

## Sandra Homcenko

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**From:** Stuart Carruthers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 October 2024 17:00  
**To:** Natural England Access to Information Team  
**Cc:** place.services@essex.gov.uk; Annette Feeney; heineplanning; Borough Planning; Michael Burton; Kirstern Davies; JFL\*; Myles Green; Local Plan Review  
**Subject:** Zones of Influence and SACS (including Burnham Beeches)  
**Attachments:** Natural England Letter to NLPAs.pdf

[External Email]

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### ZONES OF INFLUENCE

On 12 August 2019 Natural England wrote to Norfolk Local Authorities advising them they needed to establish zones of influence around Local Land Charges known as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The SPAs are limited to the extent of the SAC and a RAMSAR site has no geographic base. I have attached a copy of your letter to the Norfolk Council's.

You produced a table in your letter identifying claimed zones of influence as part of your letter identified as Table 1. It has been determined from Place services that they had identified to them the start position of the Local Land Charges Zones of influence by Natural England.

I have just been sent a copy of the SAC designation for Burnham Beeches In Buckinghamshire and it appears to have no geographic base. No plan seems to have been forwarded by English Nature to the Buckinghamshire Councils and as such it is not a **local land charge** as it can't be registered.

You identify in your letter that your evidence for the zones of influence was through collation and Visitor data. This appears to be a Footprint Ecology report.

1. The Brecks SAC is military and there is no recreational pressure as people are not allowed on the land (atomic waste and mustard gas factories).
2. The Wash is a national nature reserve. It is not a Local Land Charge as it is a maritime site. Natural England is paid already to mitigate recreational pressures. So it is irrelevant to any zone of influence.
3. Roydon Common and Dersingham Bog is a National Nature reserve and again Natural England are paid to mitigate recreational pressure - this is limited as Norfolk Naturalists Trust in 1968, Norfolk Naturalists Trust obtained an Order of Limitations under Section 193 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, imposing limitations and conditions on the public's rights of access to the land.

Please provide how copies of all documents identifying how you took account of the fact that there is no recreational access to the land and that where it exists this is limited to Nature Conservation Organisations when advising the Norfolk LPAs about their zones on influence claimed

### SACS

SACs are Local Land Charges. There appear to have been a very large number of mistakes made by Natural England when mapping SACS, and also failing to inform the Secretary of State of advice from Natural England's Scientific advisers

1. In 2003 English Nature was advised by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology that the river Wensum in Norfolk was not in a favourable conservation status and that this was not going to be obtained, This should have led to the river Wensum not being designated as a SAC. It remains an SSSI.

2. A marine SAC / SPA is not a Local Land Charge and cannot be used recreationally..

2. Much of the area of SACs seem to not contain the species and habitats required to be European sites over large areas of SSSIs of which they form a part and can never attain favourable conservation status as a SAC. This is identified in your own research on the meaning of favourable conservation status

Please provide copies of all documents that relate to how you advise LPAs and the Secretary of State (the owner of a SAC designation) to denotify land claimed to be a European sites as SACs as Local Land Charges when they have been erroneously registered by the Secretary of State based on flawed advice from Natural England and its predecessors. If like Burnham Beeches in Buckinghamshire they have no geographic base.. they don't exist .it is simply astounding that the Council's around Burnham Beeches developed mitigation strategies for the land when they had no local land charge.

Please also provide copies of all documents that relate to how you advise citizens to denotify European sites as SACs as Local Land Charges when they have been erroneously registered.

Finally please provide copies of all documentation provided by Natural England to the Secretary of State (DEFRA), Planning Inspectorate and LPAs identifying the weight that should be given to demonstrably flawed Local Land Charges claimed by Natural England to be designations, and the compensation to be paid to LPAs to correct flawed advice from Natural England in its attempt to maintain a Horizon SAC system that has led to defective Local Plans.

Stuart H CARRUTHERS