

Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan Review

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats
Regulations Assessment

Screening Opinion

February, 2023

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Initials	Position
V1	Dec. 2022	Draft for internal review	✓	OE	Consultant
V2	Jan 2023	Final draft for Client review	✓	IM	Associate Consultant
V3	Jan 2023	Final report	✓	IM	Associate Consultant
V4	Feb 2023	Final report following consultation	✓	IM	Associate Consultant

Prepared for:

Amber Valley Borough Council

Prepared by:

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
Neighbourhood plan information	1
Legislative background	4
Screening process	5
2. Assessment.....	7
Consideration of significant effects for each of the SEA issues.....	8
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	8
(b) Population.....	11
(c) Human health.....	11
(f) Soil.....	11
(g) Water	11
(h) Air	12
(i) Climatic factors	12
(j) Material assets.....	12
(k) Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage	12
(l) Landscape	14
3. Conclusions.....	15
Next Steps	15

Appendix A: Statutory Body Consultation Responses

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report has been prepared to assist Amber Valley Borough Council in determining (i.e. screening) the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan Review (HNP). The purpose is to inform the determination process as set out in Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) – the ‘SEA Regulations’. Regulation 9 requires that the responsible authority determines whether or not a plan is likely to have significant effects. Before that determination is made they (the responsible authority) is required to consult the consultation bodies on the decision. It also considers whether the HNP complies with the Habitats Directive (Directive 92/43/ECC) and Birds Directive (Directive 79/409/EEC) (i.e. whether there are likely to be significant effects on the network of European sites).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the consultation bodies and the local planning authority (LPA) with enough information to make these decisions.

Neighbourhood plan information

- 1.3 Following a five year review of the ‘made’ Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan (HNP), Hazelwood Parish Council are proposing to modify the HNP and consulted on the draft proposed modified version of the Plan under Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 for a 6 week period between 01 November and 13 December 2022.
- 1.4 The vision of the HNP is: *“In 16 years’ time (to 2039), Hazelwood Parish will be relatively unchanged – as a peaceful, rural area with its character in harmony with the landscape. This will be achieved by protecting and maintaining the character of the built environment and preserving the landscape. The parish will be a welcoming and thriving community for all ages. It will grow slowly providing a high quality environment in which to live, work and visit. The special landscape which defines the Parish will continue to inspire the community.”* [our emphasis]
- 1.5 The objectives of the HNP are reproduced below:

Community Objective 1: Design and Location Principles

To ensure that all new development is designed and located so that it minimises its impact on the natural and built environment, whilst providing direct benefit to local people by:

- a) Being located within the seven existing settlements*
- b) Being suitable to meet Parish needs*
- c) Being informed by the Village Design Statement and the Landscape Character Study*
- d) Being underpinned by extensive local consultation*
- e) Encouraging appropriate local business growth*

Community Objective 2: Environmental Protection and Enhancement

To protect and enhance the quality of Hazelwood's special and valued landscape character, scenic beauty and traditional buildings within the landscape and to

- a) retain the rural, open character of the Plan area by maintaining gaps between roadside settlements.*
- b) retain the visual connections with the countryside from public areas,*
- c) protect the Special Landscape Area, the Green Belt and the Derwent Valley Mills Buffer Zone,*
- d) promote biodiversity.*

Community Objective 3: Housing Design

To ensure that all new development relates positively in form and function, in particular with respect to materials and style, so that it enhances, rather than diminishes, the existing character of the Plan area and enables homes of high quality and sustainable design to be constructed.

Community Objective 4: Housing Type

To ensure that future housing development meets the needs of the Neighbourhood for a balanced 'all age' community, especially reflecting the requirement for smaller houses - either for elderly residents who prefer to downsize or as starter houses for younger residents.

Community Objective 5: Supporting Local Businesses

To promote the economic vitality of the Parish of Hazelwood by ensuring that;

- a) future housing development is flexibly designed to support home working*
- b) good broadband connectivity is possible*
- c) existing businesses have the flexibility to expand and*
- e) new small businesses are encouraged to locate to the area.*

Community Objective 6: Community Facilities

To consider proposals for the extension and enhancement of public spaces and buildings that provide facilities to sustain and strengthen social cohesion within the Parish of Hazelwood.

Community Objective 7: Transport and Getting Around¹

To work with Derbyshire County Council and local bus operators and community transport groups to promote more frequent and direct public transport services. To encourage the provision of measures to reduce speeding.

- 1.6 The neighbourhood area (which covers the Parish of Hazelwood) is set out in **Figure 1-1**.

¹ This objective is not expected to be delivered on the back of development promoted in the HNP but is a project to be implemented over the Plan period.

Figure 1-1 Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan Area²



² Source: www.ambervalley.gov.uk

- 1.7 The National Planning Practice Guidance advises that a neighbourhood plan proposal is more likely to require SEA where:
- “a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
 - the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
 - the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.”
- 1.8 The HNP does not allocate sites, indeed it anticipates there will be “*very limited development*”.
- 1.9 There are some sensitive assets within the plan area, these are covered in later sections. The Amber Valley Local Plan was withdrawn in 2015, the emerging Amber Valley Local Plan 2021-2039 is currently being prepared and Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) recently conducted consultation on its preferred spatial strategy and draft policies between July and September 2022. AVBC commissioned a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the new Local Plan.
- 1.10 An interim integrated SA/SEA report has been prepared. It presents the findings of the appraisal of the initial proposed Local Planning Policies and does not constitute the formal SA report which will be prepared for publication alongside the Pre-Submission Local Plan, which is anticipated to be in December 2022/ January 2023. As such there is no current Local Plan in place that assesses the effects of development in Hazelwood through sustainability appraisal (SA). It should be noted that the ‘trigger’ for requiring SEA is not the absence of a Local Plan SA that assesses the effects but whether the plan, in itself, is likely to have significant effects.

Legislative background

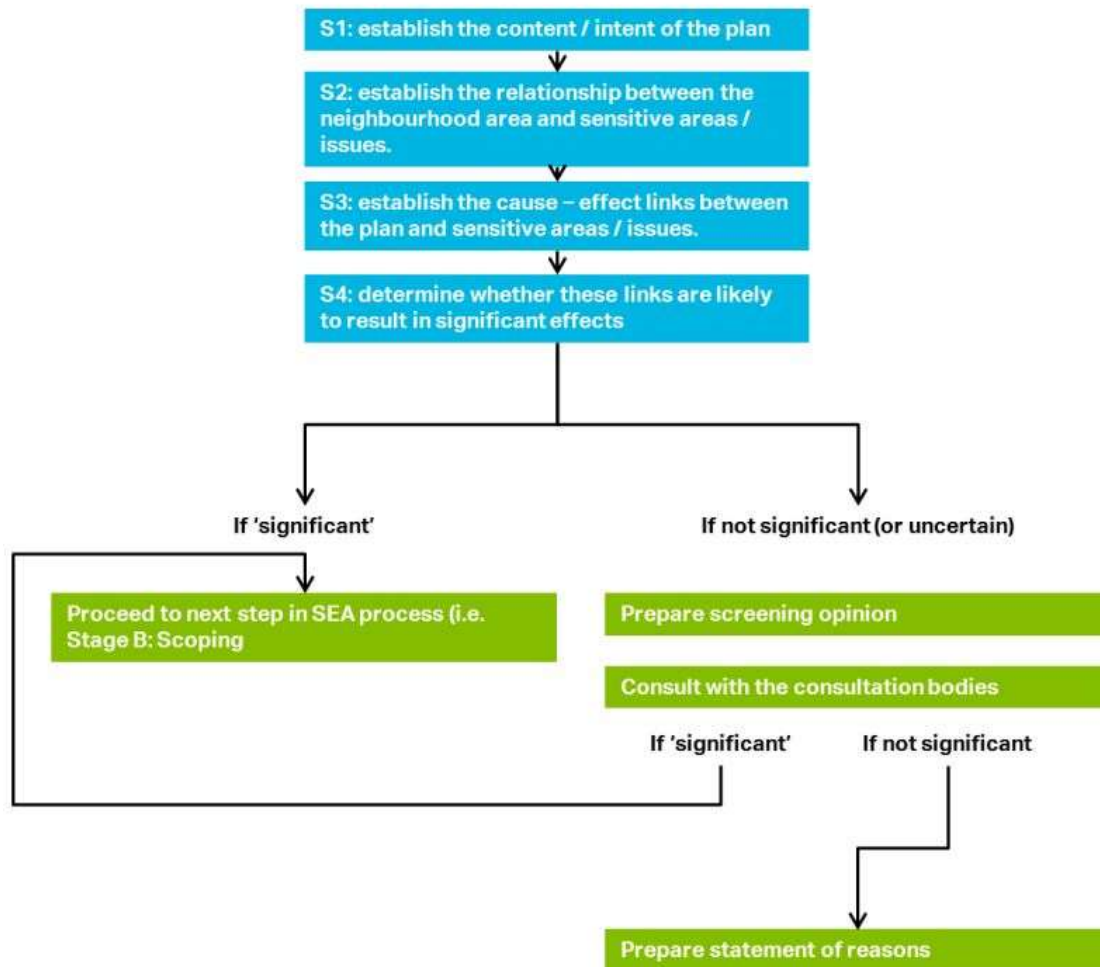
- 1.11 In order to be ‘made’, Neighbourhood Plans are required to be tested against and meet a number of ‘basic conditions’. One of the basic conditions is whether the making of the NP is compatible with European Union obligations, including obligations under the SEA Directive (European Directive 2001/42/EC) and the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC).
- 1.12 The Habitats Directive was transposed into English Law by the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994. The Habitats Directive ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species and habitat types. There is a requirement to determine whether there are likely to be significant effects on European sites as a result of Neighbourhood Plans. A precautionary approach is necessary when determining likely significance.
- 1.13 The SEA Directive has been transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or the ‘SEA Regulations’.

- 1.14 To decide whether a proposed Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and hence requires SEA, it should be screened at an early stage, i.e. once the plan remit and objectives have been formulated, at the earliest stage possible.
- 1.15 Screening is 'Stage A' in the government's recommended six stage approach to SEA for Neighbourhood Plans outlined in the NPPG. If it is determined, through screening, that significant environmental effects are unlikely and hence SEA is not required, then further SEA is not required.
- 1.16 Regulations 9 and 11 of the SEA Regulations set out the procedure for screening the plan. The steps are summarized below:
 1. Assess the likely effects of the plan
 2. Conclude whether the plan requires SEA
 3. Consult the consultation bodies
 4. Final determination
 5. Publicise determination within 28 days.

Screening process

- 1.17 The SEA screening process is illustrated in Figure 1-2.
- 1.18 As part of the SEA screening process, it is possible to consider implications for HRA purposes in an integrated manner (i.e. by considering HRA implications as part of related topics in the SEA; primarily 'biodiversity').
- 1.19 The Local Planning Authority, in this case, has commissioned AECOM to undertake the screening opinion on its behalf.

Figure 1-2 SEA screening process



2. Assessment

2.1 Establishing the content / intent of the HNP is set out in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1 Screening criteria and content of the plan

Stage	Comments
1 Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	All neighbourhood plans will be subject to adoption through a legislative procedure (being 'made').
2 Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Although there is no requirement to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, they are subject to formal procedures and regulations laid down by national government. In light of the European Court of Justice ruling in the Case C-567/10 it is considered that this means the NP is 'required'.
3 Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Neighbourhood plans are likely to be prepared for one of the sectors mentioned in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. Neighbourhood plans could be setting the framework for urban development projects, as included in Annex II of the EIA Directive.
4 Will the Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	If a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site then an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the plan for the site, in view of the site's conservation objectives, must be undertaken. If a plan is one which has been determined to require an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive then it will normally also require SEA. The scope of the Plan is relatively limited in respect of the types and amounts of development that would typically give rise to likely significant effects on European sites.
5 Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at the local level, OR is it a minor modification of another Plan or Programme (PP) subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Neighbourhood plans will, by definition, determine the use of small areas at a local level.
6 Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes, neighbourhood plans' purpose is to set out the planning policy and consent requirements for neighbourhood areas.

Stage	Comments
7 Is the Plan sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	No, a neighbourhood plan will not serve the national defence or civil emergency, nor is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)
8 Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	See assessment section below for further consideration.

Consideration of significant effects for each of the SEA issues

2.2 Annex 1 of the SEA Directive identifies a number of potential aspects of the environment which may require consideration in relation to significant effects. These issues may include (but are not limited to): *“biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors”*. The following discussion considers any relevant issues in relation to each of these aspects of the NP environment and how they might be affected as a result of the proposed policies of the NP. **Figure 2-1** sets out key environmental constraints in the neighbourhood area

Biodiversity, flora and fauna.

2.3 HRA is concerned with European sites, which are discussed under this SEA topic. HRA screening should be proportionate, and given the scope of the Plan review, it is considered reasonable to base decisions on likely significant effects on a high level consideration of the following factors;

- the nearest European site lies to the north west of the parish, at a distance of around 8 km (Gang Mine Special Area for Conservation). Slightly further to the North West are the Bees Nest & Green Clay Pits (SAC) and the Peak District Dales (SAC). The integrity of these sites and supporting ecological networks is not likely to be affected by locally specific policies in the Plan (which focus mostly on design);
- the nature of the habitat designations is such that they are not sensitive to local activities within the Parish. Pollution pathways in relation to recreational pressure, water quality and air quality will not arise;
- the Plan review does not involve development beyond the baseline position (i.e. no new homes or employment land is allocated), and therefore potential effects are likely to be limited to the Parish boundary.

2.4 Having regard to the factors listed above, it is concluded that there are no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of the Plan review.

2.5 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)³ within 5 km of the parish boundary:

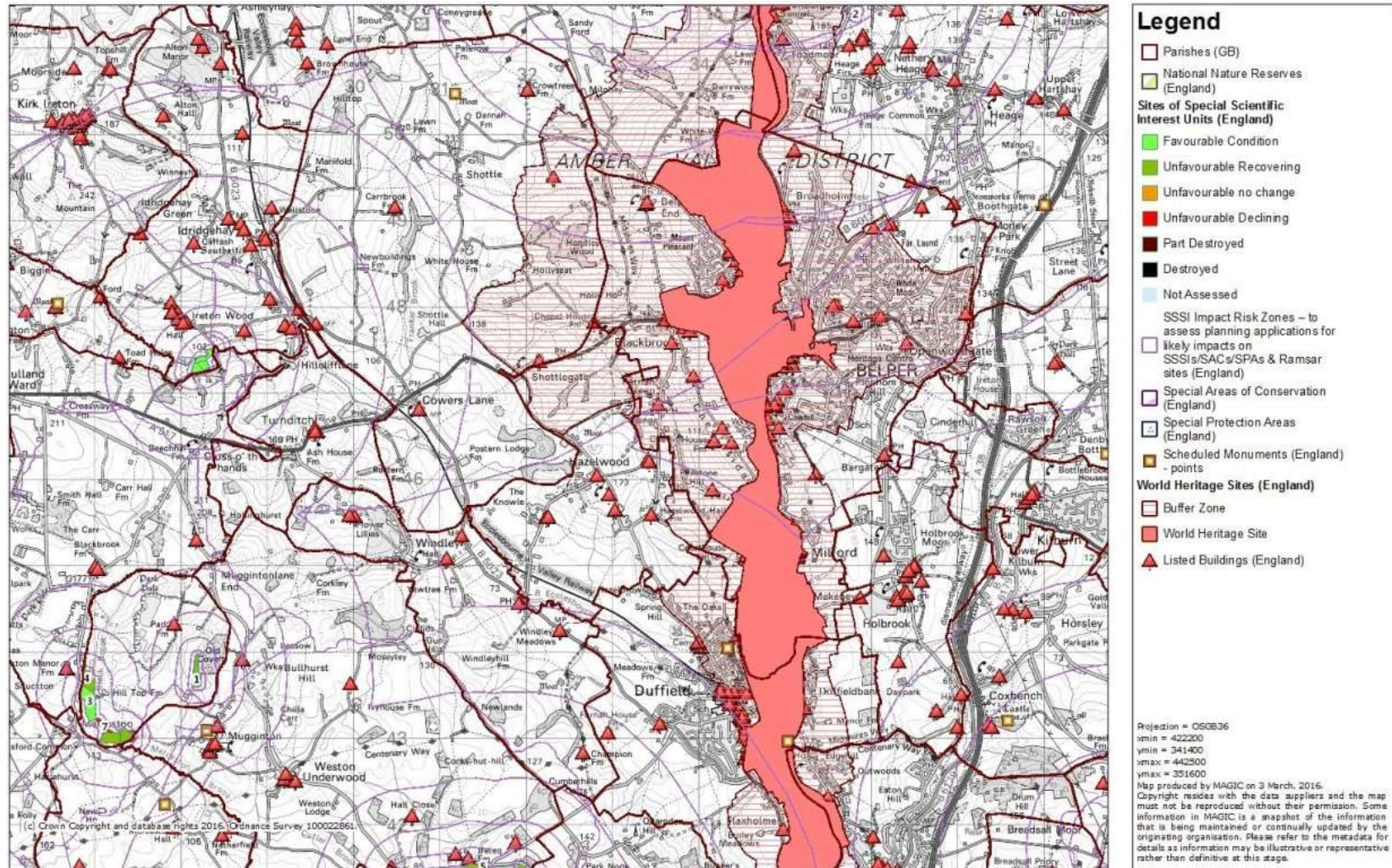
- Kedleston Park (4.6 km)
- Mount Pleasant (4.8 km)

2.6 For the purposes of SEA it is concluded that given the nature of the designations, the distance from the parish boundary and the content of the plan that there would be no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

2.7 Likewise, though there are important habitats throughout the Plan area such as woodland and trees, these are unlikely to be affected, and are protected through national and local planning policies.

³ Note that the Impact Risk Zones relating to these SSSIs restrict development relating to: airports, helipads and other aviation proposals, pig & poultry units, slurry lagoons > 4000m³ & manure stores > 3500t.
Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan: SEA screening opinion

Figure 2-1 HNP screening constraints



Source : www.magic.defra.gov.uk

b) Population

- 2.8 The population of Hazelwood has remained more or less static since 1881 (according to the Census, in 1881 it was 339 and in 2021 it was 341). The January 2022 Electoral Roll recorded 153 dwellings and estimated 293 residents).
- 2.9 The population age distribution is, generally speaking, in line with national, regional and local proportions. The level of multiple deprivation in the parish (2019 deprivation data) indicates that the parish is within the 50% least deprived neighbourhoods in the country (which is the same as recorded in 2015).
- 2.10 The Plan seeks to mimic the approach to new development within the existing Neighbourhood Plan and emerging Local Plan. The key difference is a desire to influence design. The significance of effects in terms of population are therefore likely to be limited.
- 2.11 It is concluded that given the scope of the plan and the demographics of the area that there are no likely significant effects (either positive or negative). The consideration of housing provision is being / has been tested through the emerging Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal process.

(c) Human health

- 2.12 The statistics show that health in Hazelwood Parish (in terms of those with long term health problems) has a proportion largely in line with national, regional and local proportions. Similarly, those who described their health as very bad, bad, fair, good and very good are also in line with national, regional and local proportions.
- 2.13 It is concluded that given the scope of the plan, and the health of the area that no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

(f) Soil

- 2.14 The agricultural land classification (ALC) appears to be predominately Grade 4 with elements of Grade 3 to the north of the parish boundary. It is uncertain whether Grade 3 land in the neighbourhood area comprises land classified as Grade 3a land (i.e. land classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land) or Grade 3b land (i.e. land not classified as the best and most versatile agricultural land).
- 2.15 Given the provisional quality of the soil, and the contents of the plan (i.e. there are no proposed site allocations) it is concluded that there are no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

(g) Water

- 2.16 The parish lies between the River Ecclesbourne to the west and the Derwent to the East. Hazelwood itself is equidistant from these two rivers but lies in Flood Zone 1. Furthermore, the HNP does not itself allocate any land or sites for development. The very limited development that is supported through the HNP would be adjacent to existing developments and thus away from the flood zones of these two rivers. There is no surface water flood risk identified in Hazelwood itself.

- 2.17 There is a groundwater protection zone to the east (zone 3) but again, considering the scope of the plan, and the unlikelihood of residential development within the protection zone, significant effects are unlikely..
- 2.18 Given the scope of the plan and the level of sensitivity of the 'water locations' it is concluded that there are no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

(h) Air

- 2.19 The nearest air quality management area (i.e. an area designated under for poor air quality) are located in central Derby City and to the south of the city of Derby (the Ring Road and along the A52). According to the 2022 Annual Air Quality Status Report for Amber Valley *"Air quality is generally good and no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) have been declared"*.
- 2.20 There are no air quality monitoring points close to Hazelwood, but there are several along the A6, that are substantially below the annual mean target for both particulate matter (PM¹⁰) and nitrogen oxide (NO²).
- 2.21 Given the scope of the plan (i.e. it is unlikely to lead to notable changes to vehicle trips) and the distance to the nearest sensitive locations, it is concluded that there are no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

(i) Climatic factors

- 2.22 With regard to climate change mitigation, it is considered that the plan's (small) magnitude of development will not result in likely significant effects on greenhouse gas emissions. In terms of climate change adaptation, see 'water' above.
- 2.23 Given the scope of development in the plan it is concluded that there are no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

(j) Material assets

- 2.24 There were concerns raised through consultation with regard to speeding, the safety of roads, and public transport. Whilst the neighbourhood plan has little power over these elements, the HNP identified a community objective to *"work with Derbyshire County Council and local bus operators and community transport groups to promote more frequent and direct public transport services. To encourage the provision of measures to reduce speeding"*
- 2.25 The HNP sets out that *"Hazelwood residents are able to access a range of rural services."* And that *"...there are a wide variety of activities on offer in the Parish. These facilities compare favourably with the services of much larger rural communities and villages."*
- 2.26 It is concluded that given the scope of the HNP and the services and facilities available to the parish that there are no likely significant effects (either positive or negative).

(k) Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

- 2.27 The following listed buildings have been identified within the Parish boundaries. None are identified as 'At Risk' by Historic England. No Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields or Registered parks and Gardens have been identified.

- The Firs Farmhouse (Grade II) and outbuildings (Grade II)
- Hazelwood Hall Farmhouse (Grade II)
- Larch Tree Cottage, Farmhouse and outbuildings (Grade II)
- Church of St. John the Evangelist
- Iretons Farmhouse and outbuildings (Grade II)
- Former Methodist Chapel (Grade II)
- Shottlegate Farmhouse (Grade II)

2.28 Given the nature of these heritage assets, and their setting, and the scope of the neighbourhood plan (including the general policy approaches and lack of site allocations) it is considered that there are unlikely to be significant effects.

2.29 More significantly, the parish boundary crosses the buffer of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site to the north of the boundary and, the east, the boundaries of the parish and WHS intersect. This asset is considered to be highly sensitive and given that the plan area lies within the buffer and adjacent to the WHS itself it is worth looking in more detail at the potential effects of the plan.

2.30 There are 10 policies (plus two 'Aspirational Policies' in the neighbourhood plan. Each has been discussed in brief in Table 1.

HNP Policy	Comments
NP1 Support appropriate new build homes, extensions and ancillary buildings	It is clear from the vision, and Policy NP1 that the area will experience very limited development. Any new development will be very tightly controlled in terms of numbers (proposals for more than one dwelling only supported if justified by evidence of exceptional local housing needs of current residents) and location (within existing 7 settlement areas) and visual impacts. Proposals are required to comply with Borough and national policies pertaining to the WHS Buffer Zone within the Parish
NP2 Design principles for development	This should ensure that future development is in line with the settlement character, taking account of the historic environment.
NP3 Housing character, scale and compatibility	This should ensure that future development is in line with the current character.
NP4 The conversion of redundant farm buildings	These developments are likely to have a negligible effect on heritage given their limited scale and required design criteria.
NP5 Maintaining and enhancing the Parish's biodiversity	Given the limited extent of development, the scope for influencing biodiversity enhancement is likely to be limited / negligible, therefore knock-on effects on heritage are predicted to be limited.

HNP Policy**Comments**

NP6 Protection of landscape character across the Plan area	This should help protect the landscape / character from harm (combined with very limited development).
NP7 Use of buildings for employment purposes	These developments should have a negligible effect on the historic environment given their limited scale and the set of applicable criteria.
NP8 Supporting the expansion or creation of local businesses	Developments likely to be limited in scale given the criteria. Negligible effects are anticipated given the limited scale and criteria.
NP9 Improving the provision of broadband	No effects likely
NP10 Enhancing the provision of community facilities	No effects likely
Aspiration Policy 1 Pre-application community consultation	Procedural policy – no effects likely
Aspiration Policy 2 Residents' forums	Procedural policy – no effects likely

(I) Landscape

- 2.31 The parish boundary is not close to any nationally designated landscapes (e.g. Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty).
- 2.32 Areas of Multiple Environmental Sensitivity (AMES) have been identified across Derbyshire as part of a technical study published in 2013. Hazelwood Parish was classed as falling within an area of 'secondary sensitivity', rather than one of 'primary sensitivity'.
- 2.33 There are 'Special Landscape Areas' primarily to the north and east of the Parish. Given the lack of allocations, and the focus of growth into the existing settlement areas, it is considered very unlikely that significant effects upon the character of these landscapes would arise.
- 2.34 The Parish is close to the Derwent Valley Mills WHS and overlaps with the buffer zone in places, but this is covered in section (k).
- 2.35 The Plan review has a limited scope in terms of new or intrusive development. The design policies and criteria based development policies in the plan are also positive, and therefore it is considered very unlikely that significant effects would occur. Development in sensitive areas is not being promoted, and the plan is positive with respect to design requirements.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 Having considered the anticipated scope of the HNP review, the fact that it is not allocating sites and generally planning for a very limited amount of development, alongside the relevant environmental issues locally, it is concluded that the HNP will have no likely significant effects (either positive or negative) and therefore a SEA is not required. It is also concluded that the plan will have no likely significant effects on European sites and therefore a HRA is not required.
- 3.2 There has been limited growth in the Parish between 2016-2022 (only four new properties), with the majority of development being extensions or conversions to properties. The HNP review introduces a more detailed approach to design, based on a design code, which is likely to ensure that development activities are of a higher quality and locally responsive. This is likely to be beneficial with regards to heritage and landscape in particular, but the significance of effects is low.
- 3.3 Consultation suggests there is support for particular types of homes within the Parish. However, it is considered very unlikely that the amended policies in the HNP would have a significant effect in terms of population and material assets.
- 3.4 The policies would still allow for limited development in suitable locations provided that they are high quality. Likewise, extensions and conversions would be permitted provided they are well designed. This is unlikely to discourage or prevent development activity to a significant extent.
- 3.5 Should the scope or nature of the HNP change substantially through further revisions of the draft plan then this opinion should be revisited, but at present it is considered (to our best available knowledge, and on the basis of the evidence and draft document provided to us) that SEA and HRA is not necessary.

Consultation

- 3.6 Amber Valley Borough Council, as the responsible authority, have given consideration to this screening opinion and have determined that the SEA and HRA processes do not need to be taken further (i.e. SEA and HRA have been 'screened out').
- 3.7 The Council has also invited feedback from the statutory consultation bodies (Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency in the case of SEA and Natural England in the case of HRA).
- 3.8 All three bodies agree with the conclusion that an SEA is not required for the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan. The responses are attached within Appendix A.
- 3.9 Natural England (as the consultee for HRA matters) have also concurred that HRA is not required.
- 3.10 This Screening Opinion therefore demonstrates that the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic condition related to European obligations.

Appendix A: Statutory Body Consultation Responses

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2023 20:43
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan Review SEA/HRA Screening

FYI

From: [redacted]
Sent: 02 February 2023 16:27
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan Review SEA/HRA Screening

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This message came from outside your organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Report Suspicious

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your email.

The Environment Agency does not disagree with the conclusion that an SEA is not necessary for the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan.

Regards
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
Environment Agency | Trentside Offices, Scarrington Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BR
☎ Direct [redacted]

[redacted]



Creating a better place
for people and wildlife



From: [redacted]
Sent: 19 January 2023 15:23
To: Planning, Lower Trent [redacted]
Subject: Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan Review SEA/HRA Screening

You don't often get email from ian.mccluskey@aecom.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hazelwood Parish are currently preparing a Neighbourhood Plan Review. The current NP was made in October 2016, at which time the need for a full SEA/HRA was determined to be unnecessary.

Amber Valley Borough Council have requested AECOM to undertake an SEA and HRA screening exercise for the Plan Review. Attached is our initial screening opinion, which we will finalise following your comments.

For ease of reference, I have also posted a link to the draft Neighbourhood Plan (it is too large to attach).

<https://www.hazelwoodparishcouncil.org.uk/news/2022/10/modification-of-the-hazelwood-neighbourhood-plan>

The 'consultation' period for this SEA/ HRA Screening Opinion will begin today, Thursday 19th January, 2023 and last for **three weeks**. Whilst we would really appreciate your comments within this timeframe, we would welcome feedback after this formal period should it be more convenient.

We look forward to the Environment Agencies comments.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Amber Valley Planning

BY EMAIL ONLY

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear [REDACTED],

Planning consultation: Hazelwood – SEA and HRA Screening Assessment

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 19 January 2023.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended). Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [planning practice guidance](#).

Planning practice guidance also outlines that if an appropriate assessment is required for your neighbourhood plan this will also engage the need for a SEA. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European obligations, including those under the SEA Directive. Where a SEA is required it should be prepared in accordance with [regulation 12](#) of the SEA Regulations.

Natural England welcomes the Screening Report which assesses the requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan.

I can confirm that Natural England agrees with this report's conclusion that it is not likely there will be significant environmental effects arising from the policies in the plan, which have not already been accounted for within the adopted local plan. Therefore, the **Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** to be undertaken.

Natural England also agrees that the Plan would be unlikely to result in any significant effect to European Sites, either alone or in combination, and therefore **an appropriate assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required**.

Aside from this, Natural England has no specific comments at this stage. We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact me on 02080268500. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely


Senior Planning Adviser
East Midlands



Historic E

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Direct Dial: 0121 625 6870

Our ref: PL00792158

25 January 2023

Dear ██████████

HAZELWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SEA/HRA SCREENING REQUEST

Thank you for your consultation of 19 January 2023 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the Hazelwood Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at:

<<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>>

Should it be concluded that, overall, a SEA will be required for the Plan, Historic England would be pleased to discuss the scope of the assessment in relation to the historic environment in due course.

I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.



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Principal Adviser, Historic Places

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