

Natural England's recommended amendments to the Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Strategy

The amendments below were incorporated into the final Strategy (March 2019):

Section	Natural England amendment
General	Correction of minor errors
Fig 1	Amend map to include Hamford Water SAC
Para 1.22	... Unless adequately managed, this creates a potential for conflict between recreational activities and the conservation of internationally important assemblages of birds and their habitats.
2.11	The majority of the HRAs, incorporating 'Appropriate Assessment', produced by Essex LPAs as part of the production of their respective Local Plans identified that the level of planned housing growth may lead to disturbance of birds in coastal SPAs <u>Habitats sites</u> within and beyond each individual LPA boundary.
4.15	Visitor survey work was undertaken to inform the Strategy, with the aim of gathering information on the number of visitors expected at protected coastal <u>Habitats sites</u> and evidence the distances visitors to the sites will travel to access coastal locations for recreation purposes. ...
4.35	...Therefore, <u>these visitors were removed from the dataset used to calculate the ZOI distance was reduced. Without refinement this as their inclusion would have increased the ZOI which would have</u> and affected the credibility of the data.
4.38	4.38 The ZOIs identify the distance within which new residents are likely to travel to the Essex coast <u>Habitats sites</u> for recreation...
6.8	Deleted – duplicated para 7.1
7.8-7.10	Amend this section to explain that use of the 'Bird Aware' brand would not mean that the entire focus of the RAMS would shift to protecting birds only.
8.2	This has been developed through identifying best practice measures <u>and gathering local nature conservation practitioner expertise</u> , from a new dedicated staff resource to focussing on awareness raising and appropriate behaviour with a wide range of recreational user groups at <u>Habitats sites</u> ...
9.7	Any future decrease (or increase) in bird populations cannot be the only measure of RAMS success <u>in this respect</u> as the effects could not be attributed solely to the implementation of the RAMS...
10.7	The RAMS will be deemed successful if the level of bird <u>and habitat</u> disturbance is not increased despite an increase in population and the number of recreational visitors to the coastal sites...