

Hellesdon Neighbourhood Plan – Revised (Pre-submission Version, 2025)

This determination statement has been produced by Broadland District Council, as the “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulations 9 and 11 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.

As the “competent authority” in respect of the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations 2017, Broadland District Council is also required to determine whether the proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination). This statement also provides a determination in respect of this requirement.

SEA & HRA Screening Assessment of Hellesdon Neighbourhood Plan

Hellesdon Parish Council is in the process of preparing an update to its Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. A preliminary SEA & HRA Screening Assessment was undertaken for the draft version of the Neighbourhood Plan, and a subsequent report was produced in February 2025. This was a preliminary draft SEA & HRA Screening Assessment, subject to consultation with the statutory environmental bodies.

Consultation with Statutory Bodies

The draft SEA & HRA Screening Report detailing the results of the initial screening assessment of the plan and the preliminary conclusion shared by Broadland Council and the Qualifying Body, that the plan is not likely to result in significant environmental effects and is unlikely to have significant effects on European sites, was circulated to the statutory bodies, namely the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. The statutory bodies were invited to provide comments on the Screening Report within a 5 week consultation period over February and March 2025.

Responses were received from all three bodies. Details of these responses can be found in the updated SEA & HRA Screening Report.

In summary:

- The Environment Agency has no significant concerns that would require an SEA to be undertaken.
- Historic England concurs with the Council that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required, based on the information provided.
- Natural England supports the conclusion of the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report that significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely and that significant effects on Habitat sites, either alone or in combination, are also unlikely.

Conclusion

Based on the assessments undertaken in the SEA & HRA Screening Report and the responses received from the consultation bodies, the Council considers that it is unlikely that significant environmental effects and/or significant effects on European sites will arise from implementation of the revised Hellesdon Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore that a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment are not required.

Broadland District Council, March 2025

Two Councils
One Team

