



Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment Determination Statement

28 January 2022

This determination statement has been produced by North Kesteven District Council (NKDC), as “responsible authority”, to meet the requirements of Regulation 9(1) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

In October 2021, Scopwick and Kirkby Green Parish Council provided NKDC with a draft version of the Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan for the purpose of Strategic Environmental Assessment screening and Habitats Regulation Assessment screening. The Draft Neighbourhood Plan provided was the Draft that was subsequently subject to public consultation (i.e. the ‘regulation 14’ consultation).

A Draft SEA and HRA Screening Report was prepared, on behalf of Scopwick and Kirkby Green Parish Council by NKDC, based on the emerging Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan. The Draft Screening Report examined the strategic policy and environmental context relevant to Scopwick and Kirkby Green and undertook both SEA and HRA screening assessment. The Draft Report concluded that neither full SEA nor HRA were necessary. In summary, the reasons for this conclusion were:

In relation SEA:

- *the fact that recent IIA work undertaken for the CLLP has concluded that no significant effects are likely to result from the implementation of the CLLP and, on the whole, the SKGNP aligns with the CLLP ; and*
- *While the SKGNP allocates multiple sites for development, these are relatively small scale and following consideration of their relationship with European, national and local sites and designations, the impacts resulting from the development of the sites are not considered likely to be significant.*

In relation to HRA:

Having regard to the nature of the policies in the SKGNP, the locations of the proposed site allocations in relation to the European Sites (all greater than 30km from the NA) and the safeguards in the adopted CLLP, this HRA screening therefore considers that the SKGNP is not likely to have a significant effect on a

European Site, either alone or in combination, with other plans and projects. It is considered that requirement of a full HRA assessment would be disproportionate.

The Draft Screening Report was sent to the required statutory consultation bodies for comment. Responses were received from Historic England, Natural England and Environment Agency.

In summary, Historic England stated:

'...Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required....'

Natural England stated:

'...We can confirm that it is considered unlikely that any significant environmental effects will result from the implementation of the Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan. Natural England also agrees with the report's conclusions that Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work under the Habitats Regulations would be required.....'

The Environment Agency stated:

'... On the basis that future development is steered away from the sensitive aspects of the environment highlighted, (and the proposed allocations appear to be) we do not consider there to be potential significant environmental effects relating to these environmental constraints...'

Based on the assessment undertaken in the Screening Report and the responses received from the consultation bodies, NKDC considers that it is unlikely that significant environmental effects will arise from implementation of the Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan, and therefore Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. NKDC also considers that there are unlikely to be any significant effects on a designated European Site arising from the implementation of the SKGNP, and therefore further HRA assessment under the Habitats Regulations can be screened out.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (January 2022) is available on the North Kesteven District Council website:

www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/residents/living-in-your-area/localism-your-community/neighbourhood-plans/