

Examiner's clarifying question to Haddenham Parish Council

Question 1

Policy HAD7 addresses the need to conserve and enhance sites designated as being of international significance in terms of habitats etc. As far as I can see from the submitted documents, there are no such sites within the Parish itself - is that correct?

Paragraph 8.4 of the Plan notes that ECDC's Natural Environment SPD, which was adopted in 2020, "sets out a detailed supporting policy in respect of considering development proposals that might affect internationally designated sites in the district" (but that) "in the absence of that policy being set out in a Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan has included it as a formal policy in order that it carries more weight in the decision-making process".

My preliminary view of Policy HAD7 is that, in practical terms, it adds nothing to the existing planning framework for East Cambridgeshire, since it duplicates the SPD's Policy NE.1. Does the case for the inclusion of Policy HAD7 rest solely on concern that the SPD might not carry sufficient weight as it stands simply because it is not formally part of the statutory development plan?

A response to this question by Friday 8 July would be much appreciated.

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28 June 2022