



East Cambridgeshire  
District Council

12 August 2024

**Strategic Environmental Assessment Determination Statement**  
**Witchford Single Issue Review Modification Neighbourhood Plan**

### Purpose of this Determination Statement

This Determination Statement has been produced by East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) as the “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It sets out ECDC’s main conclusions in respect of significant environmental effects likely to arise from implementation of the draft Witchford Single Issue Review Modification Neighbourhood Plan. To assist writing this this Statement, ECDC has received a copy of the draft Modified Plan.

This Determination Statement will form a Submission Document for the purposes of neighbourhood planning, as required by The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (reg. 15(1)(e)(ii)).

It is intended that this Determination Statement be read alongside the *Screening Report: Draft Modified Witchford Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulation Assessment, as updated August 2024*, a copy of which was used by the District Council to assist in reaching this Determination Statement and which will, it is anticipated, also be submitted alongside wider Submission Documents.

### Screening Report

In July 2024, ECDC consulted the statutory bodies on the *Screening Report*. Responses were received from *Environment Agency, Historic England* and *Natural England*. Those response have been added as appendices to the Report (August 2024 updated version).

The Screening Report concludes, in summary, that the proposed Modified Plan:

- Does not require a full *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)* (i.e. *screened out*); and
- Does not require a full *Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)* (i.e. *screened out*).

The statutory consultees did not suggest any alternative conclusions, and, in effect, endorsed such conclusions.

### Determination

Based on the assessment undertaken in the SEA and HRA Screening Report and the responses received from statutory bodies, East Cambridgeshire District Council considers that it is not likely that significant environmental effects will arise from the implementation of the Witchford Modified Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Likewise, it is considered that a full Habitats Regulations Assessment will not be required.