 ha managed realignment	Unknown but potential loss. Area will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan
	Totals	Coastal Grazing Marsh	-50	-145	0
SPA/Ramsar site	Hamford Wa	Saltmarsh ater	+27	0	Unknown
Predicted Losses	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats likely to be lost/gained during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares	Additional area of habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time) in hectares
	B3a Horsey Island	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat	0	0	Up to -45
	Intertidal areas in front of defences	Saltmarsh	+6	Unknown but potential loss. Area will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan	Unknown but potential loss mitigated by 45 ha managed realignment.
	Totals	Coastal Grazing Marsh	0	0	Úp to -45
SPA/Ramsar site	Colne Estua	Saltmarsh	+6	Unknown	0
Predicted Losses	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares	Additional area of habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time) in hectares
	D5 Westmarsh Point to B1029	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat	0	Up to about 50 ha (area to be determined in scheme design)	
	D2 Flag Creek south	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat		4	Up to about 50 ha (area to be determined in scheme design)
	Intertidal areas in front of defences	Saltmarsh	-12	Unknown but potential loss mitigated by 50 ha managed realignment	Unknown but potential loss mitigated by 50 ha managed realignment.
	Totals	Coastal Grazing Marsh Saltmarsh	0	ca -50	ca -50
SPA/Ramsar	Blackwater E		-12	U	U

Predicted	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats	Area of habitats	Additional area of
Losses			likely to be lost during Epoch 1	likely to be lost during Epoch 2	habitats lost by the end of Epoch
			(first 15 years) in	(50 years time) in	3 (100 years time
			hectares	hectares	in hectares
	F3 Old Hall	Coastal grazing	0	0	Up to about 400
	Marshes, F5	marsh and associated			ha (area to be determined at
	Töllesbury	wetland habitat			scheme design
	Wick	Wotana nabitat			stage)
	Marshes				
	and F12				
	Steeple Intertidal	Saltmarsh	-3	Unknown, Area of	Unknown but
	areas in	Galandron		losses will be	potential loss
	front of			monitored	mitigated by 400
	defences			through the SMP Action Plan	ha managed realignment.
				Action Flan	realignment.
	Totals	<b>Coastal Grazing</b>	0	0	ca 400 ha
		Marsh			
SPA/Ramsar	Dengie	Saltmarsh	-3	Unknown	0
site	Deligie				
Predicted	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats	Area of habitats	Additional area of
_osses			likely to be lost	likely to be lost	habitats lost by
			during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in	during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in	the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time
			hectares	hectares	in hectares
	Intertidal	Saltmarsh	-28	Unknown. Area of	Unknown. Area o
	areas in			losses will be	losses will be
	front of defences			monitored through the SMP	monitored through the SMP
	derendes			Action Plan	Action Plan
8 10	Totals	Saltmarsh	-28	Unknown	Unknown
DA/D	0	D t			
	Crouch and	Roach			
site	Crouch and	Roach  Habitat type	Area of habitats	Area of habitats	Additional area o
site Predicted			likely to be lost	likely to be lost	habitats lost by
site Predicted			likely to be lost during Epoch 1	likely to be lost during Epoch 2	habitats lost by the end of Epoch
site Predicted			likely to be lost	likely to be lost	habitats lost by
site Predicted	Location H2a Bridge	Habitat type  Coastal grazing	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha	habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and,	Habitat type  Coastal grazing marsh and	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be	habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time in hectares
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B	Habitat type  Coastal grazing marsh and associated	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at	habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time in hectares
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and,	Habitat type  Coastal grazing marsh and	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be	habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time in hectares
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon  H2b North	Habitat type  Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat  Coastal grazing	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design	habitats lost by the end of Epocl 3 (100 years time in hectares 0
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat Coastal grazing marsh and	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares 0	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)	habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time in hectares 0 Up to about 150 ha (area to be
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon  H2b North	Habitat type  Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat  Coastal grazing marsh and associated	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares 0	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)	habitats lost by the end of Epocl 3 (100 years time in hectares 0 Up to about 150 ha (area to be determined at
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon  H2b North	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat Coastal grazing marsh and	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares 0	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)	habitats lost by the end of Epocl 3 (100 years time in hectares 0  Up to about 150 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)
site Predicted	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon  H2b North Fambridge	Habitat type  Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat  Coastal grazing marsh and associated	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares 0	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)  0 Unknown but	habitats lost by the end of Epocl 3 (100 years time in hectares 0  Up to about 150 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage) Unknown but
site Predicted	H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon H2b North Fambridge	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat  Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares 0	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage) 0 Unknown but potential loss	habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time in hectares 0  Up to about 150 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage) Unknown but potential loss
SPA/Ramsar site Predicted Losses	Location  H2a Bridge Marsh and, H8B Canewdon  H2b North Fambridge	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat  Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat	likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares 0	likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares Up to about 60 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)  0 Unknown but	habitats lost by the end of Epocl 3 (100 years time in hectares 0  Up to about 150 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage) Unknown but

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	Totals	Coastal Grazing Marsh	0	Up to 60 ha	Up to 150 ha
		Saltmarsh	+10	0	0
SPA/Ramsar site	Foulness				
Predicted Losses	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares	Additional area of habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time) in hectares
	l1c	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitat	0	0	Up to about 50 ha (area to be determined at scheme design stage)
	Intertidal areas in front of defences	Saltmarsh	-17	Unknown. Area of losses will be monitored through the SMP Action Plan	Unknown, but loss will be mitigated by 50 ha of managed realignment.
	Totals	Coastal Grazing Marsh	0	0	Up to 50 ha
		Saltmarsh	-17	Unknown	0
SPA/Ramsar site		coast (wider site ince			Estuary, Dengie,
Predicted Losses	Location	Habitat type	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 1 (first 15 years) in hectares	Area of habitats likely to be lost during Epoch 2 (50 years time) in hectares	Additional area of habitats lost by the end of Epoch 3 (100 years time) in hectares
	All managed realignment sites in the wider SPA/ Ramsar site	Coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitats	0	About 110 ha	About 650 ha
	Intertidal areas in front of defences	saltmarsh	-50	0	0
	Totals	Coastal grazing marsh	0	110	650
		Intertidal flats and saltmarsh	-50	0	0

#### Compensation ratios to be used

(must be agreed with Natural England/CCW)

A 1:1 ratio is agreed for replacing intertidal habitats lost due to coastal squeeze. This ratio will therefore be used for compensating for loss of saltmarsh habitats.

With regard to grazing marsh and associated wetland habitats a ratio of 1:1 has been adopted. A 1:1 ratio is considered acceptable where compensation habitats are provided in advance of losses, and where it can be shown that the habitat is functional in respect of the required features. Monitoring of progress in achieving the objectives for the required species will be undertaken and the actions will be reviewed to seek to ensure the outcomes are achieved. Where monitoring demonstrates that this is not possible, additional habitat creation will be undertaken by the ARHCP to provide a higher ratio of compensation habitats. That ratio will be considered on a case by case basis and agreed with Natural England via the RHCP. The ratio may need to be greater where habitats cannot be provided in advance of losses occurring, or where the new habitat is at some distance from the area where habitats are lost. The requirement is to replace the ecological function, rather than to replicate the original areas of habitat, and it may even be possible, in some circumstances, to provide the required function in a smaller area. Compensation habitats will therefore be discussed with Natural England, having regard to the above issues and the potential need for a multiplier to ensure that functionality across the network is maintained.

#### Total Compensation habitat requirement arising from the SMP

Habitat Type	Epoch 1 (first 20 years)	Additional requirement by end of Epoch 3 (100 years time)
Coastal grazing marsh	50	950
Saltmarsh	50	Unknown

# Part D Work undertaken to identify sites for compensatory losses

Sites being developed by the RHCP to provide compensatory habitat for the SMP

Location	Species the site is compensating for	Habitat Type	Area to be Created in hectares	Current Progress
H10 Wallasea Island Wildcoast project Phase 1, Crouch and Roach Estuary	Birds feeding and roosting in the intertidal zone	Intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh	78 (plus 77 ha for historic losses)	Planning and consents approved, work on habitat creation commenced
B4a Devereux Farm, Hamford Water	Birds feeding and roosting in the intertidal zone	Intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh and high tide roost	35 of intertidal and 15 ha of roosting habitat to offset historic losses	Phase 1 (15 ha) completed
A8a Hillhouse Farm, Orwell Estuary	Birds feeding and roosting in the intertidal zone	Intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh	45	Options consultation in progress
Totals	unde	erway	170	
		ible projects	189	

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#### Other points on progress

#### Intertidal habitat

## Wallasea Island Wildcoast Project

This is an RSPB project with Crossrail and the Environment Agency as project partners. The Environment Agency has purchased the compensation habitat for Phase 1, and is negotiating to purchase Phase 2. Phase 1 is reliant on tunnel waste from the Crossrail project to raise the land to create saltmarsh. Waste is currently expected to begin arriving on the site during 2011, and will continue to arrive for several years. Phase 2 will commence once Phase 1 has been completed. Both phases are expected to be completed during Epoch 1.

Phase 1 of this project will provide all necessary compensation for loss of saltmarsh in epoch 1 of this SMP2.

Devereux Farm
Phase 1 was completed in August 2010, when the first breach was made in the sea wall. This created 15 ha of intertidal habitat, with another 15 ha of high tide roosting habitat for

These habitats offset loss of saltmarsh in Hamford Water since 1994.

The landowner is keen to create intertidal habitat through breaching the existing defence. Our initial view is that the managed realignment is likely to have significant effects on bird populations and other Ramsar features through loss of the existing grazing marsh habitat. Hence this project can only proceed if a site for the provision of compensation measures

This site will provide compensatory intertidal habitats in advance of losses in the Stour and Orwell Estuary in epoch 2.

#### Managed realignment projects in epochs 2 and 3

The three projects described above are all of the managed realignment projects identified in the SMP2. There are managed realignment policies for a further 16 frontages in epoch 2 and 9 frontages in epoch 3. These are not active RHCP projects at the present time, but will be developed at a later stage as and when appropriate to deliver the required mitigation and compensation habitats.

<u>Coastal Grazing Marsh</u>
The Hillhouse Farm managed realignment project will require measures to compensate for loss of coastal grazing marsh and associated SPA and Ramsar features. The Anglian Region Habitat Creation Programme has commenced a search for suitable sites for creating compensation for coastal grazing marsh habitats, and is investigating possible compensation measures for brent geese. Proposed realignments in epoch 2 at A2 Trimley Marsh, A3a Loom Pit Lake, A8b Shotley Marsh east, H2a North Fambridge, and H8b Canewdon all affect coastal grazing marsh within the SPA/Ramsar site and will give rise to similar compensation requirements. Since the compensation for these sites must be in place and functional before the managed realignments can be undertaken in epoch 2, the ongoing search for suitable sites includes these requirements.

Arreita a parent	Closed and Court Dist. Manne	Aveilable memory Flora and Charles and Cha			
Available powers and funds to secure the	Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Ald Agri-environment scheme	ement Grant in Aid			
necessary compensation	The ARHCP has an approved land acquisition strategy, which confirms the approach to purchasing land or otherwise acquiring the rights to habitat creation. Among other things, this seeks to ensure the most cost effective approach is taken to meeting requirements.	nd acquisition strategy, which cais seeks to ensure the most cos	onfirms the approach to purch t effective approach is taken	hasing land or otherwise acquite meeting requirements.	uiring the rig
	The ARHCP budget forms part of the Agency's capital programme. Funds are bid for against the national Flood and Coastal Risk Management projects. Creation of some BAP habitat is funded through the Flood Defence Grant In Aid revenue budget.	of the Agency's capital progran habitat is funded through the Fl	nme. Funds are bid for agail ood Defence Grant In Aid rev	nst the national Flood and Coenue budget.	oastal Risk M
	The current level of funding for the ARHCP generally allows for one new area to be secured each year and for habitat development work to continue on all the sites in the programme. This is considered to be sufficient to develop the habitats required for this SMP.	the ARHCP generally allows ogramme. This is considered to	for one new area to be sect	ured each year and for habinabitats required for this SMP	tat developm
Risks/mitigation of overall delivery	Importance (state whether the risk is high medium or low importance)	Risk Description (Describe what the potential risk is and how it could impact deliver of the	Counter measure (Describe what action will be taken to stop this risk becoming an issue)	Owner (who is in charge of ensuring this risk does not become an issue)	Comments (Add any comments relating to the progress of mitigating this risk)
		habitat)			
	Medium	Insufficient resources available to the ARHCP	Ensure national and regional funding is sufficient to meet the need	Paul Miller	Sufficient funding to date but potential for future shortfalls due to spending cuts
	Low	Monitoring of future habitat losses is insufficient to fully inform ARHCP	Ensure monitoring programme is fully implemented	Jim Hutchison	
	Low	Failure of RHCP to take account of results of monitoring and future review of SMP polices	Annual review of ARHCP to fully incorporate outputs of monitoring and review	Paul Miller	Annual review process is in place
	High	Failure to secure enough sites to compensate for loss of coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitats	Devote appropriate resource to locating, securing and developing sufficient sites	Paul Miller	Search for suitable sites for epochs 1 and 2 underway

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Site level risks and mitigation	Site	Likelihood of site delivery within required timescale	Importance (state whether the risk is high medium or low importance)	Risk Description (Describe what the potential risk is and how it could impact deliver of the RHCP compensatory habitat)	Counter measure (Describe what action will be taken to stop this risk becoming an issue)	Owner (who is in charge of ensuring this risk does not become an issue)
	Wallasea Island Wild Coast Phase 1	High	Low	Crossrail project fails to deliver infill, thus preventing the realignment from taking place	Legal agreements in place. Crossrail Project has Government approval and funding.	RSPB
	Devereux Farm	High	Low	Failure of completed site to develop as required	Saltmarsh is beginning to colonise the site	Paul Miller
	Hillhouse Farm	Low	High	Secure site for managed realignment project	Ensure funding is made available	Paul Miller
			Medium	Obtain planning and consents	Appropriate effort in project development and consultation	Paul Miller
			High	Failure to create compensation habitats to maintain populations of bird species affected by the loss of existing SPA/ramsar grazing marsh habitat	Identify and secure location for creation of sufficient grazing marsh compensation habitat through the ARHCP	Paul Miller

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#### Part F

#### Procedures in place to review the RHCP and monitor losses

In view of the uncertainties about future climate change and processes affecting shoreline evolution, and also because Government policy changes over time, SMPs are reviewed approximately every 10 years. Hence it is envisaged that there will be two reviews of the Essex and South Suffolk SMP prior to the end of Epoch 1.

Compensation needs will be reviewed to take account of the changes to the SMP in future. The long term habitat requirements (i.e. beyond Epoch 1) are sufficiently uncertain at this stage that assessment of risks in achieving them has necessarily to be at a high level. However, a more detailed assessment of risks is possible for Epoch 1.

The RHCP will report back to Defra annually (by the end of the financial year) on the progress of the RHCP in delivering the habitat creation requirements of the SMP. This annual report will confirm:

- how much compensation habitat was required.
- how much we expected to create in that year,
- 3. how much was actually created,
- whether there is a short-fall/exceedance
- how we plan to deal with any shortfall (if required).

#### Part G

#### Statement of agreed understanding/conclusions

The SMP2 identifies potential for loss of intertidal habitats in all epochs due to coastal squeeze, causing adverse effect on Natura 2000 and Ramsar features. Based on historic rates of loss, it is estimated that 50 ha of saltmarsh will be lost from the Essex Estuaries SAC during epoch 1. Projects currently in progress within the ARHCP will provide 78 ha of intertidal habitat to compensate for this loss.

The realignment at Hillhouse Farm on the Orwell Estuary will also result in adverse effect on SPA/Ramsar bird populations due to loss of 50 ha of coastal grazing marsh during Epoch 1. This project will not be taken forward until adequate compensation measures are in place to maintain populations of the qualifying species that would be affected.

Compensation needs for epochs 2 and 3 (beyond 2025) are not yet known. Coastal squeeze impacts will be reassessed in the light of observed habitat loss and sea level rise. Loss of coastal grazing marsh and associated wetland habitats will be identified and assessed at scheme design stage when managed realignments are implemented. However, a search for suitable potential sites for coastal grazing marsh habitat creation is underway. It is Government policy to review SMPs every ten years. The ARHCP undertakes an annual review of habitat creation requirements. The outcome of monitoring, future SMP reviews and other relevant documents such as estuary and coastal flood risk management strategies will be taken into account in these annual reviews. Any changes to the estimated timing and quantity of habitat losses will be incorporated into the ARHCP programme annually.

For Shoreline Management Plans (SMP), it is not necessary for all of the anticipated compensatory habitats to be in place at the time that this SMP is approved. However, it is essential that the ARHCP provides the required compensation habitat before any damage is likely to occur, through implementation of the SMP, otherwise schemes and projects will be unable to proceed and the SMP cannot be implemented.

Part F Sign-off

RHCP Manager

SMP Review Group

Régional Director

January 2012

16/1/12

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