

# Maintaining the coherence of the Natura 2000 (N2K) network along the English & Welsh coast

- Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) are non-statutory plans used for coastal management planning by the Environment Agency and local Councils to manage the impact of coastal change.
- 22 SMPs exist for the entire coastline of England and Wales.
- Each SMP sets out a strategy for management for their stretch of coastline.
- The impacts of the preferred strategy on N2K sites are evaluated through Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs).



# When a SMP has an adverse impact on a N2K site:

*When the HRA of a SMP concludes an adverse impact on a N2K site compensatory habitat is required to be created in advance of the predicted loss.*

- All 22 SMPs in England and Wales require compensatory habitat.
- The HRAs concluded for the 3 SMPs that cover the East Anglian coast the following compensatory habitat was required to be created by 2025:



East Anglia has shingle beaches protecting freshwater habitats.



Tidal inundation at Dunwich to Walberswick , Suffolk

County	Predicted loss of Grazing marsh (ha)	Predicted loss of Reedbed (ha)	Predicted loss of Intertidal (ha)
Norfolk	-	40	-
Suffolk	23	172	130
Essex	-	-	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>130</b>

The Essex coastline is the longest of any English county, over 350 miles in length. There is saltmarsh and mudflat being squeezed out between the sea defences and rising sea levels.

# Managing the losses and gains of N2K habitat:

Habitat Creation Team has been in existence for over 12 years.  
Principles of habitat creation:

- What habitat is needed?
- Where is it possible? (GIS)
- New habitat is designed for the N2K features
- Work with willing landowners
- Partnerships with conservation organisations are established for each habitat creation site
- Manage relationships and reputation!

Site	Year	Area (ha)	Losses	Gains	Net Change	Notes
1	2005	100	50	50	0	Initial site assessment
2	2006	120	60	60	0	Site preparation
3	2007	150	75	75	0	Planting and monitoring
4	2008	180	90	90	0	Establishment phase
5	2009	200	100	100	0	Final site assessment
6	2010	220	110	110	0	Long-term monitoring
7	2011	250	125	125	0	Site closure
8	2012	280	140	140	0	Final evaluation
9	2013	300	150	150	0	Summary report
10	2014	320	160	160	0	Final site status
11	2015	350	175	175	0	Overall project review
12	2016	380	190	190	0	Final report
13	2017	400	200	200	0	Project completion
14	2018	420	210	210	0	Final site visit
15	2019	450	225	225	0	Final assessment
16	2020	480	240	240	0	Final report
17	2021	500	250	250	0	Final site status
18	2022	520	260	260	0	Final evaluation
19	2023	550	275	275	0	Final report
20	2024	580	290	290	0	Final site visit
21	2025	600	300	300	0	Final assessment
22	2026	620	310	310	0	Final report
23	2027	650	325	325	0	Final site status
24	2028	680	340	340	0	Final evaluation
25	2029	700	350	350	0	Final report
26	2030	720	360	360	0	Final site visit
27	2031	750	375	375	0	Final assessment
28	2032	780	390	390	0	Final report
29	2033	800	400	400	0	Final site status
30	2034	820	410	410	0	Final evaluation
31	2035	850	425	425	0	Final report
32	2036	880	440	440	0	Final site visit
33	2037	900	450	450	0	Final assessment
34	2038	920	460	460	0	Final report
35	2039	950	475	475	0	Final site status
36	2040	980	490	490	0	Final evaluation
37	2041	1000	500	500	0	Final report

Habitat gains and losses account.



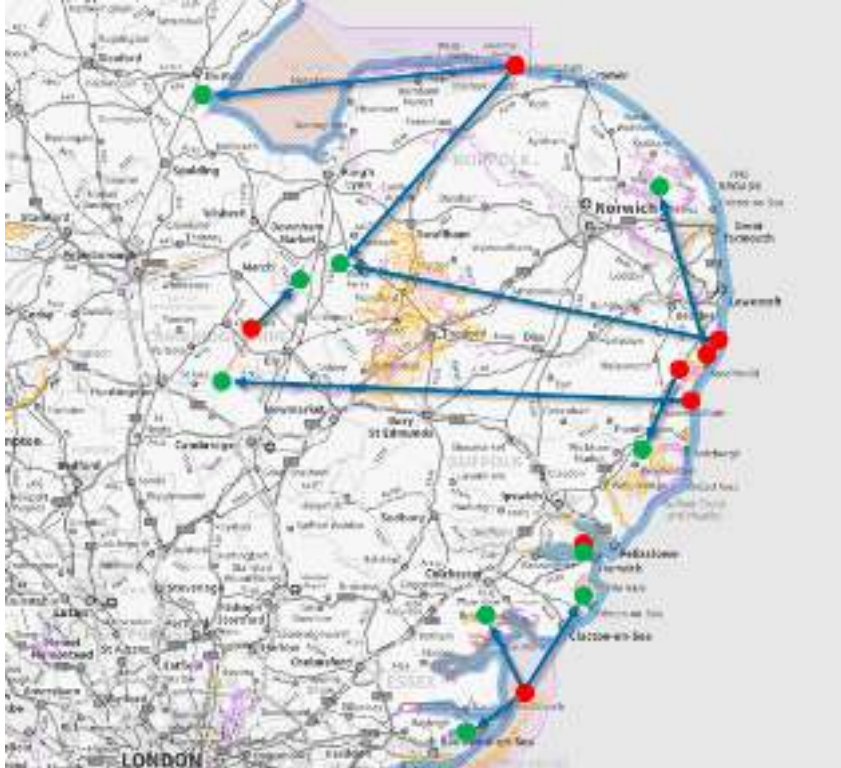
Wallasea Island, Essex. Before and after the creation of 155ha of new intertidal habitat. Partnership with the RSPB.



# Managing the losses and gains of N2K habitat in East Anglia:

The Habitat Creation Team have created the following habitats to meet N2K compensatory habitat requirements up to 2025:

- 192ha of new intertidal habitat
- 253ha of reedbed and
- 130ha of grazing marsh



Beginning of reedbed creation at Methwold, Norfolk



Grazing marsh creation at Frampton in Lincolnshire

