



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

28 March 2024

Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Statement

Soham & Barway Neighbourhood Plan

Purpose of this Determination Statement

This Determination Statement has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) as the “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It sets out ECDC’s main conclusions in respect of significant environmental effects likely to arise from implementation of the draft Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan (SBNP). To assist writing this this Statement, ECDC has received a copy of the draft SBNP as received by ECDC and dated November 2023.

This Determination Statement will form a Submission Document for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, as required by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (reg. 15(1)(e)(ii)).

It is intended that this Determination Statement be read alongside the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan *SEA and HRA Screening Report*, a copy of which was used by the District Council to assist in reaching this Determination Statement and which will, it is anticipated, also be submitted alongside wider Submission Documents.

Screening Report

In February 2024, ECDC consulted the statutory bodies on the *Screening Report* (February 2024 version). Responses were received from *Environment Agency, Historic England* and *Natural England*. Those response have been added as appendices to the Report (March 2024 version).

The Screening Report concludes, in summary, that the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Development Plan (SBNP):

- Does not require a full *Strategic Environmental Assessment* (SEA) (i.e. *screened out*); and
- Does not require a full *Habitats Regulations Assessment* (HRA) (i.e. *screened out*).

The statutory consultees did not suggest any alternative conclusions, and, in effect, endorsed such conclusions.

Determination

Based on the assessment undertaken in the SEA and HRA Screening Report and the responses received from statutory bodies, East Cambridgeshire District Council considers that it is not likely that significant environmental effects will arise from the implementation of the Soham and Barway Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Likewise, it is considered that a full Habitats Regulations Assessment will not be required.