

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST OF ENGLAND: How can we avoid throttling the goose? Agriculture, Landscape and Resources

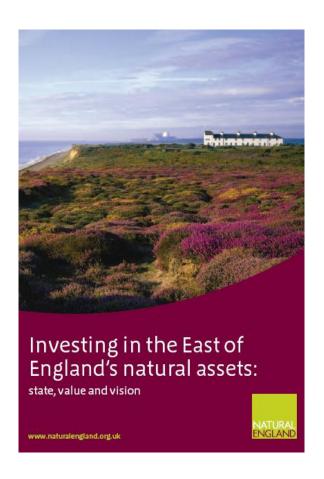
Gareth Dalglish, Regional Advocacy and Partnerships Manager





#### Investing in the East of England's Natural Assets





9 priority areas for action and investment to help achieve our vision of a healthy natural environment for the region's enjoyment and for sustaining future change and growth



- 1. Achieving growth in ways which protect and enhance the natural environment.
- 2. Bringing the natural environment to everyone's doorstep for access, enjoyment and wellbeing.
- 3. Taking account of coastal change and physical processes
- 4. Ensuring enough clean water for wildlife.
- 5. Encouraging more sustainable land management.
- Investing in distinctive landscapes and healthy, functioning habitats.
- 7. Helping the natural environment adapt to climate change.
- 8. Creating protected areas for our marine life.
- 9. Appreciating the value of our natural assets.

# 1. Achieving growth in ways which protect and enhance the natural environment.



- carefully planned development which protects our best sites and development plan policies that promote habitat restoration and creation
- making better use of landscape character assessment as a tool to ensure that both landscape character diversity and distinctiveness are recognised in decision making
- more environmental gain from planning permissions
- sustainable construction standards including those which encourage wise use of water
- sufficient provision of natural 'Green Infrastructure', believing that everyone in the region should have access to high quality natural greenspace to benefit their health and wellbeing

#### Water Cycle Strategies

...providing solutions to sustainable development

The Government has projected substantial growth in housing and jobs in the Growth Areas of the wider south east of England and is considering further opportunities through its emerging growth points initiative.

This growth will place additional pressures upon the environment, and may require additional:

- water resources and supply systems
- wastewater treatment and disposal
- surface water drainage and flood risk management

Development is going to take place over a number of years and in some areas by several different developers. Unless infrastructure is funded and implemented in a timely manner this could affect the pace of growth and/or lead to environmental damage.

To achieve the Government's aim of sustainable development, infrastructure needs to be in place alongside new development and combined with resource efficiency measures.

The solutions to these challenges can be achieved through a Water Cycle Strategy.

This leaflet is aimed at a wide audience including Local Planning Authorities, Local Delivery Vehicles, Water Companies, Government Departments and Developers.



#### What is a Water Cycle Strategy?

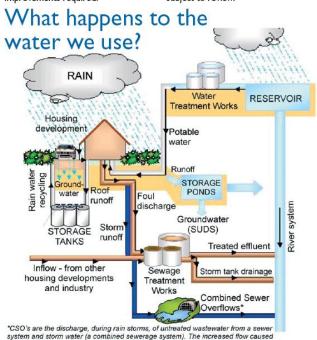
A Water Cycle Strategy provides a plan and programme of Water Services Infrastructure implementation. It is determined through an assessment of the environment and infrastructure capacity for:

- water supply
- sewage disposal
- I flood risk management
- surface water drainage

It also considers the impact of efficiency measures and provides an overall estimate of cost for the identified solution and of the identified infrastructure improvements required. A strategic approach to development is now a requirement of Government Regional Spatial Strategies and Subregional Strategies.

Policy is directing Local Authorities to provide an evidence base to support their Local Development Framework (LDF). The collation of information from key stakeholders will provide much of this evidence base. Strong partnership working will be required to agree a funding mechanism to ensure the fair distribution of costs.

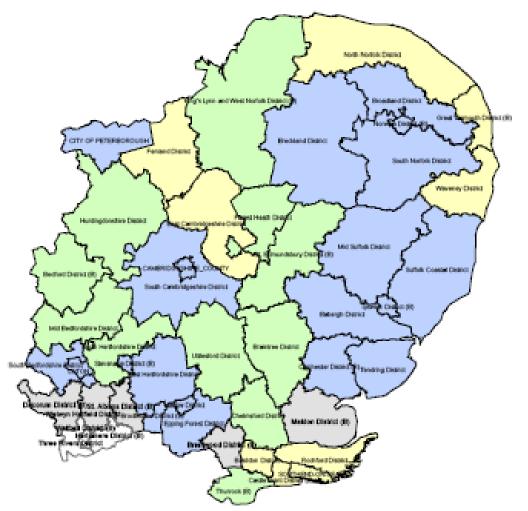
The processes involved in Water Cycle Strategies are new and will be subject to review.



by the storm water runoff exceeds the sewerage system's capacity and the sewage is forced to overflow into streams and rivers in the area through CSO outfalls.



#### East of England Region Progress on Water Cycle Studies



#### NATURAL ENGLAND

#### Water Cycle Study Status

No Progress
Under discussion

August 2009

Outline
Scoping
Detailed

#### **East of England Water Partnership**



- launched on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 with the signing of a joint concordat.
- brings together public and private sectors to work together to meet the challenges of climate change and the delivery of sustainable regional growth.
- central aim is to join together spatial and water planning processes and the effective management of water resources both at a regional and local level to facilitate sustainable growth and adaptation to environmental change.
- The work of the partnership will improve the alignment between the Regional Spatial Strategy and water company business planning

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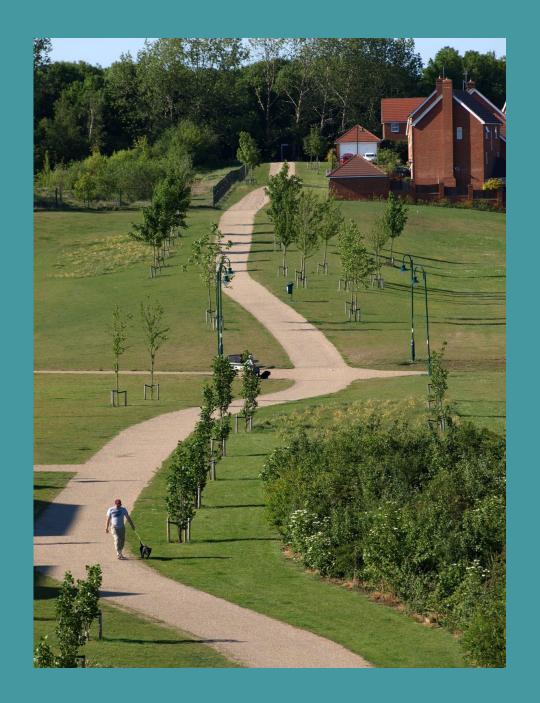




PPS12 definition: Green infrastructure (GI) is a network of multifunctional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities.







# **Delivering Green Infrastructure through the planning system**





**Cambridgeshire Horizons: Green Infrastructure Strategy** 



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#### 4. Ensuring enough clean water for wildlife.





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#### Agricultural land and restoring Ecosystems Services





Natural England Commissioned Report NECR010

River Wensum restoration strategy

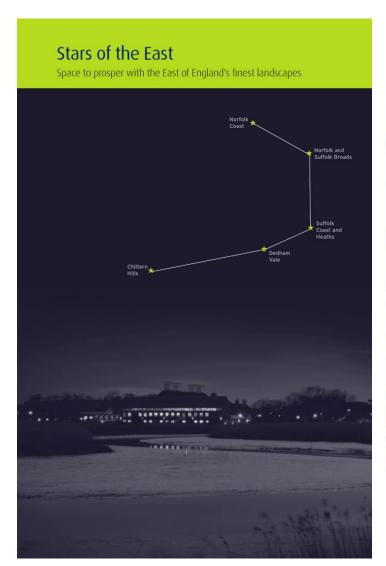




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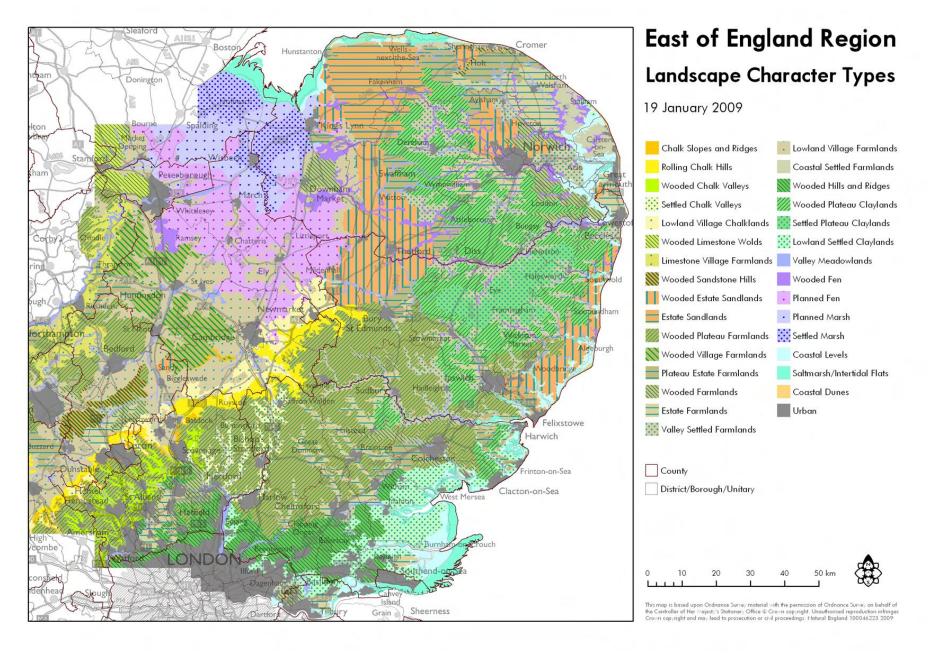
# 6 Investing in distinctive landscapes and healthy, functioning habitats.













# Landscape scale restoration of habitats



The Great Fen Project – linking Holme Fen NNR in the north + Woodwalton Fen NNR in the south







Investing in the natural environment is important for its own sake and also because of the contribution it makes to our economy and quality of life.

In the East of England, Natural England believes that the natural environment has a particular contribution to make to in a variety of ways:

- to the rural economy and tourism;
- by building distinctive places where people will want to live and work;
- by making a contribution to positive health outcomes; and finally,
- by helping the region adapt to climate change.



"We're waiting for the city to come to us ... "