



East Cambridgeshire
District Council

**Strategic Environmental Assessment
Determination Statement, Witcham
Neighbourhood Plan**

2 June 2025

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 emerging Witcham Neighbourhood Plan. To assist writing this this Statement, ECDC has received a copy of the Submission Draft 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:

- ‘SEA Screening Report (updated June 2025, post consultation) Submission Draft Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment June 2025’

Screening Report

In April and May 2025, ECDC consulted the statutory bodies on a preliminary version of the screening report. Responses were received from *Environment Agency*, *Historic England* and *Natural England*. Those response have been added as appendices to the June 2025 screening report.

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

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

The statutory consultees endorsed this conclusion.

Determination

Based on the assessment undertaken in the SEA 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 Witcham Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required.

In line with Regulation 11 of the SEA Regulations, a copy of this SEA Screening Determination has been sent to each of the environmental consultation bodies (Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England), together with the ‘SEA Screening Report (updated June 2025, post consultation) Submission Draft Witcham Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment June 2025’