



**North Essex Section 1 Plan
Examination**

**MATTER 1: Habitats Regulation Assessment
(Questions 4 (a) and 6)**

Written Statement

December 2019

4. Does the HRA take adequate account of the implications for European sites of the Section 1 Plan in respect of:

Anglian Water is the water undertaker for the majority of Braintree and Colchester Borough administrative areas. We are also the sewerage undertaker for the whole of the North Essex plan area. The following comments relate to the Anglian Water company area only.

(a) water use and waste water?

Anglian Water has not sought any changes to the updated Habitats Regulation Assessment report in respect of water use and waste water.

6. Would the policies of the Section 1 Plan (including if necessary the relevant amendments suggested by the NEAs) provide sufficient certainty that the necessary mitigation measures will be implemented in order to ensure that the Section 1 Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) would not adversely affect the integrity of any European site?

Anglian Water is responsible for preparing as part of a statutory process a Water Resources Management plan (WRMP) at least once every 5 years and reviewed continuously. This document outlines how we will manage the supply/demand balance so that we can continue to serve our customers now and in the future in respect of population growth, climate change and environmental protection.

Our Revised Draft WRMP¹ was published in 2019 has recently been approved by Defra and the final version is expected to be published shortly. The Revised Draft WRMP is supported by a Habitats Regulation Assessment screening report and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment.

The HRA Screening Report prepared for Anglian Water concluded that there would be no adverse impacts from the options for South Essex Water Resource Zone in combination with other plans.

The updated HRA report (document EB/083) concludes that the North Essex Local Plan will not result in adverse impacts on Natura 2000 as a result of changes in water quality either alone or in combination due to the ability to address wastewater treatment capacity issues prior to development.

Anglian Water as sewerage undertaker is responsible for funding any required investment to ensure that capacity is made available at water recycling centres in time to serve development in our company area. To inform Anglian Water's Business Plan for 2020 to 2025 we have prepared a Water Recycling Long Term Plan (WRLTP)² which outlines the

¹ Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/draft-water-resources-management-plan/>

² Water Recycling Long Term Plan (September 2018)
<https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/about-us/our-strategies-and-plans/water-recycling-long-term-plan/>

planned investment at both existing water recycling centres and sewerage network to accommodate development to 2045.

Anglian Water has agreed an addendum to the earlier Statement of Common Ground with the North Essex Authorities which sets out agreed changes to the North Essex Section 1 Local Plan including policies SP5, SP7, SP8, SP9 and SP10 as proposed to be amended. The proposed changes would address our previous concerns relating to the effectiveness of the wording of these policies as modified.

We consider that the wording of the above policies as amended would provide an appropriate policy framework to ensure that additional foul flows from new development proposals in the North Essex Local Plan area do not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant European sites as a result of water quality.