

Second Monitoring Report

March 2000

Prepared by Suffolk Local Planning Authorities

Babergh District Council

St.Edmundsbury Borough Council

Forest Heath District Council

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Ipswich Borough Council

Suffolk County Council

Mid Suffolk District Council

Waveney District Council

CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
1) INTRODUCTION		1
2) DEVELOPMENT IN SUFFOLK		7
Housing		
BH 1	Number and percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land;	8
BH 2	Number and percentage of existing commitments on brownfield sites;	9
H1	Housing stock changes in relation to Structure Plan rates of development;	10
H2	Land availability for residential development in relation to Structure Plan/Local Plan requirements and PPG3;	11
H3	Number of units for affordable housing approved;	12
H4	Number of units for affordable housing refused;	12
H5	Number and percentage of major housing schemes approved with no affordable housing.	13
Employment		
EM1	Numbers and percentage of unemployed (claimants);	14
EM2	Numbers and percentage of employees in individual Employment Divisions;	16
EM3	Numbers and percentages of employees by location;	17
EM4	Land Availability for business/industrial development;	18
EM5	Completions on business/industrial development land;	18
EM6	Number and percentage of all applications for commercial activity in rural areas approved;	19
EM7	Number and percentage of all applications for expansion of commercial activity refused;	19
EM8	Number and percentage of all applications for new commercial activity refused;	20
EM9	Registered accommodation bedspaces in Suffolk;	20
EM10	Number of visitors to top visitor attractions;	21
EM11	Number of tourist attractions;	22
EM12	Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development approved;	23
EM13	Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development refused.	23
3) RURAL ENVIRONMENT		24
Agricultural land		

AG1:	Area of agricultural land allocated for development;	26
AG2:	Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agriculture refused;	27
AG3:	Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agriculture approved.	28

The landscape of suffolk

	Millennium landscape recording project	30
L1:	Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas refused;	33
L2:	Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas approved;	34
L3:	Number and area of historic parks and gardens lost or damaged as a result of development;	35
L4:	Number and area of commons and village greens lost or damaged as a result of development;	36
L5:	Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, historic parks and gardens, or Commons and village greens;	37
L6:	Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to historic parks or commons and village greens;	37
L7:	Number of applications outside designated landscape areas where loss of landscape features are cited as a reason for refusal.	38

Wildlife habitats

E1:	Number and area of sites designated as of nature conservation value lost or damaged as a result of development;	39
E2:	Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, sites designated as of nature conservation value;	40
E3:	Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to a site designated as of nature conservation value;	41
E4:	Number of applications which include reasons for refusal relating to protected species;	42
E5:	Number of applications which include conditions or agreements relating to the safeguarding of protected species;	43
E6:	New habitat provided in association with applications where an Environmental Assessment is required or voluntarily produced.	44

4) BUILT ENVIRONMENT

45

Conservation areas and listed buildings

C1:	Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications approved;	48
-----	---	----

C2:	Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications refused;	51
C3:	Number of Planning Applications in Conservation Areas approved;	48
C4:	Number of Planning Applications in Conservation Areas refused;	51
C5:	Number of enhancement schemes in Conservation Areas;	53
C6:	Number of Conservation Area Partnerships within the County, compared to the number for which bids were made;	54
C8:	Number of Historic Buildings at Risk;	55
C9:	Total value of grant aided work to historic buildings and buildings in Conservation Areas.	56

Archaeology

A1:	Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with amendments to design, or working methods, to ensure preservation;	57
A2:	Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with conditions Requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development;	58
A3:	Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with agreements for management/ enhancement work; (Not triggered in 1997/8 or 1998/9);	58
A4:	Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites for which archaeological evaluation is required prior to determination;	59
A5:	Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites refused;	60
A6:	Number of SAMs (and other archaeological sites of national importance) damaged as a result of development;	60
A7:	Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites of less than national importance approved with no provision for preservation in situ or recording prior to or during development;	61
A8:	Number and percentage of applications affecting no known archaeological site but judged of high archaeological potential and approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.	62

Town centres

TC1:	Number of units of each land use class in town centres;	64
TC2:	Floorspace in town centres by land use class;	68
TC3:	Number of vacant units of each land use class in town centres;	71
TC4:	Number of multiple retailers in town centres;	75
TC5:	Planning approvals and Local Plan allocations for major redevelopments or new developments in town centres;	76
TC6:	Rents for each town centre;	77
TC7:	Retail yield for each town centre;	78
TC9:	Length and area of pedestrianisation in town centres;	80
TC10:	Number of town centre car parking spaces;	82
TC11:	Number of major commercial applications outside the town centres approved;	84
TC12:	Number of major commercial applications outside the town centres refused.	85

The quality of new development

BE1:	Number of design briefs covering major development sites;	86
BE2:	Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of density, scale, layout, design, landscaping or impact on the visual character or appearance of a locality;	87
BE3:	Number and percentage of applications refused on grounds of privacy, daylight, odour or noise nuisance;	88
BE4:	Number of new TPOs served within villages and urban areas.	89

5) TRANSPORT

TP1:	Percentage of housing in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, Other towns, and elsewhere;	95
TP2:	Percentage of all new residential development taking place in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, Other towns, and elsewhere;	96
TP7:	Percentage of population with journey to work public transport;	97
TP8:	Number of pedestrian friendly road crossings;	98
TP9:	Total length of cycle route;	100
TP10:	Number of public cycle parking spaces;	102
TP11:	Number of Bus priority measures in major urban areas;	103
TP12:	Number of town centre publicly available long stay car parking spaces in Ipswich, Lowestoft, & Bury St. Edmunds;	104
TP13:	Total funds allocated to implement Urban Traffic Management Schemes;	105
TP14:	Number of Villages where Speed Restrictions have been implemented;	107
TP15:	Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic;	107
TP16:	Number of applications refused because of traffic safety implications;	108
TP17:	Number of approvals which include conditions or agreement which seek to minimise traffic impact;	108
TPI 32:	Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic in a Conservation Area;	109
TPI 66:	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused on transport grounds;	109
TPI 67:	Number of applications approved where a Green Travel plan is submitted or required by condition or legal Agreement.	110

6) RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

111

Open space

OP3:	Hectarage of publicly accessible open space lost through redevelopment;	113
OP4:	Number and percentage of applications refused because of loss of publicly accessible open space;	114
OP5:	Number of applications refused because of inadequate publicly accessible open space provision (Not triggered in 1998/99).	114

Recreation

REC1:	Existing provision of outdoor playing space (youth and adult use);	115
REC2:	Existing provision of children's playspace;	116
REC3:	Existing provision of allotments;	117
REC4:	Existing provision of facilities for golf;	117
REC5:	Indoor recreation facilities;	118
REC7(a):	Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new public recreational facilities approved;	119
REC7(b):	Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new public recreational facilities refused;	119
REC8:	Number of public recreational facilities lost as a result of planning approvals;	121
REC9:	Number and percentage of applications refused because of a loss of public recreational facilities (Not triggered in 1998/99).	121

Countryside Recreation

CR3:	Number of visitors to selected countryside recreation sites;	122
CR4:	Number and length of footpaths promoted;	123
CR5:	Length of Rights of Way routinely cleared of surface growth;	124
CR6:	Percentage of justified complaints relating to ploughing and cropping resolved.	124

7) OTHER RESOURCES

125

Water quality

WT6	Number of applications refused on water quality grounds;	126
-----	--	-----

WT7 Number of applications refused on flood risk grounds. 126

Coastal protection

CD1 Number of applications refused because of location being prone to coastal erosion (Not triggered in first two years of monitoring). 127

Minerals

M1 The available landbank of sand and gravel; 128

M3 The available landbank of chalk for non-cement manufacturing purposes; 129

M4 Production of Secondary Aggregates within Suffolk; 129

M5 Number and percentage of applications for the production of secondary aggregates approved; 130

M6 Number of applications refused because of sterilisation of mineral resources.(Not triggered in 1998/99); 130

M7 Hectarage of land restored after mineral extraction (subdivided by afteruse). 131

The management of waste

WD1 Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities approved; 133

WD2 Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities refused; 133

WD3 Hectarage of waste disposal sites restored. 135

Renewable energy

RE1 Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy; 137

RE2 Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy as a proportion of the county renewable energy potential; 137

RE3 Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy as a proportion of capacity of schemes awarded a NFFO contract; 137

RE4 Number and potential electricity generating capacity of renewable schemes with planning permission and installed; 138

RE5 Number and potential generating capacity of renewable schemes refused planning permission (Not triggered in 1997/98). 138

INTRODUCTION

Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development was published in March 1997 by the eight planning authorities in Suffolk. It:

- described the main characteristics of the environment of Suffolk;
- provided a means for examining the relationship of planning policy and environmental quality;
- identified 142 indicators to provide measures of the environmental effect of policies and proposals; and
- provided a basis for future monitoring.

Publication of the Report represented the start of a process of ongoing environmental appraisal of planning policy within Suffolk.

The Report sought to recognise the role of the Suffolk Development Plan in promoting sustainable development. All local planning authorities must prepare and keep up to date a development plan containing policies and proposals relating to the development of the whole of their area. The Development Plan for Suffolk currently consists of the strategic County Structure Plan and the District/Borough and subject area Local Plans listed in *Figure 1.1* below.

Figure 1.1
The Development Plan in Suffolk

Plan	Adopted	End date	Plans in preparation
Suffolk County Structure Plan (incorporating alterations 1,2 and 3)	June 1995	2006	Review and replacement, Deposit Draft April 1999 (end date 2016)
Babergh Local Plan Alteration No. 1	June 1995	2001	Alteration 2 Issues report, January 1999 (end date 2011)
Forest Heath Local Plan	December 1995	2001 (2006 for Red Lodge)	Review – Issues Report due Summer 2000 (end date 2016)
Ipswich Local Plan	May 1997	2006	Review – Issues Report, August 1999 (end date 2016)
Mid Suffolk Local Plan	September 1998	2006	
St Edmundsbury Local Plan	June 1998	2006	Review – Issues Report, February 2000 (end date 2016)
Suffolk Coastal Local Plan	December 1994	2001	First Alteration – responding to Inspector's Report (End date 2006)
Waveney Local Plan	November 1996	2006	Review – Issues Report due Autumn 2000 (end date 2016)
Broads Local Plan	May 1997	2006	
Suffolk Minerals Local Plan	May 1999	2006	

The Development Plan provides the framework for the spatial pattern of development, identifies the features that should be protected and includes measures to improve the quality of the environment. Planning decisions must accord with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Characterising the Environment

Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development provided a measure of the quality of the environment of Suffolk as at mid 1996. This baseline can be used to assess whether policies and proposals in the structure and local plans are having a positive or negative impact on this quality. Aspects of the environment that are included within the Report are shown in *figure 1.2*.

Figure 1.2
Scope of Suffolk's Environment Report

HOUSING	Scale and location of development; Existing planning permissions and allocations; Affordable Housing
EMPLOYMENT	Existing employment structure, and location of employment; Unemployment; Employment availability; Tourism
AGRICULTURE	Agricultural land quality; Potential loss of agricultural land
LANDSCAPE	Designated landscape areas; Historic parks, greens and commons; Landscape and countryside management
WOODLAND	Extent of woodland; Woodland management and new planting
WILDLIFE	Protected habitats and species; Habitat creation; Nature reserves
CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS	Conservation areas; Listed Buildings: Historic buildings at risk; Grant aid and enhancement schemes; development in Conservation areas
ARCHAEOLOGY	Archaeological sites; Related planning decisions
TOWN CENTRES	Land uses within Town centres; vacant units; multiple retailers; accessibility; pedestrianised areas; out-of-town centre proposals
BUILT ENVIRONMENT	Design briefs; Control of new development; Open Space in built up areas; Tree Preservation Orders
DERELICT LAND	Amount of derelict land; land identified for redevelopment
TRANSPORT	Location of development and access to facilities; encouragement of alternatives to the private car, public transport, cycling, pedestrians; traffic management
RECREATION	Playing space; allotments; golf; Indoor sport and leisure
COUNTRYSIDE RECREATION	Informal recreation sites; public rights of way; promotional activities
WATER QUALITY	Quality of rivers and estuaries; Groundwater; Coastal waters; Pollution incidents; Flooding
COASTAL PROTECTION	Coastline management; Extent of sea defences
MINERALS	Mineral resources in Suffolk; Production of alternative aggregates; Restoration of mineral sites
WASTE MANAGEMENT	Facilities for waste disposal; recycling facilities; restoration of waste disposal sites
RENEWABLE ENERGY	Renewable energy capacity in Suffolk

The Development Plan is only one element influencing environmental quality and in relation to many aspects of environmental concern it has only a limited impact. This limits the range of subjects included in the Report. A number of issues relating to the concept of sustainable development are outside the scope of planning policy, being more appropriately dealt with in the context of wider sustainability indicators. Whilst indicators have not been devised for this wider scope as part of the Report, background information has been included where appropriate, for example, consumption of water by different sectors.

Purpose of the Indicators

A range of indicators were identified in the original report to measure change in the environmental quality of Suffolk. The indicators measure the impact of implementation of plan policies, including through the development control process. These indicators provide a means for assessing the effectiveness of policy in:

- increasing environmental quality;
- protecting recognised environmental assets; and
- catering for the development needs of the County.

The indicators also provide a measure of the extent to which recognised environmental assets may be damaged as a result of planning policy.

Monitoring Indicators

The chosen indicators use information from a variety of sources of information including:

- planning applications and decisions;
- existing information held by the local planning authorities (for example, listed buildings);
- monitoring of development that is being carried out (for example, rates of housing development, available land bank of sand and gravel reserves);
- other local authority activities (for example, provision of bus lanes, landscape grants); and
- information from other organisations (for example, Environment Agency, Forestry Authority).

In *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development* it was appreciated that updating of the baseline data which feeds the indicators would vary depending on the nature of the information in question. Two reporting periods for the indicators was seen as desirable. Some of the indicators would be reported on an annual basis, whilst others on a five yearly cycle would coincide with the comprehensive review of *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development*. This five yearly reporting period would also include updating of the background information.

Of the 142 indicators, 21 are to be updated every five years. These indicators are likely to reveal only slight or infrequent change, where only the long term trend assessments would be important, for example, change in number and area of commons and village greens. This should not be taken as negating the importance of any such changes. It is intended that the first five yearly Review, having an end date of 2001, will be published in 2002.

121 indicators are updated annually, and it is these that are reported in this monitoring report. Information for these indicators is where it is easily available or already collated, where changes are more frequent or where the indicator dictates it necessary. These indicators can be split between those reliant upon development control monitoring and those on other sources.

54 of the annual indicators rely upon information derived from the monitoring of determined planning applications. The development of these indicators is still thought to be unique within planning authorities throughout England and Wales. Since the devising of these indicators much work has been undertaken in

clarifying definitions and information requirements for each indicator and establishing systems, mainly computerised, for extracting required data on a basis that would allow consistent analysis. Monitoring of planning applications commenced on 1st July 1997. Results for 1997-98 were reported in the First Monitoring Report. The figures have been reproduced in the Second Monitoring Report, alongside the 1998-99 results, to enable comparisons. 6 of these development control indicators are two stage, only being triggered once an approved proposal is implemented.

Indicators using information from planning applications do not include *DOE Code 13 Householder* applications, for example, extensions to properties or construction of outbuildings, including garages and sheds. Whilst it is recognised that such applications are numerous and in most cases do not significantly affect the environment they may incrementally impact upon the environment. However, sheer numbers mean that the cost of monitoring these applications would be prohibitive.

The remaining 67 annual indicators rely upon other sources of information, the majority of which is held or collated by the Suffolk local authorities, for example, the amount and location of residential development, and the number of historic buildings at risk. These indicators have been updated for mid 1999. Where practical, the mid 1998 updates are also included. Such recording when set against the base year of a respective indicator should allow short-term trends to be analysed.

The Second Monitoring Report is not intended to reach conclusions on any of the indicators but merely serves to highlight possible trends and issues. *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development* is a long term project aimed at continually monitoring the progress of the local planning authorities in contributing to sustainable development. Over time the monitoring results will increase understanding of the contribution of the planning process to sustainable development.

Indicator review

The production of this monitoring report provides an opportunity for the authorities concerned to assess the merits of each of the annual indicators. This assessment allows the following to be taken into account:

- The quality of information gained for the indicator – whether it is sound and meaningful. Where this has not been achieved it will be necessary to consider further refinement, or where impractical or impossible, deletion of the indicator;
- The significance of the indicator to the subject concerned. In a number of subjects knowledge is continually expanding and improving. It is important that indicators remain relevant. In ecology the preparation of Biodiversity Action Plans is increasing knowledge re habitats and species, whilst the Millennium Challenge within the County aims to increase knowledge about landscape change;
- The availability of the information and consistency between authorities. A number of systems have been devised specifically for this project and these should be assessed; and
- The compatibility with other published indicators. Whilst the Report has developed an innovative and comprehensive set of indicators, since publication a wealth of other sources of indicators have arisen, for example, the Government's draft *Sustainability counts; headline indicators*. Whilst it is important that indicators remain relevant to their concern, consideration needs to be given to easing the collation of material. Wider sustainability indicators may be developed by the Suffolk local authorities at a later date.

In December 1999, the Government published a document called Quality of Life Counts. It includes a large number and broad range of indicators to monitor the national sustainable development strategy. In the light of the Government's headline indicators and progress made on developing *Suffolk's Environment* indicators, new indicators have been included in the Second Monitoring Report. They relate to the number of homes built on brownfield land (BH1 & BH2), affordable housing (H5) and the landscape (LRP1, LRP2 & LRP3). The new landscape indicators will monitor change in the landscape, as part of a unique

landscape recording project; a partnership between the Women's Institutes in Suffolk, the Suffolk Local Authorities and the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Project. The introduction of the brownfield development indicators has enabled the deletion of the derelict land indicators.

Further review of indicators will take place throughout the year 2000. Particular attention will be given to refining the existing indicators and the development of socio-economic indicators. In those areas where significantly revised or new indicators are to be proposed it is intended a targeted consultation be undertaken with interested bodies.

Format of this Report

The Second Monitoring Report updates the indicators included in *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development* to mid 1999. These are reported on a topic by topic basis in the order that they appear in the original report. Where possible, analysis has been undertaken and is reported under each indicator. It has not been possible to update, and reproduce, all of the background information contained in *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development*, or in the First Monitoring Report. The Second Monitoring Report should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the original Report, its technical appendices and the First Monitoring Report.

Further Information

Suffolk's Environment ... towards sustainable development is a joint venture involving the County Council and all at the District/Borough Councils in Suffolk. More detailed information relating to each indicator reported is held centrally at Suffolk County Council, at the address below. For more information relating to a particular District/ Borough please contact one of the following:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BDC Babergh District Council

FHDC Forest Heath District Council

IBC Ipswich Borough Council

MSDC Mid Suffolk District Council

SEBC St Edmundsbury Borough Council

SCDC Suffolk Coastal District Council

WDC	Waveney District Council	SCC	Suffolk County Council		
N/A	Not Available	N/T	Not triggered	N/k	Not Known
Ha	hectare	Km	kilometre		
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	CWS	County Wildlife Site	LNR	Local Nature Reserve
NFFU	Non Fossil Fuel Obligation	NNR	National Nature Reserve	PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SAC	Special Area of Conservation	SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument	SLA	Special Landscape Area
SPA	Special Protection Area	SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest	TPO	Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT IN SUFFOLK

Suffolk is a largely rural county with a wealth of both natural beauty and built heritage. Its desirable environment, together with its relative proximity to the South East and Europe have combined to make Suffolk an attractive County in which to both live and work. Consequently the County has experienced significant development pressure over the last 20 years, which shows no sign of subsiding in the near future.

Each year thousands of people move into or out of Suffolk, or from one area to another within Suffolk. Between 1981 and 1998 the population increased by around 64,000 (over 3,700 per year), mainly from the movement of more people into than out of the County. The excess of births over deaths was only 7,000. Suffolk's population grows at about 0.6% per year on average. In 1998 the total population of the County was around 662,000.

Historically planning policy has been to neither encourage nor restrain population, housing and employment growth at County level, but to manage and direct development pressures via the Development Plan system to those areas best able to accommodate them.

The following housing and employment indicators seek to assess the impact that recent development in Suffolk has had on the County.

Key results are:

- Currently 44% of new dwellings being completed in Suffolk are being built on previously developed (brownfield) land.
- One-third of all land committed for new housing is on previously developed (brownfield) land.
- Although housing completion rates have fallen over the last few years they continue to be in excess of that required to meet Structure Plan targets.
- Whilst overall land supply for future development has decreased, the Government's 5 year supply target can be met by all 7 Districts in the County.
- Unemployment has continued to fall in all areas of the County and currently averages 3.2% (January 2000).
- The number of jobs in Suffolk continues to grow and presently stands at around 300,000.
- Tourism (in terms of visitor numbers) appears to be relatively static at present although there are some signs that visitors may be changing their reasons for visiting Suffolk.
- The planning application refusal rate for the expansion of existing commercial activity is approximately half that for new commercial activity, possibly reflecting the overall objective of directing new employment to existing centres and a flexible approach to existing businesses.

“Brownfield” Residential Development in Suffolk

In 1996 the Government set a national target for brownfield site development (i.e. sites which have been previously developed). This target, for 60% of all new development to be on brownfield land, now forms a national sustainability headline indicator.

It has been agreed that annual monitoring of the Suffolk Local Authorities progress towards meeting the Government target should be included in Suffolk’s Environment project. The monitoring will look at two main aspects of ‘brownfield’ sites: -

- The *percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land*. (DETR’s headline indicator in the ‘Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK’.)
- The *number of dwellings approved or allocated on previously developed land* and the proportion of all approvals for residential development taking place on such sites in relation to overall commitments.

It is intended that the above will form 2 new indicators and provide the baseline information needed for monitoring in future years.

Indicator BH 1. Number and percentage of new dwellings completed on previously developed land

Area	Brownfield completions 1998-99	Total completions 1998-99	% contribution from brownfield sites
Babergh	..	..	..
Forest Heath	79	140	56%
Ipswich	124	149	83%
Mid Suffolk	128	425	30%
St.Edmundsbury	310	578	54%
Suffolk Coastal	219	447	49%
Waveney	91	423	22%
Suffolk	951	2162	44%

Note : No returns were received from Babergh District Council. Suffolk figures are the sum of six Districts.

In relation to new dwellings completed on previously developed land it can be observed that:-

- Between mid 1998-99 over 950 dwellings were completed on brownfield sites in Suffolk.
- This represents 44% of all completions over the same period.
- The overall average of 44% tends to hide a wide variation between the Districts. Ipswich with 83% of its completions on brownfield sites is nearly 30 % higher than the second highest District – Forest Heath (56%). Waveney District recorded the lowest percentage with only 22% of completions being on brownfield sites.

Indicator BH 2. Number and percentage of existing commitments on brownfield sites

Area	Brownfield sites with planning permission	Brownfield sites - allocated in local plans	Total brownfield sites committed	Total commitments - all sites.	% of commitments on brownfield sites
Babergh	..	..	..		..
Forest Heath	236	426	662	2515	26%
Ipswich	1564	399	1963	2266	87%
Mid Suffolk	916	0	916	2880	32%
St.Edmundsbury	447	183	630	3100	20%
Suffolk Coastal	1535	83	1618	4704	34%
Waveney	428	65	493	3621	14%
Suffolk	5126	1156	6282	19086	33%

Note : No returns were received from Babergh District Council. Suffolk figures are the sum of six Districts.

In terms of existing commitments on brownfield sites: -

- At mid 1999 it is estimated that there were over 5100 units on brownfield sites with planning permission in Suffolk. A further 1150 were allocated in Local Plans.
- In relation to total commitments it is estimated that one third of the land available was on brownfield sites.
- The overall average of 33% tends to hide a wide variation between the Districts. Ipswich with nearly 90% of its commitments on brownfield sites is over 50 % higher than the second highest District - Suffolk Coastal (34%). Waveney District recorded the lowest percentage with only 14% of commitments being on brownfield sites.
- In some towns e.g. Haverhill, Lowestoft, large areas of greenfield land have been allocated in Local Plans. This has had the effect of depressing the percentage of commitments on brownfield sites. Until these outstanding allocations have worked their way through the system it is unlikely that any Government targets for brownfield development will be achieved in the near future.

The results of the above exercise confirm that for a basically rural County such as Suffolk the current take-up rate of 44% is considerably less than the Government's key target "to build 60% of all new houses on reused sites". However it should be noted that the Government target is an overall target for England and does not apply to every region or county individually and that a lower target is likely to be set for Suffolk. Future monitoring will show how far Suffolk Local Authorities are improving or at least maintaining current levels of provision.

Indicator H1: Housing stock changes in relation to Structure Plan rates of development.

With the County's population growing by over 3,700 per year between 1981 and 1998, Indicator H1 was developed to monitor housing provision in relation to the County Structure Plan.

Structure Plan dwelling requirements						
	Housing stock			Annual average dwelling requirement		
	1988	1999	Structure Plan Change 1988-2006	Structure Plan Rate 1988-2006	Historic Rate 1988-99	Rate required 1999-2006
Babergh	31970	35860	7170	398	354	469
Forest Heath	21450	24510	5330	296	278	324
Ipswich	48940	51020	4490	249	189	344
Mid Suffolk	30360	36380	7590	422	547	224
St Edmundsbury	35750	41860	9780	543	555	524
Suffolk Coastal	44760	52510	11480	638	705	533
Waveney	45950	50900	8850	492	450	557
Ipswich Policy Area	59850	66640	11750	653	617	709
SUFFOLK	259180	293020	54690	3038	3076	2979

Notes :Housing stock figures for 1988 have been rebased to 1991 Census and are not consistent with those in Structure Plan Alteration 3.

: Limitations on land available for development within the Ipswich Borough boundary necessitate an examination of a wider area to meet the requirements for housing and employment growth centred on Ipswich. Ipswich Policy Area takes in 20 parishes within the three Districts adjacent to Ipswich.

At mid-1999 there were an estimated 293,000 dwellings in the County. The current Structure Plan makes provision for 3,000 additional dwellings per year within Suffolk for the period 1988 - 2006. For the first seven years of the Structure Plan period (1988-95) the increase was about 3,400 per year. The historic rate has now decreased by over 300 dwellings per annum reflecting a distinct fall off in completion rates over the last few years. Currently the rate required to meet Structure Plan requirements (2,979 per annum) remains just below the Structure Plan rate of 3,000 dwellings per year.

The overall County figures mask considerable differences between District Council areas. Babergh, Ipswich and Waveney have been behind the anticipated rate of development. Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Districts have experienced building rates in line with Structure Plan provisions, whilst in Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal completions have been ahead of the expected rate. In the case of Ipswich, much recent development has taken place just over the administrative boundary. Comparative figures for the Ipswich Policy Area show a much smaller deficit.

Indicator H2: Land availability for residential development in relation to Structure Plan/Local Plan provisions and PPG3.

Calculation of land supply by residual* method – Mid 1999 : Structure Plan Alteration No.3									
	Structure Plan	Stock	Dwelling	Rate	Commitments mid-1999			Shortfall /surplus mid-1997	Years supply -S.P.rate of development
	Change 1988-2006	Change 1988-99	Requirement 1999-2006	Required 1999-2006	Consents	Local** Plan All	Total		
Babergh	7170	3890	3280	469	2678	646	3324	44	7.1
Forest Heath	5330	3060	2270	324	683	2062	2745	475	8.5
Ipswich	4490	2080	2410	344	1847	418	2265	-145	6.6
Mid Suffolk	7590	6020	1570	224	1646	1234	2880	1310	12.8
St Edmundsbury	9780	6110	3670	524	1557	1543	3100	-570	5.9
Suffolk Coastal	11480	7750	3730	533	4601	203	4804	1074	9.0
Waveney	8850	4950	3900	557	2750	871	3621	-279	6.5
Ipswich Policy Area	11750	6790	4960	709	5098	418	5516	556	7.8
SUFFOLK	54690	33840	20850	2979	15762	6977	22739	1889	7.6

Notes: * For a detailed description of method see PPG3 (revised) March 1992 - Annex C.

** Includes allocations in Draft Local Plans.

The table makes no allowance for the likely future incidence of 'windfall' development which will continue to make a significant contribution towards the overall housing requirements.

Limitations on land available for development within the Ipswich Borough boundary necessitate an examination of a wider area to meet the requirements for housing and employment growth centered on Ipswich. Ipswich Policy Area takes in 20 parishes within the three Districts adjacent to Ipswich.

Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) note 3, Housing (revised in 1992), states that "Local Authorities should aim to ensure the availability of 5 years supply of housing land, judged against the general scale and location of development provided for in approved structure and adopted local plans." This aim is reiterated in the further revision of PPG3 which was published in early March.

New housing to provide for growth up to 2006 will come from four sources:

- Housing built since the Structure Plan base year;
- Planning consents and existing allocations in Local Plans;
- Development of unallocated or 'windfall' sites; and
- New land allocations in Local Plans.

At mid-1999 it is estimated that sufficient land was committed (either by consent or allocation) to provide for future housing growth, at Structure Plan rates, for the next seven and a half years. The table makes no allowance for the likely future incidence of 'windfall' development which will continue to make a significant contribution towards the overall housing requirements. Whilst overall land supply for future development has decreased since the base year (1995) the table shows that the 5 year supply target can be met in all 7 Districts in the County.

Indicator H3: Number of units for affordable housing approved

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk	
H3	Number of units for affordable housing approved.	Number approved	1998-99	36	12	355	31	52	15	84	585
		Number approved	1997-98	8	N/T	N/T	N/T	100	N/T	34	142

* Six months data only for 1997-98

In Suffolk each District Council Local Plan includes policies to encourage the provision of affordable housing.

Affordable housing is defined as any affordable/low cost/local needs housing unit(s) that fall within the following four categories:

1. units in major schemes;
2. units on exception sites;
3. shared ownership/ equity units; and
4. rented housing association units.

The indicator H3 monitors the actual number of affordable/local needs homes achieved as a result of these policies. A large number of affordable housing units are also approved within existing built-up areas against more general development control policies for residential development.

In 1998-99 over 4 times as many units were approved as in the previous year. Of the 585 units approved the majority (566) were within major schemes with a further 19 being on exceptions sites. On several sites the type of tenure is not yet known, but it is thought that the majority will be for rented housing association units. Housing Associations have brought forward a number of sites in the monitoring period.

Indicator H4: Number of units for affordable housing refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk	
H4	Number of units for affordable housing refused.	Number refused	1998-99	5	N/T	N/T	N/T	n/k	N/T	N/T	n/k
		Number refused	1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

This indicator was not triggered in 1997-98. In 1998-99 two applications were refused: An application for 5 dwellings on an "exception site" at East End, East Bergholt in Babergh District and In St.Edmundsbury an application on land in Boundary Road, Haverhill that would have exceeded the thresholds for affordable housing, was refused (and subsequently dismissed on appeal.) Numbers of units relating to this site are not known.

Indicator H5: Number and percentage of major housing schemes approved with no affordable housing.

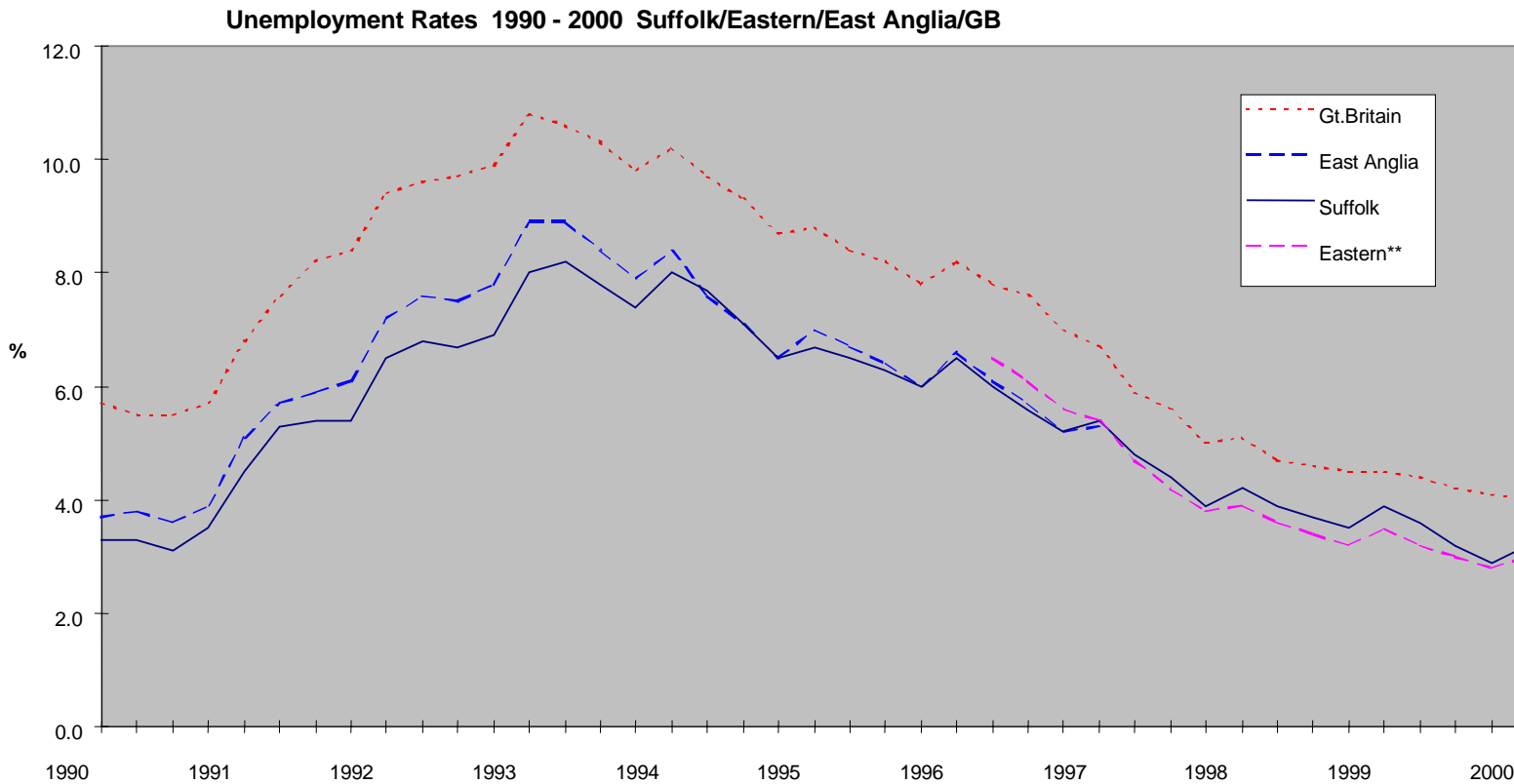
Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
H5	Number and percentage of major housing schemes approved with no affordable housing.	Number of sites approved 1998-99	3	2	7	8	5	13	5	43
		Number of units approved 1998-99	145	187	240	186	134	377	161	1430
		Percentage of sites approved. 1998-99	75%	67%	70%	80%	56%	93%	45%	70%
		Denominator = total number of major schemes approved for housing	4	3	10	10	9	14	11	61

This indicator is new for 1998-99.

1430 units were approved on forty three major housing schemes (10 plus units), on sites with no affordable housing provision. Whilst the overall approval rate of 70% may seem high for such sites it should be borne in mind that many of the permissions were renewals of older planning permissions where 'affordable' housing policies cannot be applied. In Forest Heath one application was for 100 dwellings for occupation by USAF personnel. It is predicted that this percentage will fall over time as the relevant policies become more effective.

The phased development on some of the larger sites together with the provision of 'off site' affordable housing has made this indicator difficult to monitor. The 10 plus threshold is low in relation to some local plan policies but adopted here for the sake of consistency in data collection. This may need to be reviewed.

Indicator EM1: Numbers and percentage of unemployed (claimants)



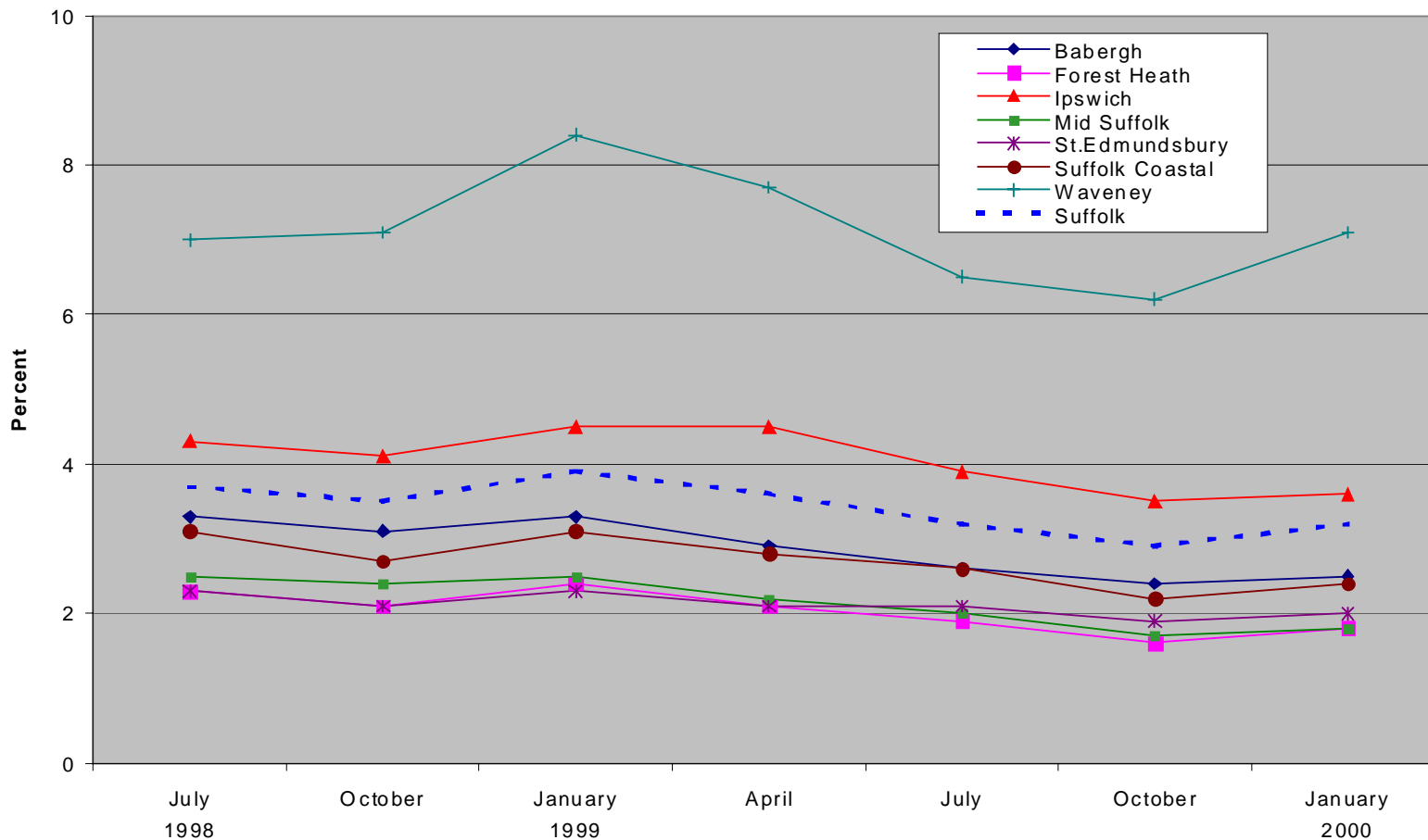
Source: ONS monthly claimant count

Unemployment (claimants expressed as a percentage of employees in employment and unemployed and H.M.Forces and participants on work-related Government Training Schemes).

Percentages have not been revised retrospectively following changes in denominators. Rates for East Anglia (Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs) not available from 1997 – change to Eastern Region base (Which includes East Anglia plus Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Essex).

The figures show that since 1990 unemployment in Suffolk has mirrored both national and regional trends throughout the period, but at lower levels. The change to the Eastern Region base has meant that for the last three years Suffolk rates have been above that for the region. The unemployment rate in Suffolk was 3.2% in January 2000.

Unemployment Rates 1998-2000: Suffolk Districts

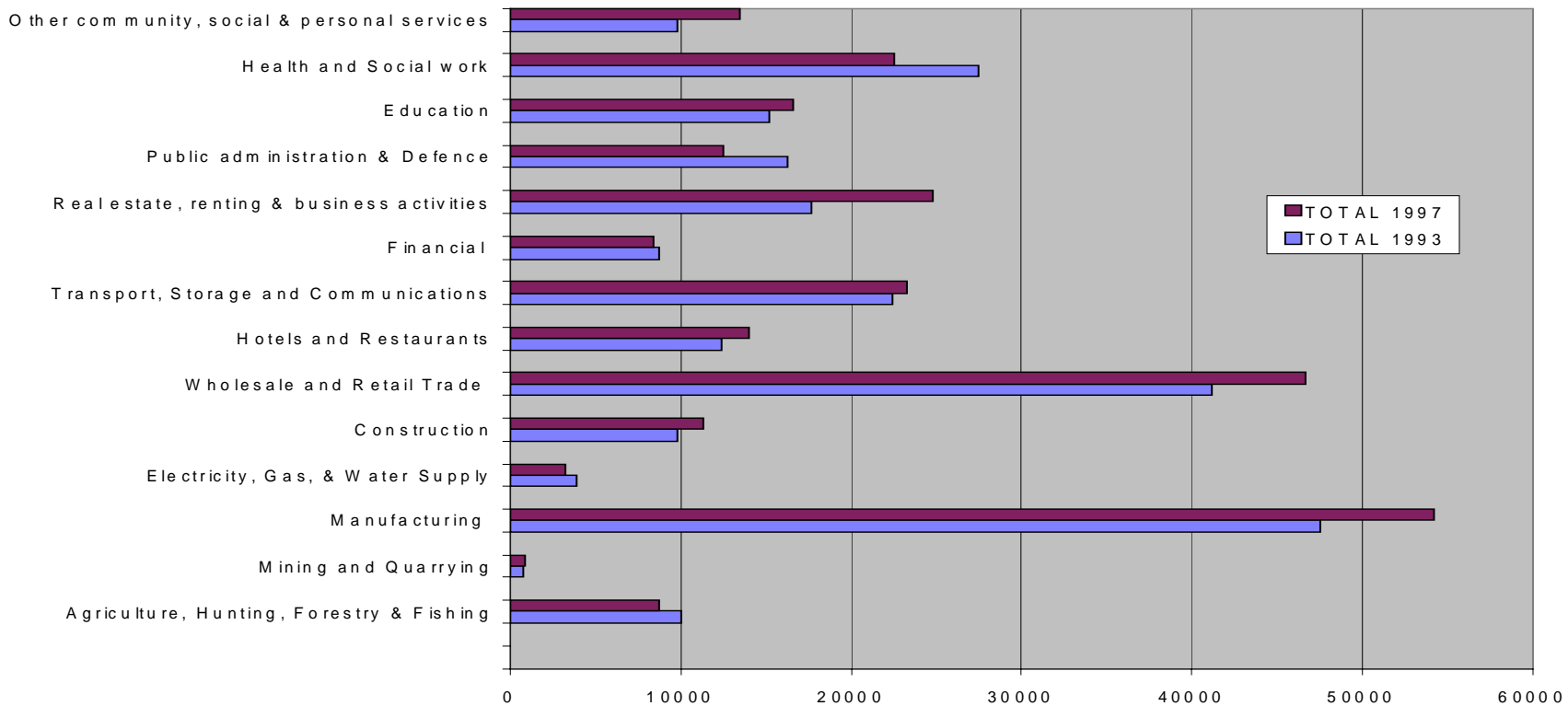


Unemployment (claimants expressed as a percentage of employees in employment and unemployed and H.M.Forces and participants on work-related Government Training Schemes).
 All percentage rates relate to unadjusted figures and have not been revised retrospectively following changes in denominators

The graph shows the unemployment trends for the Districts in Suffolk. Information at this level has only been available from July 1998 so it is not possible to identify long term trends. However the graph clearly highlights the Waveney area as having consistently high unemployment with rates in Ipswich also being above the County average – although in both of these areas the situation has improved over the last year. The remaining Districts have all maintained relatively low levels of unemployment throughout the period. However, it should be noted that even within the Districts with relatively low levels of unemployment there are often pockets of high unemployment.

Indicator EM2: Numbers and percentage of employees in individual Employment Divisions.

Distribution of employees by SIC - Suffolk 1993 and 1997



Source: 1993 and 1997 Annual Employment Surveys

Indicator EM2 shows the breakdown of the workforce for Suffolk in 1993 and 1997, by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Suffolk has a diverse economy, with no single predominant industry. The distribution for Suffolk shows above national average proportions of employment in agriculture, transport and communications and a below average proportion in financial services.

The figures tend to understate the importance of agriculture to Suffolk since they exclude farmers and other self employed agricultural workers. In 1997 an additional 13,000 persons were employed in the food processing industry. When these and other agricultural related industrial activities are taken into account the importance of agriculture to the County becomes more readily apparent.

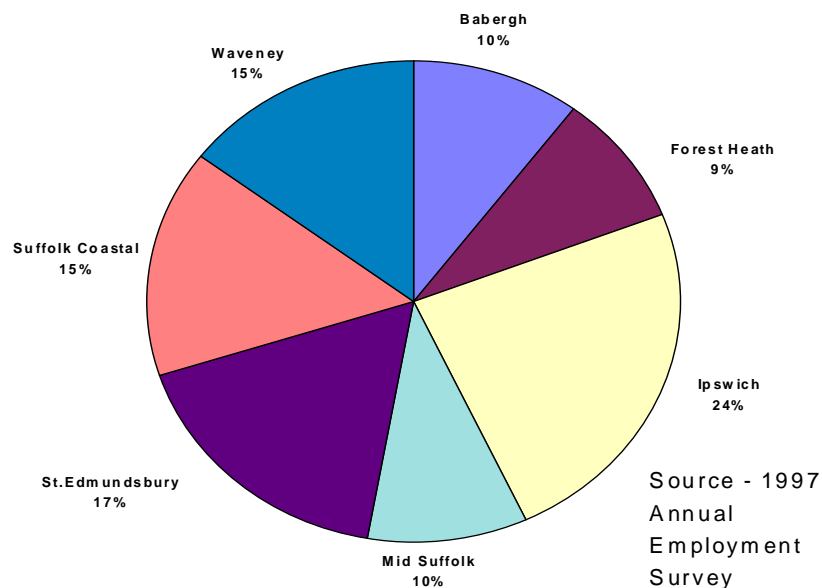
A comparison between the two years show that some structural changes appear to have taken place. Agriculture has continued to decline as have the Health and Social work, and Public sectors. This has been counterbalanced by increases in numbers employed in Wholesale and Retail Trade, Real Estate, Transport and Communications and perhaps most surprisingly the Manufacturing sector. It should be borne in mind that the information used for the two years may not be directly comparable in that sample bases for the two years will vary. Nevertheless it is thought that the broad conclusions are valid.

The above figures do not include the self employed - a large proportion of whom will be involved in the service sector. It is estimated that there are currently about 45,000 self- employed persons living in Suffolk.

During the 1990's job growth has generally been at a slower rate than that experienced during the eighties. There are now some 300,000 jobs in the Suffolk economy.

Indicator EM3: Numbers and percentages of employees by location.

Employment in Suffolk - Location



Indicator EM3 shows nearly a quarter of the jobs in the County are in Ipswich. The more rural Districts of Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Forest Heath only contain 29% of the jobs in Suffolk. This indicator shows very little change from either the 1993 or 1995 figures.

Indicator EM4: Land Availability for business/industrial development.

Commitments Area(Ha)	BDC ⁽¹⁾		FHDC		IBC		MSDC ⁽¹⁾		SEBC		SCDC		WDC		Suffolk	
	1996	1998	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1998	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999
Planning Permissions	26.5	3.7	19.1	13.8	25.8	78.5	5.5	N/A	101.6	89.1	19.8	67.3	60.0	44.9	258.3	302.8
Local Plan Allocations	26.7	14.2	23.7	20.2	45.1	25.1	30.6	N/A	76.9	67.6	98.8*	48.5	8.1	6.7	309.9	212.9
Total	53.2	17.9	42.8	34.0	70.9	103.6	36.1	N/A	178.5	156.7	118.6	115.8	68.1	51.6	568.2	515.7

Note: ⁽¹⁾ Figures have not been updated – no information available
* includes former RAF Bentwaters

Source: District Councils.

The latest information shows a decrease in land available mainly as a result of large take up of industrial land. The decrease in St Edmundsbury is partially attributable to previously allocated sites being removed from the Local Plan prior to adoption. Conversely more land has become available in Ipswich Borough as a result of planning permissions granted. Overall there is no shortage of industrial land available for development in Suffolk.

Indicator EM5: Completions on business/industrial development land.

Commitments Area(Ha)	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1995	N/A	N/A	2.28	N/A	2.97	N/A	N/A	5.25
1996	N/A	N/A	1.30	N/A	4.03	19.95	N/A	25.28
1997	5.10	N/A	9.52	N/A	6.50	3.13	1.85	26.10
1998	34.40	1.60	3.36	N/A	1.22	N/A	1.73	42.31
1999	N/A	3.00	2.35	N/A	N/A	15.62	2.99	23.96

Note: Some rates refer to calendar year/ others to mid year.

Source: District Councils

The information available shows that between 1995 and 1999 some 120.0 hectares of land have been developed for industrial use in the County – mainly in Babergh, Suffolk Coastal and Ipswich Borough.

Indicator EM6: Number and percentage of all applications for commercial activity in rural areas approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM6	Number and percentage of all applications for commercial activity in rural areas approved.	Number approved 1998-99	..	28	N/A	86	14	44	21	26	219
		Number approved 1997-98	90	1	N/A	128	67	137	52	36	511
		Percentage approved 1998-99	..	97%	n/a	97%	93%	96%	84%	87%	94%
		Percentage approved 1997-98	89%	100%	n/a	88%	80%	95%	93%	90%	89%
		Denominator = number of applications outside physical limits of towns listed in Town Centres chapter.	..	29	N/A	89	15	46	25	30	234
			101	1	N/A	145	84	144	56	40	571

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

In 1998-99 just over 200 applications triggered this indicator. The lower numbers reflect the decision taken to exclude applications within the minor development category (PS code 10). The approval rate of 94% is not significantly different from last year. 84% of approvals were for industrial and business use, with retail and tourism related uses accounting for 8% each.

In 1997-98 over 500 applications were approved for commercial activity in the rural areas of the County. The majority of approvals were for minor development (PS code 10.) For example these accounted for over 60% of the applications approved in Suffolk Coastal District. The approval rate was nearly 90% with little variation between the individual Local Authorities. 80% were for industrial and business use, 15% were for tourism related uses and the remaining 5% were retail.

Indicator EM7: Number and percentage of all applications for expansion of commercial activity refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM7	Number and percentage of all applications for expansion of commercial activity refused.	Number refused 1998-99	..	2	2	3	2	N/T	N/T	2	11
		Number refused 1997-98	6	N/T	N/T	15	5	4	7	4	41
		Percentage refused 1998-99	..	11%	20%	2%	6%	n/a	n/a	6%	4%
		Percentage refused 1997-98	6%	n/a	n/a	9%	4%	3%	9%	13%	6%
		Denominator = number of applications for expansion of existing commercial use.	..	18	10	122	31	27	16	32	256
			101	n/a	n/a	169	116	136	79	32	633

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

In 1998-99 the indicator was triggered by 11 applications. The low numbers again reflect the decision to exclude applications within the minor development category. As in the previous year over two thirds of refusals were on sites not allocated or defined for employment use.

Indicator EM8: Number and percentage of all applications for new commercial activity refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM8	Number and percentage of all applications for new commercial activity refused.	Number refused 1998-99	..	2	7	14	6	3	5	2	39
		Number refused 1997-98	6	1	N/T	13	10	7	13	1	51
		Percentage refused 1998-99	..	14%	18%	11%	11%	5%	9%	67%	11%
		Percentage refused 1997-98	19%	50%	n/a	19%	8%	9%	21%	8%	13%
		Denominator = number of applications for new commercial use.	..	14	40	133	57	61	58	3	366
			32	2	n/a	67	133	75	62	13	384

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

As was found last year the refusal rate for new commercial activity (11%) is double that for existing commercial, again reflecting the overall objective of directing new employment to existing centres and a flexible approach to existing businesses.

By summing Indicators EM7 and EM8 it can be seen that of all applications for commercial activity (622) 50 were refused, indicating an approval rate of 92% for such development in all areas. The results for 1998-99 show a similar rate of refusal for both urban and rural areas, compared to the previous year when the rate of refusal for commercial activities in urban areas was 7% whilst that for rural areas was 11%.

Indicator EM9: Registered accommodation bedspaces in Suffolk - February 1999

	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
Serviced	968	1070	1679	892	801	2264	1626	9300
Self Catering	55	771	9	75	33	126	1116	2185
Caravan/Camping	172	310	180	43	104	1039	2348	4196
Other	18	0	0	28	0	40	0	86
TOTAL	1213	2151	1868	1038	938	3469	5090	15767

Source : East of England Tourist Board Accommodation Database

The information in the table only relates to establishments which are registered with the Tourist Board. In 1999 registered tourist accommodation in Suffolk totaled some 15,750 bedspaces, 250 less than in 1996. The basic distribution has remained the same with 27% being on caravan and camping sites, 59% in hotels and boarding houses and 14% in self-catering accommodation.

As in 1996 the bulk of the accommodation is concentrated in Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Districts with 32% and 22% respectively of the County's total stock.

Indicator EM10: Number of visitors to top visitor attractions.

	Attraction	Actual/Estimated Visitors			
		1995	1996	1997	1998
1	Pleasurewood Hills American Theme Park	430,000	400,000	370,000	256,000
2	Charles Manning's Amusement Park,	280,000	230,000	250,000	200,000
3	Suffolk Wildlife & Rare Breeds Park,	93,605	N/A	119,573	110,876
4	Ickworth House	90,116	84,961	93,339	86,734
5	Framlingham Castle	68,946	64,679	66,240	62,318
6	Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich	63,000	80,000	70,000	75,000
7	Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral	60,000	N/A	60,000	50,000
8	Minsmere Reserve	58,000	64,000	84,000	76,912
9	Manor House Museum, Bury St. Edmunds	49,000	54,771	62,889	N/A
10	Moyes Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds	48,000	43,516	63,000	63,000

Source: East of England Tourist Board

The above list excludes places giving approximate numbers only or where most visits are likely to be by residents,

e.g.	Clare Castle	180,000	Stonham Barns	138,000
	Brandon Country Park	100,000	Alton Water Reservoir	100,000
	Dunwich Heath	150,000	Knettishall Heath Country Park	90,000
	West Stow Country Park	150,000		

The East of England Tourist Board publishes a complete list relating to attractions in the region.

Data regarding tourist attractions is not comprehensive however in general, visitor numbers to 'fun' attractions appear to have declined rather more over the three year period than their cultural/heritage counterparts.

Indicator EM11: Number of tourist attractions.

	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
Museums	2	3	2	6	6	9	15	43
Historic Buildings	3	5	3	3	6	9	2	31
Animals	0	2	0	2	1	2	2	9
Food and Drink	1	0	1	1	2	2	2	9
Gardens	2	0	0	5	1	2	0	10
Entertainment / Sport	2	0	1	1	2	3	3	12
Mills	0	0	0	1	4	4	2	11
Nature Reserves	5	0	0	4	3	17	4	33
Boats / Planes	6	1	0	1	1	9	7	25
Arts / Crafts	3	0	0	5	1	9	2	20
Walks	6	5	2	2	4	7	5	31
Countryside Facilities	6	4	2	10	5	11	1	39
Countryside Access	7	0	1	6	2	5	4	25
Total	43	20	12	47	38	89	49	298

Source: Suffolk County Council publication "A Day Out in Suffolk 2000"

The number of attractions has remained relatively static since the base year. Attractions across the County have risen from 264 to 298. However Countryside access attractions which were not monitored in 1996 account for 25 of this increase. This indicator will be reviewed in respect of its usefulness for monitoring purposes.

Indicator EM12: Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM12	Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development approved.	Number approved 1998-99	..	7	N/T	9	6	18	21	N/A	61
		Number approved 1997-98	10	2	N/T	18	5	33	18	N/A	86
		Percentage approved 1998-99	..	100%	n/a	90%	100%	86%	95%	n/a	92%
		Percentage approved 1997-98	100%	100%	n/a	95%	100%	85%	100%	n/a	92%
		Denominator = number of determined applications for tourist related development.	..	7	n/a	10	6	21	22	n/a	66
			10	2	n/a	19	5	39	18	n/a	93

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

As in the previous year over 90% of applications for tourist related development were approved. The majority of approvals were for minor developments or change of use with particular emphasis on additional accommodation or improvements to existing tourist facilities. The majority of applications approved were in the two coastal authorities i.e. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. The lower approval rate in Suffolk Coastal possibly reflects policies to control development along the designated 'Heritage Coast'.

Indicator EM13: Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
EM13	Number and percentage of all applications for tourist related development refused.	Number refused 1998-99	..	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	3	1	N/A	5
		Number refused 1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	6	N/T	N/A	7
		Percentage refused 1998-99	..	n/a	n/a	10%	n/a	14%	5%	n/a	8%
		Percentage refused 1997-98		n/a	n/a	5%	n/a	15%		n/a	8%
		Denominator = number of determined applications for tourist related development.	..	7	n/a	10	6	21	22	n/a	66
			10	2	n/a	19	5	39	18	n/a	93

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

In 1998-99 only 5 applications for tourist related development were refused again reflecting an overall objective of wherever possible encouraging the provision of tourist facilities within Suffolk.

An example of refusal was an application at Felixstowe, in Suffolk Coastal District, for erosion protection works to the beach under the existing arcade area of the pier. The work involved the use of recycled car tyres to try and stem tidal erosion. The application was refused because of fears that pollutants could be released as the tyres broke down.

RURAL ENVIRONMENT

The character of the environment of Suffolk is based to a large extent on the quality of the rural county. The Development Plan policies operated by the eight planning authorities in Suffolk have an important role in safeguarding the environmental quality of the Suffolk countryside. They provide the local policy framework within which the Government's objectives for the rural environment can be met.

The indicators devised are concerned with agricultural land, woodland, the landscape of Suffolk, and the wildlife habitats within the county. Of the 21 indicators 15 monitor the development control decisions made by the local planning authorities.

Additionally this year the results of the Millennium Landscape recording project have been incorporated into this section of the monitoring report.

Indicators not reported on this year are:

THE LANDSCAPE OF SUFFOLK

L8: Extent of non local authority landscape management schemes; **5 year indicator.**

WOODLAND IN SUFFOLK

W1 Area of woodland; **5 year indicator.**

W2 Area of woodlands covered by approved Forestry Authority management schemes since 1991; **5 year indicator.**

WILDLIFE HABITATS

E7: New habitat provided in accordance with the provisions of Local Plan allocations; **not reported due to data consistency problems.**

E8: Number of publicly accessible nature reserves; **5 year indicator.**

From the analysis it would appear that during the period 1998-1999:

- The development control process prevented development of 41 ha of agricultural land;
- Despite a relatively high approval rate of applications in rural areas it would appear the majority are small scale and principally relate to commercial and agricultural development. Although 30% of approvals were residential the majority involved conversion or change of use to residential curtilage. As in the previous year approvals for new build were very limited;
- No national ecological or designated landscape areas suffered loss of quality as a result of implementation of planning permissions monitored in this period. Undoubtedly this can in part be explained by the public's knowledge of, and acceptance of, the importance of these ecological designations. It may also be explained in part by the existence of restrictive policies in both Structure Plan and Local Plans together with Supplementary Planning Guidance, such as that produced by Suffolk Coastal District and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. Cumulatively the Development Plan may be successful in deterring applications in such areas, however, it should be noted that such areas may be affected by changes not requiring planning permission;
- The vast majority of applications in designated landscape areas are approved. This may be due to a number of reasons, including the applicants awareness that special regard needs to be given to the landscape impact of any given proposal, the existence of restrictive planning policies which, in themselves, may deter more speculative applications and a commitment from authorities/ applicants to try to negotiate to improve submitted applications. It is likely that it is a combination of these factors will prevail. Landscape designations do not therefore have the effect of unreasonably constraining development; and
- The higher number of applications within Suffolk Coastal is undoubtedly explained by the existence of its Supplementary Planning Guidance which contains a register of local parklands, as well as nationally registered parklands. To date, the other District and Borough authorities do not have such a local register, relying simply on the national register.
- The results of the Millennium Landscape recording project establish a baseline from which to monitor change in the landscape.

Agricultural Land

Indicator AG1: Area of agricultural land allocated for development

This indicator provides a measure of the scale to which agricultural land is allocated for future development in Suffolk's Development Plans.

Area (hectare) of agricultural land allocated for development (mid 1999)									
District	Housing			Employment			Other		
	Take-up '96-'98	Take-up '98-'99	Remaining	Take-up '96-'98	Take-up '98-'99	Remaining	Take-up '96-'98	Take-up '98-'99	Remaining
Babergh	15.7	6.9	23.8	37.3	0	12.1	3.5	0	25.8
Forest Heath	0	0	55.0	0.3	0	7.4	0	0	20.0
Ipswich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	0	0	96.7	0	0	20.8	0	0	74
St Edmundsbury	30.2	0	52.7	27.7	0	26.8	0	0	13.3
Suffolk Coastal	9.27	0	16.64	0	26.97	25.16	0	0	0.96
Waveney	20.47	30.13	37.78	1.38	0	3.30	4.38	37.74	11.89
Total Suffolk	75.64	37.03	282.62	66.68	26.97	95.56	7.88	37.74	149.45

Note: The term "take-up" refers to the granting of planning permission, not necessarily the implementation of that consent

At mid 1996 a total of 791.66 ha of agricultural land was allocated for some form of development. This figure has now dropped to a total of 524.13; 282.62ha for housing, 95.56 ha for employment, 145.95 ha for other.

The majority of this change can be explained by the gradual uptake of allocations through the granting of consents. During the last year the most significant uptake of land for residential development has been in Waveney, resulting from the granting of consent for development at Carlton Hall, Lowestoft and at London Road, Beccles. Apart from Waveney only Babergh shows any of its allocations being taken up. Elsewhere there is no change in residential allocations in part, at least, explained by the continuing building on previous allocations. With regard to employment allocations, the only uptake has been in Suffolk Coastal where consent has been granted for earthworks and provision of infrastructure in connection with the use of land at Clickett Hill, Felixstowe for business, industrial, storage and distribution purposes. The application site extended beyond the allocated area to encompass additional land for landscaping, giving a total uptake of 69 ha.

Whilst changes in the total amount of agricultural land allocated changed during '96-'98 as a result of the rolling forward of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan, during the last year there have been no new allocations or deletions arising from the rolling forward of any other Authorities' Development Plan.

Indicator AG2: Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agriculture refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
AG2	Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for *agriculture refused.	Number refused. 1998-99	9	1	0	5	5	8	8	4	40
		Percentage refused. 1998-99	18%	4%	0%	8%	20%	10%	20%	29%	14%
	*agriculture includes forestry and woodland, and studland	Denominator = All applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agricultural purposes.	49	23	0	64	25	79	41	14	295

The indicator has been refined from the previous year to concern itself with only that land currently used for agricultural purposes, rather than simply within rural areas. As a result applications monitored have dropped by 54%, from 591 to 295. This in itself reveals that there are a number of applications proposed within the rural area of the county that do not have any impact upon agricultural land whatsoever. Such applications would include, for example, development on disused rural land, new developments within existing residential curtilages, land currently used for leisure use, for example, playing fields or land in commercial use.

The indicator AG2 is now concerned with measuring prevention of the loss of agricultural land or woodland from development. New indicators will show the amount of residential development that occurs on greenfield land, but this indicator (AG2) is intended to examine the wider picture, encompassing not only residential, but commercial, community and other uses.

Of the 40 applications refused 38 proposals involved the potential loss of agricultural land, whilst one involved the potential loss of woodland and the other studland.

Across the county as a whole, 50% of refusals triggering the indicator were residential applications (20 applications), 28% were for commercial activity (11 applications), and 10% for minerals (4 applications, totalling 11 ha.). All refusals prevented development of 40.87 ha. of agricultural land (17.6 ha. of which were located within Babergh), 0.5 ha. of woodland and 3.6 ha. of studland.

Indicator AG3: Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently use for agriculture approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
AG3	Number and percentage of applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for *agriculture approved.	Number approved 1998-99	40	22	0	59	20	71	33	10	255
		Percentage approved 1998-99	82%	96%	0%	92%	80%	90%	80%	71%	86%
	*agriculture includes forestry and woodland, and studland.	Denominator = All applications for development (involving change of use of land) on land currently used for agricultural purposes.	49	23	0	64	25	79	41	14	295

This indicator is the reverse of AG2, as refined, dealing only with applications on land currently used for agriculture, rather than simply being in a rural area. Hence last years figures cannot be compared, although it is interesting to note that applications approved in rural areas last year totalled 513 whilst applications approved only on agricultural land totalled 255. This clearly reflects how pressure for development in rural areas is of a diverse nature and not limited to pressure for take up of agricultural land.

Of the 255 applications approved 249 were on agricultural land whilst 2 were on woodland and 4 on studland. Of the approvals on agricultural land 130(52%) were commercial; 76 being for agricultural related developments, for example, a covered sheep yard, hay barn and poultry rearing buildings, whilst the remaining 56 approvals related to commercial developments not necessarily related to the agricultural unit. These non-agriculture related commercial approvals show how the farming economy of the rural areas is diversifying. Within Suffolk Coastal of the 13 non agriculture related commercial approvals, six were for the conversion of existing barns to holiday lets and six were for the conversion of agricultural buildings to offices and business uses.

Whilst commercial approvals accounted for over half of all consents on agricultural land a further 76 (30%) were residential. Care should be taken with this figure however, as it does not necessarily infer new residential units on farmland. The majority of residential approvals monitored involve the conversion of agricultural buildings, particularly barns, to residential use, annexes and amenity rooms, and for the change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage. A single application within Mid Suffolk for the change of use of land to domestic curtilage accounted for 5.89 ha. Within Suffolk Coastal, of the 18 residential approvals only one was for new build (for agricultural occupation) whilst seven applications were for change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage, amounting to 1.6 ha. Concern over the change of use applications within Suffolk Coastal District, (in relation to concern for the potential impact upon the character of the countryside rather than the uptake of agricultural land,) has resulted in the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan First Alteration including a new policy.

Of the 214.4 ha. affected by the approvals, the largest impact by far results from approvals relating to mineral extraction. Of the 10 approvals given by Suffolk County Council, seven relate to extraction works; the largest being for the extension of an existing sand and gravel working at Flixton/Homersfield, accounting for 95 ha.

The application affecting 9 ha. of woodland has not resulted in its loss. Rather the approval is for change of use from forestry (under the farm woodland scheme) to part forestry and part use for green burials. The total amount of woodland affected is not known.

The Landscape of Suffolk

Millennium landscape recording project

The project has been established to improve our knowledge and understanding of landscape change. The partnership involves Suffolk Planning Authorities, the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Project and the Suffolk East and West Federations of Women's Institutes. Local WIs were challenged to survey one-kilometre squares, providing a detailed record of landscape character and appearance. Surveys were undertaken in January and July 1999 and therefore provided information about the landscape at two seasonal extremes.

All 152 landscape squares are to be resurveyed every five years providing the Local Authorities with a clearer picture of how our local landscapes are changing. Certain squares will be resurveyed every year, to give further insight into the process of change.

Below is shown a brief analysis of the 152 squares on a county basis. This data forms the baseline for three new indicators to be included in *Suffolk's Environment...towards sustainable development*.

These three indicators are:

- LRP1. Changes in landscape linear features in sample areas;
- LRP2. Changes in landscape point features in sample areas; and
- LRP3. Changes in land use in sample area.

Suffolk's landscape varies enormously. During the late 1990s the Countryside Agency, as part of a national exercise, broke down the County into seven character areas. These are:

- Breckland
- East Anglian Chalk
- High Suffolk Claylands
- Suffolk Coast and Heaths
- Broads
- Fens
- South Suffolk Clayland

Each Character Area reflects a unique and locally distinct part of the County. These special characteristics and local distinctiveness means that different ways of managing the countryside in these areas are needed.

Planning is an activity that can influence the way the countryside is managed, and has an important role in ensuring that each landscape retains its key characteristics. Monitoring Suffolk's landscape within each of these Character Areas will help to show whether local distinctiveness is being retained.

Breckland Area			
5 squares			
Figures are average per square			
	Average Length (metres)		Average %
LINEAR FEATURES		LAND USE	
Hedgerows	990	Woodland	17.2
Ditches	190	Scrubland and heathland	0
Tree line	1779	Grassland and marshland	8.7
Streams/rivers	330	Cultivated land and set aside	70.5
POINT FEATURES	Number	Water and coastal	0
Individual trees	40	Development	3.6
Groups of trees or shrubs	5		
Ponds	1		

Fens Area			
1 square			
Figures are average per square			
	Average Length (metres)		Average %
LINEAR FEATURES		LAND USE	
Hedgerows	0	Woodland	2.0
Ditches	4988	Scrubland and heathland	0
Tree line	300	Grassland and marshland	2.0
Streams/rivers	0	Cultivated land and set aside	95.1
POINT FEATURES	Number	Water and coastal	0
Individual trees	11	Development	1.0
Groups of trees or shrubs	5		
Ponds	0		

Broads Area			
4 squares			
Figures are average per square			
	Average Length (metres)		Average %
LINEAR FEATURES		LAND USE	
Hedgerows	2570	Woodland	8.5
Ditches	5150	Scrubland and heathland	5.8
Tree line	1210	Grassland and marshland	47.0
Streams/rivers	381	Cultivated land and set aside	23.3
POINT FEATURES	Number	Water and coastal	8.0
Individual trees	45	Development	7.5
Groups of trees or shrubs	4		
Ponds	2		

High Suffolk Claylands Area			
47 squares			
Figures are average per square			
	Average Length (metres)		Average %
LINEAR FEATURES		LAND USE	
Hedgerows	4082	Woodland	4.7
Ditches	2152	Scrubland and heathland	1.6
Tree line	720	Grassland and marshland	6.9
Streams/rivers	504	Cultivated land and set aside	80.3
POINT FEATURES	Number	Water and coastal	0.4
Individual trees	42	Development	6.0
Groups of trees or shrubs	7		
Ponds	6		

South Suffolk Claylands Area			
46 squares			
Figures are average per square			
	Average Length (metres)		Average %
LINEAR FEATURES		LAND USE	
Hedgerows	3272	Woodland	7.8
Ditches	1167	Scrubland and heathland	0.4
Tree line	1639	Grassland and marshland	8.9
Streams/rivers	536	Cultivated land and set aside	77.3
POINT FEATURES	Number	Water and coastal	0.7
Individual trees	38	Development	5.0
Groups of trees or shrubs	5		
Ponds	3		

Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area			
49 squares			
Figures are average per square			
	Average Length (metres)		Average %
LINEAR FEATURES		LAND USE	
Hedgerows	2461	Woodland	8.4
Ditches	1968	Scrubland and heathland	3.7
Tree line	844	Grassland and marshland	19.1
Streams/rivers	675	Cultivated land and set aside	59.3
POINT FEATURES	Number	Water and coastal	4.0
Individual trees	42	Development	5.6
Groups of trees or shrubs	8		
Ponds	3		

Note : No sample squares occurred in the East Anglian Chalk Character Area

Indicator L1: Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L1	Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas refused.	Number refused.	1998-99	5	N/T	9	1	24	12	2	53
			1997-98	0	N/T	7	4	26	12	2	66
		Percentage refused.	1998-99	16%	n/a	18%	5%	12%	14%	15%	13%
			1997-98	0%	n/a	16%	11%	10%	15%	7%	11%
		Denominator = total number of determined applications in designated landscape areas.	1998-99	32	n/a	49	20	201	86	13	401
			1997-98	13	N/T	45	35	252	79	28	574

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator L1 measures the number of applications refused in designated landscape areas, against the objective of protecting and enhancing areas of recognised landscape quality. Within the county designated landscapes consist of national designations, namely:

- The Broads, covering an area of 2,950 hectares in Waveney; and
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, covering 46,963 hectares of the county, contained within Suffolk Coastal (70%), Babergh (19%), Waveney (10%) and Ipswich. The first three local authorities also have Heritage Coast, the entirety of which lies within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

There is also a local designation, in the form of Special Landscape Areas that covers approximately 79,658 hectares of the County. All local authorities with the exception of Ipswich contain such designations. The Indicator does not monitor decisions within the area of Local Landscape Value within Forest Heath.

The number of applications and the refusal rate has remained fairly consistent from 1998 to 1999. This shows that a consistent approach is developing in the county towards applications in designated landscape areas.

Once again the high denominator in Suffolk Coastal could be part explained by the large area of AONB and SLA in that district. The denominator includes all non-householder applications submitted within the numerous settlements that lie within the designated areas, including those within the towns of Aldeburgh and Southwold and the large villages of Walberswick and Orford. Consequently many developments which have no impact on the landscape and/or are in existing settlements have been approved where they do not contravene other planning policies. The result is that the proportion of refusals in designated landscape areas is lower than might have been.

Analysis of the figures shows that:

- 38% of the refusals were in existing settlements, but only 6% were deemed to affect a landscape designation or loss of landscape feature, suggesting other reasons for refusal, for example, highway concerns, loss of amenity;
- 32% of refusals were for non-landscape reasons in existing settlements;
- 25% of refusals were for non-landscape reasons in rural areas; and
- 38% of refusals (comprising 17% of commercial, 13% residential, 4% recreational and 4% other applications) were for reasons relating to landscape designation or loss of landscape feature in a rural area.

Therefore 43% of the refusals (those in rural areas and settlements deemed likely to affect landscape) triggering L1 actually would have adversely affected the landscape designation within which they were set.

Indicator L2: Number and percentage of applications in designated areas approved

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L2	Number and percentage of applications in designated landscape areas approved.	Number approved.	1998-99	27	N/T	40	19	177	74	11	348
			1997-98	13	N/T	38	31	226	67	26	508
		Percentage approved.	1998-99	84%	n/a	82%	95%	88%	86%	85%	87%
			1997-98	100%	n/a	84%	89%	90%	85%	93%	89%
	Denominator = total number of determined applications in designated landscape areas.	1998-99	32	n/a	49	20	201	86	13	401	
		1997-98	13	N/T	45	35	252	79	28	574	

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator L2 measures the number of applications approved in designated landscape areas, against the objective of protecting and enhancing areas of recognised landscape quality. It is triggered by all authorities except Ipswich Borough.

As the reverse of indicator L1, the results here are relatively consistent across the county. The high proportion of approvals is explained by the indicator picking up *all* planning applications within designated landscape areas, which includes those within existing settlements - this helps to explain the high denominator in Suffolk Coastal which contains a large area of AONB.

Analysis shows that:

- 25% of the approvals are residential within existing settlements;
- 2% of the approvals are commercial within existing settlements;
- 15% of the approvals are residential in rural areas;
- 22% of the approvals are commercial in rural areas; and
- a further 23% of all approved development (i.e. community, recreation facilities, minerals and waste developments and “other”) were in rural areas.

This means that 61% of all approved development (348 applications) in designated landscape areas was on a rural site but was not considered likely to adversely affect the character of its respective landscape, in line with Structure and Local Plan policies.

Indicator L3: Number and area of historic parks and gardens lost or damaged as a result of development

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
L3	Number and area of historic parks and gardens lost or damaged as a result of development.	1998-99										
		1997-98					0	2			2	
		Number of approvals within historic parks and gardens. (NB. Two Stage Indicator).	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	7	N/T	N/T	7
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	11	N/T	N/T	13

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L3 measures the impact of approved development on historic parks and gardens, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features. Only Suffolk Coastal District has triggered this indicator in 1998/99.

Although seven applications triggered this indicator, only two were thought likely to have potential adverse effects – an extension to a sports pavillion at Carlton Park, Saxmundham and the construction of a vehicular access on land adjacent to Carlton Rookery at Kelsale. These two applications have yet to be fully evaluated, although the application for vehicular access was amended to minimise impact on the historic park.

As in the previous year the predominance of applications within Suffolk Coastal is undoubtedly explained by the existence of its Supplementary Planning Guidance which contains a register of local parklands, as well as nationally registered parklands. To date, the other District and Borough authorities do not have such a local register, relying simply on the national register.

In 1997/98 two applications for building conversions for commercial use were made in Grade II historic parks in St.Edmundsbury. The first, a conversion of farm buildings to holiday cottages would not result in loss of the historic park, being a sensitive development to its site and location. Indeed it may be judged that the development would be beneficial to the surrounding park as the building will no longer be in danger of deteriorating. The other application was for conversion of outbuildings to use as part of a nursing home. Neither application has as yet been implemented.

Indicator L4: Number and area of commons and village greens lost or damaged as a result of development

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
L4	Number and area of commons and village greens lost or damaged as a result of development.	1998-99										
		1997-98						0			0	
		Number of approvals within defined commons and village greens. (NB. Two Stage Indicator).	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1	3	N/T	N/T	5
			1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	12	N/T	N/T	12

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L4 measures the impact of approved development on commons and village greens, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features.

Five applications were approved within defined commons or village greens.

An application for the erection of a timber pumphouse on Stuston Common in Mid Suffolk has resulted in the loss of a very small area of Common. However, as a condition of the permission, a detailed landscaping scheme was required. This included the planting of native and non-native tree and shrub species, known for promoting wildlife and habitat formation.

A Hawstead in St.Edmundsbury an application for a detached dwelling was approved. The proposed access to the site clips the village green. The proposal has yet to be implemented.

In Suffolk Coastal three applications were approved – at Framlingham, Saxtead and Wenhaston. No follow-up analysis of these applications has as yet been undertaken.

Indicator L5: Number of applications refused in, or with a reason of refusal relating to, historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L5	Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens.	Number	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	2
		refused.	1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	2

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L5 measures the number of applications for development on commons and village greens and historic parks and gardens refused, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features.

Only one authority, Suffolk Coastal District has triggered this indicator. Two applications were refused; one for the erection of a dwelling at Wenhaston – relating to Common Land, and another for the erection of a free standing mast at Orwell Park School, Nacton (parkland).

Indicator L6: Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L6	Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to historic parks and gardens, or commons and village greens.	Number	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1
		Approved	1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/A	2	N/T	N/T	2

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L6 measures the number of applications for development on commons and village greens and historic parks and gardens which are approved with safeguards against causing harm to them, against the objective of protecting and enhancing historic landscape features.

Only one authority, Suffolk Coastal has triggered this indicator. The application approved related to the change of use of stables from private to public use at Bawdsey College, Bawdsey.

Indicator L7: Number of applications outside designated landscape areas where loss of landscape features are cited as a reason for refusal

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
L7	Number of applications outside designated landscape areas where loss of landscape features are cited as a reason for refusal.	Number Refused 1998-99 1997-98	2 N/T	N/T N/T	N/T N/T	7 10	4 2	2 4	N/T 4	1 N/T	16 20

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

L7 measures the protection afforded to landscape which is not covered by a designation recognising its particular quality through planning decisions, against the objective of minimising the impact of development on the landscape in general.

Overall the number of decisions triggering this indicator has fallen by 20%.

Examples include:

- An application to erect new signs in Bury St. Edmunds which was refused, as it was likely to lead to pressure to remove or cut back protected trees.
- An application for an agricultural building was refused as it was in a prominent location in the Gipping Valley Special Landscape Area, and it was thought that it could have a harmful effect on the countryside setting.
- In Stowmarket an application to construct four car-parking spaces was refused as it could have had a negative effect on a Sweet Gum Tree, which formed an attractive focal point in the area.

Indicator E1: Number and area of sites designated as of nature conservation value lost or damaged as a result of development

Indicator	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
E1	Number and area of sites designated as of nature conservation value lost or damaged as a result of development.	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	0	0	..	0	0	..
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	0	0	N/T	0	1	1
	Number of approvals within designated areas or their consultation zones. (NB. Two Stage Indicator).	1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	4	19	17	3	44
		1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	4	N/T	6	5	17

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

This indicator measures the effects of development on areas of Suffolk which are protected for their nature conservation value. The Development Plan policies aim to protect and enhance important wildlife habitats.

These include nationally and internationally designated sites such as:

- Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites);
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs);
- National Nature Reserves (NNRs); and
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Together with the sites of local importance:

- Local Nature Reserves (LNRs); and
- County Wildlife Sites (CWSs) - not a statutory designation but protected by Development Plan policies.

The results for 1998-99 show that in five of the eight authorities some development has been permitted in such areas or within respective consultation zones.

Forty four applications were approved within designated areas or their consultation zones. Of those implemented none were thought to have an adverse affect.

No national or international designations were adversely affected by planning application approvals during this period. However, it should be noted that such sites may be affected by actions not requiring planning permission. It is intended, in the 5 year review, to consider information available from other sources in an attempt to ascertain whether sites are being damaged by activities not requiring planning permission.

Indicator E2: Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, sites designated as of nature conservation value

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E2	Number of applications refused in, or with a reason for refusal relating to, sites designated as of nature conservation value.	Number refused									
		1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1 + 3*	N/T	6
		1997/98	3	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1 + 3*	N/T	8

* Within Broads Authority area.

This indicator records the number of planning applications that have been refused in, or would otherwise indirectly affect, sites of nature conservation value, meeting the objectives of protecting and enhancing important wildlife habitats and maintaining and increasing biodiversity in Suffolk.

Six applications across three districts in Suffolk triggered this indicator in 1998-99. The three applications outside the Broads were for residential development on County Wildlife sites; in Babergh and Waveney impact on the County Wildlife site was included as a reason for refusal. The development in Waveney for example was for a bungalow on existing woodland. The application in Mid Suffolk was for a 3 storey house, on a former caravan site, which was refused for reasons unrelated to the site designation as a County Wildlife Site.

The 3 applications in the Broads were for commercial development and each cited impact on the Broads in the reasons for refusal. However in the case of a change of use from beekeeping to a Country Club, and the erection of a cart shed, hay store and stable on heathland/meadow and fenland, the main concerns were not ecological. An application for change of use to day hire boat operation from existing use of fishing/harbour raised a number of ecological concerns and was determined against the local plan policy concerning 'increased use of waterways by hire craft' – which refers to erosion of banks and related ecological impact.

Indicator E3: Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to a site designated as of nature conservation value

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E3	Number of applications approved which include safeguarding conditions or agreements which specifically relate to a site designated as of nature conservation value.	Approved	1998/99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/A	N/T	1	4	5
			1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/A	N/T	N/T	5	5

Indicator E3 measures the number of developments approved which have safeguards imposed against causing harmful effects to areas of nature conservation value. Figures for St Edmundsbury Borough were not available for this indicator.

Five applications and two authorities, Waveney District and Suffolk County, triggered this indicator in 1998-99. The application in Waveney involved demolition of 2 redundant chalet blocks and replacement with 20 caravan bases on a site that extended into shingle included in the Benacre to Easton Bavents SSSI and Kessingland Beach CWS. The safeguarding condition imposed sought to protect the two designations by requiring that no part of the development should encroach on areas of stabilised shingle and during the development of the site no part of the beach was to be used for vehicular access or storage of materials.

All 4 applications determined by Suffolk County Council involved minerals development. Two applications for sand and gravel extraction included safeguarding conditions for SSSIs. At Cavenham conditions were imposed requiring monitoring of the groundwater levels to protect the flora of the adjacent Cavenham Heath SSSI from potential damage/loss arising from dewatering of the proposed excavation. At Barham a geological exposure of undisturbed sand and gravel strata of 50m or more was required to safeguard and make available for study the Special Scientific interest of the geological deposit. Revised conditions for the extraction of sand and Pulverised Fuel Ash at Nacton sought to ensure a seed bank resource of undisturbed area was conserved to assist the eventual restoration of the site to acid grassland. At Needham Market Chalk quarry revised conditions were imposed to ensure restoration of the quarry margins consistent with approved plans and habitat for the adjacent CWS.

Indicator E4: Number of applications which include reasons for refusal relating to protected species

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E4	Number of applications which include reasons for refusal relating to protected species.	Number refused. 1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	3
		1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
		Number of refusals in areas designated as being of nature conservation value. 1998/99	1	n/a	n/a	1	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
		Number of refusals not in areas designated as being of nature conservation value. 1998/99	0	n/a	n/a	0	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	1

This indicator was not triggered in the first year of monitoring but in 1998/99 three applications have been refused on grounds of threat to a protected species. Two applications refused residential development in areas designated as being of nature conservation value; in Babergh the renewal of residential development was refused because of the potential impact on common lizards and slow worms; while in Mid Suffolk an application on a former caravan site designated a CWS, threatened Tower Mustard plants (*Arabis Glabra*), a protected species of the cabbage family.

A development in Bury St Edmunds, although not on a site designated of nature conservation value, would have resulted in homes being built on land used as feeding grounds by a bat colony occupying the nearby SSSI in a former chalk pit.

Indicator E5: Number of applications which include conditions or agreements relating to the safeguarding of protected species

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E5	Number of applications which include conditions or agreements relating to the safeguarding of protected species.	Number approved.									
		1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/A	1	3	N/T	6
		1997/98	1	N/T	N/T	3	N/A	1	4	N/T	9

This indicator measures the number of approvals made with safeguards against harming protected species. Across the county as a whole, 6 such approvals were made, protecting similar species to last year.

During this monitoring period the most such approvals were in Waveney District, where three applications for conversions of barns/farm buildings to residential use required the installation of an owl hole and Barn Owl nesting box to protect resident Barn Owls before development commenced. In Mid Suffolk an approval for residential development required protection for Great Crested Newts. Although in a site of designated nature conservation value in Suffolk Coastal, before the conversion of a timber framed barn to residential development could go ahead a condition to undertake a survey to determine whether bats are present, needed to be fulfilled. If bats were subsequently found then no conversion work would be permitted between 1 April and 1 October to ensure that the bat roosts were not disturbed.

In addition to these applications, Suffolk County Council approved a sand and gravel workings that included conditions to ensure the aftercare promoted habitats for invertebrates and biodiversity generally.

These approvals, while contributing to the objectives of protecting and enhancing important wildlife habitats and maintaining and increasing biodiversity in Suffolk, show that protection of endangered species is not limited to within designated nature conservation areas. They also show that the presence of protected species need not necessarily result in a planning application being refused, as protective measures can be included in the approval of a development.

An improvement of this indicator would be to follow up the effectiveness of the conditions or agreements imposed on any development once it has been implemented. This is to be investigated further.

Indicator E6: New habitat provided in association with applications where an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required or voluntarily produced

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
E6	New habitat provided in association with applications where an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required or voluntarily produced.	Number of approvals where new habitat is provided. 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	2	4
		(NB. Two Stage Indicator). 1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	2	4

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Two authorities triggered this indicator.

Two county applications have potential to create new habitat. One for the extension of a quarry has not been started but has provision for woodland/planting belts. Another application for extraction of sand and gravel will create open water with acid heath margins adjacent to an existing NNR and SSSI.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment chapter of *"Suffolk's Environment ... towards sustainable development"* defined indicators covering five aspects of the built environment: conservation areas and listed buildings; archaeology; town centres; the quality of new development; and derelict land. In total 37 indicators were defined of which 17 are based on development control decisions. Information on one indicator is not reported as it is to be reported at five yearly intervals, three indicators are not reported because it has not been possible to assemble the information on a consistent basis, and two indicators have now been deleted.

CONSERVATION AREAS AND LISTED BUILDINGS

C7: Number of listed buildings; **5 year indicator, not reported.**

TOWN CENTRES

TC8: Pedestrian flows in each town centre; **not reported - data not available on consistent basis.**

THE QUALITY OF NEW DEVELOPMENT

BE5: Number of applications for work covered by TPOs within villages and urban areas; **not reported - information not collected on a consistent basis.**

BE6: Number of TPO trees or areas of woodland within villages and urban areas lost each year; **not reported - information not collected on a consistent basis.**

DERELICT LAND

DL1: Area (ha) of derelict land by District; **This indicator has now been deleted.**

DL2: Area (ha) of redevelopment sites by proposed use; **This indicator has now been deleted.**

Analysis of those indicators reported on suggests that with regard to conservation areas and listed buildings:

- Around 6% of Listed Buildings in Suffolk have had consent granted for works on them in the monitoring period;
- 2% of applications monitored in Conservation Areas were for demolition of non-listed buildings;
- In Ipswich, 61% of Listed Building Consents and Planning Consents were on commercial buildings, compared to 30% on average across the County. This reflects the role and history of Ipswich and the nature of its listed buildings;
- 11% of Advertisement Consents were refused in Conservation Areas, compared with 7% of residential and 8% of commercial applications; and
- 37 buildings were removed from the Historic Buildings at Risk Register between 1997-2000, 33 were repaired, one was due to demolition and three because they are now considered beyond repair. 58 buildings were added to the register.

and with regard to archaeology:

- Around 1% of all applications received in the monitoring period affected no known archaeological sites but were judged to be on sites of high archaeological potential, therefore requiring further evaluation, probably leading to excavation or recording during development;
- The number of applications dealt with affecting known archaeological sites is up nearly 20% on last year's figures.
- Only one application affecting a known archaeological site was refused, and two sites were deemed to be adversely affected in the monitoring period.
- One application for development which was approved had amendments to design or working methods to ensure preservation - a proactive approach is taken through pre-application discussion to ensure development does not adversely impact upon known archaeological sites;
- All but 5 applications received which affected known archaeological sites were approved with conditions requiring prior excavation or recording during development. The operation of such conditions has yielded important discoveries and expanded knowledge of the sites concerned; and
- The number of applications affecting potential archaeological sites was up 39% on 1997/98.

and with regard to town centres:

- General retail units in Suffolk's town centres appear to have decreased in number since 1996, however other town centre uses such as Financial and Professional Services and Food and Drink have shown a slight increase;
- Vacancy rates on retail units have shown a reduction across most town centres - in Bury St. Edmunds such vacancies are 60% lower than in 1996;
- Rents for retail units in Suffolk's towns continue to increase - Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft have experienced the largest increase in rents over the last year.
- Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich have the lowest yields in Suffolk indicating they are more likely to attract investment. Notably, the yield in Ipswich is the joint second lowest in Britain; and
- Only Ipswich have made any extensions to pedestrianised areas over the last year with the pedestrianisation of St. Peters Street, whilst there has been a general shift away from long term to short term parking.

and with regard to the quality of new development:

- Design briefs used as a tool for guiding the form of development on major sites in Suffolk are generally increasing, although their rate of implementation is slow;
- A small proportion of all planning applications are refused because of their likely impact on the character of Suffolk's towns, villages and rural areas or because of their likely impact on residential amenity. However, these reasons account for a significant proportion of refusals; and
- The number and area of trees recognised and protected for their contribution to Suffolk's village and townscape continues to increase.

Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings

Suffolk's rich built heritage is reflected in the large number of Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings that exist within the County. Conservation Areas are "areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Listed Buildings are "buildings of special architectural or historic interest". Many of the listed buildings in Suffolk exist within Conservation Areas. The designation of Conservation Areas is the responsibility of local authorities. However the final decision as to whether to "list" an individual building lies with the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. It is a long held objective of planning policy to seek to control standards of development, which would have a material adverse impact on either listed buildings or conservation areas.

Nine indicators were devised to monitor Suffolk's conservation areas and listed buildings. The first six indicators are concerned with monitoring the influence of local planning authorities in preserving and enhancing conservation areas. Indicators 1-4 monitor the development control decisions made by local planning authorities whilst Indicators 5 and 6 monitor other initiatives taken to enhance conservation areas. The protection of individual listed buildings is considered in the first two and final three indicators.

It should be noted that decisions on householder applications are not included in indicators C3 and C4.

Indicator C1: Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications Approved

Indicator C3: Number of Planning applications in Conservation Areas approved

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
C1	Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications Approved	Number Approved	1998-99 225	26 11	48 80	240 235	193 172	146 169	95 92	N/T N/T	973 964
		1997-98	205	11	80	235	172	169	92	N/T	964
		Percentage approved	1998-99 95%	90% 79%	98% 92%	94% 91%	94% 94%	96% 98%	85% 88%	n/a n/a	94% 94%
	<i>Of which Listed Building Consent Applications</i>		1998-99 222	26 8	42 55	235 228	193 170	135 157	85 76	n/a n/a	938 886
	<i>Conservation Area Consent Applications</i>		1998-99 3	0 3	6 25	5 7	0 2	11 12	10 16	n/a n/a	35 78
C3	Number of planning applications in Conservation Areas approved	Number Approved	1998-99 194	49 24	79 69	87 100	86 92	107 115	86 58	1 5	689 630
		1997-98	167	24	69	100	92	115	58	5	630
		Percentage approved	1998-99 93%	86% 92%	93% 93%	85% 88%	86% 95%	92% 91%	92% 76%	n/a n/a	90% 90%
	Number of advertisement consents approved in Conservation Areas		11 4	0 1	21 35	6 4	6 6	18 12	3 10	0 0	65 72
	Total Number and % of Listed Building Consents, Conservation Area Consents, Planning Applications and advertisements approved		430 376	75 36	148 184	333 339	285 270	271 296	184 160	1 5	1727 1666
			95% 94%	87% 84%	93% 91%	91% 90%	92% 92%	95% 95%	87% 82%	n/a n/a	92% 91%

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

The results of indicators C1 and C3 have been presented above for ease of analysis. Planning applications and advertisements in Conservation Areas accounted for 16% of the total number of planning applications (excluding householder) determined in the County in 1998/99. This compares with 17 % in 1997/98. The figures shown above do not give the full picture of applications determined that may affect Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas because they do not include householder applications (approximately 40% of the total determined in Suffolk in both 1997-98 and 1998-99), planning applications affecting Listed Buildings not in Conservation Areas or those advertised as possibly affecting the setting of a Listed Building or Conservation Area (known as Section 67 and Section 73 applications). In 1998/99, of the 1875 Listed Building, Conservation Area, Advertisement Consents and planning applications determined, 1727 applications (92%) were approved (91% in 1997/98). These figures compare with 91% of all planning applications approved in Suffolk in 1998/99 and 92% in 1997/98 (source DETR

statistics of planning applications). A high rate of approval of applications may not necessarily imply that change, which is detrimental to listed buildings or conservation areas, is being permitted. Approvals may be granted with conditions to protect the Listed Building or Conservation Area. The rate may be influenced by the high degree of awareness of the designations, which deters undesirable applications and by local authorities advising and negotiating with applicants to achieve acceptable proposals.

There are 16,437 listed buildings in Suffolk (Indicator C7). In 1998/99 938 applications for listed building consent were approved. It would therefore appear that up to 6% of listed buildings have had consent granted for works on them. However, as more than one listed building consent may be granted on a building within a year, this percentage is only approximate. It should also be noted that a proportion of consents issued might not be implemented.

Half as many applications (41) for Conservation Area Consent (demolition of non-listed buildings) were determined in 1998/99, than in the previous year (84), representing 2% of the total applications monitored in Conservation Areas. 85% (35) were approved, a slightly lower rate than in 1997/98 (94%). Notably, the highest numbers were in the Districts with significant size/number of urban Conservation Areas. Further analysis should be possible after data is available for several years. However, the impact of the Shimizu case (see below) on this indicator will need to be considered.

In Conservation Areas planning permission can be required for development which in other areas would not be necessary as a result of an Article 4 Direction. The figures in C3 cover all such development plus what would normally be required. The increase in the planning applications in Conservation Areas approved in Waveney this year (from 76% to 92%) is likely to be due to the designation of several Article 4 Directions in the District. This has resulted in the submission of more applications, many of which would not be particularly contentious. As some works which require Listed Building Consent will also need planning consent there may be some overlap between the figures in indicators C1 and C3, and C2 and C4. The numbers monitored under indicators C1 and C2 are greater than those in C3 and C4 because certain works which require Listed Building Consent do not require planning consent, many listed buildings exist outside Conservation Areas, and householder applications are not counted in indicators C3 and C4.

In 1998/99, of the 715 planning applications determined in Conservation Areas 689 (90%) were approved, the same as in 1997/98. 73 advertisement consents were determined and 89% were approved, considerably more than in 1997/98 (73%).

Type of application	Listed Building Consent and Planning Applications – Details									
		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Residential	1998-99	318	28	26	241	159	146	85	n/a	1003
	1997-98	280	8	22	243	167	168	68	n/a	956
Commercial	1998-99	85	39	74	53	99	69	71	1	491
	1997-98	57	16	99	72	83	80	47	n/a	454
Other (inc. all other categories within proposed use field)	1998-99	13	8	21	28	21	27	15	n/a	133
	1997-98	22	11	3	13	12	24	19	5	109

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

The detailed breakdown of the Listed Building Consents and planning applications approved above shows that in 1998/99, 1003 (62%) were residential, 491 (30%) were commercial, and 133 (8%) were “other” types. Again this year, the picture for Ipswich Borough was different with 61% of approvals on commercial buildings. This probably reflects the role and history of Ipswich and the nature of its listed buildings rather than any difference in development control practice.

Notes

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (Planning and the Historic Environment, Sept 1994) sets down government guidance on the conservation of the historic built environment.

Listed Building Consent is required for work which would materially affect the historic or architectural character of a listed building. This includes internal and external works. Other buildings or structures within the curtilage of a listed building also normally require listed building consent before work can be carried out on them. Most ecclesiastical buildings in ecclesiastical use and Crown buildings are normally exempt from the requirement for listed building consent, although there is a requirement for them to be referred to the local authority for consultation.

Many buildings which add to the special character and local distinctiveness of Conservation Areas do not have the protection of being listed. The demolition of non listed buildings does not normally require planning permission. However, conservation area designation introduces control over the demolition of such buildings within conservation area. Following the Shimizu case in February 1997, this is interpreted as meaning the destruction, or substantial destruction, of buildings. As a result of this Conservation Area consents are only likely to be required where the substantial demolition of a non-listed building or structure within a conservation area is proposed.

In addition to controls over demolition, certain conservation areas are subject to article 4 directions whereby planning permission is required which in other areas would not be necessary. Section 67 and 73 (of the Planning and Listed Building Conservation Act 1990) applications are those advertised as possibly affecting the setting of a Listed building or Conservation Area.

Indicator C2: Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications refused

Indicator C4: Number of planning applications in conservation areas refused

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
C2	Number of Listed Building Consent Applications and Conservation Area Consent Applications refused	Number 1998-99	11	3	1	15	12	6	17	N/T	65
		Refused 1997-98	7	3	7	23	11	3	12	N/T	66
		% 1998-99 refused 1997-98	5% 3%	10% 21%	2% 8%	6% 9%	6% 6%	4% 2%	15% 12%	n/a n/a	6% 6%
	<i>Of which Listed Building Consent Applications</i>	1998-99 1997-98	11 7	3 3	1 4	15 23	11 11	5 3	12 9	n/a n/a	58 60
	<i>Conservation Area Consents</i>	1998-99 1997-98	0 0	0 0	0 3	0 0	1 0	0 0	5 3	n/a n/a	6 6
C4	Number of planning applications in Conservation Areas refused	Number 1998-99	14	8	6	16	14	9	8	N/T	75
		Refused 1997-98	19	2	5	13	5	11	18	N/T	73
		% 1998-99 refused 1997-98	7% 10%	14% 8%	7% 7%	5% 12%	4% 5%	8% 9%	8% 24%	n/a n/a	10% 9%
	Number of advertisement consents refused in Conservation Areas		0 0	0 2	4 7	2 3	0 9	0 1	2 4	n/a n/a	8 26
	Total Number of Listed Building Consents, Conservation Area Consents, Planning Applications and advertisements refused		25 26	11 7	11 19	33 39	26 25	15 15	27 34	n/a n/a	148 165
			5% 6%	13% 16%	7% 9%	9% 10%	8% 8%	5% 5%	13% 18%	n/a n/a	8% 9%

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicators C2 and C4 show the numbers of refusals for various types of applications in Conservation Areas and all the provisos made about the figures in C1 and C4 again apply. A total of 148 (8%) applications for Listed Building, Conservation Area, Advertisement Consent and planning applications were refused in Suffolk between 1998 and 1999. 75 (10%) planning applications in Conservation Areas were refused. Both these figures are similar to those for 1997/98.

The detailed information of types of Listed Building Consent and planning applications considered (see table below) shows that for both years 133 were refused and of these 59% were for residential development in 1998/99 and 58% in 1997/98. In 1998/99 more planning applications were refused for residential

development than for commercial or advertisement consent, but the high percentage refusal rate for advertisement consent applications had fallen from 27% to 11%, a figure more in line with the refusal rates for residential (7%) and commercial (8%) development.

Type of application	Listed Building Consent and Planning Applications – Details									
	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
Residential	1998-99	19	5	2	22	9	10	12	n/a	79
	1997-98	16	0	3	26	7	10	15	n/a	77
Commercial	1998-99	5	6	5	6	8	4	8	n/a	42
	1997-98	8	3	6	10	8	3	12	n/a	50
Other (includes all other categories within proposed use field)	1998-99	1	0	0	3	8	0	0	n/a	12
	1997-98	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	n/a	6

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator C5: Number of enhancement schemes in Conservation Areas

This indicator seeks to demonstrate the influence of the local planning authorities in actively enhancing the quality of the historic built environment by public works. The list of schemes excludes work to historic buildings but concentrates on the wider enhancement schemes carried out by the local authorities and other statutory bodies.

The number of enhancement schemes undertaken need to be considered in the context that in November 1996 there were a total of 157 Conservation Areas in Suffolk of which 23 had completed Conservation Area Appraisals and a further 79 had Interim Statements completed. This information is being monitored on a 5 year basis and it is not intended to update it until 2001.

Number of enhancement schemes in Conservation Areas				
District/Borough	Completed 1995/96	Completed 1996/97	Completed 1997/98	Completed 1998/99
Babergh	8	3	3	3
Forest Heath	2	1	0	0
Ipswich	0	1	2	1
Mid Suffolk	2	2	0	1
St Edmundsbury	2	5	5	2
Suffolk Coastal	7	7	4	1
Waveney	6	2	2	1
Suffolk	27	26	16	9

Although intended to be reported every 5 years, the annual information for this indicator is published here for information. It shows a fall in the number of enhancement schemes being completed in the County, largely due to a significant reduction in English Heritage funding coming through Conservation Area Partnerships (CAPs). Changes to this indicator need to be considered to see if it can be made more meaningful by including details of the value of the schemes completed and/or their nature.

Indicator C6: Number of Conservation Area Partnerships within the County, compared to the number for which bids were made.

This indicator was intended to monitor the success of the Suffolk local planning authorities in securing Conservation Area Partnership agreements, that is funding from English Heritage. Conservation Area Partnerships, established in 1994, were a form of agreement between English Heritage and, normally, a local planning authority. Such agreements identified specific problems and opportunities within an area and established a programme of work and funding for a fixed number of years, usually 3 years. No new Conservation Area Partnerships were designated after April 1998 as the scheme was phased out. Many of the Suffolk schemes came to an end in March 1999. A total of eleven partnership schemes have been successfully implemented across the County, making a considerable impact in terms of protecting and enhancing the built environment.

As the Conservation Area Partnerships scheme has come to an end this indicator will in future be used to report on new schemes that are available. The new Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERs) offered by English Heritage is the latest scheme, introduced in April 1998. HERs tend to cover smaller areas than CAPs and where CAPs have not operated in the past. HERs seek to demonstrate that conservation led change has a role to play in contributing to social and economic regeneration and in the creation of safe and sustainable communities. They focus on neighbourhood businesses, high street and corner shops - employment generating activities important to community life and prosperity and where area based assistance with building repairs and enhancement will help local employment and encourage inward investment. These schemes will run for 3 years and English Heritage funds must be matched by local sources either from local authorities or via the Single Regeneration Budget or European Regional Development Fund. There was no bidding round in the first year of its operation but two schemes in Suffolk (Newmarket and Halesworth) received funding.

Since April 1999 the scheme has been open to all authorities. Ipswich Borough have had a successful bid for the Fore Street area of Ipswich, involving 40 buildings of which 26 are Grade II or II*. Waveney District has made a successful bid for Halesworth and Babergh District for Glemsford. (All the schemes will operate from April 2000.) Mid Suffolk have had an unsuccessful bid for Stowmarket.

Due to cuts in English Heritage funding there may not be a bidding round for the year commencing April 2001, although committed funding will continue for the 3 years.

The Townscape Heritage Initiative offered by the Heritage Lottery Fund is another current scheme. A couple of Suffolk bids were made to this in 1998, but only 27 schemes were funded in total, of which 5 were in England. Waveney are currently making a bid for South Lowestoft. There is doubt over the future of this initiative and in any case it is unlikely to afford any significant funding for Suffolk.

Indicator C8: Number of Historic Buildings at Risk

The 1995 'Historic Buildings at Risk' Register published by the Suffolk local planning authorities included 138 buildings. A revised version of the Register was published in 1997. The purpose of the Register is to draw attention to a relatively small number of Listed Buildings that are in poor condition, usually as a result of lack of maintenance or neglect. The revised Register is more comprehensive than previously but does not reflect a full countywide survey. In England there are estimated to be 37,000 Buildings at Risk, 6% of the national total of Listed Buildings. The percentages in C8 show all Districts are below this figure.

Indicator C8 : Number of Historic Buildings at Risk						
	1997 Register	Removed from Register	Entered on Register	2000 Register	Number of Listed Buildings	% of total Listed Buildings
Babergh	3	1	4	6	3,685	0.2%
Forest Heath	10	1	3	12	486	2.5%
Ipswich	10	4	0	6	617	1.0%
Mid Suffolk	45	15	10	40	4,042	1.0%
St Edmundsbury	23	9(1)	19	33	3,215	1.0%
Suffolk Coastal	29	6	14	37	2,748	1.3%
Waveney	12	1	8	19	1,644	1.2%
Suffolk	132	37(1)	58	153	16,437	0.9%

Note - Buildings removed from the register following demolition shown in brackets and included in other figures

37 buildings were removed from the At Risk Register between 1997 and 2000. Of these one was removed because of being demolished and three because they are now considered beyond repair. The other buildings removed from the list either had been fully repaired (24) or some repairs had taken place, sufficient to qualify for removal from the list, with further work required (9).

Indicator C9: Total value of grant aided work to historic buildings and buildings in conservation areas

To further assess the influence of the local authorities on the condition of the historic built environment indicator C9 has been devised. The indicator is based on the financial year for the authorities i.e. 1st April - 31st March. Local Authority grants includes District Council plus County Council contributions. Total value of work includes local authority grants, grants from English Heritage and other grant sources including contributions from private individuals and sponsorship. It is intended that the indicator examines amount of grants paid rather than offered.

Total value of grant aided work to historic buildings and buildings in conservation areas for the financial year 1998/99

District/Borough	Local Authority Grants	English Heritage Grants	Other grants/contributions	Total Value of work
Babergh	£ 25,790		£ 501,210 ²	£ 527,000
Forest Heath	£ 14,447	£ 23,362	£ 47,721	£ 85,530
Ipswich	£ 33,031	£ 17,000	£ 84,208	£ 134,239
Mid Suffolk ¹	£ 5,760	£ 13,952	£ 449,567	£ 469,279
St. Edmundsbury ¹	£ 96,261	£ 47,499	£ 481,105	£ 624,865
Suffolk Coastal	£ 3,313	0	£ 8,958	£ 12,271
Waveney ¹	£ 41,100	£ 85,375	£ 136,920	£ 263,395
Total	£219,702	£ 187,188	£1,709,689	£2,116,579

¹ Refers to value of grant aid offered during financial year. All other entries relate to grant aid paid

² English Heritage/Other Grants/Contributions combined

Three authorities have only been able to provide information on the value of grants offered. This may mean that the figures are higher than the amount actually paid out for conservation work because if grants are not taken up they are offered to another project. Other contributions can come from a wide range of bodies including European funding for the Objective 5b areas in Suffolk, so designated as they are experiencing economic and social difficulties. It is not possible to draw any general conclusions as District Council funding can fluctuate widely depending on the type of projects going on in their area. However the total value of grants is reducing due to the effect of inflation. Local authority grants remain crucial in helping to lever in private sector contributions.

Archaeology

The archaeological resources of Suffolk are an important part of the environmental stock of the County and its cultural heritage. The preservation of these resources is an essential element in securing sustainable development within the County - this is one objective of the Suffolk Development Plan. The aim of Development Plan policies is to ensure a representative sample of sites survives for future generations. The indicators here monitor development control decisions on planning applications, which affect, or potentially affect archaeological sites.

The spatial distribution of archaeological sites of different periods varies – for example prehistoric settlement tends to favour river gravel terraces and avoid heavy clay; medieval settlement however is fairly universal with the modern human landscape being a direct descendant. As a consequence planning applications coincide more frequently with the more common medieval sites and urban areas. No particular class of archaeological site has suffered the adverse affects of development in this monitoring period.

Indicator A1: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with amendments to design, or working methods, to ensure preservation.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with amendments to design, or working methods, to ensure preservation.	Number approved 1998-99	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Number approved 1997-98	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3
	Percentage approved 1998-99	0%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	1%
	Percentage approved 1997-98	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%	6%	0%	0%	5%
	Denominator =All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	16	10	1	73
Denominator =All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1997-98	9	6	2	6	13	17	7	2	62	

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Only one application at Pakenham in St.Edmundsbury was approved in 1998/99 with amendments to ensure preservation of the site. This was a commercial application for a telephone cable repeater station where the original design included works within the area of a Roman fort. The amendment resulted in the station not being on the area of archaeological importance.

The figures for this indicator are lower than might at first sight be expected. An explanation for this may lie in the fact that design amendments can arise as a result of pre-application discussions between the County Archaeological Service and the applicant, reflecting a proactive, rather than reactive approach to archaeological conservation. The most likely reason, however is that the number of sites in the County which require preservation is small, and the compact nature of most development means that the opportunity to preserve within the proposed development is often declined [this is reflected in A2 and A4].

Indicator A2: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.	Number approved 1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	13	9	1	69
	Number approved 1997-98	9	6	2	6	13	16	7	2	61
	Percentage approved 1998-99	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	81%	90%	100%	95%
	Percentage approved 1997-98	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	94%	100%	100%	98%
	Denominator =All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	16	10	1	73
	1997-98	9	6	2	6	13	17	7	2	62

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

All but five applications for development affecting known archaeological sites across the County included conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development. This reflects the fact that developers generally prefer to record a site prior to development rather than redesign an application. Once a site is recorded, less regard has to be paid to the preservation of the archaeology present than if a development has to be designed around it.

Of the five without such conditions, one was refused (see A6) and four are recorded in A7. The approval recorded in St Edmundsbury under A1 also had excavation and recording conditions attached. This demonstrates that amendments to a development and conditions attached to planning approvals affecting known archaeological sites are not necessarily mutually exclusive - where these overlap suggests particular care is taken to ensure archaeology is not adversely affected.

Two applications at Sudbury in Babergh contained conditions requiring the prior excavation of a Friary; three applications in Forest Heath were at RAF Lakenheath where excavation work at a Saxon cemetery unearthed a second horse burial; four applications in Mid Suffolk required the prior excavation of Medieval moats (at Stowmarket, Debenham, Brundish and Ashbocking); in St. Edmundsbury conditions were imposed on the two applications mentioned in A6 and for a Medieval castle at Lidgate; in Waveney four applications required prior excavation of Medieval town remains in Lowestoft and Beccles. Overall a very wide variety of sites were covered by conditions ranging from Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval.

Indicator A3: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites approved with agreements for management/enhancement work. Not triggered in 1997/8 or 1998/9.

Indicator A4: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites for which archaeological evaluation is required prior to determination.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites for which archaeological evaluation is required prior to determination	Number approved 1998-99	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Number approved 1997-98	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
	Percentage approved 1998-99	11%	14%	0%	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	4%
	Percentage approved 1997-98	0%	0%	0%	0%	8%	12%	0%	0%	5%
	Denominator =All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1998-99	9	7	7	10	13	16	10	1	73
	1997-98	9	6	2	6	13	17	7	2	62

*Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator A4 monitors applications received which are recognised as potentially impacting on a known archaeological site and which therefore require further site evaluation before an appropriate decision can be made. In an intensively farmed county such as Suffolk, there are a limited number of undisturbed and well preserved archaeological sites which results in a very small number of sites where there is a need for preservation *in situ*.

The three applications which required archaeological evaluation prior to a planning decision being made were all subsequently approved, and in two cases with the conditions requiring prior excavation or recording during development. In Forest Heath this was at a farm in Tuddenham potentially affecting prehistoric occupation areas and at Bury St Edmunds in St.Edmundsbury, a Medieval Priory.

An application at Washbrook, where human bones of an unknown date had been found, was approved without the requested evaluation, but a PPG 16 para.30 condition was applied which required an archaeological investigation to be undertaken before development commenced.

Indicator A5: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites refused.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites refused	Number approved 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	1
	Number approved 1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
	Percentage approved 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	6%	N/T	N/T	1%
	Percentage approved 1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
	Denominator =All applications affecting known archaeological sites. 1998-99 1997-98	9	7	7	10	13	16	10	1	73
		9	6	2	6	13	17	7	2	62

*Six months data only for 1997-98.

An application to place a HGV type container in the Medieval churchyard at the church in Trimley St.Martin in Suffolk Coastal was refused for a number of reasons including concern for the detrimental effect on the archaeological setting.

Indicator A6: Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (and other archaeological sites of importance) damaged as a result of development.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (and other archaeological sites of importance) damaged as a result of development.	Number damaged. 1998-99	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Number damaged. 1997-98	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

*Six months data only for 1997-98.

Two sites in St.Edmundsbury were affected by development but in both cases (The Priory Hotel in Bury St.Edmunds and Ixworth Abbey) only small scale works to the monuments were carried out with an archaeological mitigation strategy in place; strictly speaking damage to historic sites took place but it was managed and recorded with the approval of the Suffolk Archaeological Service.

The low figure here shows the partial effectiveness of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) designation, of which there are around 280 in the County.

Indicator A7: Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites of less than national importance approved with no provision for preservation in situ or recording prior to or during development.

	Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
Number and percentage of applications which affect known archaeological sites of less than national importance approved with no provision for preservation in situ or recording prior to or during development.	Number approved.	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5
	1998-99	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	1997-98									
	Percentage approved.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Denominator = All applications affecting known archaeological sites of less than national importance.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator A7 shows the number of applications approved on sites of less than national importance, with no provision for recording or preserving the site during development i.e. where archaeological recommendations did not appear as conditions. Four applications were in Suffolk Coastal ranging from use of land for amenity/recreational and conservation purposes at Grange Farm, Kesgrave that affected Bronze Age round barrows, to residential development at Felixstowe affecting Bronze Age beaker remains. The application in Waveney was for the erection of an agricultural building at Ringsfield on a site where Roman Denarii had been found in 1991.

Indicator A8: Number and percentage of applications affecting no known archaeological site but judged of high archaeological potential and approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.

Information		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
Number and percentage of applications affecting no known archaeological site but judged of high archaeological potential and approved with conditions requiring prior archaeological excavation or recording during development.	Number approved.	1998-99	11	16	6	18	6	20	4	1	82
		1997-98	6	6	4	13	9	17	1	3	59
	Percentage approved.	1998-99	1.5%	2.7%	1.2%	2.0%	0.8%	2.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.6%
		1997-98	0.8%	N/A	0.6%	1.4%	1.2%	1.7%	0.2%	1.6%	1.2%
	Denominator = All applications received in monitoring period which were not on known archaeological sites.	1998-99	718	585	507	916	753	910	556	169	5114
		1997-98	708	206	621	940	763	987	558	188	4971

*Six months data only for 1997-98. Percentage figure for 97-98 not available as denominator relates to 6 months of applications and approval figure relates to one year of applications.

All districts across the County approved applications, which were on sites, which were not known to be of archaeological value, but were judged to have a high potential of being so. The results here show that, of all non-householder planning applications received in the monitoring period in Suffolk, nearly 2% (82) were approved with conditions requiring archaeological evaluation or excavation. This figure emphasises that the known sites on the County Sites and Monuments Record are only a small proportion of the real total of archaeological sites.

Town Centres

Within Suffolk's 23 towns, the town centres form the focal point of business, leisure and shopping activities. Although these town centres vary in size and character, it is recognised that it is important to maintain each as providing a vital range of services and facilities required by the community in their area. Each town centre is defined in the respective district's Local Plan.

The government has set objectives concerned with maintaining town centres as the focal points of their communities. Planning Policy Guidance note 6 (PPG6) 'Town

Centres and Retail Developments' outlines these objectives and suggests ways in which local authorities can actively pursue and subsequently monitor the 'vitality and viability' of each town centre. The indicators devised for 'Suffolk's Environment' are intended to monitor the vitality and viability of the 23 towns in the County against the guidelines in PPG6 and Development Plan objectives.

Many of the indicators use the 1987 Use Classes Order (see below).

THE 1987 (AS AMENDED) USE CLASSES ORDER

A1	Retail	C1	Hotels and Hostels
A2	Financial and Professional Services	C2	Residential Institutions
A3	Food and Drink	C3	Dwelling Houses
B1	Business	D1	Non-residential Institutions
B2	General Industry	D2	Assembly and Leisure
B8	Storage or Distribution	Sui	Other Uses
		Generis	

Indicator TC1: Number of units of each use class in town centres

Indicator TC1 provides a simple measure of the make-up of town centres in Suffolk in terms of the variety and scale of retail provision, in line with the PPG6 measurements of vitality and viability, 'diversity of uses' and 'retailer representation'. High diversity suggests a vital and viable town centre. This is measured against the Development Plan objective of protecting and improving the attraction, efficiency, vitality and functions of town, neighbourhood and village centres, offering a range of community, shopping and employment opportunities. The table shows the change in the mixture of use classes from the baseline data.

Indicator TC1: Number of units of each use class in town centres (Baseline – District / Borough surveys 1995/96)

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Aldeburgh												
1999	49	9	15	1	0	1	3	0	204	4	1	1
1998	46	9	16	1	0	1	3	0	210	4	1	1
Baseline	50	7	14	1	0	1	3	0	38	4	1	2
Beccles												
1999	109	28	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1998	98	30	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Baseline	127	31	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Brandon												
1999	44	10	15	6	-	1	2	-	-	6	-	1
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	38	9	7	4	0	-	2	1	-	3	0	3
Bungay												
1999	58	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1998	54	16	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Baseline	79	17	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bury St Edmunds												
1999	334	56	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1998	332	61	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Baseline	300	60	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debenham												
1999	14	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	90	2	0	0
1998	13	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Baseline	15	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Eye												
1999	35	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	86	2	0	0
1998	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Baseline	28	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Felixstowe												
1999	137	47	21	2	0	0	1	0	11	5	1	4
1998	139	45	20	1	0	0	1	0	5	4	1	4
Baseline	143	42	17	2	0	0	1	0	3	5	1	4
Framlingham												
1999	42	19	8	2	0	0	1	0	52	4	1	2
1998	42	19	7	2	0	0	1	0	49	4	1	2
Baseline	41	19	7	2	1	0	3	0	20	4	1	1
Hadleigh												
1999	63	12	12	13	1	0	2	0	-	6	-	4
1998	67	11	11	12	1	-	2	-	-	7	-	4
Baseline	71	13	13	11	1	-	2	-	44	7	-	4
Halesworth												
1999	59	21	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
1998	57	18	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baseline	68	21	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Haverhill												
1999	97	30	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	147	7	16	47	28	2	-	-	-	14	4	14
Ipswich												
1999	435	66	73	23	1	0	1	0	3	25	5	5
1998	457	72	71	21	1	0	2	0	2	24	5	5
Baseline	480	68	66	35	2	0	2	0	6	29	5	5
Leiston												
1999	54	17	14	3	0	3	1	1	95	6	1	5
1998	53	17	14	1	0	3	1	1	100	4	1	5
Baseline	54	15	13	2	0	3	0	0	84	4	1	5

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Lowestoft												
1999	159	72	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1998	154	75	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Baseline	170	79	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Mildenhall												
1999	55	14	11	4	1	0	4	-	-	9	2	9
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	72	16	11	8	0	-	3	0	-	9	2	3
Needham Market												
1999	40	11	8	2	0	0	2	0	77	5	1	2
1998	37	10	10	0	0	0	1	0	89	0	0	3
Baseline	36	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Newmarket												
1999	154	33	30	26	5	0	2	-	2	15	1	14
1998	No Data Supplied											
Baseline	168	32	26	16	0	-	3	0	-	17	1	11
Saxmundham												
1999	45	18	8	3	6	4	2	1	109	4	0	6
1998	46	15	9	1	6	4	2	1	102	4	0	6
Baseline	47	16	6	1	6	4	2	1	98	4	0	6
Southwold												
1999	47	10	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1998	59	13	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baseline	62	12	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Stowmarket												
1999	78	34	13	3	0	0	0	0	14	7	0	2
1998	84	32	13	2	0	0	0	0	16	5	0	2
Baseline	101	25	13	17	0	0	0	0	13	8	0	2
Sudbury												
1999	164	27	25	14	0	-	2	-	-	8	4	3
1998	150	26	22	9	1	-	2	-	-	8	4	1
Baseline	166	28	21	9	1	-	3	0	63	9	3	1

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Woodbridge												
1999	129	33	21	4	0	2	2	1	80	11	2	2
1998	130	31	21	4	0	2	2	1	71	11	2	1
Baseline	130	32	17	3	0	2	2	1	47	14	1	2
1999 Totals	2401	593	425	106	14	11	25	3	823	119	19	76
1998 Totals	2464	571	398	131	37	12	25	4	644	120	22	82
Baseline	2593	549	375	159	39	12	26	3	416	132	20	76

NB. Where there is a gap in data supplied by a local authority the previous years figures have been used to give the overall total number of units - so as to allow for consistent data comparisons.

The table shows the number of units of each land use class in town centres from the baseline date.

The data shows the overall number of A1 uses declining and the A2 and A3 uses increasing slightly. The overall number of B1 and B2 uses within the town centres is also continuing to drop.

The decrease in A1 units in Ipswich can be attributed to a number of factors including; the relocation of BHS to the Buttermarket; the extension of Marks and Spencer's; the redevelopment of the Great White Horse Hotel; the amalgamation of units to form TK Maxx in the Buttermarket and the current redevelopment of the Eastgate Centre.

Only Bury St. Edmunds has seen a considerable increase in the number of A1 units over the monitoring period.

It is also apparent that the collection of data appears to have stabilised from the baseline data as monitoring techniques / routines are established by the relevant local authorities. The increase in the number of C3 units across the County can be attributed as a result of better data collection rather than changes on the ground.

Indicator TC2: Floorspace (sq.m) in town centres by land use (Baseline – District / Borough surveys 1995/96)

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Aldeburgh											
1999	3953	842	1511	418	0	30	2514	0	858	415	168
1998	3686	842	1585	418	0	30	2514	0	858	415	336
Baseline	4033	500	1414	418	0	0	2514	0	858	415	558
Beccles											
1999	12593	3172	2280	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	11654	3089	2263								
Baseline	12283	3233	1966	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bungay											
1999	7535	1527	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	6900	1651	1768	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseline	6953	1576	1899	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bury St Edmunds											
1999	34663	6584	5777	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	403
1998	30193	7365	5352	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseline	No data										
Debenham											
1999	15459	5181	1326	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	No data										
Baseline	No data										
Eye											
1999	2615	818	579	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	No data										
Baseline	No data										
Felixstowe											
1999	22474	5786	1980	175	0	0	1925	0	1946	567	2269
1998	22565	5786	1939	105	0	0	1925	0	1874	567	2269
Baseline	23618	5411	1476	225	0	0	1925	0	1906	567	2269

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Framlingham											
1999	4713	1501	801	332	0	0	423	0	369	650	284
1998	5045	1432	696	258	0	0	423	0	369	650	284
Baseline	5045	1470	747	258	27	0	423	0	369	650	242
Hadleigh											
1999	7631	1656	1599	1186	86	-	407	-	690	-	989
1998	7930	1519	1454	1190	86	-	407	-	826	-	989
Baseline	8274	1366	2010	1104	86	-	407	-	796	-	1136
Halesworth											
1999	6337	1831	1201	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	No data										
Baseline	No data										
Haverhill											
1999	12349	4277	1798	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	117
1998	No data										
Baseline	No data										
Leiston											
1999	6737	1330	1471	60		549	165	72	1651	415	1226
1998	6776	1417	1621	36	0	549	165	72	1376	415	1226
Baseline	7140	1063	1621	221	0	549	0	0	1344	415	1226
Lowestoft											
1999	36219	9898	2575	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	36654	10597	2117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseline	38595	14062	2116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Needham Market											
1999	4597	1429	1292	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	No data										
Baseline	No data										
Saxmundham											
1999	4837	2423	916	107	1475	2120	505	1160	688	0	2653
1998	4942	2245	979	44	1475	2120	505	1160	688	0	2653
Baseline	5674	2304	619	44	1475	2120	505	1160	688	0	2653

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Southwold											
1999	4498	900	2008	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	4941	802	784	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseline	4716	900	2086	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stowmarket											
1999	15459	5181	1326	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1998	No data										
Baseline	No data										
Sudbury											
1999	27147	3652	2656	1808	120	-	462	-	2911	823	1138
1998	25977	3530	2363	2906	51	-	462	-	2455	1074	438
Baseline	22261	3856	2332	1389	51	-	895	-	2911	1074	438
Woodbridge											
1999	13300	3102	1948	664	0	528	1098	131	1705	420	275
1998	12032	2995	1948	664	0	528	1098	131	1705	420	57
Baseline	13313	3127	1826	635	0	528	1098	131	2104	205	275
1999 Total	243116	61090	35064	4750	1681	3227	7499	1363	10818	3290	9522
1998 Total	236111	61987	32391	5621	1612	3227	7499	1363	10151	3541	8369
Baseline Total	238914	64950	32986	4294	1639	3197	7767	1291	10976	3326	8914

NB. Where there is a gap in data supplied by a local authority the previous years figures have been used to give the overall total number of units - so as to allow for consistent data comparisons.

The information for this indicator is not collected by Ipswich Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council.

The data shows that there is an overall increase in the floorspace of A1 retail use contrary to the findings of indicator TC1. This could be as a result of smaller units being absorbed by larger units – therefore absolute floorspace is retained whilst an apparent drop in numbers is reported. The data also shows that there is an increase in A3 floorspace in line with that reported under indicator TC1.

The remaining data has stayed relatively stable.

Indicator TC3: Number of vacant units of each Land Use Class in Town Centres (Baseline – District / Borough surveys 1995/96)

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Aldeburgh												
1999	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beccles												
1999	Total vacant = 6 units											
1998	Total vacant = 13 units											
Baseline	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brandon												
1999	10	1	0	0	-	1	0	-	-	0	-	1
1998	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Baseline	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Bungay												
1999	Total vacant = 6 units											
1998	Total vacant = 11 units											
Baseline	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bury St Edmunds												
1999	23	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1998	31	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Baseline	58	1	7	76	8	6	1	-	-	-	1	2
Debenham												
1999	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baseline	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eye												
1999	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baseline	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
Felixstowe												
1999	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	9	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Framlingham												
1999	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hadleigh												
1999	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Baseline	13	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Halesworth												
1999	Total vacant = 4 units											
1998	Total vacant = 10 units											
Baseline	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Haverhill												
1999	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1998	No data											
Baseline	17	-	1	18	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ipswich												
1999	43	7	3	6	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
1998	76	12	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Baseline	83	11	5	11	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0
Leiston												
1999	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Lowestoft												
1999	Total vacant = 18 units											
1998	Total vacant = 20 units											
Baseline	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mildenhall												

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis
1999	7	3	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	0	0	0
1998	5	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Baseline	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Needham Market												
1999	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1998	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baseline	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newmarket												
1999	7	0	0	1	3	0	0	-	-	0	0	1
1998	10	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Baseline	12	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Saxmundham												
1999	8	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	8	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	5	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwold												
1999	Total vacant = 3 units											
1998	Total vacant = 3 units											
Baseline	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stowmarket												
1999	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
1998	No data											
Baseline	17	2	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sudbury												
1999	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1998	19	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baseline	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Woodbridge												
1999	10	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	15	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline	16	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B8	C1	C2	C3	D1	D2	Sui Generis	
													Grand Total
1999 Total	208	26	13	105	19	8	1	0	6	2	2	4	394
1998 Total	290	42	14	108	13	9	2	0	4	5	1	6	494
Baseline Total	338	31	19	114	13	8	2	0	5	8	1	7	546

Suffolk has experienced a drop of 28% in the overall number of vacant units within its town centres. Nearly all town centres have experienced a decline in the number of vacant A1 units.

The data shows that Ipswich, Bury and Newmarket have experienced a substantial decline in the number of vacant A1 units. Using the information in indicators TC1 and TC2 together with TC3 it could be assumed that vacant units are being taken up by larger units or are changing to A3 use.

Indicator TC4: Number of Multiple Retailers in town centres

A multiple retailer is defined as: a retailer (including food retailers) with a number of stores around the country.

	Baseline	1998	1999
Aldeburgh	2	2	2
Beccles	11	10	10
Brandon	4	3	4
Bungay	3	4	3
Bury St Edmunds	63	58	49
Debenham	1	1	1
Eye	3	3	1
Felixstowe	21	22	21
Framlingham	1	1	1
Hadleigh	2	2	2
Halesworth	4	2	2
Haverhill	12	12	17
Ipswich	96	91	84
Leiston	1	3	3
Lowestoft	50	45	48
Mildenhall	5	8	10
Needham Market	2	2	2
Newmarket	30	31	27
Saxmundham	1	3	3
Southwold	4	3	4
Stowmarket	16	13	20
Sudbury	23	27	26
Woodbridge	10	12	11
Totals	365	358	351

PPG6 suggests that a measure of town centre vitality and viability is its retailer representation.

The list shows an overall decline of approximately 5% in the number of multiple retailers throughout Suffolk's town centres during the monitoring period. However, this may not be the whole story as other indicators show that Suffolk's towns are thriving.

One factor could be the list of multiple retailers produced for the first report constructed in 1996. The surveys were conducted using this list but feedback has suggested that this is becoming obsolete and does not cover the total number of multiple retailers present within the County's towns.

Indicator TC5: Planning approvals and Local Plan allocations for major redevelopment's or major new developments in town centres

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TC5	Planning approvals for any Major redevelopment or Major new development in town centres.	Number approved	1998-99	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
		Number approved	1997-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	1	N/T	4

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TC5 monitors the number of planning applications for major town centre developments which are approved and the number of allocations in Local Plans which facilitate such developments. PPG6 suggests that “diversity of uses” and “retailer representation and intentions to change representations” are valuable measures of town centre vitality and viability. This indicator is monitored against objectives of protecting and improving the built environment, minimising the environmental intrusion of traffic in shopping, residential and conservation areas, maximising the development potential of vacant, under-used and derelict land and buildings in towns and protecting and improving the attraction, efficiency, vitality and functions of town, neighbourhood and village centres, offering a range of community, shopping and employment opportunities.

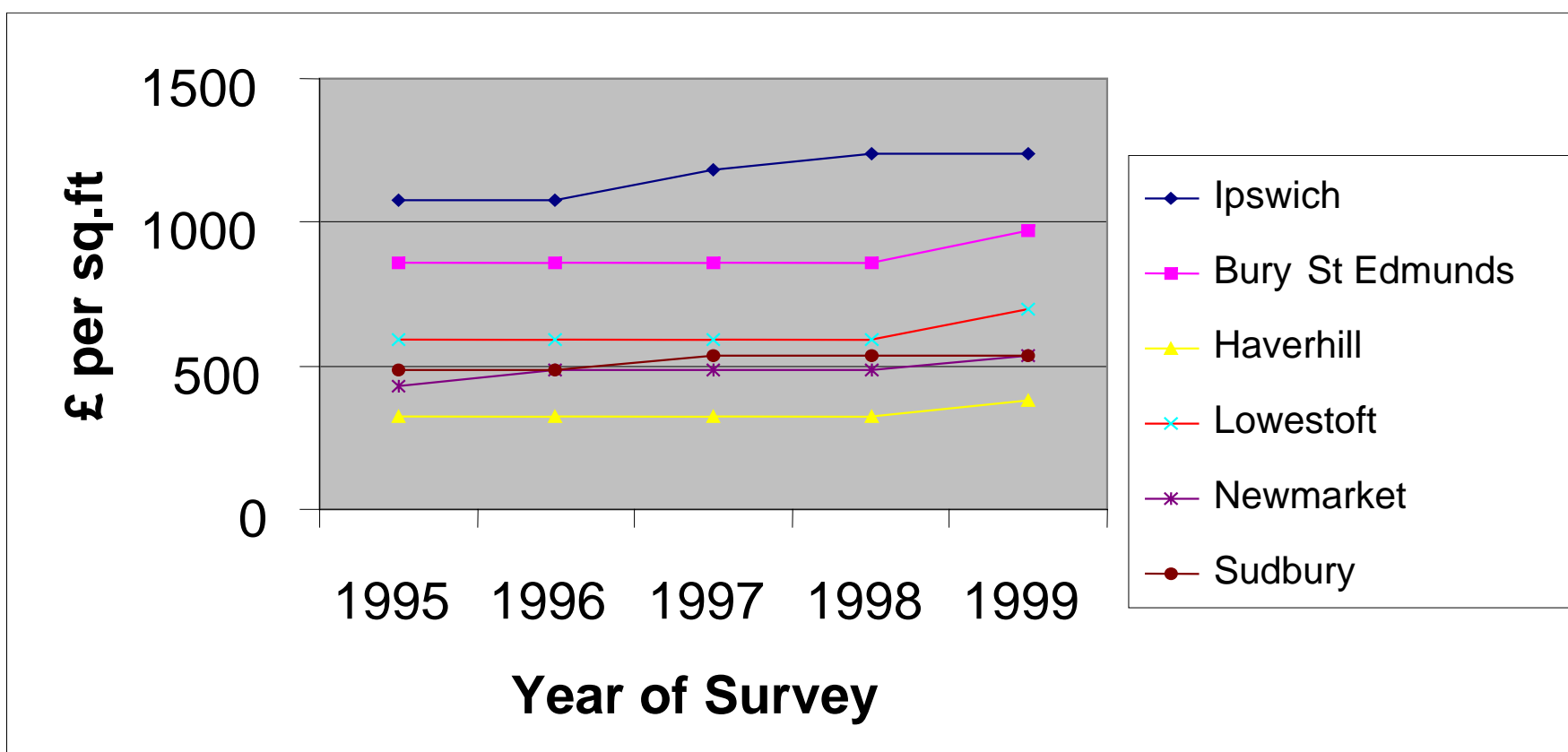
In 1998-99 approvals were made in two districts. In St Edmundsbury a development of 11 flats on a brownfield site in Haverhill was approved. In Babergh three Class A1 units were approved at North Hill, Sudbury.

The table below shows new Local Plan allocations for major redevelopment or new development in Suffolk’s town centres made since the base year. In terms of Local Plan allocations, only Suffolk Coastal has added to those published as base data, due to it being the only authority to undertake a review of its Local Plan since 1996. No new allocations have been made in other districts.

Local Plan allocations for major town centre developments - change since 1996			
District	Town Centre	Description of Allocation	Size in Hectares
Suffolk Coastal	<i>Saxmundham</i>	<i>Land north of Church Street</i> Extension of existing supermarket	0.9 ha
	<i>Woodbridge</i>	<i>Turban Centre</i> Extension of supermarket (supersedes previous allocation)	0.78 ha
	<i>Woodbridge</i>	<i>New Street Primary School/Oak Lane Car Park</i> Mixed use including potential conversion of Primary School Building	0.71 ha

Indicator TC6: Rents for each Town Centre

Indicator TC6 measures rental values in selected town centres in Suffolk. PPG6 suggests that 'shopping rents' are a valuable measure of town centre vitality and viability. The amount retailers are prepared to pay for units in town centres gives an indication of the attractiveness of a town centre – retailers will pay more for locations where they believe their turnover will be greater.



Rents (£ per sq.ft. per annum) in Suffolk's Town Centres					
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ipswich	1076	1076	1184	1238	1238
Bury St Edmunds	861	861	861	861	969
Haverhill	323	323	323	323	377
Lowestoft	592	592	592	592	700
Newmarket	431	484	484	488	538
Sudbury	484	484	538	538	538

(Source: In town retail rents, Colliers Erdman Lewis – June 1999)

The table shows values expressed as £ per sq.ft. at mid year. They relate to the zone A rent for a hypothetical standard shop unit in the best (100%) pitch within the centre.

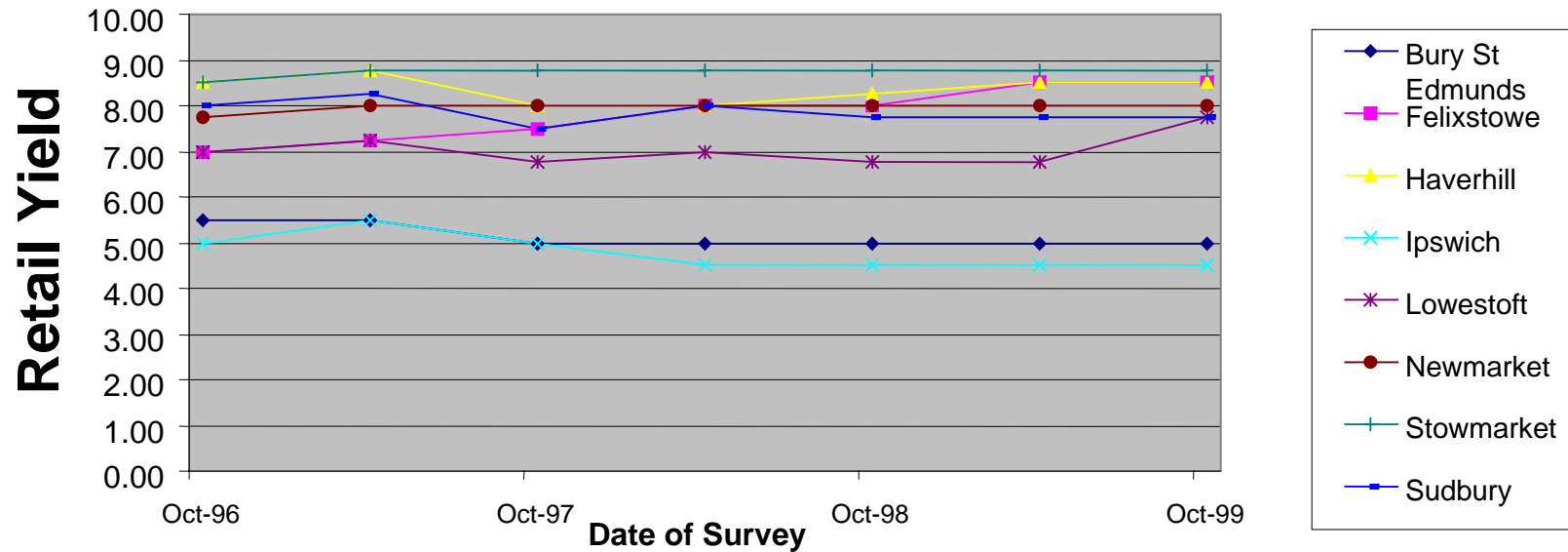
It can be seen that rent levels are increasing steadily throughout the County. Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft have experienced the largest increase in rents over the last year.

Indicator TC7: Retail Yields (%)

	01/10/96	01/04/97	01/10/97	01/04/98	01/10/98	01/04/99	01/10/99
Bury St Edmunds	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Felixstowe	7.00	7.25	7.50	8.00	8.00	8.50	8.50
Haverhill	8.50	8.75	8.00	8.00	8.25	8.50	8.50
Ipswich	5.00	5.50	5.00	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Lowestoft	7.00	7.25	6.75	7.00	6.75	6.75	7.75
Newmarket	7.75	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Stowmarket	8.50	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75
Sudbury	8.00	8.25	7.50	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.75

Source: Property market report - autumn 1999 (Valuation Office, 1999)

Retail Yields in Suffolk Towns



Retail yields are a measure of the property value which enables various values of properties of different size, location and other characteristics to be compared. Yield is the ratio of rental income to capital value, and is expressed in terms of the open market rents of a property as a percentage of the capital value.

The lower a yield the more investors are likely to be optimistic about a town. Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich have the lowest yields in Suffolk indicating they are more likely to attract investment. Notably, the yield in Ipswich is the joint second lowest in Britain.

Indicator TC9: Length and Area of Pedestrianisation in town centres

Change in pedestrian priority schemes in Suffolk's towns since 1996				
Town Centre	Pedestrianised Streets (in bold type) <i>(Pedestrian Priority in Italics)</i>	Base Line Data Area in hectares (Total Length (m))	1998 Area in hectares (Total Length (m))	1999 Area in hectares (Total Length (m))
Beccles	Sheepgate, Old Weighbridge Road	0.12 (75m)	0.12 (75m)	0.12 (75m)
Brandon	Market Hill	0.15	0.15	0.15
Bungay			0.02 (30m)	0.02 (30m)
Bury St Edmunds	The Traverse, Langton Place, Brentgovel Street, Abbeygate Street, Hatter Street, St Johns Street	0.68 (840m)	0.68 (840m)	0.68 (840m)
Felixstowe	<i>Hamilton Road</i>	(220m)	(220m)	(220m)
Hadleigh	George Street	0.07	0.07	0.07
Halesworth	The Thoroughfare	N/A	0.19 (215m)	0.19 (215m)
Haverhill	<i>Haverhill High Street</i>	0.61 (600m)	0.61 (600m)	0.61 (600m)
Ipswich	Black Horse Walk, Buttermarket, Carr St, Cornhill, Dial Lane, Hatton Court, Lady Lane, Lion St, Lloyds Avenue, Princes St, Providence St, St Lawrence St, St Stephens Lane, Tavern St, Tower St, The Walk, Thoroughfare, Westgate St, St Nicholas St, Cutlers St, Quadling St, The Wet Dock Promenades (New Cut), St. Peters St	1.62 (1664m)	2.31 (2316m)	2.46 (2466m)

Lowestoft	London Road North	0.54	1.26 (700m)	1.26 (700m)
Mildenhall	Market Place and Precinct	0.19	0.19	0.19
Newmarket	Market St, Sun Lane and Wellington St	0.18	0.18	0.18
Stowmarket	<i>Ipswich St, Market Place, Crowe St, Bury St</i>	0.39	0.39	0.39
Sudbury	Gaol Lane, North Street	0.01	0.01 (255m)	0.01 (255m)
Woodbridge	<i>The Thoroughfare</i>	(406m)	(406m)	(406m)

Baseline data: District / Borough Council surveys 1995/96

The table shows the length and area of pedestrian priority and Pedestrianisation schemes implemented since the baseline data was collected.

As is shown in the above data only Ipswich have made any extensions to pedestrianised areas over the last year with the pedestrianisation of St. Peters Street.

Indicator TC10: Number of town centre car parking spaces

	Short Stay			Long Stay			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
Babergh									
Hadleigh	85	78	164	268	192	97	3	3	3
Sudbury	613	592	592	416	416	416	17	17	17

	Privately Owned Spaces			Public Ownership Short Stay			Long Stay			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
Forest Heath												
Brandon	0	0	0	0	0	0	257	257	257	8	8	8
Mildenhall	56	56	56	0	0	0	342	342	342	8	8	8
Newmarket	188	188	188	526	526	526	448	448	448	18	18	18

	Short Stay			Long Stay			Short/Long Stay			Disabled			Private Non Residential		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
Ipswich															
Ipswich	2942	3061	3437	1376	748	180	959	621	1160	60	-	-	4358	-	-

	Short Stay			Long Stay			Short/Long Stay			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
Mid Suffolk												
Debenham	0	0	0	57	57	57	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eye	0	0	0	196	178	178	0	0	0	0	6	6
Needham Market	106	105	105	92	122	122	6	6	6	0	0	0
Stowmarket	580	661	661	98	92	92	0	0	0	19	19	19

	Off Street (Council owned)			Off Street (Private Owned)			On Street (charged)			Other On Street			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
St Edmundsbury															
Bury St Edmunds	3782	3751	3831	340	337	337	215	212	212	800	572	572	No data	47	47
Haverhill	673	649	649	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	No data	24	24

	Free			Charged		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
Suffolk Coastal						
Aldeburgh	191	-	193	320	-	321
Felixstowe	260	-	342	483	-	488
Framlingham	107	-	250	0	-	0
Leiston	36	-	195	118	-	118
Saxmundham	0	-	26	236	-	236
Woodbridge	0	-	157	447	-	567

	Pay and Display			Non Pay and Display			Disabled		
	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999	Baseline	1998	1999
Waveney									
Beccles	376	396	396	80	60	60	8	28	28
Bungay	150	150	150	12	12	12	14	14	14
Halesworth	249	234	234	10	25	25	8	19	19
Lowestoft	1334	1302	1302	139	0	0	43	59	59
Southwold	0	0	0	6	6	6	0	0	0

All data excludes Saturday parking

*Baseline data: District / Borough Council surveys
1995/96*

The table shows the current level and type of parking provision in the town centres.

There is a problem providing comparable parking data as methods of collection differ greatly amongst the Suffolk authorities. However, it is apparent that most towns have experienced some change in parking provision over the monitoring period.

Generally, parking provision has shifted away from long stay towards short stay. This is most evident in Ipswich and Hadleigh.

Indicator TC11: Number of major commercial applications outside the town centres approved

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TC11	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres approved.	Number approved	1998-99	2	N/T	2	N/T	3	1	N/T	N/T	8
		Number approved	1997-98	6	N/T	3	N/T	11	10	4	2	36

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TC11 measures the number of major planning applications which are approved outside of Local Plan defined town centres. This relates to the following Development Plan objectives: promoting development and transport patterns which maintain and where possible improve air quality; maximising the development potential of vacant, under-used and derelict land and buildings in towns; protecting and improving the attraction, efficiency, vitality and functions of town, neighbourhood and village centres, offering a range of community, shopping and employment opportunities; and locating major new generators of travel demand where they are highly accessible by means other than private motor vehicles.

The indicator has been refined from the previous year to concern itself with only those applications that were likely to have any impact on the viability/vitality of town centres. As a result applications monitored have decreased substantially with 8 applications triggering the indicator in the past year.

The 8 applications that triggered this indicator were as follows:

2 applications for commercial development at Pinewood in Babergh District.

2 applications for a new supermarket in London Road, and retail uses at Bury Road in Ipswich.

2 applications for a site at Station Yard, Haverhill for either a supermarket or non-food retail and associated car park/access.

an application for a 66 bed hotel/44 bed nursing home/31 retirement flats at Peach Maltings in Bury St Edmunds, in St. Edmundsbury.

A supermarket and associated car parking at Aldeburgh in Suffolk Coastal District.

Indicator TC12: Number of major commercial applications outside town centres refused

Indicator		Information		BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TC12	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused.	Number refused	1998-99	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
		Number refused	1997-98	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	3	3	N/T	8

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TC12 monitors the number of planning applications for major commercial developments outside of town centres, which are refused against the objectives of maximising development potential in towns and protecting the vitality/viability of existing centres.

Only two applications were refused under this indicator – an A1 non-food retail application at Stowmarket in Mid Suffolk and an application for a 36 room motel at Eriswell in Forest Heath District.

THE QUALITY OF NEW DEVELOPMENT

The form of new development and the standard of its design has a significant effect on the environmental quality of the County, in both rural and urban areas. An important function of the planning system is to ensure new development reflects and/or respects the existing positive characteristics of its surrounding locality, incorporating good design principles to ensure the attractiveness of towns and villages as places to live and work is retained or enhanced.

Indicator BE1: Number of design briefs covering major development sites

An important way in which Suffolk's planning authorities can have a positive effect on the quality of new development is through a design brief. These can encourage developers to produce appropriate local solutions to large or particularly sensitive sites through development which addresses the needs of the site in its entirety. They are a way of making clear what design quality is expected at a particular site and what benefits any development should bring to it.

Authority	Number of design briefs			
	1998	Implemented 1998-99	Prepared 1998-99	1999 ¹
Babergh	3	0	1	4
Forest Heath	6	0	3	9
Ipswich	9	3	2	8
Mid Suffolk	1	0	2	3
St. Edmundsbury ²	4 (7)	0 (0)	1 (0)	5 (7)
Suffolk Coastal	5	0	0	6 ³
Waveney	13	1	1	13

¹ Figures represent development briefs not implemented or currently being implemented.

² Figures in brackets refer to additional development frameworks within the local plan.

Waveney District Council showed no change in the total number of design briefs covering major development sites between 1998 and 1999. During this time, residential development at Beccles Road, Lowestoft, was completed, and the Gosford Road, Beccles, design brief was re-published following consultation.

Ipswich Borough Council recorded a decrease in the number of design briefs over the same period. Three briefs were removed from the list, and design briefs for the Bolton Lane area and Henslow Road Co-Op Depot were prepared.

The remaining authorities, Suffolk Coastal, Babergh, Forest Heath and Mid Suffolk, showed an increase in the number of design briefs between 1998 and 1999. Within Suffolk Coastal, this was attributable to re-surveying of information, which revealed an additional design guide. Within Mid Suffolk, the Masterplan for the Strategic Development Area in Stowmarket had been prepared in March 1999, and had not been recorded in the previous years figures. However, during the period 1998 – 1999 the authority also prepared a brief relating to land off Sackville Street, Debenham, which will provide 100 additional dwellings plus public open space, in accordance with the principles of the Mid Suffolk Local Plan.

Within Babergh and Forest Heath, no briefs were implemented, and several more were prepared – for example a brief relating to land at Birketts Lane, Sudbury, within Babergh Disitrect.

Several Development Briefs in Babergh and Waveney were prepared in the 1980's. These have yet to be implemented and so are included in the figures for this indicator until they are withdrawn or development is completed on the sites in question.

Indicator BE2: Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of density, scale, layout, design, landscaping, or impact on the visual character or appearance of locality.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC*	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
BE2	Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of density, scale, layout, design, landscaping, or impact on the visual character or appearance of locality.	Number Refused									
		1998-99	56	19	23	50	50	35	46	2	281
		1997-98	52	9	28	54	47	39	53	N/T	282
		Percentage Refused									
		1998-99	8%	3%	4%	5%	7%	4%	8%	1%	5%
		1997-98	7%	4%	5%	6%	6%	4%	9%	n/a	6%
		Denominator									
		1998-99	727	592	514	926	766	926	566	170	5187
		1997-98	717	206	621	946	776	1004	565	190	5025

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator BE2 monitors planning applications which are refused on design grounds - density, scale, layout, design, landscaping or impact on the visual character or appearance of locality - against the objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

In 1998/99 and 1997/98 just over 280 applications each year were refused on grounds involving one or more of the criteria mentioned above. The refusal rate averaged 5% in 1998/99 and 6% in 1997/98, with little variation between local authorities.

Of the refusals in 1998/99, over half (158) were of a residential nature and most were planning applications. Of the remainder, a significant number (68) related to other activities, 45 were for commercial activities, 5 recreation, 3 community facilities and 2 minerals/waste.

This was a similar pattern to 1997/98, when again more than half (170) were of residential nature - these were primarily planning applications. Of the remaining refusals 60 related to applications for commercial activities, 3 were for community facilities and 40 related to other activities.

Indicator BE3: Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of privacy, daylight, odour, or noise nuisance.

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
BE3	Number and percentage of applications refused on the grounds of privacy, daylight, odour, dust or noise nuisance.	Number Refused	1998-99	9	4	9	31	21	10	24	2	110
			1997-98	19	1	5	27	19	22	30	2	125
		Percentage Refused	1998-99	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%	1%	4%	1%	2%
			1997-98	3%	0%	1%	3%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%
		Denominator	1998-99	727	592	514	926	766	926	566	170	5187
			1997-98	717	206	621	946	776	1004	565	190	5025

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator BE3 monitors planning applications which are refused on amenity grounds - privacy, daylight, odour, dust or noise nuisance - against the objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

In 1998/99, 110 applications were refused on the grounds of amenity criteria, slightly less than the previous year. The refusal rate was 2% for both years, with little variation between the individual local authorities.

Of the refusals in 1998/99 just over half (58) were of a residential nature, with a further 38 relating to commercial activity. Of remainder, 2 were for recreation and community facilities, 2 were for minerals/waste and 10 related to other activities. The largest proportion of residential refusals in 1997/98 were also of a residential nature.

Indicator BE4: Number of new TPOs served within villages and urban areas.

Indicator BE4 attempts to monitor the degree to which trees are protected in Suffolk through their designation under Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), against the objective of protecting and improving the built environment. TPOs are designated by Local Planning Authorities with the purpose of protecting trees which contribute to the quality of the urban or rural landscape. TPOs can be designated in one of four ways:

- If trees merit protection in their own right, they can be specified as *individual* trees in the TPO.
- A TPO can cover a *group* of trees whose overall impact and quality merit protection; the quality of the group is recognised rather than individual trees within it.
- *Woodlands* can also be protected by TPO. Natural landscape features and/or property boundaries are used in designation in a way which will avoid future uncertainty in proposals to remove trees close to the boundary of a woodland. Woodland TPOs protect trees standing at the time and also new planting and growth within the boundary.
- Individual trees which merit protection, but which are scattered within a defined area can be protected by an *area TPO*. Unlike woodlands, the TPO protects only those trees standing at the time the TPO is issued and does not protect new planting or growth.

The table below summarises TPOs in villages and urban areas of Suffolk.

Numbers of TPOs within villages and urban areas of Suffolk			
	1996	1998	1999
No. TPOs	1284	1434	1510
No. Designated woodlands (area in Ha)	63 (91)	73 (91)	79 (N/A)
No. Designated areas (area in Ha)	418 (255.5)	424 (264.72)	427 (N/A)
No. Trees covered individually	6986	7327	7639
No. Trees within groups (No. Of groups)	10325 (1054)	10803 (1119)	10870 (1244)

N/A – Figures for all Districts not available.

Across Suffolk, all local authorities recorded an increase in the number of TPOs served within villages and urban areas between 1998 and 1999, as shown by the table below.

Number of new TPOs served within villages and urban areas of each local authority in Suffolk														
	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
No. TPOs	+26	+6	+9	+4	+36	+13	+26	+12	+31	+3	+16	+28	+6	+13
No. Designated woodlands (area in Ha)	+0 (+0)	0 (+0)	+0 (+0)	0 (+0)	+0 (+0)	+2 (?)	+8 (-)	+1 (?)	+2 (-)	0 (0)	+0 (+0)	+3 (?)	+0 (+0)	0 (0)
No. Designated areas (area in Ha)	+2 (+0.15)	0 (+0)	+1 (+9)	+1 (?)	+0 (+0)	0 (0)	+1 (-)	+1 (?)	+1 (0)	0 (0)	+1 (+0.07)	+2 (?)	+0 (+0)	0 (0)
No. Trees covered individually	+78	+23	+64	+2	+20	+5	+28	+5	+59	+41	+81	+140	+11	+95
No. Trees within groups (No. Of groups)	+10 (+2)	+13 (+2)	+52 (+4)	+6 (+1)	+102 (+18)	+50 (+7)	+96 (+19)	+28 (+6)	+114 (+8)	+18 (+5)	+104 (+13)	+43 (+13)	- (+1)	0 (0)

It should be noted that the number of new TPOs served was not great. Total figures for the number of trees protected by TPOs varies between authorities. Only Ipswich, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal recorded an increase in the number of designated woodlands between 1998 and 1999.

Trees covered individually and trees covered in groups account for the majority of trees protected under new TPOs. The low number and area of newly designated area TPOs reflects the gradual phasing out of this type of protection. The Secretary of State for the Environment has expressed the view that they should only be used in an emergency and as a temporary measure until trees can be properly assessed and classified. Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to re-survey their existing area TPOs with a view to replacing them with individual or group classification where appropriate.

TRANSPORT

The Development Plan and the Transport Policies and Programme (TPP) formed the framework for transport and land use planning monitored in this report. However the development of more sustainable transport policies has been established with publication of the revised County Structure Plan (put on Deposit in April 1999) containing broad objectives seeking to locate development in a way that will create a sustainable transport system. It builds on the July 1998 Integrated Transport White Paper, "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone" which contained a fundamental review of national transport policy. The centrepiece of the new proposals was the introduction of Local Transport Plans (LTP) to replace the TPP system of bidding for transport investment. The first Provisional LTP containing the new County transport strategy was submitted to Government in July 1999. This set out specific transport objectives for Suffolk under the 5 themes, following that of the Transport White paper:

- environment;
- safety;
- economy;
- accessibility; and
- integration.

Objectives developed under these themes express the principles of sustainability as set out in "Sustainable Development: The UK Strategy" and revised PPG13. In particular they seek to reduce traffic growth by encouraging alternative means of travel that have less environmental impact. Performance indicators have been devised to measure the achievement of the objectives in the LTP. Of the 67 indicators, which include outcomes such as numbers using different modes of transport, 13 are Suffolk's Environment indicators. Three LTP indicators have been adopted as part of the Suffolk's Environment monitoring. Two of these are sub sets of existing Suffolk's Environment indicators and one requires the collection of information from planning applications where a Green Travel Plan is submitted or required by condition or legal agreement. These three new indicators are reported here for the first time. The full set of LTP indicators will be written up in a separate monitoring report for submission to DETR in July 2000.

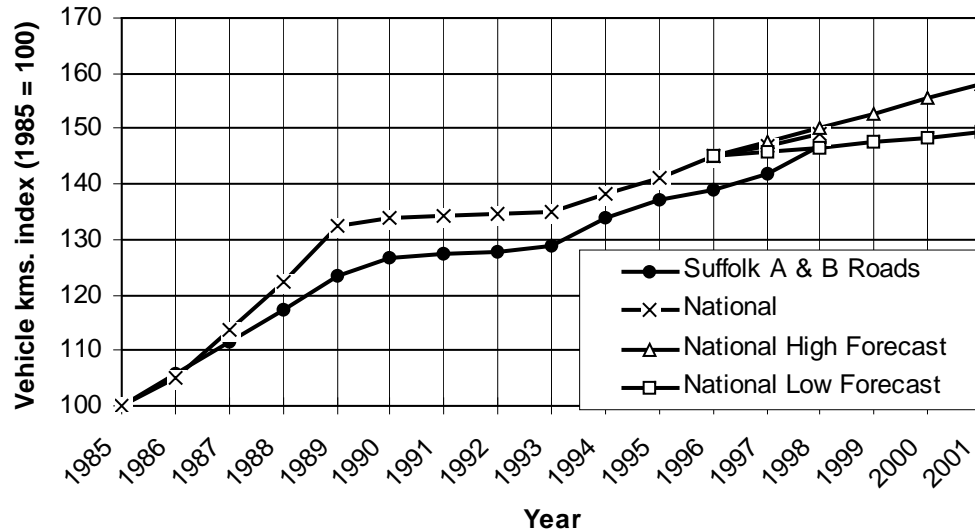
The indicators developed in 1996 to monitor transport in Suffolk did to a certain extent anticipate the change in focus of transport policy. Baseline information for all indicators can be found in the '*Suffolk's Environment... towards sustainable development*' report and its Transport Technical Appendix.

Indicators not reported on this year are:

- TP3 Percentage of rural population living in parishes which have a food shop or general store, post office, pub, primary school, and meeting place.
5 yearly indicator
- TP4: Percentage of urban population living within 400m of a local shop; **5 yearly indicator.**
- TP5: Percentage of urban population living within 400m of a primary school; **5 yearly indicator.**
- TP6: Percentage of urban population living within 400m of a local shop and a primary school; **5 yearly indicator.**

Despite Development Plan objectives to reduce the growth in the length and number of motorised journeys and encourage sustainable means of travel, 1998 saw a faster rate of increase in vehicle kilometres travelled on Suffolk's A and B roads than experienced in 1997.

Traffic Growth on Suffolk A and B Roads



Traffic in Suffolk grew by 3.9% between 1997 and 1998 compared to 1.5% nationally. This figure includes data for trunk roads. If trunk roads are excluded, the growth on Suffolk's roads between 1997 and 1998 was 1.5%

Most of the traffic growth in Suffolk is on trunk roads. Since 1991 traffic has grown by 27% on trunk roads, compared to 14% on A Primaries, 4% on Non Primaries (like A144 and A145) and 7% on B roads.

Traffic growth depends on a number of factors such as economic conditions and car ownership, although land use and transport planning can play an important role in trying to minimise that growth and contribute to sustainable development. The transport indicators included in 'Suffolk's Environment' attempt to measure the effectiveness of Development Plan policies and development control decisions in providing the facilities and infrastructure that will encourage travel by alternative modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

The following table summarises the money allocated to Suffolk for the implementation of schemes in its TPPs. The change in emphasis of transport policy away from road building has led to a fall in "Major Scheme" funding over the last 5 years although this has been offset to some extent by "Capital Challenge" funding. Capital Challenge was a one off competition in 1998 for 3 year funding of new transport infrastructure. Suffolk was successful in attracting funding for 4 schemes worth a total of £2.3m over 3 years:

- Lowestoft Northern Spine Road
- Lowestoft Footpath 21 Cycle Route
- Real Time Passenger Information
- South East Ipswich regeneration

TPP Funding (£000's)	Approved Budget					
Type of Scheme	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9	1999/2000

Major Schemes	1917	4815	1340	476	0	0
Structural Maintenance and Local Safety Schemes	5941	5227	3529	3263	3036	3054
<i>Ipswich package</i>	1130	1450	1300	900	1000	1100
<i>Lowestoft package</i>	-	-	0	150	300	450
<i>Bury St. Edmunds package</i>	-	-	100	150	300	450
<i>Coastal Rural package</i>	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total Package	1130	1450	1400	1200	1600	2000
Minor Schemes	7276	4155	2347	0	0	1660
TOTAL TPP Funding	13843	14749	8616	6139	6236	8714
Capital Challenge				1150	707	1010
Total Funding	13843	14749	8616	7289	6943	9724

Traffic growth has implications for safety, both of car users and of those who use other forms of transport. One of the key themes in planning for transport is to ensure that all modes of transport are safe. The table below shows that since 1996, total casualties on Suffolk's roads have increased in number, although serious and fatal casualties have reduced for pedestrian and car accidents.

Summary of Accident Statistics in Suffolk															
													Number of Casualties		
	Pedestrian			Pedal Cyclist			Car			All other			Total		
	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight	Fatal	Serious	Slight
March 1995 - February 1996	9	67	197	4	33	234	30	237	1409	4	114	319	47	451	2159
March 1997- February 1998	8	61	237	5	35	254	19	211	1675	8	103	356	40	410	2522
March 1998 – February 1999	5	58	232	2	32	239	15	203	1829	7	101	377	29	394	2677

The transport indicators measure some of the outcomes from the application of planning policy (TP1-7), transport schemes delivered on the ground that seek to encourage more sustainable travel (TP8-12) and actions taken to reduce the impact of traffic on the environment of Suffolk and the safety of its residents (TP13 - TP17). The above information provides a background for the interpretation of these indicators against objectives of providing for safe and sustainable travel.

Analysis of all the indicators suggests that:

- There is some movement towards more sustainable patterns of development in terms of the increasing proportion of new housing taking place in towns in line with Development Plan objectives seeking to limit the need to travel;
- Objectives which seek greater provision for travel by means other than the private car are generally being met – in 1999 facilities for cyclists increased by 32% across the County, length of bus lanes in urban areas increased slightly, there was significant new investment in rural bus services and an increase in pedestrian crossing facilities;
- Long stay car parking decreased dramatically in central Ipswich in 1999, assisting progress towards the discouragement of commuting by car and encouragement of travel by the more sustainable transport modes which are being provided for;
- Traffic safety continues to be addressed in Suffolk - in rural areas, speed limits have remained in place in all those parishes covered in 1996 and research has shown that these have led to 20% reduction in injury accidents; urban traffic management funding has increased for the small towns since 1996 and regular investment is being made in the 3 major towns; and
- Analysis of development control indicators shows that a small proportion of applications for development are refused on traffic safety grounds and double the 1997/8 number have been approved with conditions seeking to minimise traffic safety in 1998/9.

TP1: Percentage of housing in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, Other towns and elsewhere.

An important way of minimising necessary car journeys and the associated environmental impacts of these is to encourage people to live closer to their place of work and the facilities that they are likely to use on a regular basis. Towns form the main concentrations of these facilities and are usually the focus of public transport links in any particular area - they thereby offer sustainable transport choices. The urban transport facilities for pedestrians and cyclists are also more likely to encourage journeys by foot or by cycle.

Encouraging housing in the main towns therefore has the advantages of potentially reducing private motorised traffic and increasing the use of more sustainable transport modes. Indicators TP1 and TP2 demonstrate the extent to which Suffolk is moving towards sustainable development through providing for people to live in its towns.

TP1: Percentage housing in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, other towns and elsewhere – 1995,1997,1998									
	Major towns			Other Towns			Elsewhere		
District	1995	1997	1998	1995	1997	1998	1995	1997	1998
Babergh	7	7	8	33	33	33	60	60	60
Forest Heath	0	0	0	64	64	64	37	37	37
Ipswich	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	8	8	8	31	31	31	61	61	61
Suffolk Coastal	17	18	18	51	50	50	32	32	32
St. Edmundsbury	43	43	43	20	21	21	37	36	36
Waveney	59	59	59	26	26	26	15	15	15
SUFFOLK TOTAL	39	39	39	30	30	30	31	31	31

Indicator TP1 is a slow moving indicator due to the scale of development required to affect the percentages. There has been no change across the County in the proportion of housing in major towns (Ipswich, Bury and Lowestoft), Other Towns and Elsewhere since 1995. The only changes have been in Suffolk Coastal where a slight shift towards concentration in Major Towns from Other Towns has been registered and in St. Edmundsbury from Elsewhere to Other Towns.

TP2: Percentage of all new residential development taking place in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, Other towns and elsewhere.

Indicator TP2 shows that county-wide the trend away from building new housing in the major towns towards building in Other Towns has continued in 1995 – 98. This is largely due to a concentration of recent growth in St Edmundsbury Borough in Haverhill. In Babergh growth is occurring in larger villages. The remaining Districts have shown an increase in new development in Major Towns where they are present in their area since 1991-1995.

TP2: Percentage of new residential development taking place in Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Lowestoft, other towns and elsewhere 1995-97 (1991-95 in brackets)

District	Major towns			Other Towns			Elsewhere		
	1991-5	1995-7	1995-8	1991-5	1995-7	1995-8	1991-5	1995-7	1995-8
Babergh	13	8	10	39	30	35	48	62	55
Forest Heath	0	0	0	79	76	72	21	24	28
Ipswich	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	6	13	14	19	25	31	75	62	54
Suffolk Coastal	55	62	63	23	24	24	22	14	13
St. Edmundsbury	55	27	32	19	64	54	26	8	14
Waveney	56	63	62	37	28	28	7	9	10
SUFFOLK TOTAL	42	36	36	30	37	37	28	27	27

TP7: Percentage of population with journey to work public transport

Indicator TP7 measures availability of public transport for journey to work as an alternative to the private motor car in Suffolk. The method and definitions used to calculate this indicator in 1999 have changed. Both the time period looked at for journey to work services and the towns included have been revised and hence a new baseline is established. Previous figures are not published here as they are not comparable.

For the purposes of the indicator, a journey to work public transport service is now defined as *a bus service leaving a parish to arrive in a major urban centre or major town between 0800 and 0900, leaving the urban area between 1630 and 1800 for the return journey and operating Monday to Friday all year round. Major urban centres for these purposes are Bury St. Edmunds, Cambridge, Colchester, Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Norwich. Main towns are Aldeburgh, Beccles, Brandon, Bungay, Diss, Felixstowe, Framlingham, Hadleigh, Halesworth, Harleston, Haverhill, Leiston, Mildenhall, Newmarket, Saxmundham, Stowmarket, Sudbury, Thetford, and Woodbridge.*

The level of service in each of the above parishes is based on the level of service at the centre of the main settlement in the parish.

The percentage of rural population and the percentage of total population are calculated under this indicator. In the table below the areas defined as urban are excluded from population figures in order to calculate the rural figures. In the calculation of this indicator 1997 population figures are used as the most up to date available.

Percentage of rural population with journey to work public transport								
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1999	92.1%	93.4%	Not applicable	83.2%	87.5%	74.0%	78.2%	84.0%

The award of £1.202m Rural Bus Service Grant to Suffolk for the 3 years 1998/99 to 2000/01 effectively trebled the funding available for sponsorship of such services. This award led to Suffolk County Council adopting minimum levels of service for rural settlements of different sizes. However, even with the additional resources it was not possible to provide all settlements with a subsistence level of public transport (ie one return journey opportunity suitable for travel to/from work and 3 other daily (Monday to Saturday) return journeys). Priority was given to implementing Bus Development Plans (for increased frequency of buses on core routes into Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds) and to provide journey to work opportunities for villages which did not previously have them. As a result 16 parishes which previously did not have a journey to work bus service do so now. Parishes in Forest Heath in particular have benefited.

The table below shows that the district and county-wide figures for availability of journey to work public transport services are generally higher than the individual rural figures due to the inclusion of urban areas which have 100% coverage of services to a major urban area.

Indicator TP7: Percentage of total population with journey to work public transport								
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1999	94.5%	97.7	100%	85.9%	95.1%	87.5%	93.8%	92%

TP8: Number of pedestrian friendly road crossings.

Indicator TP8 measures the number and location of five types of road crossings which are considered to be 'pedestrian friendly':

- **Toucan crossings** are so called because "two-can" cross, i.e. pedestrians and cyclists can both use the crossing in segregated lanes after pressing a push-button;
- **Puffin crossings** have a red and a green phase to control car movements. They incorporate infra-red detectors to sense pedestrians still using the crossing, and the car signal remains on red for as long as the pedestrian remains on the crossing;
- **Traffic signals with pedestrian phases** are those found at junctions to control the movement of cars with an additional pedestrian crossing phase to tell a pedestrian whether or not they may cross safely;
- A **pelican crossing** is one that allows a pedestrian to press a button in order that the flow of traffic may be stopped to allow him or her to cross; and
- A **zebra crossing** incorporates a series of black and white stripes marked across the carriageway, with a Belisha beacon on each side of the crossing, at which the pedestrian has right of way, but without the aid of a traffic signal to force the traffic to stop.

In addition information for two other types of crossing is collected:

- A **light assisted school crossing** is a crossing that utilises a "lollipop" to stop the flow of traffic while school children cross, with the addition of warning lights a distance along the road to warn vehicle users that school children may be crossing. These are not included in the aggregation of crossings for this indicator because they do not function at all times and are not intended for use by anyone other than school children; and
- **Traffic signals without a pedestrian phase** are those found at junctions to control the movement of cars, but without an additional pedestrian crossing phase to tell a pedestrian whether or not they may cross safely. The lack of a pedestrian phase warrants the omission of these signals from the indicator.

Pedestrian friendly road crossings in Suffolk								
	Number of crossings							
	Toucan crossings	Puffin crossings	Traffic signals		Pelican crossings	Zebra crossings	<i>Light assisted school crossings</i>	Totals (not including Traffic signal without pedestrian phases or school crossings)
			with ped. phases	<i>without ped. phases</i>				
1996	5	1	50	22	101	36	25	193
1998	5	1	54	29	83	30	21	173
1999	10	1	57	24	92	47	21	207

The following table presents these results against the 1996 baseline figures for individual Districts.

TP8 Number of pedestrian friendly road crossings								
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1996	8	11	92	6	18	17	38	193
1998	11	13	93	7	17	16	16	173
1999	13	15	107	7	26	20	19	207

The overall Suffolk total for pedestrian friendly road crossings has steadily increased since 1996. The loss of 20 crossing facilities between 1996 and 1998 in Waveney was due to those on trunk roads being transferred to the Highways Agency.

In Babergh a new pelican and a new zebra crossing has been installed in Sudbury. In Forest Heath new traffic signals with pedestrian phases have gone in at Lakenheath and a new pelican at Mildenhall. In Ipswich 5 new toucans have gone in, 2 sets of traffic signals with pedestrian phases, 5 new pelicans and 3 new zebra crossings. In Suffolk Coastal total of 4 new zebras have been installed, at Felixstowe, Leiston, Woodbridge and Wickham Market. In St Edmundsbury 2 new pelicans in Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill and 7 new zebras (2 in Bury St Edmunds and 5 in Haverhill) have been installed in 1999. In Waveney 1 new zebra crossing has been installed in Beccles which already had one zebra crossing, although this was reported in error as removed last year. There has been no change to the pedestrian friendly facilities available in Mid Suffolk District in 1999.

In 1999 the first Pegasus crossing (for horses) was installed in Waveney at Plaisir Boulevard, Lowestoft.

TP9: Total length of urban cycle route

This indicator assesses the success of policies intended to encourage the use of cycles as an alternative to motorised transport by examining the length of routes dedicated for cycle use in urban areas. These cycle routes are divided into four categories in the table below. Segregated cycle paths and shared use footpaths are both off-road paths, the difference between the two being that segregated cycle paths are intended for the use of cyclists only, whereas shared use footpaths are intended for both cyclists and pedestrians. On-road cycle lanes are lanes marked on the road as being for the use of cyclists only.

Forms of cycle route other than these three can also be found in Suffolk and these are explained within the table. In addition, cyclists in Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds can also use all bus lanes, however these are not included in this indicator. These are summarised as part of Indicator TP11. The figures below do not include Sustrans signed route NCR1 where this serves long distance leisure purposes rather than commuter needs.

Total length of urban cycle routes in Suffolk 1998 (1996 in brackets)															
Urban Area/ Town	Length of cycle route in kms														
	Segregated cycle path			Shared use footpath			On-road cycle lane			Other forms of cycle route			Total length of cycle route		
	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999
<i>Ipswich Policy Area IBC</i>	0.5	0.5	5.5	4.15	4.65	0	0.8	7	9.5	8.2	21 <i>signed cycle routes</i>	23	13.65	33.15	38
<i>Ipswich Policy Area SCDC</i>	0	0	0	10.5	10.5	13.86	0	0	4.0	0	0	0	10.5	10.5	17.86
<i>Ipswich Policy Area Total</i>	0.5	0.5	5.5	14.65	15.15	13.86	0.8	7	13.5	8.2	21	23	24.15	43.65	55.86
BDC	0	0.55	1.34	1.0	1.0	3.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0	1.55	4.44
FHDC	0	0	0	3.5	3.5	3.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	3.5	3.5
MSDC	0	0	0	0	0	3.0	0.55	0.55	0.55	0	0	0	0.55	0.55	3.55
SEBC	0.65	4.87	5.47	3.27	3.72	4.12	0	1.26	2.26	0.43	2.1	6.6	4.35	11.95	18.45
SCDC	0.12	0.12	0.12	10.5	10.5	13.86	2.7	2.7	6.7	0	0	0	13.32	13.32	20.68
WDC	8.19	11.1	11.9	2.06	2.5	2.62	1.26	1.5	2.0	0.72	1.15	1.15	12.23	16.25	17.67
Suffolk Total	9.46	17.14	24.33	24.48	25.87	30.2	5.31	13.01	22.01	9.35	24.25	30.75	48.6	80.27	106.29

The following table summarises these results against the baseline figures from 1996.

TP9: Total length of urban cycle route									
	Ipswich Policy Area	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	Suffolk
1996	24.15	1.0	3.5	13.65	0.55	4.35	13.32	12.23	48.6
1998	43.65	1.55	3.5	33.15	0.55	11.95	13.32	16.25	80.27
1999	55.86	4.44	3.5	38.0	3.55	18.45	20.68	17.67	106.29

Note - Totals exclude Ipswich Policy Area figures which overlap with Suffolk Coastal and Ipswich Borough.

Across the County there has been an overall increase in the length of urban cycle routes - a rise 57.69 km (119%) from the base year of 1996.

Only Forest Heath has not seen an increase in lengths of urban cycle route in 1999. Increases are as follows:

- In Ipswich the increase in segregated cycle path and on road cycle lane is due to completion of a scheme at Ipswich Hospital and additions made in major housing developments.
- In Suffolk Coastal, on road cycle lane has been marked on the A1156 between Sainsbury's roundabout at Warren Heath and the Shepherd and Dog Public House (4km including both sides of the road) and then shared use footpath from there to the Seven Hills interchange at Levington (3.36km including both sides of the road).
- In Mid Suffolk shared use footpath has been designated along the B1113 from Needham Market to Stowmarket.
- In Bury St Edmunds new cycle priorities have been put in around King Edward's High School and a segregated path has been made in Eastgate Street in 1999.
- In Babergh segregated cycle paths have been put in at Sproughton (0.53km) and 0.26km and shared use footpath (1.55km) at Pinewood Thorington Hall. New shared use footpath has also been put in at Hadleigh Frog Hall Lane (0.55) in 1999.
- In Waveney new cycle routes have been put in with new residential development in north Lowestoft and 0.5km of on-road cycle lane has been created on the A144 at Halesworth.

An increase in provision for cyclists in Suffolk shows progress towards Development Plan objectives, providing opportunities for transfer of car journeys to more sustainable modes. A travel survey involving the completion of travel diaries in 1999/2000 will provide information about the average cycle use in the County. The results of this survey will be written up in the Local Transport Plan Monitoring Report, to be submitted to the Government in July 2000.

TP10: Number of public cycle parking facilities

Indicator TP10 provides further information to assess the progress of the Suffolk local authorities towards providing for more sustainable transport modes. Baseline data from 1996 provided measurements of the number of district council provided cycle parking facilities in selected towns in Suffolk. Monitoring in 1999 shows a slight drop in the number of cycle spaces in Ipswich on 1998 figures, but an overall increase in the County of 102 spaces (up 22% on 1998).

Number of cycle parking facilities			
Town	Number of cycle parking spaces		
	1996	1998	1999
Ipswich	70	124	112
Bury St. Edmunds	40	104	154
Haverhill	25	34	34
Mildenhall	-	-	10
Newmarket	24	24	24
Sudbury	40	40	50
Aldeburgh	-	6	6
Hadleigh	7*	35*	39
Lowestoft	50*	120	160
Suffolk	256	487	589

In Lowestoft the original figure given for 1996 was incorrect and has been revised from 80 to 50, the difference of 30 having been provided in 1998/9. The provision of 160 cycle parking spaces in 1999 presents significant progress towards Development Plan objectives concerned with providing for more sustainable transport modes however. Revisions have also been made to the Hadleigh figures which previously recorded no spaces in 1996 and 28 in 1998.

New provision in Mildenhall and increases in Bury and Sudbury, all suggest significant progress in those towns towards sustainability objectives. This is particularly significant in Bury, a main centre of population which has seen a significant increase in cycle routes as monitored under indicator TP9 - cycle parking spaces are an important complimentary measure if such developments are to encourage greater cycle use as an alternative to car journeys.

A total of 589 spaces for cycle parking across the County does not represent a large total per head of population. Whilst district councils are mainly responsible for the provision of cycle parking in their respective areas, the figures above underestimate the total number of spaces available as they do not include cycle parking facilities for public use provided by other agencies, such as at shopping centres, rail or bus stations or by the County Council. Collection of information about County Council provided cycle parking facilities started in 1998. In 1999 3 spaces were added in Eye.

Number of County Council provided cycle parking facilities in 1998 and 1999					
Town	Number of cycle parking spaces		Town	Number of cycle parking spaces	
	1998	1999		1998	1999
Sudbury	18	18	Framlingham	5	5
Beccles	11	11	Hadleigh	20	20
Woodbridge	11	11	Eye	0	3

TP11: Number of bus priority measures in urban areas.

This indicator examines bus priority measures provided in order to encourage bus use as an alternative to car use in urban areas of Suffolk. The types of bus priority measures examined are defined in the Transport Technical Appendix to the 'Suffolk's Environment... towards sustainable development' report.

Bus priority measures improve access for buses into towns and therefore offer potential for reductions in journeys by private motor vehicles through encouraging car drivers to transfer journeys to public transport, reducing the potential for congestion and its effects on the urban environment in line with Development Plan objectives, national transport policy and sustainability objectives.

The table below provides information on all bus priority measures in Suffolk.

Bus priority measures in urban areas 1996 - 1999															
Urban Area	Length of bus lanes (kms)						Number of bus gates			Length of bus only streets (kms)			Number of Traffic Signals giving buses priority		
	With flow			Contra flow											
	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999
Ipswich Policy Area	1.5	3.5	3.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	4	4	4	0.2	0.2	0.51	20	20	20
Bury St. Edmunds	0	0	0.1	0.15	0.15	0.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lowestoft	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUFFOLK TOTALS	1.5	3.5	3.6	0.25	0.25	0.25	5	4	4	0.2	0.2	0.51	20	20	20

Two additions have been made to the above table for 1999:

- 100 metres of bus lane with flow have been created in Bury St Edmunds at Butts Corner. This was done to allow greater penetration of buses into the town centre and particularly benefited the Bury Superoute.
- In Ipswich, as part of the town centre gyratory system, priority has been given to buses on Dogs Head Street and Upper Brook Street (310 metres) as other traffic been prohibited.

TP12: Number of town centre long-term car parking spaces in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St. Edmunds

Indicator TP12 examines the availability of long term car parking spaces. Control of parking is seen as a way of influencing the scale and distribution of private motor vehicle journeys and can contribute to the development of an integrated and sustainable transport strategy. As such provision of spaces for a variety of parking needs in town centres and a reduced emphasis on long-stay parking in conjunction with improvements in public transport are seen as ways of reducing car journeys for the purposes of commuting, whilst still providing for drivers with shopping, business and service needs.

Because of differences in the method of calculation of the parking figures, and differences in the interpretation of town centre boundaries and central parking cores, it is not appropriate to compare the three towns listed with each other when considering this indicator. Instead, the indicator provides a basis for monitoring changes in parking numbers within each town over time.

TP12: Number of town centre publicly available long stay car parking spaces in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds										
Town	District	Total parking spaces			No. of long stay parking spaces			Long stay spaces as percentage of total parking spaces		
		1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999	1996	1998	1999
Ipswich	Ipswich Borough	4842	4430	4777	991	748	180	20%	17%	4%
Lowestoft	Waveney District	3685	3434	3416	1463	1407	1401	40%	41%	41%
Bury St Edmunds	St Edmundsbury Borough	5157	4527	4527	3021	3014	3014	59%	66%	66%
Total		13684	12391	12720	5475	5169	4595	40%	42%	36%

Countywide, the proportion of long stay parking spaces available has declined since 1996.

Information for Ipswich is derived from survey of the Central Car Parking Core, the boundary of which has been revised since baseline data was collected in 1996. 1999 figures for Ipswich show much change with an increase of 347 spaces overall but a dramatic decrease in long stay parking. This is due to redevelopment of some brownfield sites temporarily used for long stay parking and the omission of 400 spaces only available at Suffolk College on Saturday.

Information for Lowestoft is derived from survey of the Central Core as defined in the 1997 Lowestoft Parking Study. Information published in 1996 was derived from an independent study of the Core. The survey carried out in 1998, reveals that original baseline figures published for long term District Council Off-Street parking were incorrect due to omissions - the table above shows the correct, revised figures. There has only been a minor change in Lowestoft in 1999.

In Bury St. Edmunds total town centre long-term spaces have fallen by 7 since the base year and no further change has taken place in 1999.

Indicator TC10, in the Town Centres chapter of the report, provides further information on car parking numbers in a wider range of towns based on Local Plan definitions of Town Centres.

TP13: Total Funds allocated to implement Urban Traffic Management Schemes.

Indicator TP13 measures the amount of funds devoted to small scale traffic management schemes in urban areas. Traffic management is essential to make the best use of existing road infrastructure whilst controlling the social and environmental impact of traffic. Information from this indicator is assessed against the objectives of minimising the environmental intrusion of motor vehicles in shopping, residential and conservation areas, and enabling the development of a transport strategy that provides for the safe movement of people and goods and which meets social needs.

The schemes covered by this indicator are funded from budgets held by the Traffic and Safety Section of the Transportation Division of the Environment and Transport Department of Suffolk County Council and include the following activities in urban areas:

- Provision of traffic islands, road narrowing, kerb build outs, junction realignments, humps and mini roundabouts, as parts of schemes to control and regulate traffic.
- Traffic regulation orders, including waiting restrictions, one way systems, prohibition of movements by direction and/ or weight or width of vehicle etc.
- Traffic signal and pedestrian crossing investigation, design and installation.
- General traffic management reviews of urban areas.
- Traffic signing and white lining, as part of an overall scheme of traffic management.

Urban Traffic Management Funding			
	Funds Allocated		
Urban Area	1996	1998	1999
WDC Package Area	£49,700	£10,000	£10,000
SEBC Package Area	£59,000	£10,000	£10,000
IBC Package Area	No fixed sum	£10,000	£20,000
Beccles (with Worlingham):	£6,000	£4,300	£7,100
Bungay:	£19,500	£5,200	£10,100
Felixstowe:	£20,700	£13,100	£13,500
Haverhill:	£10,000*	£10,000*	£12,000

* Not previously reported as money given to St Edmundsbury for agency spending in Bury St Edmunds and/or Haverhill, hence not included in totals.

Urban Traffic Management Funding			
	Funds Allocated		
Urban Area	1996	1998	1999
Newmarket/ Exning:	£10,000	£6,900	£15,200
Stowmarket:	£5,000	£10,700	£5,800
Sudbury/ Great Cornard:	£14,800	£12,000	£39,400
Woodbridge:	£9,000	£13,900	£22,000
Miscellaneous	£11,100	£3,500	£600
TOTAL (excl. package areas)	£96,100	£69,600	£125,700
TOTAL (incl. package areas)	£204,800	£99,600	£165,700

Total funds allocated, excluding the package areas (Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft) have increased from the 1996 baseline of £96,100. This is due to a one-off allocation of money via the Transport Policies and Programme settlement for non-package minor works capital expenditure on projects to discourage car use, to improve road safety and to encourage greater use of walking, cycling and public transport. County Council funding also contributed to this general budget, arriving at an enhanced budget for urban traffic management.

In 1999 £12,000 was allocated specifically for traffic management schemes in Haverhill. In previous years small schemes in this town were funded from money given to St Edmundsbury Borough Council, as part of their Agency Agreement with Suffolk County Council, for Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill.

The total funds allocated, including package areas have increased by 66% compared to 1998 figures but are still lower than the 1996 baseline. Although only nominal amounts of money were allocated to each package area for minor ad hoc traffic management works, there has been, in 1998 and 1999, an increase in strategic traffic management works which address the needs of each town as a whole and which are not being monitored under this indicator.

TP14: Number of Parishes where Speed Restrictions have been implemented.

Indicator TP14 measures the coverage of 30 mph speed restrictions in Suffolk against the objectives of minimising the environmental intrusion of motor vehicles in shopping, residential and conservation areas, promoting and providing for alternative travel modes to the private car and enabling the development of a transport strategy that provides for the safe movement of people and goods and meets social and economic needs.

No changes to the number of parishes with 30 mph speed limits have been made since 1996 as the Speed Limit Initiative implemented between 1994 and 1996 achieved an almost total coverage of those parishes requiring restrictions. Monitoring has shown that the average speed reduction has been about 5mph.

Research during 1999 calculated that there has been a 20% reduction in the number of injury accidents on roads in Suffolk as a result of the 30mph speed limits in villages. This is equivalent to about 45 accidents a year and using Government estimates of the value of saving road accidents, the value of the reduction is £1.9m pa (or £5.4m in total to date). The total cost of the new speed limits was £1.2m.

Use of 20mph zones in residential areas may be used now Government approval is no longer required to create 20mph zones or speed limits.

TP15: Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP15	Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic.	Number refused.									
		1998/99	3	1	2	6	4	2	5	N/T	23
		1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	5	3	4	7	2	21

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TP15 measures the number of planning applications refused due to the likely impact of traffic associated with development on the environment, against the objectives of promoting development and transport patterns which do not harm air quality, and which are accessible to and maximise use of alternatives to the private car. More detailed Local Plan policies seek to protect the local environment from adverse impacts of traffic associated with development.

During 1998/9 23 applications across the County were refused due to the environmental impact of traffic. 65% of the refusals were for commercial development and 30% for residential. Reasons for refusal can be 'local' or 'strategic'. Local reasons included the effect of increased traffic on inappropriate roads and queuing of cars and fumes. Five applications were refused for strategic reasons, for example increasing heavy goods vehicles on unclassified roads and traffic generation. The numbers and reasons given are very similar to last year.

TP16: Number of applications refused because of traffic safety implications

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP16	Number of applications refused because of traffic safety implications.	Number refused. 1998/99	13	10	5	30	11	8	14	N/T	91
		1997/98	16	1	1	32	17	13	23	1	104

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TP16 measures the number of planning applications refused because of their traffic safety implications against the objective of developing a transport strategy which provides for the safe movement of people and goods whilst meeting social and economic needs.

During 1998/99, 91 applications for development were refused due to their likely impact on safety. Nearly 50% of the refusals were for residential development, 38% for commercial, 6% for community and 6% other types of development. Examples of refusal reasons include inadequate parking or access arrangements (including conflicts between horses, pedestrians and vehicles in one case near a bridleway) and inadequate provision of, or impact upon visibility splays.

TP17: Number of approvals for major developments which include conditions which seek to minimise traffic impact.

Indicator		Information	BDC	*FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TP17	Number of approvals for major developments which include conditions or agreements which seek to minimise traffic impact.	Number refused. 1998/99	11	0	5	19	N/A	2	14	10	61
		1997/98	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/A	1	15	14	32

* Six months data only for 1997-98.

Indicator TP17 measures the number of planning applications approved with conditions or agreements which seek to minimise traffic impact, against the objectives of promoting development and transport patterns which seek to maintain and where possible improve air quality and protecting and improving the built environment.

During the monitoring period, 61 such approvals were made across 6 authorities. No data was available for St Edmundsbury. Mid Suffolk made the most approvals, which is a notable change from last year. This may be attributable to an increased awareness of traffic issues and changing staff perspectives. Of the 61 approvals, nearly 50% were for residential and 30% for commercial development. Suffolk County approved 8 mineral and 2 waste applications with conditions to minimise traffic impacts.

In all cases care was taken to ensure that the traffic impact on the existing environment was kept to a minimum - for example through the use of mini-roundabouts, chicanes and shared surfacing to encourage pedestrian priority, as advocated in the Suffolk Design Guide. Typical conditions include provision of parking, manoeuvring and turning areas to be provided before the occupation of the site and for commercial development, restrictions on the number of visits of delivery vehicles per month.

TPI 32 Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic in a Conservation Area.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TPI 32	Number of applications refused because of unacceptable environmental impact of traffic in a Conservation Area.	Number refused. 1998/99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2
		1997/8	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	2	1	N/T	4

This indicator is relevant to the Suffolk's Environment objective of promoting development and transport patterns which do not harm air quality and protect and improve the built environment.

Under the theme of Environment and Health, the Local Transport Plan (LTP) aims to maintain and enhance the built environment with the objective to promote transport measures to minimise the environmental intrusion, protect and enhance the quality of conservation areas and buildings of special architectural interest. In 1998/9 2 commercial applications in Conservation Areas were refused on the grounds of the environmental impact of traffic: the extension and conversion of a building to a Montessori School in Hadleigh and a change of use of the ground floor of pet shop to a restaurant and takeaway in the Stowmarket Conservation Area. This compares to 4 applications for residential and one conversion from residential to a doctors surgery being refused in 1997/98.

TPI 66 Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused on transport grounds.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TPI 66	Number of major commercial applications outside Town Centres refused on transport grounds.	Number refused. 1998/99	N/T	1	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	3
		1997/98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	1	2	N/T	4

Indicator TPI 66 is relevant to the Suffolk's Environment objective of seeking to promote patterns of sustainable development.

The Local Transport Plan aims to integrate land use and transport with the objective to ensure that proposed major traffic generators of traffic are located where they are accessible by means other than private motor vehicles.

This was interpreted for the purposes of data collection from planning applications as the number of major commercial applications outside town centres , assuming town centres to be more accessible, offering greater opportunities of accessibility to a range of means of transport.

Three applications have triggered this indicator: 36 bedroom hotel at Eriswell; A1 non food retail development at Stowmarket and a concrete batching plant where the transport problem was increase in heavy goods vehicles on unclassified roads and travelling through the village of Stanton. Such a refusal would encourage the consideration of alternative sites and/or methods of transport.

TPI 67 Number of applications approved where a Green Travel Plan is submitted or required by condition or legal agreement.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
TPI 67	Number of applications approved where a Green Travel Plan is submitted or required by condition or legal agreement.	Number refused. 1998/99	2	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	3

Indicator TPI 67 is also relevant to the Suffolk's Environment objective of seeking to promote patterns of sustainable development as well as giving another measure of achievement of the LTP aim and objective cited for TPI 66.

A Green Travel Plan is a commuter plan to reduce car use and encourage other modes of transport such as public transport or cycling. In 1998/9 3 commercial applications were approved with conditions requiring the submission of Green Travel Plans. In Babergh 2 applications were for B1 units at Pinewood and in Mid Suffolk a plan was required for the development of B1 and B8 units at Great Blakenham.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

There is growing awareness of the importance of sports facilities and recreation areas of all kinds in urban areas and increasing pressures in the countryside for those purposes. Government policy is to promote recreation and sport in its widest sense to enable participation and encourage provision of a wide range of opportunities which are available for everyone.

Where publicly accessible, open space offers opportunities for sport and recreation, activities which contribute significantly towards improving quality of life - a fact recognised in Planning Policy Guidance note 17, 'Sport and Recreation', which states that local authorities should carefully balance competing demands for land uses and the long term requirements of communities for open space. Similarly recreational facilities such as outdoor playing space and children's play space are important features of Suffolk's towns and villages which can come under pressure for development for other uses. The National Playing Fields Association sets standards against which provision of outdoor play space and children's play space should be judged - the *Six Acre Standard*.

Recreation and Open Space Indicators not reported on this year are:

- OP1: Existing level of publicly accessible open space provision within Suffolk's towns. **Not reported due to problems with consistency of data.**
- OP2: Hectarage of new publicly accessible open space permitted. **Not reported due to problems with consistency of data.**
- OP6: Accessibility to public open space; **5 year indicator.**

The first two years of monitoring have revealed that there are inconsistencies in definitions of recreation and open space between the local authorities in Suffolk and in future the focus will be on recreation rather than open space. The results of non-development control indicators do not therefore give Suffolk totals. However, comparison over time within each authority remains relevant. Districts are in the process of improving monitoring systems for recreation, for example through the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which is reflected in the revision of baseline figures in a number of cases due to retrospective monitoring.

Countryside Recreation Indicators

Recreational activities in the countryside are no less important than those in towns and villages. There are no national standards for the provision of informal countryside recreation facilities and provision by local authorities is a non-statutory function. Land is utilised by local authorities as and when it is available and judged suitable for establishing, or extending the management of existing countryside recreation management. Land owned by other agencies such as National Trust, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and Forest Enterprise also provides opportunities for access to the countryside for informal recreation activities. Local Authorities and other agencies provide a wide range of informal countryside recreational activities. The indicators here show how the local authorities in Suffolk are providing for these needs:

Countryside Recreation Indicators not reported on this year are:

- CR1: The percentage of population who live within 5km of an informal countryside recreation site; **5 year indicator.**
- CR2: Hectarage of informal countryside recreation sites (District and County Council managed) per 1000 population; **5 year indicator.**

Analysis of all the indicators reported suggests that:

- 77 hectares of open space have been created in Suffolk's towns since 1996.
- Over 16 hectares of new publicly accessible open space has been created in Suffolk and 0.5 hectares has been lost in association with planning approvals.
- 1 refusal of planning permission was made due to potential loss of publicly accessible open space, safeguarding 0.59 hectares of this resource.
- Overall 32 new children's playspace facilities have been provided for across Suffolk.
- The indicators show that although in a minority of cases open space and recreational facilities have been lost, the operation of planning policies and development control decisions has resulted in 91% of applications for new facilities being approved, with very few applications refused and ensured that new and replacement facilities are provided for.
- The number of local countryside walking routes promoted has increased steadily, while the number and length of all footpaths promoted has remained at target level since base year.

OP3: Hectarage of publicly accessible open space lost through redevelopment

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
OP3	Hectarage of publicly accessible open space lost through redevelopment.	Hectarage	98-99	N/T	..	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	..	..
			97-98	N/T	N/T	0	0.19	0.02	N/T	N/T	0.35	0.56
		Number of approvals on identified open space. (NB. Two Stage Indicator).	98-99	N/T	2	2	N/T	1	N/T	1	5	11
			97-98	N/T	N/T	1	1	2	N/T	N/T	3	7

Indicator OP3 measures the amount of open space that is lost through redevelopment as a result of planning approvals, against an objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

Eleven applications were received and approved on existing public open space across the County. However most have not been implemented and any loss is likely to be minimal.

Analysis of the implementation of these approvals shows that in St. Edmundsbury, an approval for the construction of a car park for 12 vehicles at the front of Wentworth Terrace in Haverhill will result in the loss of 0.06 hectares when implemented. Originally this application would have resulted in the loss of a significant amount of level open space and a mature tree due to the need for an access road. Planning officers negotiated changes to the original application to re-locate the car park so that it utilises a steeply sloping area of less benefit as open space. The number of parking spaces has been reduced to avoid the removal of a tree and the need for an access road.

Two of the five applications approved by Suffolk County relate to the provision of schools, a renewal for a school at Green Drive, Walmer Road in Lowestoft and an outline application for a school at Studlands Park in Newmarket. Three further applications approved by the County Council were made on existing open space, these were mainly related to the improvement of community facilities.

Whilst the results here show that some open space is likely to be lost as a result of planning approvals, some trade-off has been made with improvements to community facilities and public access. It is considered that none of the developments when implemented will result in degradation of the environment.

OP4: Number and percentage of applications refused because of loss of publicly accessible open space.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
OP4	Number and percentage of applications refused because of loss of publicly accessible open space.	Number refused	98-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	1
			97-98	N/T	N/T	0	1	3	N/T	N/T	0	4
		Percentage refused	98-99	..	..	..	..	14%	..	0%	..	11%
			97-98	..	..	..	50%	60%	..	..	..	36%
		Denominator = all applications on identified open space.	98-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	7	N/T	2	N/T	9
			97-98	N/T	N/T	1	2	5	N/T	N/T	3	11

Indicator OP4 measures planning applications refused due to their impact on existing public open space, against an objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

Only one application was refused because of the potential loss of publicly accessible open space in Suffolk, compared to four applications in 1997-98. Over both monitoring years the authority responsible for most refusals was St. Edmundsbury Borough Council. The refused application related to land in Eastgate Street in Bury St. Edmunds. The proposal to erect a dwelling and garage would have led to the loss of land (0.59 ha.) designated as an Important Open Space.

OP5: Number of applications refused because of inadequate publicly accessible open space provision.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
OP5	Number of applications refused because of inadequate publicly accessible open space provision. New major development only.	Number refused	98-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
			97-98	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	1

Indicator OP5 measures those major new developments refused due to an inadequate provision of public open space, against the objective of protecting and improving the built environment.

This indicator has not been triggered during this monitoring year and only Waveney triggered it last year, refusing an application for change of 1.03 ha of vacant land to an extension to an existing mobile home park. This suggests that open space is not a significant factor in the refusal of major development applications.

Recreation

REC1: Existing provision of outdoor playing space (youth and adult use).

Area (ha)							
	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC
1996	120.20	65.47	140.19	100.15	72.67	231.00	99.66
1998	120.20	65.47	137.80	100.20	132.05	261.19	96.00
1999	100.80	65.47	137.80	205.00	132.05	254.73	97.92

Indicator REC1 measures the provision of outdoor playing space (youth and adult use), against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs. The NPFA Six Acre Standard identifies 1.6 - 1.8 ha per 1000 population as being the minimum acceptable provision.

Following a request to Parish Council's for information, several additional sites have been identified in Waveney. These sites are bowling greens at Blundeston, Corton and Lound, and a tennis court and football pitch at Blundeston. The recreation ground at Frostenden is now in use as a cricket pitch. The change in area of outdoor play spaces in Suffolk Coastal is due to re-surveying the District, for example the re-survey of a rural site at Witnesham led to the removal of 3.73 hectares. In Mid Suffolk a comprehensive re-survey has led to a substantial increase in outdoor playing space provision. It must be recognised that this increase is due to more accurate information rather than the provision of new sites. The 205.00 hectares relates to both REC1 and REC2 indicators because in most cases the children's play spaces are located on the playing fields that contain the pitches designated under REC1. Because there has not been any distinction between REC1 and REC2 the hectarage for REC1 is elevated and the hectarage for REC2 cannot be recorded. In Babergh re-surveying has led to a revised estimate of outdoor playing space. The total known area is 100.80 hectares which is lower than in previous years.

St Edmundsbury Borough, Ipswich Borough and Forest Heath recorded no change.

Indicator REC2: Existing provision of children's playspace.

	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC
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	ha	site	ha	site	ha	site	ha	site	ha	site	ha	site	ha	site
1996	-	18	3.57	29	4.03	37	21.4	50	-	49	13.86	112	14.551	98
1998	-	18	3.57	32	4.12	41	21.4	50	-	72	74.50	186	14.461	99
1999	-	47	N/A	41	N/A	52	N/A	74	-	72	71.94	175	13.931	103

Indicator REC2 measures the existing provision of children's play space, against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

In Waveney the number of sites has increased compared to mid 1998. This is due to the identification of previous omissions rather than the creation of new sites. The omissions include 5 housing association sites at Aldwyck Way and Aspinall Close in Lowestoft. Overall the site area has gone down due to the amendment of the area of one site and the removal of Dunstan Drive in Lowestoft which was considered to be open space and not recreation. Ipswich Borough has 11 new facilities for children's play space including provision at Montgomery Road, West Villa and Margate Road. The additional hectareage of the new sites was not available.

Suffolk Coastal has added a pocket park at Badingham and has created 2 new sites at Rushmere St Andrew and Rendlesham. A play space at Heveningham has become disused and a number of grassy cliff top sites in Felixstowe have been removed because the main use of these sites is not for recreation but for parking cars. Forest Heath has increased its number of sites to 41 due to omissions in the baseline information rather than the creation of new facilities. The hectareage of the new sites is not available. However an extensive survey within Forest Heath will be undertaken over the next monitoring year.

Mid Suffolk have recorded more sites than previously, however the area for REC2 is combined with REC1 and recorded under REC1. Babergh have significantly increased the number of sites from 18 to 47. Again this is due to improved monitoring rather than the creation of new sites.

REC3: Existing provision of allotments

	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no	ha	no
1996	32.62	21	30.57	14	67.46	19	37.10	-	8.33	15	41.66	23	32.09	53
1998	32.62	21	30.57	14	67.46	19	37.10	-	8.33	15	41.66	23	32.09	53
1999	19.41	62	30.57	14	67.46	19	30.66	-	8.33	15	N/A	46	32.09	53

Indicator REC3 measures the existing provision of allotments against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

Suffolk Coastal has added 23 sites this year. This is primarily due to a difference in the source of data rather than the creation of new sites. In Mid Suffolk and Babergh the difference between the 1998 results and the 1999 data is due to improved recording systems, not the creation of new sites. The known area of allotments in Babergh is 19.41 hectares, which does not reflect the entire hectareage of all sites.

REC 4: Existing provision of facilities for golf.

	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC
1996	5	1	1	3	6	19	6
1998	5	2	1	3	6	22	6
1999	5	2	1	3	6	22	6

Indicator REC4 measures the existing provision of facilities for golf, against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

There has been no change in the provision of golf facilities in 1999.

REC 5: Indoor recreation facilities

	BDC		FHDC		IBC		MSDC		SEBC		SCDC		WDC	
	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999	1996	1999
Leisure Centres	4	-	3	-	4	-	2	+1	2	-	3	-	3	-
Squash Courts	8	-	9	-	19	-	7	+4	24	-	25	-	8	-
Swimming Pools	2	-	2	-	2	-	1	+2	3	-	3	-	2	-
Indoor Bowls	4	-	4	+1	6	-	10	-	8	-	15	-	12	-
Dry Ski Slopes	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Greyhound/ Speedway	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	-	0	-
Indoor Tennis	0	-	0	-	3	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Skating Rinks	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Synthetic Athletics	0	-	0	-	1	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Indoor Gymnastics	1	-	0	-	0	+1	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-

Indicator REC5 measures the existing provision of indoor recreation facilities, against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

Following omissions reported in the first monitoring report, the 1996 baselines have been adjusted. Changes that were included last year as new facilities will be added to the baseline when the five-year update of 'Suffolk's Environment' is published in 2002.

Mid Suffolk have comprehensively re-surveyed their District and have included omissions in this year's return. The additional leisure centre, squash courts and swimming pools were originally missed. Forest Heath has reported an increase in one indoor bowls facility. Ipswich Borough has identified a new indoor gymnastics centre at the Gainsborough Sports Centre.

Babergh, St.Edmundsbury, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Districts recorded no change.

REC7(a): Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new public recreational facilities approved.

REC7(b): Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new public recreational facilities refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
REC7(a)	Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new recreational facilities approved.	Number approved 98-99	2	5	3	3	3	4	10	1	31	
		97-98	3	1	1	2	5	11	3	5	31	
		Percentage approved 98-99	67%	100%	100%	75%	100%	80%	100%	100%	100%	91%
		97-98	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85%	75%	100%	88%	
		Denominator = all applications for publicly accessible recreation facilities (excluding open space) 98-99	3	5	3	4	3	5	10	1	34	
		97-98	4	1	1	2	5	13	4	5	35	

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk	
REC7(b)	Number and percentage of applications for the provision of new recreational facilities refused.	Number refused 98-99	1	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	3	
		97-98	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	
		Percentage refused 98-99	33%	25%	..	20%	9%
		97-98	25%	..	..	..	..	15%	25%	..	12%
		Denominator = all applications for publicly accessible recreation facilities (excluding open space) 98-99	3	5	3	4	3	5	10	1	34	
		97-98	4	1	1	2	5	13	4	5	35	

REC7(a) and REC7(b) measure approvals and refusals for new recreation facilities against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

All authorities across the County triggered REC7(a) and all approved a high proportion of applications - 31 out of 34.

Examples of new facilities approved include a skateboarding site in St. Edmundsbury; skateboarding, roller skating and BMX bike facilities at Debenham and the conversion of redundant farm buildings to a centre for the visual and performing arts at Wingfield in Mid Suffolk; an adventure golf course on the Royal Green in Lowestoft and a community sports facility at Halesworth Middle School in Waveney District; the provision of golf facilities in Babergh District; and the provision of play areas in Ipswich Borough.

An interesting application to note is the provision of a multi purpose sports area together with six 8 metre high floodlighting columns in Martlesham in Suffolk Coastal District. The application was a resubmission following the refusal of planning permission for the same development (under delegated powers) in July 1998 for the following reason:

“The proposed floodlighting (lights and columns) would have a significant and adverse impact upon the locality, which is part of a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is therefore contrary to SPG11 ‘Recreational Floodlighting’ and Policy LP11A of the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan First Alteration which seeks to protect the AONB from unacceptable development”. Officers recommended refusal when reported to the development control sub-committee of the Council in October 1998. On balance it was considered that the impact of six 8m. floodlighting columns and the associated floodlighting would have an adverse effect upon the designated AONB and was unacceptable in this instance. The application was deferred for site inspection and was reconsidered by development control sub committee in December. Members approved the proposal subject to conditions including hours to 10.00pm. Therefore one application is recorded under REC7(a) and REC7(b).

Examples of facilities refused include the use of land for clay target shooting at Old Newton in Mid Suffolk.

REC8: Number of public recreation facilities lost as a result of planning approvals.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
REC8	Number of public recreation facilities lost as a result of planning approvals.	Number of facilities lost 98-99	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	1
		97-98	N/T	N/T	1	1	..	..	2	N/T	3
		Number of approvals on sites currently occupied by recreation facilities. 98-99	N/T	N/T	3	N/T	1	1	N/T	N/T	5
		(NB. Two Stage Indicator). 97-98	N/T	N/T	2	2	1	..	2	N/T	6

REC8 measures the loss of public recreation facilities as a result of approving planning applications against the objectives of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for recreation and promoting and enabling the provision of social and community facilities to meet local needs.

Across the County, 5 applications in 3 districts were received on sites currently occupied by recreation uses. In St.Edmundsbury an application was approved for the erection of a relocatable classroom unit on Castle Hill playing field for the Busy Bees play group. In Ipswich Borough there has been a change of use from a dance studio to offices in Foundation Street and a change of use from a sports hall to community hall in Bramford Road. In Suffolk Coastal an application for the erection of 20 dwellings and garages on land between Lodge Farm Drive and Maybush Lane north of Foxgrove Lane in Felixstowe was approved. This full application was located on the former playing fields of Felixstowe College. The site forms part of the Felixstowe College site, and was subject to a Planning Brief (SPG 12.4) that provided a framework for considering the future development of the site following its closure in July 1994 and the realisation that there was no alternative institutional use appropriate for the land and buildings. The application for residential development on a significant part of the playing fields was in accordance with the brief.

REC9: Number and percentage of applications refused because of a loss of public recreational facilities.

This indicator has not been triggered for the second consecutive year, however it remains useful because it provides a measure of the effectiveness of Local Plan policies.

Countryside Recreation

CR3: Number of visitors to selected countryside recreation sites

Visitor counts are carried out at a number of recreation sites throughout the County in order to measure the actual usage made of informal recreation opportunities in the countryside. Indicator CR3 therefore shows the number of visitors to selected countryside recreation sites to provide some measure of the changing role and importance of sites within Suffolk.

Measurement of visitor numbers to these sites is generally conducted via traffic counts at visitor centres or on main routes into the site - methods of traffic counting continue to be improved which adds some uncertainty to verifying the figures in a series of data such as this. It should also be noted that comparison between sites is not valid as survey methods vary.

CR3: Number of visitors to selected countryside recreation sites			
Site	1996	1997	1998
Brandon Country Park, Forest Heath (SCC)	44,500	50,000	74,789 ⁽²⁾
Knettishall Country Park, St Edmundsbury (SCC)	92,700	89,635	89,740
Landguard Nature Reserve, Suffolk Coastal (SCC)	673,400 ⁽¹⁾	663,700 ⁽¹⁾	675,700 ⁽¹⁾
Needham Lake, Mid Suffolk (MSDC)	400,000	384,923	519,646
Tangham Picnic Site, Suffolk Coastal	51,000	-	38,300
West Stow Country Park, (visitor centre) St Edmundsbury	98,000	96,911	89,060

⁽¹⁾ Figure represents total visitor numbers to Landguard peninsula. Visitors to Nature Reserve are estimated at 1/3 of this.

⁽²⁾ It is estimated that annually there are an additional 25,000 visitors to this site who arrive by cycle or on foot.

It is difficult to produce a reliable explanation of the results of this indicator thus far. A number of variables may have an effect on visitor numbers at each site - drops in visitor numbers in a particular year may be best explained by poor weather.

CR4: Number and length of footpaths promoted

Rights of way are a valuable recreation resource which also provide opportunities for access to the countryside close to virtually all the residents of the County. The total length of rights of way in Suffolk has remained relatively consistent over a four year period. Only the length of Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs) has decreased - this is due to the County Council's statutory duty to redesignate RUPPs as either bridleways or byways. This, in conjunction with new designations, has resulted in a corresponding rise in the length of byways.

Right of Way	Total Length (Kms)			
	1996	1997	1998	2000
Footpaths	4455	4475	4473	4488
Bridleways	553	555	556	558
Roads used as public paths	163	155	155	152
Byways	132	158	160	166
Suffolk Total	5303	5343	5344	5364

Indicator CR4 monitors the provision of public rights of way network in Suffolk, against the objective of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for formal and informal recreation. The Countryside Commission's Milestone Initiative has set targets for all Highways Authorities to legally define, properly maintain and publicise all public rights of way by the Year 2000. The indicator shows performance against the relevant targets, as set out in the Suffolk Rights of Way Milestones Statement Review 1998/99.

CR4: Number and length of footpaths promoted						
	1993/4	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/9
Length of network promoted to provide short, middle and long distance opportunities (% of network)	1400km (28%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)	1500km (30%)
Number of local routes promoted	109	119	120	123	130	130
Milestone Targets (% of network to be promoted)	-	-	30%	30%	30%	30%

Indicator CR4 shows that a substantial length of public footpaths in the countryside continues to be actively promoted for use by Suffolk residents and visitors to the County alike. 1500km of footpath are currently promoted - whilst no increase has been recorded for 4 successive years, this figure represents a considerable success, given that the Milestone target of 1500km of routes to be promoted by the year 2000 (30% of the total network) has been reached well ahead of schedule. Efforts have therefore concentrated on updating and improving walks leaflets, improving signing and surfacing and making routes more suitable for the less able through Countryside Management and Access Projects. This has resulted in a steady increase in the number of local routes being promoted for public use.

CR5: Length of Rights of Way routinely cleared of surface growth

CR5: Length of rights of way routinely cleared of surface growth						
	1993/4	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/98	1998/99
Suffolk Total	710kms	1349km	981km	1000km	1342km	1529km
Milestone Targets	-	-	800km	950km	1100km	1260km

Indicator CR5 monitors the maintenance of public rights of way network in Suffolk, against the objective of maintaining and enhancing the range of facilities for formal and informal recreation. It shows the level of upkeep of public rights of way in the countryside enabling their continued usage. Despite a drop in the length of routes routinely cleared of surface growth in 1995/6, in it and subsequent years Milestone targets have been exceeded. A target of 1900 km. has been set for 1999/2000, reflecting increased capital and Countryside Agency funding.

CR6: Percentage of justified complaints relating to ploughing and cropping resolved

CR6: Percentage of justified complaints relating to ploughing and cropping resolved						
	1993/4	1994/5	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/99
Number of complaints received						
% Resolved	2%	51%	46%	35%	40%	40%
Milestone Targets (% of complaints to be resolved)	-	-	10%	25%	40%	60%

Indicator CR6 measures the number of complaints received regarding ploughing and cropping of Rights of Way which are resolved.

Availability of rights of way is a major concern to the public. Illegal ploughing and cropping of routes by landowners rendering them unwalkable often results in complaints to local authorities. Landowners are becoming more aware of their responsibilities, through such measures as awareness campaigns and the work of a dedicated Rights of Way Enforcement Officer at Suffolk County Council, resulting in a fall in the number of complaints received in 1998/99. There was no change in the percentage of complaints resolved, this remaining at 40% despite an ambitious higher target which is dependent on a major shift of farming attitudes.

A target of 90% has been set for the Year 2000.

OTHER RESOURCES

Other resources covers 23 indicators concerning water quality, coastal protection, minerals, the management of waste, and renewable energy. Many of these indicators are relatively slow moving; seven are only to be reported five yearly, and there has been little change in a number of the annually monitored indicators.

Indicators not reported on this year are:

WATER QUALITY

- WT1 Length of freshwater river courses, classified by chemical quality; **5 year indicator.**
- WT2 Length of freshwater river courses, classified by biological quality; **5 year indicator.**
- WT3 Length of estuarine waters classified by quality; **5 year indicator.**
- WT4 Number of beaches monitored meeting EEC guideline standard; **5 year indicator.**
- WT5 Number of beaches monitored which meet EEC mandatory standard but which do not meet EEC guideline standard; **5 year indicator.**

MINERALS

- M2 The available landbank of raw material for the cement industry; **5 year indicator. Indicator to be reviewed after future of the cement industry in Suffolk is known.**

CONCLUSIONS

The main conclusions that can be drawn from those indicators monitored are:

- No planning applications were refused because of being prone to coastal erosion;
- The landbank of sand and gravel remains comfortably in excess of the seven years advised by government;
- A high proportion of land restored after mineral extraction is put to nature conservation or amenity use. However, most of the land restored after waste disposal is put back to agricultural use;
- Most planning applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities were approved;
- The amount of electricity generated from renewable sources has remained static over the past year. The amount produced from renewable sources remains low as a proportion of the theoretical potential in the County; and
- There is no evidence to suggest that the planning system is holding back the development of renewable energy technologies in Suffolk.

Water Quality

The quality and availability of water resources within Suffolk is of great importance. The need to protect surface water and ground water in aquifers from pollution is reflected in planning policies and objectives. Seven indicators of water quality were defined in "Suffolk's Environment". Indicators WT1-5 provide measures of the quality of certain aspects of surface and coastal waters. As change in water quality is a relatively slow moving indicator information on these indicators is only to be published at five yearly intervals. The next update to the information contained in "Suffolk's Environment" will be published in 2002.

Indicators WT6 and WT7 are monitored annually and measure instances of where adverse impact on water quality or flood risk has been cited as a reason for refusal. In the monitoring year 1997/98 no planning applications triggered either of these two indicators. In 1998/99 5 applications were refused – two for reasons of water quality and three on flood risk grounds.

WT6 Number of applications refused on water quality grounds.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
WT6	Number of applications refused on water quality grounds	Number refused	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	N/T	2

Indicator WT6 measures the number of applications that have been refused due to potential adverse impacts on water quality.

In the period 1998 – 1999, 2 applications were refused. In St. Edmundsbury Borough, a potential development associated with fish farming practices, (including the erection of a barn to house hatchery, tanks, machinery and an office) was refused due to its location within a nitrate vulnerable zone, whilst an application within Zone 1 of the Environment Agency's groundwater protection policy for the erection of a ready mix plant, storage of waste and containers was deemed to create an unacceptable risk of groundwater pollution.

WT7 Number of applications refused on flood risk grounds.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
WT7	Number of applications refused on flood risk grounds	Number refused	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	N/T	N/T	1	N/T	3

Indicator WT7 measures the number of applications that have been refused due to potential adverse impacts on flood risk.

In the period 1998 – 1999, 3 refusals were made by two authorities in Suffolk that included flood risk reasons. Two of these applications were in the District of Mid Suffolk. An application for the conversion of an outbuilding to a dwelling was refused due to its situation within an area prone to river flooding. It was deemed that the existing flood defence did not provide the standard of protection appropriate to safeguard the proposed development. An application for the

erection of four poultry houses was refused due to an unsatisfactory method of surface water drainage. The development would replace open land with large areas of impermeable surfaces. The potential run off from this was predicted to create flooding problems, including damage to crops and property and disruption to traffic by flooding of roads.

In Waveney District, an application for the creation of a new permanent residential unit was refused, as the proposed development was in an area liable to flooding.

Coastal Protection

The Suffolk coast is an important natural resource, both ecologically and economically and it is constantly changing. However, the planning system only has a limited role to play in coastal protection. Only one indicator is defined in "*Suffolk's Environment*" and this monitors the number of planning applications refused because of location being prone to coastal erosion. In the first two years of monitoring (1997/99) no planning applications were refused on these grounds.

Indicator CD1: Number of applications refused because of location being prone to coastal erosion. Not triggered in first two years of monitoring.

Minerals

Suffolk has no indigenous supplies of hard rock. Most of the mineral extraction done in Suffolk is for sand and gravel for use as aggregate. Smaller quantities of Chalk and Clay are also extracted. One site extracts peat for use as a soil improver. Government guidance on minerals emphasises the importance of conserving minerals and encourages sensitive working practices during extraction. The indicators in "*Suffolk's Environment*" examine the volume of primary and secondary aggregate available and produced.

Indicator M1: The available landbank of sand and gravel.

Indicator M1: The available landbank of sand and gravel		
Year	Pre-Plan Methodology	Methodology based on regional apportionment in adopted MLP
1996 (Jan.)	9.4 years	N/a
1997 (Jan.)	9.8 years	N/a
1998 (Jan.)	9.7 years	6.7 years
1999 (Jan.)	9.3 years	5.9 years

Minerals Planning Guidance Note Number 6, "Guidelines for Aggregates Provision in England", requires Minerals Planning Authorities to maintain a landbank (a stock of planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals) for sand and gravel for an appropriate local area, sufficient for at least seven years extraction, unless exceptional circumstances prevail. Advice given in the MPG has led to landbanks being calculated by comparing permitted reserves against sales over the previous three years. However, the MPG advises that where a Minerals Local Plan exists which reflects an agreed sub-regional apportionment of regional figures given in the MPG, the Local Plan figure should be used as the base from which to calculate the landbank.

The Suffolk Minerals Local Plan was adopted in May 1999. This is based on a sub-regional apportionment of the MPG figures prepared by the East Anglia Aggregates Working Party and agreed by Suffolk County Council. It predicts demand for sand and gravel of 36.45 million tonnes over the fifteen years 1992 to 2006. This gives an annual requirement for 2.43 million tonnes of sand and gravel.

Sales of sand and gravel over the past three years (96-98) have averaged 1.55 million tonnes, considerably below the 2.43 million tonnes projected in the Local Plan. This results in the landbank being considerably shorter when calculated by the new methodology. For information, figures given above calculated using both methodologies.

It should be noted that although the size of the landbank has apparently reduced over the past year, the extent of new reserves granted planning permission was slightly in excess of sales. The reduction in the landbank has been caused by the reassessment (by the industry) of the extent of reserves in already permitted sites. Since Jan 1999 two further permissions for sand and gravel extraction have been granted which should significantly increase the landbank reported in next years' monitoring report.

Production of cement in Suffolk ceased in 1999 with the closure of Masons Works at Great Blakenham. Indicator M2 (the available landbank of raw material for the cement industry) has therefore been deleted.

Indicator M3: The available landbank of chalk for non-cement manufacturing purposes.

There is no Central Government guidance on an appropriate landbank for chalk for non-cement manufacturing. However, existing Structure Plan policy seeks to maintain a landbank of permitted reserves of chalk sufficient for at least 10 years extraction for such purposes. Information on landbanks contained within Suffolk's Environment showed that in 1995 a 25 year landbank existed.

M3 is a relatively slow moving indicator and is due to be updated in 2001. The reserves of chalk associated with Masons Works are not likely to be used for non-cement purposes. Negotiations are underway for the restoration of the quarry. The closure of Masons Works is therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on indicator M3.

Indicator M4: Production of Secondary Aggregates within Suffolk.

The use of secondary aggregates is an important element in the sustainable use of mineral resources, as this reduces the demand for extraction of sand and gravel as a primary source. The East Anglia Aggregates Working Party estimates, based on MPG6 assumptions for East Anglia, provision of secondary aggregates from Suffolk will be 5 million tonnes between 1992 and 2006. Secondary aggregates consist of soft rock such as chalk, clay and shale used for aggregate purposes, and recycled aggregates such as blast furnace slag, pulverised fuel ash and crushed concrete. Currently the vast majority of secondary aggregates produced in Suffolk are recycled.

Assessment of the contribution of secondary aggregates is imprecise and the Government recognises the need to improve monitoring on a national basis. However, indicator M4 provides some measure of the level of production. It measures secondary aggregate production notified to Suffolk County Council through its survey of known and permitted activities, and may well be an under-estimation of the contribution made by secondary materials.

Indicator M4: Production of secondary aggregates within Suffolk	
Production in 1994	163,000 tonnes

Production in 1995	86,599 tonnes
Production in 1996	101,938 tonnes
Production in 1997	157,000 tonnes
Production in 1998	150,000 tonnes

In 1998 150,000 tonnes of secondary aggregates were recorded as being sold, a slight reduction on the previous year. However, these figures should be treated with a degree of caution as there is some doubt whether all producers have been surveyed and whether returns are consistent.

One planning permission was granted during 1998 for the recycling of inert demolition waste at Barham which may increase the rate of secondary aggregate production by up to 40,000 tonnes pa in future.

Indicator M5: Number and percentage of applications for the production of secondary aggregates approved.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
M5	Number and percentage of applications for production of alternative aggregates approved.	Number approved								1	1
		Percentage approved								100%	100%

This indicator was not triggered in 1997-98. In 1998-99 one application was approved. This was for recycling of demolition concrete, brick waste and glass to produce secondary aggregates.

Indicator M6: Number and percentage of applications referred to the Minerals Planning Authority for consultation which are refused.

Not triggered in 1997/98. It was not possible to effectively monitor this indicator and after discussion it was reworded to:

Number of applications refused because of sterilisation of mineral resources.

The indicator has not been triggered in 1998-99.

Indicator M7: Hectare of land restored after mineral extraction (subdivided by afteruse)

M7: Hectare of land restored after mineral extraction (subdivided by afteruse)

	1994-1996	1997	1998
Agriculture	28.2	3.3	0.7
Forestry	0	0	0
Amenity	20.45	5.8	17.3
Other	60.2	8	4.2
Total	108.85	17.1	22.2

NB: Figures do not include minerals sites used as waste disposal sites and subsequently restored.

These figures are reported in a slightly different manner to how they were reported in the previous monitoring report. This reflects changes in monitoring restoration which is now being done annually.

As a result of these changes, the figures reported above breakdown the previous 1997 – mid 1998 figure to constituent years and update with regard to restoration in the second half of 1998. In fact the only new information shown is an increase in land restored to amenity use of 9.1ha which took place on two sites (Lynn's Hall at Edwardstone and a smaller site at Hinderclay) in the second half of 1998. Figures will be reported annually in future.

The Management of Waste

The principles of sustainable waste management are recognised hierarchically as reduce, re-use, recover and dispose. Planning policies have little direct influence on the encouragement of individuals to reduce the amount of waste they produce, or to encourage individuals to re-use products before they dispose

of them. The amount of household waste produced in Suffolk was set out in “*Suffolk’s Environment*” as background information. It is updated here for information.

Household Waste Produced (tonnes):				
	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/99
Babergh	36769	38324	41471	43127
Forest Heath	23400	24002	26774	28717
Ipswich	53448	53685	58209	61800
Mid Suffolk	30961	31493	33998	35823
St Edmundsbury	42192	43599	48769	50645
Suffolk Coastal	43196	44702	49827	52546
Waveney	50294	51048	58171	60171
SUFFOLK	280260	286851	317218	332830

The above table shows that the amount of household waste produced in Suffolk has continued to increase. However, the rate of increase experienced over the year 1998/99 (4.9%) was considerably less than the rate of increase experienced over the previous year 1997/98 (10.6%). It is too early to reach any conclusions about whether this marks the start of a long term slowing of the rate of increase in household waste production.

Although planning policies can have little impact on the quantity of waste produced they can encourage the recovery of waste primarily by means of recycling, composting and energy recovery. The planning system can also influence the number of recycling centres. The number of licensed waste disposal sites in Suffolk was published as baseline information in the original “*Suffolk’s Environment*” report - this will be updated on a five yearly basis.

Indicators WD1 and WD2 examine the role of planning authorities in enabling the provision of such facilities for recycling and the disposal of waste (including scrap yards, waste incinerators, landfill and landraising sites, waste storage facilities, sewage treatment plants, dredging tips, recycling and waste reception centres, waste processing and composting plants and concrete crushing facilities).

Indicator WD1: Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities approved.

Indicator WD2: Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities refused.

Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
WD1	Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities approved.	Number approved 1998-99	N/T	2	1	N/T	N/T	5	N/T	20	28
		Number approved 1997-98	2	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	5	N/T	24	31
		Percentage approved 1998-99	..	100%	100%	..	..	100%	..	91%	93%
		Percentage approved 1997-98	67%	..	..	..	..	100%	..	89%	89%
Indicator		Information	BDC	FHDC	IBC	MSDC	SEBC	SCDC	WDC	SCC	Suffolk
WD2	Number and percentage of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities refused.	Number refused 1998-99	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	2	2
		Number refused 1997-98	1	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	3	4
		Percentage refused 1998-99	9%	7%
		Percentage refused 1997-98	33%	..	..	..	..	..	..	11%	11%
		Denominator = all applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities.	..	2	1	..	..	5	..	22	30
			3	..	..	..	..	5	..	27	35

These indicators measure the number of applications approved for waste disposal or recycling facilities. Suffolk County Council, the Waste Disposal Authority, approved the majority of applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities. The County Council is responsible for determining planning applications for the disposal of refuse or waste material and the use of land or new buildings for the transfer, sorting or recycling of waste. District Councils are responsible for determining proposals for the change of use of existing buildings for such purposes.

The 28 applications approved were mainly of a minor nature and included several renewals/variation of conditions/replacement facilities. One new landfill site was approved at Theberton with three others receiving permission for continuation of landfilling; at Creting St. Mary in Mid Suffolk and Freckenham in Forest Heath District. Only 2 applications for waste disposal or recycling facilities were refused. Refusal reasons were generally related to odour, noise nuisance, environmental impact of traffic, and traffic safety.

The results of these indicators show that the majority of applications for waste recycling/disposal facilities are being approved, providing increased opportunities for best practice in waste management in line with Development Plan objectives.

Recycling

The percentage of household waste recycled was included in the “*Suffolk’s Environment*” report as background information and this can now be updated.

Percentage of Household Waste Recycled:				
	1995/6	1996/7	1997/8	1998/99
Babergh	8.22	9.37	9.98	11.97
Forest Heath	10.62	13.92	20.89	25.92
Ipswich	4.81	7.55	8.21	10.34
Mid Suffolk	9.86	11.65	13.44	15.60
St Edmundsbury	12.27	20.00	25.56	25.60
Suffolk Coastal	9.20	16.09	16.68	17.18
Waveney	6.25	8.36	8.91	8.36
SUFFOLK	8.36	12.14	14.20	15.51

There has been an absolute and percentage increase in household waste recycled in Suffolk over the past year.

The target of 25% of all household waste to be recycled in the year 2000 referred to in the first monitoring report has now been superseded. The draft national waste strategy “A Way with Waste” published in 1999 contained the target to recycle or compost 30% of household waste by 2010. It appears very unlikely that the 25% target would have been reached in the year 2000 over Suffolk as a whole with only two Districts achieving this level in 1998/99. The 30% target by 2010 looks more achievable at current rates of progress. A final version of the national waste strategy is expected in the spring of 2000.

It should be noted that in the above figures household waste which is collected and composted is included as being recycled. Waste which is composted at home is not collected and so is not included in household waste production or recycling figures.

Indicator WD3: Hectarage of waste disposal sites restored

WD3: Hectarage of waste disposal sites restored			
After-use	1994-1996	1997	1998
Agriculture	21.5	27.8	6.5
Forestry	0.7	1.5	1.1
Amenity	3	0	1
Other	1	0.5	3.4
Total	26.2	29.8	12.0

The way in which WD3 is being monitored has been altered in a similar way to indicator M7. The 1997 and 1998 figures show an increase in the total area restored of 6.3ha compared with the figures previously reported for 1997 – mid 1998. Figures will be reported annually in future.

Renewable Energy

Since the commencement of baseline data collection and the publication of *"Suffolk's Environment"*, there have been a number of developments concerning the use of renewable energy in Suffolk. Progress has been made on bringing forward generating schemes and the Eastern Region Renewable Energy Planning Study (ERREPS) was published in July 1997.

As no form of renewable energy generation is currently commercially viable without subsidy, the Government supports the development of renewable energy through the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO). Under this procedure contracts are awarded to renewable energy generators guaranteeing that their electricity will be purchased by the regional electricity company at a premium price for a set period. This process is undertaken without regard to the planning merits of proposals and planning permission is still needed for development despite a NFFO contract. Five tranches of NFFO contracts have so far been awarded. The last being in October 1998. No further contracts have been issued since the publication of the first *"Suffolk's Environment"* Monitoring Report. Details of all schemes in Suffolk which have a NFFO contract are given in the table below.

Table - Renewable Energy Schemes in Suffolk with NFFO contracts (Dec 1998).					
NFFO Tranche	Location	Technology Type	Capacity (MW DNC)	Planning Permission	Onstream
2	Eye	Poultry Litter	12.7	Yes	Yes (June 1992)
3	Eye	Wood (SRC)	5.5	No Application	No
3	Foxhall	Landfill Gas	1.175	Yes	Yes (June 1996)
3	Bramford	Landfill Gas	0.81	Yes	Yes (March 1997)
4	Lackford	Landfill Gas	1.17	Yes	No
4	Wangford	Landfill Gas	0.87	Yes	No
4	Gt. Blakenham	Landfill Gas	2.22	Yes	Yes
4	Eye	Anaerobic Digestion	1.05	No Application	No
5	Wetherden	Landfill Gas	0.6	No Application	No
5	Rumburgh (near Halesworth)	Wind	0.632	No Application	No

DNC = Declared Net Capacity - a measure used for generation capacity which operates intermittently, such as wind. The equivalent capacity of a base-load plant that would produce the same average annual energy output. The relationship between DNC and maximum output of a generating facility varies with technology type. Wind and solar power schemes for example will have a far higher maximum output than will landfill gas schemes with the same output DNC. This reflects the periods over which no generation is taking place from wind or solar schemes (when it is dark or there is no wind) whilst in landfill gas schemes output is more constant.

The ERREPS was published in July 1997 by the Energy Technology Support Unit (for the Department of Trade and Industry). This is a detailed study of the potential for developing renewable energy technologies in the Eastern Region. The study concludes that there is minimal potential for wind or hydro power in Suffolk. This is due to the low lying and sheltered nature of the County, the environmental quality of the coastal area and assumptions made about the

economics of these relatively well established renewable technologies. The study does stress that for both technologies (wind and hydro), small scale schemes may be viable where favourable conditions exist.

The study does identify significant theoretical potential for the development of solar power and waste/biomass resources. Solar energy is generally harnessed at the individual building level as an energy efficiency measure rather than a means of power generation. The total theoretical renewable energy resource (excluding solar power) estimated for Suffolk is 1,716 Giga watt hours per year which is equivalent to 230.6 MW (DNC).

Five indicators were defined in the "*Suffolk's Environment*" report to monitor renewable energy schemes.

RE1: Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy

Installed generating capacity using renewable energy in Suffolk in December 1999 remained at 16.9 MW (DNC). Unchanged from the position reported in the first monitoring report.

RE2: Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy as a proportion of the County renewable energy potential.

Expressed as a proportion of the 230.6 MW (DNC), installed generating capacity is 7.3% of capacity.

The highly theoretical nature of this potential resource figure should be noted. It is acknowledged in ERREPS that the potential resource identified should not be seen as a target as there are many reasons why it will not be achieved in practice. It should also be noted that some of the theoretical resource of Suffolk will be used at generating plants outside of Suffolk. A large (38.5MW) biomass wood burning plant came onstream in 1998 near Thetford just north of the County boundary and this will use some of Suffolk's wood resource. Similarly a 31MW straw burning plant is under construction near Ely in Cambridgeshire which will, when operational, use some of the straw resource of western Suffolk. Conversely plants in Suffolk can use resources originating from outside the County.

RE3: Installed electricity generating capacity using renewable energy as a proportion of capacity of schemes awarded a NFFO contract.

In Dec 1999 RE3 was 63.3% (total capacity of schemes with NFFO contracts 26.7MW). This figure is unchanged from December 1998.

RE4: Number and potential electricity generating capacity of renewable schemes with planning permission and installed.

Of the six schemes which have planning permission four have now been implemented.

Two landfill gas schemes (at Wangford and Lackford) totalling 2.04MW (DNC) were granted planning permission in 1998/99. Neither scheme has been implemented but both are expected to come on stream during 2000.

RE5: Number and potential generating capacity of renewable schemes refused planning permission. Not triggered in 1997/98 or 1998/99.