



5 February 2020

Dear,

Re: Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Outcomes for the Village Design Statements of Caldecote, Fulbourn, Gamlingay, Histon & Impington, Over, Papworth Everard, Sawson and Swavesey

Under the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and translated into English law by the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017), a competent authority must carry out an assessment of whether a 'plan' or 'project' will have a significant effect on the internationally important interest features of any European Site. The implications of the effects of a plan or project need to be assessed, in view of the site's conservation objectives and avoid adverse effect on site integrity.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as required by Regulation 63 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Regulation 63 states that,

63.—(1) A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.

The Village Design Statements provide guidance related to design and the associated protection / enhancement of local characteristics. They are understood to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). These Village Design Statements would be supplementary to the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan which was adopted on the 27th September 2018.

The Local Plan was accompanied by a Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report, including an assessment of the likely significant effects on those design related policies of Chapter 5 – Delivering High Quality Places. The various iterations of the HRA Screening Report of the Local Plan concluded that there were no likely significant effects from the Local Plan either alone or in combination with other reasonably foreseeable plans and projects on the identified European (Habitats) sites.



Additionally, the Village Design Statements are not considered to fall within the categories of 'plan' or 'project', in so far as they do not identify any land for development purposes or any such related schemes (i.e. they can not be considered a 'land-use plan' as set out in Chapter 8 of Part 6 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017).

The Village Design Statements have therefore been deemed to not require individual HRA screening in so far as any effects can immediately be screened out due to the likelihood of any effects having been explored at the Local Plan level, and the nature of the Village Design Statements themselves.

Best wishes,

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