



North Norfolk District Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Determination

Holt Neighbourhood Plan - Emerging Draft Submission Version (March 2022)

July 2022

**North Norfolk District Council
Planning Policy Team**

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Planning Policy

North Norfolk District Council

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 In some circumstances a neighbourhood plan could have significant environmental effects and may fall within the scope of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- 1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation of plans and programmes prior to their final adoption. SEA is a tool used internationally to improve the environmental performance of plans so that they can better contribute to sustainable development.
- 1.3 Establishing whether a Neighbourhood Plan takes into account SEA is an important legal requirement. The Independent Examiner subsequently appointed to consider the Neighbourhood Plan for Holt will check that the neighbourhood plan meets the 'Basic Conditions' set out in the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)¹. One of the Basic Conditions is whether the Neighbourhood Plan is compatible with European obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant. Whether a neighbourhood plan requires a strategic environmental assessment and the level of detail needed will depend on what is proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan and the characteristics of the local area
- 1.4 In meeting these obligations, the national PPG sets out that an initial screening stage is required to establish whether a Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. As the “responsible body” this report sets out North Norfolk District Council's conclusions in respect of the:
- Screening report undertaken by NNDC on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group, which can be viewed at www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/holtnp
 - The responses to this report from the statutory consultees – contained in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 This assessment relates to emerging updated submission/examination draft of the Holt Neighbourhood Plan dated March 2022 and follows earlier consultation on the SEA Screening Assessment with statutory bodies

2 Legislative Background

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment legislation is European Union Directive 2001/42/EC² which requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans or programmes that could have a significant environmental effect. This was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, commonly referred to as the SEA Regulations³. The Government published ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ (ODPM 2005)⁴, which provides more detailed guidance on how an SEA should be carried out.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/1633/contents/made>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

- 2.2 In accordance with the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) (Regulation 9(1)), the Council must determine if a plan requires an environmental assessment. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment. Where the Council determines that an SEA is not required, then the Council must, under Regulation 9(3), prepare a statement setting out the reasons for this determination- this report. Where it is determined that proposals in a Neighbourhood Plan are likely to have significant environmental effects, the Neighbourhood Plan may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should then be assessed to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant Environmental effects as prescribed in regulation 12 (2)& (3) of the above legislation.
- 2.3 An SEA can be required in some limited situations where a sustainability appraisal is not needed. Neighbourhood planning is one of these situations. Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) may incorporate the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations, which implement the requirements of the 'Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
- 2.4 A Sustainability Appraisal ensures that potential environmental effects are given full consideration alongside social and economic issues and it is good practice to do one to understand how a plan is to deliver sustainable development. However, NPPF Planning Practice Guidance states that there is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to undertake a sustainability appraisal as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It does however remain a basic condition test for neighbourhood planning to demonstrate whether the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This is the purpose of the SEA Screening Report and the subsequent issue of the Determination Report.
- 2.5 Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA, and if so, the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan. The national PPG⁵ suggests that an SEA may be required, 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; and
 - 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.
- 2.6 It remains the responsibility of the Local planning authority to ensure that all the regulations appropriate to the nature and scope of a [Neighbourhood Plan](#) proposal submitted to it have been met in order for the proposal to progress to examination. It remains the qualifying body's responsibility to make every effort to ensure the resultant draft neighborhood plan that it submits to the local planning authority for independent examination:
- Meets each of the Basic Conditions ;

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal> para 013 Ref ID: 11-013-20140306

- Has been prepared in accordance with the correct process and all those required to be consulted have been;
- Is accompanied by all the required documents⁶

2.7 The emerging draft neighbourhood plan is expected to shortly to commence publication under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This has been informed by the earlier screening report which has been undertaken by North Norfolk District Council and consulted on with the statutory bodies, Historic England, Natural England & the Environment Agency.

Habitat Regulations

2.8 Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012⁷ refers to the Habitats Directive. The Regulations require Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening to be undertaken (by the qualifying Body) to identify if a Neighbourhood Plan would have a significant impact on nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites. Article 6 (3) of the EU habitats Directive⁸ and Regulation 61 of the Habitats and Species Regulations 2010⁹ (as amended) requires that an Appropriate Assessment is carried out on any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

2.9 European Sites are defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2010, and consist of candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas, as defined in regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species. These are also reflected in the National Planning Policy Framework, NPPF, which also refers to Ramsar sites, which are listed in accordance with the international Ramsar Convention. The NPPF requires decision makers to apply the same protection and process to Ramsar sites as that set out in legislation for European sites¹⁰.

2.10 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur on European Sites through the implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan group have requested a separate HRA Screening Assessment and Determination from the District Council as the competent authority in Law.

⁶ PPG Paragraph: 031 Reference ID: 11-031-20150209

⁷ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/pdfs/ukxi_20120637_en.pdf

⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm

⁹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

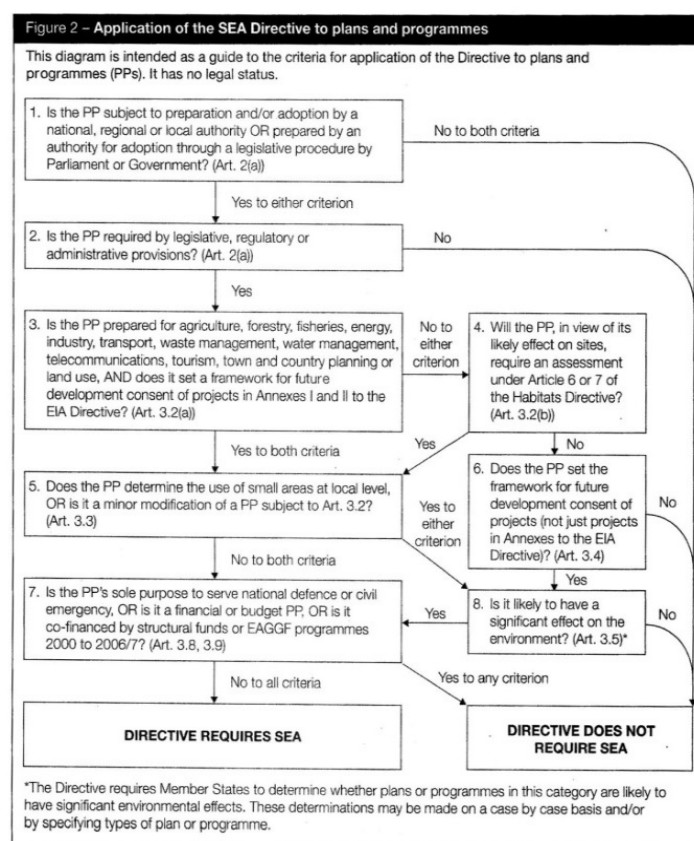
¹⁰ NPPF para 118

3 SEA Screening Criteria

- 3.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. The SEA screening is a two stage interrelated process. The first part considers the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA assessment flow chart set out in the national guidance “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive”¹¹, (Paragraph 2.18, Figure 2, ODPM, 2005). The second part of the assessment is required in order to answer specific questions contained in the above, specifically question 8 and considers whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment, using criteria drawn from the EU SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹².
- 3.2 The regulations state that before making a determination the three statutory consultation bodies, The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England, must be consulted.

The process taken follows the application of the SEA Directive as set out in Figure 2 of ‘A practical guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’ followed by application of the criteria determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC (Annex 11) and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguidesea.pdf paragraph 2.18

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-environmental-assessment-directive-guidance>

¹² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made>

Table 1: Criteria for Determining the Likely Significance of 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,
- 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 trans-boundary 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.

Source: Annex 11 of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the UK Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004:

4 Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan

4.1. Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is allowed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The NP is being prepared by the parish council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by North Norfolk District Council as the local authority subject an independent examination and community referendum. The preparation of NP’s is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
2. Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art.2(a))	Y	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan is not a requirement of the legislative, regulatory or administrative process It is an optional process under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (amended by the Localism Act 2011). However, once a Neighbourhood Plan is “made” and becomes part of the statutory Development Plan for the area to which it applies and as such. These are directed by legislative processes and it is forms part of a plan that is required by legislative provisions
3. Is the Neighbourhood 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? (Art 3.2(a))	Y/N	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan can include these policy areas and could provide, at a Neighbourhood Area level, the framework for development that would fall within Annex II of the EIA Directive. Developments that fall within Annex I are ‘excluded’ development for Neighbourhood Plans (as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as subsequently amended).</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared to set out a framework for town and country planning and “land use” at the local level within the parish of Holt which is within the wider North Norfolk Council area. Its role is to complement the higher order strategic Framework that already exists for land use planning across the District.</p> <p>The strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan of North Norfolk District Council. Holt is selected as a growth settlement in the adopted Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan. The Local Plan identifies a settlement boundary for Holt as well as the town centre boundary and primary shopping area. The Local Plan also identifies suitable residential allocations and a number of open space</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
		<p>designations and sets the strategic approach to development in the surrounding countryside as well as a number of other strategic policy areas covering environment, social and economic policy areas.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan process requires alignment to be in general conformity with these, the assessment of which is part of the iterative process. The neighbourhood plan makes no material change to these strategic policies and is not considered to impact on other strategic designations. The adopted and emerging Local Plan has been subject to both sustainability appraisal (including strategic environmental assessment) and Appropriate Assessment under the Habitat Regulations</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not anticipate being the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.</p>
<p>4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the habitats Directive?(Art.3.2(b))</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitats Directive. The Neighbourhood Plan Area includes a site relating to the Norfolk Valley Fens SAC. A number of other SACs and SPA are within 20km and include the North Norfolk Coast SAC/SPA, The Wash & North Norfolk Coast, SAC, River Wensum, SAC, Overstrand Cliffs SAC and the Greater Wash SPA.</p> <p>The North Norfolk plan level HRA work undertaken for the adopted Site Allocations document, 2011 concluded that the site allocations set out within the plan would not cause an adverse effect on any of the European sites, with the commitment of North Norfolk District Council to progress key measures at a strategic level in relation to recreation.</p> <p>The North Norfolk plan level HRA work undertaken for the adopted Site Allocations document, 2011 concluded that the site allocations set out within the plan would not cause an adverse effect on any of the European sites, with the commitment of North Norfolk District Council to progress key measures at a strategic level in relation to recreation. The site have since been built out.</p> <p>An Interim Habitats Regulation Assessment was carried out as part of North Norfolk District Council emerging Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation in May 2019 and acknowledges that policies in the emerging Local Plan have been developed with the need to protect European sites understood, and as such the policies contain strong wording and supporting text that enables a conclusion of no likely significant effects for most of the emerging policies, concluding that there are</p>

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
		<p>measures in progress capable of necessary strategic measures to conclude NLSE. The final HRA / appropriate assessment December 2021 for the preferred sites for allocation in the emerging Local plan concluded Urban effects issues could be addressed at project level HRA stage through detailed design considerations and as this was in the policy requirements adverse impacts on the North Norfolk Valley Fens SCA could be ruled out when the sites came forward for development. Similarly any hydrological effects are considered to be able to be mitigated through sustainable drainage solutions at design stage and the HRA concluded the wording of the relevant site allocations policies ensures that this requirement is addressed. In terms of recreational impacts the HRA concludes that the strategic mitigation is embedded within the North Norfolk Local Plan through the Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy, GIRAMS which provides the means to address the cumulative impacts from growth. The site allocations are required to provide appropriate contributions towards the mitigation action plan identified in the Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance & Mitigation Strategy, GIRAMS and the HRA concluded that the necessary wording is included in the site policies for Holt to enable the HRA to rule out adverse effects in combination in relation to recreational effects.</p> <p>A HRA screening report for the Holt Neighbourhood Plan, HNP ahead of consultation with the statutory bodies concludes on that that there are likely to be no adverse effects upon the integrity of any European sites from the policies contained in it.</p> <p>The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the existing Local Plan, It does not allocate land for built development over and above the North Norfolk Local Plan which has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal including Strategic Environmental Assessment, SEA and Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations as detailed above</p>
5 Does the Neighbourhood Plans determine the use of small areas at local level, Or is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art 3.2? (Art3.3)	Y	A Neighbourhood Plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The Neighbourhood Plan for Holt focuses on qualitative and supportive policies. The Plan proposes no site allocations, sets no growth target and focuses on further minor local policy considerations.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent	Y	Once “made” a Neighbourhood Plan is to be used by NNDC in helping determine future planning applications. Collectively the wider Development Plan forms the statutory framework

STAGE	Y/N	REASON
of Projects (not just projects in Annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)		and this NP will form part of that in relation to the defined neighbourhood plan area, NPA. The intention is that the Neighbourhood Plan will focus on shaping how development comes forward at a local level and be used together with the adopted higher order Plan form part of the Development Plan for the neighbourhood plan area.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment	N	From the application of criteria for determining the likely significant effects below it is considered it is unlikely that there will be any significant effect.

4.2. SEA Screening Stage 2: SEA Directive Article 3(5) Annex II – Application of Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects of a Neighbourhood Plan

Criteria in Annex 11 of the SEA Directive	Response	Is there a significant effect?
(1) Characteristics of the plan 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 strategic framework for development is set by the adopted Development Plan and the emerging Local Plan of North Norfolk District Council. The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to deliver any growth or locational requirements	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The Neighbourhood Plan will be adopted alongside the higher order Local Plan and form part of the District's Development Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan will expand upon, providing supplementary information on a local scale.	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Any Development that comes forward through the NP will be subject to environmental considerations of the Core Strategy and the Local Plan when adopted. These policies have been subject to sustainability appraisal and HRA, and are in place to ensure that sustainable development is achieved.	No

Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	There are not considered to be any significant environmental problems which are specific to the area, above and beyond those considered and addressed in the Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan includes policies which provide seek positive consideration to environmental protection.	No
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).	The implementation of community legislation is unlikely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Plan.	No
(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 Neighbourhood Plan does not bring forward growth and as such is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use. .	No
The cumulative nature of the effects;	It is considered unlikely that the degree of development facilitated through the Neighbourhood Plan when combined with the Core Strategy and the emerging Local Plan will introduce significant cumulative environmental effects. The Local Plan and emerging Local Plan has been subject to full SEA and Habitats Regulations and a Sustainability Appraisal. The Neighbourhood Plan impacts on the integrity of the European sites are considered to be limited as the neighbourhood plan does not seek to increase in population and overall visitor numbers, and remains largely qualitative.	No
The trans-boundary nature of the effects;	The Neighbourhood Plan policy areas outlined provide supplementary policy areas on a local scale. European sites are broader than the NPA and as such there is the potential for impacts beyond the NPA. However, given the qualitative nature of the NP and the lack of scale and level of growth proposed it is considered that the trans-boundary effects would not be significant.	No
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);	The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to produce any significant effects in relation to this criteria	No

The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Neighbourhood Plan covers the parish of Holt. The 2011 census recorded the usual resident population of as 3988. This is in comparison to the usual resident population of 101,499 of North Norfolk and an area of 96,333 hectares. The small spatial extent and the magnitude of the population affected are not considered significant for the purpose of the SEA.	No
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; ii) Exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values iii) Intensive land use	<p>i) The Plan Area contains a number of listed buildings and contains the Holt Conservation Area and is part of the wider Glaven Valley Conservation Area. The Neighbourhood Plan by virtue of the “<i>basic conditions</i>” will however be in general conformity to the existing Development Plan, and emerging Local Plan which contains detailed policies on the Historic Environment across the District to ensure that they are not vulnerable to significant impacts from development.</p> <p>ii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in exceedance of environmental quality standards, such as those relating to air, water, and soil quality.</p> <p>iii) The Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to bring forward development of an extent that would result in a significant intensification of Local land Use.</p>	<p>i) No</p> <p>ii) No</p> <p>iii) No</p>
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Plan Area includes listings which reflect the cultural and heritage value of the area such as listed buildings and conservation area. Both the LP and the NP have policies that require the consideration of such assets.	No

4.3 As a result of the assessment, it is considered that it is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals in the emerging Draft Neighbourhood Plan for Holt. As such it is considered under the Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, that the emerging draft neighbourhood plan as of March 2022 does not require an SEA to be undertaken.

4.4 Natural England, Historic England and The Environment Agency as the statutory bodies were consulted between 10 June 2022 and 18 July 2022 on the Screening Report issued March 2020. Their responses are appended to this report.

5 Determination

- 5.1. The screening assessment identifies that it is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects from the implementation of the proposals contained in the draft plan as written. On the basis of material supplied, and with the understanding that there are no housing allocations included in the neighbourhood plan Natural England and Historic England agree with the Council's SEA screening assessment. No comments were received from the Environment Agency.

- 5.2. In light of the Screening Report and the responses from the statutory bodies it is determined that the Holt Neighbourhood Plan (March 2022), as assessed does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Appendix 1: Consultation Responses

From: [Chris Brown](mailto:Chris.Brown@naturalengland.org.uk)
To: consultations@naturalengland.org.uk; eastplanningpolicy@HistoricEngland.org.uk;
planning.eastanglia@environment-agency.gov.uk
Cc: [Iain Withington](mailto:Iain.Withington@naturalengland.org.uk); [Mark Ashwell](mailto:Mark.Ashwell@naturalengland.org.uk)
Bcc: [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk; planning.ipswich@environment-agency.gov.uk;
[REDACTED]@historicengland.org.uk
Subject: Holt Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Consultation
Date: 10 June 2022 17:27:00
Attachments: [HOLT NP SEA Screening FINAL 10.6.22.pdf](#)
[HOLT NP HRA Screening May 21 FINAL WITH MAPS.pdf](#)
[Holt NP Submission Version Policies emerging March 2022.pdf](#)

Dear Consultee,

North Norfolk District Council, as the Responsible Authority, have received a request for a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** and a separate **Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)** Screening Opinion on the emerging **Holt Neighbourhood Plan**.

Before finalising our opinion and issuing a screening determination in line with the regulations we wish to consult with the relevant consultation bodies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. We would be grateful if you could coordinate for response and forward this email to the appropriate person.

We welcome your response within the next 5 weeks, by **Monday 18 July or earlier** would be appreciated.

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The consultation version of the SEA and separate HRA screening opinions are attached, along with a copy of the proposed submission version policies of the Holt Neighbourhood Plan. If you require any further information please let us know as soon as possible and we will endeavour to supply it so that you can advise appropriately within the consultation timeframe.

We look forward to receiving any comments you may have in due course.

We would be grateful for your acknowledgment of this email.

Kind Regards

Chris Brown

Project Management Support Officer (Planning Policy)

01253 516318

chris.brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Date: 12 July 2022
Our ref: 395740
Your ref: Holt Neighbourhood Plan



Chris Brown
Project Management Support Officer
North Norfolk District Council
Chris.Brown@north-norfolk.gov.uk

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
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CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Chris

Holt Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 10 June 2022

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.

HRA Screening Opinion

Natural England has no detailed comments to make on the HRA.

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 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 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.

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

Yours sincerely



Consultations Team

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Chris Brown](#)
Subject: RE: Holt Neighbourhood Plan SEA & HRA Screening Opinion Consultation
Date: 04 July 2022 11:16:38
Attachments:

Dear Chris,

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 Holt 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.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Historic Places Adviser - East of England
Historic England