

Cottenham | Parish
Council



Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Determination Statement

25 September 2018

Executive Summary

This determination statement is intended to demonstrate that the Cottenham 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).

This statement sets out the reasons for the determination in that those elements of the draft Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan which allocates land for development purposes could have the potential to result in significant environmental effects and therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.

In addition this statement determines that the making of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on any Habitats site, in combination with other plans and projects.

Cottenham 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 South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) for the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan.(See Appendix 1). An initial screening was carried out in March 2018 but following the recent Court judgement (CJEU People Over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17),it was considered appropriate to review the original HRA Screening Report in the light of this court ruling.

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 an 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 Sites proposed (as shown on Figure 14, p36 of the draft Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan) are small, and are not located in the near vicinity of any designated heritage assets, including Cottenham Conservation Area. We therefore consider it unlikely the plan will have a significant effect upon the historic environment. Historic England hence considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required from the perspective of the historic environment
- **Natural England:** Based on the small scale and nature of development promoted through the draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan Natural England supports the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations (HRA) Screening Report (March 2018).

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.

- Environment Agency: Due to resource pressures they were unable to provide a comprehensive bespoke advice on pre application enquiries, screening and scoping opinions. They did however comment on flood risk and contamination and these comments can be read in Appendix 2.

The SEA screening assessment considered that the Plan allocates land for development purposes that are not considered within the emerging South Cambridgeshire Local Plan or accompanying Sustainability Appraisal at the appropriate level. Further, the implications of the SEA Directive regarding the assessment of reasonable alternatives would need to be considered through the formal application of that Directive. The potential for significant effects on the natural and historic environment can not be ruled out in consideration of both the Plan's site allocations and the application of specific thematic policies that could minimise or prevent any possible negative impacts.

The initial and subsequent reviewed HRA screenings both indicated that the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any Habitats 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, South Cambridgeshire District Council determines that it cannot be ruled out that those policies that allocate land for development and the application of specific thematic policies that could minimise or prevent any possible negative impacts within the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan have the potential to result in significant environmental effects and therefore a strategic environmental assessment is required.

The Council has also determined that the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any Habitats site. The requirement for the Plan to undertake an accompanying HRA is therefore **screened out**.

The content of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be **screened in** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC. The next stage in the plan-making process would be to undertake a SEA Environmental Report.

Appendix 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan, Cottenham 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 South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan.



Cottenham Civil Parish Neighbourhood Development
Plan 2017 to 2031: Pre- Submission

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) &Habitat
Regulations Assessment (HRA):**

HRA screening report - September 2018





Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	The Purpose of This Report	1
1.2	The Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan	1
1.3	The South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework / Local Plan	2
2.	Legislative Background	3
2.1	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	3
2.2	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	4
3.	SEA Screening	5
3.1	When is SEA Required?	5
3.2	Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Neighbourhood Development Plan	8
3.3	Likely Significant Effects on the Environment resulting from the Neighbourhood Development Plan	9
4.	HRA Screening	15
4.1	Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans	15
4.2	Habitats (Natura 2000) Sites	16
4.3	Method and Approach	19
4.4	Results from HRA Screening of Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies	22
4.5	Other Plans and Projects – In-combination Effects	30
5.	Conclusions	32
5.1	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	32
5.2	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	32
Appendix 1		33
The Neighbourhood Development Plan area for the Cottenham Civil Parish (South Cambs DC November 2015)		33
Appendix 2		34
Cottenham Parish and Locations of the Habitats sites within 5km and 20 km		34



List of Tables

Table 1: Exploring whether the Principle of the Plan would warrant SEA.....	6
Table 2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment	9
Table 3: European Sites within 20km of the development to be considered in this assessment ...	17
Table 4: European Sites considered within this assessment	17
Table 5: Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process for Neighbourhood Plans.....	19
Table 6: Screening categorisation	20
Table 7: Assessment of potential impacts	21
Table 8: Assessment of potential impacts	22
Table 9: Other plans or projects considered for in combination effects	30



1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of This Report

This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development 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 Development Plan is deemed to have a likely significant effect on the environment.

This report will also screen to determine whether the Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected Habitats (Natura 2000) sites, as a result of the implementation of a plan/project.

1.2 The Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out planning policies for the Cottenham Civil Parish 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 without some development, Cottenham risks becoming an expensive dormitory town for rapidly-growing Cambridge, with through-traffic increasing as commuters move to lower-priced housing elsewhere. Too much, or unsustainable development will destroy the character of the village forever. A Neighbourhood Development Plan, alongside South Cambridgeshire's Local Plan, can guide where and how much development should be allowed.

The Plan's Vision is as follows:

In 2031 Cottenham will still be an attractive safe rural village, proud of its character and retaining its sense of community with improved amenities and facilities, reduced impact of traffic, especially in the centre of the village, and having more affordable housing for the next generation of residents.

Additionally, a number of Objectives are devised for the Plan. These are:

- Conserving the character of the village as an attractive, safe community
- Making housing more affordable for the next generation of residents
- Improving amenities and facilities
- Encouraging employment opportunities
- Reducing the impact of traffic, especially in the core of the village



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. Post examination, independent Inspectors sought a number of modifications to the Plan.

Public consultation on Main Modifications to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and Cambridge Local Plan (and associated Sustainability Appraisal of the Main Modifications) ended at 5pm on Friday 16 February 2018. The representations (in full) received have been submitted to the Inspectors undertaking the examination.

The Inspectors will consider all the comments received and will decide whether any further hearings are necessary, or any issues need to be revisited. At the end of the examination process the Inspectors will present their final conclusions in their Reports into the examination of each Local Plan. If the plans are found 'sound', with any necessary modifications, they would be able to be adopted by the Councils.



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 a I cases and should be assessed only where Member States determine that they are likely to have such effects.’

The Cottenham Neighbourhood Development 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 Cottenham Neighbourhood Development 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 Habitats (Natura 2000) 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.

This HRA Screening Report has been undertaken in order to support the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan which is being produced by Cottenham 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 Cottenham 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'.
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?	No	DOES NOT REQUIRE SEA	
		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
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 Development 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 Development 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 Development Plan

The following assessment will consider the likelihood of the Neighbourhood Development 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 Development Plan Area once adopted. The Plan identifies a base need is for 91 affordable homes within Cottenham over the plan period in addition to those that will be forthcoming through recent planning permissions within the Plan area . As such, Policy H/3 of the Plan supports the development of at least 90 affordable homes on several sites on several greenfield Rural Exception Sites near the village centre over the 15-year plan period. Policies GF/2 GF /5, GF/6 and GF/7 identify land as rural exception sites on which development will be supported. Policy H/2 additionally identifies 3 brownfield sites for development within the Plan area. These sites are not included within the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan, which does not allocate any land for residential development purposes within Cottenham. Although the assessment of these sites has been included within the Plan's evidence base (and in some instances also the LPA's SHLAA), their allocation within the Plan has not been included within any SEA process and accompanying Environmental Report and as such, significant effects on the environment ca not be ruled out at this stage. The assessment of these sites individually and cumulatively should be undertaken in line with the SEA Directive.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) provides policies for the plan area, relevant to a local level only. The policies are in general conformity to that of the emerging South Cambridgeshire Local Plan; however the NDP allocates land for residential development purposes within the Plan area which are not included within the Local Plan. The ND, when/if 'made', will have weight in all planning decisions within the Plan area and would have a large degree of weight in influencing other programmes.</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 Development 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</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	<p>within Neighbourhood Plans that have come into force... will be permitted.' Therefore the principle of development within the Neighbourhood Development Plan boundary is supported by the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Development 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 Development Plan area. These policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal within the context of the LDF and emerging Local Plan. The Plan and this Screening Report identify the following potential (direct / indirect) environmental problems or sources of potential problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Development Plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flat fen-edge landscape creates "big skies" but makes drainage challenging. Much of the parish depends on pumped assistance to drain surface water into the Great OuseG4 which forms the northern village boundary. Cottenham LodeG5 adds water from villages far to the west and south-west. Climate change will increase this drainage challenge. • The High Street and five main access roads have around 500 houses, some dating from 1600; many are immediately adjacent to the road. Pavements are often narrow and uneven making movements particularly difficult for the elderly or less mobile or with young children in pushchairs • The village has three scheduled monuments (part of Car Dyke between Green End and Top Moor, a Romano-British settlement on Bullocks Haste Common and Crowlands MoatG8). Cottenham has 66 listed buildings, most of which are in the Conservation Area. There are also many well-loved mature native trees, although the size of this collection is slowly reducing, mostly as a result of ageing with inadequate replacement. There are no sites of special scientific interest. • Several hundred houses will be added following permissions granted in 2017. • A number of small priority habitat species exist in and around the Cottenham area. These include floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland and traditional orchard. • Large areas to Flood Risk Zone 3 and 2 exist within the Plan area; however to the north and north-east contain areas benefitting from flood defences.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of 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).	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.
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors:	The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment:
- Biodiversity - Population	<p>Part of the area is within the Impact Risk Zones of an SSSI, 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. The plan includes a number of greenfield land allocations for residential development: X9 (Policy GF/6), X10 (Policy GF/5), X12 (Policy GF/7) and X13 (Policy GF/2). Site X12 borders a priority habitat of floodplain grazing marsh which might have some degree of negative impact through construction. Site X9 is also in close proximity to a priority habitat woodland, however is not adjacent. No specific policy seeks the protection (or enhancement) of features of biodiversity or the wider natural environment, thus the potential for negative can not be ruled out at this stage.</p>
- Human health	<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> <p>There are no highlighted significant effects of the Neighbourhood Plan regarding human health that would warrant a strategic assessment through SEA.</p>
- 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</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	adopted LDF and emerging Local Plan.
- Flora	Areas of woodland exist within the Plan Area, however these are not likely to be lost or otherwise harmed through the scale or location of development allocated within the Plan. There will be no likely significant effects on flora as a result.
- Soil	The Plan area contains Grade 1 (excellent) Agricultural Land (ALC) / soil quality which represents the best and most versatile agricultural land within the District and nationally. The Plan seeks to allocate approximately 9ha of land for development purposes on greenfield land of Grade 1 ALC, leading to an irreversible loss of such agricultural land. There will therefore be negative implications surrounding soil quality.
- Water	No part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Area is within a Groundwater Protection Zone. 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, will not have any effect related to the potential pollution of ground water (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 would also apply.
- Air	No AQMAs or other identified air quality issues exist within or in close proximity to the Neighbourhood Plan area. There would also only ever be limited impacts on air quality at the strategic level due to the small scale of potential development.
- Climatic factors	The Neighbourhood Plan area contains significant areas of Flood Risk Zones 3 and 2, however to the north and north-east there are Also significant areas benefitting from flood defences. The majority of the Plan's allocations are within areas identified as Flood Risk Zone 1, with the exception of site X12 which is in Flood Risk Zone 3 but in an area benefitting from flood defences. 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

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	emerging Local Plan.
- Cultural heritage	<p>Cottenham's All Saints' Church is a Grade I Listed Building and Cottenham has 66 Grade II Listed Buildings, mostly located on the High Street and, apart from Tower Mill and the Moreton 1853 Almshouses, are inside a designated Conservation Area. The Plan's site allocations can be seen to be suitably distanced from any of these assets. Policy C/2: 'Heritage character' states that, 'Planning applications that would result in harm to the heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments, the Listed Buildings or their settings, or the wider Conservation Area or its setting will be considered inappropriate unless outweighed by overriding local public benefits.' This approach will largely ensure that no significant effects will be realised, however some uncertainty surrounds what constitutes 'overriding local public benefits.'</p> <p>The village contains 3 Scheduled Monuments (SMs) (part of Car Dyke between Green End and Top Moor, a Romano-British settlement on Bullocks Haste Common and Crowlands Moat). Site allocation X12 is within relatively close proximity to this latter SM. An area of existing residential development exists as separation to the southern site boundary and the asset, however further specialist evidence would have to be provided to determine impact on setting.</p>
- Landscape	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area is within Natural England's East Anglian Chalk National Character Area (NCA) profile. The location and scale of individual land allocations within the Plan indicate that no significant effects on landscape would be forthcoming, particularly in regard to the additional policy criteria of Policy C/1: Landscape Character. As such, there have not been any significant strategic landscape effects that would warrant the requirement for the application of the SEA Directive and the formulation of a SEA Environmental Report.</p>
The cumulative nature of the effects.	<p>In line with the above considerations that explore the possible individual effects of the Plan's content, no significant cumulative effects are considered to be likely to warrant the requirement for the application of the SEA Directive and the formulation of a SEA Environmental Report.</p>
The trans boundary nature of the effects.	<p>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 HRA Screening element of this Report also identifies no in-combination effects regarding Natura 2000 sites.</p>



Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
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, and 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 a maximum of an additional 110 dwellings. The Plan allocates these additional dwellings. 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 having the potential for significant effects 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

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report was prepared (South Cambs DC, March 2018) as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a plan or project will significantly affect the integrity of any Habitats 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 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.

The initial HRA screening report for the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan concluded that without mitigation, the plan is not likely to result in any significant effect on Habitats Sites, in combination with other plans and projects.

In line with the recent 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. As the Neighbourhood Plan does not require any mitigation for policies and does not allocate any sites for development, HRA screening concluded that it is still possible to rule out likely significant effects from recreational disturbance related to residential development, without the need for further assessment.

This revised report reviews the original HRA Screening Report in the light of the above court ruling. This HRA screening report has been undertaken in order to support the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan which is being produced by Cottenham 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 Habitats sites within 20km of Cottenham.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the Cottenham Civil Parish Neighbourhood Development 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 Habitats (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.

Habitats (Natura 2000) 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 200 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 Habitats Sites to be considered

There are eight European sites which lie within 20 km of Cottenham parish. These were identified by South Cambs Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (SA) scoping report and are shown on the map

in Appendix 2. The parish is buffered by 5km as this is the distance for the nearest European Sites shown as Impact Risk Zones identified on MAGIC website (www.magic.gov.uk). The types of development proposed by the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan do not trigger consultation with Natural England regarding potential impacts on these statutory sites.

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

SPA	SAC	Ramsar
Ouse Washes SPA	Ouse Washes SAC	Ouse Washes Ramsar
	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC	Wicken Fen Ramsar
	Fenland SAC	
	Devil's Dyke SAC	
	Portholme SAC	

After consideration of the South Cambs District Council Core Strategy SA Scoping (Appendix 11 HRA screening) (June 2012), it was concluded that only two of Habitats Sites shown in Table 2.1 which lie within 20 km of the site should be assessed for 'adverse effects on site integrity' from this draft Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Habitats Sites within scope of this AA are Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and Ouse Washes SAC, SPA & Ramsar site.

4.2.3 Conservation Objectives

Information on each of the above two sites (with SPA/SAC/Ramsar designation) has been taken from the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Core Strategy SA Scoping report Appendix 11 (June 2012). The table below 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
Ouse Washes SPA	Comprises Ouse Washes SSSI, apart from the exclusion of a section of the Old Bedford River in the north of the SSSI. The Ouse Washes Ramsar site	To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species (Bewicks swan, whooper swan, hen harrier, spotted crane, and ruff) migratory species of

Reasons for Site Designation and Conservation Objectives European site	Reason for importance	Conservation Objectives for the European Site
	<p>and the Special Protection Area is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded wash lands, which are agriculturally managed in a traditional manner. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.</p>	<p>European importance (widgeon, gadwall, pintail, shoveler, pochard and black-tailed Godwit) and wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to grassland / marshy grassland with ditches and open water.</p>
Ouse Washes SAC	<p>The primary reason for selection is Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> – This site is only one of four known outstanding localities in the UK.</p>	<p>To maintain in favourable condition the habitat for spined loach.</p>
Ouse Washes Ramsar	<p>Comprises Ouse Washes SSSI</p> <p>The Ouse Washes Ramsar site and its proposed extension is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are agriculturally managed in a traditional manner. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.</p>	<p>The continued international importance of this site is dependent on the maintenance of a winter flooding regime and a high, but controlled summer water table.</p>
Wicken Fen Ramsar and a component of Fenland SAC	<p>Comprises Wicken Fen SSSI.</p> <p>This site is a marginal remnant of the original peat fenland of the East Anglian basin.</p> <p>It has been preserved as a flood catchment area, and its water level is controlled by sluice gates.</p>	<p>To maintain in favourable condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molinia meadows on chalk and clay (Eu- Molinion community) • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> (great fen sedge) and species of the • <i>Caricion davallianae</i> vegetation community. <p>To maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the population of spined loach and great crested newts.</p>

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

4.3 Method and Approach

4.3.1 Stage 1: HRA Screening and Stage 2 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions)

An assessment for Neighbourhood Plans under the Habitats Regulations can be split into 2 stages:

Table 5: Stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process for Neighbourhood Plans

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 - 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 avoidance and mitigation measures have been secured, the Plan cannot be approved.</p>

The HRA screening stage identified that, likely significant effects can be dismissed because any policies or projects could not have an impact on a Habitats Site and therefore mitigation is not required.



Table 6 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 Adverse Effect on Site Integrity of a Habitats Site. Category C identifies those policies or projects that might have an Adverse Effect on the Integrity of a Habitats 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 Habitats site.
Category B : No Likely Significant Effect
Policies or projects that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant effect on a Habitats site, either 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 a Habitats Site, on their own or in combination with other plans and projects.

4.3.3 Potential impacts of Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan on Habitats 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 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 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 Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site?	Why these effects are not considered to have a likely significant effect ?
Land take by development	Cottenham parish is outside the boundaries of the three Habitats Sites within scope of this HRA.	N/A
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	Development in Cottenham parish is not likely to impact on habitats for the population of spined loach and great crested newts in Ouse Washes and Fenland SACs/Ramsars.	Cottenham parish lies outside the zone of influence for Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar and only a small part lies within the 5km zone of influence for Wicken Fen Ramsar/Fenland SAC.
	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 in Cottenham parish could potentially impact on foraging habitat for Barbastelle bats	The main area of importance for Barbastelle bats 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.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	There is public access to both Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and Ouse Washes SPA.	Cottenham parish is more than 11km from Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC and more than 8km to Ouse Washes, so beyond the distance that Natural England consider, in the absence of evidence, that visitors are likely to travel for recreation. There is a network of public rights of way in the Washes. The RSPB manage a nature reserve at Welches Dam where there is a visitor centre and a number of bird hides. Both sites are carefully managed by the landowners to avoid impacts from recreational pressure and disturbance
Water quantity and quality	Water quality is a major issue of concern for Ouse Washes & it regularly fails to meet total Phosphorus target of 0.1mg/l. During the winter and increasingly during the spring and summer months as well, the inner river takes flood-water from the Great Ouse, and therefore has an important flood defence function.	Parts of Cottenham Parish lie just inside the 5km zone of influence for Ouse Washes SAC, SPA & Ramsar. The Environment Agency Review of consents concluded in 2012 that water resources consents do not adversely affect the integrity of the European site, with respect to SPA features.

Nature of potential impact	How the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site?	Why these effects are not considered to have a likely significant effect ?
Changes in pollution levels	<p>Issues of concern relate to water quantity, water quality, salinity, turbidity and sediment.</p> <p>As Cottenham is at least 8km from the two sites within scope of this HRA, it is considered that there is no pathway for development to result in pollution impacts.</p>	<p>However the implementation of the Northstowe development as planned is subject to approval of the proposed consent revision at Uttons Drove sewage treatment works. Further project level HRA may be required dependent upon the outcome of consenting process / details and appropriate implementation and management of SuDS.</p> <p>N/A</p>

4.4 Results from HRA Screening of Draft Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies

Each of the policies in the Cottenham draft Neighbourhood Development Plan was assessed to identify whether they would have a likely significant effect on a Habitats Site.

Table 8: Assessment of potential impacts

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
Policy C/1 Landscape character	Developments are required to conserve the landscape character of Cottenham by: a) respecting key landscape policies (VDS L/x below) within the Cottenham Village Design StatementB8, and b) avoiding placing even relatively modest man-made features in the foreground of the “big sky / open space” fen edge landscape (VDS L/2), especially outward views across open countryside that include a. All Saints’ church from Cottenham Lode or Long Drove, and b. Haddenham from Cottenham Lode, and c) using partial screens of hedges and native tree species with	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	<p>subdued lighting (VDS L/3) to create wildlife corridors and protect the external view of the village, and d) protecting vistas (VDS L/7) that contribute to the character and attractiveness of Cottenham, especially those viewable from publicly-accessible land; notably All Saints' church from parts of Beach Road, Cottenham Lode, Long Drove and Rampton Road; the village edge when viewed from parts of Cottenham Lode, Oakington Road, and Rampton Road</p>		
Policy C/2 Heritage character	<p>Planning applications that would result in harm to the heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments, the Listed Buildings or their settings, or the wider Conservation AreaG9 or its setting will be considered inappropriate unless outweighed by overriding local public benefits. To prevent further erosion of this character: a) Demolition should only be allowed as a last resort and only after a structural engineer's report concluding that the building is beyond reasonable repair with subsequent reclamation and reuse of materials in the replacement building, and b) Extensions should follow the principles laid out in the Village Design StatementB7</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy C/3: Development framework	<p>Extend the development framework to include: a) the recent development at Racecourse View, and b) south-west edge sites permitted for development, and c) the proposed Village Hall and Nursery community facilities</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy C/4: Village character	<p>Planning applications for clusters of three or more houses that would enrich the character of the settlement, by: a) respecting the principles embodied in the Cottenham Village Design StatementB7 , and b) including measures to conserve the "fen-edge" landscape character of Cottenham, and c) avoiding groups of more than 2 or 3 near-identical houses, and d) avoiding clusters of more than 30 houses, and e) retaining character similarity – buff bricks, dark roofs, muted colours, and f) using subtle variations to minimise repetitious designs in form or proportion, architectural detail and finishes, and g) keeping car parking areas to the sides</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	<p>rather than fronts, and h) maintaining or creating views between properties to the open countryside from the public realm, and i) maintaining or creating wildlife corridors around and through the village, and j) providing up-to-date communications systems to facilitate home working and reduce car dependency, and k) being within easy walking distance of the village centre to encourage economic and social development while minimising environmental impacts, or l) where beyond easy walking distance of the centre, making provisions to: m) enhance public transport connections with the centre, neighbouring villages and transport hubs, and n) reduce dependence on cars through segregated cycle-ways and footpaths and accessibility improvements within the village centre such as secure cycle parking, improved pavements and safer crossings. will be considered appropriate.</p>		
Policy C/5: Open Spaces & Tree conservation	<p>Wherever possible, Cottenham's larger public open spaces will be maintained to encourage public use while nurturing Cottenham's collection of trees by: a) seeking Tree Preservation Orders on specific trees visible from the public realm, especially in the Conservation AreaG9, and b) encouraging landowners, especially in the Conservation AreaG9, community groups and individuals (VDS L/4) to plant native tree species to retain landscape character and to benefit wildlife within the parish. c) Requiring that any permission to remove a tree within the Conservation AreaG9 should require a similar tree specimen or specimens to be supplied for planting in the public realm</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy H/1: Large site design	<p>Require that each housing cluster of more than thirty houses on a site facilitates integration into the village (VDS S/2) by: a) providing safe off-road pedestrian, cyclist and mobility scooter or Community Transport access to key village facilities, including the High Street, Primary School and Village College, Recreation Ground and Broad Lane Amenity Area (VDS O/4), and b) applying landscape design criteria (VDS L/1) in the</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	<p>layout, form and urban design qualities of each site, and c) incorporating up-to-date communications technology to facilitate working from home and reduce car dependency, and d) incorporating appropriate areas for play (LEAP) unless the site is within 450 metres of alternative provision, and e) designs (VDS B/1) are imaginative and original to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, especially for designs of affordable homes including homes which should be pepper-potted throughout the site, and f) requiring that the design of each cluster minimises flood risk by reducing surface water run-off rates to below 1.1 litres / ha / second by design, using an adequately-sized sustainable drainage systems, minimising the use of impermeable surfaces, and g) requiring that "urban creep" is either allowed for or restricted by removing permitted development rights that would otherwise allow further hardening of the surfaces, and h) including legal agreements on provision of long-term maintenance of drainage systems.</p>		
Policy H/2: Use of brownfield sites for housing	<p>Support development of around 20 1-2 bedroom flats or 2-3 bedroom houses on three brownfield sites within the village centre over the 15-year plan period, provided that: a) sufficient business and retail space is retained in any overall scheme so as to maintain or increase employment potential, and b) the homes incorporate up-to-date communications technology to facilitate working from home and reduce car dependency, and c) the homes remain available in perpetuity to residents with a local connection, and d) designs (VDS B/1) are imaginative and original to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, especially for designs of affordable homes</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy H/3: Use of greenfield sites for housing	<p>Support development of at least 90 affordable homes on several sites on several greenfield Rural Exception Sites near the village centre over the 15-year plan period, provided that: a) the homes are located on sites inside or</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	<p>immediately adjacent to Cottenham's established development framework, and b) the homes are within easy walking distance of the village centre or a well-served* (bi-directional service to Cambridge) bus stop, and c) the homes incorporate up-to-date communications technology to facilitate working from home and reduce car dependency, and d) the homes remain available in perpetuity to residents with a local connection, and e) designs (VDS B/1) are imaginative and original to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, especially for designs of affordable homes</p>		
<p>Policy AF/1: Medical Centre & Drop-in & chat centre</p>	<p>Support development, on a central village site*, of: A. a Medical Centre** and, if feasible, B. a "Drop-in & Chat" Centre*** facility for the elderly and less mobile residents: These facilities must: i. be imaginative and original in design, to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, and ii. contribute to safer traffic movements by inclusion of appropriate on-site parking and delivery facilities.</p> <p>*central village site – see Figure 1 below (of plan) **see AF/1/4 below (of plan) ***see AF/1.5 below (of plan)</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>Policy AF/2: Multi-purpose Village Hall</p>	<p>Support development of a modern multi-purpose Village Hall adjacent to the Primary School on the Recreation Ground within the development framework boundary to provide more appropriate community facilities, including out-of-school child-care*, an informal day centre for the elderly**, and drop-in meeting facilities for small businesses and community groups*** provided the design: a) does not lead to loss of any sports pitches, and b) is imaginative and original so as to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, and c) includes Wi-Fi and printing technology to facilitate small business or community group drop-in working in a</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	central village location, and d) encourages pedestrian access, and contributes to safer traffic movements by inclusion of appropriate on-site parking and site access improvements		
Policy AF/3: Nursery	Support development of a NurseryG54 on the Recreation Ground to provide facilities for early years education and child-care, provided the design: a) does not lead to loss of any sports pitches, and b) is imaginative and original to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, and c) is supported by an event management plan to co- ordinate people and vehicle movements on-site, and d) encourages pedestrian access, and e) contributes to safer traffic movements by inclusion of appropriate on-site parking and site access improvements	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy AF/4: Primary School	Support development of a school extension near the Recreation Ground and Cottenham Primary School, provided the design: a) does not reduce the number of available outdoor sports pitches, and b) retains sufficient expansion space to allow the Recreation Ground to retain 1.6 ha per 1,000 population on contiguous good quality land, and c) includes a secondary toad access independent of Lambs Lane, and d) is imaginative and original to extend and renew the distinctive character and traditions of Cottenham's built environment, and e) encourages pedestrian access, and f) contributes to safer traffic movements by inclusion of appropriate on-site parking and site access and co-ordination improvements	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy AF/5: Sports facilities	Support "sport for all" by allocation of land and development of additional sports facilities at, and adjacent to, the Recreation Ground, provided these create safer traffic movements by including appropriate on-site parking facilities. The land would: a) be contiguous with the existing Recreation Ground, especially near the Sports Pavilion, and b) provide a 1- 2 hectare "catch-up" provision to meet the 1.6 ha per 1,000 population benchmark c) provide a further 1 to 2 hectare	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	extension to provide for planned population expansion during the plan period d) include provision for all-weather and/or floodlit outdoor sports facilities, and e) provide a road route through the site to Rampton Road		
Policy AF/6: Supermarket	Development of a supermarketG44 to meet local needs will be supported in the village core, provided this: a) creates safer traffic movements by including appropriate on-site parking and delivery facilities, and b) releases the current site for a community purpose	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy AF/7: Extension of burial grounds	Extension of the village's burial groundsG45 to meet anticipated local needs will be supported, provided these: a) are adjacent to, and accessible from existing facilities, and b) comply with relevant regulations, and c) contribute to the village's accessible open space, and d) are enclosed by a suitable robust fence and/or hedge to blend with the immediate surroundings, and e) include footway extensions from the existing burials provision, and f) include planting of several native tree species with the burial ground, and g) create safer traffic movements by including appropriate on-site parking and access facilities	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy E/1: Village employment	Support development of a wider range of small scale retail and commercial facilities within the village centre that: a) minimise the amount of additional traffic, and b) improve the presence, evenness and width of pavement provision in front of the development, and c) where practicable, provides or increases readily-accessible on-site parking spaces and secure cycle stands to reduce the need for street-side parking.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy E/2: Rural employment	Support development with potential to increase participation in fenland-related eco-tourism outdoor pursuits or create agro-tourism opportunities likely to increase employment, provided that it: a) minimises the need for additional HGV traffic passing through Cottenham, and b) seeks to reduce the impact of traffic by contributing to Cottenham's Community Bus Scheme, and c)	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have a Likely Significant Effect on a Habitats Site?	Recommendations
	minimises the impact on the fen-edge landscape d) wherever practicable, re-uses redundant or disused buildings to enhance the immediate setting, and e) for ditch, drain or riverside locations, facilitates public access to water-side walks and views of the open countryside		
Policy E/3: new Durman Stearn site	Support the relocation of Durman Stearn and enable their expansion near the village edge on a site in Hay Lane, provided this: a) can be shown to increase local employment, and b) reduces HGV traffic within the village core, and increases access to the countryside, and c) makes provision for increased public access to the countryside from small car park near Beach Road.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy T/1: Improved off-road routes within Cottenham	Reduce the impact of traffic by supporting development of safe, clearly signposted footpath links between key village locations, specifically on the route from Broad Lane Amenity Area to the Recreation Ground and Les King Wood	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy T/2: Improved access to countryside	Reduce the impact of traffic by supporting improved access to open countryside, waterside or woodland walks in the rural parish from small parking areas on the arterial roads	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy T/3: Improved public transport	Reduce the impact of traffic by seeking developer contributions to extend Cottenham Community Bus routes scaled: - from £0 per house within 800 metres of the village centre, and - rising to £750 per house outside 800 but within 1,200 metres walking distance of the situated beyond 1,200 metres walking distance from the village centre.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

4.4.1 Recommendations

There are no specific recommendations to deliver for the policies in this draft Neighbourhood Development 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 Habitats

site.

The In-combination effects from other plans and projects are considered in Section 4.5.

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 Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar site.

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 Cottenham 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

- Cottenham civil parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017-2031 Pre-submission Draft Plan v4.1, Cottenham Parish Council (February 2018)
- 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. The Plan allocates land for development purposes that are not considered within the emerging South Cambs DC Local Plan or accompanying Sustainability Appraisal at the appropriate level. Further, the implications of the SEA Directive regarding the assessment of reasonable alternatives would need to be considered through the formal application of that Directive. The potential for significant effects on the natural and historic environment can not be ruled out in consideration of both the Plan's site allocations and the application of specific thematic policies that could minimise or prevent any possible negative impacts.

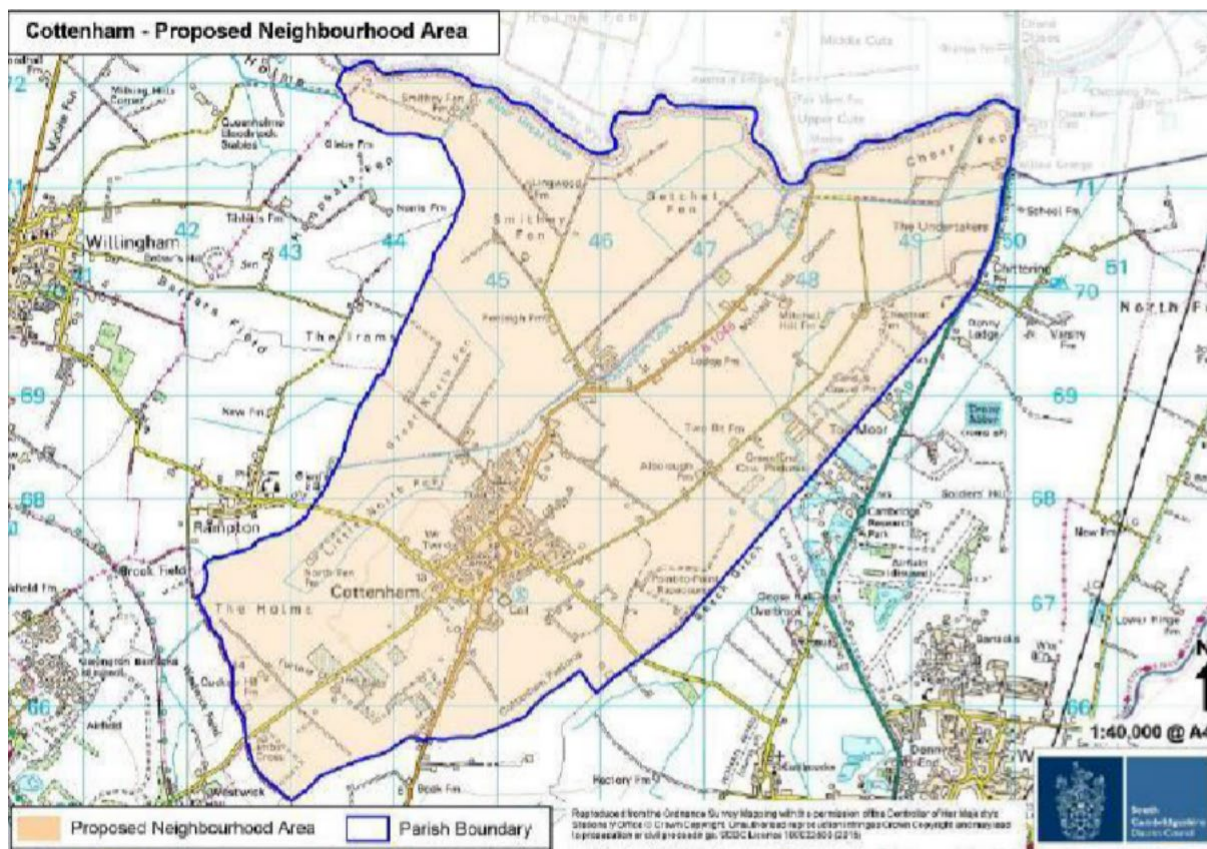
The content of the Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan can therefore be **screened in** for its requirement of Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the requirements of Directive 2001/42/EC. The next stage in the plan-making process would be to undertake a SEA Environmental Report.

5.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Subject to Natural England's review, this HRA Screening report indicates that the Cottenham draft Neighbourhood Development Plan is not predicted to have any likely significant effect on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and can therefore be **screened out** from further assessment.

Appendix 1

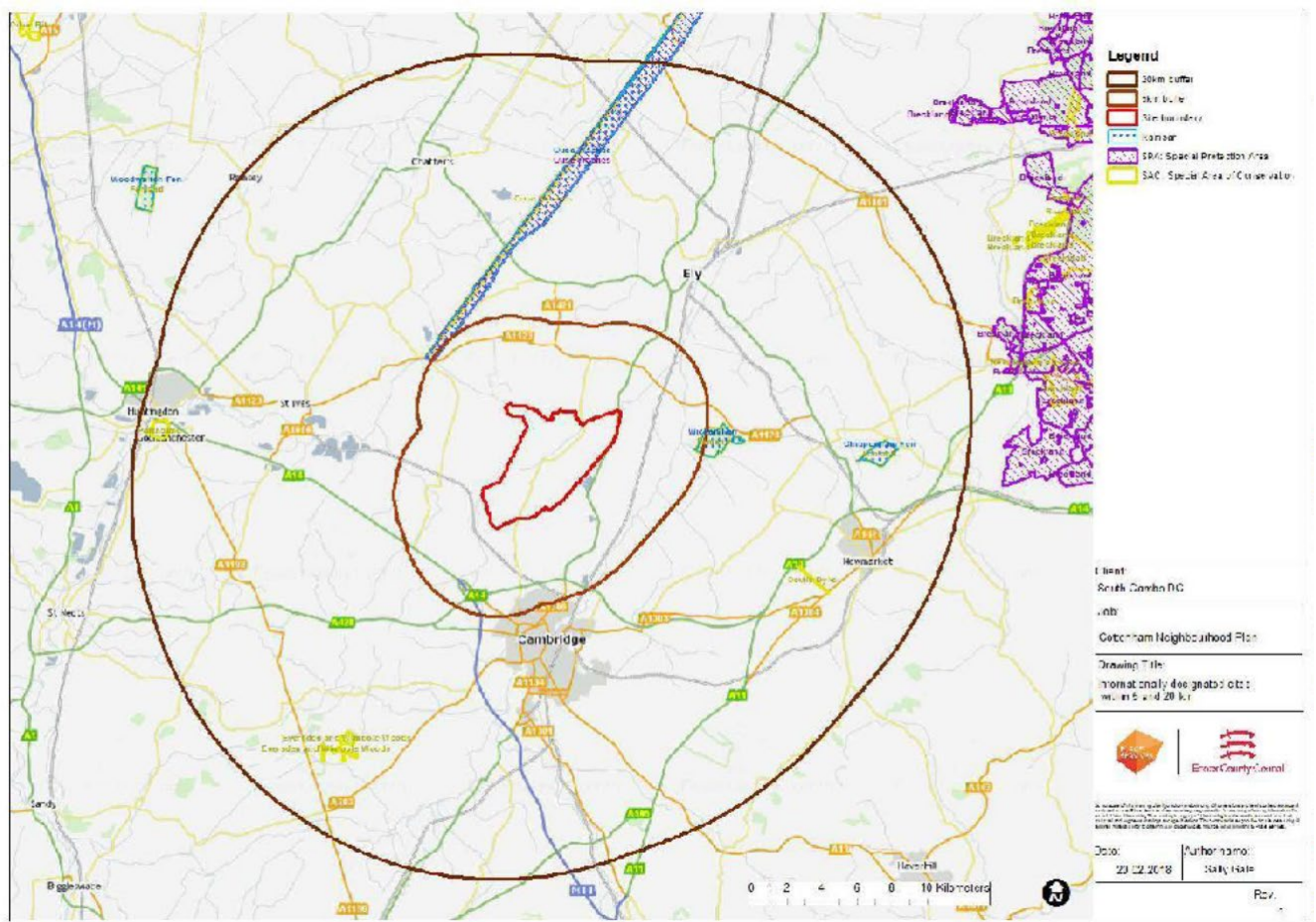
The Neighbourhood Development Plan area for the Cottenham Civil Parish (South Cambs DC November 2015)



Source: South Cambridgeshire District Council, 2015

Appendix 2

Cottenham Parish and Locations of the Habitats sites within 5km and 20 km



Source: Place Services, 2018



Place Services

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

T: +44 (0)333 013 6840

E: enquiries@placeservices.co.uk

www.placeservices.co.uk

September 2018



Essex County Council

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses from the Statutory Environmental Bodies

Historic England

Ms Clare Howe Direct Dial: 01223 582746
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire Hall Our ref: PL00353242
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne
Cambridge
CB23 6EA

29 March 2018

Dear Ms Howe

Thank you for your email of 19 March 2018 regarding the above 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 SEA Screening Report for Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan. For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it (the 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 supporting information (screening report and draft neighbourhood plan) supplied with the consultation indicates that within the plan area there is a range of designated historic environment assets, including some of the highest significance. There is also likely to be other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value, and consideration should also be given to the wider historic landscape. The documentation indicates that the Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan proposes to allocate a number of sites for housing/other use.

The Sites proposed (as shown on Figure 14, p36 of the draft Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan) are small, and are not located in the near vicinity of any designated heritage assets, including Cottenham Conservation Area. We therefore consider it unlikely the plan will have a significant effect upon the historic environment. Historic England hence considers that a Strategic Environmental Assessment will not be required from the perspective of the historic environment.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely,
Edward James
Historic Places Advisor, East of England
Edward.James@HistoricEngland.org.uk

Natural England

Dear Sir/Madam

Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan – SEA screening determination

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 19 March 2018.

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.

Based on the small scale and nature of development promoted through the draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan Natural England supports the conclusions of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations (HRA) Screening Report (March 2018).

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests are concerned (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans in light of the SEA Directive is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance i. The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance 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
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected. Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the

responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter or for any new consultations, please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer.

Yours faithfully

Dawn Kinrade
Consultations Team

Environment Agency

Dear Sir/Madam

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AT COTTENHAM. COTTENHAM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

Thank you for your consultation.

A copy of your response to the applicant would be appreciated

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. Notwithstanding the above I have included the following minimal comments and attach a copy of the Agency's 'Planning Application Guidance' (PAG).

Flood risk.

Whilst areas may be identified as benefitting from flood defences it does not necessarily suggest that they are appropriate for all classifications of development.

Ground Contamination.

Where contamination is known or suspected a desk study, investigation, remediation and other works may be required to enable safe development (Paragraph 121 of the NPPF). Our minimum requirements for submission with a planning application, where contamination is suspected, are a desk study and preliminary risk assessment such as a site walkover or conceptual model.

Yours faithfully

Mr. T.G. Waddams
Planning Liaison