



Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Statement

Fordham Neighbourhood Plan

This determination statement has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council, as “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The regulations implement European Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

On 11 May 2018, Fordham Parish Council submitted the draft Fordham Neighbourhood Plan to East Cambridgeshire District Council for independent examination.

A Screening Assessment was prepared, on behalf of Fordham Parish Council by East Cambridgeshire District Council, during the preparation of the draft Fordham Neighbourhood Plan. The SEA Screening Report¹ was submitted by Fordham Parish Council alongside the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

The Screening Report examines the strategic policy and environmental context relevant to Fordham, and undertakes a screening assessment. Whilst the draft Fordham Neighbourhood Plan proposes a number of site allocations for housing and mixed-use development, the likely environmental effects of such growth has been assessed through Sustainability Appraisal of the submitted Local Plan.

The Screening Report was sent to consultation bodies for comment (March – May 2018). Responses were received from Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency.

In summary, Historic England indicated that it “...*concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required, as it would duplicate work already undertaken as part of the local plan update process.*”

Natural England stated, “*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.*”

In its response, Environment Agency indicates that due to resource pressures it was unable to provide bespoke advice.

Based on the assessment undertaken in the SEA Screening Report and the responses received from consultation bodies, the Council considers that it is unlikely that significant environmental effects will arise from implementation of the Fordham Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

¹ Available at <http://eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/SEA-HRA%20Screening%20FINAL.pdf>