



Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Determination Statement

March 2024

Executive Summary

This statement sets out the reasons for the determination that the draft Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, this statement determines that the making of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

This determination statement is intended to demonstrate that the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with certain European Union obligations as required by the basic conditions, namely:

- Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment; and
- Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Stapleford and Great Shelford and South Cambridgeshire District Council will publish this determination statement in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

Determination Statement

This statement has been produced to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan will, when examined, comply with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) in particular Regulation 32 and Regulation 15(1)e(ii) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

A neighbourhood plan is required to meet a number of basic conditions (which are set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990), one of which being it must not breach and must be otherwise compatible with EU and Human Rights obligations. This requires neighbourhood plans to fully consider the requirements of the SEA regulations which transpose the EU's SEA Directive into law and which requires those making plans that could impact on the environment to consider whether they are likely to have a significant effect or not.

Regulation 32 in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) sets out an additional basic condition to those set out in primary legislation. Regulation 32 states: The making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)) or a European offshore marine site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 (e)) (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects).

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion was prepared by Place Services on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) for the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (See Appendix 1).

SCDC has consulted the statutory consultees (Historic England/Natural England/Environment Agency) on the Screening Report prepared by Essex Place Services and asked for their views on whether a SEA is required.

Consultation responses were received from the three statutory consultees. Their conclusions are summarised below, and their detailed comments are included in Appendix 2.

- Historic England: The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. Historic England notes that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development. On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment

Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required (18 March 2024).

- Natural England: The Screening Report concludes 'No Likely Significant Effects' and Natural England concurs. The assessment concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England concurs with this view (21 March 2024).
- Environment Agency: As the plan does not allocate sites, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless, we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk. The Plan area boundary includes the Cambridge Water Recycling Centre. As the Plan does not allocate sites for growth development across the Plan period, we do not have any significant concerns. We would still expect to see consideration for any windfall developments captured in a relevant policy for Water Quality (26 March 2024).

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining local planning applications.

The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and does not include any content that could give rise to significant negative effects on the environment, or any social or economic tenets of sustainability.

The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be **screened out** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

The HRA screening report indicates that the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The requirement for the Plan to undertake further assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Regulations 2017 (as amended) is therefore **screened out**.

Appendix 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan, Stapleford and Great Shelford Parish Councils have requested a screening opinion to see whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. Such a requirement can be screened out if it is felt, based on the information available, that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have a likely significant environmental affect.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Opinion was prepared by Place Services on behalf of South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan.



Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report

February 2024





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1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of this Report

This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations. A SEA is required if the Neighbourhood Plan is deemed to have a likely significant effect on the environment.

This report will also screen to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). An HRA screening report is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected Habitats (European) Sites as a result of the implementation of a plan or project.

1.2 The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out planning policies for the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area. Once formally adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same legal weight as Local Development Plans adopted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in this case South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Vision for the Plan is set out to address these areas of need. The Vision states,

‘In 2041, Stapleford and Great Shelford will be thriving villages distinct from Cambridge, where people want to live, work, shop and play. We value and want to protect our landscape setting, improve its biodiversity and reduce our contribution to climate change. Modest new development, which is sensitively and sustainably designed, will focus on addressing identified housing needs, in particular affordable housing needs, within our community. Where appropriate, it will also support the creation of new amenities and infrastructure to meet the needs of our population. Part of this infrastructure will be a safe and sustainable travel network supporting everyday journeys and healthy recreation.’

A total of 10 thematic objectives have been devised for the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the delivery of this Vision. These are:

- Housing - Objective 1: New residential development proposals will contribute to addressing existing and future housing needs in Stapleford and Great Shelford in terms of affordability, accessibility, tenure and suitability for all stages of life.
- The Built Environment - Objective 2: New development will be designed to a high standard and in its built form will reinforce the distinctive rural look, feel and quality of the two villages.
- Climate Change - Objective 3: New development will be designed to be (a)

compatible with, and belong in, a net zero emissions future, and (b) resilient to the effects of climate change. The water supply must be protected alongside the need for new homes and other buildings.

- Biodiversity - Objective 4: Biodiversity enhancements will be delivered at all development sites within the plan area. We will also protect and enhance specific features and sites of ecological value identified in the Landscape Character Assessment.
- Our Rural Setting and Landscape - Objective 5: New development will actively minimise its impact on the landscape character of the plan area, recognising the value of long views and vistas into and out of the rural setting of the villages, the open spaces within it and, critically, the separation of the villages from the expanding urbanised Greater Cambridge area.
- Community Amenities and Infrastructure - Objective 6: We will ensure that development addresses its associated demands on, and existing shortfalls in, our community's amenity and infrastructure needs, specifically in healthcare, primary school education, transport, open spaces and play spaces.
- Active Travel - Objective 7: Residents travelling in and out of the plan area, and people travelling through the plan area, will find it increasingly easy to choose active travel modes to reach their destinations, whether for work or leisure purposes. The safety of active travellers will be both a priority of new development and upgraded throughout the plan area.
- Managing the impacts of Traffic - Objective 8: The adverse effects of increased road traffic movements from new development on our community's quality of life (and apparent in, for example, air pollution, noise, vibration, road safety, accessibility and street scene environment) will be identified and appropriately mitigated.
- Countryside Access - Objective 9: Existing routes for non-motorised users into the much-valued countryside in our plan area will be protected and maintained. New routes for non-motorised users from our villages into our countryside will be opened up.
- Countryside Enhancements - Objective 10: The Countryside Enhancement Strategy set out in the Landscape Character Assessment for the plan area will be implemented. These landscape, biodiversity and public access improvements will complement the existing landscape character of the area and protect and enhance the setting of Cambridge.

1.3 The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan sets out the planning policies and land allocations to guide the future development of the District up to 2031. It includes policies on a wide range of topics such as housing, employment, services and facilities, and the natural environment.

1.3.1 Content regarding the Neighbourhood Plan area within the Local Plan

1.3.1.1 The Settlement Hierarchy and Principle of Development

The Local Plan identifies Stapleford and Great Shelford as a 'Rural Centre' with Policy S/8. Rural Centres are the largest, most sustainable villages of the district. The Local Plan states of Rural Centres,

'They have good access to a secondary school (either within the village or accessible by good public transport), employment opportunities, a variety of services and facilities and have good public transport services to Cambridge or a market town... Future development will comprise development and redevelopment within the village frameworks. Since the Rural Centres comprise the most sustainable villages in South Cambridgeshire there is no strategic constraint on the amount of development or redevelopment of land for housing that can come forward within the development frameworks, provided that the proposals are in accordance with the policies in the Plan.'

Policy S/8 adds that development and redevelopment without any limit on individual scheme size will be permitted within the development frameworks of Rural Centres, provided that adequate services, facilities and infrastructure are available or can be made available as a result of the development.

Policy S/7 of the Local Plan covers policy regarding 'Development Frameworks'. Development Frameworks define where policies for the built-up areas of settlements give way to policies for the countryside. The Policy supports development within such frameworks (including that in Stapleford and Great Shelford), and includes further information on proposals outside development frameworks for Neighbourhood Plans, stating that,

'(2) Outside development frameworks, only allocations within Neighbourhood Plans that have come into force and development for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation and other uses which need to be located in the countryside or where supported by other policies in this plan will be permitted.'

There are no Local Plan housing allocations for development within the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan boundary, however the Local Plan does not seek to restrict any allocations being proposed within Neighbourhood Plans.

1.3.1.3 Protected Village Amenity Areas

Policy NH/11: Protected Village Amenity Areas, identifies parcels of open space within villages that are considered important to maintain village character and should not be developed. The Policy stipulates that development will not be permitted within or adjacent to these areas if it would have an adverse impact on the character, amenity, tranquillity or function of the village. There are a number of such areas within the Neighbourhood Plan area and these can be viewed by visiting the [Local Plan Policies Map on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website.](#)

2. Legislative Background

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment states that,

‘Environmental assessment is an important tool for integrating environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(10) All plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors and which set a framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC of 27 June 1985 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment(7), and all plans and programmes which have been determined to require assessment pursuant to Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna(8), are likely to have significant effects on the environment, and should as a rule be made subject to systematic environmental assessment. When they determine the use of small areas at local level or are minor modifications to the above plans or programmes, they should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

(11) Other plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects may not have significant effects on the environment in all cases and should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have such effects.’

The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan may influence frameworks for future development or become used ancillary to those plans and programmes that do set such a framework, and as such it has been determined that the principle of the Neighbourhood Plan should be screened for the necessary application of the SEA Directive.

The Report from the Commission to The Council, The European Parliament, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions states, on the application and effectiveness of the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Directive 2001/42/EC), that

‘the following Plan and Programme (PandP), and modifications to them, are covered when prepared and/or adopted by an authority and required pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions:

- PandP prepared for certain sectors and which set the framework for future development consent in respect of projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment-EIA-Directive.

- PandP requiring an assessment under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- PandP setting the framework for development consent in respect of projects (not limited to those listed in the EIA Directive; see above) and determined by "screening" as being likely to have significant environmental effects.'

This report represents this screening process in regard to the content and influence of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan.

2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any European Site (also referred to as Habitats Sites in the National Planning Policy Framework), in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of Habitats sites. Specifically, it is to ascertain whether or not a proposal (either alone or in combination with other proposals) would potentially damage the internationally designated features of that site. European sites are also known as Natura 2000 sites.

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to accompany the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with certain obligations, which includes the need to undertake an HRA.

In line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats site.

On 26 June 2018. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 received Royal Assent and the UK left the EU. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 made sure that UK laws continue to operate following the UK's exit. Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into UK law and those are unchanged until amended by Parliament. The requirements for HRA under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain in place with minor changes being affected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Amendment (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Parliament is however at liberty to introduce future changes to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) since, after 31 December 2020, the UK is no longer bound by the EU Habitats or Wild Birds Directives.

At the present time the position, under section 6(3) EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (as amended), is that the courts in the UK, with the sole exception of the Supreme Court, will continue to be bound by HRA judgements handed down by the CJEU and by domestic courts prior to 31 December 2020 when interpreting the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This is the case as long as the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) remain unmodified by Parliament.

There is currently a legal requirement for HRA screening of Plans prior to being adopted so any additional plans or projects which might reasonably interact with the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan will be considered before post consultation.

3. SEA Screening

3.1 When is SEA Required?

Planning Practice Guidance – Strategic environmental assessment requirements for neighbourhood plans (Paragraph: 026 Reference ID: 11-026-20140306) states that,

‘In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of those Regulations.

One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations (including under the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).

To decide whether a draft neighbourhood plan might have significant environmental effects, it must be assessed (screened) at an early stage of the plan’s preparation according to the requirements set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. These include a requirement to consult the environmental assessment consultation bodies.

Each consultation body will be able to advise on particular topics relevant to its specific area of expertise and responsibility, and the specific information that it holds.

Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination should be prepared. A copy of the statement must be submitted with the neighbourhood plan proposal and made available to the independent examiner.’

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive set out the circumstances in which a SEA is required. Table 1 sets out the assessment of whether the principle of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA.

Table 1: Exploring whether the Principle of the Plan would warrant SEA

Question 1: Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through legislative procedure by Parliament or Government?

Yes - The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for adoption through legislative procedure.

Question 2: Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provision? (Typical characteristics of "administrative provisions" are that they are publicly available, prepared in a formal way, probably involving consultation with interested parties. The administrative provision must have sufficient formality such that it counts as a "provision" and it must also use language that plainly requires rather than just encourages a Plan to be prepared.)

Yes - The Neighbourhood Plan would be considered as falling within the category of an 'administrative provision'.

Question 3: Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive?

Yes to both criteria - The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning and sets a framework for future development consent.

Question 4: Will the Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?

The Neighbourhood Plan's likely effect on sites and requirement for an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive is explored in Section 4 of this Report.

Question 5: Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a Plan likely to require assessment under the Habitats Directive?

Yes to one of the criteria - the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining local planning applications.

Question 6: Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in the Annexes of the EIA Directive)?

Yes - the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning and sets a framework for future development consent.

Question 7: Is the Plans sole purpose to serve national defence or civil emergency, or is it a financial or budget Plan, or is it co -financed by structural funds or European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) programmes 2000 to 2006/7?

The Neighbourhood Plan does not serve a purpose related to national defence or civil emergency, a financial or budget Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is not co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7.

Question 8: Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?

Likely significant effects are explored in more detail in Section 3.3 of this Screening Report. The 'conclusions' section of the Report outlines whether the Neighbourhood Plan requires SEA or not due in regard to its effects on the environment.

The following section looks at the criteria for assessing the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan and the identified effects of the Neighbourhood Plan in line with the criteria. Crucially, it will determine whether there are any likely significant effects on the environment.

3.2 Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria for determining the likely significant effects on the environment, referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below.

Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC – Significant Effects

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,

Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC – Significant Effects

- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
- the cumulative nature of the effects,
- the transboundary nature of the effects,
- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - * special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - * exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - * intensive land-use,
 - * the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

3.3 Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan

The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (at the time of writing) to have significant effects on the environment. The table below will explore the likelihood of effects on the following required themes, as included within Annex I of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC):

- Biodiversity;
- Population;

- Human health;
- Fauna;
- Flora;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage;
- Landscape; and
- The interrelationship between the above factors.

Table 2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p> | <p>The Plan sets out relevant policies which will be used to determine proposals for development within the Neighbourhood Plan area once adopted.</p> <p>A Neighbourhood Plan must demonstrate conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and once brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies only in the Local Plan for that Neighbourhood Plan area. The principle of development is established for the area through Local Plan policy, representing land within the Stapleford and Great Shelford development framework. Although the Plan’s Policy S&GS 3 - Rural exceptions housing allows limited development outside but on the edge of the development framework within the Plan area, the policy does not allocate any specific sites or land for development purposes. To this extent, Policy S&GS 3 seeks a continuation of Local Plan policy (H/11-1) and reiterates that policy’s criteria within the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>Irrespective of the Neighbourhood Plan policies’ compliance with those of the Local Plan, which will be considered in</p> |



| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>finalising the Neighbourhood Plan and through the independent examination of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that the degree to which the Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for development (by allocating resources) is low. This is primarily due to the Neighbourhood Plan not allocating land for development purposes.</p> |
| <p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p> | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan, when/if ‘made,’ will have weight in all planning decisions within the Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan provides policies for the Plan area, relevant to a local level only. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development purposes.</p> <p>In consideration of the above, the degree to which the Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans or programmes is considered low in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is again primarily related to the Plan’s position of not allocating land for development purposes.</p> |
| <p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p> | <p>Neighbourhood Plans are required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Neighbourhood Plan policies seek to ensure environmental considerations are taken into account. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies related (directly / indirectly) to ensuring environmental considerations will be integrated into any forthcoming development within the Plan area. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy S&GS 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change through building and design • Policy S&GS 9: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and nature networks in Stapleford and Great Shelford • Policy S&GS 10: Trees and landscape <p>Irrespective of the adequacy of the above policies, adopted Local Plan policies apply within the Neighbourhood Plan area, which have been subject to thorough assessment within the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations</p> |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Assessment. This ensures that environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, will be considered for all development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> |
| <p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan area</p> | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan reflects a small area and the Plan’s policy content seeks to address environmental issues. The policy content of the adopted Local Plan will additionally apply to any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Local Plan policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) within the context of the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan and this Screening Report identify the following potential (direct / indirect) environmental problems or sources of potential problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan area includes the Gog Magog Golf Course SSSI in the north east, and is within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of this and various other SSSIs. Development proposals within IRZs are required to be consulted on with Natural England, should they be of a type that could warrant negative effects on the relevant SSSI. • This includes, for some parts of the Neighbourhood Plan area, new housing developments, which will require an assessment of recreational pressure on relevant SSSIs and measures to mitigate adverse impacts e.g. alternative open space provision. • A number of Priority Habitats (from the Priority Habitat Inventory) are scattered throughout the Plan area. These include Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Good quality semi-improved grassland, Lowland Calcareous Grassland, Lowland Meadows, Chalk Rivers, Deciduous Woodland, and Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat. • The Plan area contains two Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) in the north: The Beechwoods LNR; and Nine Wells LNR. • The Plan area contains two Conservation Areas, |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>associated with the historic cores of Great Shelford and Stapleton respectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are six Scheduled Monuments in the Plan area: ‘Site revealed by aerial photography West of White Hill Farm’; ‘Settlement complex North of Hauxton’; ‘Causewayed enclosure at Great Shelford’; ‘Wandlebury Camp: a multivallate hillfort, earlier univallate hillfort, Iron Age cemetery and 17th century formal garden remains’; ‘Causewayed enclosure and bowl barrow at Little Trees Hill’; and ‘Wormwood Hill tumulus’. • There are approximately 48 Listed Buildings within the Plan area, the majority of which are Grade II listed. There is however the Grade I listed Church of St Mary in Great Shelford, as well as a total of three Grade II*listed buildings: the ‘Rectory Farmhouse’ in Great Shelford; the ‘Church of St Andrew’ in Stapleford; and ‘Middlefield and Garden Wall’ in Stapleford. • Various TPOs are scattered throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area. • The River Cam flows along the southern boundary of the Plan area and to the south of the Stapleford and Great Shelford built up area. With it are areas of associated land within Flood Risk Zones 3 and 2. • The eastern part of the Plan area is located within a groundwater Source Protection Zone (SPZ) (Zone III - Total Catchment) • The Plan area is entirely within areas of ‘high’ and medium-high’ groundwater vulnerability. This indicates the vulnerability of groundwater to any pollutant discharged at ground level based on the hydrological, geological, hydrogeological and soil properties of the land. • This vulnerability is associated with the Neighbourhood Plan area being predominantly located over a Principal Aquifer (bedrock), reflecting importance in terms of groundwater as a resource |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>(drinking water supply) but also in supporting surface water flows and wetland ecosystems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The non-developed areas of the Plan area consist of predominantly Grade 3 ('Good to Moderate') and in part Grade 2 ('very good') soils. This represents land which is classified as the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) for agricultural purposes. • The entirety of the Plan area that does not represent the built-up area, is located within the Green Belt. • The Parish is located in National Landscape Character Area 87 – East Anglian Chalk and within the County Landscape Character Area – Chalkland. • The Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment (S&GS LCA 2019) indicates a complex texture and conservation value of the chalk grassland and woodland on the hills and the river corridor with its bordering meadows and pastures contrasts with wide expanses of the rolling arable hills and flat open lowland arable areas with their extensive views over the countryside. • Notable local character elements are the settled hilltop estates, enclosed farmland pastures, the water meadows and riverside pastures, and the historic country parks. • The Neighbourhood Plan area is entirely within either a Minerals Safeguarding Area (MSA) for chalk, or sand and gravel. |
| <p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or</p> | <p>The content of the Neighbourhood Plan is not in conflict with those relevant planning documents within the wider district and county area related to waste management or water protection.</p> |



| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| water protection). | |
| The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors: | The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity | <p>The Plan includes Policy S&GS 9: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and nature networks in Stapleford and Great Shelford. This policy sets out that proposals that either directly or indirectly impact a site of biodiversity value in the neighbourhood plan area must take account of their biodiversity value by applying the mitigation hierarchy of avoid, mitigate, and compensate. Further, the Policy sets out that in all locations, development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity, and this should be achieved on site wherever possible.</p> <p>The HRA element of this Screening Report concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have a Likely Significant Effect on Habitats sites alone or in-combination with other plans of projects. This Report concludes that any effects on biodiversity that would require the full application of the SEA Directive (a SEA Environmental Report) can be screened out.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population | It is considered that there would be no significant effects on population resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan. This is due to the small scale of the Plan area. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health | The Neighbourhood Plan includes various policies that could directly or indirectly affect human health in a positive manner. These include Policy S&GS 4: Meeting the needs of the older population, Policy S&GS 14: Local Green Spaces and Protected Village Amenity Areas, Policy S&GS 16: Delivering community infrastructure priorities alongside new |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>development, and Policy S&GS 17: Facilitating active travel in Stapleford and Great Shelford.</p> <p>There are no significant effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan regarding human health that would warrant a strategic assessment through SEA.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna | <p>There are no direct impacts resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan on fauna that are considered significant at the Plan level. The Plan seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at key sites and does not propose any development that could lead to the direct deterioration of habitats.</p> <p>Possible effects on fauna (outside those associated with Habitats sites) cannot be considered strategically significant to the extent that Strategic Environmental Assessment would be warranted. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case ‘project level’ basis at the development management stage and in accordance with relevant development management policies contained within the Local Planning Authority’s adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>Effects on fauna from the content of the Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be screened out.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora | <p>Numerous and various areas of Priority Habitat exist within the Plan Area. The Plan seeks to protect and enhance existing biodiversity assets in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>In addition to the Plan’s policies that seek the protection and enhancement of flora, Local Plan policies apply. As a result, no effects are expected to result from the Neighbourhood Plan regarding flora.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil | <p>Although representing Grade 3 (‘good to moderate’) and Grade 2 (‘very good’) soils, none of the non-developed areas of the Neighbourhood Plan are proposed for development and have additional protection through being located within the</p> |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Green Belt. There are no identified negative implications surrounding soil quality as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and as such no uses are considered to give rise to ground water pollutants (e.g. give rise to hazardous substances such as pesticides, oils, petrol and diesel, solvents, arsenic, mercury or chromium VI; or non-hazardous substances such as ammonia or nitrates).</p> <p>The HRA element of this Screening Report identifies that the Plan area lies outside the IRZ for water sensitive Habitat sites and that no likely significant effects are expected of the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air | <p>There are no identified air quality issues within the Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development purposes, and it is considered that it would not contribute to any exacerbation of conditions regarding air quality. The likelihood of significant effects is therefore screened out.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climatic factors | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan area contains areas of Flood Risk Zone 3 to the south of the built up area of Stapleford and Great Shelford, associated with the River Cam. No development allocations are proposed within the Plan that would lead to any incompatibilities in any such areas.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that SEA would not be required regarding matters of flood risk and any speculative development coming forward within the Neighbourhood Plan area in the Plan period can be considered at the planning application stage.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material assets | <p>The Plan area contains land within a Minerals Safeguarding Area for chalk and sand and gravel within the County</p> |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>Council’s adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Proposals Map) (2021).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development within these areas that could be considered in conflict with the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2021).</p> <p>Regarding other material assets, the content of the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any significant effects due to the extent / size of the Plan area. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case basis at the development management stage and in accordance with relevant development management policies contained within the LPA’s adopted Local Plan.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage | <p>The Plan area contains numerous Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, as well as two Conservation Areas.</p> <p>The Plan does not allocate land for development purposes that could have any effects on these listings or their settings. The Plan does not include any thematic policy in regard to the historic environment of built heritage, although Policy S&GS 6: Development and design in Stapleford and Great Shelford includes requirements for development to be guided by the 2021 Stapleford Conservation Area Character Appraisal or the 2007 Great Shelford Conservation Area Character Appraisal.</p> <p>Irrespective of the adequacy of the Plan’s policy in the conservation and enhancement of the Plan area’s heritage assets, policy regarding the protection and enhancement of the historic environment also exists at the LPA level which additionally applies in the Plan area. Any effects on heritage are, as a result, considered a development management issue in the context of the Plan and its content. There are not considered to be any elements of the Plan that would give rise to significant effects on the historic environment at the strategic level that would require the full application of the SEA Directive.</p> |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape | <p>The Plan area is located in the National Landscape Character Area 87 – East Anglian Chalk and within the County Landscape Character Area – Chalkland. The Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Character Assessment (S&GS LCA 2019) further indicates a sensitive landscape. Additionally, the non-built up area of the Plan area is entirely within the Green Belt.</p> <p>Chapter 8 of the Plan sets out numerous landscape themed policies: Policy S&GS 11 Protecting and enhancing Stapleford’s and Great Shelford’s Landscape character; Policy S&GS 12: Important views and visually important areas of open land in Stapleford and Great Shelford; Policy S&GS 13: Important Countryside Frontages; Policy S&GS 14: Local Green Spaces and Protected Village Amenity Areas; and Policy S&GS 15: Preserving our dark landscape.</p> <p>In light of the Plan’s policy stance regarding landscape there are no significant strategic landscape effects identified within this Report that would warrant the requirement for the application of the SEA Directive and the formulation of a SEA Environmental Report.</p> |
| <p>The cumulative nature of the effects.</p> | <p>The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and therefore any negative cumulative effects can be ruled out.</p> |
| <p>The trans boundary nature of the effects.</p> | <p>The adopted Local Plan can be seen to support the protection and improvement of conditions relevant to those sustainability factors listed within the SEA Directive. The Neighbourhood Plan is not in conflict with these wider thematic policies. The HRA Screening element of this Report, which explores in-combination effects with other relevant plans and projects, identifies no such effects regarding Habitats (European) sites.</p> |
| <p>The risks to human health or the</p> | <p>It is considered that there is no risk to human health or the environment as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is in</p> |

| Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive) | Likelihood and summary of significant effects |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| environment (e.g. due to accidents). | consideration of the above screening requirements related to sustainability themes. The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to give rise to any accidents that can be considered to have a significant risk to human health or the environment. |
| The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected). | The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the local level only. The magnitude and spatial extent of the Plan’s content is therefore not considered significant in a wider District context. No effects are highlighted within this SEA screening at either the local or wider geographic area. |
| <p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • exceeded environmental quality standards • intensive land use | As highlighted above in the screening of the Neighbourhood Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has not been assessed as having negative effects associated with environmental themes. |
| The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. | As highlighted above in the screening of the Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has not been assessed as having any significant effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. |

4. HRA Screening

4.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

This section forms a plan level Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

This section of this Report aims to:

- Identify the Habitats sites within 20km of Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan for its potential to impact upon a Habitats site.
- Assess the potential for in combination effects from other projects and plans in the area.
- Identify if there are any outstanding issues that need further investigation.

4.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report

4.2.1 CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17

As previously mentioned, in line with the Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17), mitigation measures cannot be taken into account when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a Habitats site.

This HRA Screening Report does not therefore consider mitigation measures within the assessment of Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. Any mitigation needed will need to be assessed at Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.

4.2.2 CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

This Court judgement imposes more detailed requirements on the competent authority at Appropriate Assessment stage:

1. [...] an 'Appropriate Assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those

implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

2. [...] the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

3. [...] where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'Appropriate Assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned.

Within this Stage 1 HRA Screening report, the assessment determines the requirement whether or not a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is needed for the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan.

4.3 Habitats (European) Sites

Habitats sites is the term used in the (revised) NPPF (2021) to describe any site which would be included within the definition at Regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) for the purpose of those regulations. These now form part of the UK national network of sites for nature protection. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of UK's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

All Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are designated for other species, and for Habitats. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) are also part of the National Network of sites. This is because all SPAs and SACs are comprised of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and all Ramsar sites in England are SSSIs. Together, SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites make up the Habitats sites in England. The following offers a description and explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites.

4.3.1 Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

SPAs are areas which have been identified as being of international importance for the breeding, feeding, wintering or the migration of rare and vulnerable species of birds. Example: Ouse Washes is internationally important for wintering waterfowl. Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas designated to protect habitat types that are in danger of disappearance, have a small natural range, or are highly characteristic of the region; and to protect species

that are endangered, vulnerable, rare, or endemic. Example: woodland habitat of Eversden and Wimpole Woods for the population of Barbastelle bats. Legislation: Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

Ramsar Sites are designated to protect the biological and physical features of wetlands, especially for waterfowl habitats. For example, Wicken Fen is an outstanding remnant of East Anglian peat fens and supports one species of British Red Data Book plant fen violet *Viola persicifolia* which survives at only two other sites in Britain. Ramsar sites often overlap with SACs and SPAs and UK planning policy determines that they should be accorded the same importance when developments are proposed. Legislation: Ramsar Convention (1971) – Wetlands of International Importance and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

4.3.2 Habitats Sites to be considered

There are four Habitats sites which lie within 20 km of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area. This is shown in Table 3 and in Appendix 2.

Table 3: Habitats Sites within 20km to be considered in this assessment

| |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SPA |
| N/A |
| SAC |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eversden and Wimpole Woods Fenland Devil’s Dyke |
| Ramsar |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicken Fen |

Consideration was given to potential impact pathways, Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) for the underpinning SSSIs for the Habitats sites listed in Table 3 and Zones of Influence as confirmed on MAGIC website: www.magic.gov.uk.

Part of Stapleford and Great Shelford plan area lies within the 10km IRZ bat sustenance or wider conservation area for the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, designated for its

population of Barbastelle bats (Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, February 2022). All significant impacts or severance to flightlines must be assessed within this area as these could, without mitigation, result in adverse effect on integrity of this Habitats site.

All four Habitats sites are vulnerable to recreational pressure. In simple terms, this means that harm to the integrity of such sites could arise because people are using such sites for recreational purposes (such as dog walking). Consequently, if development was to likely increase the quantity of recreational use, that development could potential result in harm. Only residential development has the potential to increase recreational pressure. The potential increase in pressure will depend on the location of the development and quantity of new homes (and hence people) it will deliver.

Natural England's guidance for assessing and mitigating the recreational pressure impacts of residential development to SSSIs within Cambridgeshire (ref 330067 dated 12 July 2019) needs to be considered in the HRA screening assessment for Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. Cambridgeshire SSSI Recreation Pressure Impact Risk Zone (IRZs) are available to view via www.magic.defra.gov.uk and relevant SSSIs are listed in Annex B of its guidance.

The Stapleford and Great Shelford Plan area is outside the 5km IRZ for recreational pressure for both Devils Dyke SAC and Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. In relation to Wicken Fen Ramsar site and Fenland SAC, Natural England has delayed setting a recreational pressure IRZ for the site pending analysis of the findings of the Footprint Ecology Wicken Fen Visitor Survey commissioned by the National Trust. In the meantime, Natural England expect the findings and recommendations of this study to inform the assessment of recreational pressure impacts as part of the HRA process for relevant development proposals and plans. By way of a precautionary approach in assuming a 20km zone of influence for recreational impacts to Wicken Fen, the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area lies within this distance so this site needs to be screened in for assessment of likely significant effect from predicted recreational pressure. Stapleford and Great Shelford parishes lies outside the 5km IRZ relating to water quality and quantity impacts for Wicken Fen Ramsar and Fenland SAC but within the 20km recreational pressure IRZ for Wicken Fen Ramsar and Fenland SAC.

In their consultation response to the North East Cambridgeshire Area Action Plan (May 2020), Natural England welcomed consideration of in-combination air quality effects on Devils' Dyke SAC, in line with the requirements of the Wealden judgement and their advice was that consideration should also be given to any implications for air quality.

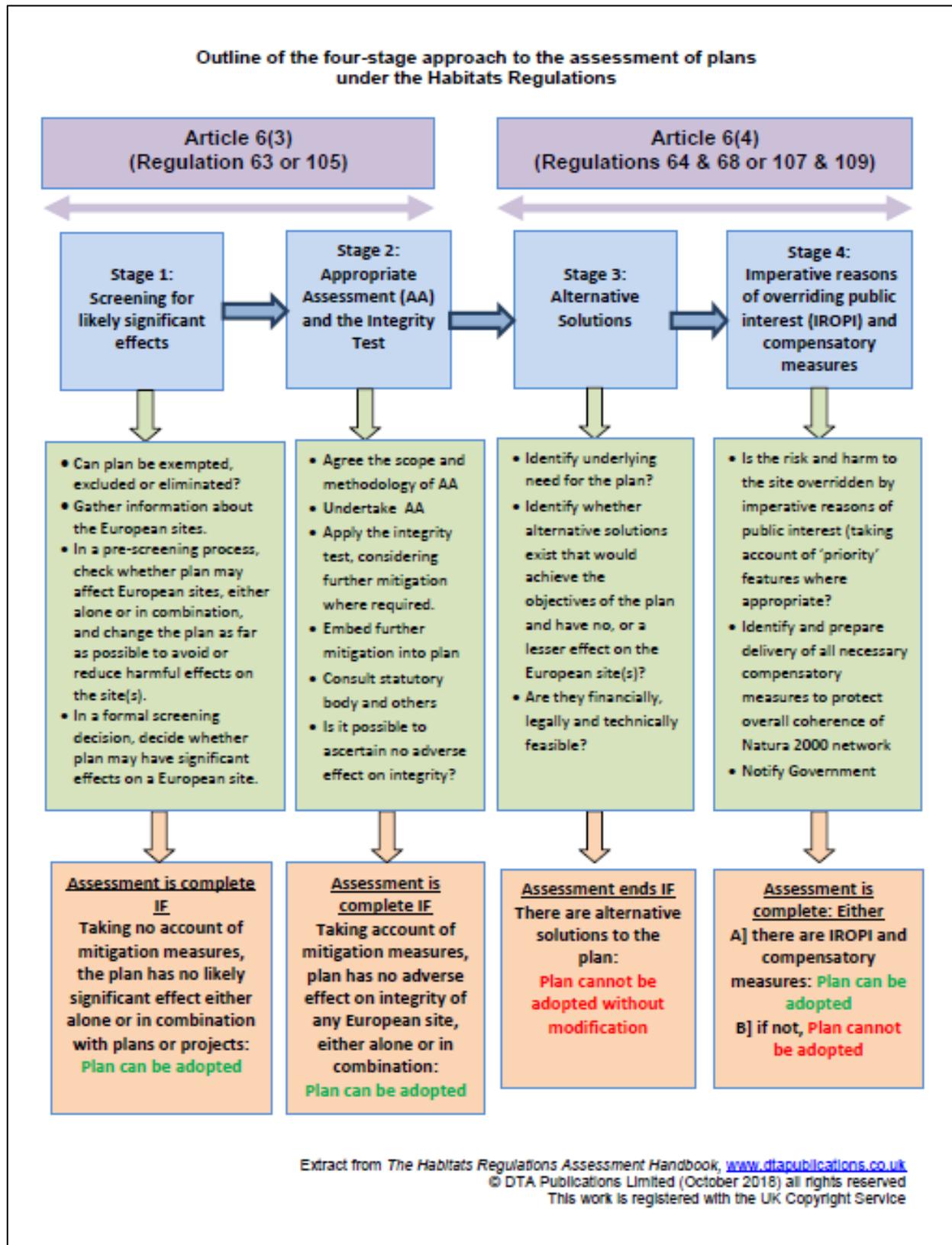
After consideration of potential impact pathways, on a precautionary principle, it is concluded that Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, Wicken Fen Ramsar site and Fenland SAC should be assessed for any likely significant effects resulting from the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. These Habitat sites are therefore included within scope for this HRA screening report, and any mitigation considered necessary would need to be secured at application stage in line with policies in the adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan as well any project level HRA Appropriate Assessment as the competent authority for planning decisions.

However, as the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development, there is no predicted impact nor would support for residential development be considered as significant. It is therefore concluded that there is no likely significant effect on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, Wicken Fen Ramsar site or Fenland SAC resulting from the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan.

4.4 Method and Approach

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 state that submitted Plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed Plan meets the 'basic conditions' set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the Plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA screening report; this is necessary to ensure the making of the neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats (European) site or a Habitats (European) offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This document relates only to Stage 1 of the HRA process as set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Outline of the Four Stage Approach to the Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations (taken from the DTA handbook).



4.4.1 Stage 1: HRA Screening

The screening stage identifies if any significant effects are likely because any policies or projects will have an impact on a Habitats site. Table 4 identifies the different categories assigned to each policy in the plan: Category A identifies those policies or projects that are considered to have No Negative Effect. Category B identifies those policies or projects that will have No Likely Significant Effect. Category C identifies those policies or projects that might have Likely Significant Effect upon a Habitats site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Section 4.5 considers each policy or projects and the results of the screening exercise recorded.

Each of the policies in the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan has been screened to identify whether they would have any effect on a Habitats site and allocated to a category as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Screening categorisation

| |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Category A: No negative effect</p> <p>Policies or projects that will not be likely to have any negative effect on a Habitats site.</p> |
| <p>Policies or projects that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a <i>significant</i> negative effect on a Habitats site alone or in combination. This conclusion could only be reached if the effects, even in combination and taking the precautionary principle into account, are considered trivial.</p> |
| <p>Policies or projects which are predicted to have a likely significant effect on a Habitats site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and require revision or further assessment (Appropriate Assessment).</p> |

4.4.2 Potential impacts of Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan on Habitats Sites

There are a wide range of potential impacts on Habitats sites that could arise from development plans. These can be summarised as -

- Land take by development;
- Impact on protected species found within but which travel outside the protected sites may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying

interest species within the Habitats site, for example through the loss of feeding grounds for an identified species.

- Increased disturbance, for example from recreational use resulting from new housing development and / or improved access due to transport infrastructure projects;
- Changes in water availability, or water quality as a result of development and increased demands for waste water treatment, and changes in groundwater regimes due to increased impermeable areas;
- Changes in atmospheric pollution levels due to increased traffic, waste management facilities etc. Pollution discharges from developments such as industrial developments, quarries and waste management facilities.

Each policy will be assessed against the criteria in the table below.

Table 4: Assessment of potential impacts on Habitats Sites

| Nature of potential impact | How the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site | Why these effects are not considered significant |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Land take by development | The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area is outside the boundaries of the Habitats sites within scope of this HRA screening. | No likely significant effects are expected, as no development will be allocated on designated land. It is therefore, considered that impacts from land take by development can be screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. |
| Impact on protected species outside the protected sites | <p>Part of the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the 10km IRZ for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC.</p> <p>By following the guidance in the draft Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation protocol, the Council can ensure that the Special Area of Conservation</p> | <p>The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development which lies within the wider conservation area for this SAC and could result in significant impacts or severance of flightlines for Barbastelle bats.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that this impact pathway will not result in likely significant effects</p> |

| Nature of potential impact | How the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site | Why these effects are not considered significant |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | bat populations thrive and that developments around the designated site avoid impacts on them, thereby preventing delays during their consideration at the planning stage. | upon Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC from the Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, impacts on protected species outside the protected sites from the Neighbourhood Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) on the Habitats sites can be screened out for further assessment. |
| Recreational pressure and disturbance | The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the impact risk zone for recreational disturbance relating to Wicken Fen Ramsar site and Fenland SAC which are both within the scope of this assessment. | As the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development, impacts from recreation arising from the NP are screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. |
| Water quantity and quality | The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the impact risk zones for water sensitive Habitats sites and due to distance, there are none within the scope of this assessment. | No likely significant effects are expected so changes in water quantity and quality have been screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. |
| Changes in pollution levels | The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the impact risk zones for pollution levels for sensitive Habitats sites and due to distance, there are none within the scope of this assessment. | No likely significant effects are expected, as no development will be allocated on land within 200 metres of Habitats sites within scope. Changes in air pollution have been screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans. |

4.5 Results from HRA Screening of Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Each of the policies in the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan was screened in turn to identify whether they would have any impact on a Habitats site and the result of this exercise is recorded in Table 5.

Table 5: Assessment of potential impacts from the Plan policies

| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p>Policy S&GS 1: Housing mix (type, size, affordability and design)</p> | <p>1. Where the scale permits, residential development proposals must include a housing mix in terms of size and tenure that reflects the existing and future needs of the neighbourhood plan area. The following provides a starting point for the determination of an appropriate housing mix in Stapleford and Great Shelford:</p> <p>a) In terms of size (market and affordable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 50% of new dwellings to be 3-bedroom units and remaining units to be a mixture of 1-, 2- and 4-bedroom units <p>b) Where affordable homes are being provided, they should be provided as affordable in perpetuity and meet the following tenure mix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% social/affordable rent • 30% affordable home ownership comprising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 25% First Homes, to be delivered at a | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | <p>40% discount</p> <p>- 5% shared ownership, with shared ownership at 10% equity more affordable than First Homes.</p> <p>2. Proposals providing an alternative mix to that set out above must be supported by up to date evidence of existing and future needs in the plan area.</p> <p>3. In terms of design, new housing should be built to the accessible and adaptable M4(2) standard.</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 2: Prioritising local people in the allocation of affordable housing</p> | <p>1. To be supported, residential development proposals must make a meaningful contribution towards meeting existing affordable housing needs in the plan area.</p> <p>2. This means that people with a strong local connection to either of the two parishes, as defined in the supporting text to this policy, whose needs are not met by the open market will be given priority of allocation (be first to be offered tenancy or shared ownership of the home) for any affordable homes, including First Homes, being delivered, including those being delivered via a S106 agreement as part of an open market scheme.</p> <p>3. If a completed affordable dwelling has not been taken up within a reasonable time period by someone with a strong local connection to either of the two parishes, the home will be</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

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| | made available to address wider affordable housing needs. | | |
| Policy S&GS 3: Rural exceptions housing | <p>1. Proposals for the development of small-scale affordable housing schemes on rural exceptions sites adjoining either of the two village development framework boundaries will be supported provided that:</p> <p>a) the number, size, design, mix and tenure of affordable homes are confined to, and appropriate to, meeting identified needs in the Stapleford and Great Shelford plan area</p> <p>b) all other criteria in South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy H/11-2 are met (or its equivalent replacement)</p> <p>c) the proposed development contributes positively to the existing character of the villages and their setting in terms of design, layout, materials, landscaping and biodiversity</p> <p>d) the schemes take every available opportunity to provide sustainable (e.g. active travel) routes into either of the villages and the City of Cambridge.</p> | No, Category A | No specific recommendations |
| Policy S&GS 4: Meeting the needs of the older population | <p>1. Development proposals providing specialist housing for the older generation (including retirement housing, sheltered housing and extra care housing) will be supported where:</p> <p>a) proposals are located within the</p> | No, Category A | No specific recommendations |



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| | <p>development framework and easily accessible to shops, services and community facilities without the need to rely on private transport</p> <p>b) proposals do not exacerbate existing problems associated with on-street car parking and vehicular clutter on through roads, and provide adequate off-street parking, in line with Local Plan requirements</p> <p>c) they are integrated well with surrounding development and land uses</p> <p>d) they incorporate a mix of tenure, including affordable homes to meet the identified need in the area</p> <p>e) they achieve a high standard of amenity for occupiers and do not have unacceptable impacts on residential amenity in neighbouring developments – see Policy S&GS 6.</p> <p>2. All proposals will be expected to relate well to surrounding development and result in</p> <p>a welcoming and attractive street scene. Gated developments will not be supported unless the additional security is necessary to protect the intended occupiers</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 5: Supplemental dwellings to</p> | <p>The development of a single supplemental dwelling wholly within the curtilage of an existing residential dwelling will be supported where</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |



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| facilitate multi-generational living | <p>Permitted Development Rights for the primary dwelling have been surrendered and the supplemental dwelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is essential to maintaining a familial or community link to an older person (or older people), or a person with a disability, meeting a demonstrable personal circumstance b) shares a functional relationship to the primary dwellinghouse, e.g. shared access, garden and parking area c) is smaller in height and size (including number of bedrooms) than the primary dwelling and its size appears consistent with its function as a supplemental dwelling having regard to the size of plot and location of the primary dwelling on the plot d) is complementary to the primary dwelling and sensitively designed in terms of style and setting, and e) when taken together with the primary dwelling does not result in over-development or excessive density of the whole site by comparison with its surroundings f) is able to demonstrate safe and suitable access to the local highway network g) restrictions are in place that prevent the supplemental dwelling being severed from the primary dwelling. | | |

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| | <p>Note: Where the supplemental dwelling is being proposed to meet the needs of a person with a disability, evidence must be provided demonstrating the design specifications will result in a dwelling suitable for meeting those specialist needs</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 6: Development and design in Stapleford and Great Shelford</p> | <p>1. A design-led approach should be taken for all proposals. In doing so, development proposals should be guided by the 2023 Stapleford and Great Shelford Design Guidance and Codes, where applicable the 2021 Stapleford Conservation Area Character Appraisal or the 2007 Great Shelford Conservation Area Character Appraisal and accord with the design principles set out below.</p> <p>a) Context driven design: development proposals must contribute to local distinctiveness by reflecting, respecting and complementing existing positive built and natural (e.g. trees, hedgerows and ponds) attributes in Stapleford and Great Shelford. Contemporary design solutions to achieving this are supported where the materials and details are of a high quality. In all cases, reference should be made to the Stapleford and Great Shelford vernacular, rather than the more urban context in nearby Cambridge. See CD.01 Context driven design in the S&GS DG&C 2023 for more detail.</p> <p>b) Building and plot layouts: development proposals should respect surrounding buildings in terms of scale,</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

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| | <p>height, form and massing. The ratio of the height of the building to the street (enclosure ratio) should be consistent with that found in the character area (generally 1:6 in Post-war Development Character area, 1:4 Historic Streets Character Area and 1:2 in Civic Core Character Area). See PL.04 Building and plot layouts in the S&GS DG&C 2023 for more detail.</p> <p>c) Building height and roofline: new development must reflect the heights of neighbouring buildings or buildings in the wider character area as applicable (generally 1-2.5 storeys tall in the Historic Streets Character area, 1-2 in Post-war Development Character Area, and up to 3 storeys in the Civic Core Character Area). New rooflines should respond appropriately to existing roofscapes in neighbouring buildings. See HR.05 Height and roofline in the S&GS DG&C 2023for more detail.</p> <p>d) Materials and details: choice of building materials should be informed by the existing materials in the vicinity of the development site. See MD.09 Material and details in the S&GS DG&C 2023, and where applicable, the Stapleford Conservation Area Character Appraisal or section 11.5 in the Great Shelford Conservation Area Character Appraisal for further detail.</p> <p>e) Extensions and modifications: residential extensions should be designed to an appropriate scale and to be secondary to the original building.</p> | | |

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| | <p>They should consider the materials, architectural features, pitch and form of roofs and proportions of the original buildings and be designed to complement these features. See EM.06 Extensions and modifications in the S&GS DG&C 2023 for further guidance.</p> <p>f) Boundary treatment: the choice of materials and height of boundaries should respond sensitively and positively to the surroundings (see BT.10 Boundary treatments in the S&GS DG&C 2023 and where applicable the Stapleford Conservation Area Character Appraisal or 11.6 (Boundaries) in the Great Shelford Conservation Area Character Appraisal).</p> <p>g) Car and cycle parking: provision should be designed to conform with Design Code CP.08 in the S&GS DG&C 2023. In-curtilage and off-street parking should be provided to meet the needs of the development, including visitor parking, wherever possible. The indicative guidelines set out in the Local Plan (Policy TI/3: Parking Provision and Figure 11) should inform overall required provision. Where a proposal, such as a business/shop, residential home or community use, is likely to generate on-street parking demand or lead to on-street vehicular clutter, this must be planned-in, and designed to avoid impeding the flow of pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorised users and not compromise</p> | | |



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| | <p>the safety of any road users.</p> <p>h) Settlement edge proposals: when new development occurs on the settlement edge (and is otherwise allowed), the built form should seek to incorporate the surrounding landscape character within the built form to provide a soft and natural built edge to the settlement. New developments should improve visual and physical connections to the landscape. See S&GS DG&C 2023 for more detail.</p> <p>i) Rural Hinterland design principles: where otherwise acceptable, proposals coming forward in the Rural Hinterland Character Area should comply with the design principles set out in RH.11 in the S&GS DG&C 2023.</p> <p>2. All development proposals are expected to ensure a good standard of amenity for people. This means:</p> <p>a) Avoiding overlooking or loss of private residential amenity space, loss of daylight, or overshadowing.</p> <p>b) Ensuring existing occupants of neighbouring properties and future occupiers of the proposals are not exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution that may arise from the development. This can include noise, smoke, fumes, dust and lighting during construction and occupation. It can also include unacceptable levels of general disturbance arising from the development through activities such as traffic movements during construction</p> | | |



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| | <p>and occupation.</p> <p>3. Descriptions as to how a development scheme complies with this policy should be provided in the Design and Access statement or Planning Statement as applicable. Submission of a completed design checklist (Appendix 2) is encouraged.</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 7: Mitigating and adapting to climate change through building design</p> | <p>Climate change mitigation measures:</p> <p>1. Development proposals that adopt innovative approaches to the construction of low and net-zero carbon homes, extensions and buildings, and which demonstrate sustainable use of resources and high energy efficiency levels (e.g. construction to Passivhaus or similar standards) are strongly encouraged.</p> <p>2. All development proposals must be accompanied by a Sustainability Statement that outlines how a scheme:</p> <p>a) Applies the energy hierarchy by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • firstly, considering how the site layout and building orientation can optimise beneficial solar gain and reduce energy demands through site layout and building orientation • secondly, maximising energy efficiency through design (insulation, airtightness and mechanical heat recovery) • thirdly, where a heat source is | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

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| | <p>required, ensuring that this is a low carbon or net zero carbon source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finally, once energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions have been minimised through the above measures, utilising opportunities to incorporate renewable energy systems. <p>b) Adopts a whole building approach and ‘fabric first’ approach to optimise energy efficiency in the case of refurbishment projects which require planning permission.</p> <p>c) Minimises water usage in line with Local Plan requirements. Due to the plan area lying in an area of water stress and relying on underground aquifers, development proposals that have a high water-usage demand (due to size or nature of the scheme) or are inefficient in terms of water usage will not be supported.</p> <p>Climate change adaptation measures:</p> <p>3. Development proposals should deliver future-proofed (climate change adapted) buildings and associated green infrastructure with respect to extreme weather events (heatwaves, drought and flood events) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing external shading, where appropriate • using or planting trees and vegetation in and around built structures • designing-in systems for rainwater | | |

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| | <p>capture/harvesting and greywater recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimising the area of impermeable surfaces and incorporating green or biodiverse roofs where practical. <p>4. The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems will be required for all new major development (see glossary), as set out in the NPPF 2023, and infiltration SuDs should be used wherever they are suitable. Applicants will be expected to comply with the SuDs design principles set out in the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Management SPD (including any updates to this) when designing and planning for SuDs. All other development proposals involving new build or that increase areas of impermeable surfaces will be required to demonstrate all surface water run-off is accommodated within the site using appropriate surface water drainage arrangements with a strong preference for SuDs</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 8: Renewable energy schemes in Stapleford and Great Shelford</p> | <p>Proposals for community-led renewable or low carbon energy projects are supported in line with the Local Plan provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) proposals protect or enhance landscape character in line with Policy S&GS 11 b) there is evidence of local community involvement and leadership (e.g. where a scheme is being led by a community | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

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| | land trust). | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 9: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and nature networks in Stapleford and Great Shelford</p> | <p>1. Development proposals that either directly or indirectly impact a site of biodiversity value in the neighbourhood plan area (as shown on Maps 5, 6 and 7) must take account of their biodiversity value by applying the mitigation hierarchy set out in Clauses 2 and 3 below. Depending on the scale of a proposal and the sensitivity of a site, a long-term management plan may be required as part of a proposal.</p> <p>2. For all development proposals, the hierarchy of mitigation should be embedded into the design of the development with the following steps implemented in order:</p> <p>a) firstly, avoid impacts. This means retaining habitats of value for enhancement and management and retaining species in situ.</p> <p>b) secondly, mitigate impacts where these have been found to be unavoidable, through replacement of lost protected and priority habitats and accommodating displaced species within the site boundary.</p> <p>c) thirdly, compensate if mitigation measures are insufficient.</p> <p>3. If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for, then</p> | <p>No, Category B</p> | <p>Recommendation to amend policy text to require mitigation for significant impacts on hedgerows or any severance of bat flightlines within 10km IRZ of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC.</p> <p>Additional text:</p> <p>‘Avoid significant impact on hedgerows or any severance of bat flight lines to protect foraging and commuting habitat for Barbastelle bats which could belong to the population protected by Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC.’</p> |

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| | <p>planning permission will be refused.</p> <p>4. Proposals will be considered more favourably where they seek opportunities to create or strengthen links between existing and/or new habitats through the development site. Here, measures are sought which result in strengthening or enhancing the following nature networks in the plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) River Cam and River Granta corridor, including adjacent woodland and water meadows (Shelford meadows, Hermitage Meadows, Stapleford Bridge Meadows, Bury Farm meadows) b) Hobson’s Brook wildlife corridor c) Gog Magog Hills corridor as identified in the Cambridge Nature Network (see Appendix 5). <p>5. In all locations, development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity, and this should be achieved on site wherever possible and in accordance with BS8683:2021- Process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).</p> <p>6. Appropriate measures for delivering BNG in the plan area should focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) retaining and enhancing the network of species and habitats currently present in the plan area, as described | | |

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| | <p>in the supporting text to this policy</p> <p>b) creating, strengthening or restoring links between existing and/or new natural habitats through the development site (see point 4 above)</p> <p>c) planting additional trees and hedgerows (prioritising species that will enhance local biodiversity, such as native planting and/or species capable of adapting to the changing climate).</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 10: Trees and development</p> | <p>1. Any planning application for a development site where trees are present and at risk of being impacted by the proposed development, must be submitted with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tree survey as outlined in BS 5837 2012 (or its equivalent replacement). This also includes any hedges on site and any adjacent trees to the site that may be affected by the proposed development • a management plan showing how trees and hedges are to be protected and sustained during the construction process. <p>2. Significant trees and hedgerows of good arboricultural value should be retained as an integral part of the design of any development, except where their long-term survival would be compromised by their age or physical condition or there are exceptional and overriding benefits in accepting their loss. Where trees are to be replaced,</p> | <p>No, Category B</p> | <p>Recommendation to amend policy text to require mitigation for significant impacts on hedgerows or any severance of bat flightlines within 10km IRZ of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC.</p> <p>Additional text:</p> <p>‘Avoid significant impact on hedgerows or any severance of bat flight lines to protect foraging and commuting habitat for Barbastelle bats which could belong to the population</p> |

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| | <p>replacement trees within the site will be required, taking into account the size and the condition of the lost items but at a minimum 2:1 ratio. Replacement trees should be mature saplings (3-15 years). All new tree and hedgerow planting should prioritise species that enhance biodiversity (native planting and/or species capable of adapting to the changing climate).</p> <p>3. Where new trees or hedgerows are being planted as part of a new scheme, developers will be expected to provide robust arrangements for their future maintenance. This should include arrangements to replace trees or hedgerows which do not survive within 5 years of having been planted.</p> | | <p>protected by Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC.'</p> |
| <p>Policy S&GS 11: Protecting and enhancing Stapleford and Great Shelford's landscape character</p> | <p>1. All development proposals shall be sensitive to the distinctive landscape and settlement character in the plan area. To be supported, development proposals should:</p> <p>a) retain or enhance existing features of value (including trees, hedgerows, water features) within the site and work within the context of existing features of value in the wider surroundings</p> <p>b) retain the existing area of separation between Stapleford and Great Shelford and the City of Cambridge</p> <p>c) be sympathetic to the characteristics (including sensitivities to change) found in each landscape character area, as described in Chapter 3 of the S&GS</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

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| | <p>LCA 2019.</p> <p>2. Where potential adverse impacts on Stapleford and Great Shelford’s landscape and settlement character are identified, proposals should first demonstrate that they have been informed by an assessment of landscape and visual impacts (proportionate to the scheme proposed) and secondly demonstrate, with reference to the S&GS LCA 2019, the following:</p> <p>d) the proposal has particular regard to the landscape planning guidelines and land management guidelines applicable to the character area in which it is located (see Map 6)</p> <p>e) landscape mitigation measures will be incorporated that will ensure the development is sensitively screened and assimilated into its surroundings. For edge of settlement locations, account must be taken of important views from the countryside (see Policy S&GS 12). The creation of landscaped buffers is likely to be required. Proposals that are found, post-mitigation, to significantly harm landscape character will be refused.</p> <p>3. Proposals within or otherwise affecting the Stapleford and Great Shelford Landscape Improvement Area should also comply with Policy S&GS 20 of this plan.</p> | | |
| Policy S&GS | To be supported, development | No, | No specific |

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| 12: Important Views | <p>proposals must maintain or enhance the key features and their setting (described in Appendix 6 to this plan) of the following views into and out of the settlement:</p> <p>Views:</p> <p>A – Scanning from east around to southeast from the bridge over Hobson’s Conduit on Addenbrooke’s Road towards Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve, White Hill and Hobson’s Conduit.</p> <p>B – A wide view scanning from north around to southeast from a high point on Granham’s Road over land towards Cambridge City and around Beechwood Local Nature Reserve, Gog Magog Hills and Magog Down.</p> <p>C – Looking southeast from Cherry Hinton Road, close to junction with Wort’s Causeway, over open arable fields towards Beechwood Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>D – A long distance view (stretching 27km on a clear day) from the northeast boundary of Wandlebury Country Park over Gog Magog golf course, open arable land, Cambridge City and the countryside beyond towards Ely Cathedral.</p> <p>E – Scanning from west around to north from the Junction of A1307 and Haverhill Road, taking in Fox Hill, arable fields, Cambridge City and Gog</p> | Category A | recommendations |

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| | <p>Magog Hills.</p> <p>F – A 360o panorama from Little Trees Hill, the high point in Magog Down, over wider countryside, with Sawston to the south, Stapleford to the west, Cambridge City to the north and Gog Magog Hills to the east. This view is also Strategic Viewpoint 7 in the Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>G – Scanning from northeast around to southeast from Haverhill Road, just outside Stapleford village boundary, taking in Little Trees Hill at Magog Down, open arable land and a copse on the skyline.</p> <p>H – Scanning from northwest to northeast from the gap between 41 Gog Magog Way and homes at Chalk Hill, Stapleford, over open arable land towards Hinton Way rear gardens.</p> <p>I – Scanning from northeast around to southeast from the beginning of the farm track beyond Stapleford Granary, Bury Farm, Stapleford, taking in Little Trees Hill at Magog Down, the ‘black barn’ and surrounding open arable fields.</p> <p>J – A short view to the south from the entrance to the gated car park behind Stapleford Granary, Bury Road, Stapleford, of the meadow along the River Granta corridor.</p> <p>K – Looking:</p> | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (a) east from the railway bridge at London Road (A1301), Stapleford, through trees towards River Granta meadows, and • b) looking west from both the railway bridge and river bridge on Sawston Greenway over Clerk’s Piece, the River Granta and meadows. <p>L – Looking south-southwest from the entrance to Great Shelford Recreation Ground in Great Shelford Memorial Hall car park over the Recreation Ground towards the tree belt with the River Cam beyond.</p> <p>M – Looking southeast from the Church Street/Bridge Lane junction at the Great Shelford/Little Shelford parish boundary, over meadows towards the River Cam and mature trees.</p> <p>N1 – Scanning from west around to northeast from Jenny’s Path, Great Shelford, just north of the railway bridge, taking in the River Cam, meadows and open arable land.</p> <p>N2 – Scanning from northwest around to northeast from Jenny’s Path, at a field boundary approaching the M11 underpass, over open arable fields, taking in Trumpington and Shelford Rugby Club.</p> <p>O – Looking to the southwest, from south of railway bridge on Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, over De Freville Farm fields.</p> | | |

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| | <p>P – Scanning around from southwest to west-southwest from Trinity House, Cambridge Road, Great Shelford, over pasture and open arable fields</p> <p>Q – Scanning around from north to southeast from the eastern boundary of Great Shelford Village Charity community garden and allotments, over the railway line, open arable land and native hedgerow, with Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve and White Hill prominent features to the north, northeast and east, respectively.</p> <p>R – Scanning around from south to west from the allotments on higher ground at Stonehill Road, Great Shelford, across open arable fields.</p> <p>S – Scanning around from north to northeast from the DNA Path next to the ‘bridge to nowhere’, Great Shelford, taking in Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve and White Hill.</p> <p>T – Scanning around from southeast to south from a high point on Granhams Road at the entrance to Nine Wells House, taking in Clark’s Hill and open arable fields towards Hinton Way, with higher land around Heydon in the far distance.</p> <p>U – Looking northwest from near ‘Hillrise’, Granham’s Road, Great Shelford, across open arable fields and the railway line towards Trumpington.</p> <p>V – Scanning from north around to east-northeast from the bottom of the</p> | | |

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| | <p>private road to Fox Hill, opposite 241 Hinton Way, taking in Beechwood Local Nature Reserve, Gog Magog Hills and Wandlebury Country Park.</p> <p>W – Scanning from northwest around to east from Stapleford cemetery, to the north of Mingle Lane, across open arable fields, taking in the new countryside park between Haverhill Road and Hinton Way, and Fox Hill in the northeast distance.</p> <p>X – Looking north-northeast from the gap between 27 and 31 Mingle Lane, towards wooded rear gardens of Hinton Way and the chalkland hills.</p> <p>Y – A 360o panorama from near the ‘black barn’ on the farm track beyond Stapleford Granary, Bury Farm, Stapleford, across open arable fields, with Little Trees Hill and Magog Down to the north.</p> <p>Z – Looking east from the northern-most extension of a former clay pit (the ‘pocket park’) at Granham’s Road, over open arable fields and native hedgerow towards elevated woodland at White Hill.</p> <p>Aa – Scanning from south around to north from the northwest corner of Shelford Rugby Club, off Westfield Road, across open arable fields, taking in trees along the course of the River Cam and Jenny’s Path in the near distance to the west and higher land towards Barton and Comberton in the</p> | | |

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| | <p>far northwest.</p> <p>Bb – Looking west from the western boundary of Great Shelford Parish Council cemetery, off Cambridge Road, over open arable land towards trees lining the River Cam and Jenny’s Path.</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 13: Important Countryside Frontages</p> | <p>The areas shown on Map 9 are identified as Important Countryside Frontages where land has a strong countryside character because it penetrates or sweeps into the built-up area and provides a significant connection between the street scene and the surrounding rural area, or where it provides an important rural break between two nearby but detached parts of the development framework. Where a development proposal compromises these purposes, planning permission will be refused.</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |
| <p>Policy S&GS 14: Local Green Spaces & Protected Village Amenity Areas</p> | <p>1. The following sites, as shown on Policy Map 10, are designated as Local Green Spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Grange Field, Great Shelford 2 Collier Field, Stapleford 3 Horse pasture surrounding Greenhedge Farm, Stapleford 4 Allotments, Stapleford <p>Development proposals on these sites will only be supported in very special</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

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| | <p>circumstances.</p> <p>2. The following sites, as shown on Policy Map 11, are designated as Protected Village Amenity areas (in addition to those designated as part of the 2018 Local Plan) in accordance with Local Plan Policy NH/11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Great Shelford Recreation Ground b) Stapleford Recreation Ground c) Horse pasture bounded by Granham’s Lane, the DNA path and Macauley Avenue housing, Great Shelford d) The Hermitage and Kings Mill meadows, Great Shelford e) Clerk’s Piece, Stapleford f) Great Shelford Village Charities’ community garden and allotments | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 15: Preserving our dark landscape</p> | <p>1. Development proposals that include external lighting will only be permitted if the night sky is protected from light pollution.</p> <p>2. This means the proposed lighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is the minimum appropriate for its purpose (e.g. turned off when not needed) b) is designed such that the lighting is directed downwards to avoid spill up into the sky or out of the site (e.g. | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
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| | <p>beam angle below 70 degrees)</p> <p>c) avoids light spillage beyond the area intended to be lit</p> <p>d) limits the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed and no more than 3000 Kelvins</p> | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 16: Delivering community infrastructure priorities alongside new development</p> | <p>1. All development proposals in the plan area should contribute towards infrastructure priorities where it is necessary to make the development acceptable and where directly, fairly and reasonable related in scale and kind to the development.</p> <p>2. The provision of new and improved community infrastructure will depend on the location and specific impacts of each individual development proposals, and should be informed by the following priorities:</p> <p>Play space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a need to address the existing deficiency in informal open space, in particular in the north of the settled area • a need to address existing deficiencies in available play space. <p>Other community infrastructure priorities</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |
| <p>Policy S&GS 17:</p> | <p>1. All development proposals will be expected to incorporate safe and</p> | <p>No,</p> | <p>No specific</p> |

| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
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| Facilitating active travel in Stapleford and Great Shelford | <p>attractive walking and cycling routes on sites and take opportunities to connect to the wider public rights of way, walking and cycling routes in the plan area. Design code CN.02 Connected Streets in the S&GS DG&C 2023 should be complied with.</p> <p>2. Where development proposals generate new movement of residents, workers, shoppers, etc, they will also be expected to take every available opportunity to improve connectivity across the wider neighbourhood through the provision of or contribution towards improved or new active travel links. With respect to this, the active travel projects shown on Map 12 and described in the supporting text to the policy should be prioritised.</p> <p>3. Development proposals which result in decreased pedestrian connectivity between residential areas and shops and services (including the schools) or which fail to utilise opportunities to provide new connections will not be supported.</p> | Category A | recommendations |
| Policy S&GS 18: Managing the impacts of new development in the plan area with respect to the movement of people and | <p>1. Proposals for major development in the plan area that are likely to trigger significant traffic movements will be required to be supported by highways information, including, where applicable a transport assessment which predicts the level and impact of increased traffic movements during both the construction and operation phases.</p> <p>2. All development proposals that are</p> | No, Category A | No specific recommendations |



| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
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| vehicles | <p>likely to exacerbate existing problems relating to traffic volumes and traffic congestion (i.e. by generating noticeable increases in traffic movements or by increasing demand for on-street parking or causing obstructions to flowing traffic) in the plan area will be expected to be accompanied by local highways and environmental information which details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adverse impacts in terms of type (e.g. road safety, environmental (noise, dust, air pollution) and who or what is impacted (e.g. people, active travellers using pavements or cycle routes, the natural environment) • measures proposed to mitigate these impacts, e.g. street scene enhancement such as pavement widening, street scene planting, provision of crossing points, or narrowing of junctions (to allow for safer pedestrian movement). <p>Particular attention should be paid to the existing congestion key pinch points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location 1: Shelford level crossing • Location 2: Granham’s Road level crossing • Location 3: Junction of A1301/Granham’s Road • Location 4: Great and Little Shelford | | |



| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
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| | <p>CofE Primary School (Church Street)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location 5: Woollards Lane and High Street shops • Location 6: Stapleford Community Primary School (Bar Lane) <p>3. Proposals that lead to unacceptable adverse impacts on residential amenity in the plan area, or on the street scene environment in Great Shelford village centre or on road safety for all vulnerable users (pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians) will not be supported.</p> <p>4. Proposals that are designed to lead to an overall reduction in traffic volume and/or traffic congestion along the A1301/in the Great Shelford civic core, without deflecting problems elsewhere in the plan area, are welcomed. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • off-street parking provision designed to meet demand generated by visitors to village shops and services • helping towards the implementation of the active travel priorities listed in Policy S&GS 17 • a ring road allowing east/west transit. | | |
| <p>Policy S&GS 19: Protecting and improving routes into</p> | <p>1. The Public Rights of Way network shown on Map 13 and the permissive routes in the parish are valued for providing important outdoor recreational opportunities and will</p> | <p>No, Category A</p> | <p>No specific recommendations</p> |

| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
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| our countryside | <p>be protected or enhanced.</p> <p>2. Proposals which include new public rights of way, including bridleways in suitable locations, will be viewed favourably where they are otherwise acceptable. Where opportunities arise to create new links into the existing PRoW network, proposals will be expected to do so, having particular regard to aspirations for new routes set out in Map 14.</p> <p>3. Development schemes where additional demand is generated (i.e. new homes) will be expected to contribute (subject to Paragraph 57 of the NPPF) to the provision of improved public access routes into the open countryside, providing access from village edges for informal recreation, walking, wildlife enjoyment and countryside relaxation.</p> | | |
| Policy S&GS 20: Delivering Stapleford and Great Shelford's Improved Landscape Area | <p>For development proposals coming forward in or otherwise impacting upon the Stapleford and Great Shelford Improved Landscape Area, opportunities will be sought to implement the countryside enhancement measures described in the supporting text to this policy and shown on Map 15.</p> <p>Financial contributions towards these initiatives will be sought where necessary to protect and enhance the landscape setting to both the rural villages and the historic City of Cambridge and where directly, fairly</p> | | |

| Policy Number | Policy Wording | Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites? | Recommendations |
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| | <p>and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.</p> <p>Major and strategic development proposals associated with the expansion of the City of Cambridge but impacting parts of either Great Shelford or Stapleford parishes, must also incorporate landscape mitigation measures to protect and enhance the landscape setting to the two rural villages.</p> | | |

4.5.1 Recommendations and HRA Screening Conclusion

There are three Habitats sites within scope of this HRA screening (Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, Wicken Fen Ramsar site and Fenland SAC). There are two potential impact pathways – impacts on protected species outside the protected sites e.g. Barbastelle bats, and recreational pressure from residential development.

As the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes, there are no predicted effects from the Plan alone and no residual effects to consider in combination with other plans and projects. There is therefore no need to identify any relevant plans or projects likely to result in a significant effect on Habitats sites.

There are two policies (Policy S&GS 9: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and nature networks in Stapleford and Great Shelford and Policy S&GS 10: Trees and development) in the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan which has been assigned to ‘Category B’ in relation to Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC when the Plan is considered alone. Therefore, a policy text amendment has been recommended for both to ensure that impacts upon this Habitats site are considered at application stage for any future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area. As a result, there is no need for the Plan to be assessed at Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment).

In the context of this HRA, there are therefore no relevant plans or projects to be considered in combination with Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Conclusions

5.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The policies of the Neighbourhood Plan can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining local planning applications.

Planning Practice Guidance on SEA of Neighbourhood Plans indicates that a strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development; the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan; or the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and seeks to strengthen the protection and enhancement of assets at the local level and in a local context.

In consideration of the findings of this Screening Report, the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be screened out for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

5.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

This Habitat Regulations Assessment considers the impacts arising from the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan. The HRA Screening stage identifies that, without mitigation, further consideration is not required at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine whether the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, would adversely affect the integrity of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. This HRA screening report recommends that Policies supporting development do not need to be assessed further either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Embedded mitigation measures for projects (planning applications) will need to be considered in project level HRA/AA reports assessed by South Cambridgeshire District Council and secured by a condition attached to any planning consent. Therefore, there will be no need for further assessment for this Neighbourhood Plan.

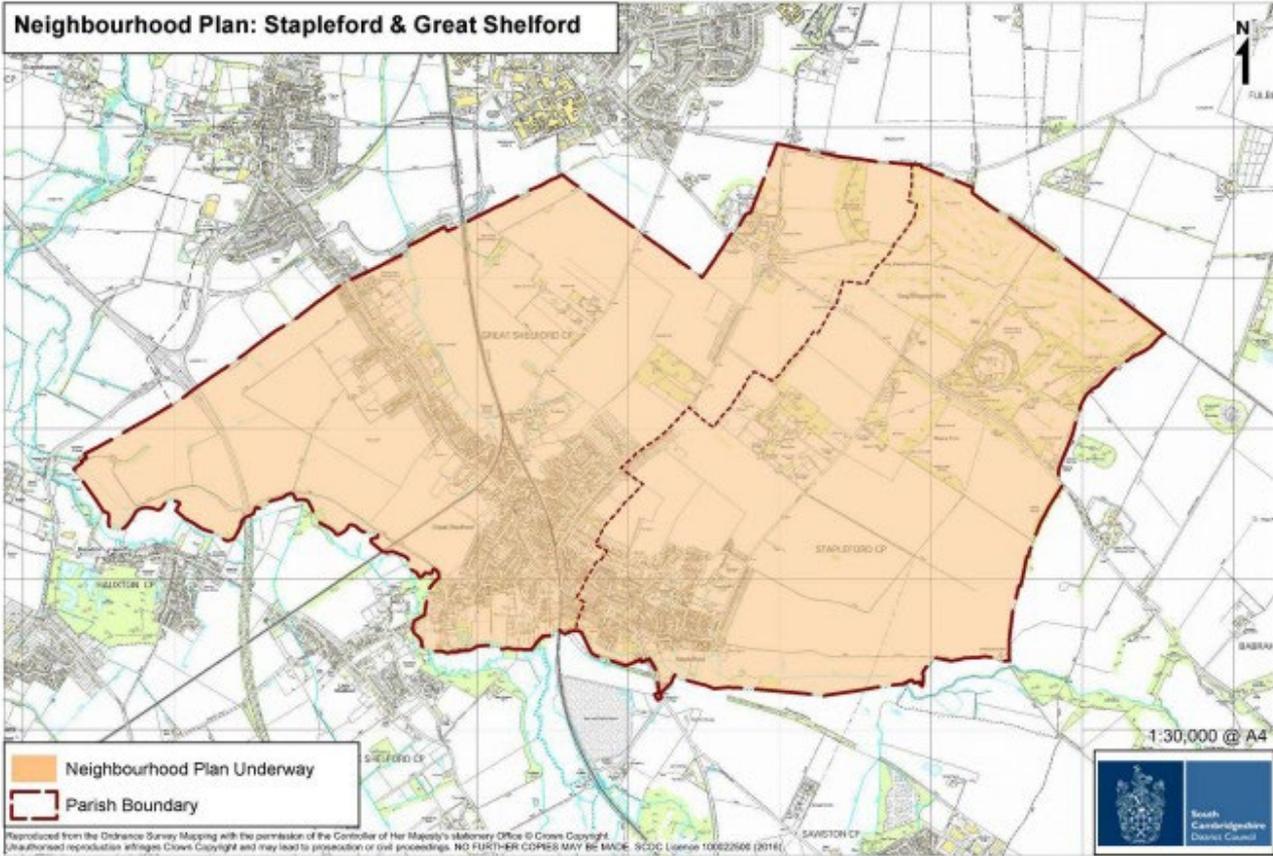
Subject to the above recommendation being incorporated and Natural England's review, this HRA Screening Report, indicates that, without mitigation embedded, the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have a Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The requirement for the Plan to undertake further assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Regulations 2017 (as amended) is therefore screened out.

6. References

- Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (February 2022)
- Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD SEA and HRA screening report (v2 December 2021)
- Greater Cambridge Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Issues and Options Scoping Report (Dec 2019)
- Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website
- Saunders P., Lake S., Lily D., Panter C., (2019) Visitor Survey of the National Trust's Wicken Fen 100 Year Vision Area. Unpublished Report by Footprint Ecology.
- South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018)
- Stapleford and Great Shelford Draft Neighbourhood Plan (November 2023)
- Tydlesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, (April 2022) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited

Appendix 1

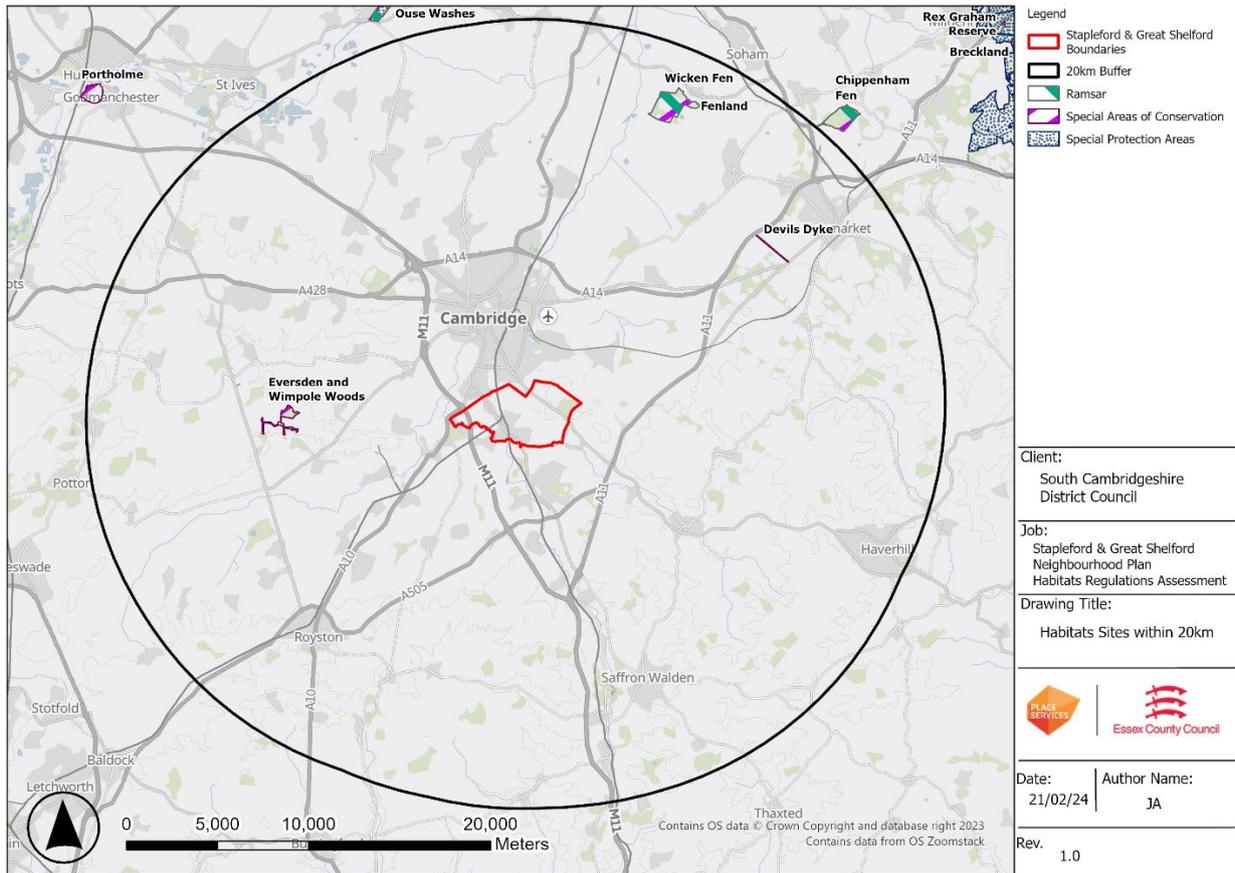
The Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan area



Source: Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 2

The Plan Area and Locations of the Habitats sites within 20 km



Source: Place Services, 2024



Place Services

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Essex County Council

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses from the Statutory Environmental Bodies

Historic England

18 March 2024

Thank you for inviting Historic England to comment on this consultation. As the Government's adviser on the historic environment Historic England is keen to ensure that the protection of the historic environment is fully taken into account at all stages and levels of the local planning process. Therefore we welcome this opportunity to review the Screening Report for this plan. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan) likely to have a significant effect on the historic environment?". Our comments are based on the information supplied with the Screening Opinion.

The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. We note that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made.

I should be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by you with your correspondence. To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are closely involved throughout the preparation of the

plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Kind regards,

Ross McGivern

Historic Places Adviser

Natural England

21 March 2024

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 01 March 2024.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report: HRA concludes 'No Likely Significant Effects' and Natural England concurs.

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has screened the Neighbourhood Plan to check for the likelihood of significant effects.

Your assessment concludes that the Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

We do not have any additional comments to make, however, we refer you to the advice in the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities that should be considered when preparing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Duerden

Sustainable Development Lead Adviser - West Anglia Team

Environment Agency

26 March 2024

Thank you for consulting us on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report for the Stapleford and Great Shelford Neighbourhood Plan.

Flood Risk

Based on a review of environmental constraints for which we are a statutory consultee, we find that there are areas of fluvial flood risk and watercourses within the neighbourhood plan area. In particular, we note that the boundary does extend into areas of Flood Zones 2 and 3 of the designated main River Granta. As the plan does not allocate sites, we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints. Nevertheless, we recommend the inclusion of relevant policies to cover the management of flood risk. Allocation of any sites and any windfall development delivered through the Plan period should follow the sequential approach. National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 161 sets this out.

Water Quality

We have identified that the Plan area boundary includes the Cambridge Water Recycling Centre, which is currently operating close to or exceeding its permitted capacity. As the Plan does not allocate sites for growth development across the Plan period, we do not have any significant concerns. We would still expect to see consideration for any windfall developments captured in a relevant policy for Water Quality in the catchment of the Plan Area and serving WRC.

We encourage you to seek ways in which your neighbourhood plan can improve the local environment. For your information, together with Natural England, Historic England and Forestry Commission we have published joint guidance on neighbourhood planning, which sets out sources of environmental information and ideas on incorporating the environment into plans. This is available at: [How to consider the environment in Neighbourhood plans - Locality Neighbourhood Planning.](#)

Yours sincerely

Alison Craggs

Sustainable Places Planning Advisor