

Markfield Neighbourhood Plan

Habitat Regulations Assessment Determination

Schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 makes provision in relation to the Habitats Directive. The Directive requires that any plan or project, likely to have a significant effect on a European site, must be subject to an appropriate assessment. To achieve this, paragraph 1 prescribes a basic condition that the making of a neighbourhood plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. HRA considers the potential adverse impacts of plans and projects on designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), classified Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and listed Ramsar sites – collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

It is the opinion of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council that a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment of the current Markfield Neighbourhood Plan is not required, as it is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites. The justification for this is contained within the Markfield Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report (August 2020).

A copy of this screening opinion and the associated screening report will be available on the Council's website (Neighbourhood Planning webpage) or can be viewed at:

Hinckley Hub Rugby Road Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0FR

Please note, at the time of issuing this Determination (August 2020), the Hinckley Hub is only open to visitors with pre-appointments and emergencies only due to the coronavirus pandemic. Please check the Borough Council's <u>Website</u> or call (01455 238141) for the latest information regarding visiting the Hinckley Hub before you make your journey.

For further information, please email planningpolicy@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk

27th August 2020