



Great Abington Parish Council



**South
Cambridgeshire
District Council**

**Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association (LSA)
Estate Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening
Determination Statement**

6 July 2017

Executive Summary

This statement sets out the reasons for the determination that the draft Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association (LSA) Estate Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition this statement determines that the making of the Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

This determination statement is intended to demonstrate that the Great Abington Former LSA Estate 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).

Great Abington Parish Council 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 regulations¹ which transpose the EU's SEA Directive² 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 Great Abington Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan. An initial assessment was made available to the statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for comment starting on 3rd May 2017. Revisions were made to the assessment after it had been made available to the statutory consultees on 3rd May, and therefore a revised version of the assessment (as included in Appendix 1) was made available to the statutory consultees on 25th May 2017.

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: On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set in out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations and the assessment duties in the Regulations, would take a view that a SEA is not required in this instance.
- Natural England: Satisfied with the conclusions of the Screening Report, as given the scale, nature and location of development proposed, the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment, including European sites. Satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out and does not require SEA or Appropriate Assessment.
- Environment Agency: Due to resource pressures are no longer able to provide comprehensive bespoke advice on pre application enquiries, screening and scoping opinions.

The SEA screening assessment considered that the Neighbourhood Plan would not have a significant effect on the environment in so far as:

¹ Known fully as The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

² Known fully as 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.

- it does not allocate land for the development; and
- there are no environmental considerations within the Neighbourhood Plan area that are considered likely to be significantly harmed as a result of the maximum scale of possible development resulting from Policy 2 (Additional Dwellings) of the Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan.

The assessment concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan was not likely to have significant environmental effects and consequently that a strategic environmental assessment was not required.

The HRA screening indicated that the Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

Based on the screening opinion and having considered the consultation responses from the statutory environmental bodies, Great Abington Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council determine that the Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a strategic environmental assessment. The Councils also determine that the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European site.

Appendix 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association Estate Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan, Great Abington Parish Council has 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 Great Abington Parish Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Great Abington Former LSA Estate Neighbourhood Plan.



Neighbourhood Plan for the former Land Settlement Association Estate (LSA) at Great Abington

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA): Screening Report - May 2017





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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 Great Abington 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 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). A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project.

1.2 The Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out planning policies for the Land Settlement Association Estate (LSA) area. Once formally adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same legal weight as Local Development Plans adopted up by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in this case South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Neighbourhood Plan states that its intention is to clarify and regularise the development which is permitted on the former LSA so that there are clear, consistent and transparent policies to control development. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to provide policies for housing whilst preserving the special nature of the estate.

The Plan states that the essential aim of the Neighbourhood Plan is to retain the special character of the former Land Settlement Estate while allowing limited development. Section 4 'Aims and Objectives' of the Neighbourhood Plan states that the plan aims to:

- keep the historic pattern of building on the land settlement, comprising a house with outbuildings (these may include a new dwelling as defined below) surrounded by open land separating each holding;
- retain the existing single track roads with passing places, currently paid for and maintained through the Road Management Association;
- encourage a wider demographic mix on the former LSA by allowing for the building of smaller dwellings attractive to both young and elderly;
- support the construction of smaller high quality dwellings as many original smaller houses have been extended;
- ensure that new development responds positively to local character and history and uses construction materials that are in keeping with the local area ; and
- retain the agricultural and paddock land outside the areas defined by the original house and its outbuildings.



The Plan's general principles to be followed in the Neighbourhood Plan area are:

1. The designated area remains outside the Great Abington village framework.
2. The broadly rural nature of the designated area should be preserved with all public footpaths and rights of way for horse riders retained.
3. The roads will remain unadopted by the Council and their maintenance will continue under the existing road management organisation.
4. Developments will not be allowed which have a significant adverse impact on the unique character or appearance of the Estate and or which may have an adverse impact on residential amenity or create unacceptable disturbance.
5. All new building designs should be in keeping with the original housing stock on the Estate.
6. No development should be allowed that would result in a substantial increase in traffic on the Estate or the need for significant related road development, such as businesses that by their nature require large numbers of vehicle movements.

1.3 The South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework / Local Plan

The adopted South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework includes a number of Development Plan Documents (DPD) and Area Action Plans. A Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment has been carried out for each of these documents as well as a Habitat Directive Assessment. A link can be found on the following pages on our website to these key documents:

- Core Strategy DPD
- Development Control Policies DPD
- Site Specific Policies DPD

The Council submitted in March 2014 the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan for independent examination. This emerging Local Plan is currently going through examination and it is anticipated that this will be adopted in 2017 (subject to the progress of the examination).

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 Great Abington 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 P&P, and modifications to them, are covered when prepared and/or adopted by an authority[2] and required pursuant to legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions:

- P&P prepared for certain sectors and which set the framework for future development consent in respect of projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment-EIA-Directive.*
- P&P requiring an assessment under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).*
- P&P 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 Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan.



2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (*The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012*), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any European Site, in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of European 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 support the Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan which is being produced by Gt Abington Parish Council 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 EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a HRA.

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 an SEA is required. Table 1 sets out the assessment of whether the principle of the Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA.

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

Q	Criteria	Response	Outcome	Commentary
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	Go to question 2	The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for adoption through legislative procedure.
2	Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or <u>administrative provision</u> 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	Go to question 3	The Neighbourhood Plan would be considered as falling within the category of an 'administrative provision'.
		No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	
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	Go to question 5	The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for town and country planning and sets a framework for future development consent
		No to either criteria	Go to question 4	
4	Will the Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?	Yes	Go to question 5	N/A
		No	Go to question 6	
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 either criteria	Go to question 8	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.
		No to both criteria	Go to question 7	

Q	Criteria	Response	Outcome	Commentary
6	Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in the Annexes of the EIA Directive)?	Yes	Go to question 8	N/A
		No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	
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 EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7	Yes to any criteria	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	N/A
		No to all criteria	REQUIRES SEA	
8	Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?	Yes	REQUIRES SEA	Likely significant effects are explored in more detail elsewhere in this Screening Report.
		No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	

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,
- 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 on the Environment resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan

The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Neighbourhood Plan (at the time of writing) to have significant effects on the environment.

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 Area once adopted. Policy 2 of the Plan identifies that development of one additional dwelling on the site of the original piggery will be permitted, subject to policy criteria. The 'rationale and intent' of the supporting text indicates further that this policy is not an 'allocation' of land for development purposes, but a policy approach that could lead to an additional 62 dwellings, relevant to each 'original piggery' in the Plan area should each piggery be developed. This is a possible outcome of this policy and does not represent a land allocation within the Plan which would otherwise necessitate an appraisal of options and an assessment of individual sites by a qualifying body.</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 provides policies for the plan area, relevant to a local level only. The Plan is in general conformity to that of the emerging South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan area is not contained within a development boundary / village framework boundary (and is therefore within 'the countryside') yet extends the principle of development to the Neighbourhood Plan area within Policy 2: Additional Dwellings. The emerging Local Plan's Examination led to a proposed modification to Local Plan Policy S/7: Development Frameworks which states that, 'outside development frameworks, only allocations within Neighbourhood Plans that have come into force... will be permitted.' Therefore the principle of development within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary is supported by the Local Planning Authority.</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 emerging Local Plan's Examination led to a proposed modification to Local Plan Policy S/7: Development Frameworks which states that, 'outside development frameworks, only allocations within Neighbourhood Plans that have come into force... will be permitted.' Therefore the principle of development within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary is supported by the Local Planning Authority.</p>



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan.</p> <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 water protection).</p> <p>The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors:</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan reflects a small area and the Plan's policy content seeks to address any environmental issues surrounding character, predominantly related to the design and layout of any new dwellings and overall settlement form. The policy content of the adopted LDF and the emerging Local Plan will additionally apply to any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area. These policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal within the context of the LDF and emerging Local Plan. The potential environmental problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the area is within the Impact Risk Zones of the Alder Carr SSSI (to the north east) and the Hildersham Wood SSSI (to the south east). • A Grade II Listed building (South Lodge) and a Grade II Listed cottage (to the west of Newhouse Farmhouse) exist in close proximity to the northern boundary of the NP area. • A Scheduled Monument (Brent Ditch) exists at the southern boundary of the NP area. • The southern part of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is within a Groundwater Protection Zone – Inner Zone (zone 1). <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> <p>The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment:</p>
<p>Sustainability Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodiversity - Population 	<p>Part of the area is within the Impact Risk Zones of the Alder Carr SSSI (to the north east) and the Hildersham Wood SSSI (to the south east), however Natural England do not require consultation for rural residential schemes in these particular areas indicating that there will be no likely impacts warranting further assessment. As a result, there can not be considered to be likely significant effects on nationally designated sites within the Plan Area.</p> <p>It is considered that there would be no significant effects on population resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan due to the scale of proposals. The Plan indicates that there could be positive impacts within the Plan Area in regard to meeting identified housing needs within the area.</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"> - Human health 	<p>The potential for new dwellings to be located on the existing footprints of existing piggeries within the Plan Area, could have some perceived impacts on health associated with contamination. Despite this, any potential impacts are best addressed at the ‘project level’, through the development management process and in adherence to relevant policies regarding contamination as included within the LPA’s adopted LDF and emerging Local Plan (which will continue to apply within the Plan Area). There are no highlighted significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan regarding human health that would warrant a strategic assessment through SEA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fauna 	<p>The impacts of the Neighbourhood Plan on fauna are not considered significant at the plan level. It is possible that any number of developments that could be forthcoming within the Plan Area could have negative impacts on protected species, however these can not be considered strategically significant to warrant Strategic Environmental Assessment. 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 LPA’s adopted LDF and emerging Local Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flora 	<p>Areas of woodland exist within the Plan Area, however these are not likely to be lost or otherwise harmed through the scale of development that could result from Policy 2: Additional dwellings within the Neighbourhood Plan, due to any new dwellings being associated with the footprints of the existing piggeries. There will be no likely significant effects on flora as a result.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area contains Grade 2 (very good) Agricultural Land / soil quality. The implications of the loss of this land resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan’s maximum possible yield of 62 additional dwellings is not considered significant in regard to the policy criteria of Policy 2, particularly in reflection of the new dwellings being located on part of the existing footprint of the piggeries.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water 	<p>The south of the Neighbourhood Plan Area is within a Groundwater Protection Zone – Inner Zone (zone 1). Source Protection Zones (SPZs) respond to sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply. These zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. The Neighbourhood Plan, in proposing an element of housing within the Plan Area, is not considered to respond to a land use that could pollute ground water in this area (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). Pollution control policies in the Local Plan</p>



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	would apply.
- Air	No AQMAs or other identified air quality issues exist within or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area. Limited impacts on air quality at the strategic level due to the small scale of potential development.
- Climatic factors	The Neighbourhood Plan area is within Flood Zone 1. There will be no impacts resulting from the scope and content of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Material assets	The content of the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any significant impacts on material assets due to the extent / size of the Neighbourhood 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 LDF and emerging Local Plan.
- Cultural heritage	<p>A Grade II Listed building (South Lodge) and a Grade II Listed cottage (to the west of Newhouse Farmhouse) exist in close proximity to the northern boundary of the NP area. The setting of these heritage assets are not considered to be likely affected by any possible development resulting from the NP due to the proximity of the piggeries within the NP area and the presence of an existing road in between the listed assets and the possible areas of development.</p> <p>A Scheduled Monument (Brent Ditch) exists at the southern boundary of the NP area. A high level assessment of the likely impacts on the site (undertaken by Place Services) that could arise from a possible 62 new dwellings dispersed through the Neighbourhood Plan Area commensurate to the location of each existing piggery, are not considered significant. Further detail on any individual impacts of schemes would be a development management matter on a case-by-case project level basis, and not strategic in scope to warrant the application of SEA at the plan-level.</p>
- Landscape	The Neighbourhood Plan area is within Natural England's East Anglian Chalk National Character Area (NCA) profile. It is considered that none of the key features of this NCA respond directly to the Neighbourhood Plan area in reflection of the past land use as the former Land Settlement Association Estate. The maximum possible scale of development that could arise from Policy 2 of the Plan, along with strong policy criteria regarding the protection of the built form, result in any significant strategic landscape effects being screened out for any requirement for SEA.



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
The cumulative nature of the effects.	In line with the above considerations that explore the effects of the plan's maximum possible scale of development of 62 dwellings, no significant cumulative effects are considered to be likely in line with the Plan's policy content.
The trans boundary nature of the effects.	The emerging South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and the suite of development plan documents adopted at the district level 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 risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	There is limited risk to human health or the environment as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is in consideration of the above screening requirements related to sustainability themes. The Neighbourhood Plan is primarily focused on housing, whilst retaining the character of the former Land Settlement Estate. Housing 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 spatial extent of development within the Plan area, resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan, is an additional 62 dwellings. The Plan itself does not allocate these additional dwellings, but seeks to establish the principle of permitting them. This maximum scale of possible development, and the extent of the plan area itself, is sufficiently small to ensure there would be no strategic 'significant' effects.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <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 Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed as not having any significant effects on natural characteristics, cultural heritage, environmental quality standards or intensive land use that would warrant further assessment through SEA.
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 been assessed as not 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 61 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any European Site, in terms of impacting the site's conservation objectives.

HRA is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of European 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 support the Gt Abington Neighbourhood Plan which is being produced by Gt Abington Parish Council in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The area covered by the Plan is shown in Appendix 1.

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.

This section of this Report aims to:

- Identify the European sites within 20km of Gt Abington.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Gt Abington draft Neighbourhood Plan for its potential to impact upon a European 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 Natura 2000 Sites

Natura 2000 is the centrepiece of EU nature and biodiversity policy. It is an EU wide network of nature protection areas. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The sites are designated under the European Union (EU) Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds) and the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora).

The Birds Directive requires the establishment of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds. The Habitats Directive similarly requires Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) to be designated for other species, and for habitats. Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) are also part of the Natura 2000 network. 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 Natura 2000 network in England.

4.2.1 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 found within EU countries. Example: Ouse Washes is internationally important for wintering waterfowl. Legislation: EU Birds Directive.

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: EU Habitats Directive.*

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.*

4.2.2 European Sites to be considered

There are only 2 European sites which lie within 20 km of Gt Abington former LSA estate. These were identified by South Cambs Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report and are shown on the map in Appendix 2. No European Sites lie within 8km of Gt Abington which in the absence of evidence is the distance regularly used by Natural England as the zone of influence to identify potential recreational impacts on statutory sites.

The two European Sites are Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and Devil's Dyke SAC.

After consideration of the South Cambs District Council Local Plan SA Scoping (Appendix 11 HRA screening) (June 2012), it was concluded that only two of the European sites shown in Table 2.1 which lie within 20 km of the site should be assessed for 'likely significant effects' from this draft Neighbourhood Plan. The locations and boundaries of the above sites are shown on the map in Appendix 2.

Table 3: European Sites within 20km of the development to be considered in this assessment

SPA	SAC	Ramsar
None	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	None
	Devil's Dyke SAC	

4.2.3 Conservation Objectives

Information on each of the above European sites has been taken from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Core Strategy SA Scoping report Appendix 11 (June 2012). Table 2.2 indicates the reason why each site is important and has been designated; the relevant SSSI compartments; and the Conservation Objectives for each site. This information has been obtained from the Natural England website.

Table 4: European Sites considered within this assessment

Reasons for Site Designation and Conservation Objectives European site	Reason for importance	Conservation Objectives for the European Site
Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	Comprises Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI Presence of colony of Barbastelle bats <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in UK.	To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Barbastelle bats. Subject to natural change, to maintain the broadleaved deciduous woodland in favourable condition. The qualifying features are <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i> bats.

Reasons for Site Designation and Conservation Objectives European site	Reason for importance	Conservation Objectives for the European Site
Devil's Dyke SAC	Comprises Devil's Dyke SSSI. Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (Festuco- Brometalia). (important orchid sites)	To maintain in favourable condition unimproved calcareous grassland with particular reference to semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (CG3 and CG5 grassland) and Himantoglossum hircinum lizard orchid. Subject to natural change, to maintain the species rich calcareous grassland. The qualifying features are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG3 Bromus erectus - CG5 Bromus erectus – Brachypodium pinnatum calcareous grasslands - Himantoglossum hircinum – lizard orchid - Pulsatilla vulgaris - Pasque flower

4.3 Method and Approach

An assessment under the Habitats Regulations can be split into four stages:

First stage – HRA Screening	The process, which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.
Second stage – Appropriate Assessment	The consideration of the impact on the integrity of a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and it's conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts.
Third stage – Assessment of alternative solutions	The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.
Fourth stage – Compensatory	An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should

measures	proceed.
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The four stages and their outcomes are described in more detail in the following table. This document relates only to Stage 1 of the HRA process.

Table 5: Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process

Stage	Tasks	Outcome
Stage 1 HRA Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of the policies or projects • Identification of potential effects on a European site • Assessing the effects on a European site 	<p>Where effects are unlikely, prepare a 'finding of no significant effect' report.</p> <p>Where effects judged likely, or lack of information to prove otherwise, go to Stage 2.</p>
Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information about the policies or projects and relevant European sites • Make prediction of impacts • Evaluate potential impacts in light of conservation objectives 	<p>Appropriate Assessment report describing a) the plan, b) European site baseline conditions, c) adverse effects of the plan on a European site, d) how effects will be avoided through avoidance and mitigation (specific mechanisms and timescales).</p> <p>If effects remain after avoidance and mitigation measures have been secured, go to Stage 3.</p>
Stage 3 Assessment of alternative solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options. • If no alternatives available, define and evaluate mitigation measures 	<p>If effects remain after alternative solutions been considered, consider whether the policies (and projects) should proceed with compensatory measures or the policies (and projects) be removed from the plan (Stage 4)</p>
Stage 4 Compensatory measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where adverse impacts remain and there are no alternatives, identify 'imperative reasons for overriding public interest' (IROPI). • Identify compensatory measures to maintain site integrity 	<p>Plan approved.</p>

4.3.1 Stage 1: HRA Screening

The screening stage identifies if an 'Appropriate Assessment' is needed because any policies or projects will have an impact on a European Site. Table 3.2 identifies the different categories assigned to each policy in the plan: Category A identifies those policies or projects that may not need an Appropriate Assessment and 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 and thus upon a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Section 4 considers each policy or projects and the results of the screening exercise recorded.

Table 6: Screening categorisation

Category A : No negative effect

Policies or projects that will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site.

Category B : No Likely Significant Effect

Policies or projects that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a *significant* negative effect on a European 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.

Category C Likely Significant Effect

Policies or projects which are predicted to have a likely significant effect on their own or in combination with other plans and projects.

4.3.2 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

If Stage 1 screening identifies the need for an Appropriate Assessment, then more detailed work will need to be undertaken to establish what the potential impacts of the plan will be on European Site integrity. A process is then undertaken to change the site allocation document in a manner that removes any risk of a negative impact on a European Site.

In making the assessment of how site integrity is impacted by a policies and projects, it is essential that the precautionary principle is adopted. The key premise of the precautionary principle is that in situations where an impact on site integrity cannot definitely be ruled out, then an adverse impact should be assumed.

4.3.3 Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions

This part of the assessment process examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the policy or project that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 or Ramsar site.

4.3.4 Stage 4: Compensatory Measures

In the unlikely event that it is not possible to adapt policies (and projects) sufficiently to avoid any adverse impact on the integrity of a European Site, then it would be necessary to establish whether there are any imperative reasons of overriding public interest that mean the policies (and projects)

should progress. The next stage is to notify the Secretary of State who will consider this and what compensatory measures will be required for the adverse impacts

4.3.5 Potential impacts of Gt Abington LSA Neighbourhood Plan on Natura 2000 sites

There is a wide range of impacts and these can be summarised as -

- Land take by developments;
- 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 Natura 2000 or Ramsar 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 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.

In line with the SA Scoping Report for South Cambridgeshire's Local Plan, each policy will be assessed against the criteria in the table below

Table 7: Assessment of potential impacts

Nature of potential impact	How the Gt Abington Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Natura 2000 site?	Why these effects are not considered significant?
Land take by development	Gt Abington is outside the boundaries of the 2 SACs within scope of this HRA.	N/A
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	Barbastelle bats, a qualifying feature of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, require minimal disturbance within 2 km of their roost. They can forage up to 20km from their roosts but more typically venture around 6-8km. Development at Gt Abington could potentially impact on foraging habitat for Barbastelle bats.	Gt Abington LSA lies outside the 11km zone of influence for this SAC. The main area of importance for them is shown on Map 1 in the Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document adopted by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2009. This area reflects the landscape and habitat of known value to bats, and also where survey effort has been deployed up to 2009.

Nature of potential impact	How the Gt Abington Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and project) could affect a Natura 2000 site?	Why these effects are not considered significant?
	The calcareous grassland, a qualifying feature of Devil's Dyke SAC, requires active management without which it rapidly becomes dominated by rank grasses which leads to the encroachment of scrub over time. Traditional management is by grazing. There is no pathway for development at Gt Abington to contribute to lack of scrub management or impacts on species protected by this SAC.	N/A
Recreational pressure and disturbance	There is public access to both Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and Devil's Dyke SAC.	Gt Abington is more than 8km from this SAC, the distance that Natural England consider, in the absence of evidence, that visitors are likely to travel for recreation. The sites are carefully managed by the landowners to avoid impacts from recreational pressure and disturbance.
Water quantity and quality	There is no pathway for development at Gt Abington to impact on the 2 SACs within scope of this HRA and neither are water sensitive sites.	N/A
Changes in pollution levels	As Gt Abington is at least 13km from the 2 SACs within scope of this HRA, it is considered that there is no pathway for development to result in pollution impacts.	N/A

4.4 Results from HRA Screening of Draft Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Each of the policies in the Gt Abington LSA draft Neighbourhood Plan were screened to identify whether they would have any impact on a European Site.

This assessment can be found in the following table.

Table 8: Assessment of potential impacts

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the European Sites?	Recommendations
Policy 1 Original dwellings (including those that have been rebuilt)	<p>Extensions to and rebuilding of original dwellings will be permitted provided the development does not result in a building that has a floor area exceeding 300 square metres.</p> <p>Replacement of original dwellings will be permitted providing the development does not exceed the floor area of the existing dwelling, or 300 square metres whichever is larger.</p> <p>For all development proposals the following must be demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the dwelling will continue to sit comfortably within its setting; - the existing uniformity in the layout of buildings along the road, as described in the Great Abington LSA Character Assessment, is retained; - residential amenity of neighbouring properties and future occupiers of proposed development will not be adversely affected; - the new building will have no more than two floors visible above the ground level; - the new building will be in keeping with others in the area in particular the external appearance of all four walls should be brick, washed concrete or timber, windows and doors should be of a traditional simple design, roofs will be in keeping with existing styles (gabled, half hipped, gambrel) with traditional tiles; - all new or replacement dwellings should be set back from the roads at least as far as the original dwellings but will not be placed significantly further back on the plot; and - development will recognise and reinforce the distinct local character (as set out within the Great Abington LSA Character Assessment) in relation to height, scale, spacing, layout, orientation, design and materials of buildings. 	No, Category A	No specific recommendations



Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the European Sites?	Recommendations
<p>Policy 2 Additional dwellings</p>	<p>The development of one additional dwelling on the site of the original piggery will be permitted provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the development will not result in more than two dwellings for each original house on the LSA estate as at the 1983 baseline; - the footprint of the additional dwelling covers at least a part of the site of the original piggery; - residential amenity of neighbouring properties and future occupiers of proposed development will not be adversely affected; - the additional dwelling has no more than two floors visible above the ground level; - the additional dwelling has a total floor area of no more than 150square metres; - the additional dwelling is suitable for independent living, in accordance with Lifetime Home Standards; - the additional building should be an asset to the area in terms of quality of building materials used and should be designed having regard to its impact on surrounding landscape and character; - the additional dwelling should be set back from the roads at least as far as the original piggery but will not be placed significantly further back on the plot; and - development will be expected to recognise and reinforce the distinct local character (as set out within the Great Abington LSA Character Assessment) in relation to height, scale, spacing, layout, orientation, design and materials of buildings. - It is a condition of development that the owner(s) of the new dwelling must be or become members of the Road Management Association and accept liability for the charges and conditions associated with the new dwelling. - No other additional dwellings requiring planning permission will be permitted in the NP area. 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the European Sites?	Recommendations
Policy 3: Road usage limitation in the Neighbourhood Plan area	Development that would result in a substantial increase in traffic on the Estate or the need for significant related road development, such as businesses that by their nature require large numbers of vehicle movements, will not be permitted.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy 4: Other development in the Neighbourhood Plan area	Development for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation and other uses which need to be located in the countryside will be permitted so long as it accords with Local Plan policy and Policy 3 in this plan.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

4.4.1 Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations to deliver for the policies in this draft Neighbourhood Plan as they have all been assigned to Category A. There is therefore no need to amend the policy text as they are not predicted to have a Likely Significant Effect on any Natura 2000 site.

The in-combination effects from other plans and projects are considered in the following section.

4.5 Other Plans and Projects – In-combination Effects

There are two relevant Plan level HRAs that have been carried out by South Cambs DC or other organisations and none have been found to have a likely significant effects on the European sites being assessed: Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and Devil's Dyke SAC.

The Water Cycle Strategy (WCS) for Major Growth Sites in and Around Cambridge is not in itself a relevant plan or project under the Habitats Regulations, but was prepared to support the delivery of the existing development strategy. Whilst it does not provide as assessment of new proposals for the Local Plan, its findings are relevant to support the assessment of the new plan. It focused on issues related to the water supply, surface drainage and wastewater sewerage associated with potential development sites, and also concluded no significant effects, and that protected sites could be screened out of further assessment.

In the context of this HRA, the relevant other plans to be considered are listed below in combination with Gt Abington Neighbourhood Plan HRA.

Table 9: Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects

Statutory Body	Title of HRA or Project	Findings of HRA or Project	Potential for in combination effects
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Habitat Regulations Assessment: Chapter 20 of South Cambs Local Plan SA Scoping Report (June 2012) and including the Draft Final Sustainability Report (2014) and Sustainability Appraisal Addendum (2015)	“The DPDs that form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for the district were all subject to an HRA screening and found to have no likely significant impact on a Natura site or a Ramsar site.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan	Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan HRA (May2007)	“This AAP was subject to an HRA and found not to impact on a Natura site or a Ramsar site.”	It is considered that in combination likely significant effects are not predicted.

References

- Draft Neighbourhood Plan for the former Land Settlement Area Gt Abington, Gt Abington Parish Council (March 2017)
- South Cambs District Council South Cambridgeshire Local Plan: Proposed Submission (March 2014)
- South Cambs District Council Core Strategy, Development Control Policies and Site Specific Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) HRA screening
- South Cambs District Council Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (adopted July 2009)
- South Cambs District Council Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan HRA (May2007)
- Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6581547796791296#content>



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 however it is considered that the Plan would not have a significant effect on the environment in so far as it does not allocate land for the development. There are no environmental considerations within the Neighbourhood Plan area that are considered likely to be significantly harmed as a result of the Plan at this maximum scale of possible development resulting from Policy 2: Additional Dwellings.

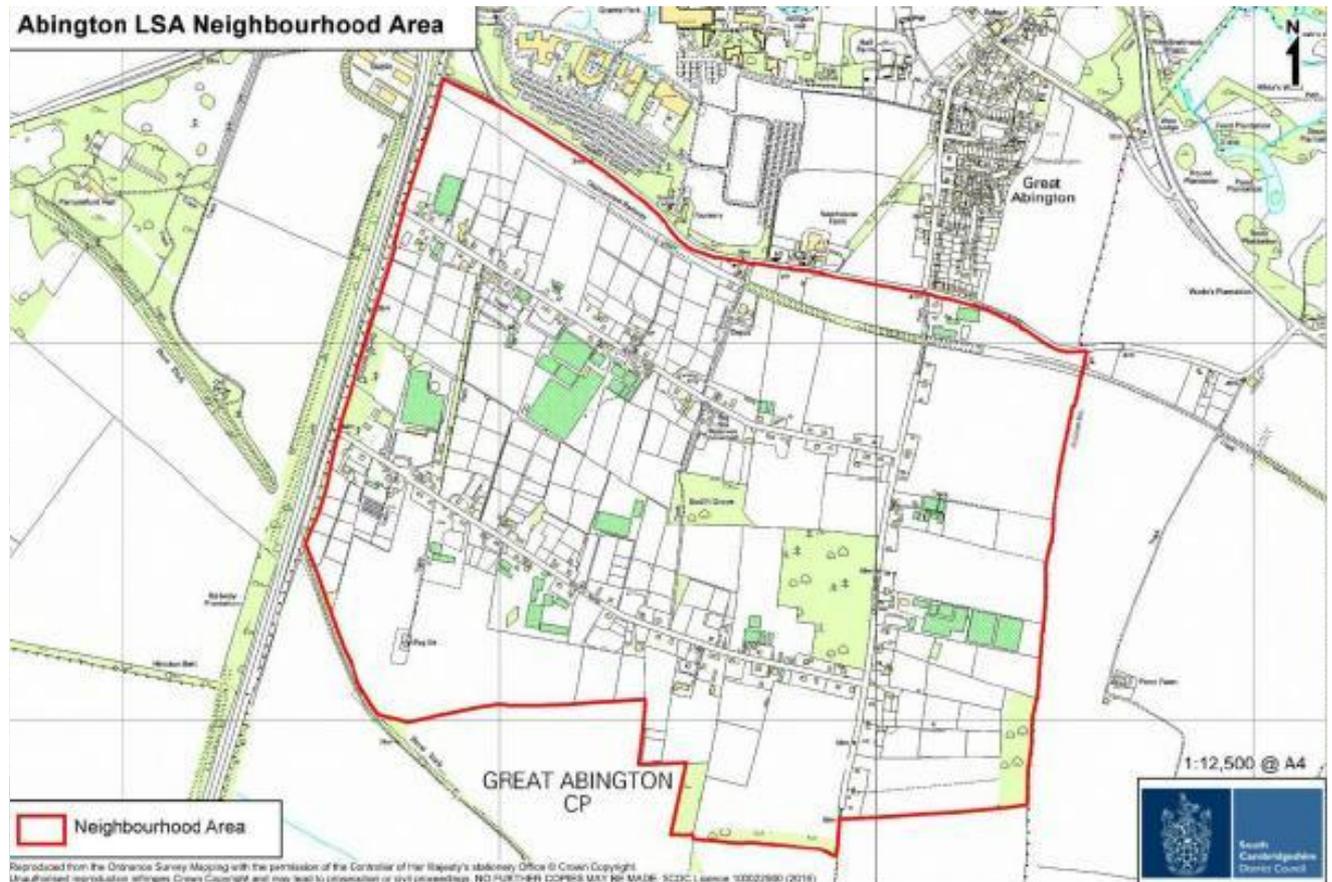
The content of the Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be **screened out** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC.

5.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Subject to Natural England's review, this HRA screening report indicates that the Gt Abington LSA draft Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The requirement for the Plan to undertake an accompanying HRA is therefore **screened out**.

Appendix 1

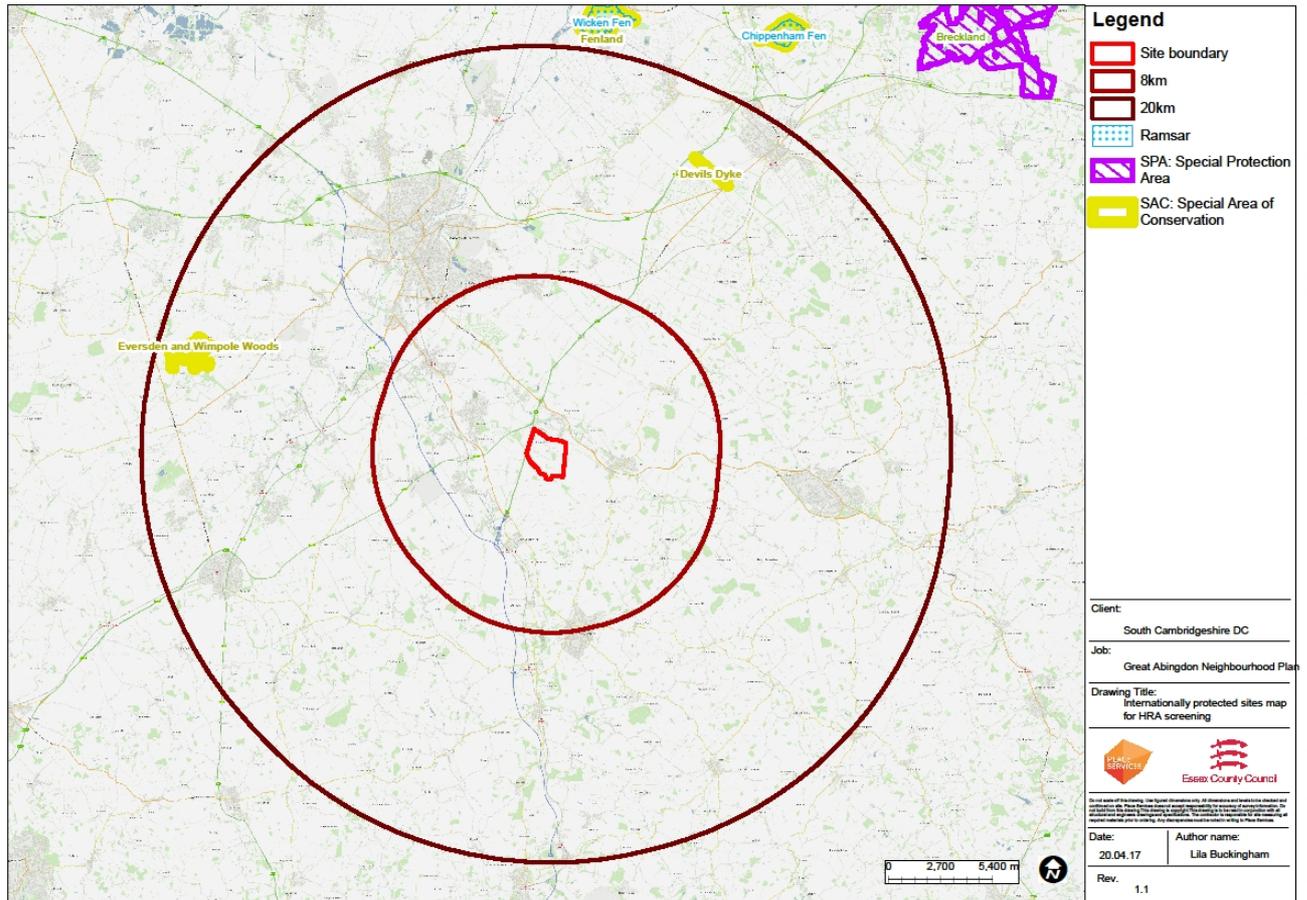
The Neighbourhood Plan area for the former Land Settlement Association estate Gt Abington (South Cambs DC 2017)



Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council, 2017

Appendix 2

Great Abington Parish and Locations of the European (Natura 2000) sites within 8 and 20 km



Source: Place Services, 2017



Place Services

Essex County Council
County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

T: +44 (0)333 013 6840

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www.placeservices.co.uk

May 2017



Essex County Council

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses from the Statutory Environmental Bodies

Historic England

2nd June 2017

Thank you for asking us to comment on the revised Screening Report for the Former Land Settlement Association Estate Neighbourhood Plan.

I have reviewed the revised documentation and do not wish to make any further comment in addition to our initial advice, which I have attached again for reference.

Please do give me a call if you have any queries,

Kind regards,

Edward James
Historic Places Adviser, Planning Group | East of England, Historic England

23rd May 2017

Thank you for consulting Historic England on the SEA Screening Opinion Report produced by Places Services with regard to the draft Former Land Settlement Association Estate, Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine our advice to the question, “is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment” in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report of May 2017, produced by Place Services, along with the Draft Neighbourhood Plan for the former Land Settlement Association Estate at Great Abington, March 2017 (LSEENP). It is for the Council to make a final decision in terms of whether an SEA is required.

On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set in out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations 'CRITERIA FOR DETERMING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT' (Annex II of SEA Directive) and the assessment duties in the Regulations Part 2 (5) (6), Historic England would take a view that an SEA is not required in this instance.

The Neighbourhood Plan Area incorporates the entire area of the Former Land Settlement Association Estate, and is bounded by Pampisford Road to the north and a combination of field boundaries and the Brent Ditch to the south. The A11 dual carriageway runs along the western boundary of the Neighbourhood Area, whilst to the east is the County boundary between Cambridgeshire and Essex. Nearby designated heritage assets include the following:

- Brent Ditch (Scheduled Monument List Entry: 1006929)
- South Lodge to Abington Hall (List Entry: 1331139)
- Cottage to West of Newhouse Farm (List Entry: 1309946)

From our reading of the LSEENP Screening Report it would appear that the Neighbourhood Plan is intended to generally shape how development comes forward within the Neighbourhood

Area, and allocates one area of land for a single dwelling, with policy criteria provided in Policy 2: Additional Dwellings of the LSEENP.

The views of other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made. I would be pleased if you can send me a copy of the determination as required by Regulation 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Finally, we should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council in its consultation. To avoid any doubt, this does not affect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and potentially, object to specific proposals, which may subsequently arise in the Neighbourhood Plan where we consider that these would have an adverse effect upon the historic environment.

If you have any questions with regards to the comments made then please do get back to me. In the meantime we look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues.

Edward James
Historic Places Adviser, Planning Group | East of England, Historic England

Natural England

12th June 2017

Thank you for your consultation.

Natural England has previously commented on this proposal and made comments to the authority in our letter dated 05 May 2017.

The advice provided in our previous response applies equally to this proposal although we made no objection to the original proposal.

The proposed amendments to the original application are unlikely to have significantly different impacts on the natural environment than the original proposal.

Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again. Before sending us the amended consultation, please assess whether the changes proposed will materially affect any of the advice we have previously offered. If they are unlikely to do so, please do not re-consult us.

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Salt
Natural England Consultation Service

5th May 2017

Thank you for your email below requesting Natural England's advice on the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report (May 2017) for the Great Abington Neighbourhood Plan.

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 satisfied with the conclusions of the Screening Report, given the scale, nature and location of development proposed through the Neighbourhood Plan, that the Plan is unlikely to have a significant adverse effect on the environment, including European sites. We are therefore satisfied that the Neighbourhood Plan can be screened out and does not require SEA or Appropriate Assessment.

I hope these comments are helpful. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this email only please contact Janet Nuttall on 0300 060 1239. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Janet Nuttall
Planning and Conservation Adviser, Area 08 Essex, Herts, Beds, Cambs & Northants Team

Environment Agency

17th May 2017

Thank you for your consultation.

An electronic copy of your response to the applicant would be appreciated.

Please note, all planning related correspondence for the Environment Agency's East Anglia Area (West) should be addressed to the following e-mail address to prevent any unnecessary delay; planning.brampton@environment-agency.gov.uk

Screening & Scoping Opinions

Due to resource pressures we are no longer able to provide you with comprehensive bespoke advice on pre application enquiries, screening and scoping opinions. We remain a statutory consultee for ES/EIAs so please continue to submit these for our review and comment.

Notwithstanding the above I attach a copy of the Agency's 'Planning Application Guidance' (PAG) document for the applicant's assistance.

Yours faithfully

Mr. T.G. Waddams
Planning Liaison
Environment Agency