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# **Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley Project Area**

## **State of the AONB Report 2018**

Prepared by LUC for Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area  
March 2019



**DEDHAM VALE**  
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY  
& STOUR VALLEY



**Project Title:** Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

**Client:** Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB team and Combined Joint Advisory Committee

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# **Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Stour Valley Project Area**

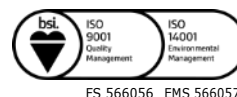
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# Executive summary

This State of the AONB Report was commissioned by the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team and Combined Joint Advisory Committee to provide evidence on the current status of a number of indicators relating to the state of the protected landscape.

The purpose of the report is to provide a compilation of information from various data sources which can form a baseline against which to monitor future change, identify current and potential forces for change in the landscape, make informed recommendations for monitoring and management and form a robust evidence base to inform and underpin Management Plan Policies.

The three main stages of the work were as follows:

- Stage 1: Identify suitable indicators
- Stage 2: Data collection and collation
- Stage 3: Analysis and presentation of the data

The headline findings of the report include:

- There have been significant increases in tourism revenue within the AONB in recent years, with the value of tourism calculated at over £62 million in 2017.
- Changes to the agricultural landscape character of the AONB have been minor in recent years, although changes to agri-environment schemes following Brexit will be a key force for change in the future.
- The AONB is characterised by low levels of light pollution and dark night skies.
- BAP Priority Habitats cover 23% of the AONB and 8.6% of the Stour Valley Project Area.
- The on-going Glover Review may result in changes to how protected landscape bodies are funded and managed which could in turn impact on the management of the landscape.
- The population of the AONB is ageing, which may have implications for land management (e.g. retiring farmers) and the provision of services in the AONB.
- The majority of visitors to the AONB travel via private car.
- Pressure for development was highlighted as the most significant issue in the AONB by survey respondents.

The report also highlights gaps in monitoring data and provides recommendations with how these issues may be addressed over the Management Plan period. Key recommendations include:

- Monitor the amount of land managed as part of agri-environment schemes to analyse changes following Brexit.
- Collect detailed data on planning applications within the AONB, including approval rates and the type of planning application.
- Monitor the condition of semi-natural habitats to provide evidence on the impact of forces for change such as increased levels of recreation activity.
- Monitor the condition of heritage features to provide evidence on whether current management practices are adequate.
- Gather more data on modes of transport to the AONB and introduce measures to increase accessibility of the protected landscape to deprived communities for health and wellbeing benefits.



# 1 Introduction





# 1 Introduction

## Dedham Vale AONB: A nationally important landscape

- 1.1 Dedham Vale AONB is a quintessential lowland landscape which follows the River Stour inland from Manningtree on the Suffolk-Essex border. The AONB covers an area of 90 km<sup>2</sup> and was designated in 1970. This rural landscape has preserved its 'unspoilt rural character' and remains 'remarkably free from development' (AONB Management Plan 2016-2021). This landscape is famously recognised from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century works of the painter John Constable, which remain notable in the present day.
- 1.2 Dedham Vale comprises the small-scale undulating valley of the Stour and its tributaries including the River Box and Brett and other smaller watercourses. Most of the land in Dedham Vale is agricultural, with the majority of land used for arable cropping. Fields are generally small-scale and laid out in an irregular medieval pattern and marked by ancient, species-rich hedgerows. Woodland is scattered throughout the area, with most of the woodland is located on the valley slopes. The valley supports important habitats including wet meadows and floodplains.
- 1.3 The extent of Dedham Vale AONB can be seen in **Figure 1.1**, while the aerial context is shown in **Figure 1.2**.

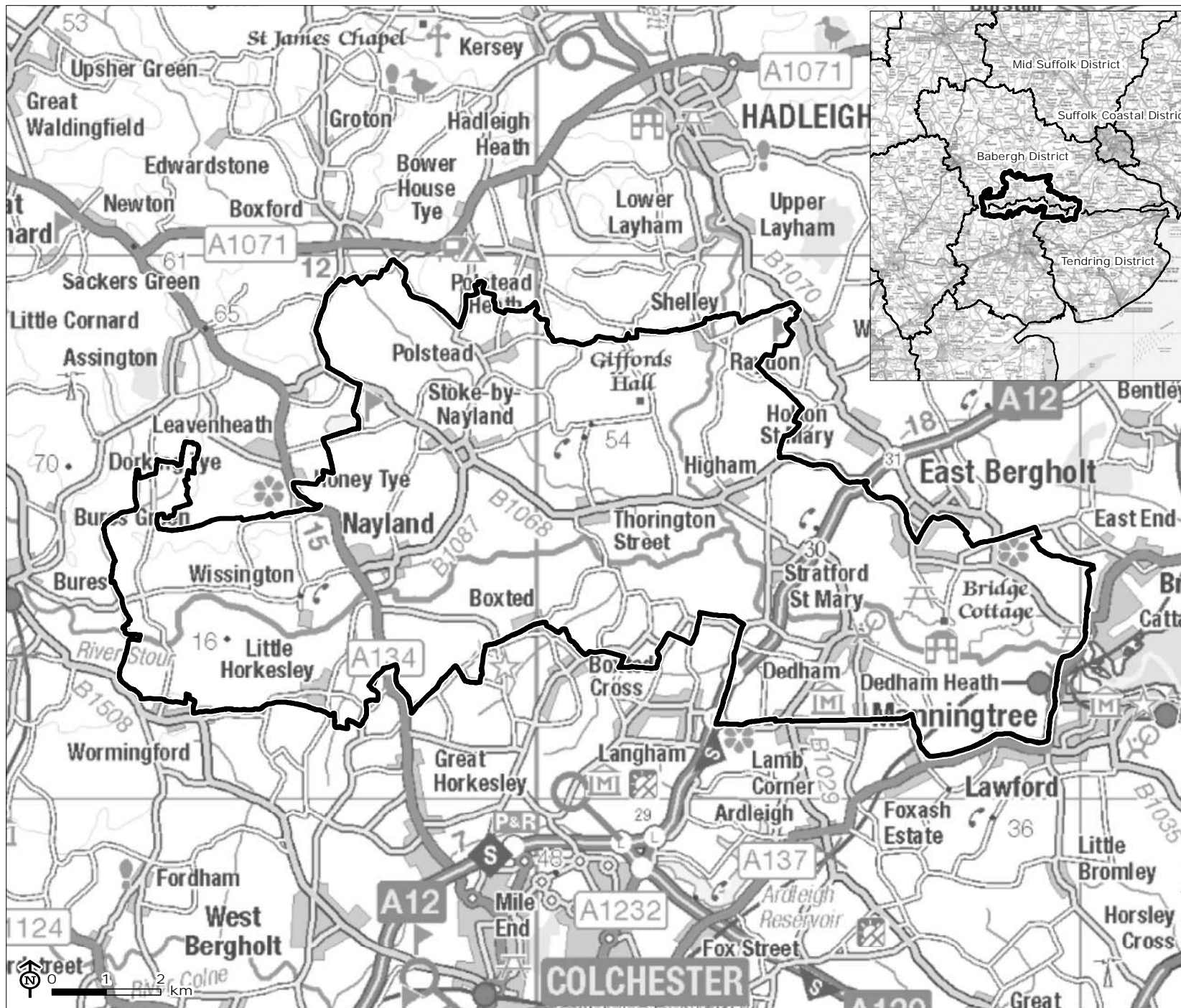
### The Stour Valley Project Area

- 1.4 Upstream from Dedham Vale AONB (between Bures and Great Bradley) is an additional 302 km<sup>2</sup> of land which has similar picturesque landscape qualities to Dedham Vale. This area is known as the Stour Valley Project Area and also receives 'AONB services' and management. Although in some areas the landscape here has been slightly altered by settlement growth and agricultural expansion, it has not fundamentally changed and still retains historic rural characteristics. The Stour Valley Project Area resembles Dedham Vale with similar gently undulating river valley topography, medieval settlement pattern and rural characteristics.
- 1.5 The Stour Valley Project Area has been subject to a number of enhancement schemes in which the AONB and the Environment Agency have worked together in partnership. For example, since 2012 the two organisations have been working to improve the ecological status of the River Stour and its tributaries to meet Water Framework Directive targets. The project aims to strike a balance between protecting the diverse wildlife living in and around the River Stour and its tributaries while also providing access for people to enjoy the landscape. Other projects included a large scale habitat restoration project which aimed to improve the spawning habitat for fish, the connectivity of flood plain and the diversity of the river channel. In 2016, 500 trees were planted within the Stour Valley Project Area. The Project has also undertaken management and enhancement for the benefit of otters, bats and black poplar.
- 1.6 The extent of the Stour Valley Project Area can be seen in **Figure 1.3**, while the aerial context is shown in **Figure 1.4**.

## Purpose of the State of the AONB Report

- 1.7 The State of the AONB Report aims to provide an important evidence baseline for the AONB and associated Stour Valley Project Area, comprised of information from various available data sources. Recommendations for future monitoring are made using a repeatable methodology to producing standardised monitoring data. From this extensive range of datasets, future State of the AONB Reports will be able to identify and explore trends and changes within the AONB and Stour Valley Project Area.
- 1.8 The statutory AONB Management Plan (which also includes the non-designated Stour Valley Project Area) explains the strategy for the future conservation and enhancement of the AONB and is reviewed on a five-yearly basis. This State of the AONB Report can be used to help inform the Management Plan and help provide a long term vision for the AONB and Stour Valley Project Area.





Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 1.1: Location and Extent of Dedham Vale AONB

Dedham Vale AONB

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000





Figure 1.2: Aerial Context  
of Dedham Vale AONB

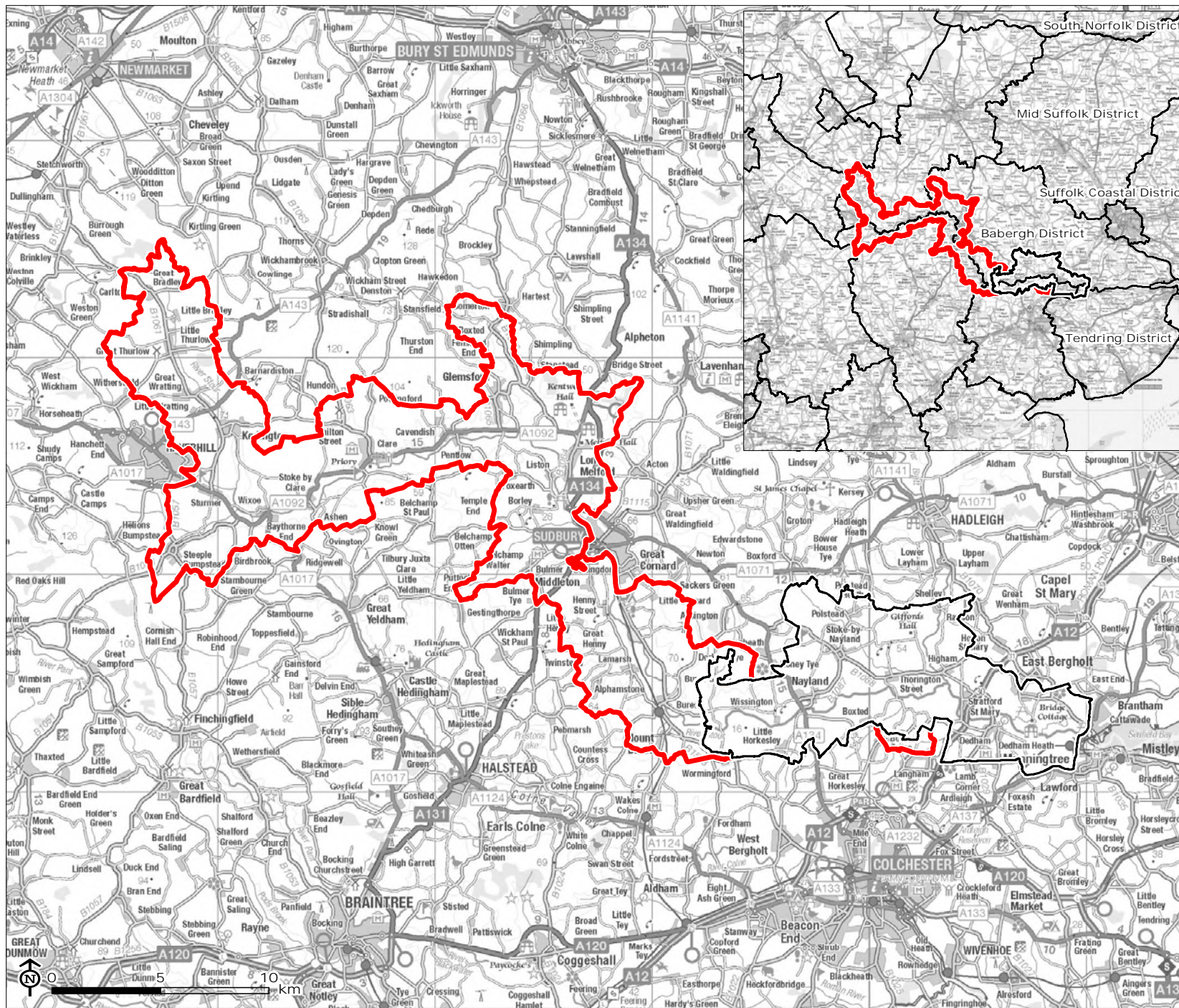
 Dedham Vale AONB

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000







# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 1.3: Location and extent of the Stour Valley Project Area

- ▬ Stour Valley Project Area
- ▬ Dedham Vale AONB

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





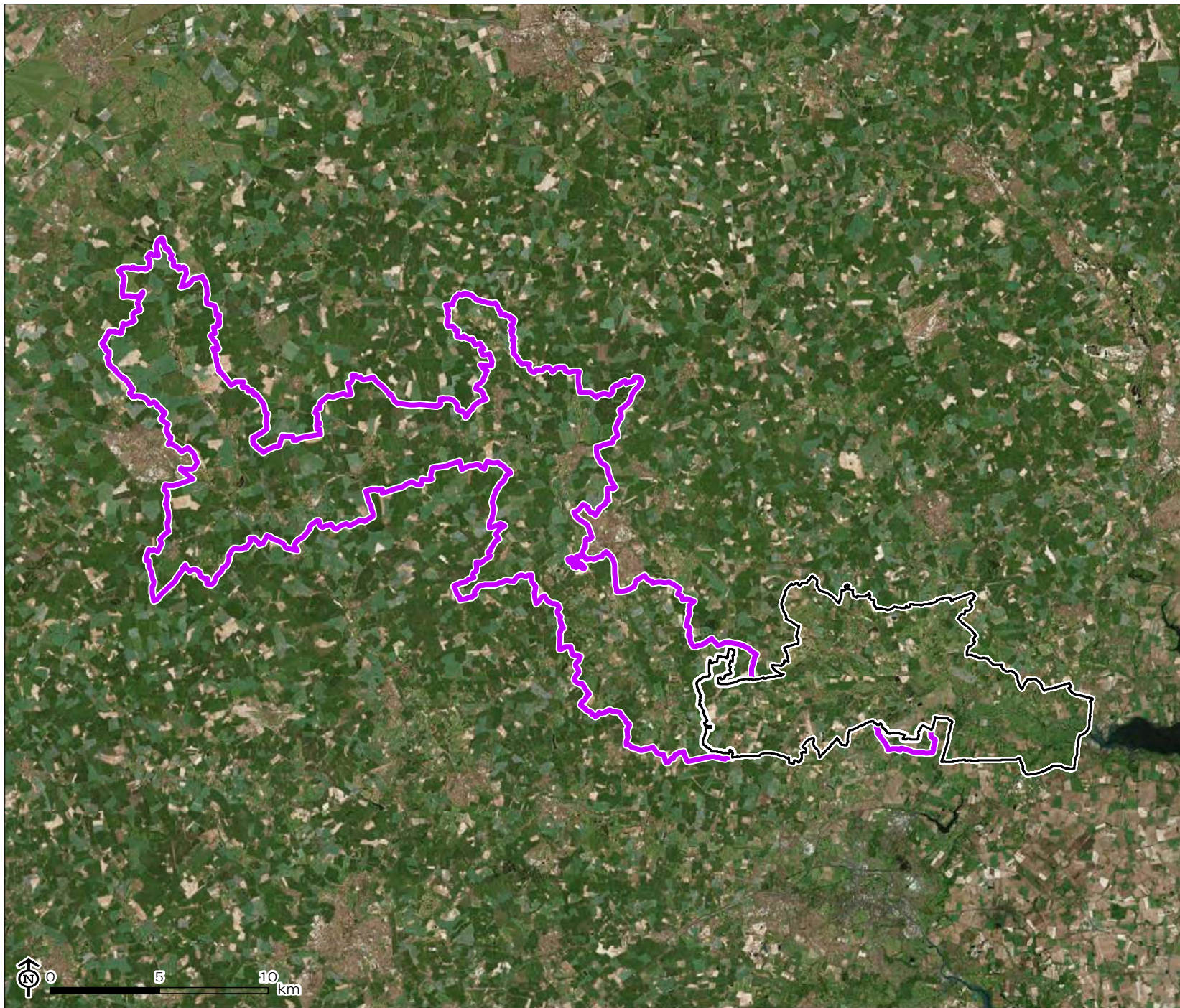




Figure 1.4: Aerial Location  
of the Stour Valley Project  
Area

-  Stour Valley Project Area
-  Dedham Vale AONB

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000



## Structure of this report

1.9 This report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2** sets out the methodology used to produce the report.
- **Chapter 3** sets out the indicators for the landscape theme, including the following sub-themes:
  - Landscape character context;
  - Agricultural landscape character;
  - Woodland cover and management;
  - Settlement and planning; and
  - Visual and perceptual qualities.
- **Chapter 4** sets out the indicators for the biodiversity and geodiversity theme, including the following sub-themes:
  - Biodiversity; and
  - Geodiversity.
- **Chapter 5** sets out the indicators for the historic environment theme.
- **Chapter 6** sets out the indicators for the visitor management theme.
- **Chapter 7** sets out the indicators for the people and socio-economic profile theme.
- **Chapter 8** sets out the summary headlines from each chapter and also outlines the next steps for monitoring within the AONB.



## 2 Method





## 2 Method

### Stage 1: Identifying monitoring indicators

- 2.1 The State of the AONB report commenced with the collation of all available and up-to-date datasets, including information from the Management Plan, national character areas, publications from Defra and Natural England<sup>1</sup> and other sources. These datasets were used as the framework for informing the indicators for each section of the report.
- 2.2 Data with the greatest likelihood of being updated on a regular basis was sought to underpin each indicator, to ensure potential future comparison. Indicators were always selected using the most recent available data to ensure their currency.

### Stage 2: Obtaining and processing available data and information

- 2.3 This stage of the method involved compiling the relevant data from various sources. A variety of GIS data, documents and survey data has been used to inform the reporting. The datasets used are referenced at the end of each theme section. The datasets used are referenced at the end of each theme section. It should be noted that some of the datasets used provide information for the Dedham Vale AONB only and do not include the Stour Valley Project Area.
- 2.4 The State of the AONB Report identifies current baselines for future activity to be compared to. This will allow easy comparison and therefore identification of trends, as well as the exploration of reasons behind these changes in future reports. Where possible, data from past studies was incorporated into the report, to allow comparison and look at changes within the AONB. Differences within methodologies in comparative datasets are identified where present to ensure changes are not misinterpreted.
- 2.5 It is important to note that where 2011 Census data (or other ONS datasets) has been used, the proportion of each census area (Middle Output Area, Lower Super Output Area or Output Area) within the AONB has been calculated and used to give approximate figures for an indicator. For example, if a Census Output Area has 25% of its area within the AONB, the data figures have been multiplied by 0.25 to approximate the figure for the AONB only.
- 2.6 The majority of the data and information used in this report has been obtained from existing sources. The main exception to this is the Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs Survey undertaken in winter 2018-2019. This primary data collection exercise has fed directly into this report. The objective of this survey was to understand how local communities and AONB visitors use and value the AONBs and to explore perceived issues impacting on the AONBs. The survey provided an update of a previous survey undertaken in 2012.
- 2.7 The 2018/19 survey was undertaken entirely online, administered by LUC and hosted by SurveyMonkey. The survey comprised a total of 46 questions (for both AONBs), aimed at both residents and visitors to the Dedham Vale AONB.
- 2.8 A full list of the questions from the survey is included in **Appendix 1**. On average, the survey took respondents 15 minutes to complete.
- 2.9 The survey ran from the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, with a total of 286 respondents. It was promoted by the AONB and Councils through social media and email bulletins. The results of the survey are presented and analysed in Chapter 7.

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<sup>1</sup> Relevant information from Natural England includes the Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes (MEOPL) data which is distributed to protected landscapes on an annual basis at the time of this report.

## Stage 3: Analysis and reporting

- 2.10 Where possible in the report, data has been compared to historically available datasets to identify trends. Where possible, historic data was reviewed to enable comparison between current and past condition of features. To avoid misinterpretation of any changes when comparing data, any methodological differences in comparative datasets are identified where present. The results of the data analysis have been presented using maps and charts in addition to explanatory text.
- 2.11 The different indicators identified within the report were grouped into themed chapters. Several of the chapters comprise subthemes to logically present the relevant analyses:
- Landscape Character
    - Landscape Character
    - Agricultural landscape character
    - Woodland cover and management
    - Settlement
    - Planning and visual and perceptual qualities
  - Biodiversity and Geodiversity
    - Biodiversity designations
    - Species and habitats
    - Geodiversity designations
  - Historic Environment
  - Socio-economic Profile
- 2.12 For each indicator, the data has been presented for the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area separately.



3

# Landscape Character





## 3 Landscape Character

### Structure of this Chapter

- 3.1 Landscape character is influenced by a number of different components. It has therefore been split into a number of sub-themes as follows:
- Landscape character context
  - Agricultural landscape character
  - Woodland cover and management
  - Settlement and planning
  - Visual and perceptual qualities

### Landscape character context

#### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- National Character Area (NCA) coverage
- Landscape character context

#### Summary headlines

- Almost all of the AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area is within the National Character Area 86: South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland.
- The two county level landscape character assessments have large areas of overlap in Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area.
- Five local level landscape character assessments encompass parts of Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area.

#### Analysis of indicator: National Character Area context – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.2 The majority of the Dedham Vale AONB is within National Character Area (NCA) 86: South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland. Small areas in the south of the AONB are included within the Northern Thames Basin NCA and Suffolk Coast and Heaths NCA. The key characteristics of the South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland NCA are as follows:
- Undulating chalky boulder clay plateau, dissected by numerous river valleys;
  - Calcareous soil character due to fragments of chalk;
  - South-east flowing rivers and streams, which wind slowly along flood plains;
  - Lowland wood pasture and ancient woodlands;
  - Mostly arable agriculture with an irregular field pattern, although areas of pasture are present along river valleys;
  - Rich archaeological and historical associations and remnant features;
  - Dispersed small settlements;
  - Traditional timber framed buildings with colour-washed render and steeply pitched roofs;

- Winding lanes bounded by deep ditches and strong hedgerows; and
- A highly developed network of public rights of way.

#### Analysis of indicator: National Character Areas – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.1 The whole of the Stour Valley Project Area is in the National Character Area (NCA) 86: South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland.

#### Analysis of indicator: Landscape Character context – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.2 Dedham Vale AONB is covered by two separate county level Landscape Character Assessments; Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (2008, revised 2011) and Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2002). The Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the AONB are shown in **Figure 3.1**. Following the River Stour and its main tributaries the River Brett and River Box, the landscape is defined as *Valley Meadowlands*. These flat valley floor areas are made up of alluvium and peat soil types with grazed cattle meadows. Directly adjacent to and surrounding most areas of *Valley Meadowland* are areas of *Rolling Valley Farmlands*. *Rolling Valley Farmlands* are located on the sloping valley sides with a small scale field pattern. North of the River Stour there are areas of *Plateau Farmlands* and *Ancient rolling farmlands*.
- 3.3 As shown in **Figure 3.1**, the coverage of the Landscape Character Assessments overlaps in some areas, marked by hatching on the map.
- 3.4 Dedham Vale AONB is also covered by a number of local level Landscape Character Assessments, including:
- Tendring District Landscape Character Assessment (2001)
  - Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance (2015)
  - Colchester Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2005)
- 3.5 A simplified Landscape Character Assessment framework has been produced for the Dedham Vale AONB area only, as shown in **Figure 3.2**.

#### Analysis of indicator: Landscape Character context – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.6 The Stour Valley Project Area is also contained within both the Suffolk and Essex Landscape Character Assessments, shown in the map at **Figure 3.3**. The pattern of these LCTs mirrors Dedham Vale AONB, with the *Valley Meadowlands* LCT closest to the River Stour and *Rolling Valley Farmlands* and *Ancient Rolling Farmland* on the upper areas of the valley. There is also a considerable area of *Rolling Estate Farmlands* near Long Melford and in the north west of the Stour Valley Project Area. The north-western range of the Stour Valley Project Area is mostly categorised as *Undulating estate farmlands*. Very small areas of urban edge extend into the Stour Valley Project Area including small parts of Sudbury and Haverhill.
- 3.7 As shown in **Figure 3.3**, the coverage of the Landscape Character Assessments overlaps in some areas, marked by hatching on the map.
- 3.8 The Stour Valley Project Area is also covered by a number of local level Landscape Character Assessments, including:
- Landscape Character Assessment of Braintree District (2006)
  - Managing a Masterpiece: The Stour Valley Landscape Partnership Landscape Character Study
  - Colchester Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2005)
  - Joint Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Landscape Guidance (2015)



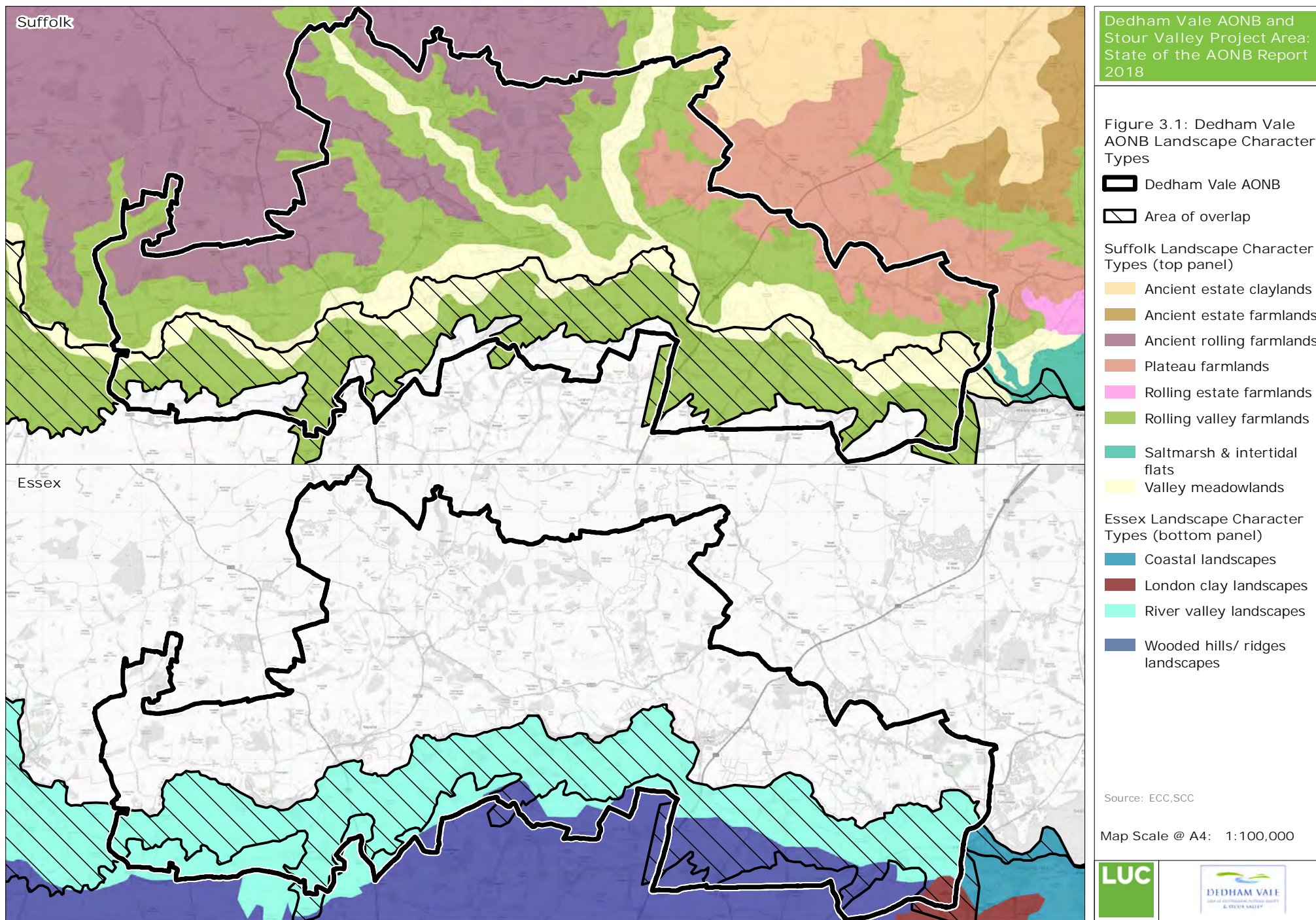
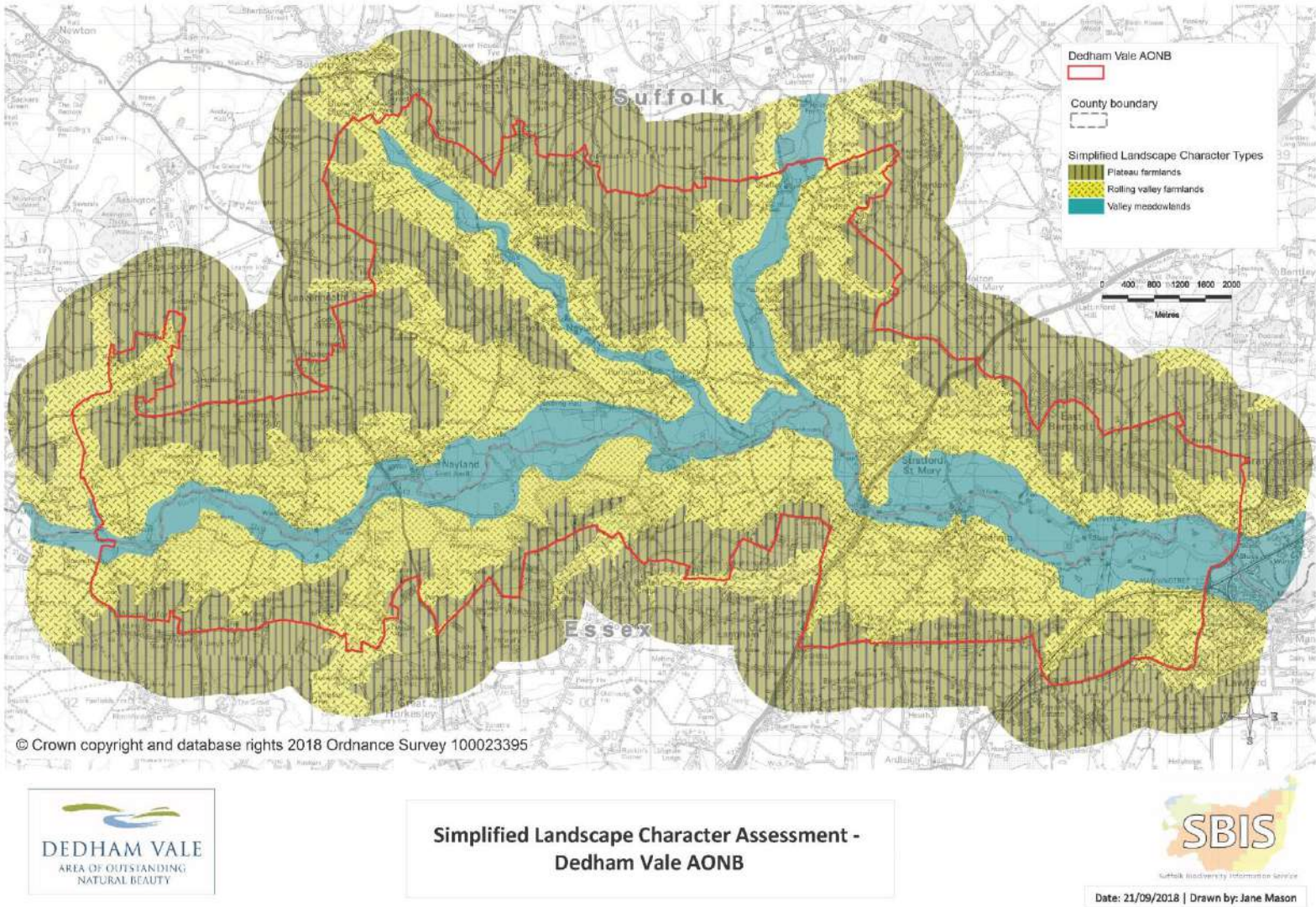
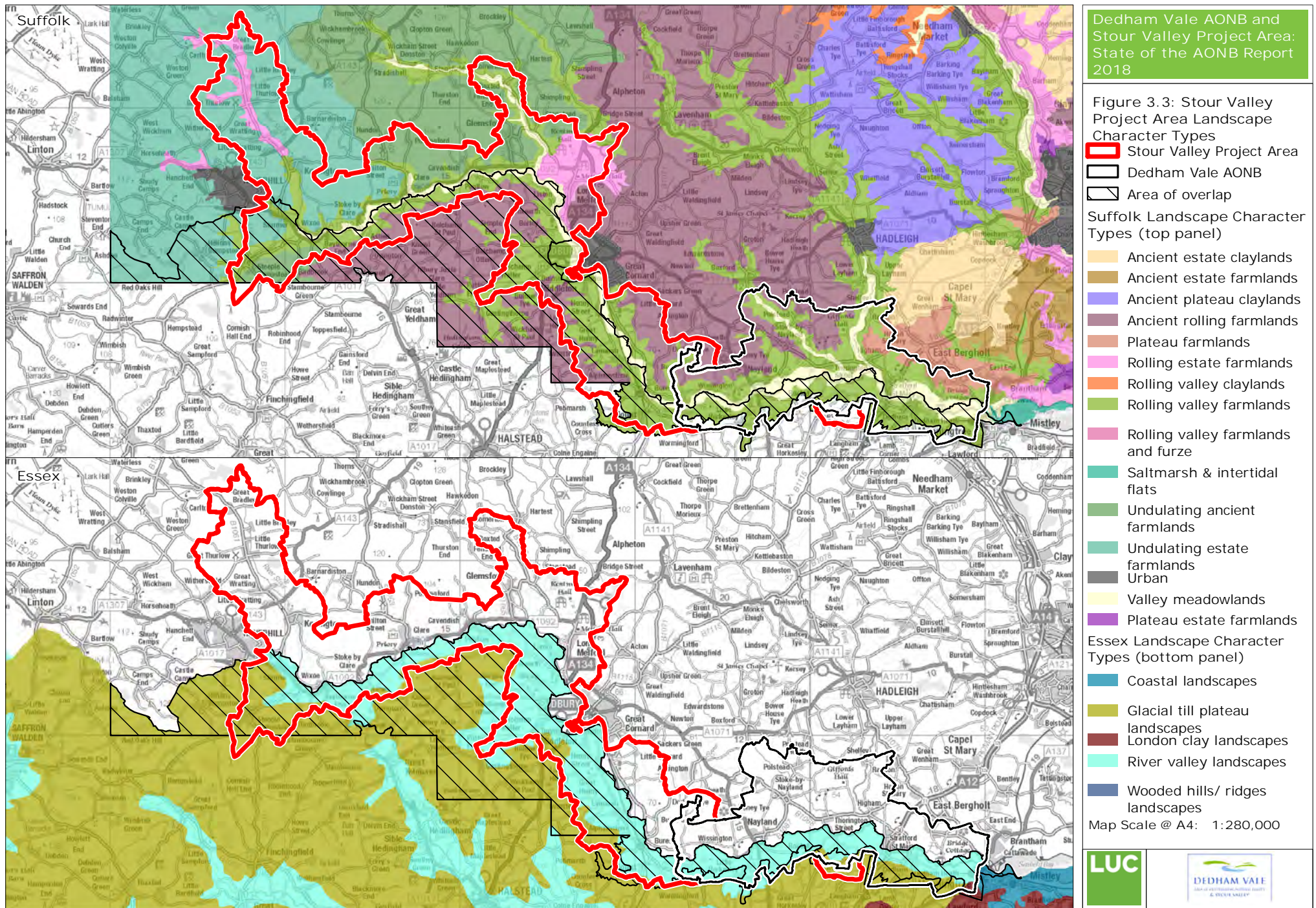




Figure 3.2 Simplified Landscape Character Assessment for Dedham Vale AONB









### Data sources

- Suffolk County Council Landscape Character Assessment (2008, revised 2011)
- Essex County Council Landscape Character Assessment (2002)
- National Character Area Profile 86: South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland
- National Character Area Profile 111: Northern Thames Basin
- National Character Area Profile 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths

### Recommendations

- The existing county level landscape evidence for the AONB overlaps in places, as indicated on **Figure 3.1** and **Figure 3.3**. The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should promote the recently completed simplified character assessment as an evidence base and ensure that the relationship between the character assessments undertaken at different spatial scales is clarified.
- The two indicators referred to in this sub-theme are primarily for contextual information and are unlikely to change significantly over the next five years.
- The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should consider implementing projects that can provide evidence on landscape character over time. Fixed point photography could be used to monitor key views over a period of years. It can also be used to monitor the impacts of various forces for change on the landscape over time, enabling the AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB to develop appropriate policies and actions to address forces for change in the landscape.
- Projects could be undertaken by volunteers, providing the local population an opportunity to engage with the management and monitoring of the AONB.

## Agricultural Landscape Character

### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.9 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Agricultural Landscape Character' sub-theme:
- Patterns of agricultural land use and farm types
  - Livestock numbers and types
  - Area of land under agri-environment schemes
- 3.10 Note that some of the data used to inform these indicators is available for the Dedham Vale AONB only and equivalent data for the Stour Valley is not available.

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- The most dominant agricultural land use within the AONB is crops and bare fallow (55.8% of AONB area). There are 36 farm holdings classified as general cropping in the AONB.
- Sheep are the most common livestock species in the AONB.
- The majority of agricultural land in the AONB is good quality, with 59.2% classified as Grade 3 and 37.2% classified as Grade 2 under the Agricultural Land Classification.
- 4,237 hectares (46.8%) of the AONB is managed under Environmental Stewardship and 254.6 hectares (2.6%) is managed under Countryside Stewardship.

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

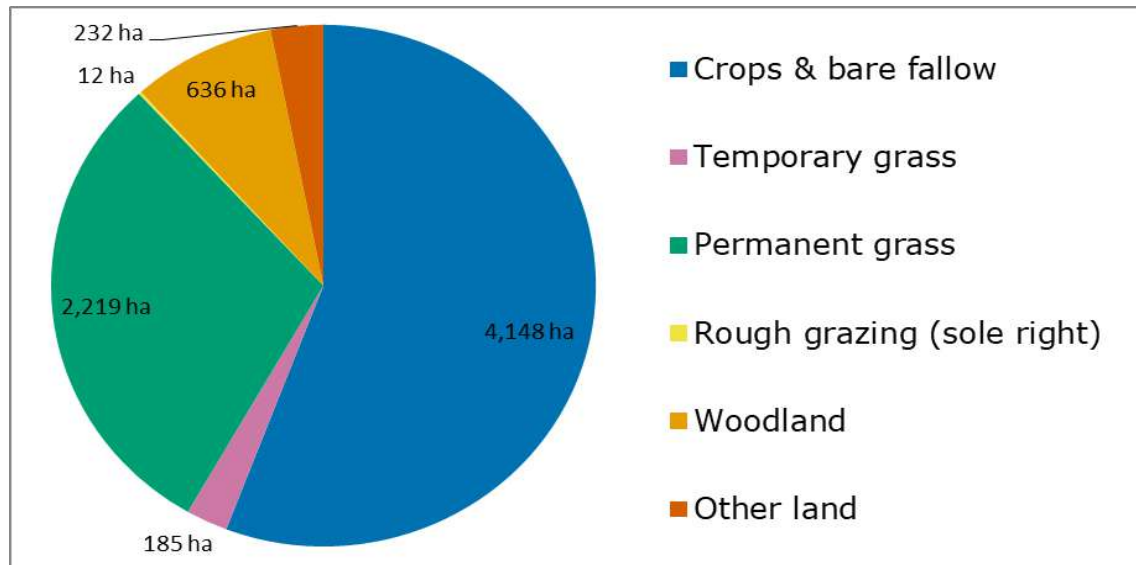
- The agricultural land in the Stour Valley Project Area is high quality, with 65.6% classified as Grade 2 under the Agricultural Land Classification.
- 3,954.6 hectares (18.7%) of the Stour Valley Project Area is managed under Environmental Stewardship. 2,089.4 hectares are managed via Countryside Stewardship.

### Analysis of indicator: Patterns of agricultural land use and farm types – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.11 More than half of the agricultural land (55.8% or 4,148 ha) within Dedham Vale AONB is used for crops and bare fallow. Permanent grass is also common agricultural land use, covering 29.9% or 2,219 ha of the AONB. **Figure 3.4** shows a breakdown of the land use types in the AONB.



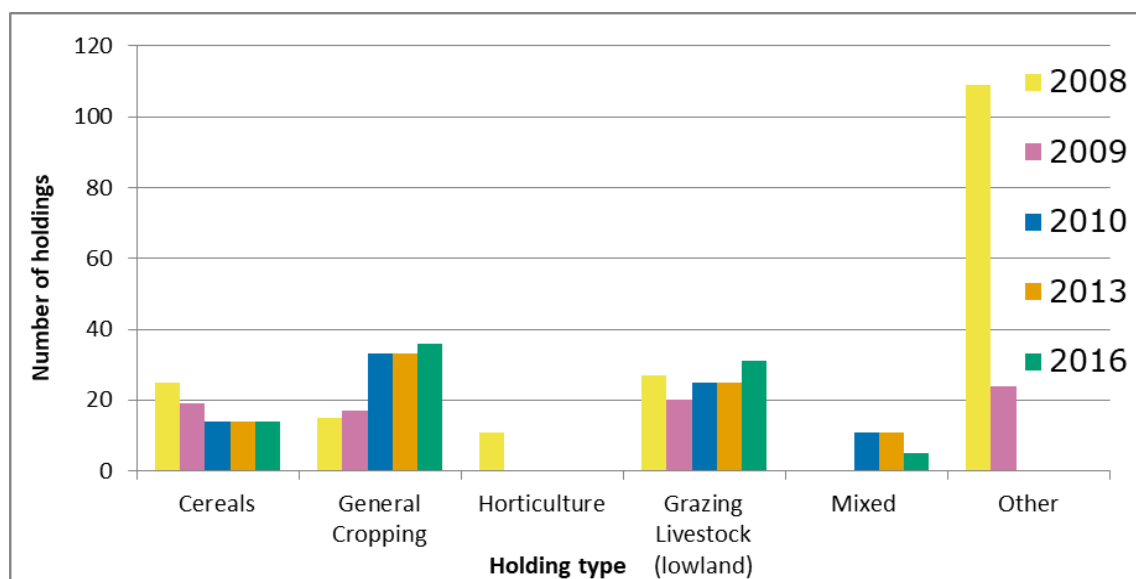
**Figure 3.4: Area of agricultural land use types within the AONB (ha)**



Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey (2016)

- 3.12 Between 2013 and 2016, the amount of agricultural land used for woodland reduced from 1,081 hectares to 636 hectares, a decrease of 41%.
- 3.13 The chart at **Figure 3.5** shows the number of farm holdings within each holding type from the Defra June Agricultural Survey. It must be noted that the Defra June Agricultural Survey methodology changed between 2008 and 2009. Previously the survey collected data on all agricultural holdings. The survey now only collects information on commercial agricultural holdings over a certain output/size. The altered methodology is likely to be the reason for the large decrease in total holdings between 2008 and 2009.
- 3.14 In 2016, the most common farm holding type was general cropping with a total of 36 individual holdings. Grazing livestock holdings (lowland) are the second most common farm holding type. There are 31 grazing livestock holdings (an increase from 24 in 2013). The number of cereal holdings (14 in 2016) has remained steady in recent years. Limited data has been given for horticultural, specialist pigs, specialist poultry, dairy or other holding types in some years (to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings). It is likely numbers of these types of holdings are low.

**Figure 3.5: Number of farm holdings for each farm type within the AONB**



Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey (2016). No information was given for other holding types (specialist pigs, specialist poultry, dairy and Grazing (LFA)) as information was suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings

### *Agricultural land classification*

- 3.15 Under the Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), the majority of agricultural land in Dedham Vale AONB is categorised as good agricultural quality. Over half (59.2%) of the land falls into the Grade 3 category, as shown in **Figure 3.6**. Grade 2 quality land is also widespread and comprises 37.2% of land cover. 3.5% of the land which is Grade 4 (poor quality). The remaining 0.3% is Grade 1 quality agricultural land, only located in the south eastern corner of the AONB.

### **Analysis of indicator: Patterns of agricultural land use and farm types – Stour Valley Project Area**








- 3.16 The majority (65.6%) of agricultural land in the Stour Valley Project Area is Grade 2 (very good agricultural quality). Grade 2 agricultural land is mostly distributed in the upstream section of the Stour Valley Project Area (west). The rest of the land is mainly classified as Grade 3 (31.9%) and a small amount is Grade 4 (1.4%), as can be seen in **Figure 3.7**. A small proportion of this area is non-agricultural or urban (2%).
- 3.17 Since the remainder of the data for this indicator is derived from information produced by Natural England for protected landscapes only, there is not equivalent data for the Stour Valley Project Area for farm holdings.

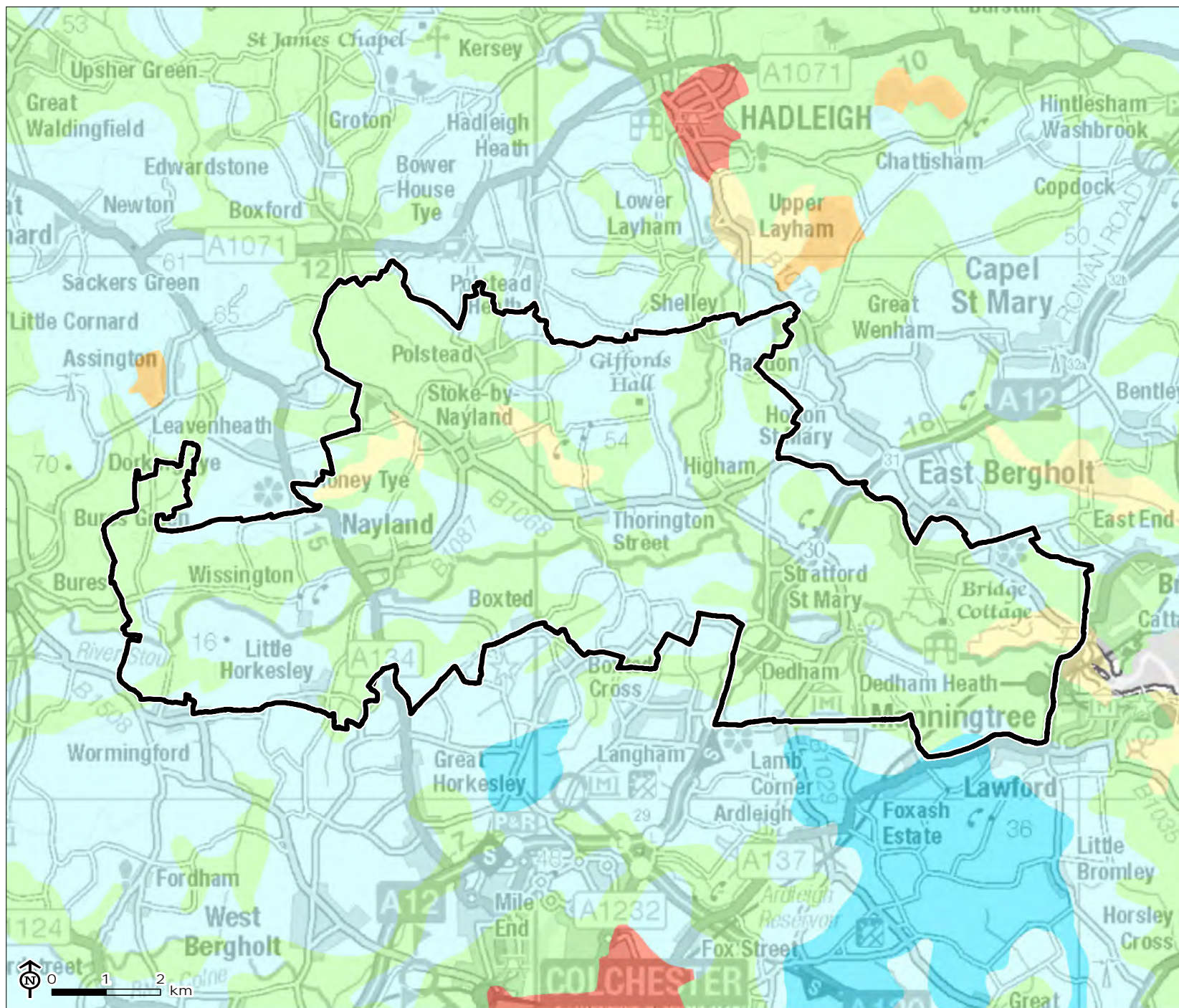


Figure 3.6: Dedham Vale AONB Agricultural Land Classification

 Dedham Vale AONB

Agricultural Land  
Classification

-  Grade 1
-  Grade 2
-  Grade 3
-  Grade 4
-  Grade 5
-  Non Agricultural
-  Urban



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000





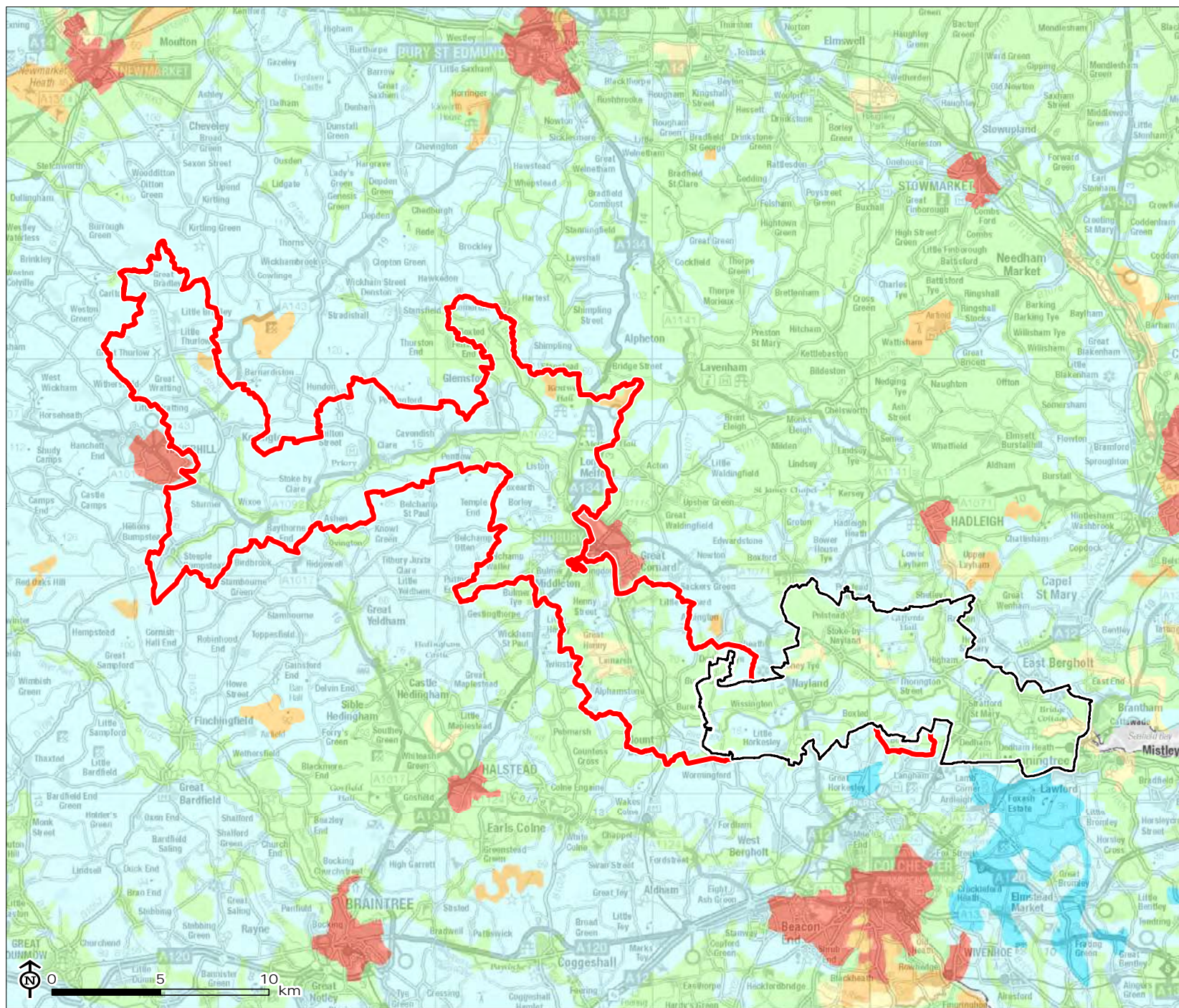
# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.7: Stour Valley Project Area Agricultural Land Classification

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB

## Agricultural Land Classification

- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5
- Non Agricultural
- Urban



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### Analysis of indicator: Livestock numbers and types – Dedham Vale AONB

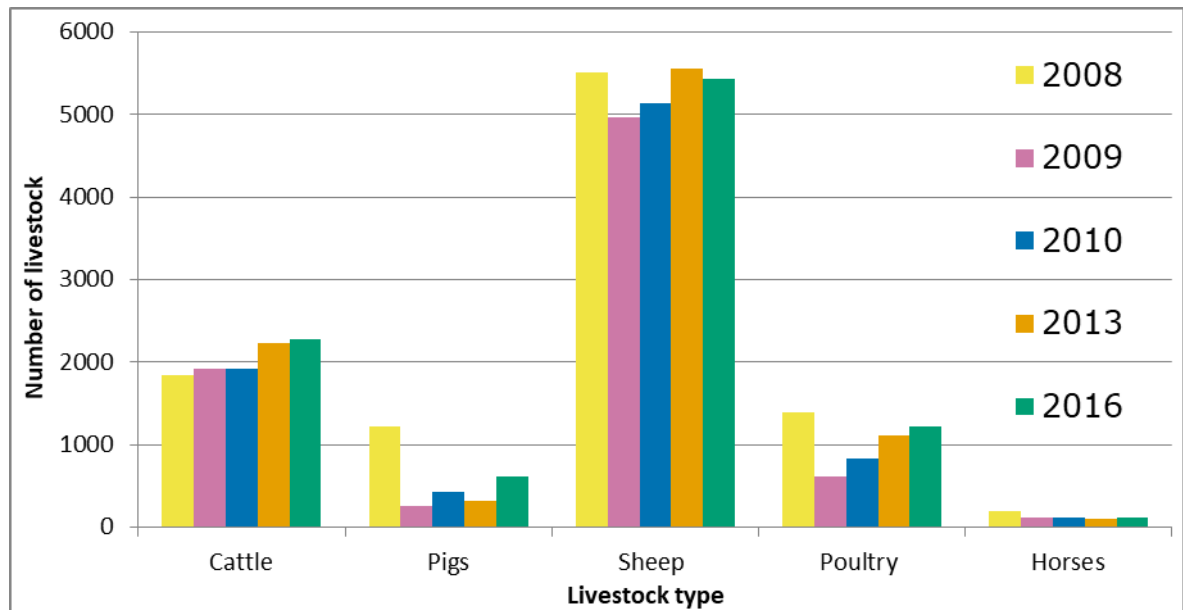
- 3.18 Sheep are the most common livestock species kept within the AONB (as shown in **Table 3.1** and **Figure 3.8**), comprising 56.2% of all livestock in 2016 (5,434 individuals). Cattle also comprise a significant proportion of the livestock; there were 2,283 cattle in the AONB in 2016.
- 3.19 The number of pigs and poultry both dropped dramatically from 2008 to 2009, although this is likely as a result of methodology changes to the Defra June Agricultural Survey (see paragraph 3.13). Numbers of horses are generally low, with fewer than 200 individuals throughout the period between 2008 and 2016.

**Table 3.1: Livestock types and numbers in the AONB (2008-2016)**

Livestock type	2008	2009	2010	2013	2016
Cattle	1,847	1,913	1,919	2,234	2,283
Pigs	1,213	256	431	317	609
Sheep	5,511	4,963	5,137	5,561	5,434
Poultry	1,398	617	828	1,116	1,224
Horses	187	121	120	105	112
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,156</b>	<b>7,870</b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>9,333</b>	<b>9,662</b>

Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey (2016). No information was given for goats, as information was suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

**Figure 3.8: Number of livestock within the AONB (2008 to 2016)**



Source: Defra June Agricultural Survey (2016). No information was given for goats, as information was suppressed to prevent disclosure of information about individual holdings.

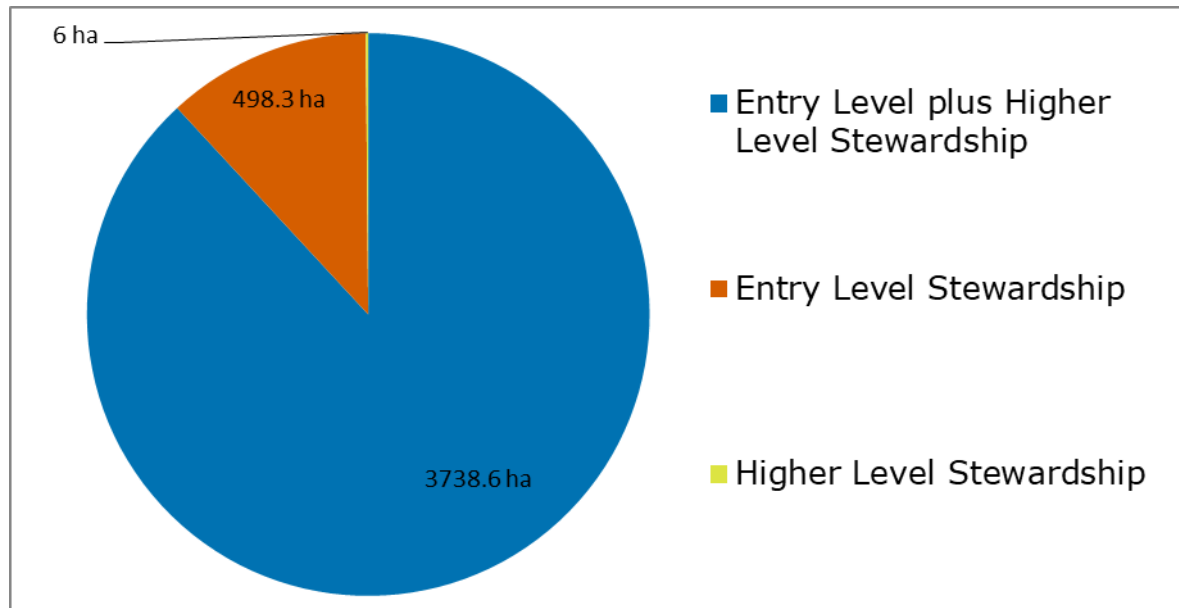
### Analysis of indicator: Livestock numbers and types – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.20 As the data for this indicator is derived from information prepared by Natural England for AONBs, equivalent data for the Stour Valley Project Area is not available.

### Analysis of indicator: Area of land under agri-environment schemes – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.21 A total of 4,237 hectares (46.8%) of the AONB is included in an Environmental Stewardship Scheme. The most common scheme type is Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship (88.4%), shown in blue in **Figure 3.9**. 11.5% of schemes are Entry Level Stewardship Schemes, while only 0.1% are Higher Level Stewardship schemes.

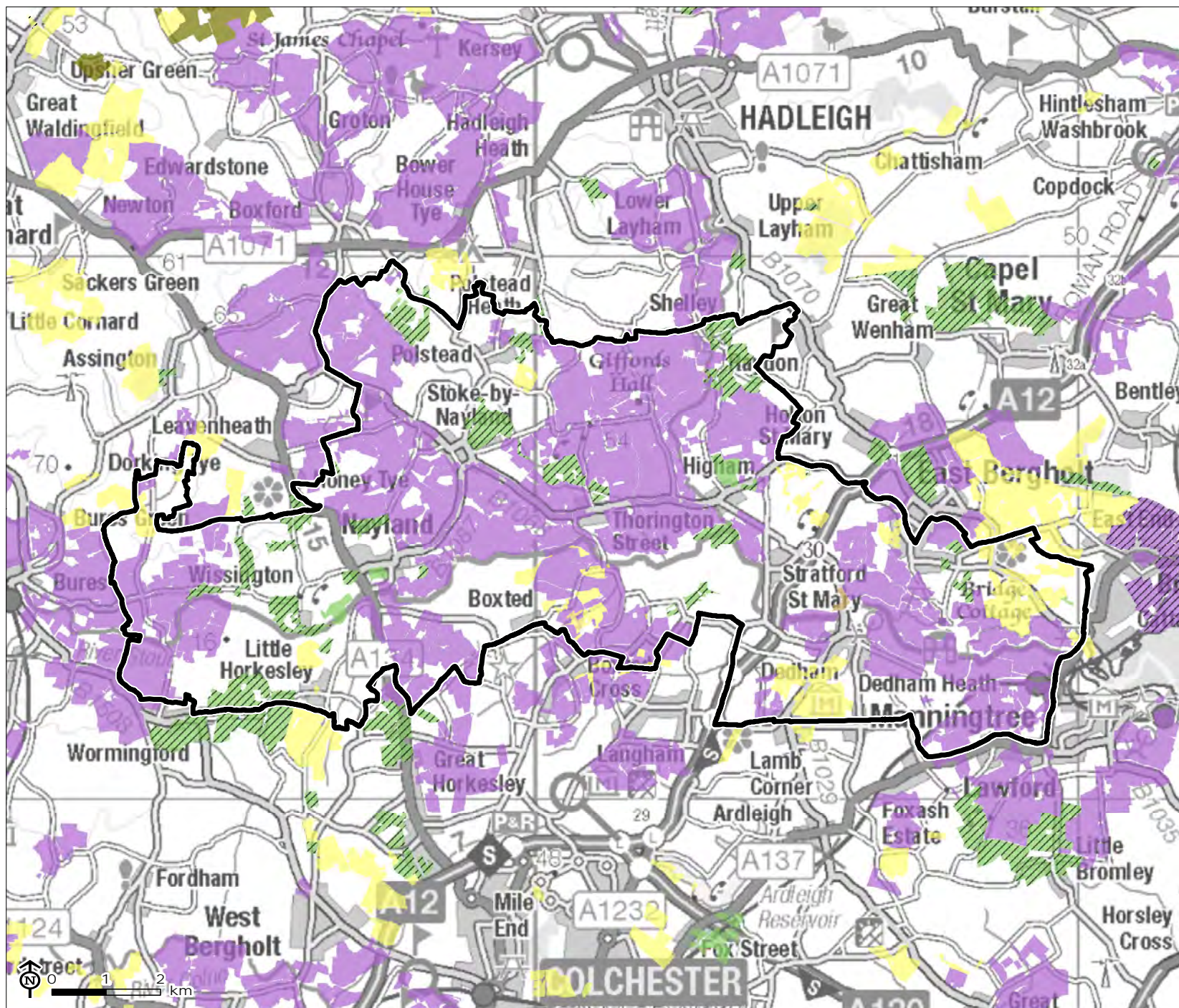
**Figure 3.9: Area managed by different tiers of Environmental Stewardship Scheme in Dedham Vale AONB**



Source: Natural England Agricultural Stewardship (downloaded 2018)

- 3.22 There are a total of eight Countryside Stewardship agreements within Dedham Vale AONB, which collectively cover an area of 254.6 hectares (2.6% of AONB). The most frequently applied scheme is Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship which covers 121.4 ha. 75.7 ha is under Middle Tier Stewardship and 37.3ha is managed via Hedgerows and Boundaries Stewardship.
- 3.23 The spatial distribution of Environmental Stewardship and Countryside Stewardship Schemes within the AONB is shown in **Figure 3.10**. Environmental Stewardship Schemes are spatially distributed throughout the AONB. Gaps include the area around the A12 corridor and around the settlements of Little Horkesley and Stoke-by-Nayland. Several of the Environmental Stewardship agreements in the AONB expired in 2018; these are shown on the map with hatched lines.





# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.10: Extent of Agri-Environment Schemes in Dedham Vale AONB

- Dedham Vale AONB
- Countryside Stewardship Schemes
- Environmental Stewardship Schemes
  - Entry Level Stewardship
  - Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
  - Higher Level Stewardship
  - Organic Entry Level Stewardship
- Expired in 2018

Source: NE

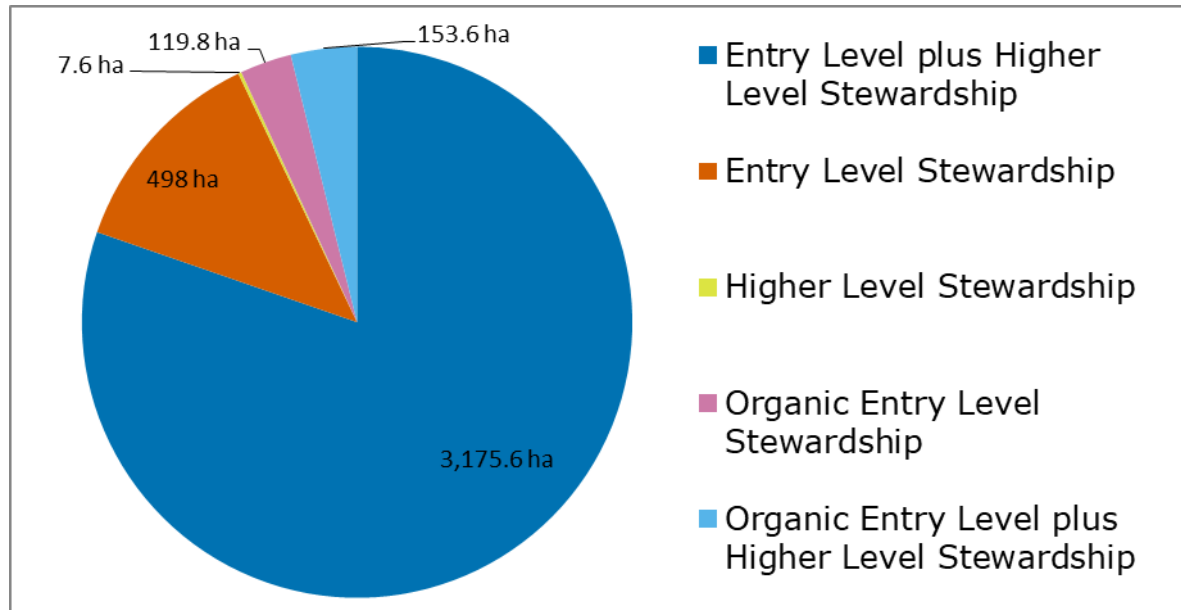
Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000



### Analysis of indicator: Area of land under agri-environment schemes – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.24 A total of 18.7% (3,954.6 ha) of the Stour Valley Project Area is managed under Environmental Stewardship Schemes. **Figure 3.11** shows that the largest proportion of land under current Environmental Stewardship agreements is within Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship, covering 3,175.6 hectares (15% of the Stour Valley Project Area). 498 hectares fall within Entry Level Stewardship (2.4% of the Stour Valley Project Area). Smaller proportions are managed via Higher Level Stewardship (7.6 ha), Organic Entry Level Stewardship (119.8 ha) and Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship (153.6 ha).

**Figure 3.11: Area managed by different tiers of Environmental Stewardship Scheme in Stour Valley**



Source: Natural England Agricultural Stewardship (downloaded 2018)

- 3.25 There are a total of 27 Countryside Stewardship agreements within the Stour Valley Project Area which collectively cover an area of 2,089.4 hectares (9.9% of the Stour Valley Project Area). 648.8 ha are within a Higher Tier scheme, while the remaining is 1,440.6 ha is within a Middle Tier scheme.
- 3.26 There is generally a larger proportion of land managed via agri-environment schemes within the east of the Stour Valley Project Area. To the west, agri-environment schemes cover a smaller area and are more sparsely distributed. The spatial extent of agri-environment schemes within the Stour Valley Project Area is shown in **Figure 3.12**.



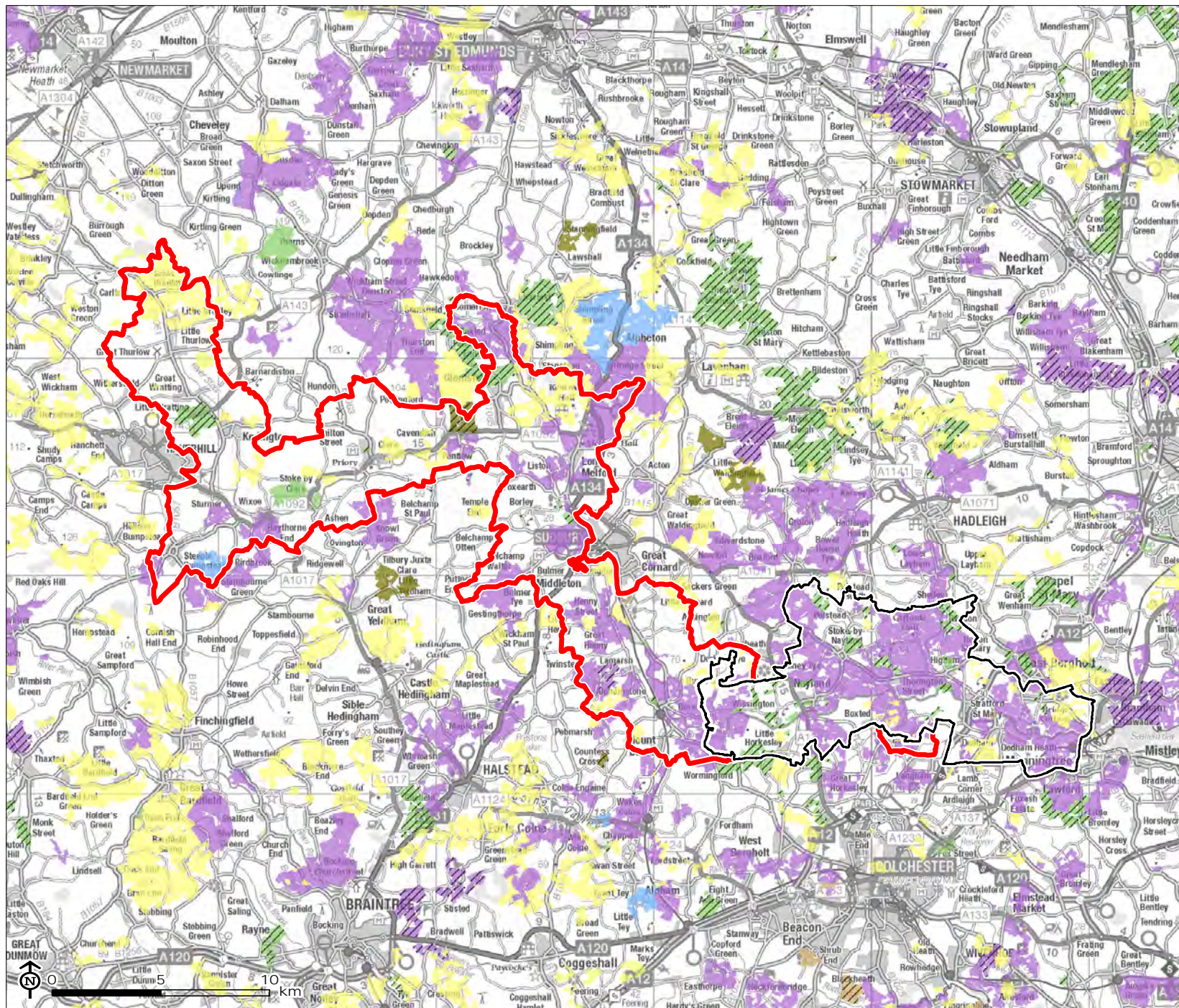
# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.12: Extent of Agri-Environment Schemes in the Stour Valley Project

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB
- Countryside Stewardship Schemes
- Environmental Stewardship Schemes
  - Entry Level Stewardship
  - Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
  - Higher Level Stewardship
  - Organic Entry Level Stewardship
  - Organic Entry Level plus Higher Level Stewardship
- Expired in 2018

Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### Data sources

- Natural England Environmental Stewardship and Countryside Stewardship GIS data (downloaded 2018)
- Defra June Agricultural Survey Data (2008, 2009, 2010, 2013 and 2016)
- Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes (MEOPL), 2017 and 2018

### Recommendations

#### Recommendations

- It is recommended that these indicators are revisited every five years to monitor trends within the agricultural environment.
- It is anticipated that more in-depth information on the cost, spatial coverage and options of Countryside Stewardship Schemes will be available when these indicators are revisited for the next State of the AONB Report, although by this time a post-Brexit agri-environment scheme is likely to be in place to include as part of the analysis. Given this period of uncertainty and the importance of appropriate agricultural land management in the AONB's high quality environment, this is a key 'force for change' for the AONB to monitor.



## Woodland cover and management

### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- 3.27 The following monitoring indicators have been selected for the 'Woodland cover and management' sub-theme:
- Extent and type of woodland cover
  - Extent of actively managed woodland
- 3.28 Note that some of the data used to inform these indicators is available for the Dedham Vale AONB only and equivalent data for the Stour Valley is not available.

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- 12% (1,114.8 hectares) of the AONB is covered by woodland. Over three quarters of this is broadleaved woodland.
- Ancient woodland covers 82.3 hectares.
- 54% of the woodland within Dedham Vale is actively managed according to the Forestry Commission's *England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator*.

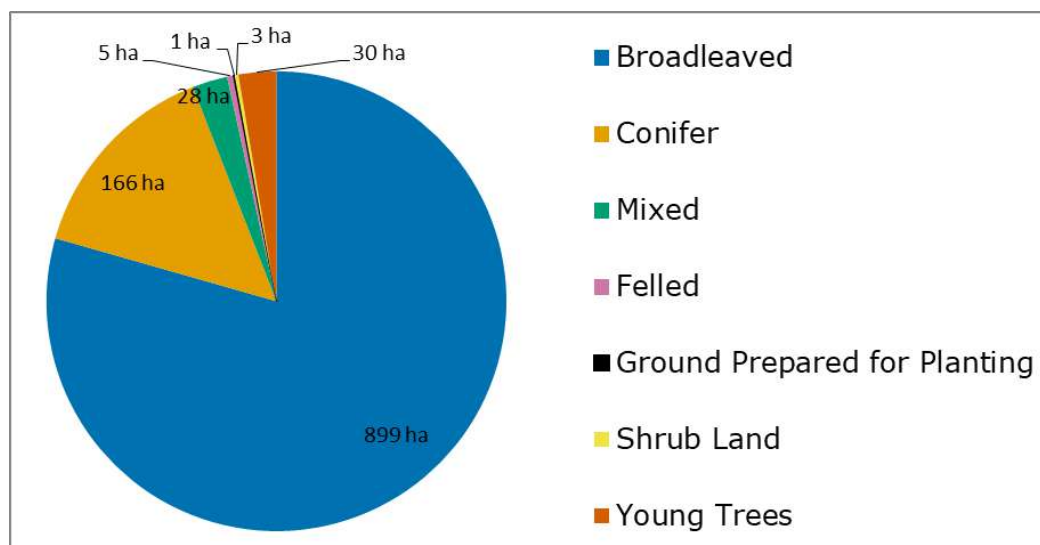
#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- 6.8% (1448.6 hectares) of the Stour Valley Project Area is woodland. Over 80% of this is broadleaved woodland.
- There is 371.5 hectares of ancient woodland in Stour Valley Project Area.

### Analysis of indicator: Extent and type of woodland cover – Dedham Vale AONB

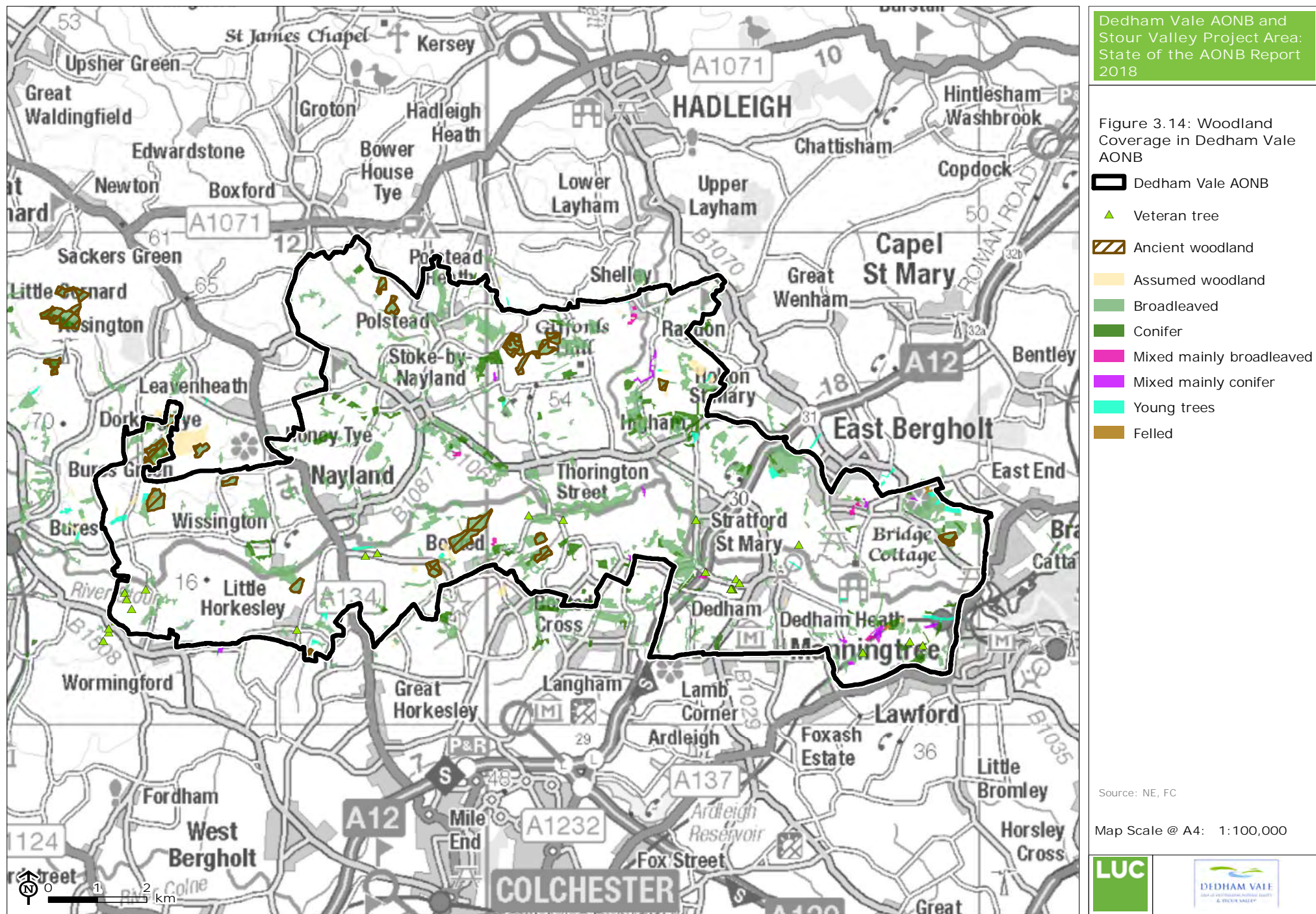
- 3.29 Dedham Vale AONB is relatively well-wooded with 12.3% (1,114.8 ha) of the AONB covered by woodland. As shown in **Figure 3.13**, over three quarters (80.6%) of this woodland is broadleaved. Coniferous woodland comprises 14.9% of woodland cover. There are also smaller areas of young trees (30 ha), mixed woodland (28 ha), felled woodland (5 ha), scrubland (93 ha), and ground prepared for planting (1 ha). Ancient woodland covers 82.3 ha or 7.4% of the woodland within the AONB. The spatial distribution of woodland in the AONB is illustrated in **Figure 3.14**.

**Figure 3.13: Area (ha) and type of woodland cover in the AONB (National Forest Inventory)**



Source: Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory GIS Data (downloaded 2018) there were no areas of Coppice or Windthrow woodland, so these were not included within Figure 3.13.

Figure 3.14: Woodland Coverage in Dedham Vale AONB





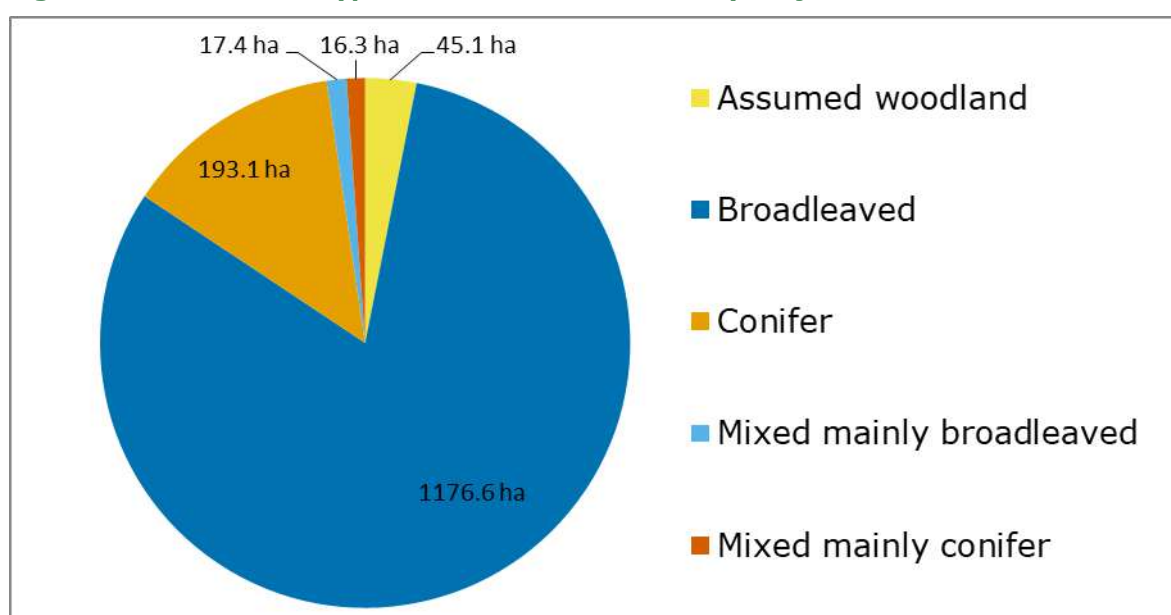
### Veteran trees in Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.30 There are 21 veteran trees within the AONB (noted by the Essex Biodiversity Records Centre). The most common are pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) with 12 veteran trees of this species. Other veteran tree species include; ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), black poplar (*Populus nigra subsp. Betulifolia*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), oak bracket (*Pseudoinonotus dryadeus*) and wild cherry (*Prunus avium*).

### Analysis of indicator: Extent and type of woodland cover – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.31 A total of 6.8% of the Stour Valley Project Area is covered in woodland, most of which is broadleaved woodland (81.2% of woodland). Coniferous woodland comprises 13.3% (193.1 ha) as shown in the chart at **Figure 3.15**. Spatially, woodland is scattered throughout the Stour Valley Project Area as can be seen in **Figure 3.16**.
- 3.32 There is 196.3 ha of ancient woodland and 175.2 ha of ancient re-planted woodland within the Stour Valley Project Area.

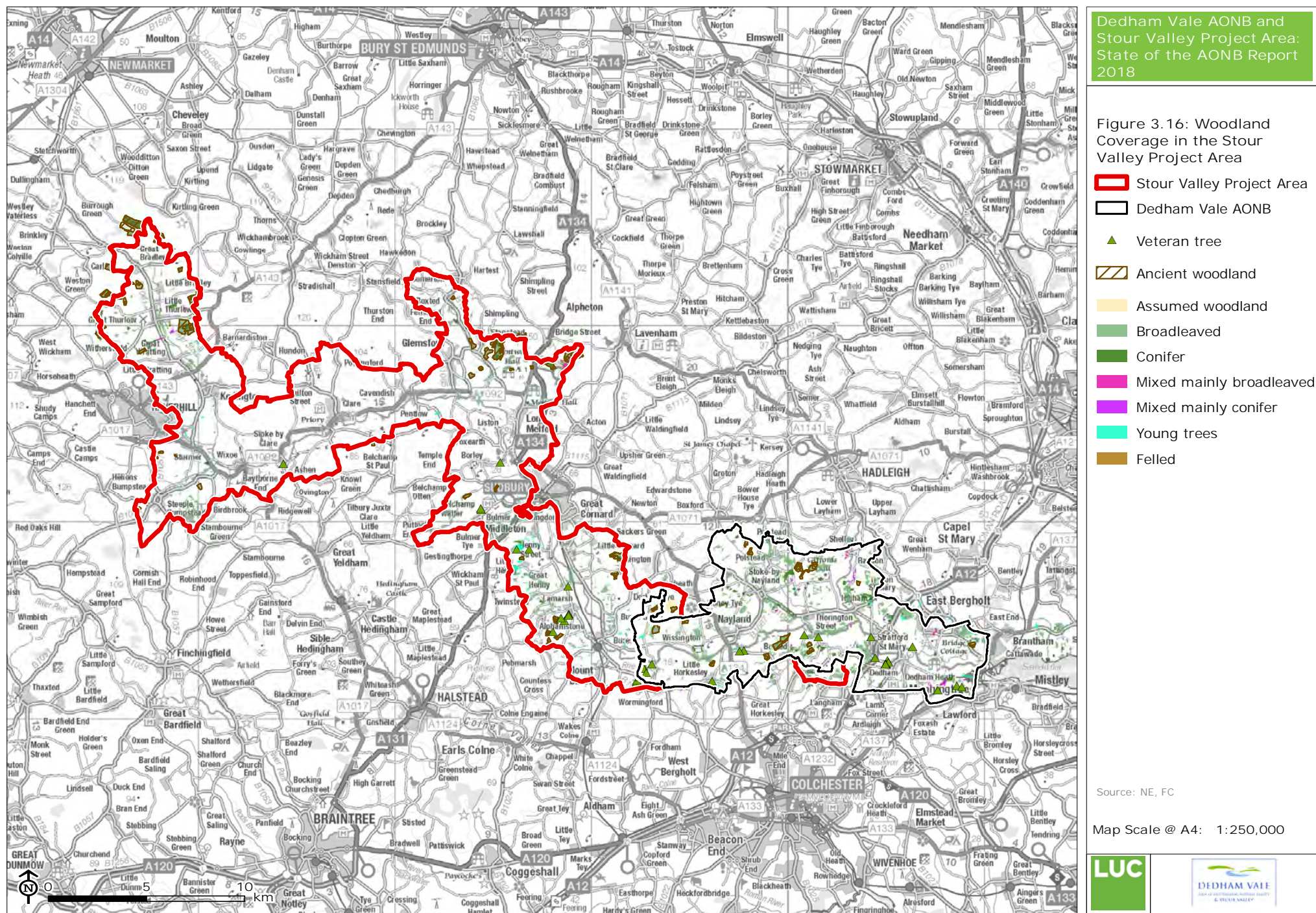
**Figure 3.15: Woodland type and extent in Stour Valley Project Area**



Source: Forestry Commission National Forest Inventory GIS Data (2017) (downloaded 2018).

### Veteran trees in Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.33 Within the Essex section of the Stour Valley Project Area there are 19 veteran trees (noted by the Essex Biodiversity Records Centre). The most commonly occurring veteran tree species is the pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) of which there are eight individual trees. Also present are; four veteran holly (*Sailx*), two oak (*Quercus Sp.*) an ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), a Lebanon cedar (*Cedrus libani*), a black poplar (*Populus nigra subsp. Betulifolia*), a common hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and a hazel (*Corylus avellana*).





### **Analysis of indicator: Woodland management – Dedham Vale AONB**

- 3.34 According to the Forestry Commission's *England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator*, 54% of woodland within Dedham Vale AONB (620 hectares) is actively managed. It is worth noting that many of the woodlands in the AONB undergo some form of management, and this may not be recorded within the Forestry Commission's methodology for this performance indicator.
- 3.35 12 hectares of woodland is being managed and restored under Environmental Stewardship options – four hectares under option HC7: Maintenance of woodland, while eight hectares are under option HC8: Restoration of woodland.

### **Analysis of indicator: Woodland management – Stour Valley Project Area**

- 3.36 Since the data for woodland management is derived from information produced by Natural England for protected landscapes only, it is not possible to report on this indicator for the Stour Valley Project Area.

### **Data sources**

- Natural England (data downloaded 2018)
- Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes (MEOPL), 2017
- Forestry Commission's National Forest Inventory 2017 (downloaded 2018)

### **Recommendations**

- Data obtained in this section should be re-visited on a five-year basis to obtain information on any changes in woodland cover. Climate change may put further pressures on woodlands and individual trees making them more susceptible to disease or pests, incidences of which should be monitored.
- It would also be useful to collect data on the condition of woodlands in the AONB and Stour Valley Project Area for future monitoring purposes.
- Existing woodland should be managed appropriately in accordance with the AONB Management Plan. The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should collect data on any levels of woodland planting over the next five years.

## Settlement and planning

### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- Number and type of dwellings
- Number and type of planning applications
- Settlements subject to parish or neighbourhood plans
- Consideration of AONB in neighbourhood or parish plans

3.37 Note that some of the data used to inform these indicators is available for the Dedham Vale AONB only and equivalent data for the Stour Valley is not available.

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- There are estimated to be 4,305 dwellings in the AONB. Approximately half of these are detached.
- In 2018 the AONB commented on 228 planning applications. 158 of these were granted planning permission. The majority of applications were alterations, conversions or extensions to existing structures.
- The AONB falls with three Local Plan areas. There is one adopted neighbourhood plan in East Bergholt.

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- There are estimated to be 9,623 dwellings in the Stour Valley Project Area; 42.2% are detached while 31.1% are semi-detached.
- Four Local Plan areas include the Stour Valley Project Area.

### Analysis of indicator: Number and type of dwellings – Dedham Vale AONB

3.38 UK Census 2011<sup>2</sup> data indicates that there were a total of 4,305 dwellings in the AONB. These are broken down into different dwelling types in **Table 3.2** below. Detached dwellings are the most common housing type, accounting for just over half of the AONB's total housing stock.

**Table 3.2: Number and type of dwellings in the AONB**

Property Type	Number of dwellings	Percentage of dwellings (%)
Detached	2,290	53.2%
Semi-detached	1,305	30.3%
Terraced	496	11.5%
Maisonette	207	4.8%
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	6	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,305</b>	

Source: ONS Census (2011)

### Analysis of indicator: Number and type of dwellings – Stour Valley Project Area

3.39 In 2011 it was estimated that there were a total of 9,623 dwellings in the Stour Valley Project Area (UK Census data). These are broken down into different dwelling types in **Table 3.3** below. The majority of properties in the Stour Valley Project Area are detached, making up 42.2% of all dwellings. 31.1% of dwellings are semi-detached, while 20.4% are terraced.

<sup>2</sup> Where an Output area straddles the AONB boundary, a proportion of the Output Area total has been included as being within the AONB, based on land areas.



**Table 3.3: Number and type of dwellings in the Stour Valley Project area**

Property Type	2017	2017 %
Detached	4,057	42.2
Semi-detached	2,997	31.1
Terraced	1,962	20.4
Maisonette	592	6.2
Caravan or other mobile or temporary structure	14	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,623</b>	

Source: ONS Census (2011)

### Analysis of indicator: Number and type of planning applications – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.41 In 2018, the district councils of Tendring, Colchester and Babergh collectively received 228 planning applications to comment on for proposed developments within, or in close proximity to the AONB (or for major developments further afield but that might be considered to have an impact on the protected landscape). The number of planning applications and the outcome of the planning decision is shown in **Table 3.4**.

#### *Number of planning applications and planning decision in 2017-2018 Dedham Vale AONB*

- 3.42 Of all the planning applications in 2018, 69.2% were granted permission. Only 5.4% of applications were refused, although a further 25.3% were withdrawn or undecided at the time of this report (shown as 'other' in the table below).

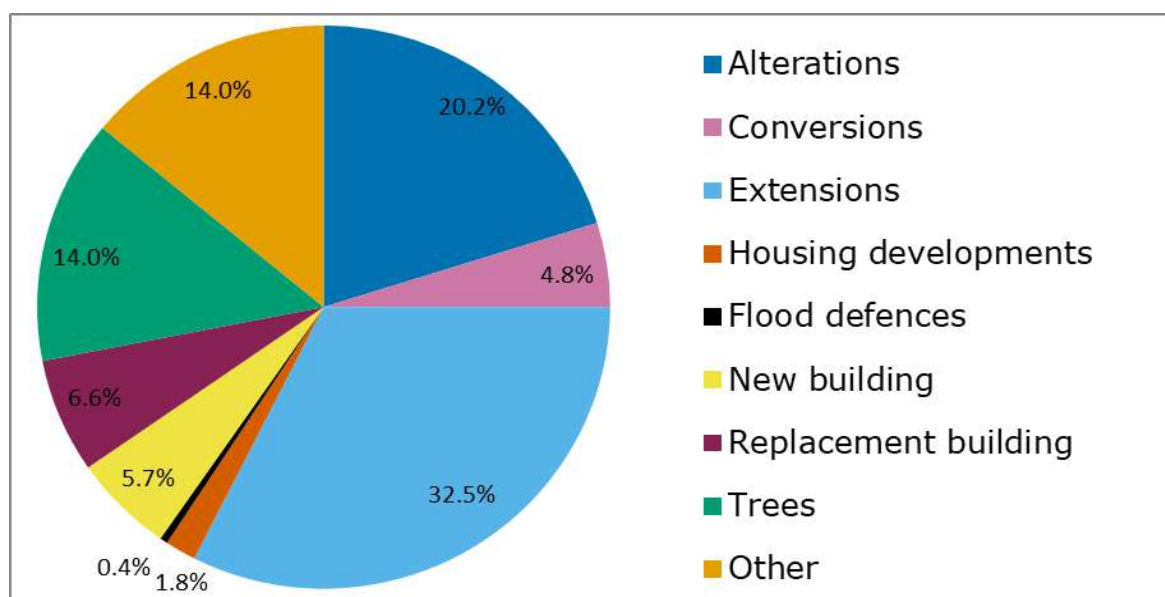
**Table 3.4: Number of planning applications consulted on and planning decision in 2017 and 2018**

Decision	Colchester	Babergh	Tendring	Totals
Permission granted	42	111	5	158
Permission refused	1	11	2	14
Other	18	38	0	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>228</b>

Source: Colchester Borough, Babergh & Mid Suffolk and Tendring district Councils (2018)

#### *Type of planning applications in 2017-2018 Dedham Vale AONB*

- 3.43 Planning applications have been categorised into the groups shown in **Figure 3.17**, to determine the frequency of different types of planning applications. The most common planning application type in 2018 was extensions, which accounted for 32.5% of all planning applications. Alterations were also common, equating to 20.2% of applications. Housing developments and flood defences were the least common developments applied for in 2018.

**Figure 3.17: Types of planning applications in Dedham Vale AONB**

Source: Colchester Borough, Babergh & Mid Suffolk and Tendring District Councils (2018)

### **Analysis of indicator: Number and type of planning applications – Dedham Vale AONB**

3.44 Equivalent data for the Stour Valley Project Area was not available to inform this report.

### **Analysis of indicator: Consideration of the Dedham Vale AONB in Local Plans**

3.45 The AONB falls within three separate Local Plan areas as follows:

- The Colchester Borough Local Plan 2017–2033 (2017);
- Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council: Joint Local Development Scheme (2017); and
- The Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond.

3.46 Colchester Borough Council published a publication draft of the Colchester Borough Local Plan for 2017-2033<sup>3</sup> in 2017. This draft plan identifies several key policies and considerations for the AONB including:

- Applications within or close to the AONB will need to consider how proposals impact the special qualities of the AONB. This may also require a LVIA.
- Dedham Vale may be eligible for a bronze award by the International Dark Sky Association, management of future light pollution from developments therefore important to minimise/mitigate.
- Setting of AONB should be conserved and enhanced.
- AONB must however be able to adapt and grow.
- Minor house extensions will not be exclusively rejected due to offering little opportunities to enhance the landscape qualities of the AONB.
- Proposals for wind/solar energy near the AONB should fit national policy and best practice to ensure the qualities of the AONB are conserved.
- Planning thought to have a negative impact (by the local planning authority) on the AONB will not be supported.

3.47 Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are currently in the process of writing a new Joint Local Plan. The Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document (August 2017)<sup>4</sup> has the following mentions and considerations of the AONB:

- The AONB is described as being an 'environmental asset' to be protected and enhanced for future generations.
- The AONB is noted to be an area of 'principle importance' for landscape-scale conservation of biodiversity.
- Notes that the AONB has a diverse landscape character.

3.48 A Publication Draft for the Tendring District Local Plan for 2013-2033<sup>5</sup> was published in 2017. This publication identifies the importance of safeguarding the protected landscape by stating that; "Development proposals affecting protected landscapes must pay particular regard to the conservation and enhancement of the special character and appearance of the Dedham Vale AONB, and its setting..., including any relevant AONB Management Plan objectives."

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<sup>3</sup> Colchester Borough Council (2017), Colchester Borough Local Plan for 2017-2033, Online Available at: <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article/?catid=emerging-local-plan&id=KA-02196> (Accessed: 05/02/19).

<sup>4</sup> Babergh District Council & Mid Suffolk District Council (2017), Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document, Online Available at: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/joint-local-plan-consultation-document/> (Accessed: 05/02/19).

<sup>5</sup> Tendring District Council (2017), Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond: Publication Draft, Online Available at: <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning/local-plans-and-policies/view-our-local-plan/local-plan-submission-documents> (Accessed: 05/02/19).



### Analysis of indicator: Consideration of the Stour Valley Project Area in Local Plans

- 3.49 The four Local Plans for the districts of Colchester, Babergh and Mid Suffolk, Braintree and Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury, incorporate part of the Stour Valley Project Area. They have all made direct reference to it within their publications.
- 3.50 Colchester Borough Council published a publication draft of the Colchester Borough Local Plan for 2017-2033 in 2017. This draft plan identifies several key policies and considerations for the Stour Valley Project Area including:
- Where development takes place in Dedham Vale AONB, "Developer contributions can be paid to the Stour Valley Environment Fund to secure environmental gains elsewhere in the Stour Valley."
  - Development will only be supported where... Supports the wider environmental, social and economic objectives as set out in the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Management Plan."
- 3.51 Currently, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are writing a new Joint Local Plan. The Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document (August 2017)<sup>7</sup> has the following mentions and considerations of the Stour Valley Project Area:
- The publication identifies the Stour Valley Project Area to be a "quality landscape".
  - It recognises the diverse landscape character of the Stour Valley Project Area but also highlights the fact that it does not benefit from the same protection as AONBs.
- 3.52 Braintree District Council published a Publication Draft of their Local Plan: Publication draft for Consultation in 2017<sup>8</sup>. This document highlights the following regarding the Stour Valley Project Area:
- It identifies the Stour Valley Project area as a "sensitive rural landscape" in which development proposals will be "particularly carefully assessed in light of the sensitive nature of this landscape".
  - Proposed developments in the Stour Valley Project Area should; "support the wider environmental, social and economic objectives as set out in the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Management Plan, and should not prejudice the long term aim to enlarge the area included within the AONB designation."
- 3.53 The Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury Local Plan: Joint Development Management Policies Document (February 2015)<sup>9</sup> notes the importance of the Stour Valley Project Area in the following statement;
- "Valued landscapes such as... the Stour Valley have, by reason of its landform, historic landscape importance and/or condition, a very limited capacity to absorb change without a significant material effect on their character and/or condition. However, individual proposals within or adjacent to these areas will be assessed based on their specific landscape and visual impact."

### Analysis of indicator: Consideration of the Dedham Vale AONB in neighbourhood or parish plans

- 3.54 **Table 3.5** shows the location of existing and potential neighbourhood/parish plans within the AONB, and the policies they possess which may affect the AONB. At the time of this report, one of these plans has been adopted.

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<sup>6</sup> Colchester Borough Council (2017), Colchester Borough Local Plan for 2017-2033, Online Available at: <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/info/cbc-article/?catid=emerging-local-plan&id=KA-02196> (Accessed: 05/02/19).

<sup>7</sup> Babergh District Council & Mid Suffolk District council (2017), Babergh & Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document, Online Available at: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/new-joint-local-plan/joint-local-plan-consultation-document/> (Accessed: 05/02/19).

<sup>8</sup> Braintree District Council (2017), Local Plan: Publication draft for Consultation, Online Available at: [https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning\\_policy/701/new\\_local\\_plan/2](https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200230/planning_policy/701/new_local_plan/2) (Accessed: 05/02/19).

<sup>9</sup> Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Councils: West Suffolk (2015), Forest Heath and Edmundsbury Local Plan: Joint Development Management Policies Document, Online Available at: [https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning\\_Policies/local\\_plans/jointdevelopmentmanagementpoliciesdocument.cfm](https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Planning_Policies/local_plans/jointdevelopmentmanagementpoliciesdocument.cfm) (Accessed: 05/02/19).

**Table 3.5: Consideration of AONB in neighbourhood or parish plans**

Authority	Neighbourhood plan area	Approval of Neighbourhood plan area date	Neighbourhood plan adopted date	Policies which may affect the AONB
Colchester	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Babergh	East Bergholt NDP <sup>10</sup>	31/03/2014	01/07/2016	"Comply with the policies and guidance relating to the Dedham Vale AONB and its setting" "Respond positively to the special qualities and scenic beauty of the Dedham Vale AONB and its setting"
	Boxford (part of)	06/08/2018	N/A	
	Stoke by Nayland	18/12/2017	N/A	
Tendring	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Source: Colchester Borough, Babergh & Mid Suffolk and Tendring district Councils (2018)

### Analysis of indicator: Consideration of the Stour Valley Project Area in neighbourhood or parish plans

- 3.55 **Table 3.6** shows the location of existing and potential neighbourhood/parish plans within the Stour Valley Project Area. At the time of this report, four neighbourhood plan areas have been approved, but no neighbourhood plans have been adopted.

**Table 3.6: Consideration of Stour Valley Project Area in neighbourhood or parish plans**

Authority	Neighbourhood plan area	Approval of Neighbourhood plan area date	Neighbourhood plan adopted date
Braintree	Steeple Bumpstead	08/03/2018	N/A
Babergh	Glemsford	27/10/2017	N/A
	Little Cornard	06/08/2018	N/A
	Newton	23/03/2018	N/A
St. Edmundsbury District	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colchester	N/A	N/A	N/A

Braintree, Babergh & Mid Suffolk and Forest Heath & St. Edmundsbury District Councils (2018)

### Data sources

- ONS UK Census (2011)
- Local planning authorities
  - Colchester Borough Council
  - Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Council
  - Tendring District Council
  - Braintree District Council
  - Forest Heath & St. Edmundsbury District Council

<sup>10</sup> East Bergholt Parish Council (2016), East Bergholt Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030, Online Available at: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-planning-in-babergh/east-bergholt-neighbourhood-plan/> (Accessed: 05/02/18).



### Recommendations

- All indicators within the settlement and planning sub-theme should be updated for the next State of the AONB Report.
- The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should work together to ensure all policy documents include specific reference to the preservation and management of the AONB landscape.
- There is a need for more detailed information on planning applications to be collated by the AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB. This should include the number and type of planning applications per year.
- Data on accordance rates (i.e. the level of applications where the LPA decision agrees with the opinion of the AONB) is not currently available. The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should aim to collect this data on a monthly or annual basis as accordance rates provide a good indicator of how the LPAs policies are applied in practice.

## Visual and perceptual qualities

### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- Levels of tranquillity
- Dark night skies
- Number of pylons

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- Dedham Vale AONB has moderate levels of tranquillity, particularly in the context of south-east England.
- The AONB experiences very low levels of light pollution. The AONB ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 34 AONB in terms of dark night skies.
- Eight large scale pylons are located within the AONB.

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- The majority of the Stour Valley Project Area has a lower tranquillity level than Dedham Vale AONB, although tranquillity levels are still high in the wider landscape context.
- There are low levels of light pollution throughout the Stour Valley Project Area, except in the areas surrounding larger settlements.
- 25 large scale pylons are located within the AONB.

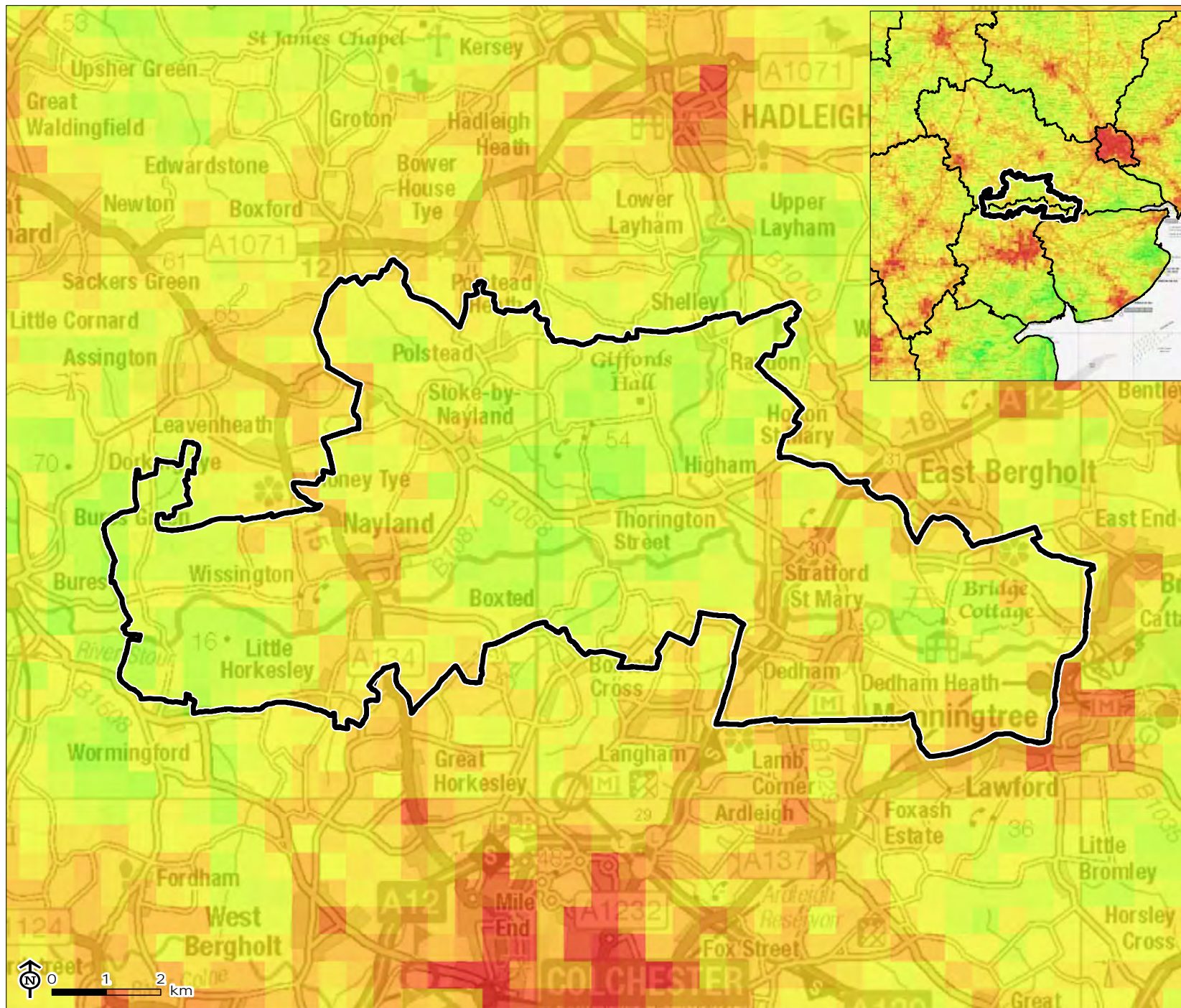
#### Analysis of indicator: Levels of tranquillity – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.56 The CPRE National Tranquillity mapping from 2006 shows that Dedham Vale AONB exhibits a relatively moderate level of tranquillity throughout the majority of the AONB (see **Figure 3.18**). There are areas with relatively less tranquillity around settlements such as Nayland and Stratford St Mary and large roads (A134 and A12). The most tranquil areas are present within the central area of the AONB, including areas such as Higham, Thornington Street, Boxted and Little Horkesley. The least tranquil area surrounding the outskirts of the AONB to the south is Colchester.

#### Analysis of indicator: Levels of tranquillity – Stour Valley Project Area


- 3.57 The CPRE National Tranquillity mapping from 2006 demonstrates that the Stour Valley Project Area exhibits a lower level of tranquillity throughout the majority of the area in comparison to Dedham Vale AONB (see **Figure 3.19**), although tranquillity is still high in the wider landscape context. Two towns bordering the Stour Valley Project Area (Sudbury and Haverhill) show reduced levels of tranquillity. Areas with relatively high tranquillity include Great Bradley, Great Thurlow and Little Thurlow, as well as the area adjacent to Dedham Vale AONB.






Dedham Vale AONB and  
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Figure 3.18: Levels of  
Tranquillity in Dedham Vale  
AONB

 Dedham Vale AONB

National Tranquillity Scale

 Most tranquil

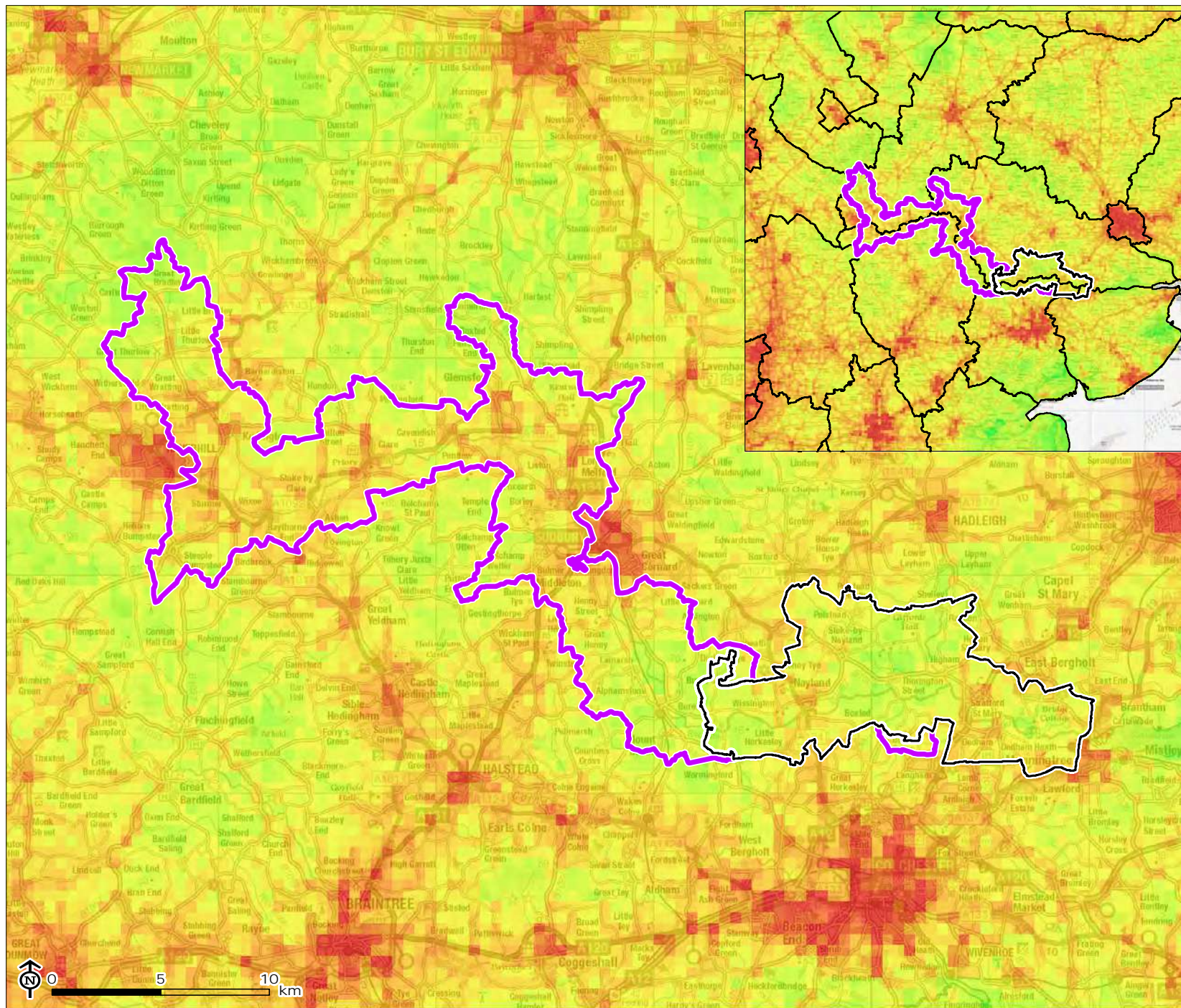
 Least tranquil

Source: NE, CPRE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000







# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.19: Levels of  
Tranquillity in the Stour  
Valley Project Area

  Stour Valley Project Area

  Dedham Vale AONB

National Tranquillity Scale

Most tranquil

Least tranquil

Source: NE, CPRE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### Analysis of indicator: Dark night skies – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.58 **Figure 3.20** shows the extent of light pollution within Dedham Vale AONB, as recorded in the 2016 CPRE study. The majority of the AONB has very low levels of light pollution. The lowest levels of light pollution are associated with isolated areas including near Thorington Street, Polstead and Little Horkesley. The highest level of light pollution is within Manningtree, the largest settlement in the AONB. The relatively large settlement of Nayland also has increased levels of light pollution. The area of the James Andrews Golf School (near Stoke-by-Nayland) also has more light pollution than areas surrounding it, as does Littlegarth School (off Park road), between Coles Hill Lane and Gun Hill Road. Of the 34 AONBs in England, Dedham Vale AONB ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in terms of dark night skies.

### Analysis of indicator: Dark night skies – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.59 The extent of light pollution within the Stour Valley Project Area is illustrated in **Figure 3.21**. As most of the area is rural and isolated, light pollution is relatively low. However, the Stour Valley Project Area has more light pollution than the neighbouring Dedham Vale AONB. Some areas have a larger urban influence including the outskirts of Sudbury and Haverhill. Other smaller settlements within the Stour Valley Project Area also have increased light pollution such as Long Melford, Glemsford, Clare and Kedington.

### Analysis of indicator: Number of pylons – Dedham Vale AONB

- 3.60 At the time of this report, there are eight large scale pylons associated with 400kV overhead lines in Dedham Vale AONB. These are located in the north of the AONB and cross the landscape close to Polstead.

### Analysis of indicator: Number of pylons – Stour Valley Project Area

- 3.61 At the time of this report, there are 25 large scale pylons associated with 400kV overhead lines in the Stour Valley Project Area.

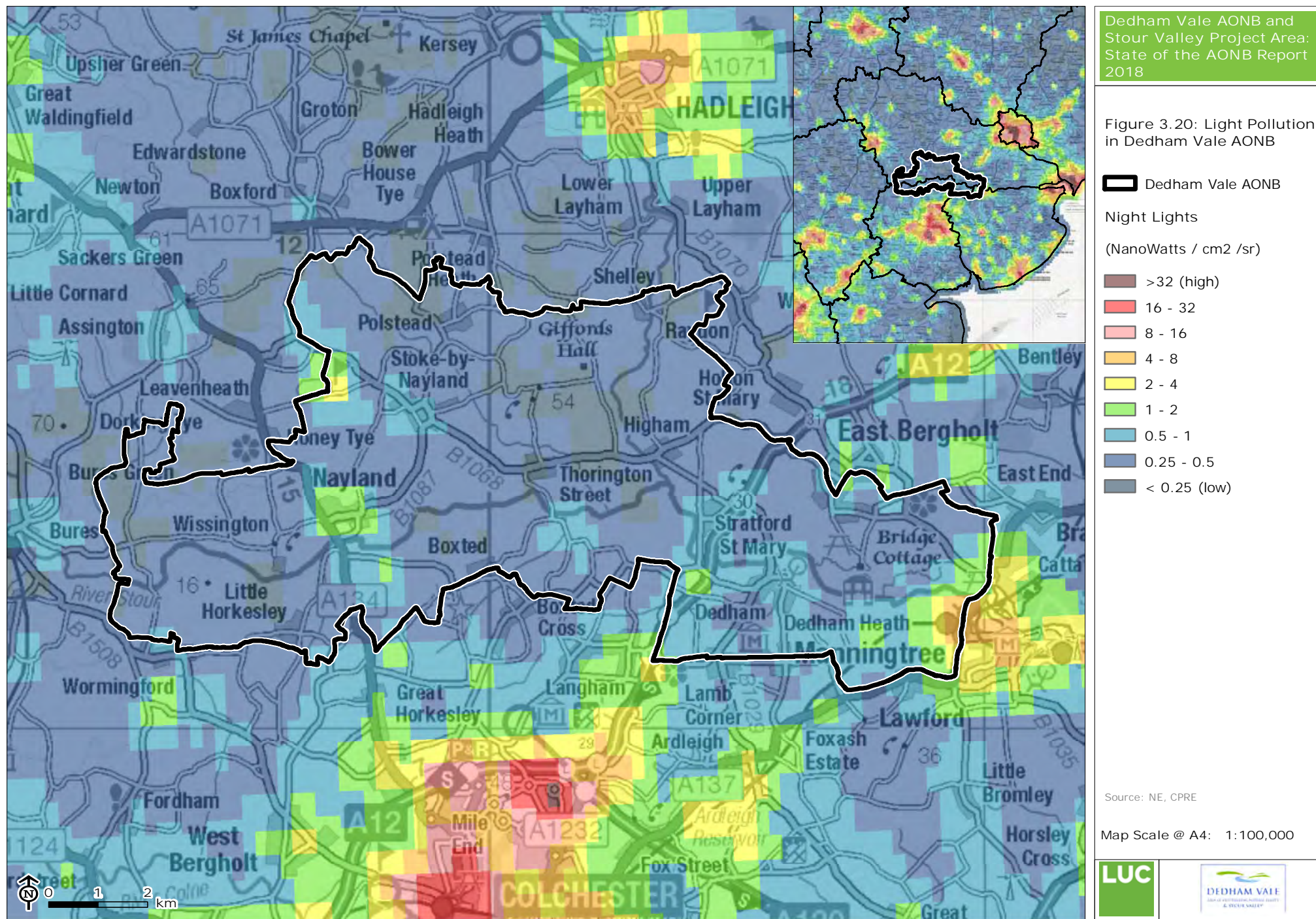
### Data sources

- CPRE National Tranquillity mapping, 2006
- CPRE Light Pollution and Dark Skies Maps, 2016
- National Grid Transmission Network data, 2019

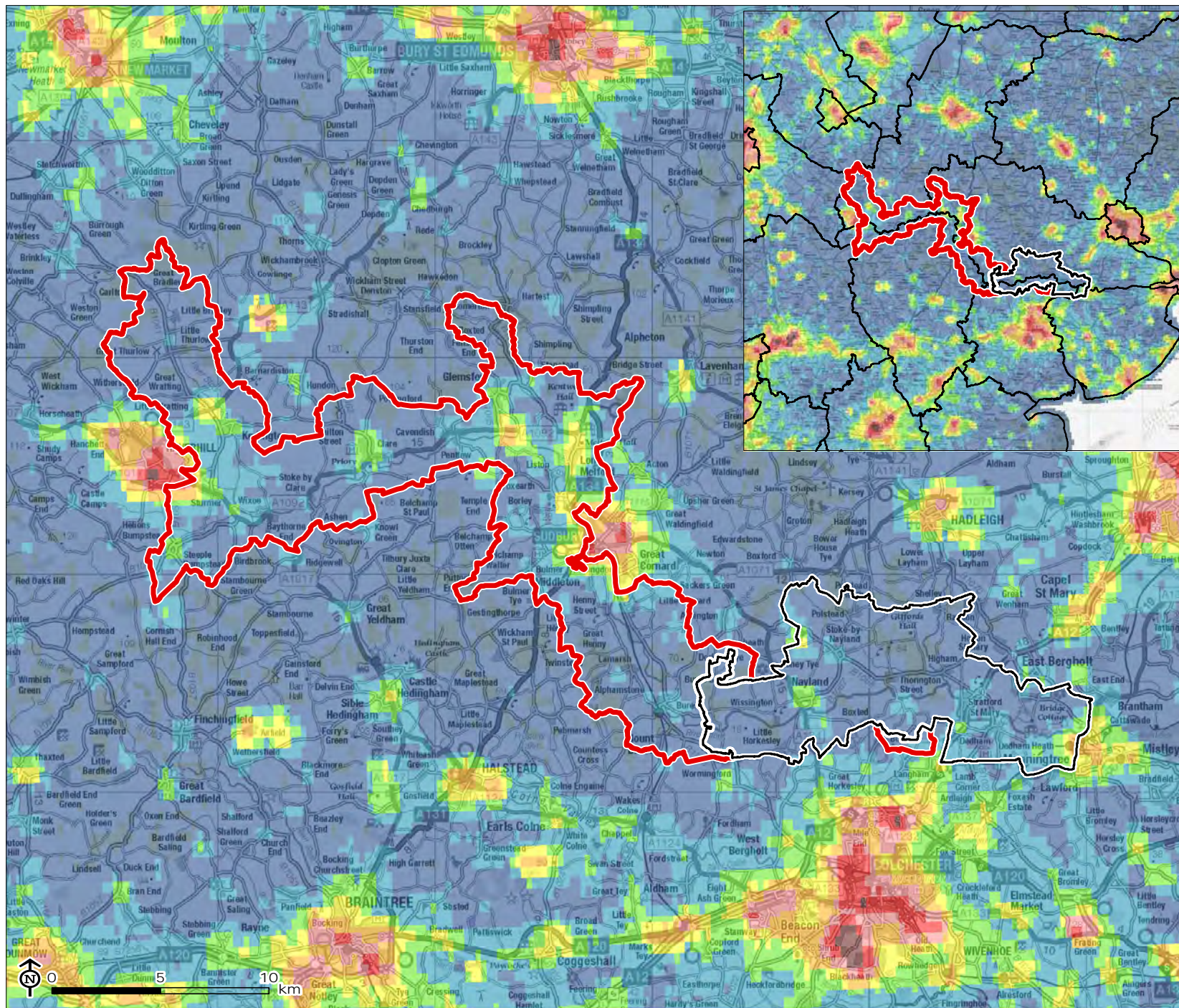
### Recommendations

- There is appetite within CPRE and others to re-visit the tranquillity information and it is anticipated that this will be available for the next iteration of the State of the AONB report. Modern techniques and better data availability will hopefully allow for more in-depth analysis and trends over time to be seen in greater detail.
- The AONB should work with Colchester Borough Council to achieve the bronze award from the International Dark Sky Association, as outlined in the publication draft of the Colchester Borough Local Plan for 2017-2033
- The potential impact of new development and changes of land use on the tranquillity and dark night skies of the AONB should be carefully considered when making planning application decisions.

Figure 3.20: Light Pollution in Dedham Vale AONB







# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 3.21: Light Pollution in the Stour Valley Project Area

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB

## Night Lights

(NanoWatts / cm2 / sr)

- >32 (high)
- 16 - 32
- 8 - 16
- 4 - 8
- 2 - 4
- 1 - 2
- 0.5 - 1
- 0.25 - 0.5
- < 0.25 (low)

Source: NE, CPRE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000







4

## **Biodiversity and geodiversity**



## 4 Biodiversity and geodiversity

### Structure of this Chapter

4.1 Biodiversity and geodiversity has been split the following two sub-themes:

- Biodiversity
- Geodiversity

### Biodiversity

#### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- Biodiversity designation extent
- SSSI condition
- Priority habitat coverage and condition
- Presence and abundance of key species
  - Birds
  - Mammals
  - Reptiles and amphibians
  - Invertebrates
  - Plants
- Water quality

4.2 Note that some of the data used to inform these indicators is available for the Dedham Vale AONB only and equivalent data for the Stour Valley is not available.

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- Within the AONB there are a total of six natural heritage designations; one Ramsar site, one Special Protection Area, two Sites of Special Scientific interest and two Local Nature Reserves. 1.53% of the AONB is designated for nature conservation.
- The majority of SSSI units are in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable-recovering' condition.
- 2,079.1 hectares of the AONB are BAP Priority Habitats. The majority is deciduous woodland (814 ha) or coastal floodplain and grazing marsh (855 ha).

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- There are 11 sites designated for nature conservation, which cover 1.02% of the Stour Valley Project Area.
- 1,819.2 hectares of the Stour Valley Project Area are BAP Priority Habitats. The majority is deciduous woodland (1,071.8 ha) and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (409.6 ha).

#### Analysis of indicator: Biodiversity designation extent – Dedham Vale AONB

4.3 The AONB contains a number of sites designated for biodiversity. **Table 4.1** contains the details of these designated sites including the type of designation, name and area within the AONB. The spatial distribution of these designations is mapped in **Figure 4.1**.

**Table 4.1: Natural heritage designations within Dedham Vale AONB**

Designation	Name	Total area (ha)	Total area in AONB (ha)	% of site within AONB
Ramsar Site	Stour and Orwell Estuaries	3,588.5	89.2	2.5
Special Protection Area	Stour and Orwell Estuaries	3,588.5	89.2	2.5
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Arger Fen	49.7	48.7	98.0
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Cattawade Marshes	89.2	89.2	100.0
Local Nature Reserve	Tiger Hill	17.6	17.6	100.0
Local Nature Reserve	Arger Fen	21.0	15.4	73.3
<b>*Total</b>		<b>7,354.5</b>	<b>349.3</b>	<b>376.3</b>

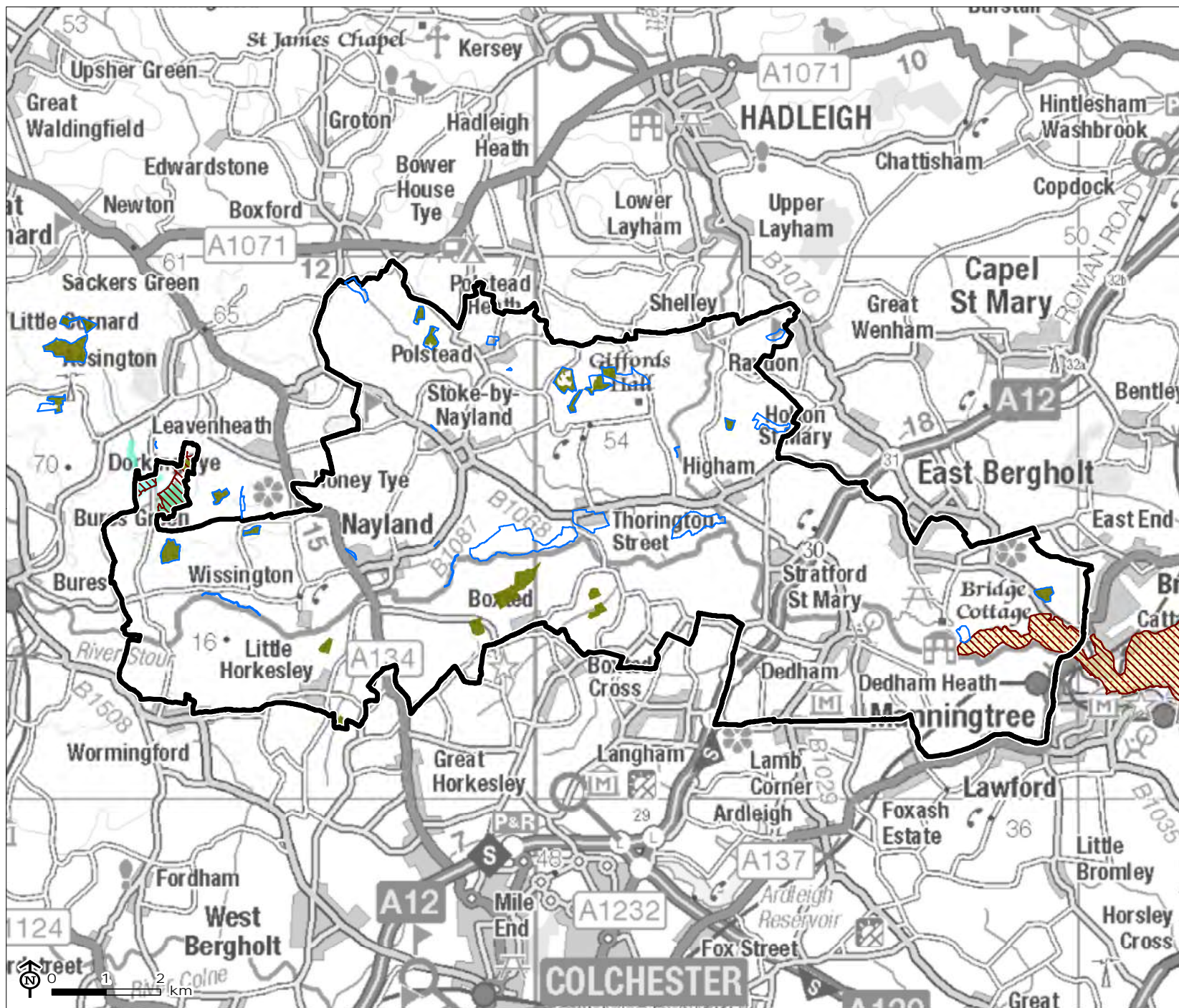
Source: Natural England GIS data (downloaded 2018) \*Note this total does not exclude areas overlapped by more than one designation.

- 4.4 In the east of the AONB is part (2.5%) of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site. This internationally important site is designated because it supports an extensive assemblage of non-breeding season birds, wintering and passage wildfowl and waders. Several Red Data Book invertebrates and nationally scarce plants are also present. Habitats within the Ramsar site include mudflats, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle.
- 4.5 The extent of the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site is also designated as an SPA. Qualifying features for this SPA include overwintering hen harrier, black-tailed godwit, dunlin, grey plover, pintail, redshank, ringed plover, shelduck and turnstone.
- 4.6 Two SSSIs cover a total of 138 ha (1.5%) of land within the Dedham Vale AONB.
- 4.7 There are two Local Nature Reserves wholly or partially within Dedham Vale AONB:
- **Tiger Hill** – designated for a varied selection of habitats including the only heathland within south west Suffolk, wet meadows, hedgerow, streams, pond and woodland. This is an important habitat for dormice, supporting one of the largest populations in Suffolk.
  - **Arger Fen** – a mosaic of ancient woodland coppice, regenerating woodland and wet meadows, this Local Nature Reserve has a diverse mix of oak, ash, field maple, holly, crab apple, alder, hazel stools and wild cherry trees. Notable species present here include dormice, barbastelle bats, badgers, common lizards, grass snakes and siskins as well as many species of butterfly.



Figure 4.1: Nature Conservation Designations in Dedham Vale AONB

-  Dedham Vale AONB
-  County Wildlife Sites
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Ramsar Designation
-  Special Protection Area
-  Ancient woodland



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000



### Analysis of indicator: Biodiversity designation extent – Stour Valley Project Area

- 4.8 Within the Stour Valley Project Area there are several natural heritage designations; the type, names and area of these are shown in **Table 4.2** and their spatial extent is illustrated in **Figure 4.2**.

**Table 4.2: Natural heritage designations within Stour Valley Project Area**

Designation	Name	Total area (ha)	Total area in AONB (ha)	% of site within AONB
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Carlton Wood	10.4	0.1	0.6
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Cornard Mere, Little Cornard	8.5	8.5	100.0
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Glemsford Pits	33.2	33.2	100.0
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Kentwell Woods	40.1	28.1	70.2
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Lineage Wood & Railway Track, Long Melford	75.9	65.5	86.3
Site of Special Scientific Interest	Trundley and Wadgell's Woods, Great Thurlow	79.4	79.2	99.7
Local Nature Reserve	Haverhill Railway Walks	5.9	3.3	55.8
Local Nature Reserve	Sudbury Common Lands	50.3	50.2	99.9
Local Nature Reserve	The Railway Walks	25.3	19.9	78.6
Local Nature Reserve	Tiger Hill	21.0	5.6	26.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>293.6</b>	

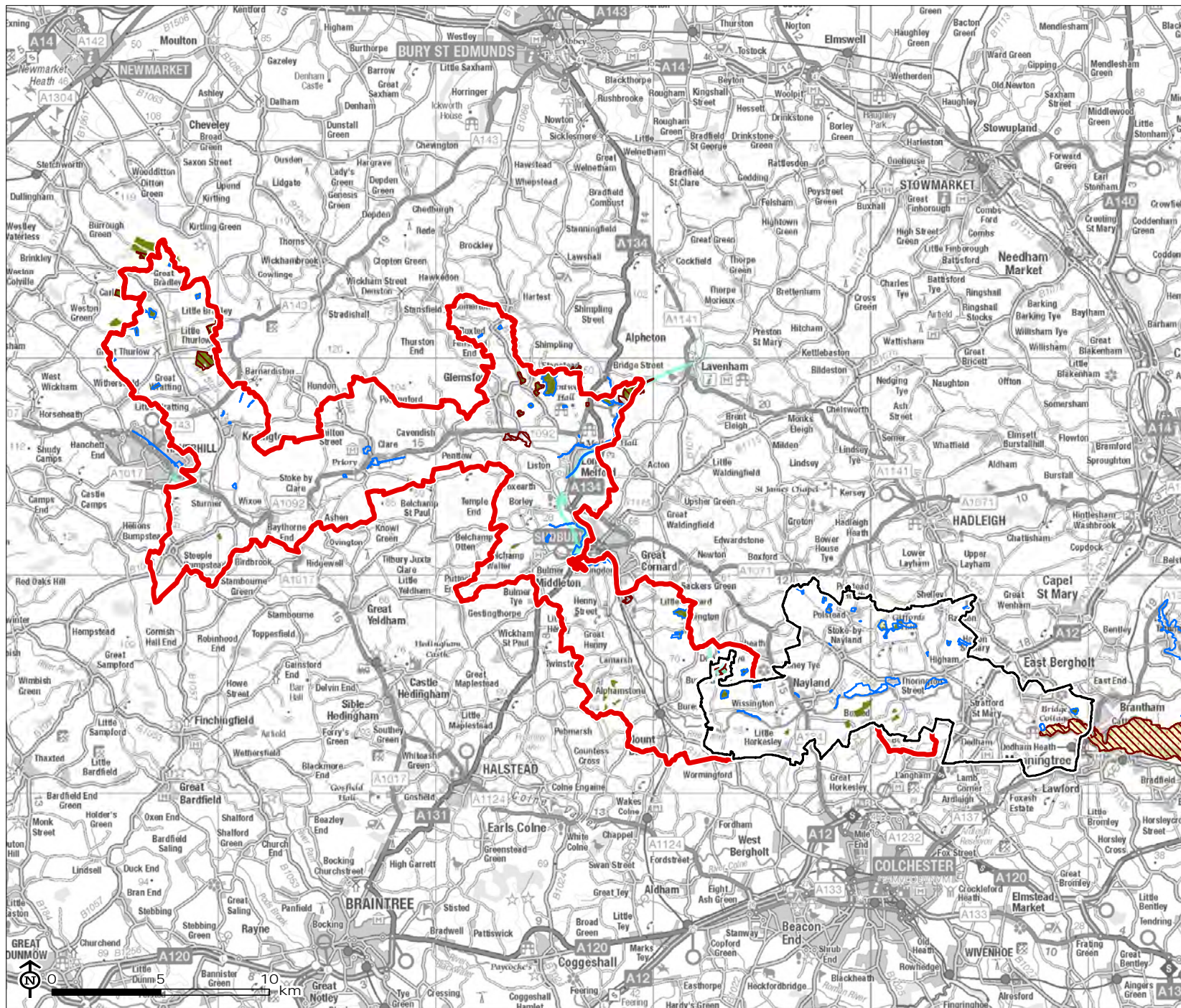
- 4.9 There are a total of six SSSIs wholly or partially within the Stour Valley Project Area, which are all designated for biological interest. Collectively, they occupy of 215.7 ha of the Stour Valley Project Area. There are also five Local Nature Reserves which are wholly or partially within the Stour Valley Project Area and cover a total area of 79 ha.



# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 4.2: Nature  
Conservation Designations  
in Stour Valley Project Area

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB
- County Wildlife Sites
- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Ramsar Designation
- Special Protection Area
- Ancient woodland



Source: NE, SBIS

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000



#### Analysis of indicator: SSSI condition – Dedham Vale AONB

- 4.10 Within the Dedham Vale AONB 47.1% of the SSSI units are in 'favourable' condition and 52.9% are in 'unfavourable - recovering' condition. SSSI condition is mapped in **Figure 4.3**.
- Arger Fen SSSI is generally in good condition with the most recent assessment (2011) identifying 68.3% of its extent as being 'unfavourable-recovering' condition and 36.7% in 'favourable' condition. Appropriate management of habitats including sheep grazing on acid grassland, coppicing and deer enclosures in mixed woodland and minimum intervention in wet woodlands have prevented the condition of these units from declining. Some woodland areas would benefit from canopy thinning to aid regeneration.
  - Cattawade Marshes SSSI is also in good condition with 53.8% of its extent as 'favourable' condition and 46.2% in 'unfavourable-recovering' condition (assessed in 2012). This is because of effective grazing and water level management in lowland grasslands. Some areas could benefit from reduced scrub cover.

#### Analysis of indicator: SSSI condition – Stour Valley Project Area

- 4.11 The majority (90.8%) of SSSI units within the Stour Valley Project Area are in 'unfavourable-recovering' condition, while 3.95% of SSSI units are in 'favourable' condition.
- 4.12 The following management techniques have made a positive contribution to the condition of biological SSSIs;
- Deer management plans in Kentwell Woods SSSI have reduced the grazing stress on vegetation and prevention of regeneration.
  - Increase in species richness of Odonata due to increased water quality in Glemsford Pits SSSI.
  - Scrub removal, cutting and clearing have all allowed ground flora in Lineage Wood & Railway Track, Long Melford SSSI to flourish.
- 4.13 There are also a small proportion of the SSSI units in the Stour Valley Project Area which are in 'unfavourable - no change' (0.8%) or 'unfavourable declining' (4.5%) condition. The units with unfavourable condition are located in Cornard Mere SSSI, Kentwell Woods SSSI and Out and Plunder Woods. Key reasons for their unfavourable condition are as follows;
- Changes in freshwater drainage at Cornard Mere SSSI have resulted in an altered vegetation community.
  - Excessive deer grazing preventing the regeneration of woodland in Kentwell Woods SSSI
- 4.14 SSSI condition within the Stour Valley Project Area is shown spatially in **Figure 4.4**.

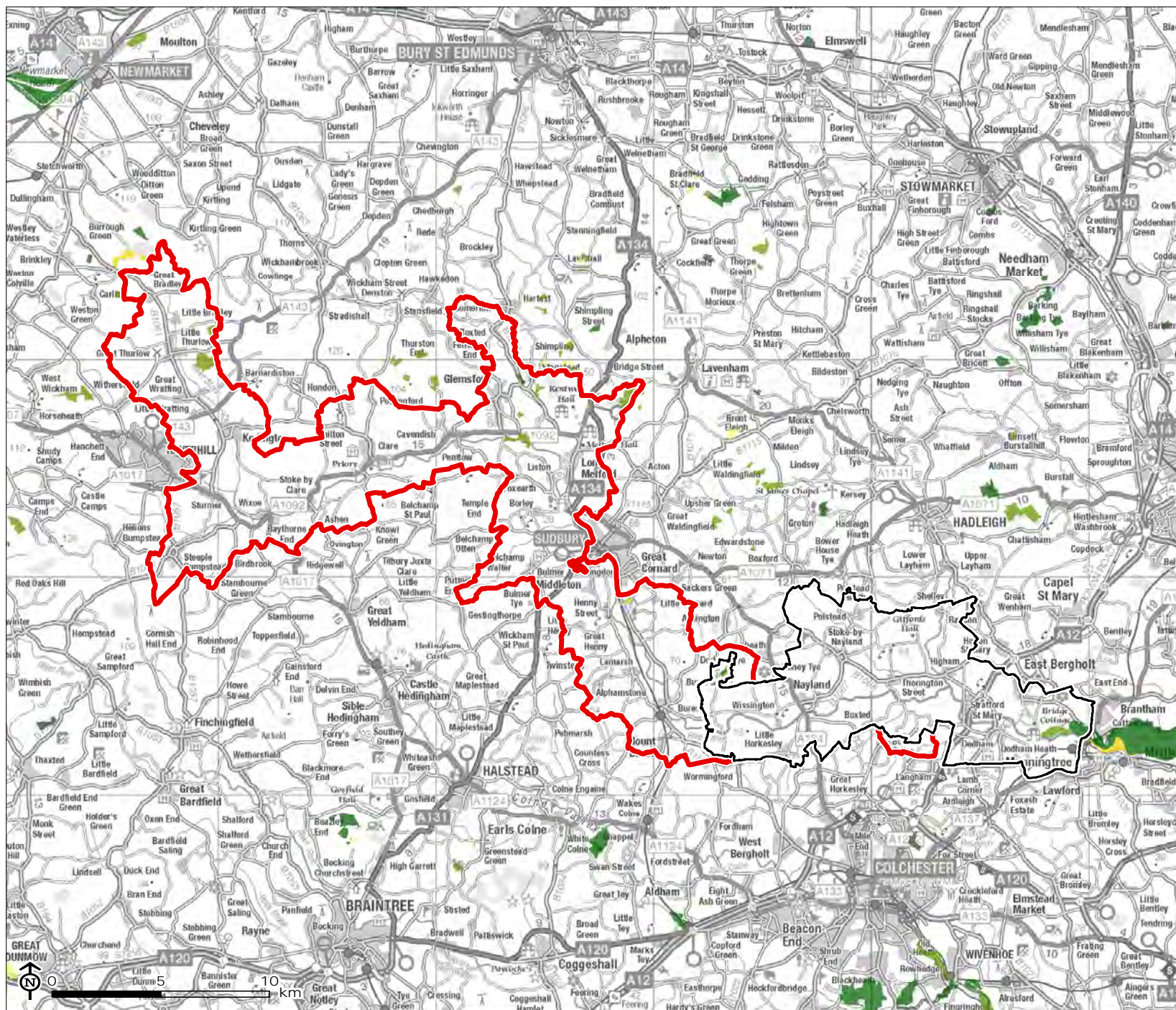
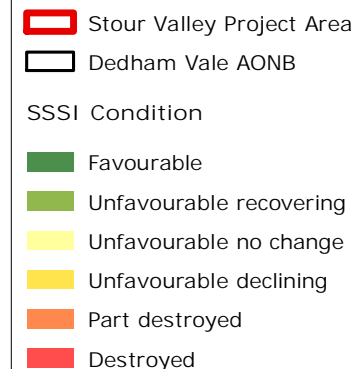






# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 4.4: SSSI Condition in Stour Valley Project Area



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### Analysis of indicator: Priority Habitat coverage – Dedham Vale AONB

- 4.15 Within the AONB there are large areas of BAP Priority Habitats, which collectively cover 23% of the AONB. The most extensive of these is coastal floodplain and grazing marsh which covers 855 ha, while deciduous woodland covers 814 ha. Smaller areas of lowland dry acid grassland, lowland fens, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pastures and reedbeds are also present within Dedham Vale AONB. The full list of Priority Habitats and area coverage are shown in **Table 4.3**. The distribution of Priority Habitats within the AONB can be seen in **Figure 4.5**. There are some patterns in spatial distribution, with coastal floodplain and grazing marsh most commonly following the River Stour.

**Table 4.3 BAP Priority Habitat coverage in Dedham Vale AONB**

Priority Habitat type	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	855.0
Deciduous woodland	814.0
Good quality semi-improved grassland	157.9
Lowland dry acid grassland	22.8
Lowland fens	5.1
Lowland meadows	12.7
No main habitat but additional habitats present	193.2
Purple moor grass and rush pastures	0.8
Reedbeds	0.3
Traditional orchard	17.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,079.1</b>

Source: Natural England Priority habitats GIS data (downloaded 2018)

### Analysis of indicator: Priority Habitat coverage – Stour Valley Project Area

- 4.16 In the Stour Valley Project Area, 1,819.2 ha (8.6% of the area) is identified as BAP Priority Habitat. The most common Priority Habitat is deciduous woodland, covering 5.1% (1,071.8ha) of the Stour Valley Project Area. Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh is also relatively abundant throughout the Stour Valley Project Area, covering 1.9% (409.6 ha). The distribution of this Priority Habitat mostly follows the course of the River Stour and its tributaries, as can be seen in **Figure 4.6**. There is also a relatively small coverage of good quality semi-improved grassland and lowland meadows within the Stour Valley Project Area. The area each Priority Habitat type occupies within the Stour Valley Project Area is shown in **Table 4.4**.

**Table 4.4: BAP Priority Habitat coverage in Stour Valley Project Area**

Priority Habitat type	Area (ha)
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh	409.6
Deciduous woodland	1,071.8
Good quality semi-improved grassland	130.6
Lowland calcareous grassland	3.8
Lowland dry acid grassland	16.9
Lowland fens	9.9
Lowland heathland	9.2
Lowland meadows	51.6
No main habitat but additional habitats present	108.5
Reedbeds	2.3
Traditional orchard	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,819.2</b>

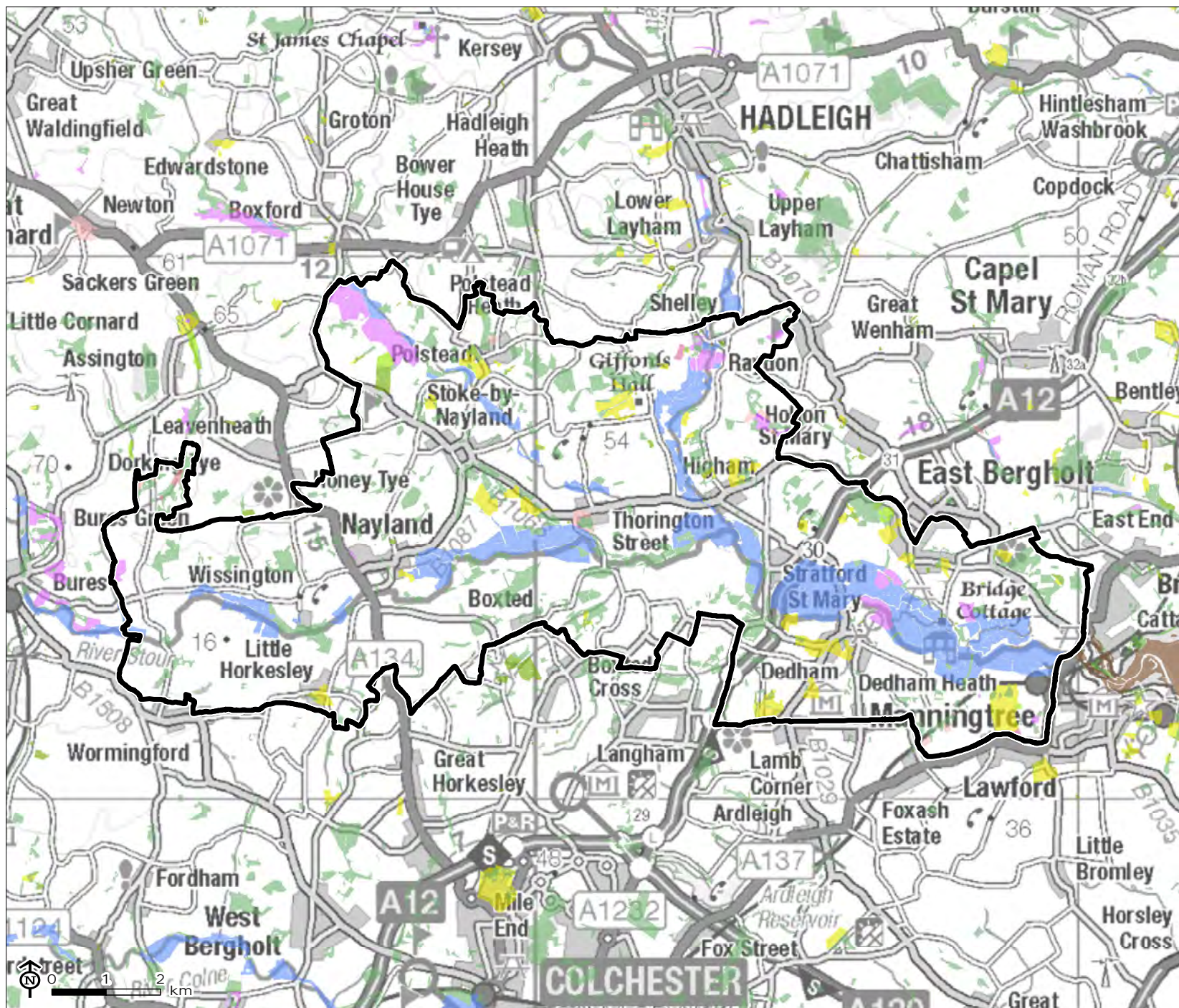
Source: Natural England Priority habitats GIS data (downloaded 2018)

Figure 4.5: Distribution of BAP Priority Habitats in Dedham Vale AONB



Source: NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000









#### **Analysis of indicator: Area of semi-natural habitat managed under agri-environment schemes – Dedham Vale AONB**

- 4.17 Agri-environment schemes provide a key source of funding for the management of semi-natural habitats. The following areas of semi-natural habitat are managed as part of Environmental Stewardship Schemes:
- 444 hectares of low-input grassland are being managed, restored or recreated under Environmental Stewardship agreements.
  - 89 hedgerow or in-field trees are managed as part of Environmental Stewardship agreements
- 4.18 Equivalent data of areas of semi-natural habitat managed as part of Countryside Stewardship agreements is not currently available.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Area of semi-natural habitat managed under agri-environment schemes – Stour Valley Project Area**

- 4.19 As this data is derived from information prepared by Natural England for AONBs, equivalent data for the Stour Valley Project Area is not available.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Presence/numbers of indicator species- Dedham Vale** *Mammals*

- 4.20 The AONB supports a variety of protected terrestrial mammal species as shown in **Table 4.5**. Data for these species within the AONB was provided by the Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres, for the years 2008 to 2017. This data highlights the presence of European otter, hazel dormouse, European water vole and three bat species, all of which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. In addition to the species noted in table **Table 4.5**, a Eurasian pigmy shrew and a Eurasian common shrew were recorded in 2014, a Eurasian badger was recorded in 2012 and 2017 and two West European hedgehogs were recorded in 2017.
- 4.21 Monitoring completed by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust identified a total of five European otter records in 2018 on the River Stour and River Box from a stratigraphic survey of 500m sections of the river every 3km.
- 4.22 There were nine European water vole records in 2018 documented by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust (following the same methodology as for otters see paragraph **4.21**), all of which were located along the River Stour and the River Box.



**Table 4.5: Mammal species records in Dedham Vale AONB (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
European Otter	N of locations	9	2	3	3	3	3	7	3	1	1
	N of records	9	2	3	4	8	3	14	5	1	2
European Water Vole	N of locations	3	0	0	1	2	1	8	2	0	1
	N of records	11	0	0	1	2	1	23	2	0	1
Hazel Dormouse	N of locations	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
	N of records	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Brown hare	N of locations	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	2	1	1
	N of records	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	5	1	1
Brown Long-eared Bat	N of locations	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	N of records	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Common Pipistrelle	N of locations	1	4	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2
	N of records	1	5	1	2	2	1	2	2	6	3
Natterer's Bat	N of locations	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0
	N of records	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	0
Noctule Bat	N of locations	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	N of records	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Soprano Pipistrelle	N of locations	1	3	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	2
	N of records	1	4	2	2	3	0	1	0	6	3
Serotine Bat	N of locations	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
	N of records	0	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### *Birds*

- 4.23 The AONB provides habitat for a variety of bird species including species of important conservation interest. **Table 4.6** shows some of the key species recorded within the AONB between 2008 and 2017. It should be noted that this list is a selection and does not identify all protected bird species present within the AONB. In addition to the data in **Table 4.6** there were two records of bitterns in 2016 and a single record of a buzzard in both 2016 and 2017.

**Table 4.6: Bird species records in Dedham Vale AONB (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cuckoo	N of locations	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	3	11	1
	N of records	0	0	0	0	5	2	1	4	17	5
Grey Partridge	N of locations	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	0
	N of records	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	3	0
Skylark	N of locations	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	3	6	1
	N of records	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	3	8	1
Song Thrush	N of locations	0	6	0	0	2	3	0	8	8	1
	N of records	0	10	0	0	2	3	0	16	10	3
Yellow Wagtail	N of locations	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	4	0
	N of records	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	3	4	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### *Amphibians*

- 4.24 Records of common toad and great crested newt in the AONB between 2008 and 2017 are shown in **Table 4.7**. Records of both species are sporadic.

**Table 4.7: Amphibian species records in Dedham Vale AONB (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Common Toad	N of locations	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
	N of records	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
Great Crested Newt	N of locations	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
	N of records	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### Reptiles

- 4.25 Three of the UK's six resident reptile species have been recorded between 2008 and 2017. These include the common lizard, grass snake and slow worm. Details of these records are shown in **Table 4.8**.

**Table 4.8: Reptile species records in Dedham Vale AONB from (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Common Lizard	N of locations	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N of records	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grass Snake	N of locations	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	2	1
	N of records	1	0	1	5	0	5	1	1	2	2
Slow-worm	N of locations	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
	N of records	1	0	1	2	0	13	0	0	0	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### Fish

- 4.26 The European eel has been sporadically recorded in the AONB with its presence being documented nearly every year since 2008 and with a peak number of 20 recordings in 2015, as shown in **Table 4.9**.

**Table 4.9: Fish species records in Dedham Vale AONB (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
European Eel	N of locations	0	1	1	0	5	0	1	8	1	1
	N of records	0	2	1	0	9	0	1	20	2	1

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### Invertebrates

- 4.27 Records of protected invertebrates recorded in Dedham Vale AONB are shown in **Table 4.10**. In addition to the species listed in **Table 4.10**, there were one-off records of the species ear moth in 2014 and white-letter hairstreak in 2012.



**Table 4.10: Invertebrate species records in Dedham Vale AONB (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cinnabar	N of locations	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
	N of records	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Scarce Chaser	N of locations	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	N of records	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Heath	N of locations	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
	N of records	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	0	0
Stag Beetle	N of locations	0	2	0	1	0	1	2	6	6	3
	N of records	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	12	13	4

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### Plants

- 4.28 Protected plant species recorded within the Dedham Vale AONB are listed in **Table 4.11**. The following species were recorded within the AONB only once within the nine year period between 2008 and 2017; common cudweed in 2008 and red hemp-nettle in 2016. Black poplar was also recorded as present at two locations within the Dedham Vale AONB.

**Table 4.11: Plant species records in Dedham Vale AONB (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bluebell	N of locations	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
	N of records	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Lesser Calamint	N of locations	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
	N of records	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Scots Pine	N of locations	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	N of records	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Snowdrop	N of locations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	N of records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### Analysis of indicator: Presence/numbers of indicator species- Stour Valley Project Area

##### Mammals

- 4.29 The Stour Valley Project Area hosts a diverse range of terrestrial mammal species including the protected species shown in **Table 4.12**. Recorded species include European otter, European water vole, hazel dormouse, brown hare, and two pipistrelle bat species. In addition to the species shown in **Table 4.12**, there was a singular recording of a Nathusius's pipistrelle in 2014 as well as 12 recordings of unidentified pipistrelle species since 2008.

**Table 4.12: Records of mammal species in the Stour Valley Project Area from 2008 to 2017**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
European otter	N of locations	14	2	2	9	9	2	5	0	3	1
	N of records	20	2	2	10	12	2	7	0	3	1
European water vole	N of locations	1	0	0	5	1	0	0	1	1	0
	N of records	5	0	0	3	3	0	0	1	1	0
Hazel dormouse	N of locations	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1
	N of records	1	2	0	0	0	16	0	2	0	1
Brown hare	N of locations	0	0	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	0
	N of records	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	8	4	0
Common pipistrelle	N of locations	0	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	6	1
	N of records	0	2	1	1	5	2	13	2	6	1
Soprano pipistrelle	N of locations	1	1	2	1	1	0	2	0	3	2
	N of records	1	1	2	1	2	0	12	0	3	3

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### *Birds*

- 4.30 A selection of notable bird species that have recorded in the Stour Valley Project Area are shown in **Table 4.13**. A Bittern was also recorded within the Stour Valley Project Area in 2009 near Kedington. It should be noted that this list is a selection does not identify all protected bird species present within the Stour Valley Project Area.

**Table 4.13: Bird species records in the Stour Valley Project Area (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cuckoo	N of locations	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	5	7	0
	N of records	0	4	3	2	2	0	0	8	8	0
Grey Partridge	N of locations	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
	N of records	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	0
Skylark	N of locations	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	3	6	0
	N of records	0	4	3	1	1	0	0	3	10	0
Song Thrush	N of locations	2	13	1	0	0	1	1	3	11	0
	N of records	2	31	1	0	0	1	1	3	14	0
Yellow Wagtail	N of locations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
	N of records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

#### *Amphibians*

- 4.31 Recordings of protected amphibians between 2008 and 2017 are shown in **Table 4.14**. Amphibians present include great crested newt and common toad which are both protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.



**Table 4.14: Amphibian species records in the Stour Valley Project Area (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Common Toad	N of locations	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
	N of records	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	4	0	0
Great Crested Newt	N of locations	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0
	N of records	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

### Reptiles

- 4.32 Reptiles recorded within the Stour Valley Project Area include grass snake and slow-worms which have both had reoccurring presence in recordings throughout the nine years since 2008, as can be seen in **Table 4.15**.

**Table 4.15: Reptile species records in the Stour Valley Project Area (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Grass Snake	N of locations	3	2	1	3	1	1	2	0	1	1
	N of records	3	2	1	3	1	1	2	0	1	1
Slow-worm	N of locations	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
	N of records	1	1	0	1	0	6	0	1	1	1

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

### Fish

- 4.33 The European eel was recorded sporadically between 2008 and 2017, with a peak count of ten records in 2009 as shown in **Table 4.16**.

**Table 4.16: Fish species records in the Stour Valley Project Area (2008-2017)**

Species		Year									
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
European Eel	N of locations	0	7	1	0	3	1	3	3	0	0
	N of records	0	10	1	0	6	2	4	3	0	0

Source: Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records centres (2018)

### Invertebrates

- 4.34 There were only two recorded occurrences of stag beetles in the past nine years, with both records dating from 2015. These were within the Colchester and Braintree districts.
- 4.35 The white-clawed crayfish has not been formally recorded in the Stour Valley Project Area since 2009. However, this may be a result of survey effort rather than a reduction in population.

### Plants

- 4.36 The protected plant species black poplar has been recorded within the Stour Valley Project Area at a total of three locations between 2008 and 2017. Whilst there was one recording of oxlip in both 2008 and 2010.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Invasive species – Dedham Vale**

- 4.37 Within the Essex part of the AONB, several instances of invasive species have been recorded. Invasive species identified in the AONB include; the American Mink (2002 and 2012), Himalayan Balsam (2016), Japanese Knotweed (2017), Signal Crayfish (1993) and Turkish Crayfish (1993-1995).

#### **Analysis of indicator: Invasive species – Stour Valley Project Area**

- 4.38 Within the Stour Valley Project Area there have been a number of invasive species recorded, including the American mink which has been recorded five times since 2014.
- 4.39 Both species of invasive crayfish, the Signal Crayfish and Turkish Crayfish are also present. There have been five recordings of the Signal Crayfish since 2009 and three recordings of the Turkish Crayfish since 2009.
- 4.40 Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam have also been reported within the Stour Valley Project Area, both of which have been formally recorded twice.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Water Framework Directive Ecological Status – Dedham Vale AONB**

- 4.41 This indicator has been derived from Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes data. As well as the current status, this data also contains Ecological Objectives which aim to improve waterbodies' status against the Water Framework Directive.

##### *Rivers*

- 4.42 Within the AONB, there are 42 kilometres of river which are monitored under the Water Framework Directive, all of which are classed as having moderate status.
- 4.43 The Ecological Objectives for the rivers state that 30.72 kilometres should be classed as 'good' status by 2027.

##### *Coastal water*

- 4.44 There is one coastal/transitional waterbody within the AONB which is monitored under the Water Framework Directive which has 'moderate' status.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Water Framework Directive Ecological Status – Stour Valley Project Area.**

- 4.45 Since data for this indicator is derived from data produced by Natural England for protected landscapes, equivalent data is not available for the Stour Valley Project Area.

#### **Data sources**

- Natural England GIS data (downloaded 2018)
- Natural England, 2017. Framework for monitoring environmental outcomes in protected landscapes (MEOPL)
- Suffolk Ornithologist's Group (2018), Suffolk Birds Vol. 67: A review of birds in Suffolk in 2017. Suffolk Naturalist's Society.
- Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service GIS data:
  - County Wildlife Sites
- Essex Wildlife Trust GIS data:
- Natural England Designated Sites
- Suffolk Wildlife Trust



### Recommendations

- National and local biodiversity and geodiversity data should be collected and analysed every five years through State of the AONB Reporting to enable change over time to be monitored for the headline indicators.
- The AONB should explore a Service Level Agreement with the Suffolk and Essex Biodiversity Records Centres to obtain comparable species data every five years for the purposes of monitoring trends in the AONB.
- The AONB should monitor the status of waterbodies monitored under the Water Framework Directive to ensure that the waterbody in 'moderate' condition does not decline.

## Geodiversity

### Indicators selected for this sub-theme

- Geological designations

#### Summary headlines

- There are no geological designations within the AONB.

### Analysis of indicator: Geological designations

- 4.46 There are no geological designations such as geological SSSIs or county GeoSites, within Dedham Vale AONB or the Stour Valley Project Area.

### Data sources

- Natural England GIS data (downloaded 2018)

#### Recommendations

- Revisit these indicators for the next revision of the State of the AONB Report to explore whether any geological sites have been designated. The AONB should also work with partners to explore whether there are any geological sites within the AONB/Stour Valley Project Area that would benefit from nature conservation designation protection.



An aerial photograph of a village and its surrounding landscape. In the foreground, a cluster of houses with red-tiled roofs is visible. A prominent, tall, light-colored stone church tower with multiple levels of arched windows and a spire stands out. The village is surrounded by dense green trees. Beyond the village, the landscape opens up into rolling green fields with scattered trees. In the background, there are more fields and a line of trees under a clear sky.

5

# Historic Environment



## 5 Historic Environment

### Indicators selected for this theme

- 5.1 The indicators selected for monitoring the 'Historic Environment' theme are as follows:
- Number and area covered by Scheduled Monuments
  - Number and area covered by Registered Parks and Gardens
  - Number and classification of Listed Buildings
  - Number and extent of Conservation Areas
  - Condition of archaeological features (Heritage at Risk)
  - Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the Historic Environment Record
  - Management of archaeological/historic features through agri-environment schemes
- 5.2 Note that some of the data used to inform these indicators is available for the Dedham Vale AONB only and equivalent data for the Stour Valley is not available.
- 5.3 Please note that there are no World Heritage Sites or Registered Battlefields in the AONB, therefore these designations are not included as indicators.

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- In Dedham Vale AONB there are seven Scheduled Monuments which cover a total area of 20 ha. One of these Scheduled Monuments is on the Heritage at Risk Register.
- There is one Registered Park and Garden in the AONB; the Grade II Registered Tendring Hall Park.
- There are 675 Listed Buildings in the Dedham Vale AONB. 22 are Grade I, 48 are Grade II\* and 605 are Grade II.
- The AONB contains 12 Conservation Areas.
- 111.8 hectares of the AONB are managed for the benefit of archaeological/historic features via Environmental Stewardship.

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- There are 24 Scheduled Monuments in the Stour Valley Project Area.
- There are four Registered Parks and Gardens within Stour Valley Project Area. Two are Grade II\* and two are Grade II.
- 1,111 Listed Buildings are located in the Stour Valley Project Area; 34 Grade I, 75 Grade II\* and 1,002 Grade II. These buildings are often clustered within the 14 Conservation Areas in the Stour Valley Project Area.
- Three Listed Buildings and three Scheduled Monuments are on the Heritage at Risk Register.

### Analysis of indicator: Number and area covered by Scheduled Monuments – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.4 There are seven Scheduled Monuments within Dedham Vale AONB, as listed in **Table 5.1** and mapped in **Figure 5.1**. The two largest sites in the area are the *ring ditches southwest of Reed Island* located in Lawford (7.85 ha) and the *Wissington ring ditch cluster* located in Nayland-in-











Wissington (7.58 ha). The ring ditches appear to represent the remains of field systems and late-medieval and post-medieval artefacts have been found, including worked flints.

**Table 5.1: Name and area of Scheduled Monuments within the AONB**

Scheduled Monument Name	Total area (ha)
Round barrow W of Lawford Hall	0.03
Ring ditches SW of Reed Island	7.9
Earthwork called Court Knoll	2.9
Wissington ring ditch cluster	7.6
Site discovered by aerial photography S of King's Wood	0.4
Henge 70m north east of Cross Cottages	0.2
Moated site and remains of demolished parts of Shelley Hall, a post-medieval great house	0.7
<b>Total area</b>	<b>19.7</b>

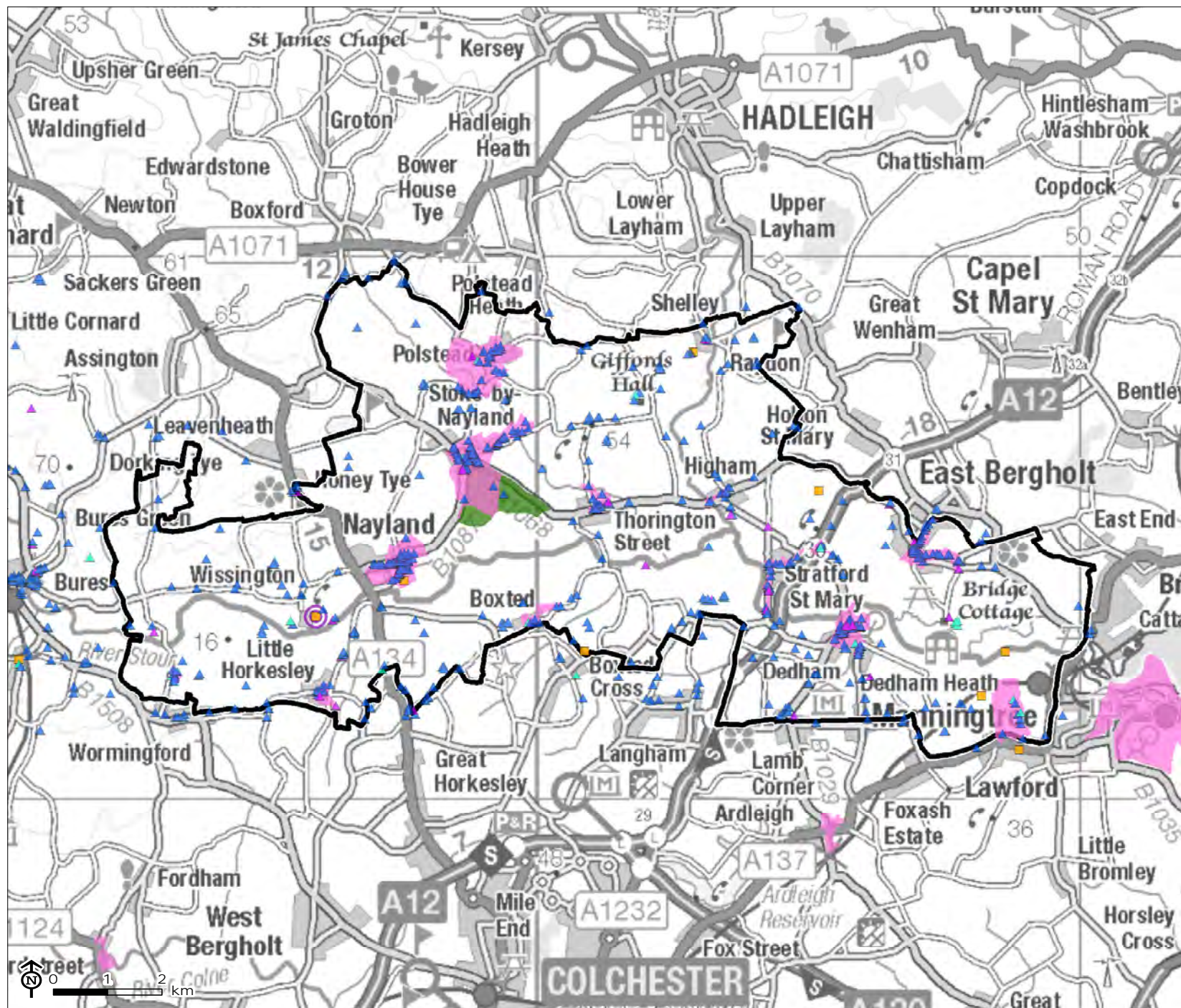
Source: Historic England Scheduled Monuments GIS data downloaded (2018)

Figure 5.1: Designated Heritage Assets within Dedham Vale AONB

-  Dedham Vale AONB
  -  Heritage at risk
  -  Scheduled monuments
  -  Registered parks and gardens
  -  Conservation area
- Listed buildings
-  Grade I
  -  Grade II
  -  Grade II\*

Source: NE, HE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000





### Analysis of indicator: Number and area covered by Scheduled Monuments – Stour Valley Project Area

- 5.5 There are 24 Scheduled Monuments in the Stour Valley Project Area, as listed in **Table 5.2** and shown in **Figure 5.2**. The largest Scheduled Monument in the area is the *Roman villa northeast of Rodbridge House* (10.0 ha). There are three other Scheduled Monuments from the Roman era in the Stour Valley Project Area. There are also numerous Scheduled Monuments identified as moated sites in Stour Valley Project Area. The largest is the moated site and associated garden immediately east of the Grade II listed Great Bradley Hall (1.7 ha). This moated site is believed to be the site of the manor of Great Bradley dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, as well as an early post-medieval formal garden.

**Table 5.2: Name and area of Scheduled Monuments within the Stour Valley Project Area**

Scheduled Monument Name	Total area (ha)
Roman villa south of Alphamstone church	1.1
Roman villa at Liston Lane	1.5
Interrupted ditch system W of Hall Farm	3.0
Roman villa NE of Rodbridge House	10.0
Roman settlement NW of Cotton Hall	6.6
Ring ditches and ritual structure S of Chapel Farm	6.8
Moat NW of village	0.4
Clare Castle	4.1
Clare Priory (uninhabited portions)	0.8
Earthwork on Lower Common	4.5
The Conduit, Melford Green	0.02
Bowl barrow 500m north-west of Sturmer Hall	0.2
Latchley's Farm moated site and fishponds	0.6
Circular cropmark at Ferriers Farm, 190m south-west of Hill Farm	0.1
Castle Mound: a motte 40m north of St John's Church	0.5
Sturmer Hall moated site and mill complex	1.0
Ashen House moat and fishpond, 500m north of St Augustine's Church.	0.4
Dovecote at Blois Farm	0.01
Long mortuary enclosure and barrows 460m north west of Mill Farm	0.5
Moated site and associated garden immediately east of The Hall	1.7
Remains of church and churchyard, 80m south east of The Ryes	0.1
Moated site 300m north west of Hunts Park Farm	0.5
Moated site at Ganwick Farm, 580m west of House Farm	0.3
Moated site at Great Wilsey Farm	0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.1</b>

Source: Historic England Scheduled Monuments GIS data downloaded 2018



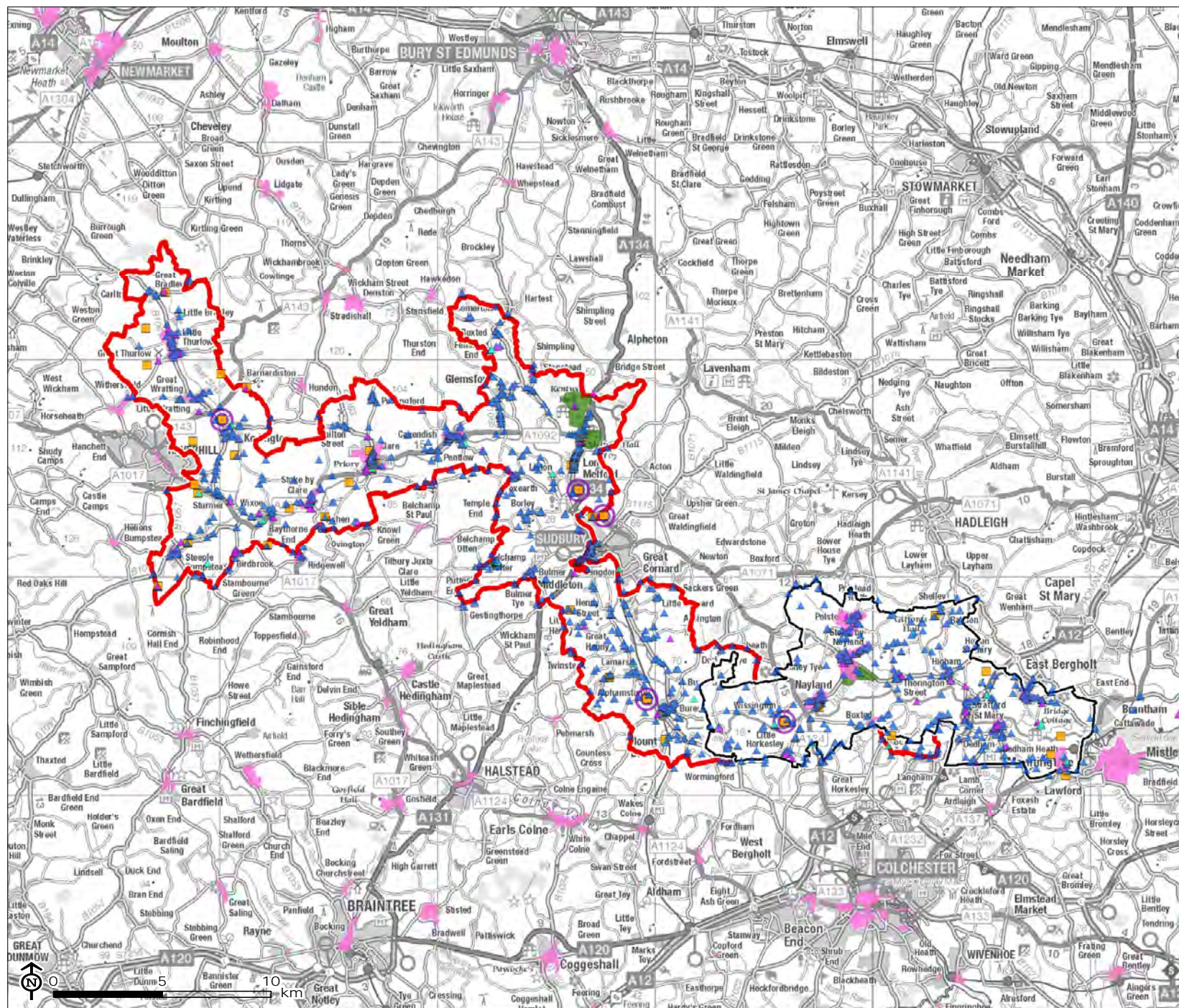
# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 5.2: Designated Heritage Assets within Stour Valley Project Area

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB
- Heritage at risk
- Scheduled monuments
- Registered parks and gardens
- Conservation Area
- Listed buildings
  - Grade I
  - Grade II
  - Grade II\*

Source: NE, HE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### Analysis of indicator: Number and area covered by Registered Parks and Gardens – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.6 The Grade II Tendring Hall Park is the only Registered Park and Garden within the Dedham Vale AONB and covers an area of 109.4 ha. The park is set within the surrounding river valley landscape and rolling countryside in Stoke-by-Nayland. The gardens were designed by Humphrey Repton for Sir William Rowley in 1791. Part of Tendring Hall Park also falls within the Stoke-by-Nayland Conservation Area.

### Analysis of indicator: Number and area covered by Registered Parks and Gardens – Stour Valley Project Area

- 5.7 There are four Registered Parks and Gardens within Stour Valley Project Area, listed in **Table 5.3**. Three of these features are located in the village of Long Melford. The largest Registered Park and Garden is the Grade II\* Registered Kentwell Hall located in the north of Long Melford. Another Registered Park and Garden located in Long Melford is the Grade II\* Melford Hall, centred on a mid-16th century Tudor country house. Trinity Hospital is also located in Long Melford and was first built by William Cordell in 1573.

**Table 5.3: Name and area of Registered Parks and Gardens Stour Valley Project Area**

Registered Park and Gardens name	Grade	Total area (ha)
Melford Hall	Grade II*	69.9
Belchamp Hall	Grade II	11.6
Kentwell Hall	Grade II*	152.3
Trinity Hospital	Grade II	0.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>234</b>

Source: Historic England Registered Parks and Gardens GIS data downloaded 2018

### Analysis of indicator: Number and classification of Listed Buildings – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.8 There are 675 Listed Buildings in the Dedham Vale AONB. 22 are Grade I, 48 are Grade II\* and 605 are Grade II. The Listed Buildings tend to be clustered in and around Conservation Areas, as shown in **Figure 5.1**.

### Analysis of indicator: Number and classification of Listed Buildings – Stour Valley Project Area

- 5.9 There are 1,111 Listed Buildings in the Stour Valley Project Area. 34 are listed Grade I, 75 are listed Grade II\* and 1,002 are listed Grade II. Clusters of Listed Buildings are often associated with Conservation Areas as shown in **Figure 5.2**.

### Analysis of indicator: Number and area of Conservation Areas – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.10 There are 12 Conservation Areas wholly or partially within the AONB as shown in **Table 5.4**. The spatial extent of these can be seen on **Figure 5.1**.

**Table 5.4 Conservation Areas within Dedham Vale AONB**

Name of Conservation Area	District Council	Total area within the AONB (ha)	% Area within AONB
Boxted	Colchester	13.1	99.8
Dedham	Colchester	41.4	100.0
East Bergholt	Babergh	35.1	98.9
Higham	Babergh	5.7	100.0
Lawford	Tendring	57.5	93.6
Little Horkesley	Colchester	9.5	100.0
Nayland	Babergh	62.3	100.0
Polstead	Babergh	104.3	100.0
Stoke By Nayland	Babergh	127.0	100.0
Stratford St Mary	Babergh and Colchester	23.1	100.0
Thorington St (Stoke By Nayland)	Babergh	14.4	100.0
Wormingford	Colchester	4.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>497.4</b>	

Colchester Borough, Babergh & Mid Suffolk and Tendring district Councils (2018)

- 5.11 The Conservation Area Appraisals note detractors and forces for change in the Conservation Areas; frequent examples include:
- Unsympathetic additions and alterations to existing historic properties;
  - Use of non-traditional building materials;
  - Wide driveways which locally erode sense of enclosure; and
  - In places, overhead wiring is intrusive.
- 5.12 None of the Conservation Areas in the AONB are listed on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Number and area of Conservation Areas – Stour Valley Project Area**

- 5.13 There are 14 Conservation Areas in the Stour Valley Project Area. The spatial extent of these can be seen on **Figure 5.2**. **Table 5.5** shows the area of each Conservation Area which falls within the boundary of the AONB.

**Table 5.5: Conservation Areas within Stour Valley Project Area**

Conservation Area	District Council	Area within the AONB (ha)	% Area within AONB
Cavendish	St. Edmundsbury	36.0	100
Great and Little Thurlow	St. Edmundsbury	84.4	100
Great Wratting	St. Edmundsbury	25.0	100
Stoke-By-Clare	St. Edmundsbury	48.5	100
Withersfield	St. Edmundsbury	1.4	3.4
Clare	St. Edmundsbury	113.2	100
Foxearth	Braintree	5.1	73.2
Steeple Bumpstead	Braintree	15.4	100
Ridgewell	Braintree	0.4	3.9
Bures	Braintree	10.9	100
Belchamp Walter	Braintree	0.3	23.1
Ashen	Braintree	3.4	76.5
Birdbrook	Braintree	7.8	41.8
Bulmer	Braintree	11.9	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>363.7</b>	

Source: Braintree, Babergh & Mid Suffolk and Forest Heath & St. Edmundsbury District Councils (2018)



- 5.14 The Conservation Area Appraisals note detractors and forces for change in the Conservation Areas. Frequent examples include:
- Pressures for residential development;
  - Neglect of buildings, particularly industrial properties;
  - Use of inappropriate uPVC windows;
  - Intrusive overhead wiring;
  - Erosion of character from streets and street furniture; and
  - Inappropriate boundary treatments.
- 5.15 None of the Conservation Areas in the Stour Valley Project Area are listed on the Historic England Heritage at Risk Register.

#### Analysis of indicator: Condition of archaeological features (Heritage at Risk) – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.16 There is one Scheduled Monument identified on the Heritage at Risk list within the Dedham Vale AONB – the *Wissington ring ditch cluster* Scheduled Monument. The main risk to the archaeological features is from arable ploughing in the fields where the ditch cluster is located, and the condition is following a declining trend.

#### Analysis of indicator: Condition of archaeological features (Heritage at Risk) – Stour Valley Project Area

- 5.17 There are three Listed Buildings and three Scheduled Monuments identified on the Heritage at Risk list in the Stour Valley Project Area as shown in **Table 5.6**. Two listed Places of Worship have the same name, although they are in different locations. The Church of St Mary is a Grade I Listed Place of Worship located in Cavendish. The tower associated with the church is becoming unstable due to deterioration of the masonry. The Church of St Mary, Church Road is located in Ovington, as a Grade II\* Listed Place of Worship. The structure is in significant decline, with north and south walls cracking and roof deformation caused by rain and wind penetration. The roof of Stoke College is also in disrepair but is still classified as in fair condition. The main risk to all three Scheduled Monuments is from arable ploughing.

**Table 5.6: Heritage at Risk in the Stour Valley Project Area**

Name	Heritage classification	Description	Current condition
Church of St Mary (Cavendish)	Listed Building	Place of worship	Poor
Stoke College	Listed Building	Building or structure	Fair
Church of St Mary, Church Road (Ovington)	Listed Building	Place of worship	Poor
Interrupted ditch system west of Hall Farm	Scheduled Monument	Archaeology	Extensive significant problems
Roman villa north east of Rodbridge House	Scheduled Monument	Archaeology	Extensive significant problems
Circular cropmark at Ferriers Farm, 190m south west of Hill Farm	Scheduled Monument	Archaeology	Extensive significant problems

Source: Historic England Heritage at Risk Register (downloaded 2018)

#### Analysis of indicator: Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the HER – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.18 **Figure 5.3** displays the location of features contained within the Historic Environment Record (HER) within Dedham Vale AONB. The number of entries for each category of HER is shown below in **Table 5.7**. There are a total of 1,113 entries in the HER within the AONB. Note that in some cases, HER records overlap with other designations including Scheduled Monuments and Listed

Buildings. HER entries corresponded to a large range of time periods from the prehistoric to modern times.

**Table 5.7: HER point type within Dedham Vale**

HER point type	Number
Building	234
Find Spot	64
Monument	522
Portable Antiquities Scheme Find	197
Other	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,113</b>

Source: Suffolk and Essex County Historic Environment Record

- 5.19 The spatial distribution of HER records in Dedham Vale AONB is illustrated in **Figure 5.3**. There is a high concentration of HER buildings in the town of Dedham, as well as clusters of Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds near Dedham Road on the southern boundary of the AONB and to the west of the town of Dedham. Generally clusters of HER building monuments are located within Conservation Areas. There is a higher frequency of HER records in Essex (south) than in Suffolk (north), although this is likely to be a reflection of survey effort. Along the northern boundary of the AONB there are comparatively few HER records. Please note that the location of some HER points have not been included in **Figure 5.3** as their locations are confidential.

**Analysis of indicator: Number and location of locally important archaeological sites/features listed on the HER – Stour Valley Project Area**

- 5.20 The number of entries for each category of the HER is shown below in **Table 5.8**. There are a total of 2,377 entries in the HER within the Stour Valley Project Area. Note that in some cases, HER records overlap with other designations including Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings. HER entries corresponded to a large range of time periods from the prehistoric to modern times.

**Table 5.8: HER point type within the Stour Valley Project Area**

HER point type	Number
Building	393
Find Spot	195
Monument	1336
Portable Antiquities Scheme Find	349
Other	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,377</b>










Source: Suffolk and Essex County Historic Environment Record

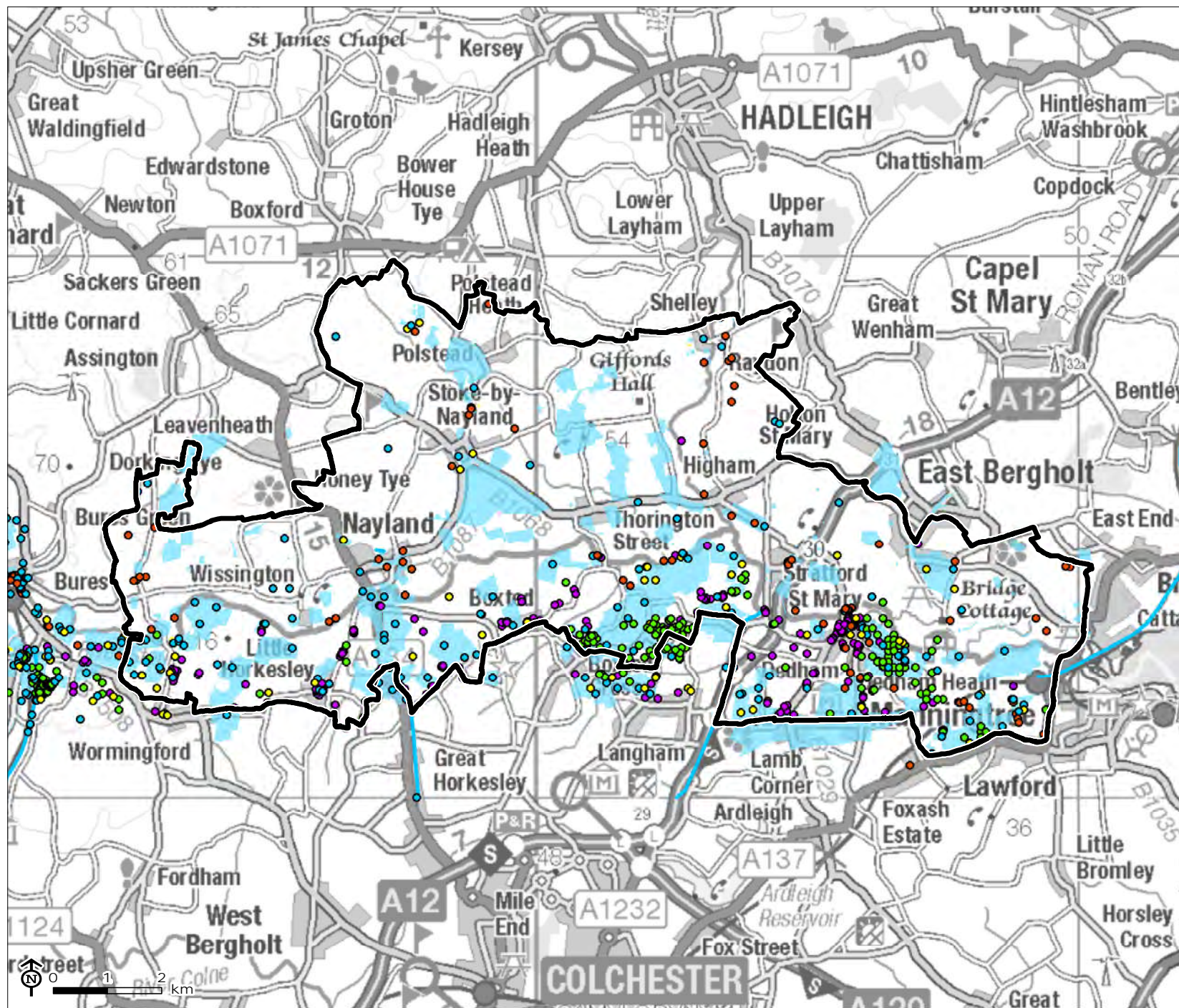
- 5.21 **Figure 5.4** displays the location of features contained within the HER within the Stour Valley Project Area. HER findings of all types seem to be frequently located within close proximity to the River Stour. There are notable clusters of HER points near Wixoe, Claire, Long Melford, Bures and Mount Bures. There appears to be more HER records in Essex than in Suffolk, however this is likely to be a reflection of survey effort. Some of the HER records have not been included in **Figure 5.4** as their location is confidential.



Figure 5.3: Historic Environment Record Features

 Dedham Vale AONB

-  Building
-  Find spot
-  Monument
-  Portable Antiquities Scheme find
-  Other
-  Building
-  Find spot
-  Monument
-  Other



Source: NE, CBC, ECC, SCC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000

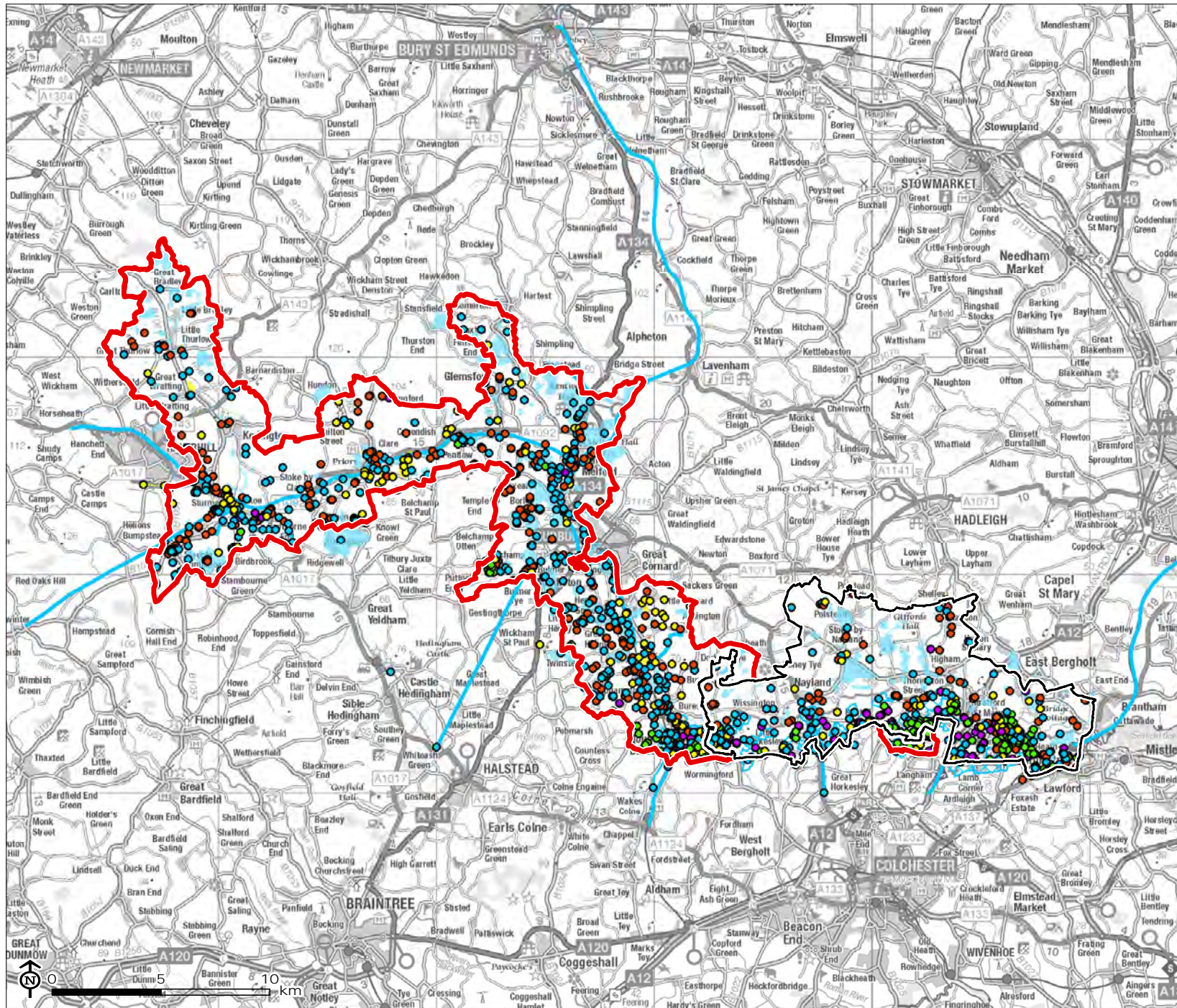




# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 5.4: Historic Environment Record Features

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB
- Building
- Find spot
- Monument
- Portable Antiquities Scheme find
- Other
- Building
- Find spot
- Monument
- Other



Source: NE, CBC, ECC, SCC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### Analysis of indicator: Management of archaeological/historic features through agri-environment schemes – Dedham Vale AONB

- 5.22 A total of 1% (111.8 hectares) of the AONB is managed for the protection of archaeological/historic features via an agri-environment scheme. The most common option is HC12: maintenance of wood pasture and parkland, which is applied to 83.1 ha of the AONB. **Table 5.9** below shows the area coverage of the relevant Environmental Stewardship options.

**Table 5.9: Area of land managed for archaeological/historic features through agri-environment schemes**

Option code	Option name	Area (ha)
HC12	Maintenance of wood pasture and parkland	83.1
HD2	Take archaeological features out of cultivation	5.0
HD3	Low depth, non-inversion cultivation on archaeological features	21.0
HD5	Management of archaeological features on grassland	2.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>111.8</b>

Source: Natural England Monitoring for Protected Landscapes (2018)

- 5.23 Despite only covering a small proportion of the AONB, agri-environment schemes are an important source of funding for land management. Agri-environment schemes will also change following the exit of the UK from the European Union, so this indicator forms an important baseline for future monitoring.
- 5.24 Equivalent data for archaeological/historic features managed as part of Countryside Stewardship Agreements is not currently available.

### Analysis of indicator: Management of archaeological/historic features through agri-environment schemes – Stour Valley Project Area

- 5.25 Since the data for this indicator is derived from information produced by Natural England for protected landscapes only, it is not possible to report on this indicator for the Stour Valley Project Area.

#### Data sources

- Historic England GIS data:
  - Scheduled Monuments
  - Registered Parks and Gardens
  - Listed Buildings
  - Heritage at Risk
- Heritage at Risk Register
- Local Authority Conservation Area GIS data
- Framework for Monitoring Environmental Outcomes in Protected Landscapes (MEOPL), 2017 and 2018
- Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
- Essex County Historic Environment Record

### Recommendations

- The national and local data should be collected every five years, with trends over time monitored and analysed from the baseline set in this State of the AONB Report.
- The AONB and its partners should work to preserve the positive characteristics of Conservation Areas through the planning system to reverse negative trends which have already impacted on Conservation Areas and prevent further negative impacts.
- The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should continue to monitor the Heritage at Risk register for the addition of features within the AONB and Stour Valley Project Area. Features that are currently on the Heritage at Risk Register should be appropriately managed and protected to restore/prevent further decline to the feature. The main existing threats to heritage are lack of management, arable ploughing and intrusive modern development.
- The coverage of agri-environment schemes is likely to change significantly over the next five years, following the conclusion of existing agri-environment schemes and the development of a new set of agri-environment payments following the exit of the UK from the EU. This is a key force for change in the management of the landscape.



# 6

## Socio-economic profile



## 6 Socio-economic profile

### Indicators selected for this theme

- Population trends
- Levels of deprivation
- Barriers to housing and services
- Average property values and second home ownership
- Patterns in employment and types of businesses

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- The estimated population of Dedham Vale AONB is 9,861 people. The gender split of the population is 48.3% male and 51.7% female.
- Population density is low across the whole of the AONB.
- According to the IMD, levels of deprivation are moderate. Deprivation is higher against the barriers to housing and services deprivation indicator.

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- The population of the Stour Valley Project Area was estimated to be 22,514 people in 2017. The gender split of population is equal.
- Population density is low, with most of the area containing less than ten people per hectare.
- Levels of deprivation are varied across the Stour Valley Project Area, with more rural areas tending to have greater levels of deprivation. Deprivation is higher against the barriers to housing and services indicator.

### Analysis of indicator: Population trends– Dedham Vale AONB

#### *Total population size Dedham Vale AONB*

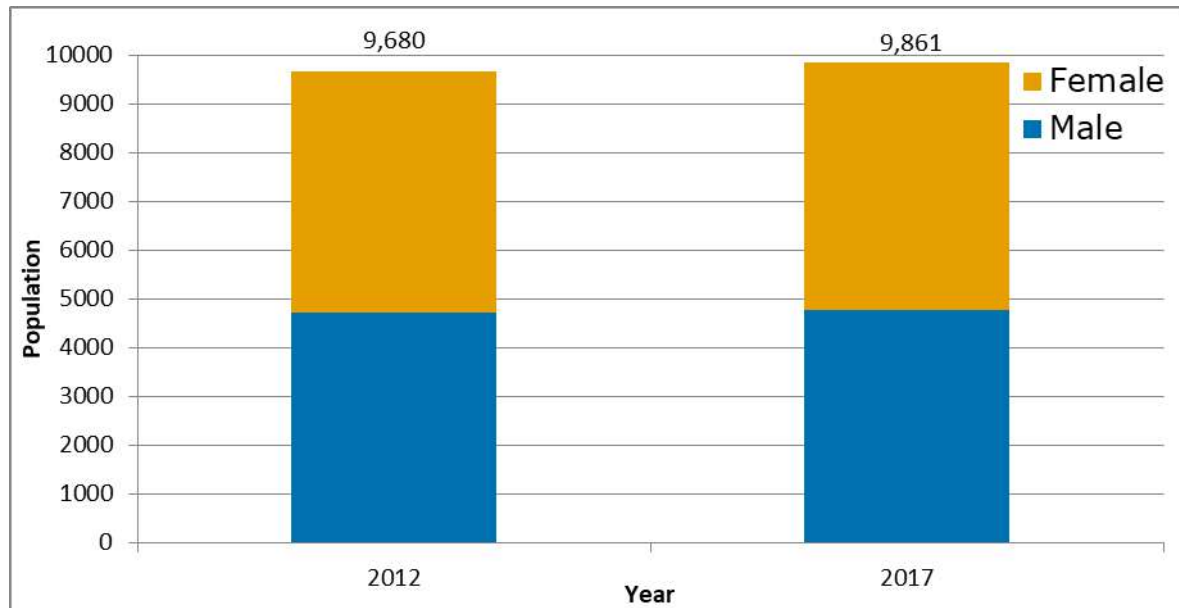
- 6.1 The total estimated population of Dedham Vale AONB in 2017 was 9,861 people, according to the ONS mid-year estimate. Of these people, 48.3% are male and 51.7% female. The population within the AONB has increased by 1.9% from the population of 9,680 people recorded in the 2012 ONS mid-year estimates as shown in **Figure 6.1**.

#### *Population density Dedham Vale AONB*

- 6.2 The whole of Dedham Vale AONB is sparsely settled, with population density only greater than ten people per hectare near Cattawade in the east of the AONB. Throughout the rest of the AONB population density is fewer than ten people per hectare as shown in **Figure 6.3**.



**Figure 6.1: Population split by gender in Dedham Vale AONB (2012 and 2017)**

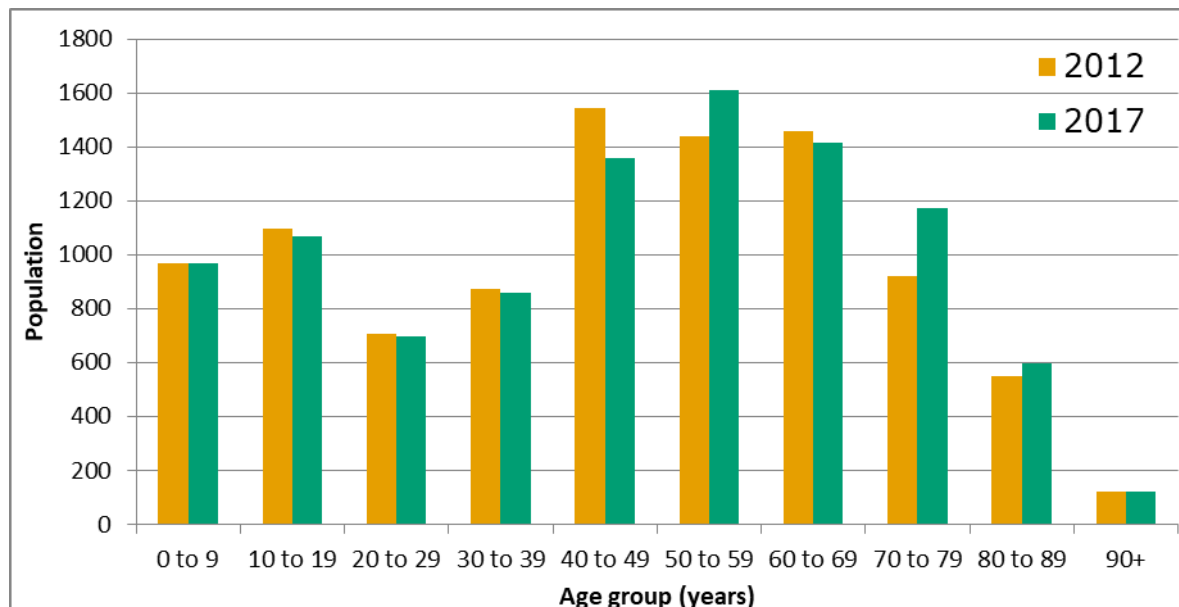


Source: Office of National Statistics Population Mid-year Estimates (2012 and 2017)

#### Age profile - Dedham Vale AONB

- 6.3 The chart at **Figure 6.2** shows the number of people within each age bracket residing in the AONB for both 2012 and 2017. The age bracket of 50-59 has the highest number of people, with 1,608 people in this age group. This is closely followed by the 60-69 (1,417 people) and 40-49 (1,360 people) age brackets, illustrating that a higher proportion of residents are older adults. Between the 2012 and 2017 mid-year ONS population estimates, numbers of people in all age brackets have decreased except for those in the age brackets of 50-59, 70-79 and 80-89, reflecting the aging population.

**Figure 6.2: Age profile in Dedham Vale AONB**

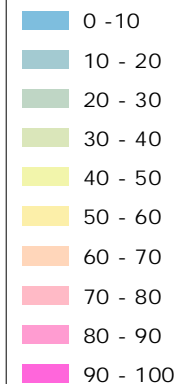


Source: Office of National Statistics Population Mid-year Estimates (2012 and 2017)

Figure 6.3: Population density in Dedham Vale AONB

 Dedham Vale AONB

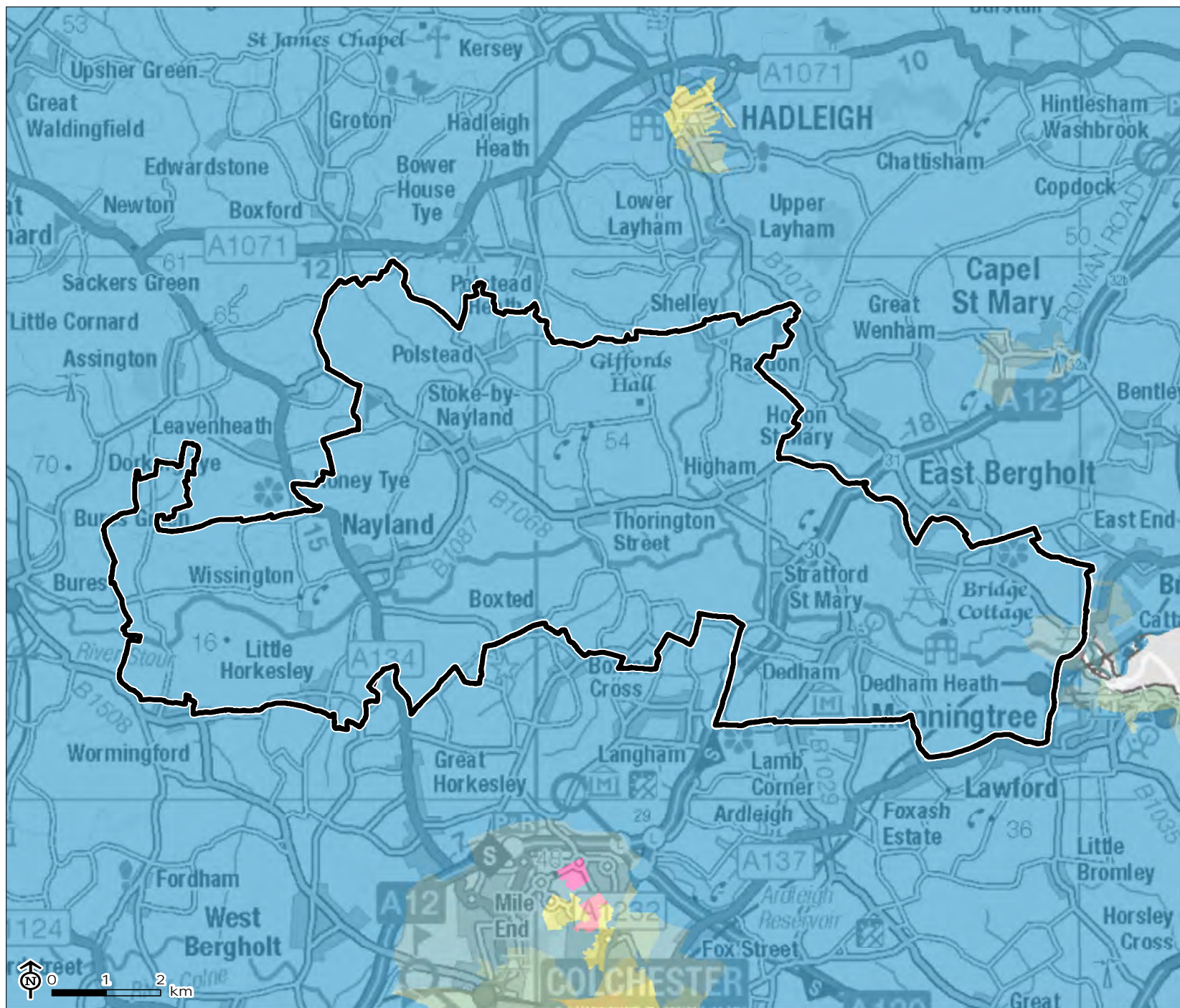
Population density  
(people per hectare)\*



\*Calculated from Office for  
National Statistics Lower  
Super Output Area Mid-Year  
Population Estimates 2017

Source: NE, ONS

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000



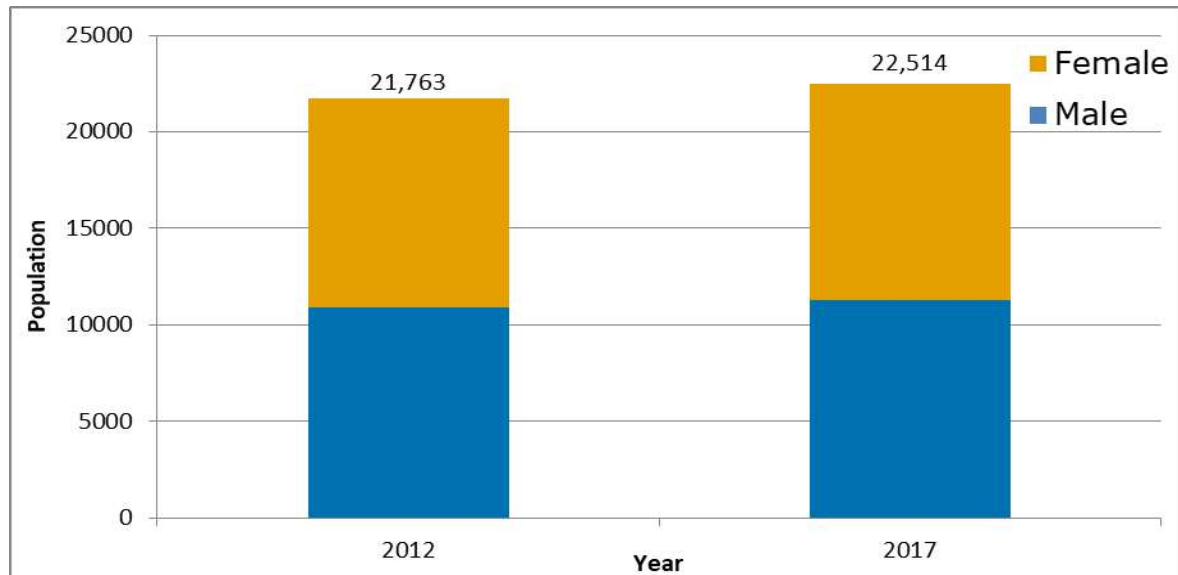


### Analysis of indicator: Population trends – Stour Valley Project Area

#### Total population size

- 6.4 The total estimated population of the Stour Valley Project Area in 2017 was 22,514 people, according to ONS mid-year estimates. The gender split of the population is an almost equal (11,270 male and 11,246 female). Population within Stour Valley Project Area has increased by 3.5% from the total population of 21,763 people in the 2012 ONS mid-year estimates. The population estimates from both years are shown in **Figure 6.4**.

**Figure 6.4: Population split by gender in Stour Valley Project Area**



Source: Office of National Statistics Population Mid-year Estimates (2012 and 2017)

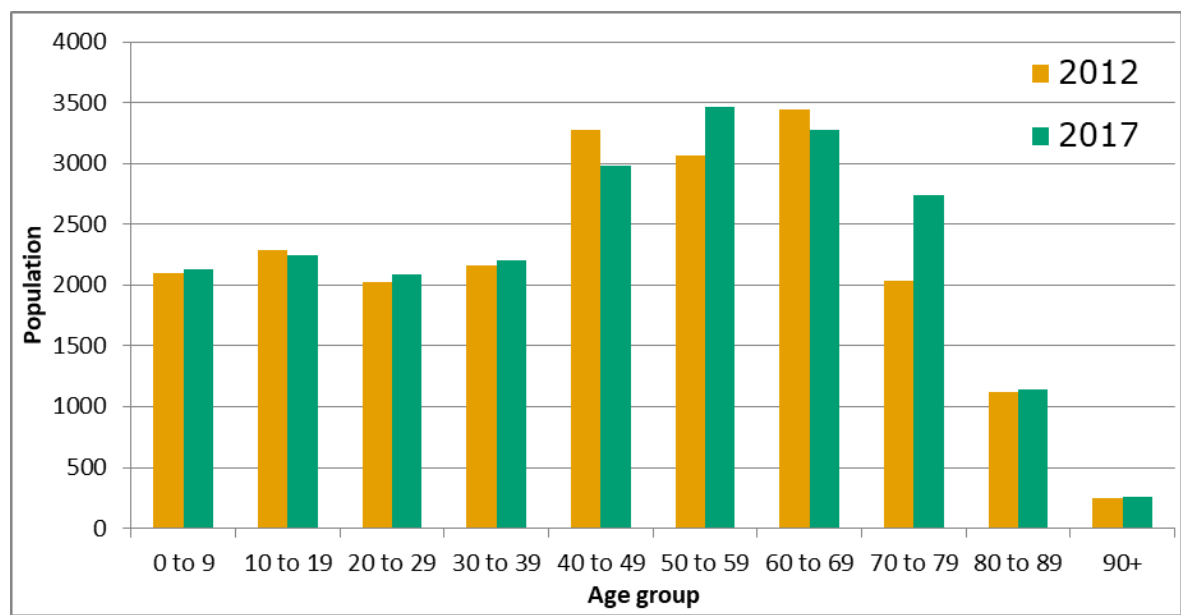
#### Population density

- 6.5 The Stour Valley Project Area is also sparsely settled, with a population density of 1-10 people per hectare for the majority of its extent. There are increased population densities on the outskirts of the larger settlements including Sudbury and Haverhill. Population density is mapped in **Figure 6.6**.

#### Age profile

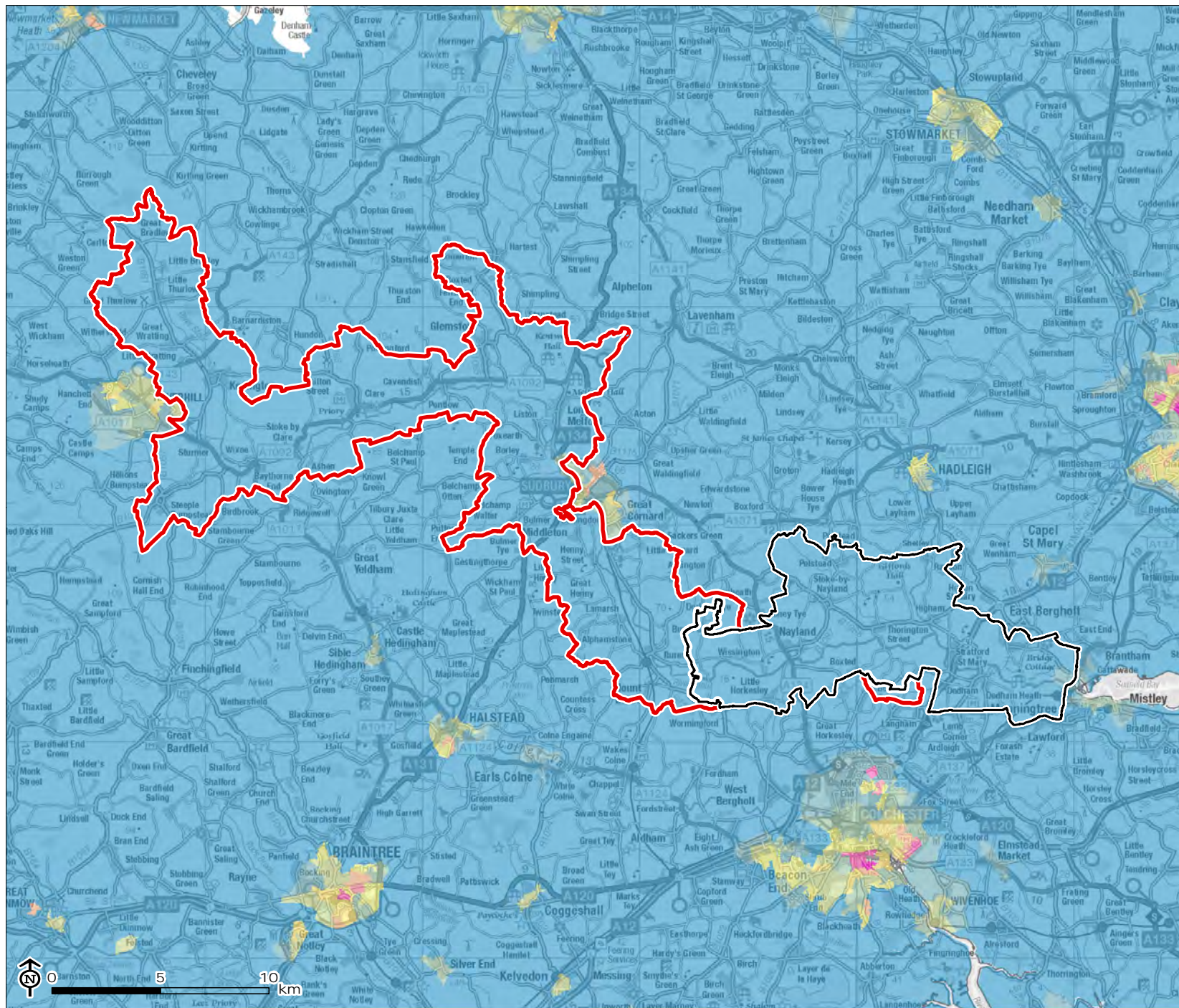
- 6.6 The chart at **Figure 6.5** shows the number of people within each age bracket residing in the AONB for both 2012 and 2017. The age bracket of 50-59 has the highest number of residents, with 3,466 people fitting into this age group. This is closely followed by the 60-69 (3,279) and 40-49 (2,980) age brackets, illustrating there is a higher proportion of residents are middle to older age adults. Between the 2012 and 2017 ONS mid-year estimates, numbers of people in all age brackets have increased except for those in the age brackets of 10-19, 40-49 and 60-69.

Figure 6.5: Age profile Stour Valley Project Area



Source: Office of National Statistics Population Mid-year Estimates (2012 and 2017)





## Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 6.6: Population Density in Stour Valley Project Area

Stour Valley Project Area

Dedham Vale AONB

Population density (people per hectare) \*

- 0 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 30
- 30 - 40
- 40 - 50
- 50 - 60
- 60 - 70
- 70 - 80
- 80 - 90
- 90 - 100

\*Calculated from Office for National Statistics Lower Super Output Area Mid-Year Population Estimates 2017

Source: NE, ONS

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000



### Analysis of indicator: Levels of deprivation – Dedham Vale AONB

- 6.7 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that most of Dedham Vale AONB has moderate levels of deprivation, as shown in **Figure 6.7**. On the outskirts of Manningtree to the east, there are reduced levels of deprivation where neighbourhoods are among the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country. There is a general trend toward slightly higher levels of deprivation within the more rural areas.
- 6.8 **Figure 6.8** shows the IMD for barriers to housing and services within the AONB. Compared to the overall IMD, there are relatively high levels of deprivation in the provision of housing and services. More than half of the AONB area is categorised as 'most deprived', with these areas of high deprivation generally occurring in the west of the AONB. Closer to Manningtree there are reduced levels of deprivation to housing and services.

### Analysis of indicator: Levels of deprivation – Stour Valley Project Area

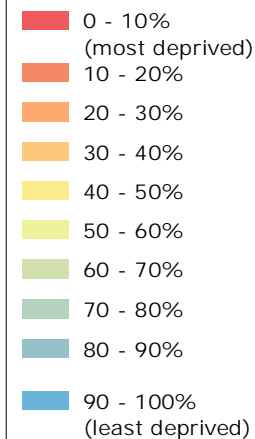
- 6.9 Levels of deprivation vary throughout the Stour Valley Project Area, with the area near Steeple Bumpstead identified as one of the 20% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country. Conversely, the area near Long Melford in the north east is more deprived and amongst the 40% most deprived neighbourhoods in the country. Pockets of lower deprivation tend to be near settlements such as Sturmer, Claire and Kedington, while areas with greater deprivation levels tend to be more rural. The spatial distribution of levels of deprivation within the Stour Valley Project Area is shown in **Figure 6.9**.
- 6.10 Levels of deprivation relating to barriers to housing and services within the Stour Valley Project Area are shown in **Figure 6.10**. This shows that a large proportion of the Stour Valley Project is in the 'most deprived' category of. Surrounding the larger settlements of Haverhill, Kedington, Clare, Glemsford, Sudbury and Long Melford, there are reduced levels of deprivation to housing and services.



Figure 6.7: Dedham Vale AONB Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

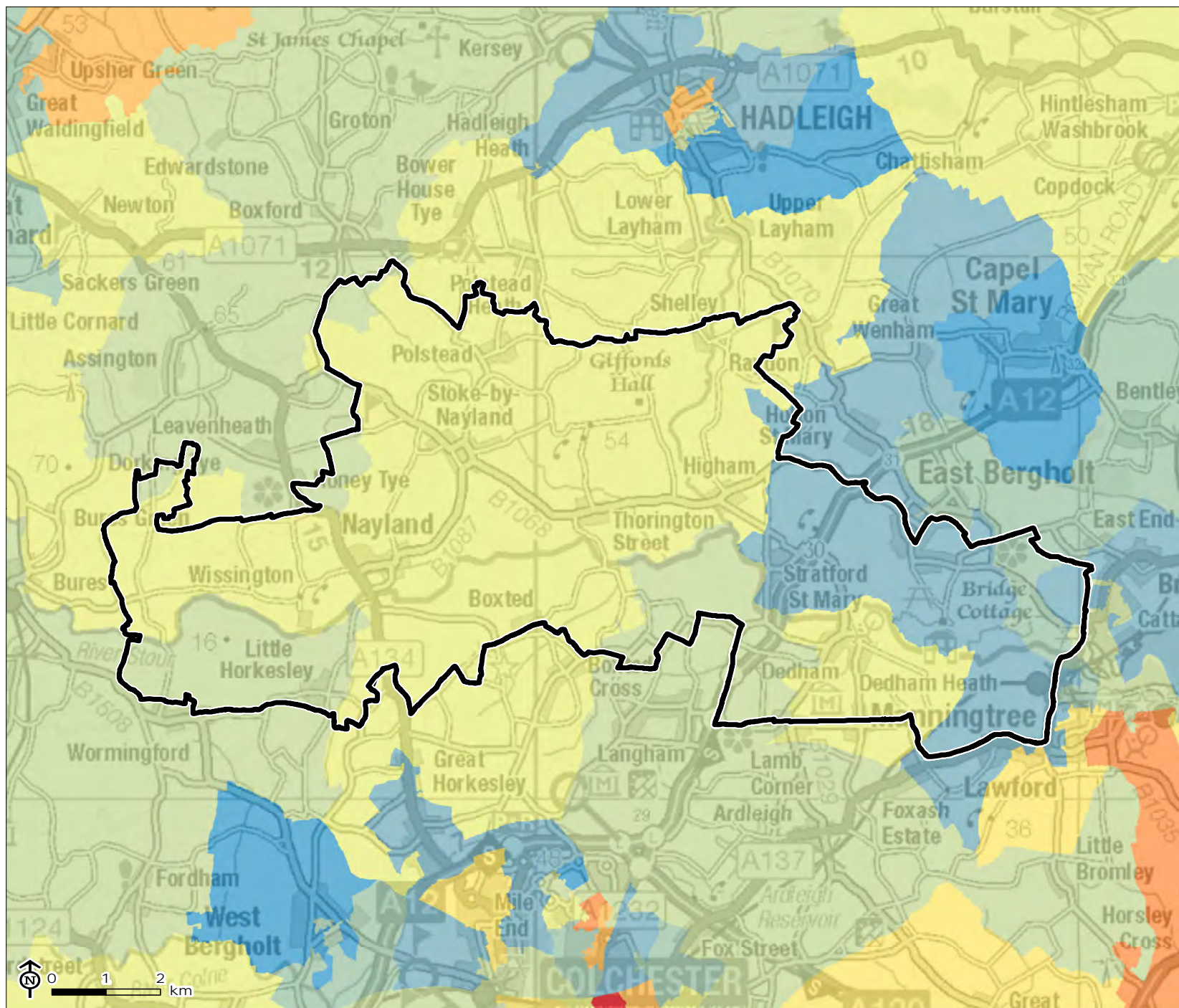
 Dedham Vale AONB

IMD decile

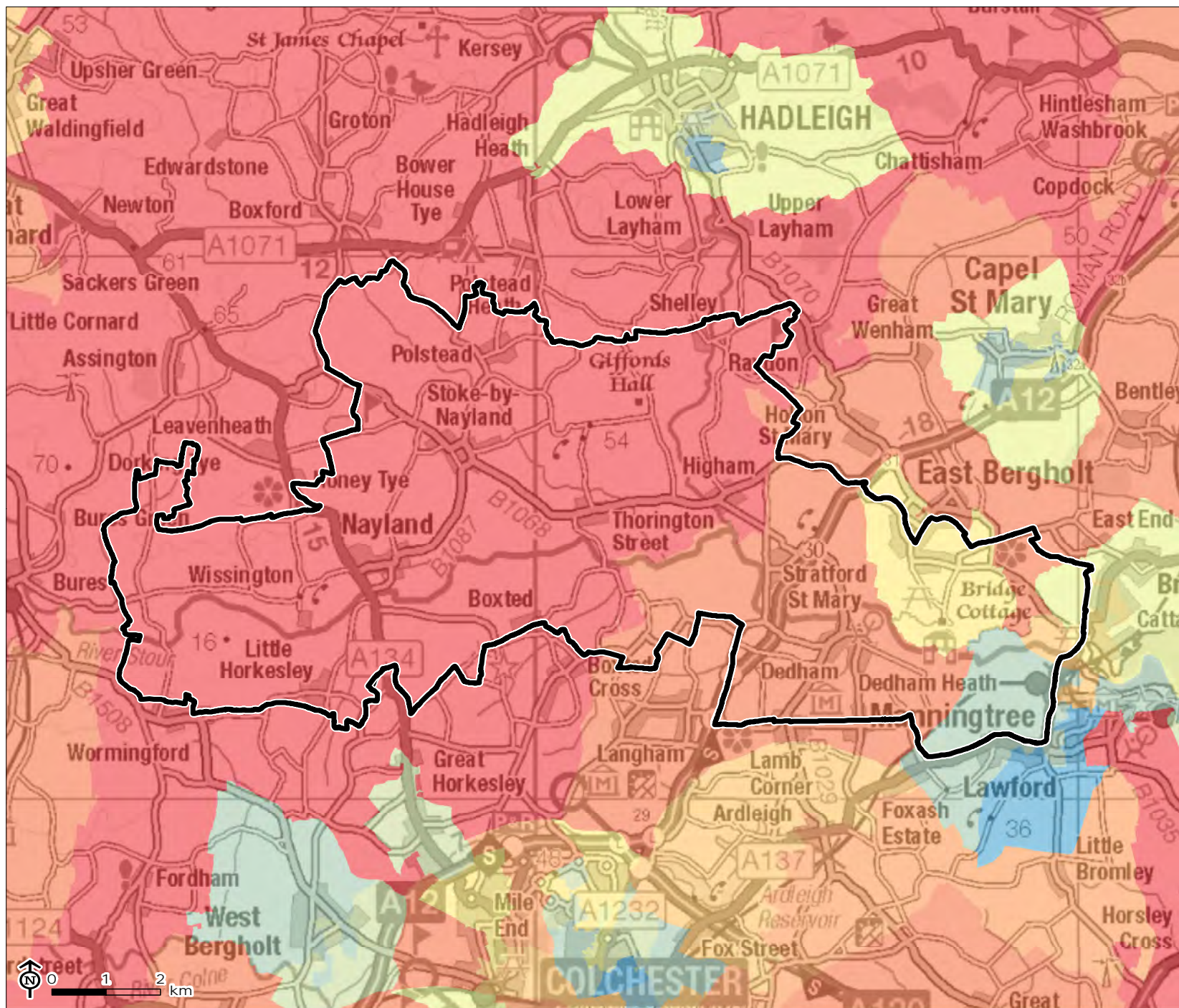


Source: NE, DCLG

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000







# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 6.8: Dedham Vale AONB Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation Indicator

Dedham Vale AONB

IMD: Barriers to Housing and Services

- 0 - 10% (most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100% (least deprived)

Source: NE, DCLG

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000





Dedham Vale AONB and  
Stour Valley Project Area:  
State of the AONB Report  
2018

Figure 6.9: Stour Valley  
Project Area Index of  
Multiple Deprivation (IMD)

Stour Valley Project Area

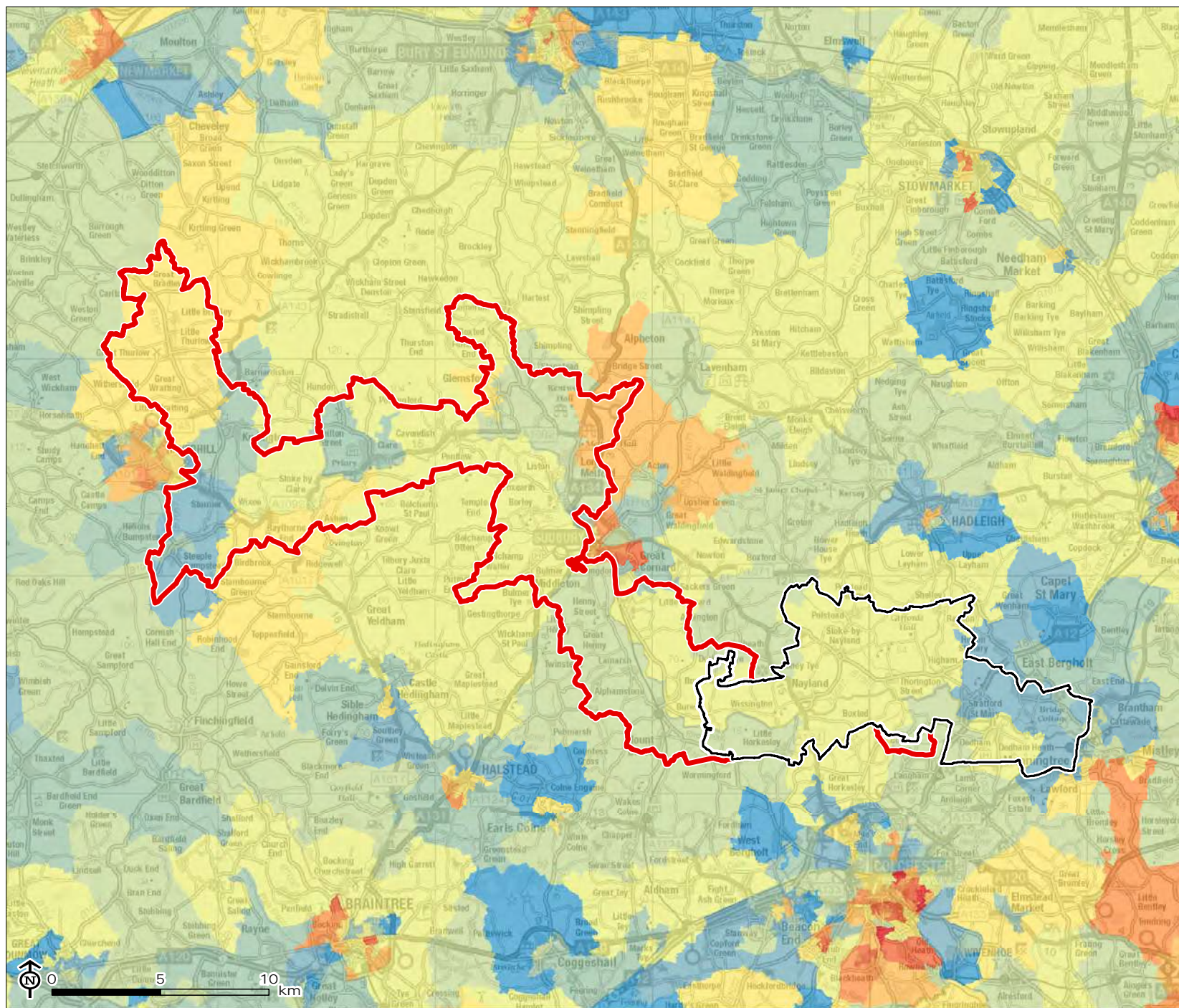
Dedham Vale AONB

IMD decile

- 0 - 10%  
(most deprived)
- 10 - 20%
- 20 - 30%
- 30 - 40%
- 40 - 50%
- 50 - 60%
- 60 - 70%
- 70 - 80%
- 80 - 90%
- 90 - 100%  
(least deprived)

Source: NE, DCLG

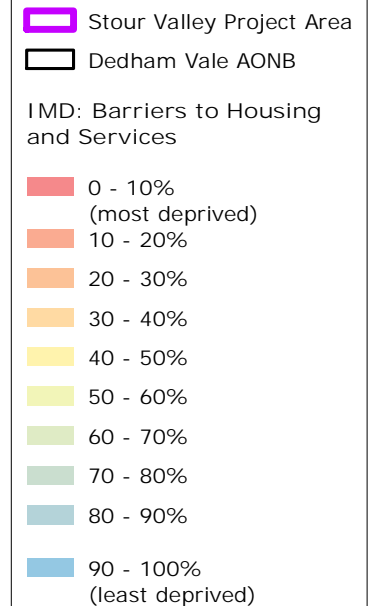
Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





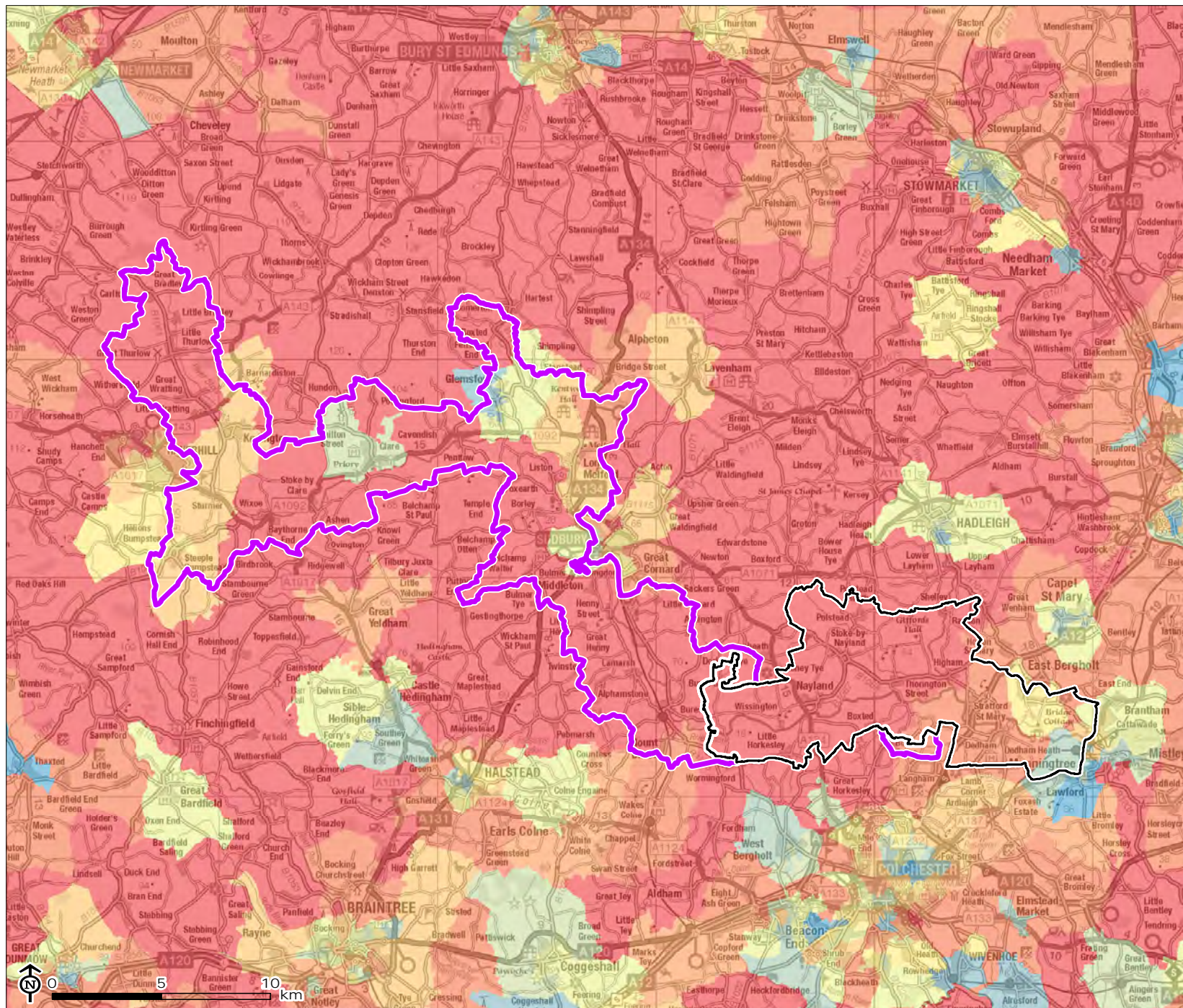
Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 6.10: Stour Valley Project Area Barriers to Housing and Services Deprivation Indicator



Source: NE, DCLG

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





### **Analysis of indicator: Average property values and second home ownership Dedham Vale AONB**

- 6.11 Land Registry data shows that in 2018, the highest average property price (£450,684) was associated with postcode districts close to Bures in the west of the AONB. The postcode district with the lowest average house price is located in the south of Dedham Vale AONB, where house prices average £282,870. The distribution of average house price (by postcode region) is shown in **Figure 6.11**.
- 6.12 It should be noted that most of the postcode regions extend outside of the AONB, so the average may be skewed by higher or lower house prices outside of the AONB area and may not be a true representation of house prices within the AONB.

#### *Second home ownership*

- 6.13 Precise figures on second home ownership in the AONB are not available. 2011 Census data on second addresses indicates that there are a total of 3,273 people in Babergh District with second addresses. While this figure is not specific to the AONB, it indicates that there are potentially high levels of second home ownership in the AONB.
- 6.14 High levels of second home ownership can have a significant impact on house prices, services and employment.

### **Analysis of indicator: Average property values and second home ownership Stour Valley Project Area**

#### *Average property price*

- 6.15 As can be seen in **Figure 6.12**, average property prices vary significantly throughout the Stour Valley Project Area. The highest average property price is found in the south east near the village of Bures where the average property price is £450,684. Lower average house prices are found in the western extent of the Stour Valley Project Area, near Haverhill where the average house price is £267,475.

#### *Second home ownership*

- 6.16 Precise figures on second home ownership in the Stour Valley Project Area are not available. 2011 Census data on second addresses indicates that there are over 10,000 people in Braintree, St Edmundsbury and Babergh Districts (which cover the majority of the Stour Valley Project Area) with second addresses. While this figure is not specific to the Stour Valley Project Area, it indicates that there are potentially high levels of second home ownership in the AONB.
- 6.17 High levels of second home ownership can have a significant impact on house prices, services and employment.

### **Analysis of indicator: Patterns in employment and types of businesses – Dedham Vale AONB**

- 6.18 There is limited data available on employment patterns and types of businesses within Dedham Vale AONB. However, the tourism sector is an important source of employment. The 2017 Economic Impact of Tourism Report states that there are 976 full time equivalent jobs linked to tourism. Total actual tourism related employment is estimated to be 1,363.
- 6.19 2012 data from Defra's Rural Statistics Unit<sup>11</sup> indicated that:
- There are 385 businesses operating in the area (19% Professional, scientific and technical services; 12% in agriculture, forestry and fishing; 7% in information and communication and 4% in accommodation and food services).
  - 2,455 people are employed in the area including 295 in agriculture, forestry and fishing.
  - There are 35 tourism related businesses supporting 445 jobs.
  - The average gross annual income for those living in the area is £38,480 being above the East of England (rural) region average of £35,650.

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<sup>11</sup> Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Management Plan 2016-2021

6.20 Updated information from Defra's Rural Statistics Unit is not available.

### **Analysis of indicator: Patterns in employment and types of businesses – Stour Valley Project Area**

6.21 There is limited data available on employment patterns and types of businesses within the Stour Valley Project Area. However, the tourism sector is an important source of employment. The 2017 Economic Impact of Tourism Report states that there are 817 full time equivalent jobs linked to tourism. Total actual tourism related employment is estimated to be 1,217.

#### **Data sources**

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015
- Office of National Statistics mid-year Population Estimates (2012 and 2017)
- Office of National Statistics Census 2011
- Department for Communities and Local Government
- Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area Management Plan<sup>12</sup>.

#### **Recommendations**

- The AONB should work with partners to accurately identify levels of second home ownership to accurately monitor this indicator.
- Data sources for levels of employment and types of businesses within the AONB were not readily available at the time of writing the State of the AONB Report. The AONB should endeavour to work with partners to obtain employment and business data over the course of the next Management Plan to allow for monitoring of change in this sector.
- New census data should be available for the next iteration of the State of the AONB report, enabling indicators derived from census data to be updated.

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<sup>12</sup> Dedham Vale AONB (2015) Dedham Vale AONB Management Plan. Online Available At: <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/about-us/aonb-management-plan/2016-2021-management-plan/> (Accessed 08/03/39).



Figure 6.11: Average House Prices in Dedham Vale AONB

 Dedham Vale AONB

 Postcode district

Average house price

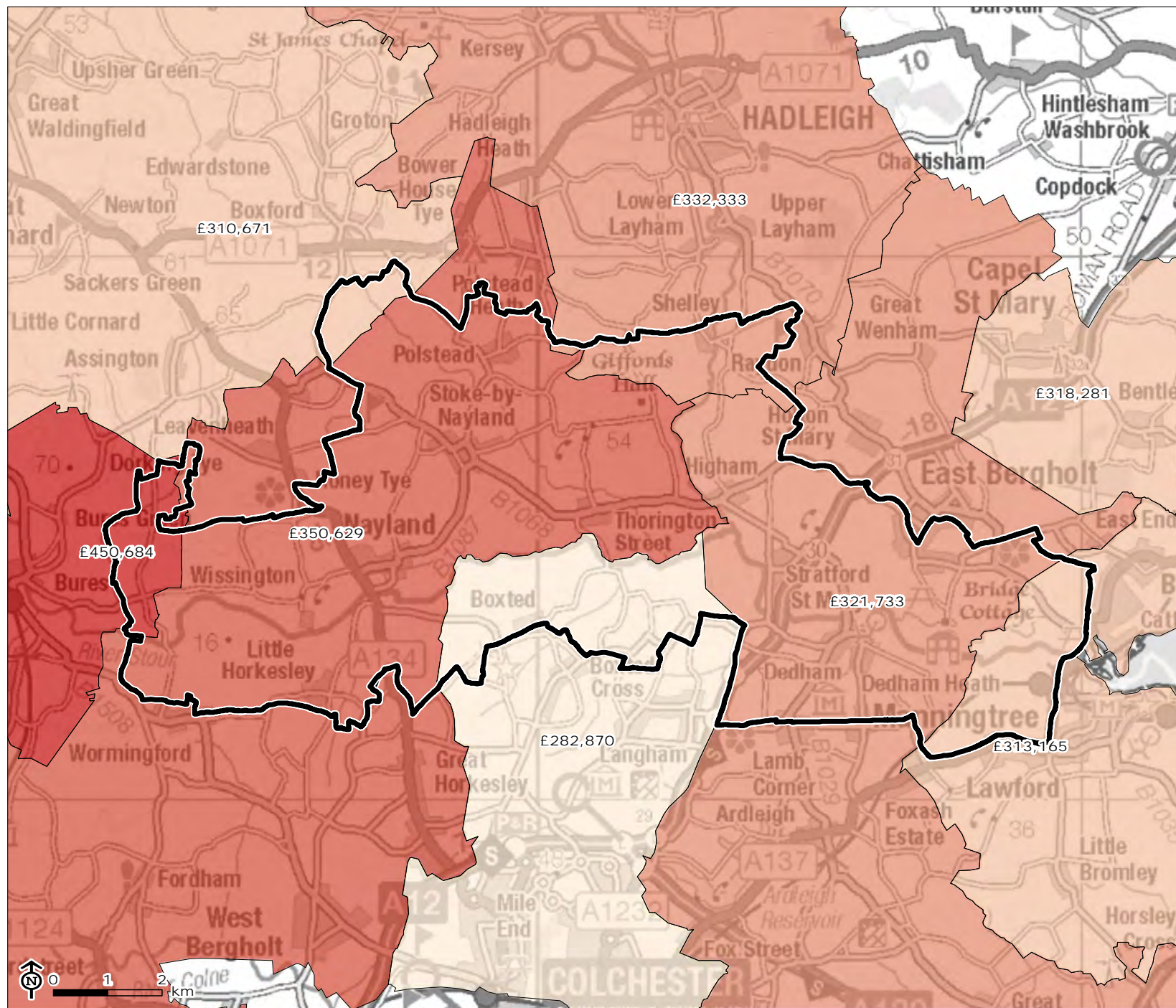
 £280,000 - 300,000

 £300,000 - 320,000

 £320,000 - 340,000

 £340,000 - 360,000

 £360,000 - 460,000



Source: ESRI, Land Registry, NE

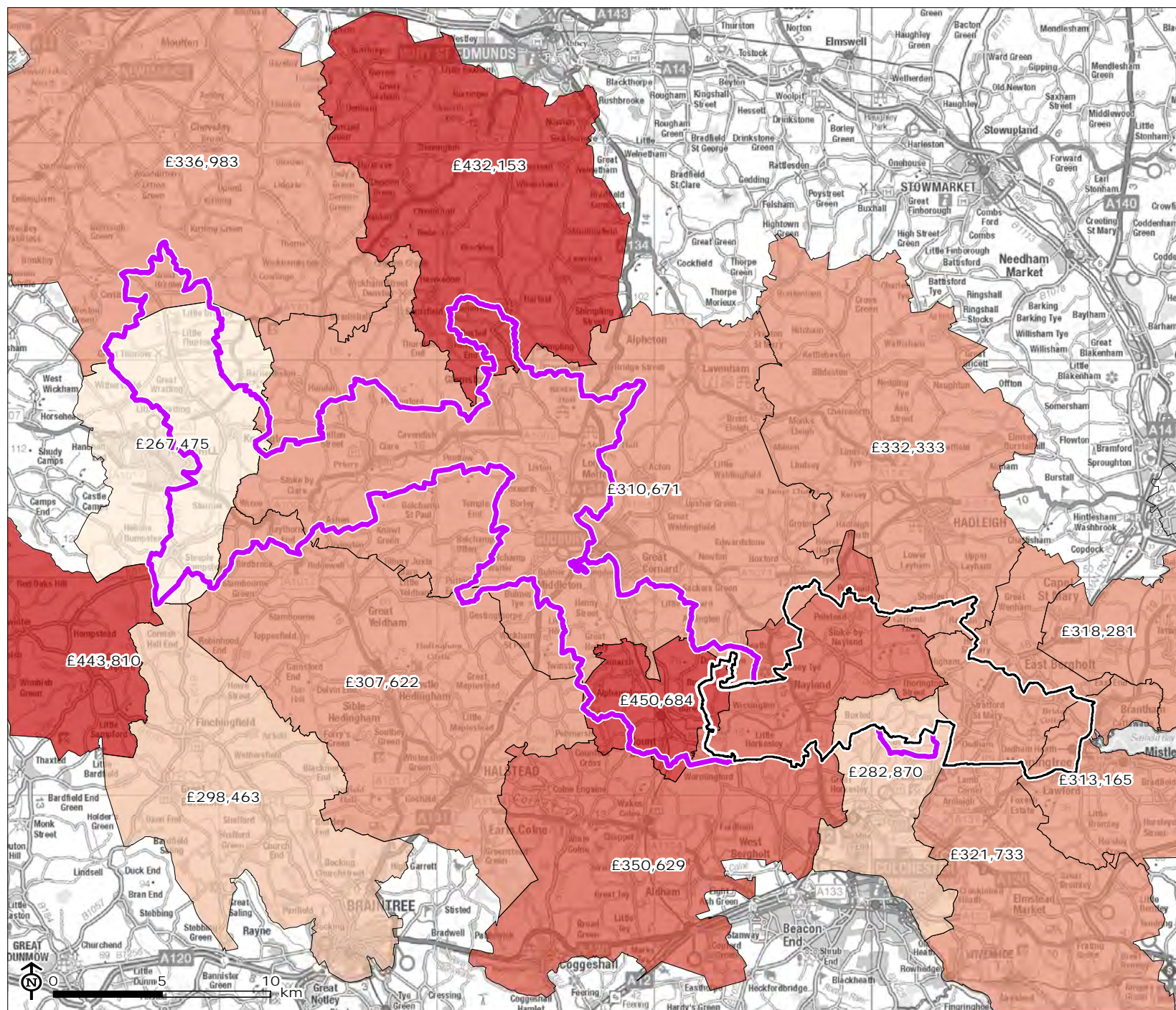
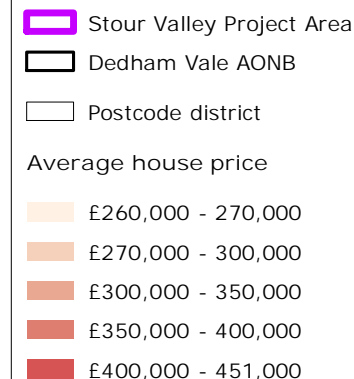
Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000





# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 6.12: Average House Prices



Source: ESRI, Land Registry, NE

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





7

## Tourism and the visitor economy





## 7 Tourism and the visitor economy

### Indicators selected for this theme

- Location and total length of Public Rights of Way and extent of Open Access Land
- Visitors to the AONB
- Visitor perception of AONB and valued features
- Volunteering
- Annual economic impact of tourism

- 7.1 Note that some of the data used to inform these indicators is available for the Dedham Vale AONB only and equivalent data for the Stour Valley is not available.

#### Summary headlines – Dedham Vale AONB

- Annually, the value of tourism was estimated to be £62,363,291 in 2017, a 13.3% increase since 2015.
- There are 179.5 kilometres of Public Rights of Way in the AONB and 20.2 hectares of Open Access Land.
- The majority of visitors surveyed stated that the natural environment of the AONB was their most valued feature of the landscape.

#### Summary headlines – Stour Valley Project Area

- Annually, the value of tourism was estimated to be £46,472,500 in 2017, a 14% increase since 2015.
- There are 384.9 kilometres of Public Rights of Way in the Stour Valley Project Area and 91.6 hectares of Open Access Land.

### Analysis of indicator: Location and total length of Public rights of way and extent of Open Access Land– Dedham Vale AONB

#### *Location and total length of public rights of way in Dedham Vale AONB*

- 7.2 The total length of Public Rights of Way in the AONB is approximately 179.5 kilometres. This is mostly made up of public footpaths although there are shorter lengths of other public access types, as shown in **Table 7.1**.

**Table 7.1: Public Rights of Way in Dedham Vale AONB**

PROW type	Suffolk (km)	Essex (km)	Total length (km)
Footpath	89.3	71.9	161.2
Bridleway	6.2	5.6	11.8
Byway- open to all traffic	0.5	1.7	2.2
Restricted byway	4.3	0	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.4</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>179.5</b>

Source: Suffolk and Essex County Councils GIS data (2018)

- 7.3 Within the AONB there is a high density of interconnected Public Rights of Way in the east and surrounding the settlements of Stoke-by-Nayland, Polstead and Wormingford. There is more limited provision of Public Rights of Way in the centre of the AONB near the River Stour, as shown in **Figure 7.1**.

#### *Extent of Open Access Land in Dedham Vale AONB*







- 7.4 Within the AONB there is a total of 20.2 ha of CRow Open Access Land. This area is located to the south east of Nayland as shown in **Figure 7.1**

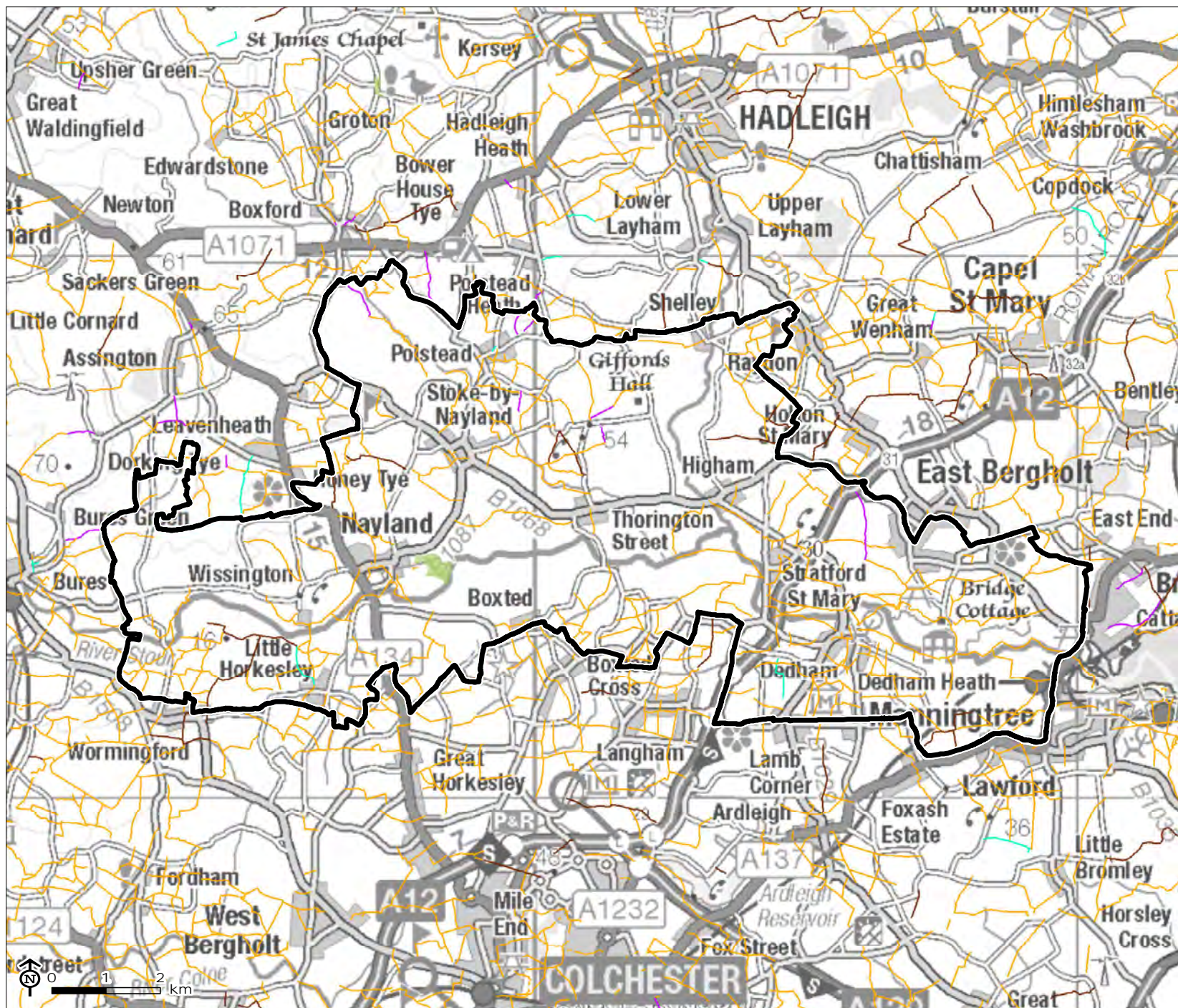


### *Use of public rights of way in Dedham Vale AONB*

**Figure 7.2** shows a heat map produced using 2018 data from the Strava app. Most recreational activity identified in this dataset follows roads. This may be a result of road cyclists frequently using the app in the AONB to record their activity. Other well used routes include the St. Edmund Way in the east and the Stour Valley Path. Strava heat mapping only records the movements of users of the app, so it is important to note this will not include all recreational activity within the AONB.

Figure 7.1: Public Rights of Way and Open Access Land in Dedham Vale AONB

-  Dedham Vale AONB
-  Footpath
-  Bridleway
-  Byway
-  Restricted Byway
-  Open access land



Source: NE, ECC, SCC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000






Figure 7.2: Strava heat  
map showing levels of  
activity within Dedham  
Vale AONB

 Dedham Vale AONB

Recreation activity

 High activity  
Low activity



Source: NE, Strava

Map Scale @ A4: 1:100,000





### Analysis of indicator: Location and total length of Public rights of way and extent of Open Access Land in Stour Valley Project Area

- 7.5 The total length of Public Rights of Way in the Stour Valley Project Area is approximately 384.9 kilometres. The majority are public footpaths (340 km) although other types of Public Rights of Way are also present, as shown in **Table 7.2**.

**Table 7.2: Public Rights of Way in the Stour Valley Project Area**

PRoW type	Suffolk (km)	Essex (km)	Total length (Km)
Footpath	198.9	141.1	340.0
Bridleway	14.7	4.2	19.0
Byway	4.1	16.1	20.2
Restricted byway	5.7	0.01	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>223.4</b>	<b>161.5</b>	<b>384.9</b>

Source: Suffolk and Essex County Councils GIS data (2018)

- 7.6 The spatial distribution of Public Rights of Way throughout Stour Valley Project Area is illustrated in **Figure 7.3**. The majority of interconnected Public Rights of Way are concentrated around settlements. Areas with fewer Public Rights of Way include the north east of the Stour Valley Project Area and to the north of Stoke by Clare.

#### *Open Access Land in Stour Valley Project Area*

- 7.7 Within the Stour Valley Project Area there is 91.6 ha of Open Access Land. This is distributed over four areas located to the west and north of Clare and to the east and south of Sudbury, as shown in **Figure 7.3**.

#### *Use of Public Rights of Way in Stour Valley Project Area*

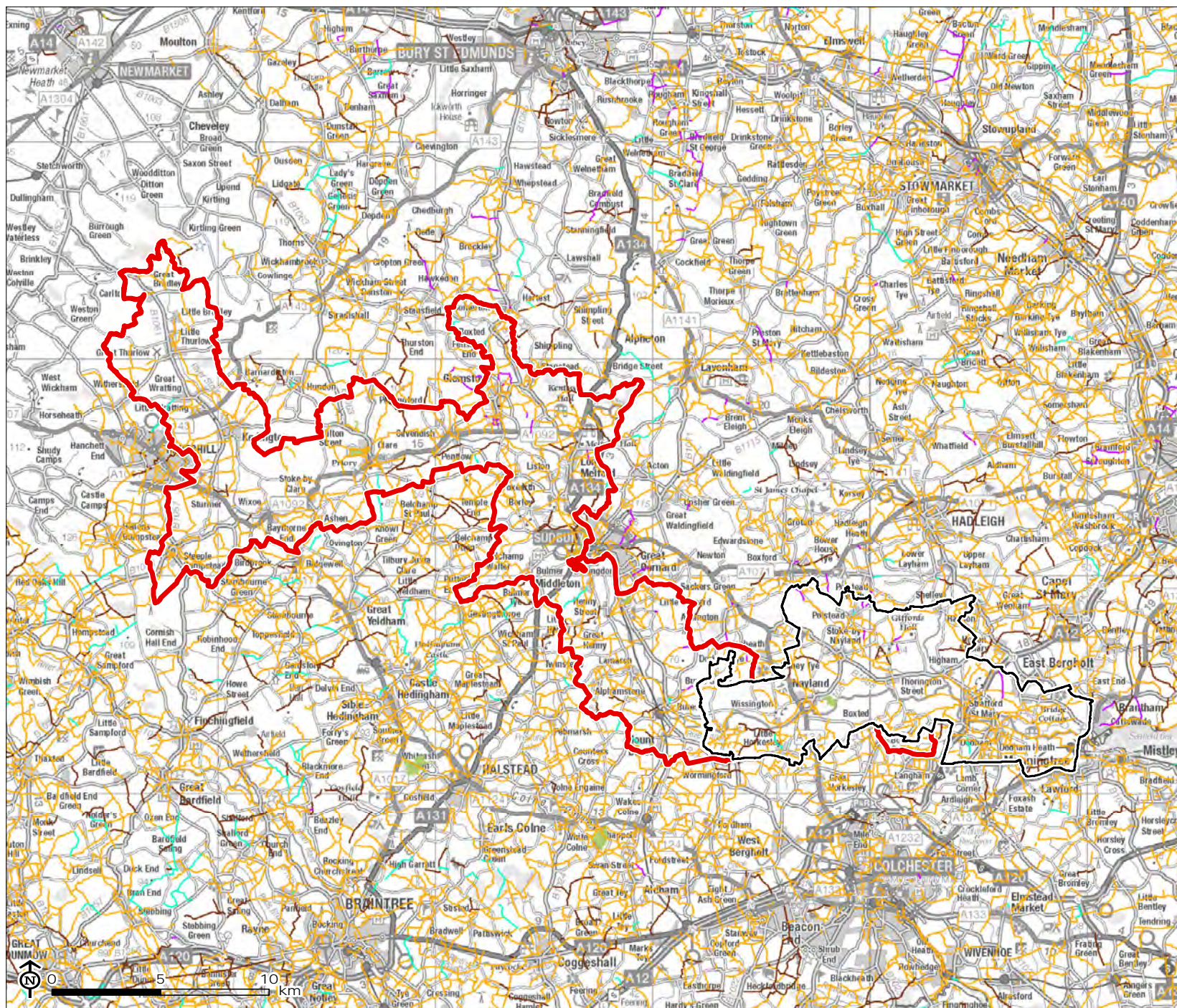
- 7.8 Evidence from Strava heat mapping in 2018 (**Figure 7.4**) shows that the areas of highest use roughly follow the distribution of Public Rights of Way, with the most frequently used routes located in close proximity to larger settlements. Strava heat mapping only records the movements of users of the app, so it is important to note this will not include all recreational activity within the Stour Valley Project Area.



# Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area: State of the AONB Report 2018

Figure 7.3: Public Rights of Way and Open Access Land in Stour Valley Project Area

- Stour Valley Project Area
- Dedham Vale AONB
- Bridleway
- Byway
- Footpath
- Restricted Byway
- Open access land

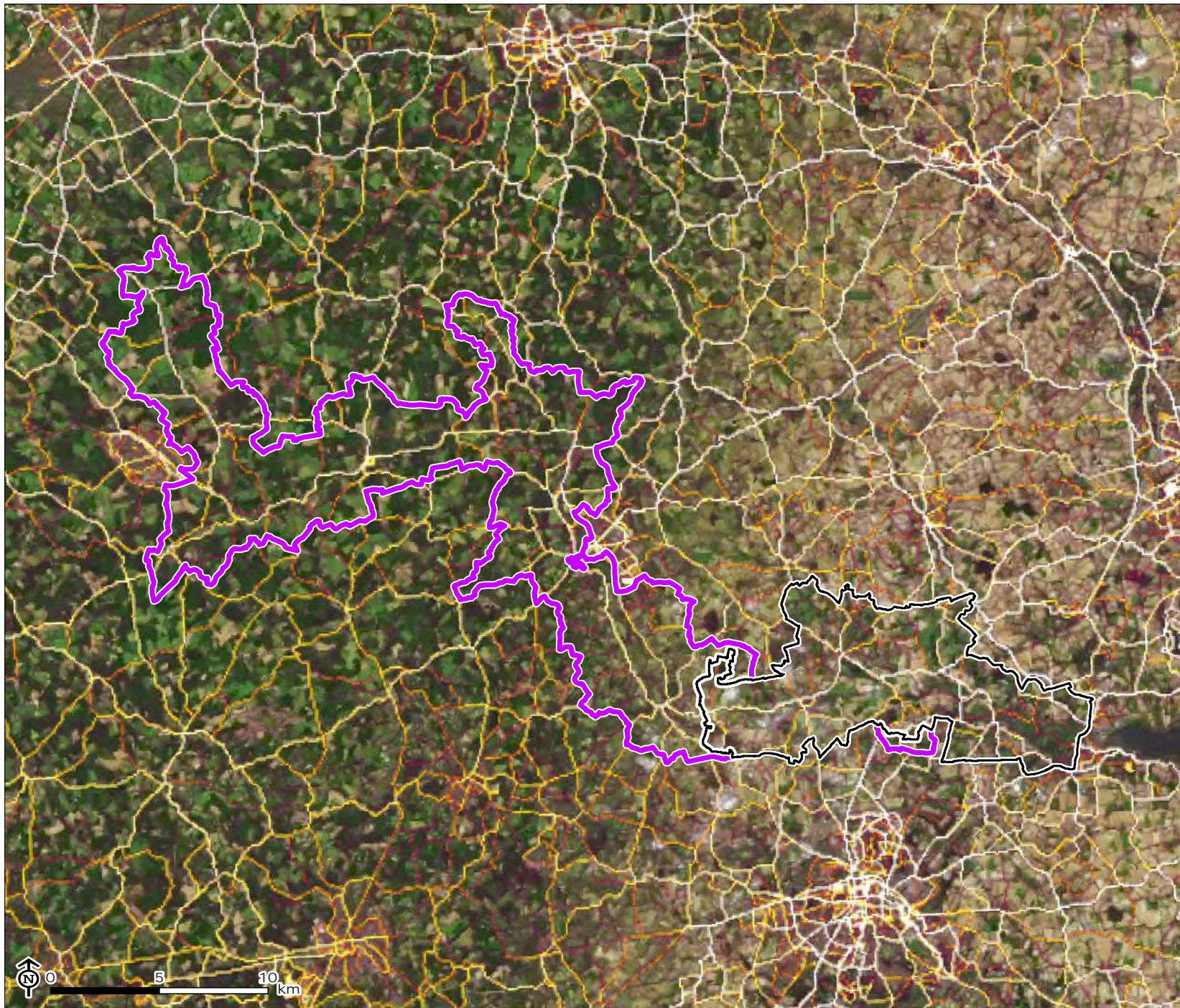


Source: NE, ECC, SCC

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000







Dedham Vale AONB and  
Stour Valley Project Area:  
State of the AONB Report  
2018

Figure 7.4: Strava heat  
map showing levels of  
activity within the Stour  
Valley Project Area

Stour Valley Project Area

Dedham Vale AONB

Recreation activity

High activity

Low activity

Source: NE, Strava

Map Scale @ A4: 1:250,000





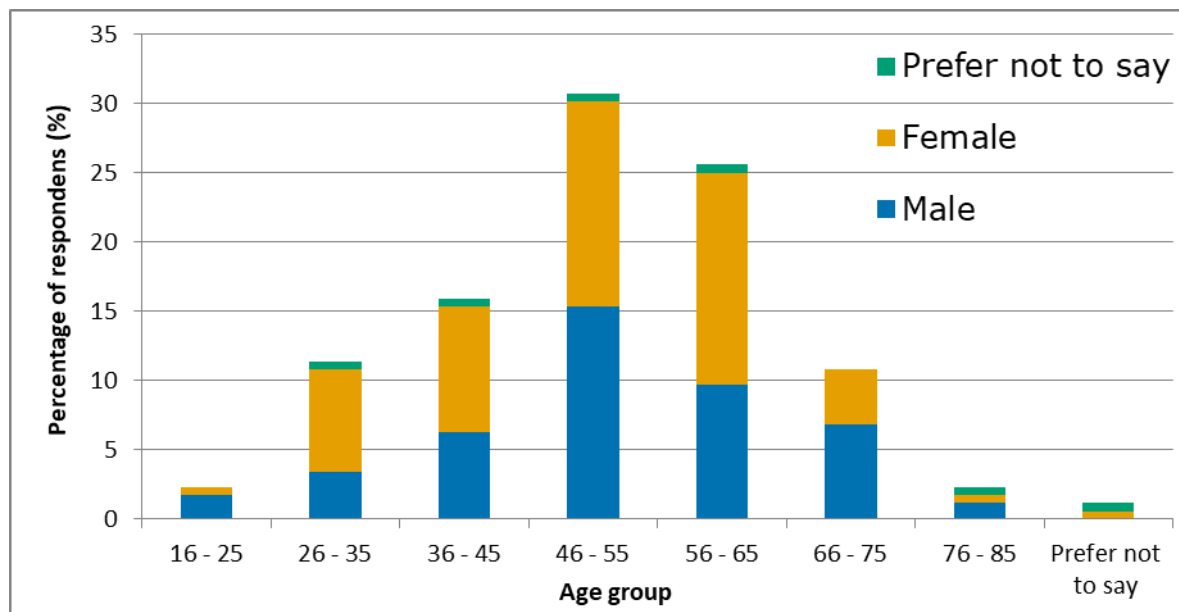
### Analysis of indicator: Profile of visitors to Dedham Vale AONB

- 7.9 The following data is primarily derived from the results of the winter 2018-2019 Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs online visitor survey. A summary explaining how the survey was undertaken is set out in paragraph 2.7. The survey received a total of 177 respondents for questions relating to Dedham Vale AONB. It should be noted that some questions could be skipped; therefore there were differing numbers of respondents for each question.
- 7.10 Please note that the questionnaire did not cover the Stour Valley Project Area, therefore the information for this indicator only applies to Dedham Vale AONB.

#### Age and gender of visitors

- 7.11 Most respondents were aged between 46 and 65. Very few respondents were below the age of 25 or over the age of 76. Due to the limited number of survey respondents, these numbers are not likely to be reflective of visitors to the AONB as a whole. The age and gender distribution of survey respondents is shown in **Figure 7.5**.

**Figure 7.5: Age and gender of 2018-2019 Visitor Survey respondents**



Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

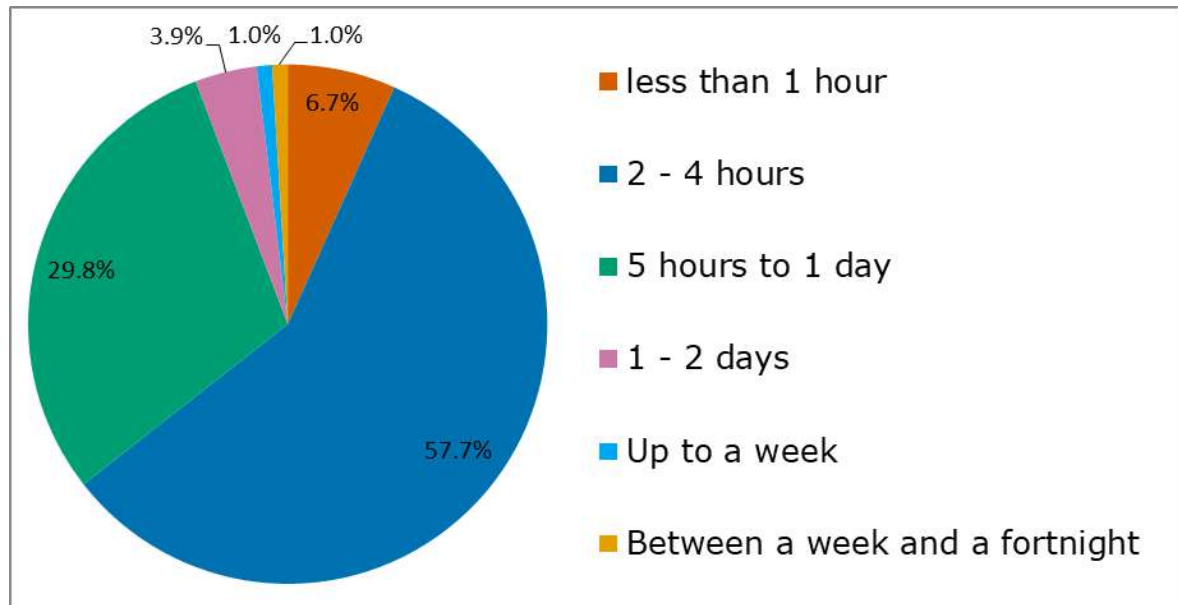
#### Method of transport

- 7.12 The large majority of respondents travelled to the AONB by private motor vehicle (84.6%). Small proportions used other transport types including 8.7% by foot, 1.9% by both bike and public transport.

#### Duration of stay

- 7.13 The majority of survey respondents visit the AONB for a day or less. Collectively these equate to 94.2% of survey respondents. Over half of respondents in the AONB for a duration of between two to four hours a day. A comparatively small proportion of visitors stay for a week or longer, collectively making up 2% of responses. Duration of stay is illustrated in **Figure 7.6**.

**Figure 7.6: Duration of stay of 2018-2019 Visitor Survey respondents**

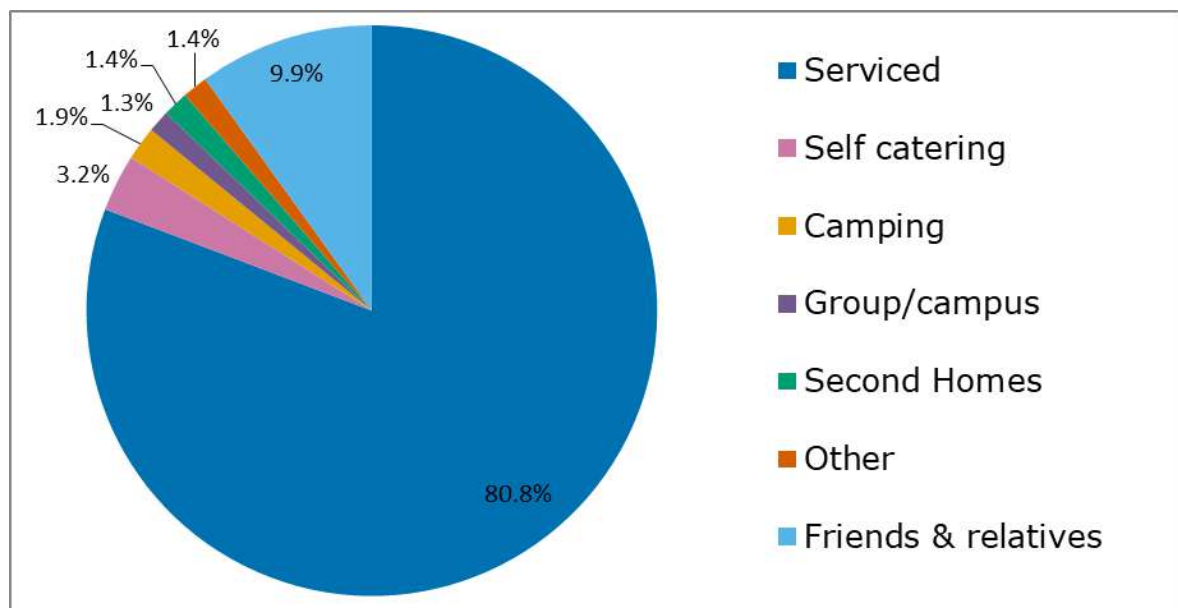


Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

#### *Accommodation type*

- 7.14 The Economic Impact of Tourism Report for Dedham Vale (2017) identified that of the 110,800 staying visits to the AONB, the vast majority stayed in serviced accommodation (80.8%). The next most frequently used accommodation type is self-catering (3.2%). Accommodation preferences identified within the Impact of Tourism report are illustrated in **Figure 7.7**. The 2018-19 Visitor Survey concluded similar results to the Economic Impact of Tourism Report regarding the type of accommodation preferred by visitors, despite receiving a low response rate on this question.
- 7.15 Results of the Economic Impact of Tourism showed most visits to the AONB are countryside visits 79.2%, with fewer visits to urban areas (18%).

**Figure 7.7: Visitor accommodation type in Dedham Vale AONB**



Source: The Economic impact of Tourism Report (2017)



- 7.16 The majority of respondents to the 2018-19 Visitor Survey were day visitors from home (68%); few respondents were visiting friends of family (7.8%), on holiday (2.9%) or on business (1.9% of respondents).

#### *Frequency of visits to the AONB*

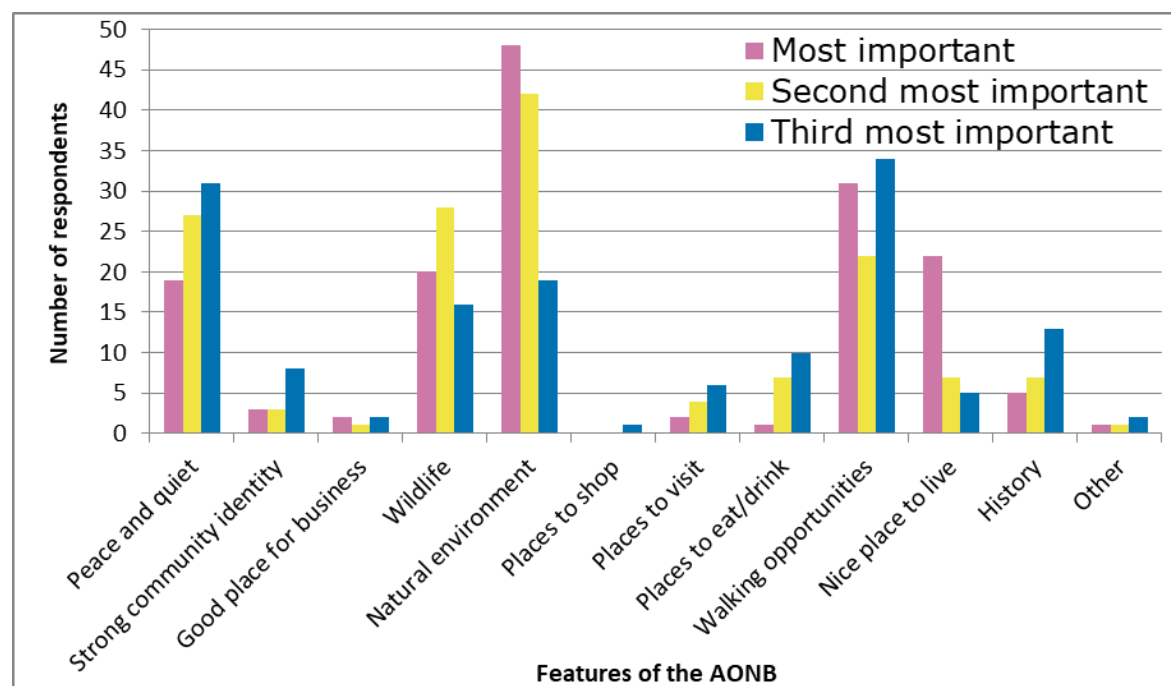
- 7.17 The greatest proportion of survey respondents were residents of the AONB that visited daily (31.1% of respondents). The most common frequency of visits for non-residents was once every 2-3 months (19% of respondents). Few respondents visited the AONB once a year (4.0%) or less than once a year (2.8%).

### **Analysis of indicator: Visitor perception of AONB and valued features**

#### *Valued features*

- 7.18 The 2018-19 Visitor Survey asked respondents to identify their three most valued features of the AONB. Results showed that the most valued feature within the AONB to respondents was 'nature and the environment' with 31.25% selecting this as their most important feature, as shown in **Figure 7.8**. A high proportion of respondents also selected this feature as their second and third most important feature. 'Walking opportunities' are also highly valued by respondents with 20.1% selecting this as their three most important features of the AONB. Few respondents valued 'places to shop' as one of their top three features of the AONB.

**Figure 7.8: 2018-2019 Visitor Survey respondents most valued features of the AONB**

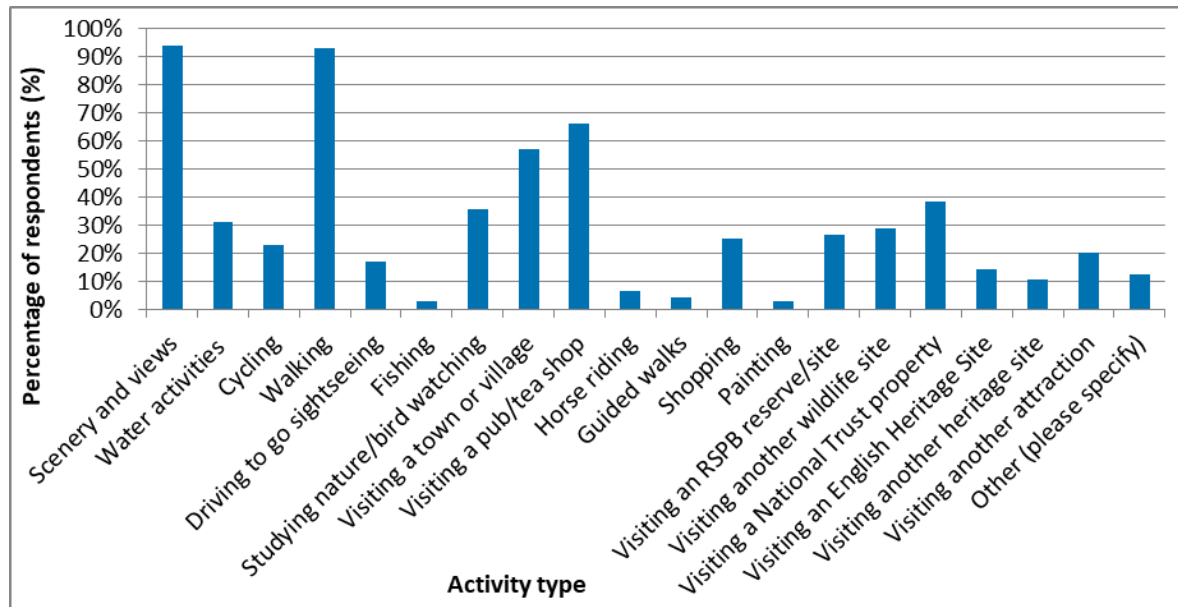


Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

#### *Activities participated in*

- 7.19 The survey results showed that the most popular activities participated in were 'appreciating the scenery and views' selected by 94.2% of respondent and 'walking' selected by 92.9% of respondents. Other popular activities selected included 'visiting towns or villages' and 'visiting a pub or tea shop' both of which were selected by over half of all respondents, as can be seen in **Figure 7.9**. Fewer people partook in 'fishing', 'horse riding', 'guided walks' or 'painting', with each of these activities selected by less than 10% of respondents.

**Figure 7.9: Activities participated in Dedham Vale AONB**

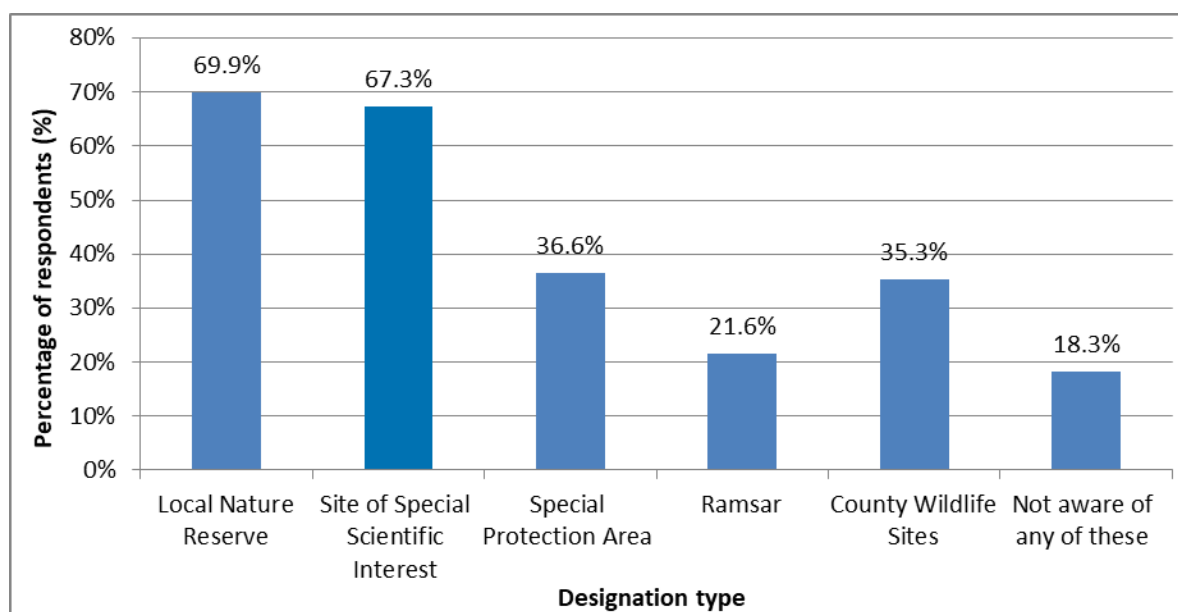


Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

#### *Awareness of designations*

- 7.20 Local Nature Reserves were the most commonly recognised nature designation by survey respondents with 69.9% stating they were aware of their presence within the AONB, as shown in **Figure 7.10**. Also commonly acknowledged were SSSIs, with 67.3% of respondents stating they were aware there are SSSIs within the AONB. Less than half of respondents were aware of the presence of any other natural heritage designations, with the lowest awareness being for the presence of Ramsar sites, selected by 21.6% of respondents. 18.3% of respondents stated they were not aware of any nature designations within the AONB.
- 7.21 Local Nature Reserves cover the smallest area out of all the nature designations in the AONB covering 75.6 ha yet they were the most acknowledged. Ramsar sites cover a total of 89.2 ha of the AONB yet were acknowledged by the lowest number of respondents (excluding those who were aware of no designations).

**Figure 7.10: Awareness of designations Dedham Vale AONB**



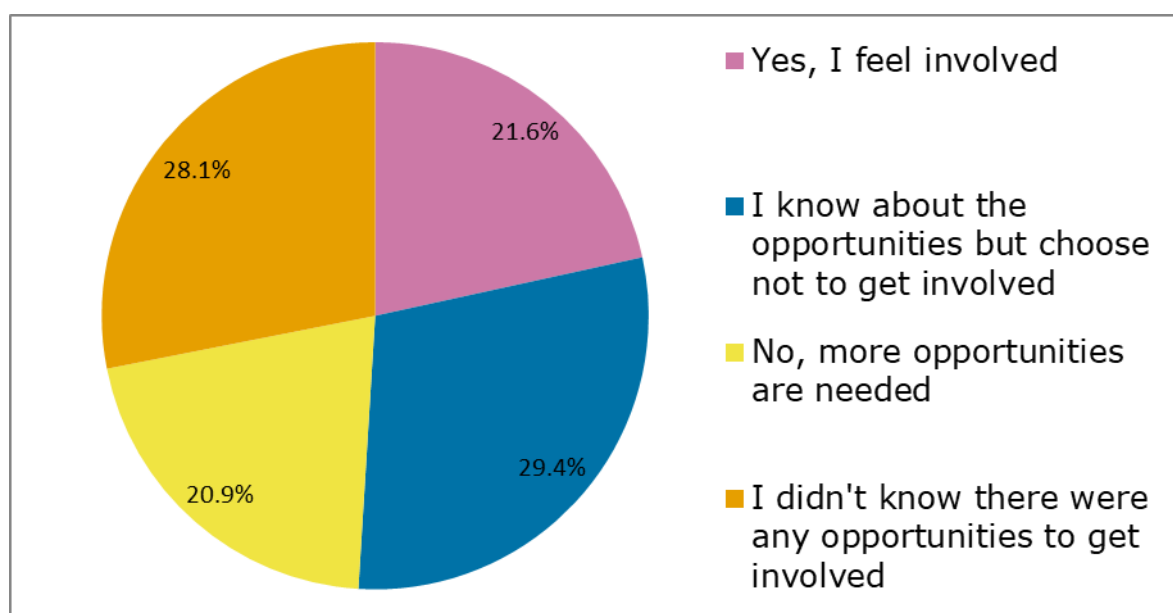
Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)



### *Involvement and sense of obligation for caring for the AONB*

- 7.22 Wildlife is generally regarded to be important to conserve with 95.5% of respondents (147 respondents) agreeing it is 'very important' to conserve wildlife and 4.6% stating it is 'somewhat important'.
- 7.23 96.7% (148 respondents) agreed it was the responsibility of the people who live, work and visit the AONB to care for the area.
- 7.24 Almost all respondents agreed that local businesses should be involved with looking after the AONB, with 68.0% stating this was 'very important' and 30.1% stating this was 'important, but not essential'.
- 7.25 Despite most respondents expressing that it is the responsibility of users of the AONB to care to the area, only 21.6% say that they feel involved with opportunities to care for the AONB. 29.4% of respondents are aware of opportunities, but choose not to get involved. Almost half (49.0%) of the respondents were either unaware there were any opportunities to help care for the area or do not think there are enough opportunities, as shown in **Figure 7.11**.

**Figure 7.11: Opportunities to be involved in caring for the AONB**

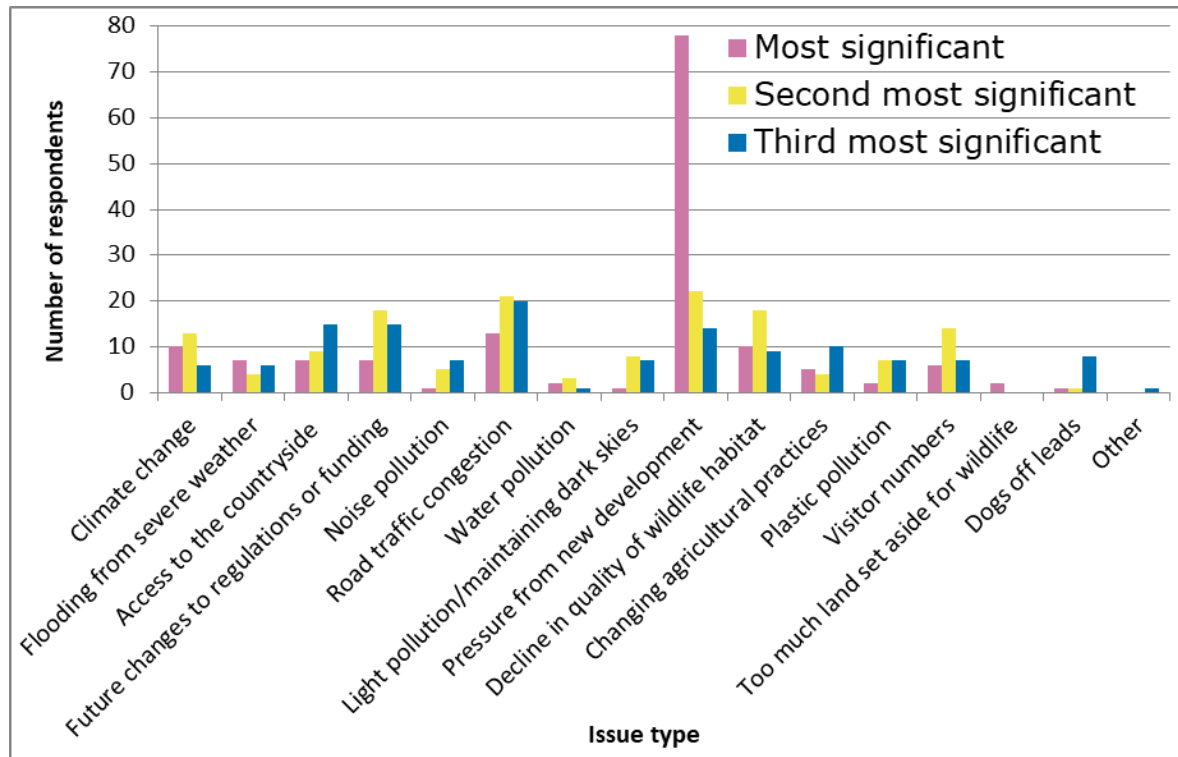


Source Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

### *Concerns for the AONB and thoughts on its management Dedham Vale*

- 7.26 The chart at **Figure 7.12** shows the top three concerns of respondents to the 2018-19 Visitor Survey. The majority considered pressure from development to be a key concern, with 51.3% selecting this as the 'most significant' issue in the AONB. 75% of respondents state pressure from development is one of their top three concerns. Other commonly selected responses included road traffic congestion (in 35.5% of respondents top three concerns), future changes to regulations and funding (in 26.3% of respondents top three concerns) and decline in quality of wildlife habitat (in 24.3% of respondents top three concerns). The fewest number of respondents listed too much land being set aside for wildlife as one of their top three concerns (1.3%).

**Figure 7.12: Concerns of AONB visitors Dedham Vale**

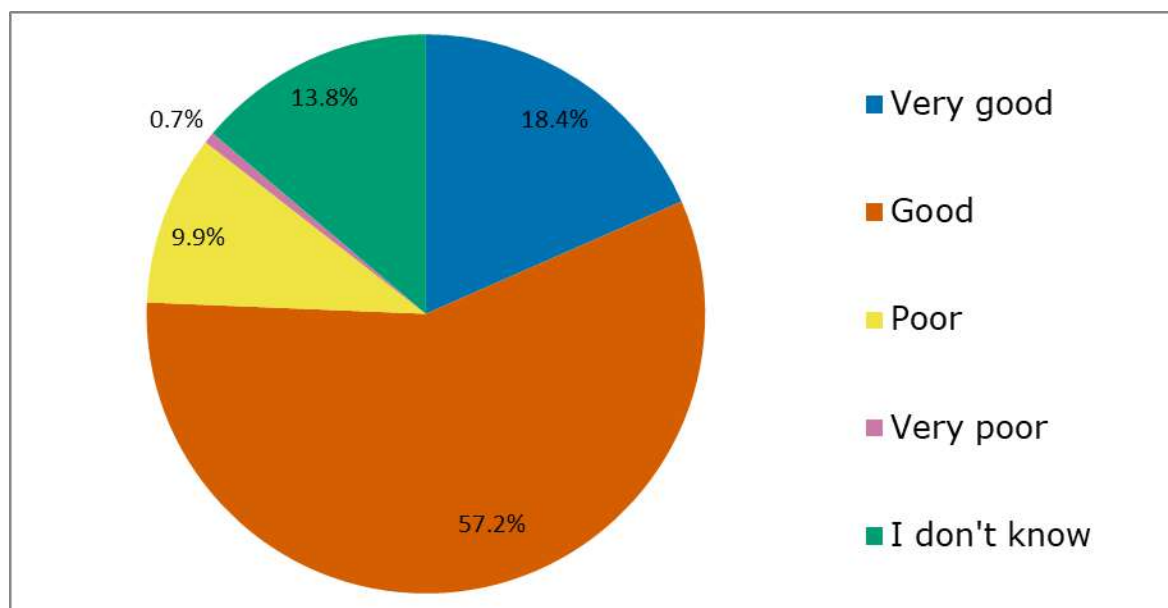


Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

- 7.27 Most respondents accepted there was a coordinated approach in place for the management of the AONB, with 18.1% agreeing it is working well and 26.2% saying it 'is coordinated but could work better'. Almost half of the respondents (49.7%) did not know if there is a coordinated approach. This suggests that there should be more awareness raising within the community and amongst visitors with regards to how the AONB is managed.
- 7.28 More than half (57.2%) of respondents stated that the information (e.g. leaflets, information boards, signs etc.) provided by the AONB was 'good', with a further 18.4% said the information was 'very good'. 8.4% of responses were negative; this can be seen in **Figure 7.13**. Although feedback is positive overall, it means most respondents believed there was room for improvement in the quality of information provided by the AONB.



**Figure 7.13: Quality of information provided by the Dedham Vale AONB**



Source: Dedham Vale AONB Visitor Survey (2018/19)

#### Analysis of indicator: Volunteering in Dedham Vale AONB

- 7.29 In Dedham Vale AONB there were a total of 547 regular volunteers in 2018, which collectively committed a total of 549.5 days of time to AONB projects. Different volunteer types in the AONB include; river conservation volunteers, meadows volunteers, Constable county rangers and youth rangers. In 2018, these volunteers took part in tree felling, coppicing, footpath surveys, tree planting, hedge planting, hedge clearing and Himalayan balsam clearing. Recorded volunteer time is shown in **Table 7.3**.
- 7.30 The AONB uses trained volunteer wardens to help deliver environmental projects and provide support to the AONB team. There were three long-term student placements in 2018 which also support AONB projects including habitat management and AONB objectives<sup>13</sup>.

**Table 7.3: Volunteering as monitored by the AONB**

Year	Number of volunteers	Total volunteer time (days)
2017	904	1099
2018	547	549.5

Source: Dedham Vale AONB volunteer records. Note that the 2018 data relates to volunteers working directly with the AONB and does not include volunteers in community groups supported by the AONB.

#### Analysis of indicator: Volunteering in the Stour Valley Project Area

- 7.31 The Stour Valley Project Area is supported by a number of volunteers including the following volunteer groups;
- Stour Valley Volunteers - twice monthly all day volunteering events including activities such as; woodland management, grassland management, public rights of way management, promoting biodiversity<sup>14</sup>.
  - Stour Valley Path Volunteers - monitoring and maintenance of the regional route Stour Valley Path by twice annually walking the route and reporting problems<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONBs (2018), October 2018 Monthly update.

<sup>14</sup> Dedham Vale AONB (2019), Stour Valley Volunteers. Online Available at: <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/get-involved/stour-valley-volunteers/> (Accessed 01/02/19).

<sup>15</sup> Dedham Vale AONB (2019), Stour Valley Path Volunteers, Online Available at: <http://www.dedhamvalestourvalley.org/get-involved/stour-valley-path-volunteers/> (Accessed 01/02/19).

- Stour Valley Environment champions- local businesses that commit to actively involved in community projects and fundraising events. There are currently nine businesses involved.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Annual economic impact of tourism - Dedham Vale AONB**

- 7.32 Collectively the value of tourism within the Dedham Vale AONB was estimated to be £62,363,291 in the Economic Impact of Tourism 2017 Report (using the Cambridge Model). This figure is a 13.3% increase from the estimated value of tourism in 2015 (£55,065,004). Tourism supports a total of 1,363 jobs, although the calculated full time jobs for the AONB from the Cambridge model is 976. Data to determine these results was derived from the Great Britain Tourism Survey, International Passenger Survey and day visits in the Great Britain Day Visitor Survey.

#### **Analysis of indicator: Annual economic impact of tourism – Stour Valley Project Area**

- 7.33 The total tourism value in the Stour Valley Project Area was estimated to be £46,472,500 for the year 2017 in the Economic Impact of Tourism 2017 Report (using the Cambridge Model). This figure is a 14% increase from the estimated value of tourism in 2015 (£40,782,000). Tourism supports 1,217 jobs (equivalent to 871 full time jobs).

#### **Data sources**

- Dedham Vale and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONBs online visitor survey 2018/19
- The Economic Impact of Tourism Dedham Vale 2017
- The Economic Impact of Tourism Stour Valley Project 2017
- Volunteer time records from Dedham Vale AONB

#### **Recommendations**

- The AONB, partners and statutory bodies with a responsibility for the AONB should continue to record data on the level of volunteer engagement in the protected landscape.
- The value of recreation in Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project Area has increased significantly in the last few years. The AONB should continue to monitor the economic impact of tourism as increased tourism may result in higher levels of traffic and increased demand for accommodation and recreation facilities.
- The AONB should conduct an update to the visitor survey every five years.



**8**

# **Summary headlines**





## 8 Headline findings and next steps

### Headline findings

- 8.1 A summary of headline findings for each of the themes/sub-themes is included here, along with recommendations for future monitoring.

#### Landscape Character Context

- Almost all of the AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area is within the National Character Area 86: South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland.
- The two county level landscape character assessments have large areas of overlap in Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area.
- Five local level landscape character assessments encompass parts of Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area.

#### Agricultural Landscape Character – Dedham Vale AONB

- The most dominant agricultural land use within the AONB is crops and bare fallow (55.8% of AONB area). There are 36 farm holdings classified as general cropping in the AONB.
- Sheep are the most common livestock species in the AONB.
- The majority of agricultural land in the AONB is good quality, with 59.2% classified as Grade 3 and 37.2% classified as Grade 2 under the Agricultural Land Classification.
- 4,237 hectares (46.8%) of the AONB is managed under Environmental Stewardship and 254.6 hectares (2.6%) is managed under Countryside Stewardship.

#### Agricultural Landscape Character – Stour Valley Project Area

- The agricultural land in the Stour Valley Project Area is high quality, with 65.6% classified as Grade 2 under the Agricultural Land Classification.
- 3,954.6 hectares (18.7%) of the Stour Valley Project Area is managed under Environmental Stewardship. 2,089.4 hectares are managed via Countryside Stewardship.

#### Woodland cover and management – Dedham Vale AONB

- 12% (1,114.8 hectares) of the AONB is covered by woodland. Over three quarters of this is broadleaved woodland.
- Ancient woodland covers 82.3 hectares.
- 54% of the woodland within Dedham Vale is actively managed according to the Forestry Commission's *England Managed Woodland Headline Performance Indicator*.

#### Woodland cover and management – Stour Valley Project Area

- 6.8% (1448.6 hectares) of the Stour Valley Project Area is woodland. Over 80% of this is broadleaved woodland.
- There is 371.5 hectares of ancient woodland in Stour Valley Project Area.



### **Settlement and planning – Dedham Vale AONB**

- There are estimated to be 4,305 dwellings in the AONB. Approximately half of these are detached.
- In 2018 the AONB commented on 228 planning applications. 158 of these were granted planning permission. The majority of applications were alterations, conversions or extensions to existing structures.
- The AONB falls with three Local Plan areas. There is one adopted neighbourhood plan in East Bergholt.

### **Settlement and planning – Stour Valley Project Area**

- There are estimated to be 9,623 dwellings in the Stour Valley Project Area; 42.2% are detached while 31.1% are semi-detached.
- Four Local Plan areas include the Stour Valley Project Area.

### **Visual and perceptual qualities – Dedham Vale AONB**

- Dedham Vale AONB has moderate levels of tranquillity, particularly in the context of south-east England.
- The AONB experiences very low levels of light pollution. The AONB ranks 20<sup>th</sup> out of 34 AONB in terms of dark night skies.
- Eight large scale pylons are located within the AONB.

### **Visual and perceptual qualities – Stour Valley Project Area**

- The majority of the Stour Valley Project Area has a lower tranquillity level than Dedham Vale AONB, although tranquillity levels are still high in the wider landscape context.
- There are low levels of light pollution throughout the Stour Valley Project Area, except in the areas surrounding larger settlements.
- 25 large scale pylons are located within the AONB.

### **Biodiversity – Dedham Vale AONB**

- Within the AONB there are a total of six natural heritage designations; one Ramsar site, one Special Protection Area, two Sites of Special Scientific interest and two Local Nature Reserves. 1.53% of the AONB is designated for nature conservation.
- The majority of SSSI units are in 'favourable' or 'unfavourable-recovering' condition.
- 2,079.1 hectares of the AONB are BAP Priority Habitats. The majority is deciduous woodland (814 ha) or coastal floodplain and grazing marsh (855 ha).

### **Biodiversity – Stour Valley Project Area**

- There are 11 sites designated for nature conservation, which cover 1.02% of the Stour Valley Project Area.
- 1,819.2 hectares of the Stour Valley Project Area are BAP Priority Habitats. The majority is deciduous woodland (1,071.8 ha) and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh (409.6 ha).

### **Geodiversity**

- There are no geological designations within the AONB or the Stour Valley Project Area.

### **Historic Environment – Dedham Vale AONB**

- In Dedham Vale AONB there are seven Scheduled Monuments which cover a total area of 20 ha. One of these Scheduled Monuments is on the Heritage at Risk Register.
- There is one Registered Park and Garden in the AONB; the Grade II Registered Tendring Hall Park.
- There are 675 Listed Buildings in the Dedham Vale AONB. 22 are Grade I, 48 are Grade II\* and 605 are Grade II.
- The AONB contains 12 Conservation Areas.
- 111.8 hectares of the AONB are managed for the benefit of archaeological/historic features via Environmental Stewardship.

### **Historic Environment – Stour Valley Project Area**

- There are 24 Scheduled Monuments in the Stour Valley Project Area.
- There are four Registered Parks and Gardens within Stour Valley Project Area. Two are Grade II\* and two are Grade II.
- 1,111 Listed Buildings are located in the Stour Valley Project Area; 34 Grade I, 75 Grade II\* and 1,002 Grade II. These buildings are often clustered within the 14 Conservation Areas in the Stour Valley Project Area.
- Three Listed Buildings and three Scheduled Monuments are on the Heritage at Risk Register.

### **Socio-economic profile – Dedham Vale AONB**

- The estimated population of Dedham Vale AONB is 9,861 people. The gender split of the population is 48.3% male and 51.7% female.
- Population density is low across the whole of the AONB.
- According to the IMD, levels of deprivation are moderate. Deprivation is higher against the barriers to housing and services deprivation indicator.

### **Socio-economic profile – Stour Valley Project Area**

- The population of the Stour Valley Project Area was estimated to be 22,514 people in 2017. The gender split of population is equal.
- Population density is low, with most of the area containing less than ten people per hectare.
- Levels of deprivation are varied across the Stour Valley Project Area, with more rural areas tending to have greater levels of deprivation. Deprivation is higher against the barriers to housing and services indicator.



## Tourism and the visitor economy

### Tourism and the visitor economy – Dedham Vale AONB

- Annually, the value of tourism was estimated to be £62,363,291 in 2017, a 13.3% increase since 2015.
- There are 179.5 kilometres of Public Rights of Way in the AONB and 20.2 hectares of Open Access Land.
- The majority of visitors surveyed stated that the natural environment of the AONB was their most valued feature of the landscape.

### Tourism and the visitor economy – Stour Valley Project Area

- Annually, the value of tourism was estimated to be £46,472,500 in 2017, a 14% increase since 2015.
- There are 384.9 kilometres of Public Rights of Way in the Stour Valley Project Area and 91.6 hectares of Open Access Land.

## Next steps

- 8.2 The outcome of the analysis from this State of the AONB Report reveals a combination of forces for change on the nationally protected landscape of Dedham Vale AONB and the Stour Valley Project Area. These include the impacts of increased tourism, which has increased in value by 14% between 2015 and 2017 to over £62 million. Increases in tourism revenues are positive in terms of the economy of the AONB, however challenges associated with increased levels of tourism include the proliferation of low-paid, seasonal jobs, increased traffic, demand for new facilities (accommodation and visitor attractions/activities) and wildlife disturbance, particularly in protected areas.
- 8.3 Other key changes in the near future relate to land management. The UK leaving the EU will result in (currently unknown) changes to agri-environment schemes. The ongoing designated landscapes review may also result in changes to how protected landscapes are managed which are also currently unknown. Recent austerity measures in the public sector have also affected funding to protected landscapes and other bodies including Natural England. Reduced funding to Natural England may result in a reduction in the amount of monitoring data available to AONBs.
- 8.4 The health and wellbeing benefits of areas such as the AONB are well documented. The majority of visitors to the AONB travel by private car and the lack of public transport options may restrict the access of more deprived communities to the AONB. The AONB should work with partners to improve accessibility of the AONB so that the positive impacts of the AONB on physical and mental health can be experienced by a larger range of people. Volunteering provides an opportunity for local communities to get engaged with the management of the nationally important asset of Dedham Vale AONB.
- 8.5 This document sets out a series of recommendations for future monitoring to inform future State of the AONB report, which will provide a robust evidence base to underpin Management Plan policies with specific and achievable objectives to preserve and enhance the nationally designated landscape.

# Appendix 1: Visitor Survey Questions 2018/19

## Question 1\*

This privacy statement sets out the basis on which Land Use Consultants Limited ("LUC") may use your personal data in respect of this survey.

You acknowledge that:

- your personal data submitted or collected under or in connection with this consultation ("Personal Data") will be processed pursuant to this statement. The Personal Data might include your name, address, IP address, contact details (including email address) and any opinions that you include in response to the survey;
- once you have provided your Personal Data to LUC, LUC have a legitimate interest in utilising that Personal Data to review, analyse and produce reports in respect of the survey. LUC will use your Personal Data solely for the purpose of the survey and for no other purpose;
- LUC may share the Personal Data with select third parties involved with the survey (such as LUC's clients and other consultants and professional advisors involved in the consultation);
- LUC will store, process and retain your Personal Data only for as long as is necessary, and otherwise in accordance with data protection law;
- LUC may transfer your personal data outside the European Economic Area (EEA), but only to known data processors where those data processors make use of server storage outside the EEA and with whom LUC has a binding data protection agreement; and
- LUC will only retain your personal data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for. To determine the appropriate retention period for personal data, we consider the amount, nature, and sensitivity of the personal data, the potential risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure of your personal data, the purposes for which we process your personal data and whether we can achieve those purposes through other means, and the applicable legal requirements. LUC may anonymise your personal data (so that it can no longer be associated with you) for research or statistical purposes in which case we may use this information indefinitely without further notice to you. You have legal rights regarding the Personal Data (including the right to request access to, or the correction of, your personal data).

If you have any questions, or if you wish to exercise your rights over your Personal Data, you may contact LUC at 43 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD or [database@landuse.co.uk](mailto:database@landuse.co.uk).

If you wish to make a complaint regarding the treatment of your Personal Data, you may contact the Information Commissioner's Office ("ICO"). The ICO is the UK's supervisory authority for data protection issues and further details (including further details of your legal rights over your Personal Data) can be found at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

I acknowledge and agree to the above terms

## Question 2. What is your age?

- Under 16
- 16 - 25
- 26 - 35
- 36 - 45
- 46 - 55
- 56 - 65
- 66 - 75
- 76 - 85
- Over 85
- I'd prefer not to say

## Question 3. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Other
- I'd prefer not to say

## Question 4. What is your postcode? Please include the space e.g. XXX XXX

## Question 5. Which AONB do you visit/go to/live in?

- Dedham Vale. Selecting this option will take you to the questions just for this AONB.
- Suffolk Coast and Heaths. Selecting this option will take you to the questions just for this AONB.
- Both. Selecting this option will take you to the questions for the Dedham Vale AONB. You can then choose whether to answer questions for Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB following this.
- Neither

## Question 6. For which reasons do you not visit either AONB? Please select all that apply.

- No means of transport



- Don't have time
- Too far away
- More interested in visiting other places
- Other (please specify)

**Question 7. Did you know before this survey that the Dedham Vale area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)?**

- Yes
- No

**Question 8. How did you first hear about the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- I saw one of the AONB's publications
- I read about the AONB in a magazine/newspaper
- On social media
- Word of mouth
- Through this survey
- I don't know
- Other (please specify)

**Question 9. How often do you spend time in the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- Daily - I live here
- Daily - I don't live here but visit daily
- A few times a week
- Once a month
- Once every 2 - 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once a year
- Less frequently than once a year

**Question 10. What brings you to the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- I am a part-time resident
- I am a day visitor from home
- I am on holiday
- I visit friends and family
- I work here
- I visit on business
- Other (please specify)

**Question 11. How do you usually travel to the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- By bicycle
- By coach tour
- By foot
- By private motor vehicle (car, motorbike, van etc.)
- By public transport (bus, train)
- Other (please specify)

**Question 12. How far do you usually travel to get to the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- 10 miles or under
- 11 - 15 miles
- 16 - 30 miles
- Over 31 miles

**Question 13. How long do you usually stay for?**

- less than 1 hour
- 2 - 4 hours
- 5 hours to 1 day
- 1 - 2 days
- Up to a week
- Between a week and a fortnight
- More than two weeks
- Not applicable

**Question 14. What type of accommodation do you usually stay in?**

- With friends/relatives
- Caravan/camping
- Pub/Inn
- B&B
- Hotel
- Activity/training centre
- Hostel
- Second home
- Self catering (holiday cottage/airbnb)
- Other (please specify)

**Question 15. What activities do you enjoy doing in the Dedham Vale AONB? Please tick as many answers as you like.**

- Appreciating the scenery and views
- Water activities (boating, sailing, canoeing, swimming etc.)
- Cycling
- Walking
- Driving to go sightseeing
- Fishing
- Studying nature/bird watching
- Visiting a town or village
- Visiting a pub/tea shop
- Horse riding
- Guided walks
- Shopping
- Painting
- Visiting an RSPB reserve/site
- Visiting another wildlife site
- Visiting a National Trust property
- Visiting an English Heritage Site
- Visiting another heritage site
- Visiting another attraction e.g. museum, Gallery
- Other (please specify)

**Question 16. Dedham Vale AONB has a number of designations within it to conserve landscape, wildlife habitats and species. Please tick all the ones you are aware of.**

- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar
- County Wildlife Sites
- I am not aware of any of these designations

**Question 17. Which THREE features of the Dedham Vale AONB are most important to you?**

	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
Peace and quiet			
Strong community identity			
Good place for business			



	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
Wildlife			
Nature environment			
Places to shop			
Places to visit			
Places to eat/drink			
Walking opportunities			
Nice place to live			
History			
Other			

**Question 18. What do you think are the most significant issues affecting the landscape and wildlife of the Dedham Vale AONB? Rank the THREE most significant issues.**

	Most significant	Second most significant	Third most significant
Climate change			
Flooding from severe weather			
Access to the countryside e.g. quality of footpaths			
Future changes to regulations or funding			
Noise pollution			
Road traffic congestion			
Water pollution			
Light pollution/maintaining dark skies			
Pressure from new development			
Decline in quality of wildlife habitat			
Changing agricultural practices			
Plastic pollution			
Visitor numbers			
Too much land set aside for wildlife			
Dogs off leads			
Other			

**Question 19. How important do you think it is to conserve wildlife in the AONB?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**Question 20. What do you think about the information available to visitors in the Dedham Vale AONB? E.g. leaflets, information boards, signs etc.**

- Very good
- Good
- Poor
- Very poor
- I don't know

**Question 21. Do you think people who live, work and visit the Dedham Vale AONB have a responsibility to care for the area?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Question 22. Do you think it is important that local businesses are involved in looking after the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- Yes it is very important
- Yes but not essential
- No it is not important
- Don't know

**Question 23. Do you think there are enough opportunities for you to help look after the Dedham Vale AONB?**

- Yes, I feel involved
- I know about the opportunities but choose not to get involved
- No, more opportunities are needed
- I didn't know there were any opportunities to get involved
- 24. Which of the following activities do you participate in?
- Practical Conservation Volunteering

- Litter picks
- Conferences and events
- Other (please specify)

**Question 25. Do you think there is a coordinated approach to looking after the Dedham Vale AONB and is it working?**

- Yes, it is coordinated and working well
- Yes, it is coordinated but could work better
- No
- Don't know

**Question 26. If you also visit the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, would you like to answer questions about this area as well?**

- I visit the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and yes I would like to answer questions about this area.
- I visit the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB but I would not like to answer questions about this area.
- This will take you to the end of the survey.
- I don't visit the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. This will take you to the end of the survey.

**Question 27. Did you know before this survey that the Suffolk Coast and Heaths area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)?**

- Yes
- No

**Question 28. How did you first hear about the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?**

- I saw one of the AONB's publications
- I read about the AONB in a magazine/newspaper
- On social media
- Word of mouth
- Through this survey
- I don't know
- Other (please specify)

**Question 29. How often do you spend time in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?**

- Daily - I live here
- Daily - I don't live here but visit daily
- A few times a week
- Once a month
- Once every 2 - 3 months
- Once every 6 months
- Once a year
- Less frequently than once a year

**Question 30. What brings you to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?**

- I am a part-time resident
- I am a day visitor from home
- I am on holiday
- I visit friends and family
- I work here
- I visit on business
- Other (please specify)

**Question 31. How do you usually travel to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?**

- By bicycle
- By coach tour
- By foot
- By private motor vehicle (car, motorbike, van etc.)
- By public transport (bus, train)
- Other (please specify)

**Question 32. How far do you usually travel to get to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?**

- 10 miles or under
- 11 - 15 miles
- 16 - 30 miles
- Over 31 miles

**Question 33. How long do you usually stay for?**

- less than 1 hour
- 2 - 4 hours
- 5 hours to 1 day
- 1 - 2 days
- Up to a week
- Between a week and a fortnight
- More than two weeks
- Not applicable



**Question 34. Did you know before this survey that the Suffolk Coast and Heaths area is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?**

- Yes
- No

**Question 35. What type of accommodation do you usually stay in?**

- With friends/relatives
- Caravan/camping
- Pub/Inn
- B&B
- Hotel
- Activity/training centre
- Hostel
- Second home
- Self catering (holiday cottage/airbnb)
- Other (please specify)

**Question 36. What activities do you enjoy doing in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB? Please tick as many answers as you like.**

- Appreciating the scenery and views
- Water activities (boating, sailing, canoeing, swimming etc.)
- Cycling
- Walking
- Driving to go sightseeing
- Fishing
- Studying nature/bird watching
- Visiting a town or village
- Visiting a pub/tea shop
- Horse riding
- Guided walks
- Shopping
- Painting
- Visiting an RSPB reserve/site
- Visiting another wildlife site
- Visiting a National Trust property
- Visiting an English Heritage Site
- Visiting another heritage site
- Visiting another attraction e.g. museum, gallery
- Other (please specify)

**Question 37. Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB has a number of designations within it to conserve landscape, wildlife habitats and species. Please tick all the ones you are aware of.**

- Local Nature Reserve
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Ramsar
- National Nature Reserve
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- County Wildlife Site
- I am not aware of any of these designations

**Question 38. Which THREE features of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB are most important to you?**

	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
Peace and quiet			
Strong community identity			
Good place for business			

	Most important	Second most important	Third most important
Wildlife			
Nature environment			
Places to shop			
Places to visit			
Places to eat/drink			
Walking opportunities			
Nice place to live			
History			
Other			

**Question 39. What do you think are the most significant issues affecting the landscape and wildlife of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB? Rank the THREE most significant issues.**

	Most significant	Second most significant	Third most significant
Climate change			
Flooding from severe weather			
Access to the countryside e.g. quality of footpaths			
Future changes to regulations or funding			
Noise pollution			
Road traffic congestion			
Water pollution			
Light pollution/maintaining dark skies			
Pressure from new development			
Decline in quality of wildlife habitat			
Changing agricultural practices			
Plastic pollution			
Visitor numbers			
Too much land set aside for wildlife			
Dogs off leads			
Other			

**Question 40. How important do you think it is to conserve wildlife in the AONB?**

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not at all important

**Question 41. What do you think about the information available to visitors in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB? E.g. leaflets, information boards, signs etc.**

- Very good
- Good
- Poor
- Very poor
- I don't know

**Question 42. Do you think people who live, work and visit the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB have a responsibility to care for the area?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

**Question 43. Do you think it is important that local businesses are involved in looking after the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?**

- Yes it is very important
- Yes but not essential
- No it is not important
- Don't know

**Question 44. Do you think there are enough opportunities for you to help look after the**

- Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB?
- Yes, I feel involved
- I know about the opportunities but choose not to get involved
- No, more opportunities are needed
- I didn't know there were any opportunities to get involved



**Question 45. Which of the following activities do you participate in?**

- Practical Conservation Volunteering
- Beachwatch - Beach litter picks
- Conferences and events
- Other (please specify)

**Question 46. Do you think there is a coordinated approach to looking after the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and is it working?**

- Yes, it is coordinated and working well
- Yes, it is coordinated but could work better
- No
- Don't know

**Question 47. Since 2016, Natural England have been speaking to local people about the new England Coast Path National Trail. Which of these best describes your views on this national project?**

	Fully supportive	Quite supportive but with some concerns	Not supportive at all	Don't know
The concept of the England Coast Path				
The route it may take				
Please explain your answer (optional)				

**End of Survey**