



**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations
Assessment Screening Report:**

**Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document
(SPD)**

February 2017

1. Introduction

1.1. This screening report fulfils two functions:

- It is the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC for the proposed Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- It is also intended to determine whether a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and regulation 62 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

1.2. As set out in [NPPG](#) it is only in exceptional circumstances that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be necessary when producing a Supplementary Planning Document due to the potential for significant environmental effects being limited by the nature of the document providing support for the statutorily produced development plan.

The Purpose of Strategic Environment Assessment

1.3. The purpose of SEA is to secure a high level of protection for the environment and to integrate environmental considerations into the preparation of plans to promote sustainable development. To establish whether a SEA is required a screening assessment is undertaken which considers the SPD against a series of criteria set out in the SEA Directive.

1.4. If the Design Guide could have significant environmental effects it may require a SEA where for example:

- Where natural or heritage assets may be affected by the proposals in the Design Guide
- The Design Guide may have significant effects that have not already been considered through a sustainability appraisal of the Development Plan
- Where the cumulative impact of requirements of the Design Guide when assessed together may give rise to a likely significant environmental effect.

1.5. The formal criteria for assessing the likely significance of effects are set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, Schedule 1 of the Regulations and are shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Criteria for determining likely significance of effects on the environment (from Article 3.5 of the SEA Directive)

1. The characteristics of neighbourhood plans, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan 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 influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan,
 - the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or waste 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 of 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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.6. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) may also be required where the requirements of the Design Guide may give rise to significant effects on internationally designated wildlife sites and they have not been considered as part of the assessment of development plans that the SPD supplements. Internationally designated wildlife sites are defined as any site of wildlife interest designated as a Special Protection Area under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) or as a Special Area of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). In addition sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (Iran 1971 as amended 1992) are also considered.
- 1.7. The process to establish whether a HRA is necessary starts with a screening exercise to determine whether any internationally designated sites might be exposed to likely significant effects as a result of implementation of the Design Guide and therefore whether further stages of the HRA process are required.

2. The Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

- 2.1. The Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document will cover the whole of Huntingdonshire and will supplement policies within the adopted development plan.
- 2.2. The current adopted Development Plan is made up of:
 - The Core Strategy (adopted September 2009), which sets the spatial vision, objectives and strategic directions of growth to 2026
 - The Huntingdon West Area Action Plan, which was adopted in February 2011
 - Saved policies from the Local Plan 1995 and the Local Plan Alteration 2002
 - The 'made' neighbourhood plans for St Neots.
- 2.3. The Council is in the process of producing a district wide Local Plan that will, once adopted, replace all existing development plan documents. It will not supersede the St Neots Neighbourhood plan or any other neighbourhood plans that are 'made' prior to adoption of the Local Plan. However it will take precedence over 'made' neighbourhood plans if there is any conflict between the contents of the plans as the Local Plan will have been adopted most recently.
- 2.4. The SPD is divided into five chapters:
 - **Chapter 1: Overview** – provides background information on the purpose, objectives and status of the SPD once adopted and how the SPD should be used. This chapter also sets out why good design matters
 - **Chapter 2: Context and Local Distinctiveness** – provides an overview of the context of Huntingdonshire in terms of the existing settlement pattern, the future development strategy, the network of strategic connections, the landscape character of the district as well as more detailed information about the nature of public space and the architectural character of the district.
 - **Chapter 3: Place Making Principles** – provides details on important place making principles that should be used to create attractive developments throughout Huntingdonshire. It covers land use and density; place making and hierarchy of movement; urban structure and the development block; parking and servicing; landscape and public realm; building form and building detail.
 - **Chapter 4: Implementation** – sets out a step by step process for the successful design of development proposals. It also sets out a series of development scenarios that show how the place making principles can be brought together. The scenarios include several examples of developments in Huntingdonshire to highlight instances where this has been achieved.
 - **Chapter 5: References and Glossary** – provides details of useful resources and publications that will support the process of drawing up well designed development proposals as well as explaining some of the terms used in the SPD.
- 2.5 The SPD was subject to public consultation from 31 October 2016 until 12 December 2016.

3. SEA Screening Assessment

3.1. Table 1 below shows the assessment of whether the Huntingdonshire Design Guide SPD will require a full SEA.

SEA Directive Criteria ³ and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Summary of significant effects (negative and positive)
The characteristics of the Cambridgeshire Flood and Water SPD having regard to:	
(1a) 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.	<p>The SPD will not set a new framework for projects, and will not allocate resources. It offers guidance to supplement Local Plan saved policies and the Core Strategy and, once adopted, the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.</p> <p>The SPD will be a significant piece of design guidance for all new development across the district and will be an important planning aid to assist determination of planning applications and to inform planning consultations.</p>
(1b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	Not applicable. The SPD will be in conformity with national planning policy and guidance, and the adopted development plan. As SPD it is the bottom level of the development plan framework.
(1c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The SPD clarifies and adds detail to the process of ensuring that appropriate mitigation is taken when considering a wide range of environmental impacts arising from development. Sustainable development is an inherent theme that runs through the whole document but more specifically the SPD will promote sustainable development through layout design and design of buildings. It does not provide environment policy in its own right. Overall, it therefore contributes positively to the integration of environmental considerations.
(1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme.	Although the SPD seeks to address environmental problems, such as flood risk this is provided in the context of promoting and facilitating well design development in support of the planning policies contained within the development plan and is not the only or main source of guidance on such problems.
(1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked	Applicable in part. The SPD is relevant in part in that the document seeks to provide advice and guidance on issues including the provision of storage for refuse and recycling, sustainable drainage systems, passive solar gain. It is only likely to have a positive effect and is not the only or main source of guidance on such issues.

<p>SEA Directive Criteria³ and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004</p>	<p>Summary of significant effects (negative and positive)</p>
<p>to waste management or water protection).</p>	
<p>Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to:</p>	
<p>(2a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects. (2b) the cumulative nature of the effects.</p>	<p>The anticipated effects on the sustainability of future development are expected to be positive and enduring with no negative effects. The SPD will provide detailed guidance to encourage well designed development and best practice in conformity with the development plan policies.</p> <p>The cumulative nature of the effects will be the delivery of well designed development with the aim of creating sustainable communities which will endure.</p>
<p>(2c) the transboundary nature of the effects.</p>	<p>The SPD covers Huntingdonshire. Any trans-boundary effects are likely to be limited to localised areas where development is permitted near the boundary with neighbouring local planning authorities. Any such effects are likely to be positive.</p>
<p>(2d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents).</p>	<p>Although the SPD provides guidance and advice on issues that could represent risks to human health or the environment it seeks to reduce risks and is not the only or main source of guidance on such issues. Risks cannot be ruled out through the construction process of any development.</p>
<p>(2e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).</p>	<p>The SPD is applicable to Huntingdonshire and would affect a population of approximately 169,500 (Census 2011) and relates to proposed new developments within a geographical area of approximately 910km². Effects are likely to be concentrated in urban areas such as the main towns and large villages (identified as 'Key Service Centres'), although the guidance is applicable to all forms of development and so would be apparent across the whole district.</p>
<p>(2f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards 	<p>There are a range of special natural characteristics in Huntingdonshire including sites of special scientific Interest, county wildlife sites and local nature reserves, and heritage assets, including, scheduled ancient monuments, areas of archaeological significance and listed buildings. These are largely protected, conserved and enhanced by adopted planning policies, national policy and other legislative or consent regimes. The SPD is unlikely to have a significant impact on these areas; however the SPD does include guidance on the relevant sources of guidance or organisations to consult if any of these</p>

SEA Directive Criteria3 and Schedule 1 of Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Summary of significant effects (negative and positive)
(iii) or limit values; or intensive land-use; and	<p>characteristics might be affected by proposed development. The SPD advocates a clear design process which involves a detailed site appraisal to identify all physical and natural characteristics of the site and its surroundings. It is considered that the SPD will not adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the district. If anything, new development should incrementally improve and enhance the quality and sustainability of the district as a whole.</p>
(2g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or protection status.	<p>There is a range of internationally designated sites in Huntingdonshire including Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites as well as national designations, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and local designations including county wildlife sites and local nature reserves. These are protected, conserved and enhanced by adopted development plan policies as well as national and international legislative and consent regimes for important sites. Development plans have been subject to the Habitat Regulations Assessment screening process and, where necessary, appropriate assessment. The SPD is unlikely to have an impact on these areas; however this is assessed in the next section.</p>

4. HRA Screening Assessment

The Need for an Assessment

- 4.1. The Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been produced to provide guidance on the design of new development across Huntingdonshire.
- 4.2. The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Habitats Regulations 1994 require a screening assessment to be carried out for the SPD in order to determine any likely significant effects that it might have on the integrity of internationally designated nature conservation sites. These are designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Ramsar sites. The sites in Huntingdonshire are set out in Appendix A.
- 4.3. Advice from Natural England, following comments on a draft of the document, has been used to inform this assessment.

Baseline Data Gathering

- 4.4. Information on the sites and features of the SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites was taken from the screening reports produced for the Habitats Regulation Assessment of the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. The Local Plan was originally assessed in a screening report produced in 2013. A second screening report was produced in draft in January 2017 to ensure that changes to the draft plan were assessed. The second report is currently being considered by Natural England.
- 4.5. A variety of plans and programmes have been reviewed for the 'in combination' part of the assessment. These relate to plans produced at the county level as well as local plans and supporting documents. Details of the plans and programmes considered can be found in Appendix B.

Predicting and assessing effects on a European Site

- 4.6. When carrying out the assessment the following issues were considered:
 - Scope of the guidance included in the SPD;
 - Character of requirements set out in the SPD that could have environmental effects;
 - Sensitivities associated with the European Sites;
 - Whether or not there are sufficient safeguards for European sites;
 - The likely effects of requirements set out in the SPD on the integrity of European sites;
 - The likelihood that further HRA (and associated Appropriate Assessment) would be necessary at the planning application stage.

Scope of the guidance included in the SPD

- 4.7. The SPD aims to provide advice to support policies in the adopted development plan for Huntingdonshire. It provides advice and guidance only and is in conformity with current national and local planning policy. It does not include any policies or site allocations.

4.8. The SPD provides guidance and advice on a range of environmental, social and economic issues related to several different environmental issues within the wider aims of promoting well designed development. It aims to assist in determining planning applications, inform planning consultations and to help interpret national policy and guidance and relevant local planning policies. More detail on the SPD is contained above in section 2.

Sensitivities associated with the European Sites

4.8. Seven impact pathways could give rise to significant effects on internationally designated sites:

- Development on or adjacent to the site destroying part or all of the site, or changing the ecological functioning of the site (eg disrupting water flows or migration routes);
- Increased public recreation, causing disturbance to birds, damage to vegetation, increased littering/ fly tipping or leading to management compromises (e.g. grazing being restricted);
- Air pollution, air-borne pollutants;
- Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (this option was chosen because it includes both drought and flooding);
- Invasive non-native species;
- Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources); and
- Reduction in water quality, from increased discharges of sewage and surface water drainage, or from pollution incidents, either during or after construction.

4.9. The impact pathways need to be considered when looking at how requirements of the SPD may affect internationally designated sites. The SPD highlights some issues in connection with these pathways and requires developers to consider such issues when drawing up development proposal. However, the SPD provides guidance within the context of the range of national policies and legislation and supplementing development plan policies and other local documents that provide more detailed guidance and have specific requirements in relation to environmental effects.

Whether or not there are sufficient safeguards for European sites

4.10. It is understood that effects to biodiversity could take place during the construction of particular elements of development such as SuDS that are identified in the SPD. Cumulative effects may also impact on biodiversity across a wide area arising from other development/ activities and the requirements of other plans and programmes.

4.12. However, the SPD recognises the biodiversity benefits that well designed development can have; the SPD includes detailed content on ecology that reinforces national and local policy.

4.13. The current development plan for Huntingdonshire is made up of a number of documents produced over a considerable period of time. The saved policies of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan 1995 and Alteration 2002 date from before the current arrangements for screening were put in place. The Core Strategy was adopted in 2009. It was subject to

screening and full appropriate assessment. The assessment made recommendations that were taken into account in the adopted Core Strategy.

- 4.14. As indicated above the emerging Local Plan has been subject to screening. The reports produced indicate that full appropriate assessment will be needed for the Local Plan. The assessment of the Local Plan will consider the potential impact of draft policies and will recommend changes to safeguard against significant impacts. Once the Local Plan is adopted the SPD will support policies within the Local Plan. It is therefore considered that there are sufficient safeguards in place.

The likelihood that further HRA would be necessary at the planning application stage.

- 4.15. In order to ascertain that development proposals addressing environmental issues such as flood risk or water management will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of an internationally designated site a Habitats Regulations Assessment may need to be carried out for individual proposals as they come forward.

Findings of assessment and conclusions

- 4.16. The assessment has indicated that the SPD, in isolation, is not likely to affect the integrity of internationally designated sites. Although the SPD contains advice and guidance in connection with a range of environmental issues that should be considered as part of the process of producing well designed developments none of this advice or guidance provides the sole requirements in relation to any environmental issue where an adverse effect might arise.
- 4.17. In combination with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Design Guide and the requirements for SEA and Habitats Regulations screening for development plan and other plans and programmes as well as the potential for individual development proposal to be assessed it is considered that there are adequate safeguards in place for internationally designated sites.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. This report contains the assessments of the need for the Huntingdonshire Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment as required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).
- 5.2. The assessment for both of these has been undertaken based on the policies and proposals set out in the final draft version of the SPD and within the strategic framework established in the adopted development plan, specifically the Core Strategy (2009) as well as the emerging Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036.
- 5.3. In relation to the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken, the assessment set out in section 3 concludes that as the SPD will not have significant effects on the environment. Therefore, a full assessment is not required.
- 5.4. In relation to the requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment to be undertaken, the screening assessment set out in section 4 concludes that the SPD will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any internationally designated sites either on its own or in combination with any other plans. Therefore, an appropriate assessment is not required.

Appendix A: Internationally Designated Sites

Three European sites are within or partly within Huntingdonshire and a further 5 are within 15km. Additionally The Wash is linked by waterways downstream:

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Ramsar Sites
Portholme		
Fenland		Woodwalton Fen
Ouse Washes	Ouse Washes	Ouse Washes
Orton Pits		
Nene Washes	Nene Washes	Nene Washes
Eversden and Wimpole Woods		
Barnack Hills and Holes		
	The Wash	The Wash

Portholme SAC is within Huntingdonshire, close to the town of Huntingdon. It is designated as a SAC for its lowland hay meadows. It is the largest surviving traditionally-managed meadow in the UK, with 91ha of alluvial flood meadow (7% of the total UK resource). There has been a long history of favourable management and very little of the site has suffered from agricultural improvement, and so it demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. It supports a small population of fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*.

Ouse Washes SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar. The SAC was designated for its spined loach *Cobitis taenia* populations within the River Ouse catchment. The Counter Drain, with its clear water and abundant macrophytes, is particularly important, and a healthy population of spined loach is known to occur. The SAC only covers the Counter Drain and not adjacent land designated as SPA and Ramsar. The SPA is a functional washland, with extensive winter flooding and traditional forms of agricultural management, including grazing and mowing of permanent grassland and rotational ditch clearance. It supports a great number of breeding and wintering wetland birds. The Ramsar site supports nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl and nationally important numbers of breeding waterfowl. It is also of note for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities which it holds, and for the richness of the aquatic flora within the associated watercourses.

Fenland SAC falls partly within Huntingdonshire continuing to the north east. The SAC and Ramsar site is made up of three component Sites of Special Scientific Interest, which are Woodwalton Fen SSSI, Chippenham Fen SSSI and Wicken Fen SSSI. The part of Fenland SAC within Huntingdonshire is Woodwalton Fen SSSI. Fenland SAC contains one of the most extensive examples of the tall herb-rich East Anglian fen-meadow. All parts of the SAC hold large areas of calcareous fens, with a long and well-documented history of regular management.

Woodwalton Fen Ramsar site occupies a similar area to Woodwalton Fen SSSI. The site is within an area that is one of the remaining parts of East Anglia which has not been drained.

The fen is near natural and has developed where peat-digging took place in the 19th century. The site has several types of open fen and swamp communities. The site supports fen violet *Viola persicifolia* and fen wood-rush *Luzula pallidula* and a large number of wetland invertebrates including 20 British Red Data Book species. Aquatic beetles, flies and moths are particularly well represented.

Orton Pits SAC are lakes that filled old brick clay workings near Peterborough. The Qualifying Features for this SAC are: the Annex I habitat 3140 Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters and benthic vegetation of Char ssp.; Calcium -rich nutrient poor lakes, lochs and pools; and the Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*. Like any lakes of this type they will be vulnerable to any pollution but they are isolated from watercourses stemming from Huntingdonshire. There is very little public access.

Nene Washes SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar site. The Qualifying Feature for the SAC is the Spined Loach. The Qualifying Features for the SPA are a suite of wetland bird species. The Nene Washes are just to the north of Huntingdonshire. Some of the streams and waterways of Huntingdonshire flow into the Nene via the Middle Level.

Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC is in South Cambridgeshire to the southeast of St Neots. This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of a colony of Barbastelle bats *Barbastella barbastellus*. The woods comprise a mixture of ancient coppice woodland in the Eversden woods and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin in the Wimpole Woods. The bat colony is present at Wimpole Woods, where the trees are used as a summer maternity roost. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area and some of the woodland is used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site. The Barbastelle bat is one of the UK's rarest mammals. There is public access to the woods.

Barnack Hills and Holes SAC is an area of grassland on old quarry workings immediately adjacent to the village of Barnack, north of Peterborough. The Qualifying Feature for the is the Annex I habitat 6210 Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates *Festuco-Brometalia* (important orchid sites). Barnack has the largest population of the *Orchis anthropophora* (L.) All. (Man Orchid) in the UK. The proximity of the site to the village makes it vulnerable to visitor pressures and possibly airborne pollutants.

The Wash SPA/ Ramsar site is considered because, although it is more than 15km from Huntingdonshire, it is downstream of the district for both the River Great Ouse and the River Nene. The channels and mud/ sandbanks between them shift over time and this is partly related to the volume of water coming down the rivers. These flows are predominantly linked to the weather but the impacts of urban areas on flows can be noticeable.

Appendix B

Relevant planning policy documents for consideration of combined effects

Relevant Plan	Brief overview and outline of policy	Comments
Cambridgeshire County Council		
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy, adopted July 2011.	The Minerals and Waste Local Plan aims to provide a sustainable strategy and policy framework for mineral extraction and waste management by seeking to reduce landfill, and place greater emphasis on recycling and recovery from waste.	The SPD does not specifically support this plan. The SPD will provide additional guidance for minerals and waste development proposals but this is considered to be very limited. As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Site Specific Proposals Plan, adopted February 2012	The Plan sets out site specific allocations for minerals and waste development and supporting site specific policies to support the strategic vision set out in the Core Strategy.	The SPD does not specifically support this plan. The SPD will provide additional guidance for minerals and waste development proposals but this is considered to be very limited. As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities SPD, adopted July 2011.	This SPD was prepared to assist in the delivery of high quality sustainable waste management facilities. The document sets out a series of key development principles based on recognised good planning and design practice.	The SPD will provide additional guidance for minerals and waste development proposals but this is considered to be limited. As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD, adopted February 2012.	This SPD was produced to support the process of supporting the design policy requirements set out within the Core Strategy.	The SPD does not specifically support this plan, but does refer to it. The SPD will provide the wider design context for waste management but the detailed requirements are contained in the county wide SPD. As such it is not likely to cause any

Relevant Plan	Brief overview and outline of policy	Comments
		significant effects in combination.
Huntingdonshire District Council		
Huntingdonshire Core Strategy, adopted September 2009	Policies seek to conserve scenic beauty, natural resources and the quality of the built environment from inappropriate development. Designated sites (wildlife and heritage) and landscapes are given protection from development. It also aims to promote environmental protection and enhancement, (public open space, wildlife, historic environment, groundwater and surface waters).	The SPD supports this plan. The plan was subject to full appropriate assessment. As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
Saved Policies of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan, adopted December 1995 and the Huntingdonshire Local Plan Alteration, adopted December 2002	Saved policies of the Local Plan 1995 address a wide range of development management issues that include a number of environmental issues. Saved policies of the Local Plan Alteration 2002 provide for the development of sites for housing.	The SPD supports these saved policies. The plans were produced before the introduction of the current appropriate assessment regime. The saved policies were produced many years ago before current national planning policy but remain broadly in conformity. The application of the saved policies is informed by national policy and legislation. As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
Huntingdonshire Wind Energy Developments SPD, adopted June 2014	The SPD was produced to help with the process of determining planning applications for wind turbines development.	As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
Huntingdonshire Developer Contributions SPD, adopted December 2011	This SPD was produced to support the process of setting out how infrastructure requirements will be sought through planning obligations (currently CIL and Section 106s).	As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.

Relevant Plan	Brief overview and outline of policy	Comments
Huntingdonshire Landscape and Townscape Assessment SPD, adopted June 2007	This SPD provides policy guidance on undertaking landscape and townscape assessments.	As such it is not likely to cause any significant effects in combination.
Other plans and programmes		
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Biodiversity Action Plans	This is made up of a number of Biodiversity Action Plans relating to Habitats and Species. They contain objectives for improving the sustainability of priority habitats and species in farmland, grassland, wetlands, woodlands, and cities, towns and villages and contain broad targets for creating or expanding new habitat.	There are likely to be some positive beneficial effects in combination.
Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy, adopted 2011	The provision of Green Infrastructure is identified as a key priority for the successful implementation of sustainable growth.	There are likely to be some positive beneficial effects in combination.

Appendix C: Consultation Responses

Responses to consultation on the draft SPD included responses from the three statutory bodies of Natural England, Heritage England and the Environment Agency. Only the comments from Natural England identified the requirements for screening whether Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required. The comments did not indicate that Natural England were of the opinion that either full SEA or full HRA would be required based on the draft SPD. The final draft has been amended following consultation. However, the amendments are considered to be minor in nature and do not affect either the likelihood of significant environmental effects or to materially change impacts on internationally designated sites.