

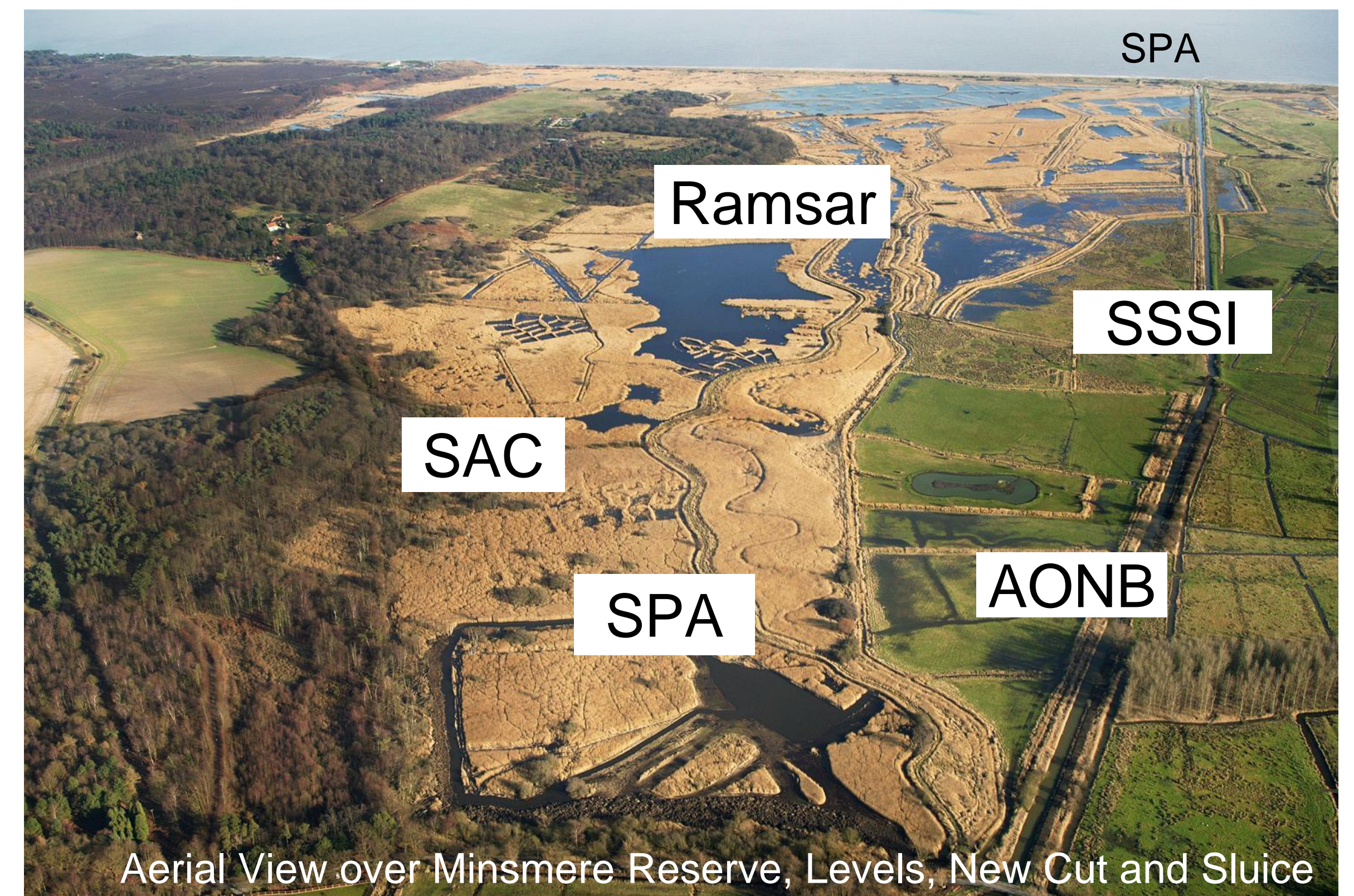
Sizewell and the Tourist Economy

Minsmere - A National Treasure

- One of the UK's premier places to watch wildlife; the "Disneyland of Nature" *Chris Packham*.
- One of the most bio-diverse areas in the country.
- Home to over 5,600 species, more than any other RSPB Reserve.
- Pivotal in the recovery of several species from the brink of UK extinction.
- Host to rare and threatened species including Avocet, Bittern, Marsh Harrier, Nightingale and Bearded Tit.
- Featured on BBC *Springwatch* from 2013 - 2015, watched by millions.

The Reserve and the surrounding areas are sensitive ecosystems:

- With SSSI, SPA, SAC and Ramsar internationally recognised designations.⁽⁶⁾
- Completely within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Habitats rely on a delicate balance of land, water and vegetation management.
- The Sizewell C site will abut Minsmere and destroy part of the Sizewell Marsh.
- SSSI Habitats are at risk from fragmentation, destruction, air and water pollution, noise, vibration and light pollution.



Paul Forecast, Regional Director, National Trust

"The energy and tourism sectors are equally as important as each other - so it's important that by investing in one sector, we don't damage another."⁽⁷⁾

The Suffolk Coast and the Tourist Economy

- Suffolk tourism is worth over £250 million/year, and is concentrated on the coast within the AONB.
- Minsmere attracts 125,000 people annually, supports over 100 jobs and is worth £3 million/year to the local economy.
- Visitors will stay away because of the noise and disruption; it will take many years to entice them back.
- Income will be lost for over 10-12 years

Minsmere and the visitor experience must be protected

6) Minsmere Reserve is part of several protected areas AONB - Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest, SPA - Special Protection Area, SPA - Special Area of Conservation, International Wetlands designation - Ramsar.
(7) East Anglian Daily Times, December 2018 <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/suffolk-coast-energy-sector-conservation-of-nature-1-5822806>