



Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan

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

May 2023

Executive Summary

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

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

Pampisford 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 Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan. (See Appendix 1).

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

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

- Historic England: The Screening Report indicates that the Council considers that the plan will not have any significant effects on the historic environment. Historic England notes that the plan does not propose to allocate any sites for development.

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required (24 April 2023).

- Natural England: It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (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 (4 May 2023).

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required in relation to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

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 the Environment Agency are no longer able to provide Local Planning Authorities with comprehensive bespoke advice on screening opinions (Guidance provided by the Environment Agency - 5 May 2021).

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

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

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

The HRA screening report indicates that the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Natural England agreed that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan. The requirement for the Plan to undertake further assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Regulations 2017 (as amended) is therefore **screened out**.

Appendix 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan, Pampisford 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 Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan.

Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan



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

April 2023





About us

Place Services is a leading public sector provider of integrated environmental assessment, planning, design and management services. Our combination of specialist skills and experience means that we are uniquely qualified to help public organisations meet the requirements of the planning process, create practical design solutions and deliver environmental stewardship.

Place Services has a proven track record of delivering sustainable, creative and effective solutions for the built environment. Our in-house expertise comprises a multidisciplinary team which includes planners, urban designers, landscape architects, flood specialists and public art consultants. Our approach is client led; we work alongside our clients to deliver services, projects and planning objectives in a collaborative and cost effective way.

Copyright

This report may contain material that is non-Place Services copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Historic England), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Place Services is able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences or permissions, but for which copyright itself is not transferable by Place Services. Users of this report remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

Disclaimer

The material contained in this report was designed as an integral part of a report to an individual client and was prepared solely for the benefit of that client. The material contained in this report does not necessarily stand on its own and is not intended to nor should it be relied upon by a third party. To the fullest extent permitted by law Place Services will not be liable by reason of breach of contract, negligence, or otherwise for any loss or damage (whether direct, indirect or consequential) occasioned to any person acting or omitting to act or refraining from acting in reliance upon the material contained in the report. Loss or damage as referred to above shall be deemed to include, but is not limited to, any loss of profits or anticipated loss of profits damage to reputation or goodwill, loss of business, or anticipated loss of business, damages, costs, expense incurred or payable to any third party (in all cases whether direct, indirect or consequential) or any other direct, indirect or consequential loss or damage.

Contents

1. Introduction	6
2. Legislative Background	11
3. SEA Screening	14
4. HRA Screening	29
5. Conclusions	56
6. References	57
Appendix 1	58
Appendix 2	59



List of Tables

Table 1: Exploring whether the Principle of the Plan would warrant SEA15
Table 2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment.....18
Table 3: Habitats Sites within 20km to be considered in this assessment31
Table 4: Assessment of potential impacts on Habitats Sites35
Table 5: Assessment of potential impacts from the Plan policies37

1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of this Report

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

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

1.2 The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan

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

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

‘Pampisford will be a village community that combines the benefits of its rural, historic character and connectedness to modern facilities and travel routes to be an ever more friendly and sustainable place to live for all generations.’

A total of eight themes and nine goals have been devised for the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the delivery of this Vision. These are:

- Theme 1 – Housing
 - Goal 1: Improve the suitability of our housing so that it meets the needs of existing and future residents.
- Theme 2 – Village and Parish Character
 - Goal 2: Protect and enhance village character and the surrounding landscape.
- Theme 3 – Community
 - Goal 3: Protect and develop the village social structure focused on the area of the Chequer’s Public House site, Village Hall and Church.
- Theme 4 – Climate Change and Natural Environment
 - Goal 4: Reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions and make

- new development climate change resilient.
- Goal 5: Protect and improve parish biodiversity.
- Theme 5 – Village Traffic
 - Goal 6: Keep our village roads safe and appropriately manage and mitigate environmental impacts associated with traffic movements and parking.
- Theme 6 – Local Economy
 - Goal 7: Keep Pampisford working as a place of commercial, business and farming activity whilst protecting or improving residential amenity and the village environment.
- Theme 7 – Outdoor Recreation
 - Goal 8: Improve the network of rural routes not the surrounding countryside.
- Theme 8 – Local Heritage
 - Goal 9: Maintain the unique historic character of the village.

1.3 The South Cambridgeshire Local Plan

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

1.3.1 Content regarding the Neighbourhood Plan area within the Local Plan

1.3.1.1 The Settlement Hierarchy and Principle of Development

The Local Plan identifies Pampisford as an 'Infill Village'. Infill Villages are generally amongst the smallest in South Cambridgeshire. The Local Plan states of Infill Villages,

'These villages have a poor range of services and facilities and it is often necessary for local residents to travel outside the village for most of their daily needs. These villages generally lack any food shops, have no primary school and may not have a permanent post office or a village hall or meeting place. Development on any scale would be unsustainable in these villages, as it will generate a disproportionate number of additional journeys outside the village. Development will not be permitted on sites capable of accommodating scheme sizes significantly larger than 2 or exceptionally 8 dwellings in Infill Villages.'

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

Policy S/7 of the Local Plan covers policy regarding 'Development Frameworks'. Development Frameworks define where policies for the built-up areas of settlements give way to policies for the countryside. The Policy supports development within such frameworks

(including that in Pampisford), and includes further information on proposals outside development frameworks for Neighbourhood Plans, stating that,

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

1.3.1.2 Important Countryside Frontages

The Local Plan identifies Important Countryside Frontages within Policy NH/13 and the Proposals Map includes such frontages within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary. Important Countryside Frontages are defined where land with a strong countryside character either penetrates or sweeps into the built-up area providing a significant connection between the street scene and the surrounding rural area; or provides an important rural break between two nearby but detached parts of a development framework. The Policy includes that planning permission for development will be refused if it would compromise these purposes.

1.3.1.3 Other Local Plan Considerations

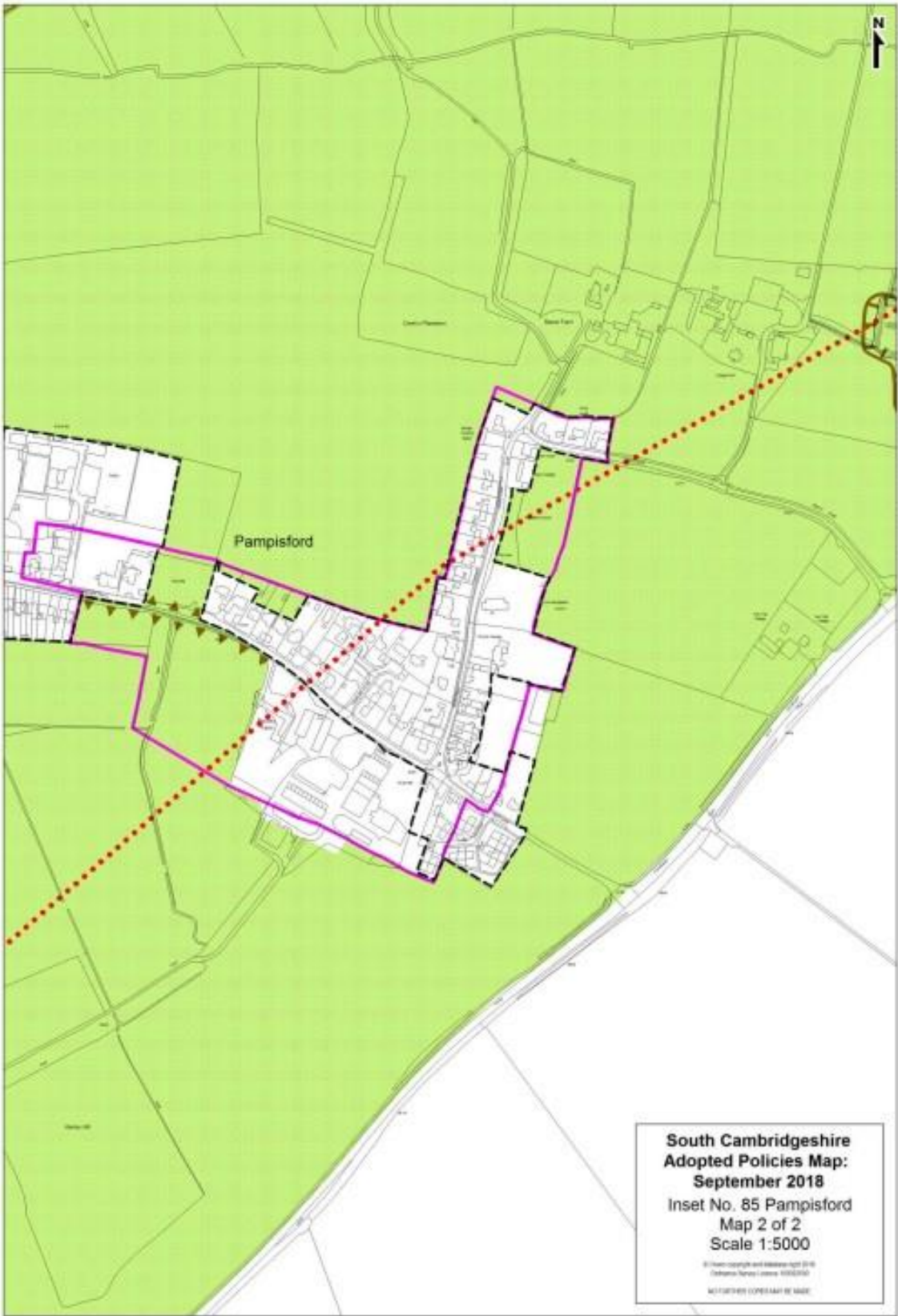
The Neighbourhood Plan area includes part of the development framework of Sawston, located west of London Road. It is therefore included within the Sawston development framework boundary and shown on the ‘Sawston Inset’ of the Local Plan Policies Map. Within the Local Plan, Sawston is identified as a Rural Centre. Policy S/8: Rural Centres of the 2018 Local Plan therefore applies to the Neighbourhood Plan. The policy states that,

‘Development and redevelopment without any limit on individual scheme size will be permitted within the development frameworks of Rural Centres, as defined on the Policies Map, provided that adequate services, facilities and infrastructure are available or can be made available as a result of the development.’

There is an allocation as specified within the Local Plan’s Policy E/4: Allocations for Class B1 Employment Uses within the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area and the Sawston Development Framework. This Policy specifies that employment development for uses within Use Class B1: Offices; Research and Development; and Light Industry is allocated at the site ‘West of Eastern Counties Leather, London Road (residue)’ in Pampisford. The size of the allocation is 1.9 hectares (ha).

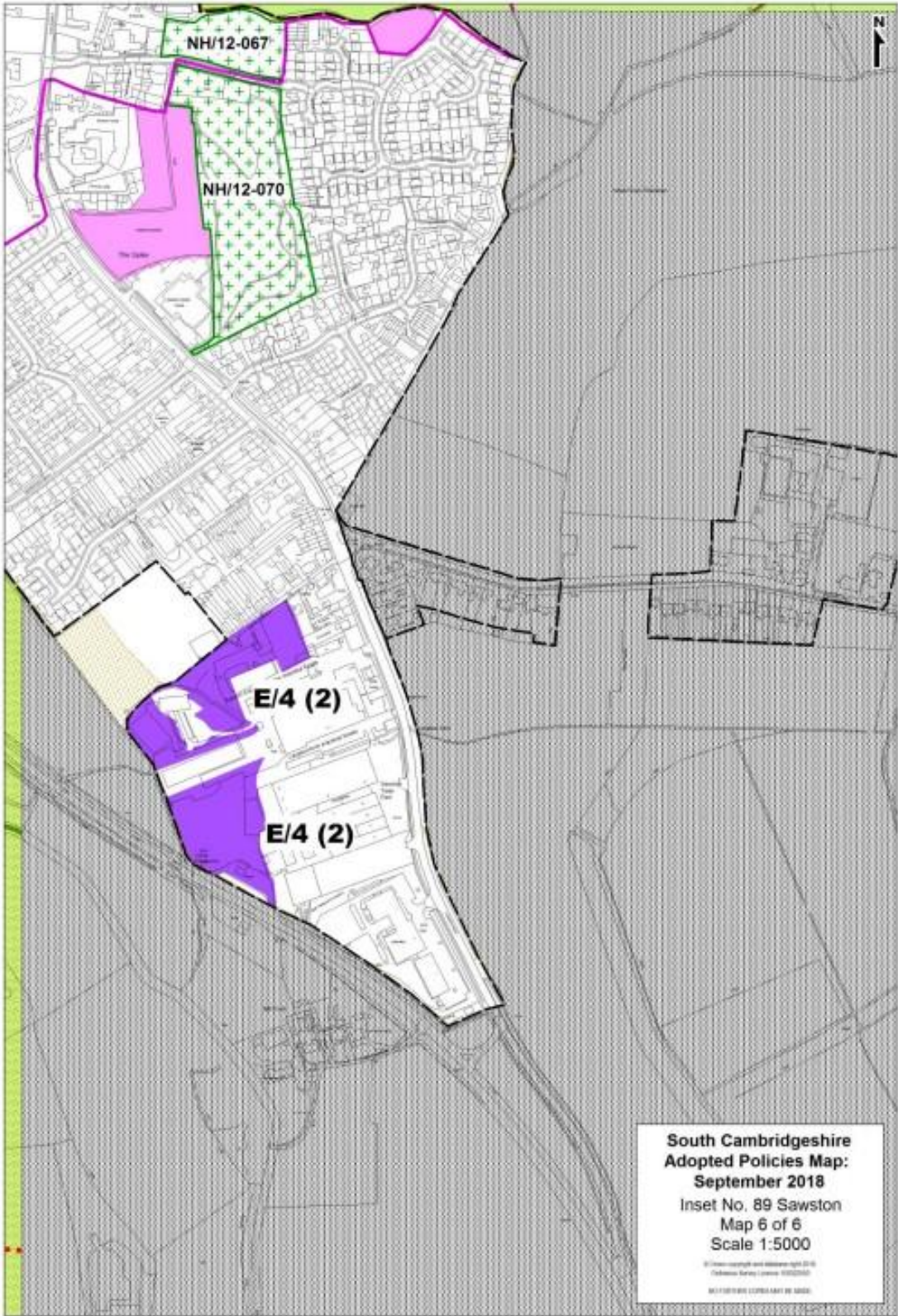
The following maps, taken from the Local Plan, show the location of various Local Plan designations within the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area, including the employment use allocation and the village’s Conservation Area. For a key to the maps, visit the [Local Plan Policies Map on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website](#).

Figure 1: Local Plan designations within Pampisford



Source: South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2018

Figure 2: Local Plan designations and allocation within Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area (within the Sawston Development Framework)



Source: South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2018

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

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

‘the following Plan & Programme (P&P), and modifications to them, are covered when prepared and/or adopted by an authority 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 Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan.

2.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. SEA Screening

3.1 When is SEA Required?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.2 Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Neighbourhood Plan

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

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

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

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

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

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

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

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

3.3 Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan

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

- Biodiversity;
- Population;

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

Table 2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.</p>	<p>The Plan sets out relevant policies which will be used to determine proposals for development within the Neighbourhood Plan area once adopted.</p> <p>A Neighbourhood Plan must demonstrate conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan and once brought into force, the policies it contains take precedence over existing non-strategic policies only in the Local Plan for that Neighbourhood Plan area. The principle of development is established for the area through Local Plan policy, representing land within the Pampisford and Sawston development frameworks. Although the Plan’s Policy PAM2 - Rural Exceptions Housing in Pampisford allows limited development outside but on the edge of the two development frameworks within the Plan area, the policy does not allocate any specific sites or land for development purposes. To this extent, Policy PAM2 seeks a continuation of Local Plan policy (H/11-1) and reiterates that policy’s criteria within the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>Irrespective of the Neighbourhood Plan policies’ compliance with those of the Local Plan, which will be considered in</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>finalising the Neighbourhood Plan and through the independent examination of the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered that the degree to which the Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for development (by allocating resources) is low. This is primarily due to the Neighbourhood Plan not allocating land for development purposes.</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan, when/if ‘made,’ will have weight in all planning decisions within the Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan provides policies for the Plan area, relevant to a local level only. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development purposes.</p> <p>In consideration of the above, the degree to which the Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans or programmes is considered low in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan area. This is again primarily related to the Plan’s position of not allocating land for development purposes.</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Plans are required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The Neighbourhood Plan policies seek to ensure environmental considerations are taken into account. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies related (directly / indirectly) to ensuring environmental considerations will be integrated into any forthcoming development within the Plan area. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy PAM9 – Development and Climate Change • Policy PAM11 – Trees and Woodland • Policy PAM12 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity in Pampisford Parish <p>Irrespective of the adequacy of the above policies, adopted Local Plan policies apply within the Neighbourhood Plan area, which have been subject to thorough assessment within the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. This ensures that environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	development, will be considered for all development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan area	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan reflects a small area and the Plan’s policy content seeks to address environmental issues. The policy content of the adopted Local Plan will additionally apply to any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Local Plan policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) within the context of the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan and this Screening Report identify the following potential (direct / indirect) environmental problems or sources of potential problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan area is within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and the Sawston Hall Meadows SSSI is located to close to the Plan area in the north west. Development proposals within IRZs are required to be consulted on with Natural England, should they be of a type that could warrant negative effects on the relevant SSSI. None of the qualifying types of development are proposed within the Neighbourhood Plan, however. • A number of Priority Habitats (from the Priority Habitat Inventory¹) are scattered throughout the Plan area. These include Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Deciduous Woodland, Young Trees Woodland, Broadleaved Woodland, and Woodpasture and Parkland BAP Priority Habitat. • There are two Scheduled Monuments in the Plan area: ‘Two moated sites 150m east of College Farm’ and ‘Brent Ditch.’ • There are approximately 21 Listed Buildings within the Plan area, the majority of which are Grade II listed. One Grade II* listed buildings is located

¹ a spatial dataset that describes the geographic extent and location of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>within the Plan area - the Parish Church of St John the Baptist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also within the Plan area is the Grade II* listed Pampisford Hall Registered Park and Garden. • The majority of the built-up area of Pampisford is within the Pampisford Conservation Area. • Areas of land within Flood Risk Zones 3 and 2 exist within the Neighbourhood Plan area, to the north associated with the Rivers Cam and Granta, and also south of Brewery Road. • The entirety of the Neighbourhood Plan area is within various Source Protection Zones (SPZs). SPZs are defined around large and public potable groundwater abstraction sites. The purpose of SPZs is to provide additional protection to safeguard drinking water quality through constraining the proximity of an activity that may impact upon a drinking water abstraction. Within the Neighbourhood Plan area, there lie areas of Zone I (Inner Protection Zone), Zone II (Outer Protection Zone) and Zone III (Total Catchment). • The non-developed areas of the Plan area (to the south) consist of Grade 3 ('good to moderate') and Grade 2 ('very good') soils. This represents land which has a moderate likelihood of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land. • Approximately 50% of the Plan area is located within the Green Belt, representing those non-built-up areas north of the A505. • The Parish is located in National Landscape Character Area 87 – East Anglian Chalk and within the County Landscape Character Area – Chalkland. The Greater Cambridge Landscape Character Assessment 2021 divides the wider area into smaller areas referred to as 'landscape character types and areas'. Pampisford parish falls within area 8A Pampisford Lowland Chalklands with the north-west part of the parish falling within area 3D

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>Cam & Granta Tributaries Lowland Farmland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area is 'characterised by smooth rolling chalk hills. Within the parish, the hills are dissected by the river valley of the Cam/Granta which is part of the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy network, extending into the western and north of Pampisford parish. Parts of the Plan area to the south are within a Minerals Safeguarding Area for chalk.
<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 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 probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors:</p>	<p>The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	<p>The Plan includes policy PAM12 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity in Pampisford Parish. This policy sets out that development proposals will need to avoid impacts in the first instance, and where not possible ensure mitigation or compensation. The Policy also seeks to ensure or proposals a measurable net gain for biodiversity, and that this should be achieved on-site wherever possible and in accordance with the BS8683:2021 process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>The HRA element of this Screening Report concludes that the</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have a Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p> <p>In consideration of the above, effects on biodiversity that would require the full application of the SEA Directive (a SEA Environmental Report) can be screened out.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population 	<p>It is considered that there would be no significant effects on population resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan. This is due to the small scale of the Plan area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan includes various policies that could directly or indirectly affect human health in a positive manner. These include Policy PAM5 – Local Green Spaces, Policy PAM14 – Preventing Environmental Pollution from Pampisford Businesses, and Policy PAM18 – Protecting and Enhancing Access to and Enjoyment of the Countryside.</p> <p>There are no significant effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan regarding human health that would warrant a strategic assessment through SEA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fauna 	<p>There are no direct impacts resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan on fauna that are considered significant at the Plan level. The Plan seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at key sites and does not propose any development that could lead to the direct deterioration of habitats.</p> <p>Possible effects on fauna (outside those associated with Habitats Sites) cannot be considered strategically significant to the extent that Strategic Environmental Assessment would be warranted. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case ‘project level’ basis at the development management stage and in accordance with relevant development management policies contained within the Local Planning Authority’s adopted Local Plan.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	Effects on fauna from the content of the Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be screened out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora 	<p>Numerous and various areas of Priority Habitat exist within the Plan Area. The Plan seeks to protect and enhance existing biodiversity assets in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>In addition to the Plan’s policies that seek the protection and enhancement of flora, Local Plan policies apply. As a result, no effects are expected to result from the Neighbourhood Plan regarding flora.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil 	<p>Although representing Grade 3 (‘good to moderate’) and Grade 2 (‘very good’) soils, none of the non-developed areas of the Neighbourhood Plan are proposed for development and north of the A505 represent land within the Green Belt. There are no identified negative implications surrounding soil quality as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and as such no uses are considered to give rise to ground water pollutants (e.g. give rise to hazardous substances such as pesticides, oils, petrol and diesel, solvents, arsenic, mercury or chromium VI; or non-hazardous substances such as ammonia or nitrates).</p> <p>The HRA element of this Screening Report identifies that the Plan area lies outside the IRZ for water sensitive Habitat sites within the scope of this assessment and that no likely significant effects are expected of the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air 	<p>There are no identified air quality issues within the Plan area. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development purposes, and it is considered that it would not contribute to any exacerbation of conditions regarding air quality. The likelihood of significant effects is therefore</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	screened out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic factors 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area contains areas of Flood Risk Zone 3 to the north associated with the Rivers Cam and Granta and to the south of Brewery Road. No development allocations are proposed within the Plan that would lead to any incompatibilities in any such areas.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that SEA would not be required regarding matters of flood risk and any speculative development coming forward within the Neighbourhood Plan area in the Plan period can be considered at the planning application stage.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets 	<p>The Plan area contains land within a Minerals Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel within the County Council’s adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Proposals Map) (2021). This corresponds to a small area in the south.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development within these areas that could be considered in conflict with the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (2021).</p> <p>Regarding other material assets, the content of the Neighbourhood Plan is not considered to have any significant effects due to the extent / size of the Plan area. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case basis at the development management stage and in accordance with relevant development management policies contained within the LPA’s adopted Local Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage 	<p>The Plan area contains several Listed Buildings, as well as two Scheduled Monuments and the Pampisford Conservation Area.</p> <p>The Plan does not allocate land for development purposes that could have any effects on these listings or their settings. The Plan includes Policy PAM19 – Local Heritage and Non-designated Heritage Assets, which sets out that Development</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>proposals in Pampisford should pay full regard to archaeological, industrial and other heritage features in and around the village, and the contribution they make to the local setting. The Policy also adds 12 buildings / structures that the Plan intends to ensure are locally-listed.</p> <p>Irrespective of the adequacy of the Plan’s policy in the conservation and enhancement of the Plan area’s heritage assets, policy regarding the protection and enhancement of the Historic Environment also exists at the LPA level which additionally applies in the Plan area. Any effects on heritage are, as a result, considered a development management issue in the context of the Plan and its content. There are not considered to be any elements of the Plan that would give rise to significant effects on the historic environment at the strategic level that would require the full application of the SEA Directive.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape 	<p>The Plan area is located in the National Landscape Character Area 87 – East Anglian Chalk and within the County Landscape Character Area – Chalkland. It is therefore considered to be within a sensitive landscape. Additionally, the Plan area contains land within the Green Belt.</p> <p>Policy PAM3 – Maintaining and Enhancing Landscape Character in Pampisford sets out the requirements for development proposals including important views, protected frontages (included within the Local Plan), features of value and village gateways. Landscape buffers should also be a feature included of proposals on the edge of the Plan area’s two development frameworks.</p> <p>In light of the Plan’s policy stance regarding landscape features there are no significant strategic landscape effects identified within this Report that would warrant the requirement for the application of the SEA Directive and the formulation of a SEA Environmental Report.</p>
<p>The cumulative nature</p>	<p>The Plan does not allocate any land for development</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
of the effects.	purposes and therefore any negative cumulative effects can be ruled out.
The trans boundary nature of the effects.	The adopted Local Plan can be seen to support the protection and improvement of conditions relevant to those sustainability factors listed within the SEA Directive. The Neighbourhood Plan is not in conflict with these wider thematic policies. The HRA Screening element of this Report, which explores in-combination effects with other relevant plans and projects, also identifies no in-combination effects regarding Habitats (European) Sites.
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).	It is considered that there is no 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 unlikely to give rise to any accidents that can be considered to have a significant risk to human health or the environment.
The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The Neighbourhood Plan relates to the local level only. The magnitude and spatial extent of the Plan’s content is therefore not considered significant in a wider District context. No effects are highlighted within this SEA screening at either the local or wider geographic area.
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • exceeded environmental 	As highlighted above in the screening of the Neighbourhood Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has not been assessed as having negative effects associated with environmental themes.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
quality standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> intensive land use 	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	As highlighted above in the screening of the Plan per sustainability theme, the Neighbourhood Plan has not been assessed as having any significant effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

4. HRA Screening

4.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment of Development Plans

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

This section of this Report aims to:

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

4.2 Court Judgements and their consideration in this Report

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

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

This HRA Screening Report does not therefore consider mitigation measures within the assessment of Likely Significant Effects resulting from the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan.

4.2.2 CJEU Holohan C- 461/17

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

1. [...] an 'Appropriate Assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.
2. [...] the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent

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

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

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

4.3 Habitats (European) Sites

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

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

4.3.1 Explanation of SPAs, SACs and Ramsar Sites

Special Protection Areas (SPAs)

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

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

SACs are areas designated to protect habitat types that are in danger of disappearance, have a small natural range, or are highly characteristic of the region; and to protect species that are endangered, vulnerable, rare, or endemic. Example: woodland habitat of Eversden and Wimpole Woods for the population of Barbastelle bats. Legislation: Conservation of

Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

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

4.3.2 Habitats Sites to be considered

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

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

SPA
N/A
SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eversden and Wimpole Woods • Wicken Fen
Ramsar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicken Fen

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

Pampisford parish lies outside the 5km Impact Risk Zones for Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar. and outside the 10km IRZ sustenance or wider conservation area for the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, designated for its population of Barbastelle bats (Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document, February 2022).

After consideration of potential impact pathways, on a precautionary principle, it is concluded

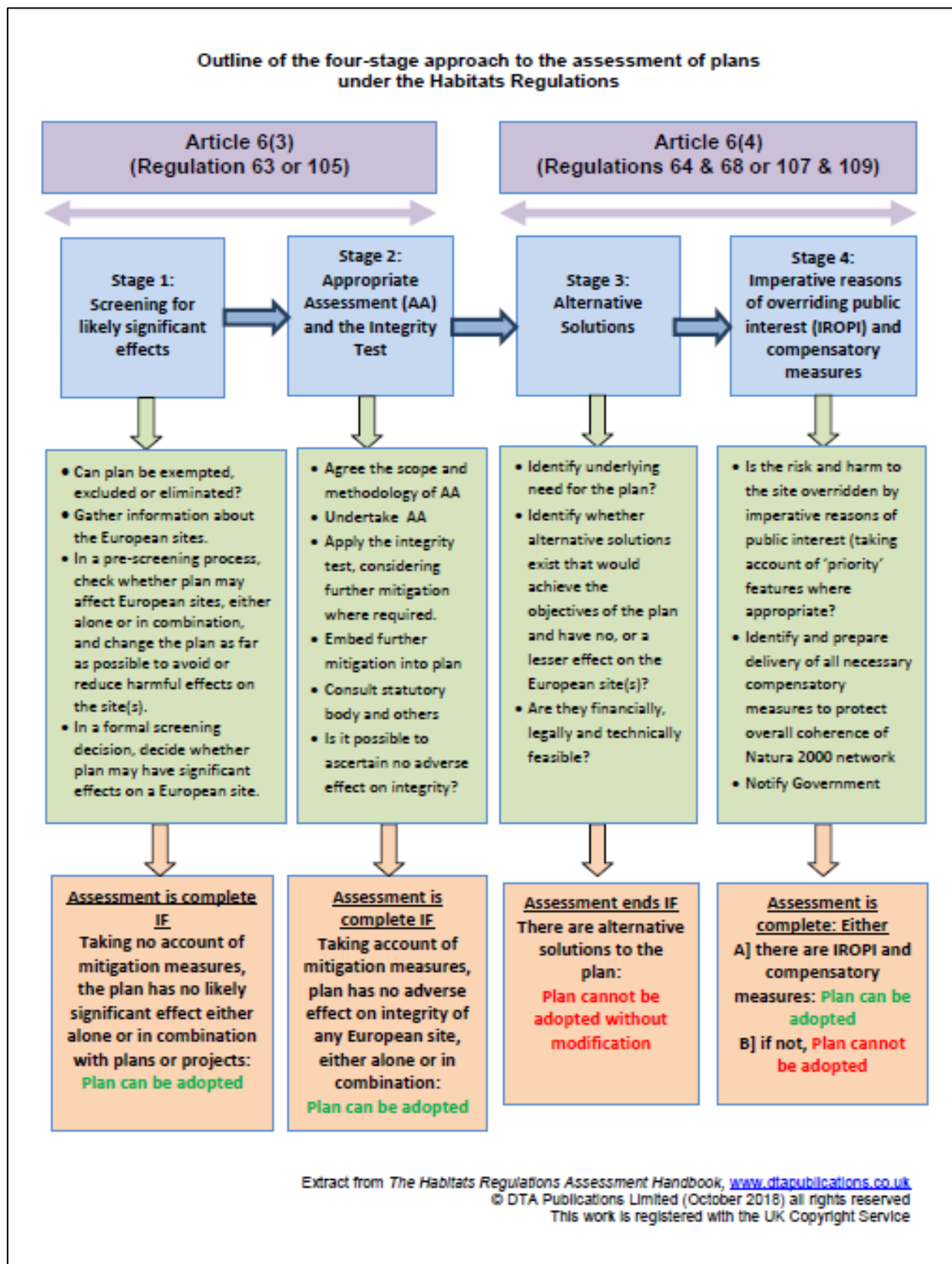
that there are no Habitats sites which should be assessed for any likely significant effects resulting from the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan.

It is therefore concluded that there is no likely significant effect on any Habitats sites resulting from the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan.

4.4 Method and Approach

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

Figure 3: Outline of the Four Stage Approach to the Assessment of Plans under the Habitats Regulations (taken from the DTA handbook).



4.4.1 Stage 1: HRA Screening

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

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

Table 4: Screening categorisation

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

4.4.2 Potential impacts of Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan on Habitats Sites

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

- Land take by development;
- Impact on protected species found within but which travel outside the protected sites may be relevant where development could result in effects on qualifying interest species within the Habitats site, for example through the loss of feeding

grounds for an identified species.

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

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

Table 4: Assessment of potential impacts on Habitats Sites

Nature of potential impact	How the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
Land take by development	The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area is outside the boundaries of the Habitats sites within scope of this HRA screening.	No likely significant effects are expected, as no development will be allocated on designated land. It is therefore, considered that impacts from land take by development can be screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the 10km IRZ for Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC.	The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan does include any land which lies within the wider conservation area for this SAC and which could result in significant impacts or severance of flightlines for Barbastelle bats. It is therefore considered that this impact pathway will not result in likely significant effects upon Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC from the

Nature of potential impact	How the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
		Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, impacts on protected species outside the protected sites from the Neighbourhood Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) on the Habitats sites can be screened out for further assessment.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the impact risk zones for recreational disturbance relating to any Habitats sites and there are none within the scope of this assessment.	As the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development, impacts from recreation arising from the NP are screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
Water quantity and quality	The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the impact risk zones for water sensitive Habitats sites and there are none within the scope of this assessment.	No likely significant effects are expected so changes in water quantity and quality have been screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
Changes in pollution levels	The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the impact risk zones for pollution levels for sensitive Habitats sites and there are none within the scope of this assessment.	No likely significant effects are expected, as no development will be allocated on land within 200 metres of Habitats sites within scope. Changes in air pollution have been screened out when considered from the Plan either alone or in combination with other plans.

4.5 Results from HRA Screening of Neighbourhood Plan Policies

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

Table 5: Assessment of potential impacts from the Plan policies

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
Policy PAM1 – Infill Residential Development	<p>Infill residential development within the development framework will be supported in line with Local Plan policy subject to housing mix being an appropriate reflection of current household sizes and needs (characterised by a growing older population looking for opportunities to downsize in the parish). This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the delivery of two- and three-bedroom homes should be prioritised over larger homes, unless an alternative size, type and mix can be justified through reference to up-to-date evidence on parish housing stock and local needs or to local site-specific circumstances; and • building homes to the Building Regulations accessible and adaptable dwellings M4 (2) standard unless it can be demonstrated in a full financial appraisal that the application of the standard would 	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>make the development unviable.</p> <p>The following will also be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where an infill site is suitable for occupation by a wheelchair user, the building of a home which meets the Building Regulations wheelchair user M4 (3) standard; and • the provision of serviced plots on appropriate sites providing opportunities for self-build or custom build. 		
<p>Policy PAM2 – Rural Exceptions Housing in Pampisford</p>	<p>Proposals for the development of small-scale affordable housing schemes on rural exception sites adjoining the Pampisford village development framework boundary will be supported where there is evidence of Pampisford affordable housing needs and provided that:</p> <p>a) all criteria in South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Policy H/11-1 are met;</p> <p>b) the proposed development contributes positively to existing character of the village in terms of design, layout, materials, landscaping and biodiversity; and</p> <p>c) people with a strong local connection to Pampisford parish, as defined in the glossary, whose needs are not met by the open market will</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>be given priority of allocation (be first to be offered the tenancy or shared ownership of the home).</p> <p>In the case of First Homes (as defined in the glossary to this plan), these will also be offered to people with a local connection on a preferential basis.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM3 – Maintaining and Enhancing Landscape Character in Pampisford</p>	<p>Development proposals will be supported where they recognise, maintain and take opportunities to enhance landscape character in Pampisford Parish.</p> <p>To be supported development proposals must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain or enhance the key features of the locally identified important views (shown on Map 3 and described in Appendix Four to this plan), which contribute towards sense of place in the Parish; • maintain the defined Important Countryside Frontages in line with Policy NH/13 of the Local Plan including the newly defined Important Countryside Frontage as part of this plan and as shown on Map 4; • retain or enhance existing features of landscape value (including trees, woodland, hedgerows and water features) within the development site and work within the context of 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>existing features in the wider surroundings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain or strengthen the sense of arrival at the four village gateways – see Map 5. <p>Where development abuts the development framework around either Pampisford village or the Rural Centre of Sawston (where it is located in the Neighbourhood Plan area), a generous and comprehensive landscape buffer should be created or retained to allow the transition from built form to the surrounding landscape. There should be no abrupt edges with little vegetation or landscape in such locations.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM4 – London Road Street Scene Improvement Area</p>	<p>The area shown on Map 5 is defined as the London Road street scene improvement area. In the event of development proposals coming forward along London Road, opportunities will be sought to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve landscaping that better defines London Road village gateway north; • Improve landscaping that better defines the London Road village gateway south, proposed as Local Green Space; • Implement design and/or 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>landscaping schemes that help to create a more coherent and attractive streetscape along the built-up frontage of London Road (e.g., better defined boundary treatment of properties, amenity spaces or other areas of public realm when development comes forward).</p> <p>Where necessary to achieve sense of place as part of new development, and where directly, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development, contributions towards these initiatives will be sought.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM5 – Local Green Spaces</p>	<p>The following open spaces, as shown on Map 6, are designated as Local Green Spaces as defined in the NPPF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGS 1 - The Spinney • LGS 2 – Brewery Road Recreation Ground • LGS 3 – Claypit • LGS 4 – Rectory Farm Meadows • LGS 5 – London Road village gateway south open amenity land 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>Policy PAM6 – Achieving High Quality Design and Reflecting</p>	<p>All development proposals should contribute in a positive way to the quality of the built environment and</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
Local Character	<p>landscape setting in the parish.</p> <p>Development proposals will be expected to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the result of a design-led process with regards to a scheme’s location, built-form, choice of building materials and density; • informed by the design codes set out in Appendix Two and demonstrate regard to them through the completion of the Pampisford Design Code checklist as provided in Appendix Three to this plan. <p>As part of the above, the following parish-specific elements should be adhered to:</p> <p>Built Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New buildings should not normally exceed two storeys in height. • The bulk and pitch of roofs should remain sympathetic to the tree canopy, the local vernacular and the low-lying character of the village. • Care should be taken with building lines so that a coherent street frontage and attractive streetscape is maintained or enhanced, or, in locations where this may be lacking, opportunities should be taken to reinforce the street frontage. 		

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>Boundary Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally distinctive landscape features and planting such as flint and brick boundary walls and hedges of native species should be used in new development to define boundaries. Any material that is not in keeping with the local character should be avoided. • Boundary treatment and landscaping should be used to avoid a streetscape being dominated by vehicles along the front of properties. <p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bricks should be predominantly in rich hues of orange and yellow. • Flint should be used to seek to complement building frontages and boundary treatments. <p>Development that is not well designed and does not reflect the local design codes will be refused.</p>		
Policy PAM7 – Pampisford Village Allotments	The site along Brewery Road, currently used as allotments by residents, is safeguarded for continued allotment use. Loss of this allotment site will only be supported if allotments, of a similar size, are re-provided for residents in a suitable site in close proximity to the village	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	centre.		
Policy PAM8 – The Site of the Chequers Pub	<p>The site of the Chequers Pub is safeguarded for future use as community meeting space, and preferably as a public house. Proposals will be supported subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A design-led scheme resulting in a sensitively designed proposal which conserves and enhances the surrounding heritage assets and the Conservation Area itself; • Provision of off-street parking to accommodate an appropriate number of motorised vehicles and bicycles and in line with Policy PAM 13; and • The creation of an attractive and pedestrian-friendly street frontage which is sympathetic to the character of the historic core along High Street and Town Lane. <p>Due to its prominent location in the heart of the village, a flagship development delivering a low carbon or net zero carbon development on this site would be particularly welcome on this site.</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy PAM9 – Development and Climate	All development proposals will be expected to embed the principles of climate change mitigation and	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
Change	<p>adaptation in line with Local Plan policy. In particular, proposals should firstly seek to implement passive environmental design principles by considering how the site layout can optimise beneficial solar gain and reduce energy demands (e.g., insulation) before considering the specification of energy-efficient building services and the incorporation of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Development proposals which adopt innovative approaches to the construction of low and zero carbon homes and buildings which demonstrate sustainable use of resources and high energy efficiency levels, for example through construction to Passivhaus standard or through applying the Net Zero Carbon Homes toolkit, are strongly encouraged.</p>		
Policy PAM10 – Sustainable Work-life Patterns	<p>All development proposals will be expected to facilitate low-carbon living by parish residents and employees. This means new residential development and development providing places of work should be provided with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dedicated facilities for the purpose of charging electric vehicles; and • a secure area for storing bicycles (either an easily accessible bike shed 	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>or in an easily accessible garage).</p> <p>In addition, new dwellings will be expected to be designed to incorporate a dedicated home office area or room for the purpose of facilitating home working.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM11 – Trees and Woodland</p>	<p>Development proposals will be expected to retain and protect existing trees, hedgerows and woodland of biodiversity or landscape value and take opportunities to enhance them.</p> <p>This means:</p> <p>1. Where a development proposal is likely to affect trees, woodland or hedgerows, it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will be expected to be accompanied by a professional survey report undertaken to the appropriate standards identifying the landscape and biodiversity value of the trees; • should demonstrate how the subsequent layout and design of the development has been informed by the survey and for trees of value, how these will be protected both during the construction and post construction phases of the development. <p>2. Where features will be lost, compensatory provision will be</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>required. Where the developer cannot replace such features within the site, a financial contribution will be sought for the purpose of habitat provision in the plan area.</p> <p>3. The planting of new hedgerows, trees and woodland should be considered where absent and may be required under paragraph 2. New planting should be composed of typical native trees and shrubs such as hawthorn, field maple, wild privet, wild service tree, spindle, hazel and blackthorn and take into account opportunities to enhance existing habitat corridors including those shown on Maps 7 and 8.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM12 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity in Pampisford Parish</p>	<p>For all development proposals, the hierarchy of mitigation should be embedded into the design of the development with the following steps implemented in order:</p> <p>i) Firstly, avoid impacts. This means retaining habitats of value for enhancement and management and retaining species in situ;</p> <p>ii) Secondly, mitigate impacts, where these have been found to be unavoidable, through replacement of lost protected and priority habitats and accommodating displaced species in the site boundary;</p> <p>iii) Thirdly, compensate if mitigation</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>measures are insufficient.</p> <p>Development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity, and this should be achieved on-site wherever possible and in accordance with the BS8683:2021 process for designing and implementing Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>Appropriate measures for delivering BNG in the parish could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Creating new wildlife corridors, including the planting of additional trees and hedgerows, which link up with existing ones, taking into account the existing habitat corridors in the parish (see Maps 7 and 8); and ii) The restoration or creation of new natural habitats. <p>All development proposals should take opportunities to integrate biodiversity measures within a building through the provision of integrated bird, bat and/or insect boxes to be targeted at protected species (e.g., swift, sparrow, starling and pipistrelle bats). Integrated living, brown or green roofs are considered particularly suitable on brownfield sites to accommodate invertebrates that are displaced through the development.</p>		



Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
<p>Policy PAM13 – Development, Movement and Traffic</p>	<p>All development proposals in the plan area will be assessed for their impact on road safety for all users and especially cyclists. Where proposals are likely to impact adversely on road safety, including the areas of existing concern at the Brewery Road/London Road junction and the Brewery Road frontage along the site of the former Chequers Public House, they will be expected to mitigate their impact by providing or contributing to road safety measures.</p> <p>Development proposals will normally be expected to be provided with adequate off-street parking to meet their needs. However, where on-street parking demand is nonetheless considered a likelihood as part of a particular development proposal, the on-street parking must be designed to avoid impeding the flow of pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles. As part of this, opportunities for the on-street parking to serve a useful informal traffic calming function should be taken.</p> <p>Proposals that will have an unacceptable impact on road safety for all users and especially cyclists after considering mitigation will be refused.</p> <p>Development generating high traffic</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>movements:</p> <p>In cases where noticeable increases in traffic movements along Brewery Road or London Road are predicted, proposals will be expected to incorporate measures that will mitigate adverse impacts (e.g., through noise, dust, air quality or visual impacts) on residential amenity. This mitigation could be achieved through either the implementation of or financial contribution towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - appropriate measures such as resurfacing with the latest ‘quiet tyre’ technology, street scene enhancement such as pavement widening, street scene planting or provision of crossing points. 		
<p>Policy PAM14 – Preventing Environmental Pollution from Pampisford Businesses</p>	<p>Development proposals which lead to unacceptable impacts on residential amenity through noise, vibration, emissions, light pollution, odour and dust will not be supported. In this respect, proposals coming forward at the three employment areas in Pampisford village (see Map 9) must take into account impacts on nearby residential occupants.</p> <p>Development proposals for new or expanded employment uses – including Class B2 (General Industry) and Class E g ii) – in Pampisford parish will be expected to be</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>accompanied by an assessment of the extent of potential pollution and the environmental receptors in the parish (including its status as a groundwater protection zone). Where impacts are predicted, mitigation measures will be required.</p> <p>Development proposals that lead to unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural environment, following mitigation measures will not be permitted.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM15 – Brewery Road Employment Area</p>	<p>For development proposals on the Brewery Road Employment Area that are otherwise compliant with policies in the development plan (including Policy PAM 14 in this plan), opportunities should be taken to improve village and landscape character, having specific regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The countryside edge of the development and potential opportunities to create an improved landscape buffer 	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>Policy PAM16 – London Road Employment Area</p>	<p>For development proposals on the London Road employment area, Policy PAM 4:</p> <p>London Road street scene improvement area applies.</p> <p>Contributions towards these public realm initiatives will be sought where</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	the contribution is directly, fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development proposal.		
Policy PAM17 – Rectory Farm Employment Area	<p>Development proposals at Rectory Farm, that are otherwise compliant with policies in the development plan (including Policy PAM 14 in this plan), will be supported subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The special contribution which the open space at Rectory Farm meadows makes to the setting of the conservation area being conserved or strengthened; • Development otherwise being in harmony with existing heritage assets, the conservation area and the street scene as a whole in this village-centre location; • New build being within the existing development footprint and not exceeding existing building heights; and • Existing features of landscape value (including mature trees and established hedgerows) being protected or complemented through additional planting. 	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy PAM18 – Protecting and Enhancing Access to and	The Public Rights of Way network is valued as providing important outdoor recreational opportunities and those within the neighbourhood	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
<p>Enjoyment of the Countryside</p>	<p>area will be protected or enhanced.</p> <p>Proposals which include new public rights of way, including bridleways in suitable locations, will be viewed favourably where they are otherwise acceptable. Where opportunities arise to create new links into the existing PROW network, as indicated on Map 10, proposals will be expected to do so.</p> <p>Development proposals which prejudice the delivery of improvements to the network of rural routes (see Map 10) will not be supported.</p>		
<p>Policy PAM19 – Local Heritage and Non-designated Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Development proposals in Pampisford should pay full regard to archaeological, industrial and other heritage features in and around the village, and the contribution they make to the local setting.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record, maintained by the County Council and which provides information on heritage assets, in order that planning decisions are fully informed.</p> <p>Proposals should seek to conserve or enhance the significance of the heritage assets listed in this policy as well as any additional non-designated heritage assets which are</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>located in the plan area.</p> <p>Where proposals have any effect on a non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be applied having regard to the scale of harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. The following buildings and structures have been identified as non-designated heritage assets.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manor Farmhouse, Church Lane 2. Brent Ditch End cottages, Nos 1 and 2, Brent Ditch End, Pampisford 3. College Farmhouse, College Farm, Beech Lane 4. Home Farm barn and cottages, Home Farm, Brent Ditch 5. No 7 Beech Lane, Pampisford 6. Village Hall, No 1 High Street, Pampisford 7. The Old Vicarage, 16 High Street, Pampisford 8. The Village signs on edge of Town Lane and Brewery Road 9. Rectory Farm buildings 10. Chequers “blacksmiths” Barn, 1 Town Lane, 11. Pampisford Place, 32 Brewery 		

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	Road 12. Langford Arch, London Road, Pampisford		

4.5.1 Recommendations and HRA Screening Conclusion

There are no Habitats sites within scope of this HRA screening.

There are no predicted effects from the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan alone and no residual effects to consider in combination with other plans and projects. There is therefore no need to identify any relevant plans or projects likely to result in a significant effect on Habitats sites.

There is no need for the Plan to be assessed at Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment).

5. Conclusions

5.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

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

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

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

5.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

This Habitat Regulations Assessment has considered the impacts arising from the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan. The HRA Screening stage identifies that, without mitigation, further consideration is not required at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine whether the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

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

6. References

- South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (2018)
- Greater Cambridge Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (February 2022)
- Greater Cambridge Biodiversity SPD SEA & HRA screening report (v2 December 2021)
- Greater Cambridge Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment Issues and Options Scoping Report (Dec 2019)
- Natural England Conservation objectives for European Sites: East of England Website
- Draft Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan (February 2023)
- Tydlesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, (April 2023) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited

Appendix 1

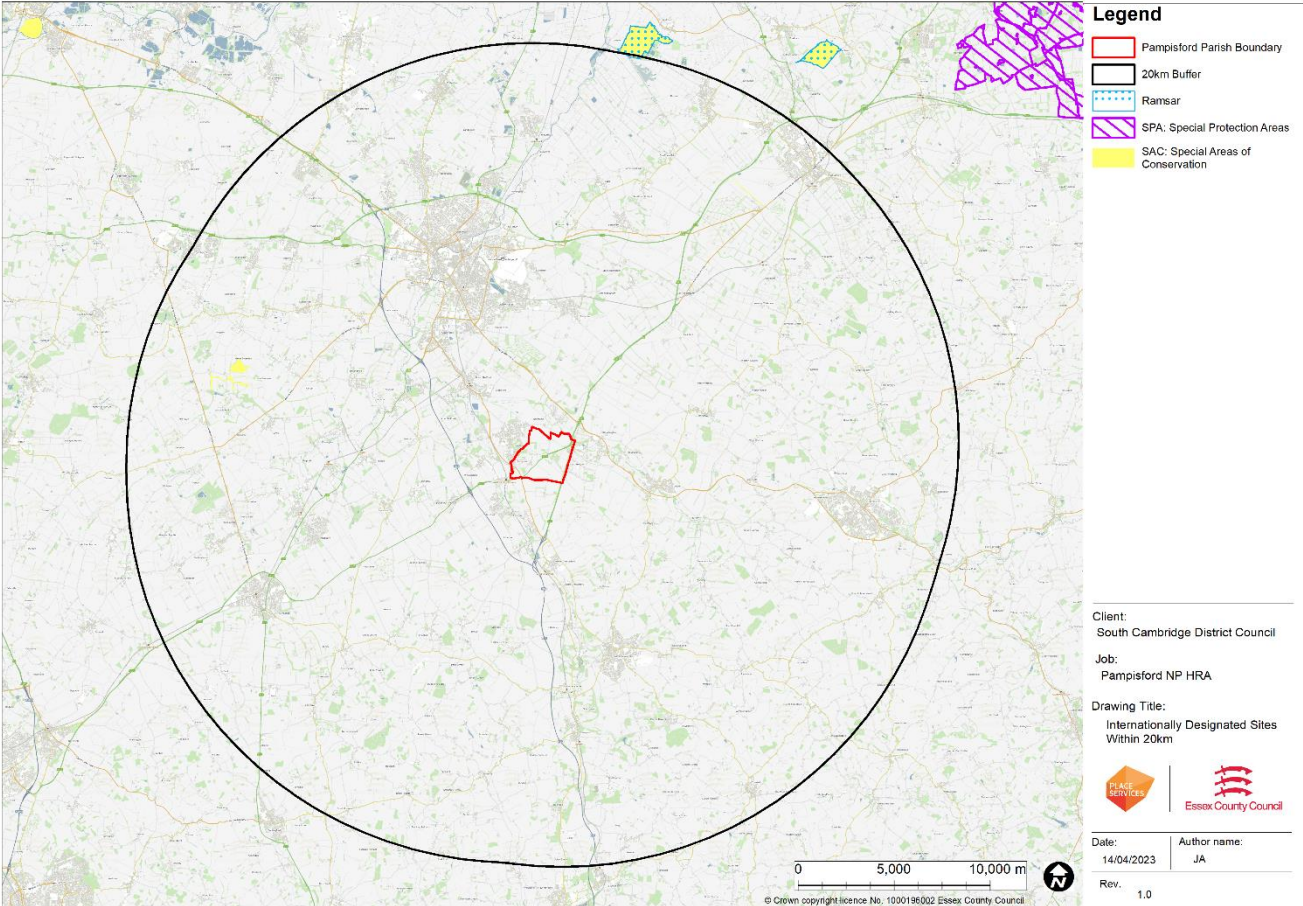
The Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan area



Source: Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 2

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



Source: Place Services, 2023



Place Services

County Hall, Essex CM1 1QH

T: +44 (0)3330 136 844

E: enquiries@placeservices.co.uk

www.placeservices.co.uk

[@PlaceServices](https://twitter.com/PlaceServices)



Essex County Council

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses from the Statutory Environmental Bodies

Historic England Advice

24 April 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the relevant local authorities are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the Historic

Environment Record (HER), how the allocation, policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

Please do contact me, either via email or the number below, if you have any queries.

Telephone: 01223 582749 Email: HistoricEngland.org.uk

Natural England

4 May 2023

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 18 April 2023.

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.

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 (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 Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the National Planning Practice Guidance. 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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Pampisford Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team