



NP4B - Compliance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended 2015) regulation 15 e (i) and (ii)

- 1.1 An environmental report has been prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 which has determined under regulation 9(1) of those Regulations that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement of reasons for the determination has been provided.
- 1.2 A Screening Opinion was undertaken by Enfusion in September 2018¹ (to determine whether or not the NP4B (Regulation 14 Pre-Submission Draft) requires a SEA and HRA. A Screening Determination was produced by AVBC for Belper Town Council. The SEA Screening Determination concluded that a SEA was required but that a HRA was not required - see report dated 9th November 2018².
- 1.3 The decision on the HRA Screening is set out below.
- 1.4 'There are no Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Ramsar sites within Amber Valley Borough's boundary. The HRA Report that accompanied the Amber Valley Local Plan to 2028 on submission concluded that the development proposed in the Local Plan will not lead to likely significant effects either alone or in-combination with other plans or programmes. In consideration of the small geographical area of the NP4B, and the scale of the development likely to arise and its distance from European sites outside the AVLPC boundary, the HRA screening considers that the NP4B is not likely to have significant effects on EU designated sites beyond the AVBC boundary, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.' Para 6.2
- 1.5 A SEA Assessment was undertaken by AECOM in March 2019 and reviewed in October 2019 (following amendments to the NP4B at Regulation 14). The SEA reports are on the Belper Town Council web site³ and the latest SEA findings are as follows;

The NP4B performs relatively well overall against the SEA themes, benefitting the local community through supporting the delivery of housing and mixed-use development on brownfield and regeneration sites throughout the Town. The NP4B seeks to strike a balance between the needs of conservation, biodiversity, access, the interests of the local community, the public benefits of a development and the sustainable economic use of the WHS in its setting. To this effect, positive effects are concluded in relation to the majority of SEA topics.

¹ See <https://info.ambervalley.gov.uk/docarc/docviewer.aspx?docguid=204db2cfe41f4d0aa2c4bc5a04ba9aae>

² See <https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/sea-determination-9-11-18.pdf>

³ See <https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/environmental-report-for-the-belper-np-oct-19.pdf>



It is recognised that the NP4B is relatively limited in the potential to improve local transport infrastructure through new development; however, supporting opportunities to improve the pedestrian and cycle network through the site allocations, is considered likely to lead to positive effects for both the transportation and health and wellbeing SEA topics.

The NP4B takes a proactive approach to new development and regeneration of the town, prioritising brownfield sites, leading to positive effects in relation to the population and community and land, soil and water SEA objectives. The NP4B supports new development in a way that integrates with the existing heritage, landscape and architecture and reinforces the unique characteristics of the area.

The NP4B capitalises on distinct opportunities to improve the townscape and tourism appeal of a highly valued environment. In particular, the support for the restoration and regeneration of the North and East Mills could potentially see significant and prominent vacant Listed Buildings be bought back into use, with potential long-term significant positive effects with regards to townscape, the historic environment, and the tourist economy.

The previous Environmental Report accompanying the Regulation 14 'Pre-Submission Plan identified two recommendations in relating to strengthening policy protection for mature trees, hedgerows and vegetation and for Sustainable Drainage Systems. Both of these recommendations were addressed in plan amendments and no further recommendations are made.

13.1.2020.