

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF PLANS AND
PROGRAMMES REGULATIONS 2004
REGULATION 9 SCREENING DETERMINATION:
South Wingfield Neighbourhood Plan**

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Regulation 9 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires that the responsible authority determines whether or not a plan is 'likely to have significant environmental effects' and if a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required (SEA).

Amber Valley Borough Council being the responsible authority has determined, after consideration of the draft South Wingfield Neighbourhood Plan and following consultation with the Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England (responses appended), that the Plan does not require a SEA.

Reasons for the Decision

Annex I 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 Neighbourhood Plan environment and how they might be affected as a result of the proposed policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

(a) biodiversity, flora and fauna

Policies NPP 1, NPP 2 and NPP 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan seek to ensure that future development will conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of the Parish, mitigating planting should include native species and all future development should result in biodiversity net gain.

The adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan Policy EN12 resists future development that would result in the loss of, or adverse impact on, a SSSI. Policy EN13 resists development that would adversely impact species designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 or species that are listed as Nationally Rare. Policy EN14 states that development which could potentially affect nature conservation will be permitted, where the benefits of the development outweigh the importance of nature conservation.

As the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development, it is anticipated the Neighbourhood Plan will not result in harm to biodiversity, flora and fauna in the Neighbourhood Area. A significant adverse impact is not considered to be likely.

(b) Population and human health

The 2011 Census recorded a population of 1,514, living in 685 households within the South Wingfield Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan states that approximately 35% of the Parish were aged over 60 in the 2011 Census, and the Neighbourhood Plan aims to plan for an ageing population. Neighbourhood Plan policy NPP 6 aims to ensure future development can provide a housing mix that meets the local need, as well as ensuring these homes will be accessible and adaptable for personal requirements and as such, provide for the elderly population.

The nearest NHS hospital with an A&E department is the King's Mill Hospital, located approximately 14.5km to the north east of the Parish. The nearest leisure centre is Alfreton Leisure Centre, located approximately 3.2km to the east of the Parish. South Wingfield residents would be likely to have somewhat limited access to these health services. Crich Medical Practice South Wingfield Surgery is located in the centre of South Wingfield and as such, would be likely to provide some essential health care to local residents.

Amenities located within the Parish include South Wingfield Primary School, Malthouse Village Stores, Taylors Corn Stores, All Saints Church Hall, South Wingfield Social Club, South Wingfield Cricket Club, as well as numerous pubs and local businesses.

Neighbourhood Plan Policies NPP 1 and NPP 8 seek to enhance, enlarge, or relocate community facilities where appropriate and notes that proposals for improved sports and play facilities will be encouraged. Policy NPP 9 aims to encourage sustainable growth of businesses in the Parish through the conversion of existing buildings or the development of new buildings.

Due to the rural location of South Wingfield, residents have good access to a diverse range of natural habitats and open space. Neighbourhood Plan Policy NPP 7 proposes the designation of new Local Green Spaces, as well as the protection of existing spaces. The Neighbourhood Plan indicates that future development that may have an adverse impact on these spaces will be resisted.

There is a high reliance on personal car use within the Parish. Policy NPP 2 seeks to resist future development located outside of the Built Development Framework. Future development located within this Built Development Framework would be likely to situate local residents in close proximity to essential services and facilities and therefore, reduce the need to travel by car.

Since the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose new development and the policies aim to protect and enhance existing facilities, a significant impact on local population and health can be objectively ruled out at this stage.

(c) soil, water and air

The majority of the Parish is Grade 4 agricultural land with a small area of Grade 3 land to the north south-east and south-west which is considered to be the Borough's best and most versatile agricultural land. Policies within the adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan seek to protect the best most versatile land from development unless it cannot be accommodated on a previously developed site.

A large proportion of the centre and southern border of the Parish lies within flood Zones 2 and 3 and there are areas of surface water flood risk in the Neighbourhood Plan area. Policy EN15 of the adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan however ensures development proposal will be considered in relation to these issues including where future development should be located and suggests mitigation principles to help combat future flood risk.

There is no Neighbourhood Plan policy which seeks to protect development against flood risk. A policy could be included which would provide further details on areas of flood risk within the Parish and where future development should be located with mitigation principles to help combat future flood risk.

Air, noise and vibration pollution are often associated with traffic and rail sources. A railway line linking Ambergate and Chesterfield passes through the Parish. The A615 passes through Fourlane Ends, the A38 is located on the eastern edge of the Parish boundary and the A610 is located to the south of the Parish boundary. Residents located in Fourlane Ends could potentially be exposed to air and noise pollution associated with the A615.

The adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan Policy EN16 resists development that would be likely to result in an increase in air, water, noise or light pollution. Policy EN17 resists development in close proximity to existing sources of pollution.

As no development is proposed within the Neighbourhood Plan, it is considered unlikely that any future developments will result in significant adverse impacts on soil, air or water resources of the Neighbourhood Area.

(d) climatic factors

Neighbourhood Plan Policy NPP 10 supports the development of renewable and low carbon energy resources following consultation with local residents, the Parish Council and Borough Council. Such proposals must be in accordance with the criteria set out in the policy.

Residents within South Wingfield are heavily reliant on personal car use. Any future developments could potentially lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions associated with a greater number of vehicles in the Parish.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development. This, together with the above policy provisions, would be unlikely to result in a significant impact on climate change.

(e) material assets

Policies NPP7, NPP8 and NPP9 would be likely to have a positive impact on the local economy and access to services for local residents. Existing community facilities would be expected to be protected and measures to designate Local Green Spaces promoted.

Due to the policies outlined above and as the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any sites for development, it is considered unlikely that the Neighbourhood Plan would have significant adverse impacts on material assets within the Neighbourhood Area.

(f) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage

Neighbourhood Plan Policies NPP 1, NPP 2 and NPP 4 aim to protect historic buildings of local significance and their setting, as well as considering the impacts on non-designated heritage assets. Neighbourhood Plan Policy NPP 5 aims to ensure that future development will be of a high design quality and sympathetic to the local character. This policy also requires development to use local materials which reflect the surroundings, in particular, in the historic core of settlements. Policy NPP 3 also aims to protect the open fields surrounding Wingfield Manor.

Due to the policies outlined above and as the Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any sites for development, it is considered unlikely that the Neighbourhood Plan would result in a significant adverse impact on any cultural heritage assets within South Wingfield Parish.

(g) landscape

Policy NPP 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan aims to ensure that future development:

- Conforms with the actions of the landscape and built features recommended in the Landscape Character Assessment;
- Would not result in intrusion of significant views within the Parish (in accordance with the significant views highlighted within the Neighbourhood Plan); and
- Presents a 'soft boundary' to the open countryside, to minimise the impact of development on the overall landscape character.

Policies EN7, EN8 and EN9 of the adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan aim to ensure that future development has regard to the key features of the identified Landscape Character Types, including surrounding trees, woodlands, hedgerows, dry stone walls and other landscape features, the distribution of settlements and roads and the scale and design of existing development.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose sites for development. The policies within the adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan would be likely to ensure that any future development would not result in an adverse impact on surrounding landscape features. Therefore, a significant impact on the local landscape can be ruled out at this stage.

Transport and accessibility

Whilst not an Annex 1(f) SEA Directive topic in itself, transport and accessibility interact with a number of the topics such as population and human health, material assets and climatic factors.

Neighbourhood Plan Policy NPP 1 seeks to ensure that future development maintain and enhances accessibility to a good range of local services and facilities. There are several policies within the adopted Amber Valley Borough Local Plan which would be likely to help improve transport and accessibility in and around of the Parish, including Policies TP1 and TP2.

Since the current Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development, a significant impact on local transport and accessibility is not expected at this stage.

HRA Screening Exercise

The table below provides a screening summary of the policies presented in the Neighbourhood Plan. All policies are considered unlikely to have a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects and have therefore been screened out of the HRA process and therefore no further assessment is required.

Policy	Justification	Assessment and reasoning
NPP 1: Sustainable Development	This policy sets out provisions in relation to sustainable development. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a	Screened out: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.

	European site, either alone or in combination.	
NPP 2: Development within or adjacent to the Built Framework Boundary	This policy sets out criteria for potential future development within the Built Framework Boundary of South Wingfield. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.	Screened out: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.
NPP 3: Protecting the Landscape Character of South Wingfield Parish and Enhancing Biodiversity	This policy aims to enhance the landscape and biodiversity value of the Parish. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.	Screened out: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals and general plan-wide environmental protection / site safeguarding / threshold policies
NPP 4: Protecting or Enhancing Heritage Assets	This policy sets out provisions in relation to heritage assets. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.	Screened out: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals and general plan-wide environmental protection / site safeguarding / threshold policies
NPP 5: Design Principles	This policy sets out processes and design principles. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.	Screened out: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.
NPP 6: A Mix of Housing Types	This policy sets out provision of homes to meet the identified local need. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.	Screened out: Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change.
NPP 7: Designation of Local Green Spaces	This policy sets out provisions in relation to local green space. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.	Screened out: Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change.

<p>NPP 8: Protecting and Enhancing the provision of community facilities</p>	<p>This policy sets out provisions in relation to community facilities. This policy could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no casual connection or link between them and the qualifying features of any European site, either alone or in combination.</p>	<p>Screened out: Policies or proposals that could not have any conceivable or adverse effect on a site.</p>
<p>NPP 9: Supporting Local Businesses</p>	<p>This policy sets out provisions in relation to local businesses. This policy could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no casual connection or link between them and the qualifying features of any European site, either alone or in combination.</p>	<p>Screened out: Policies or proposals that could not have any conceivable or adverse effect on a site.</p>
<p>NPP 10: Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies</p>	<p>This policy sets out provisions in relation to low carbon development. The policy does not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site, either alone or in combination.</p>	<p>Screened out: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.</p>

Conclusion

After having given consideration to the anticipated scope of the South Wingfield Neighbourhood Plan, and the relevant environmental issues locally, it is concluded that significant effects on the environment are considered unlikely to occur as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, it is considered that a formal SEA is not required.

It is also concluded that the South Wingfield NP would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in-combination with any other plan or project and therefore detailed Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2 of the Habitats Regulations process) is not required.

Please note this determination is based upon the draft South Wingfield Neighbourhood Plan. The Council reserves the right pending future iterations of the Neighbourhood Plan to undertake further screening determinations.

Further Information

A copy of this determination has been sent to the Consultation Bodies and made available on the Council's website at www.ambervalley.gov.uk

It will also be available on request during normal office hours at:

Amber Valley Borough Council
Town Hall
Market Place
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3BT

If you require any further information, then please contact the Local Plans Team by e-mail: ldf@ambervalley.gov.uk or by calling 01773 841583.

Date: 2 August 2019