



South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

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

April 2023

Executive Summary

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

This determination statement is intended to demonstrate that the South Newnham 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).

South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum and Cambridge City 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 Cambridge City Council (CCC) for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. (See Appendix 1).

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

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

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

On the basis of the information supplied, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. (3 April 2023)

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.

- Natural England: It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as their 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. (17 April 2023)
- 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have likely significant effects on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The requirement for the Plan to undertake further assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Regulations 2017 (as amended) is therefore **screened out**.

Appendix 1: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening for South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

As part of the process of making a Neighbourhood Plan, South Newnham Neighbourhood Forum 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 Cambridge City Council for the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan.

South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan



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

March 2023





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Contents

1. Introduction	6
2. Legislative Background	10
3. SEA Screening	13
4. HRA Screening	28
5. Conclusions	53
6. References	54
Appendix 1	55
Appendix 2	56



List of Tables

Table 1: Exploring whether the Principle of the Plan would warrant SEA	14
Table 2: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on the Environment.....	17
Table 3: Habitats Sites within 20km to be considered in this assessment	30
Table 4: Assessment of potential impacts on Habitats Sites	34
Table 5: Assessment of potential impacts from the Plan policies	36

1. Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of this Report

This screening report is an assessment of whether or not the contents of the South Newnham 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 South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan will set out planning policies for the South Newnham 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 Cambridge City Council.

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

‘The Vision for South Newnham neighbourhood is one in which a balance exists between our natural environment, our economic and social infrastructure, and our mix and style of housing stock, supporting the transition to a low, and ultimately zero carbon society and making South Newnham a great place to live both now and for future generations.

- The natural environment of our neighbourhood is protected and enhanced to increase its biodiversity and be sustainable.
- A network of safe, car-free routes exists for walking and cycling that are in harmony with our environment.
- The economic and social infrastructure is characterised by retail activities and community facilities that are local enterprises of energy and dynamism meeting the needs of residents for day-to-day shopping and social needs.
- The mix of types and styles of housing stock with its distinct local character and heritage protected and enhanced provides a balanced supply which meets the needs of the neighbourhood’s residents at all stages of life.’

Planning policies are devised for the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure the delivery of this Vision. These policies cover:

1. Protecting and enhancing biodiversity.
2. Delivering biodiversity net gain.
3. Reduce and maintain low levels of light pollution.
4. Creating local green spaces.
5. Protecting and maintaining the connectivity network.
6. Improving and enhancing neighbourhood community assets.
7. Protecting and supporting homes and facilities for older people.
8. Conserving local heritage assets.
9. Improving the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings.
10. Responding to climate change and the risk of local flooding.
11. Protecting and enhancing local character through design-led development.
12. Protecting residential amenity in South Newnham.
13. Converting existing houses into more than one separate housing unit.
14. Protecting the character of neighbourhood garden boundaries.
15. Conserving and enhancing existing views and street scenes.

1.3 The Cambridge City Local Plan (2018)

The Cambridge City Local Plan (2018) sets out the planning policies and land allocations to guide the future development of Cambridge 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 Cambridge City Boundary and Principle of Development

The Local Plan identifies the land forming the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area as within the continuous Cambridge urban area, but outside of the defined city boundary. The principle of development is therefore acceptable within the majority of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area, subject to adherence to relevant Local Plan policies.

There are no site allocations within the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area.

1.3.1.2 Conservation Areas

Policy 61 outlines that the Neighbourhood Plan area contains the Newnham Croft Conservation Area, as well as being partly within the West Cambridge Conservation Area. The Policy seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment and sets various criteria to which development proposals would have to adhere.

1.3.1.3 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) & County Wildlife Sites (CWSs)

The Neighbourhood Plan area contains the Paradise LNR (and CWS), established in Policy 69 of the Local Plan. The Sheep's Fen and Coe Fen LNR is also partly within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary as well as the Barton Road Pool / Lake CWS, Sheeps Green CWS, and Skater's Meadow Group CWS. Additionally, South Newnham contains land within the City Wildlife Site of Bin Brook. Policy 69 outlines that in determining any planning application affecting a site of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, development will be permitted if it will not have an adverse impact on, or lead to the loss of, part or all of a site.

1.3.1.3 Neighbourhood Centres

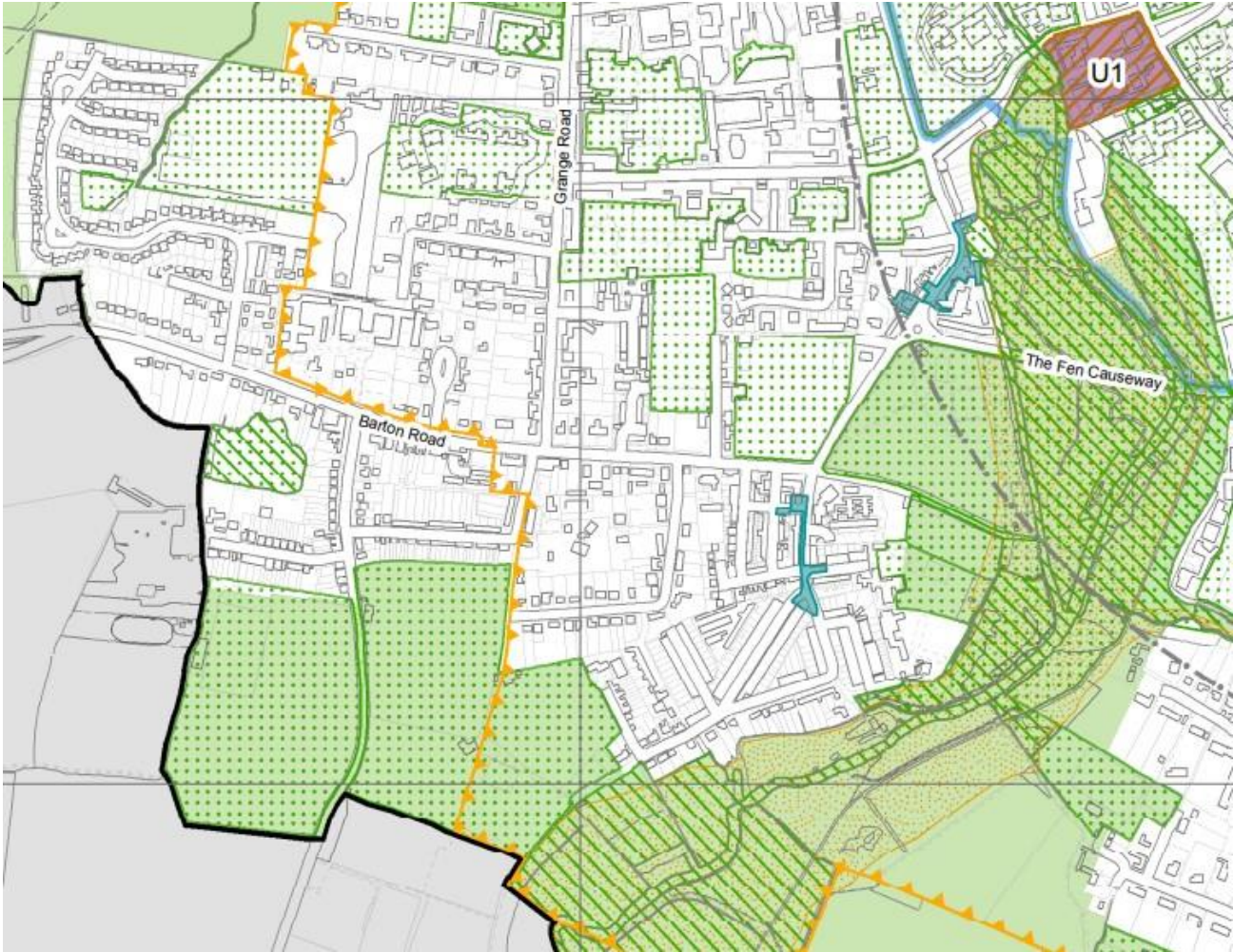
The Neighbourhood Plan area contains a Neighbourhood Centre as defined within the Local Plan (Policy 72) on Granchester Street. The policy outlines various criteria for new development within such centres, ensuring that their function and vitality is complemented and maintained.

1.3.1.4 Protected Open Spaces

The Local Plan identifies Amenity Green Space sites throughout the Neighbourhood Plan area, as well as Spaces for Children and Young People, Natural and Semi-natural Green Spaces, Parks and Gardens, and Outdoor Sports Facilities. These are all protected through Policy 67 of the Local Plan, which sets out that development proposals will not be permitted which would harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of environmental and/or recreational importance unless the open space can be satisfactorily replaced in terms of quality, quantity and access with an equal or better standard than that which is proposed to be lost; and the re-provision is located within a short walk (400m) of the original site.

The following map, taken from the Local Plan, shows the location of the Local Green Space sites in South Newnham. For a key to the maps, visit the [Local Plan Policies Map on the Cambridge City Council website](#).

Figure 1: Local Plan designations within the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area



Source: Cambridge City 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 Cambridge urban area. Neither the Local Plan nor the Neighbourhood Plan allocate any land for development purposes within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>Irrespective of the Neighbourhood Plan policies' compliance with those of the Local Plan, which will be considered in 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</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	allocating land for development purposes.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	<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>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	<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 SNNP 1 - Protecting and enhancing biodiversity • Policy SNNP 2 - Delivering biodiversity net gain • Policy SNNP 3 - Reduce and maintain light pollution • Policy SNNP 8 - Conserving local heritage assets • Policy SNNP 9 - Improving the energy efficiency of existing and new buildings • Policy SNNP 10 - Responding to climate change and the risk of local flooding • Policy SNNP 15: Conserving and enhancing existing views and street scenes <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</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment. This ensures that environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, will be considered for all development proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan area</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan reflects a small area and the Plan’s policy content seeks to address environmental issues. The policy content of the adopted Local Plan will additionally apply to any proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Local Plan policies have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) within the context of the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan and this Screening Report identify the following potential (direct / indirect) environmental problems or sources of potential problems relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan area is within the Impact Risk Zone (IRZ) of SSSIs. Development proposals within IRZs are required to be consulted on with Natural England, should they be of a type that could warrant negative effects on the relevant SSSI. 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 Lowland Meadows, Refined Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh, Lowland Fens, Deciduous Woodland, Broadleaved Woodland, and Traditional Orchard. • The Neighbourhood Plan area contains the Paradise Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and County Wildlife Site (CWS). • The Sheep’s Fen and Coe Fen LNR is also partly within the Neighbourhood Plan boundary as well as the Barton Road Pool / Lake CWS, Sheep’s Green

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>CWS, and Skater’s Meadow Group CWS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, South Newnham contains land within the City Wildlife Site of Bin Brook. • There are approximately 18 Listed Buildings within the Plan area, all of which are Grade II listed. Additionally, a further 12 locally listed buildings (non-designated heritage assets) are found within the Plan area. • The Neighbourhood Plan area contains the Newnham Croft Conservation Area, as well as being partly within the West Cambridge Conservation Area. • Areas of land within Flood Risk Zones 3 and 2 exist within the Neighbourhood Plan area, to the east associated with the River Cam, and too the west associated with the Bin Brook. • 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. These areas are in use for sports and recreational facilities. • The non-developed areas of the Plan area (to the south) are also all within the Green Belt. • The Plan area is within the urban area and is therefore not located within any National Character Area (NCA). • Parts of the Plan area to the south and east (associated with the River Cam) are within a Minerals Safeguarding Area for sand and gravel.
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and</p>	<p>The content of the Neighbourhood Plan is not in conflict with those relevant planning documents within the wider district and county area related to waste management or water protection.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects on the following factors:	The following impacts have been identified within this Screening Assessment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	<p>The Plan includes policies SNNP 1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity, and SNNP 2 – Biodiversity Net Gain. These policies set that development proposals will be assessed for their impact on sites and features of biodiversity value, and also ensuring that development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity in line with national requirements.</p> <p>The HRA element of this Screening Report concludes that the South Newnham 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 	It is considered that there would be no significant effects on population resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan. This is due to the small scale of the Plan area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health 	The Neighbourhood Plan includes various policies that could directly or indirectly affect human health in a positive manner. These include Policy SNNP 4 – Creating Local Green Spaces, Policy SNNP 5 – Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network, and Policy SNNP 7 – Protecting and

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>Supporting Homes and Facilities for Older People.</p> <p>There are no significant effects resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan regarding human health that would warrant a strategic assessment through SEA.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fauna 	<p>There are no direct impacts resulting from the Neighbourhood Plan on fauna that are considered significant at the Plan level. The Plan seeks the protection and enhancement of biodiversity at key sites and does not propose any development that could lead to the direct deterioration of habitats.</p> <p>Possible effects on fauna (outside those associated with Habitats Sites) cannot be considered strategically significant to the extent that Strategic Environmental Assessment would be warranted. Such issues are more appropriate to be considered on a case-by-case ‘project level’ basis at the development management stage and in accordance with relevant development management policies contained within the Local Planning Authority’s adopted Local Plan.</p> <p>Effects on fauna from the content of the Neighbourhood Plan can therefore be screened out.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora 	<p>Numerous and various areas of Priority Habitat exist within the Plan Area. The Plan seeks to protect and enhance existing biodiversity assets in the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>In addition to the Plan’s policies that seek the protection and enhancement of flora, the Cambridge City 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 in agricultural use. The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development purposes. There are no identified negative implications</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	surrounding soil quality as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and as such no uses are considered to give rise to ground water pollutants (e.g. give rise to hazardous substances such as pesticides, oils, petrol and diesel, solvents, arsenic, mercury or chromium VI; or non-hazardous substances such as ammonia or nitrates).</p> <p>The HRA element of this Screening Report identifies that the Plan area lies outside the IRZ for water sensitive Habitat sites 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>Although an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) is designated in the city centre, 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 in and around the AQMA in regard to traffic movements. The likelihood of significant effects is therefore screened out.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climatic factors 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan area contains areas of Flood Risk Zone 3 to the east associated with the River Cam and to the west associated with Bin Brook. No development allocations are proposed within the Plan that would lead to any incompatibilities in any such areas.</p> <p>Policy SNNP 10 – Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding sets out that any proposals within areas identified as at risk from flooding will be required to undertake a site-specific flood risk assessment, a surface water drainage strategy and incorporate Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS). Existing adopted Local Plan policies regarding flood risk also apply in the Plan area.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<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). These correspond to areas within the southern and eastern parts of the Plan area associated with the River Cam.</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 parts of the West Cambridge Conservation Area and the Newnham Croft 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 SNNP 11 – Protecting and Enhancing Local Character Through Design-led Development, which sets out that in the Conservation Areas, applications must also be informed by the advice and guidance contained in the applicable conservation area appraisals.</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</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
	<p>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 forms part of the Cambridge urban area and is therefore not considered to be within a sensitive landscape, in regard to landscape designations. The Plan area does contain land within the Green Belt; however, this land is in use for sports and recreation and is designated at the Local Plan level to ensure the protection of these uses.</p> <p>In light of the Plan’s policy stance regarding landscape features within the urban context, as well as character, and also in consideration of the requirements of development proposals within the Cambridge City Local Plan, there are no significant strategic landscape effects identified within this Report that would warrant the requirement for the application of the SEA Directive and the formulation of a SEA Environmental Report.</p>
<p>The cumulative nature of the effects.</p>	<p>The Plan does not allocate any land for development purposes and therefore any negative cumulative effects can be ruled out.</p>
<p>The trans boundary nature of the effects.</p>	<p>The adopted Cambridge City 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.</p>

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Likelihood and summary of significant effects
<p>The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents).</p>	<p>It is considered that there is no risk to human health or the environment as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. This is in 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.</p>
<p>The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p>	<p>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>
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage • exceeded environmental quality standards • intensive land use 	<p>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.</p>
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>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.</p>



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 South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Summarise the reasons for designation and Conservation Objectives for each site to be considered in this assessment.
- Screen the South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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 five Habitats sites which lie within 20 km of the South Newnham 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouse Washes
SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eversden and Wimpole Woods • Wicken Fen
Ramsar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ouse Washes • 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.

South Newnham parish lies outside the 5km Impact Risk Zones for Ouse Washes SPA and Ramsar as well as Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar. However, part of South Newnham plan

area lies within 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). All significant impacts or severance to flightlines must be assessed within this area as these could, without mitigation, result in adverse effect on integrity of this Habitats site.

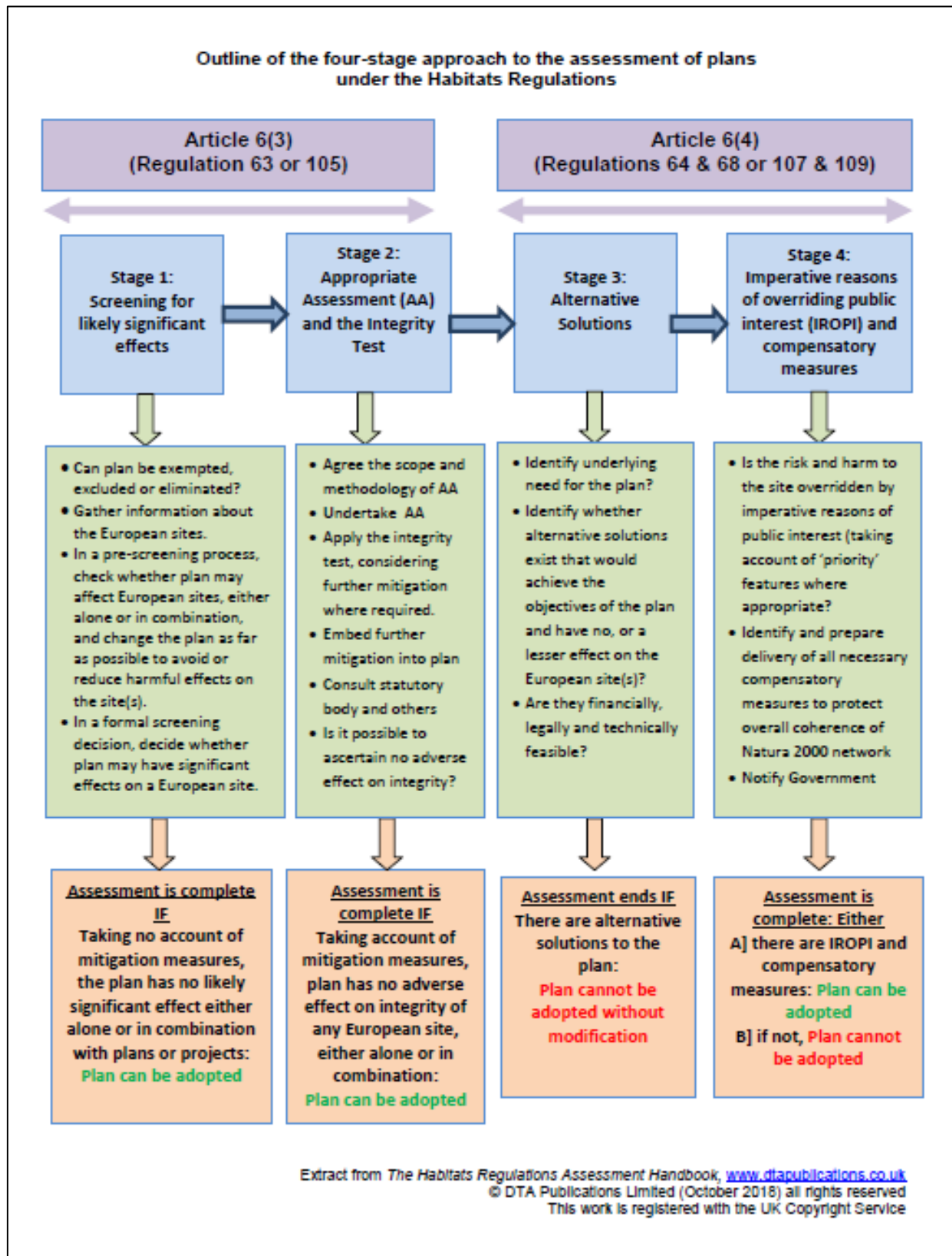
After consideration of potential impact pathways, on a precautionary principle, it is concluded that only Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC should be assessed for any likely significant effects resulting from the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. This Habitat site is therefore included within scope for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

However, as the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for development, there is no predicted impact nor would support for residential development be considered as significant. It is therefore concluded that there is no likely significant effect on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC (the only Habitats sites within scope) resulting from the South Newnham 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 2: 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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.

In line with the SA Scoping Report for Cambridge City’s Local Plan, 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 South Newnham 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 South Newnham 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	Part of the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area lies within the 10km IRZ for Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC. By following the guidance in the draft Eversden & Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation protocol, the Council can ensure that the	The South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development which lies within the wider conservation area for this SAC and could result in significant impacts or severance of flightlines for Barbastelle bats. It is therefore considered that this impact pathway will not

Nature of potential impact	How the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan (alone or in combination with other plans and projects) could affect a Habitats site	Why these effects are not considered significant
	<p>Special Area of Conservation bat populations thrive and that developments around the designated site avoid impacts on them, thereby preventing delays during their consideration at the planning stage.</p>	<p>result in likely significant effects upon Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC from the Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore, impacts on protected species outside the protected sites from the Neighbourhood Plan (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) on the Habitats sites can be screened out for further assessment.</p>
<p>Recreational pressure and disturbance</p>	<p>The South Newnham 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.</p>	<p>As the South Newnham 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.</p>
<p>Water quantity and quality</p>	<p>The South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area lies outside the impact risk zones for water sensitive Habitats sites and there are none within the scope of this assessment.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Changes in pollution levels</p>	<p>The South Newnham 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

4.5 Results from HRA Screening of Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Each of the policies in the South Newnham 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 SNNP1 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity	<p>Development proposals will be assessed for their impact on sites and features of biodiversity value in the plan area including those listed below, identified on Policy Map 2, and described in the supporting text to this policy:</p> <p>1. The Green River Corridor comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The River Cam County Wildlife Site b) Sheep’s Green, Snobs Brooke (Mill Leat) and the Rush c) Lammas Land d) Owlstone Croft gardens e) The Grove gardens f) Newnham Croft School wilderness area g) Paradise Nature Reserve h) Skaters’ Meadow 	No, Category B	<p>No Likely Significant Effect</p> <p>Recommendation to add to the policy text clause 7, to refer to the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC.</p> <p>This is in line with the guidance in the draft Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC Bat Protocol as set out in the adopted Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Biodiversity SPD (2022).</p> <p>The Policy needs to require mitigation for significant impacts on hedgerows or any severance of bat</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>i) Species rich and important ancient hedgerows along the Driftway, Newnham Croft Primary School, the lane to Newnham Riverbank Club and along the water meadow in Skaters' Meadow</p> <p>2. Barton Road Lake County Wildlife Site</p> <p>3. Bin Brook County Wildlife Site</p> <p>4. Wolfson College gardens</p> <p>5. Playing Fields</p> <p>Downing College, St. Catharine's College, Pembroke College, Gonville and Caius College, and Corpus Christi College Sports Fields and Cambridge RFU Club</p> <p>6. Species rich and/or important hedgerows at Grantchester Road, Gough Way, and King's Road</p> <p>The hierarchy of mitigation should be applied to all proposals by implementing, in order the following steps:</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</p>		<p>flightlines to avoid impacts on protected species (Barbastelle bats) outside the protected site (see suggested text below).</p> <p>Additional text:</p> <p>'Avoid significant impact on hedgerows or any severance of bat flight lines to protect foraging and commuting habitat for Barbastelle bats which could belong to the population protected by Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC.'</p>

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>accommodating displaced species in the site boundary</p> <p>iii) Thirdly, compensate if mitigation measures are insufficient.</p> <p>For the purpose of delivering enhancements, specific opportunities for improving biodiversity in the parish include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing tree canopy coverage • Strengthening ecological connectivity alongside the Green River Corridor 		
<p>Policy SNNP2 – Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain</p>	<p>Development proposals will be required to demonstrate measurable net gain for biodiversity in line with national requirements.</p> <p>All development proposals (except householder applications – see below) must provide clear and robust evidence setting out:</p> <p>(a) information about the steps taken, or to be taken, to avoid and minimise the adverse effect of the development on the biodiversity of the onsite habitat and any other habitat,</p> <p>(b) the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat based on an up-to-date survey and ideally using the latest available Defra metric,</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>(c) the post-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat ideally using the Defra metric; and</p> <p>(d) the ongoing management strategy for any proposals.</p> <p>Demonstrating the value of the habitat (pre and post development) will be the responsibility of the applicant, and the information to be supplied will depend on the type and degree of proposals being submitted.</p> <p>For householder applications, the detailed provisions of this policy do not apply, but there is still an expectation in most instances that an element of biodiversity gain should be incorporated into the proposal, such as bird boxes, insect ‘hotels’, bee blocks, bat boxes and/or hibernation holes</p>		
<p>Policy SNNP 3: Reduce and maintain low levels of light pollution.</p>	<p>To protect wildlife and especially bats, proposals for additional lighting both within and adjacent to the Green Infrastructure Network will not be supported except in exceptional circumstances. Where external lighting is deemed necessary on buildings, unshielded white lights should be replaced with shielded yellow/orange lights. Where lighting is deemed necessary on footpaths and cycleways within the Green Infrastructure Network, solar studs</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
	should be used.		
<p>Policy SNNP 4 - Creating Local Green Spaces.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan designates the following locations, as shown on Map 2, as Local Green Spaces:</p> <p>A. LGS1 - Gough Way children’s play area</p> <p>B. LGS2 - Skaters’ Meadows footpath</p> <p>C. LGS3 - Secondary woodland at Pembroke allotments</p> <p>D. LGS4 - Newnham Croft School wilderness area</p> <p>E. LGS5 - Wide green verges along north side of Barton Road</p> <p>Development on these sites will not be acceptable unless consistent with national policy for Green Belts.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>Policy SNNP 5 – Protecting and Maintaining the Connectivity Network</p>	<p>The Connectivity Network, comprising footpaths, alleyways, lanes, and designated cycle routes, shown on Policy Map 3 is safeguarded from development which would adversely impact the ease and safety of travel through the plan area when walking, and cycling.</p> <p>All proposals should give priority to the safety of pedestrians.</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>Pedestrian connectivity:</p> <p>Proposals which impact the pedestrian network, including individual features of it (comprising pavements, footpaths, lanes, alleyways used by pedestrians) will be expected to maintain or improve pedestrian connectivity. Where proposals are likely to adversely impact on the safety or convenience of pedestrian routes, they will be expected to mitigate their impact. This could be through measures designed to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility or through measures designed to enhance the public amenity value attached to those routes.</p> <p>Barton Road Cycle Path:</p> <p>Proposals to improve the pedestrian/cycle path along the Barton Road and Newnham Road will be supported provided they do no harm the existing amenity (trees and verges) and integrate sustainable draining systems to ensure that they do not increase the risk of surface water flooding.</p> <p>The surface of pedestrian and cycle paths should be appropriate to context and not black tarmacadam in the Green Infrastructure Network.</p> <p>Consideration should be given for the needs of users with disabilities, including those who are sight and</p>		

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	hearing impaired, as well as wheelchair users.		
<p>Policy SNNP 6 – Improving and Enhancing Neighbourhood Community Assets</p>	<p>Development proposals that improve and enhance a Neighbourhood Community Asset (see Map 4) by way of the extension or partial re-development of an existing building or to provide a new local shop, artist studio, community, sports, or leisure facility will be supported, provided that they do not have a harmful effect on the street scene, or views of trees and gardens, and that any resulting increase in use will not harm the amenity of neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Where planning consent is required, proposals to change the use of shops or commercial units will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that their continued use is no longer viable in accordance with the methodology set out in Policy 72 of the Cambridge 2018 Local Plan.</p>	<p>No, Category A</p>	<p>No specific recommendations</p>
<p>Policy SNNP 7 – Protecting and Supporting Homes and Facilities for Older People</p>	<p>Development proposals that are designed to take into account the needs of elderly and disabled people, including adapting existing buildings to create sheltered housing and senior living facilities, will be encouraged, provided they do not have a harmful effect on the street scene or adversely impact the amenity of neighbouring</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>properties (i.e., the façade should not change).</p> <p>Proposals to change the use of Lammas Court to privately owned or non-residential will be resisted unless it can be demonstrated that the site is no longer suited to, or viable as senior living facilities.</p>		
<p>Policy SNNP 8 – Conserving Local Heritage Assets</p>	<p>The following locally important historic buildings (H1 – H8) are newly identified as Local Heritage Assets and are shown on Map 4</p> <p>H1: Newnham Croft Social and Sports Club, Hardwick Street, CB3 9JB</p> <p>H2: 31 and 32a Eltisley Avenue, CB3 9JG</p> <p>H3: Maison Clement (Bakery/Café), 7 Derby Street, CB3 9JE</p> <p>H4: Gas Lamps on Millington Rd, Grantchester Meadows, and South Green Rd</p> <p>H5: Stink Pipes on Grantchester Meadows and South Green Rd, Selwyn Rd, Fulbrooke Rd, and besides Paradise House</p> <p>H6: St. Mark’s Vicarage, Barton Road, CB3 9JZ</p> <p>H7: Red Bull Public House, 11 Barton Road, CB3 9JZ</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>H8: Gonville & Caius College Cricket Pavilion, Clare Road CB3 9HE</p> <p>Where proposals have any effect on a non-designated heritage asset (those listed in this policy and those already identified by Cambridge City Council), a balanced judgement will be applied having regard to the scale of harm and the significance of the heritage asset.</p>		
<p>Policy SNNP 9 – Improving the Energy Efficiency of Existing and New Buildings</p>	<p>Proposals related to extending existing buildings and building new buildings should incorporate measures to enhance the environmental performance of the wider building, where these are sympathetic to the character of the area and the heritage status of the building. To reduce a building’s carbon footprint, it is important that a simple energy hierarchy is used, focussing first on measures to enhance the fabric performance and energy efficiency of properties before considering the role of renewable energy.</p> <p>Development proposals which adopt innovative approaches to the construction of low and net-zero carbon homes, and buildings which demonstrate sustainable use of resources and high energy efficiency levels (for example construction to Passivhaus or similar standards) are strongly</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>encouraged where they remain in sympathy with the character of the area.</p> <p>Development proposals (related to extending existing buildings and building new buildings) must be accompanied by a sustainability statement that outlines how a scheme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embeds the energy hierarchy within the design of buildings by prioritising orientation, fabric performance and landscaping in order to minimise energy demand for heating, lighting and cooling 2. Achieves greenhouse gas emission reductions through the above measures, and through the incorporation, wherever possible and appropriate, of renewable and low carbon energy sources. 		
<p>Policy SNNP 10 – Responding to Climate Change and the Risk of Local Flooding.</p>	<p>All development proposals involving new build, and those which are located in areas at risk from surface water flooding (as documented in the most up to date Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report) shall be accompanied by a site-specific flood risk assessment.</p> <p>Such development proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be accompanied by a surface water drainage strategy. 	<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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all surface water is appropriately managed through the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) and include proposals for the future maintenance of these and - Be designed and constructed to reduce the overall level of surface water flood risk to the use of the site and elsewhere when compared to the current use. <p>For all development in all locations, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are the preferred method of surface water disposal and should be incorporated unless demonstrably unfeasible to do this. All hard surfaces such as parking areas, drives and patios should include permeable paving. When new roofs are being installed, opportunities to install green, brown or biodiverse roofs should be taken. Applicants will be expected to comply with the SuDS design principles set out in the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Management SPD (including updates to this) when designing and planning for SuDS. This includes a requirement that SuDS are designed to avoid risk of pollution into water courses and sites of biodiversity value in the plan area.</p> <p>Where appropriate, proposals for flood-prevention barriers to</p>		

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>vulnerable property should ensure that they have regard to the character of the locality, and do not result in the loss of surrounding vegetation.</p> <p>Land which falls within the functional floodplain¹ will be kept free from development, other than essential infrastructure and water compatible development (e.g. flood control infrastructure) listed in Annex 3 to the NPPF 2021 (or any published updates to this). Permission will not be permitted unless the exceptions test, and other requirements set out in the most up to date national planning practice guidance applicable to flood risk has been met.</p> <p>Note 1: The functional floodplain is defined as land where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood. For the neighbourhood plan area, these areas are mapped in appendix D6 to the Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Management Study, 2021 (see pages 13 and 18 for South Newnham extents).</p>		
<p>Policy SNNP 11 - Protecting and Enhancing Local Character Through Design-led</p>	<p>All development proposals (new build proposals, extensions, altering existing buildings and demolition projects where they require planning permission) should protect and enhance the character and setting of South Newnham and must be the result</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
Development.	<p>of a design-led process with regards to a scheme’s layout, choice of building materials, scale, and form.</p> <p>In this process, applications should be informed by the existing built environment characteristics, as described in the supporting text to this policy. For schemes coming forward in either West Cambridge Conservation Area or Newnham Croft Conservation Area, applications must also be informed by the advice and guidance contained in the applicable conservation area appraisals.</p> <p>The following principles apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Proposals should maintain the existing building line to the frontage. b) Proposals should sensitively respond to prevailing building heights and those to the front and rear of the development site. c) Proposed building form and massing should respond appropriately to neighbouring buildings. d) Flat roofed extensions beyond the original building line and above ground floor level will be opposed except in exceptional circumstances. Where flat roofs are considered acceptable, these 		

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>should be green or brown roofs.</p> <p>e) Facing or cladding materials comprise Gault, red or other brick dressing or render to match existing materials on the same and adjoining properties to front and rear.</p> <p>f) Roofing materials to be slate or tile pitched roofs to match existing materials on the same and adjoining properties to front and rear.</p> <p>g) The use of Gault, red or other brick for chimneys to match existing and adjoining properties.</p> <p>h) Proposals retain original design features such as sash or casement windows, small porches, stone detailing, and front doors, or replace with matching equivalents to the original design and materials where possible.</p>		
<p>Policy SNNP 12 - Protecting Residential Amenity in South Newnham</p>	<p>All development proposals (including alterations, extensions, conversions, and infill developments) are expected to:</p> <p>a) Not lead to significantly overlooking (loss or privacy an immediate outlook) or overshadowing (loss of daylight and sunlight). Proposals that incorporate extensive areas of glass directly facing neighbouring</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>properties will not be supported.</p> <p>b) Ensure existing and future occupiers are not exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution that may arise from the development. This can include noise, smoke, fumes, refuse and/or lighting during construction and occupation.</p> <p>c) Ensure existing and proposed occupiers are not exposed to unacceptable levels of general disturbance arising from the development, through traffic movements to, from and within the site during construction and occupation.</p> <p>With respect to a), where there is a risk of impact on light amenity, a special light report should be commissioned including BRE, Right to Light and Shadow Studies.</p> <p>In all cases, applicants are strongly encouraged to engage with occupiers in neighbouring properties at pre-application stage in order to help identify impacts on residential amenity and develop an appropriate scheme.</p>		
<p>Policy SNNP 13 - Converting existing houses into more than one separate</p>	<p>Subdivision of existing detached and semi-detached houses into more than one separate housing units will be supported to meet evolving family needs provided that alterations are sympathetic to the</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
housing unit	existing building and that the amenity of neighbours is protected, including light amenity. Subdivision of existing terraced houses into separate housing units will not be supported.		
Policy SNNP 14 – Protecting the character of neighbourhood garden boundaries.	Proposals will be expected to retain or replace boundary walls, hedges, railings, and front gardens where they exist. New boundary treatment should be consistent with adjacent building lines and detailing.	No, Category A	No specific recommendations
Policy SNNP 15 – Conserving and enhancing existing views and street scenes.	<p>Development proposals will be expected to recognise, maintain and where possible enhance street scape and landscape character.</p> <p>Proposals which adversely affect the following communal views will not be supported:</p> <p>a) Communal views of street trees and gardens, where these contribute positively to the street scene</p> <p>b) The views to the open countryside, from Grantchester Meadows, and across the playing fields from South Green Road, King’s Road, Grantchester Road, Gough Way, Newnham Road, Fen Causeway, the Driftway, Clare Road, and adjacent public footpaths as identified on the</p>	No, Category A	No specific recommendations

Policy Number	Policy Wording	Will Policy have Likely Significant Effects on the Habitats Sites?	Recommendations
	<p>Policies Map.</p> <p>Careful consideration should be given to the storage of bins and bikes to minimise their impact on the street scene.</p>		

4.5.1 Recommendations and HRA Screening Conclusion

There is a single Habitats site within scope of this HRA screening i.e. Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC. This is also a single potential impact pathway – impacts on protected species outside the protected sites e.g. Barbastelle bats.

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

There is a single policy (SNNP1) in the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan which has been assigned to ‘Category B’ in relation to Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC when the Plan is considered alone. Therefore, a policy text amendment has been recommended to ensure that impacts upon this Habitats site are considered at application stage for any future development within the Neighbourhood Plan area. As a result, there is no need for the Plan to be assessed at Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment).

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

5. Conclusions

5.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

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

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

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

In consideration of the findings of this Screening Report, the South Newnham 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 considers the impacts arising from the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan. The HRA Screening stage identifies that, without mitigation, further consideration was not required at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine whether the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, would adversely affect the integrity of Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC as a result of impacts on protected species outside the protected sites potential impact pathway, i.e. this HRA recommends that Policies supporting development should not be assessed further either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

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

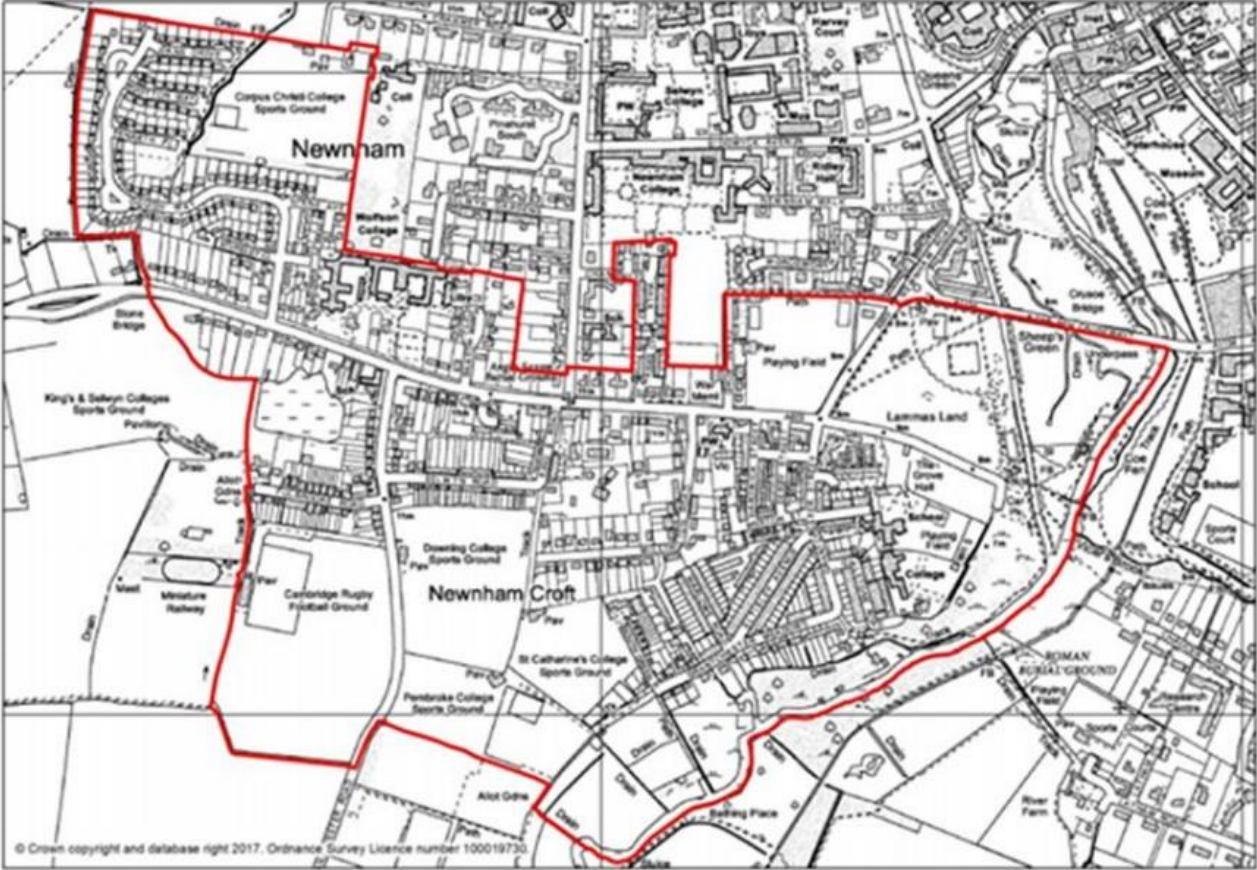
Subject to the above recommendation being incorporated and Natural England's review, this HRA Screening Report, indicates that, without mitigation embedded, the South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan is not predicted to have a Likely Significant Effect on any Habitats site, either alone or in combination with 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

- Cambridge 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 South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan (February 2023)
- Tydlesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, (April 2022) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited

Appendix 1

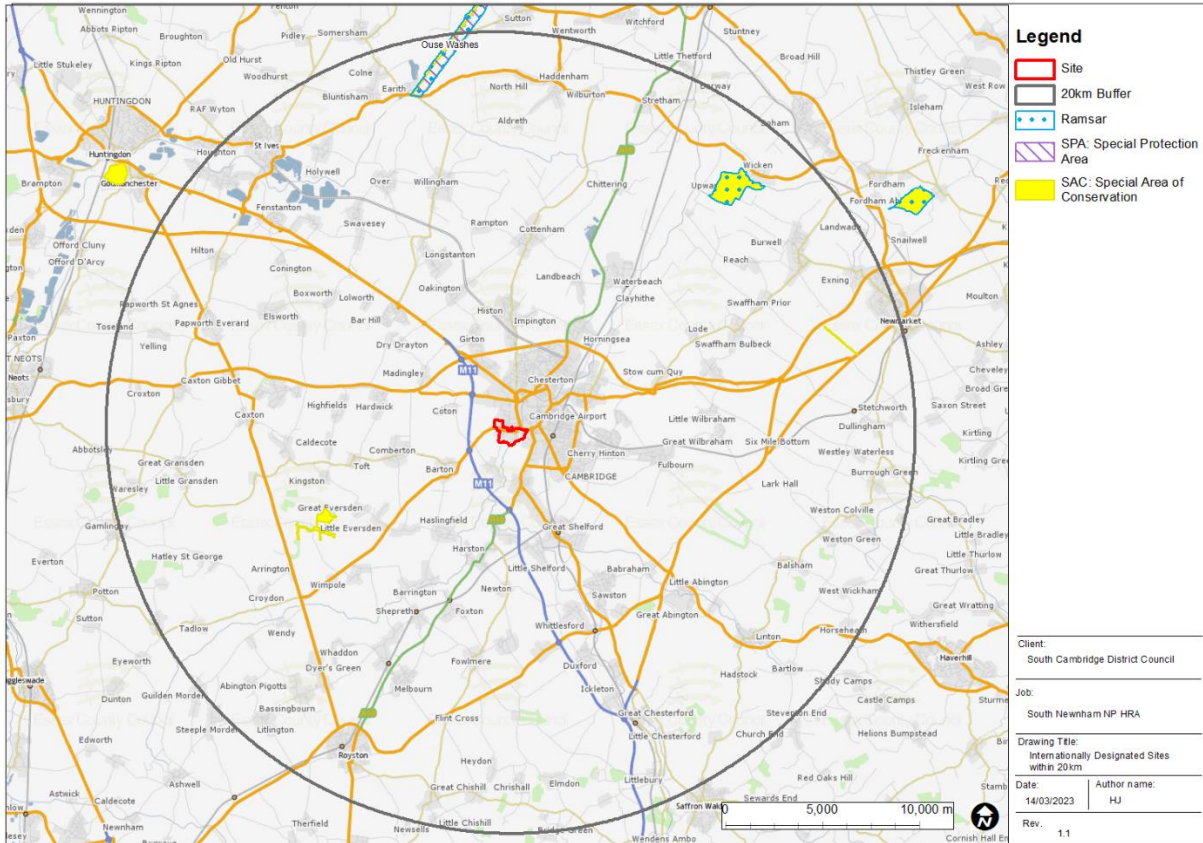
The South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan area



Source: South Newnham Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 2

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



Source: Place Services, 2023



Place Services

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Essex County Council

Appendix 2: Consultation Responses from the Statutory Environmental Bodies

Historic England Advice

3 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 South Newnham 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

17 April 2023

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 2021.

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 South Newnham 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