WICKERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)

&

HABITATS REGULATION ASSESSMENT (HRA)

DETERMINATION STATEMENT
APRIL 2021

Under Regulation 9 & 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

WICKERSLEY
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

PLUS
Integreat

CONTENTS

Abbreviations

RMBC	-	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
HRA	-	Habitat Regulations Assessment
LPA	-	Local Planning Authority
NPPF	-	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	-	National Planning Policy Guidance
WNP	-	Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan
WPC	-	Wickersley Parish Council
SAC	-	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	-	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	-	Special Protection Area
SSSI	-	Site of Special Scientific Interest

1. DETERMINATION STATEMENT

1.1 Introduction

This statement provides the determination (under Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations)) that the draft Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

This statement also includes the reasons for this determination (in line with Regulation 11 of the SEA Regulations).

This statement also determines that the making of the draft WNP is unlikely to result in any significant effects on any European sites and therefore the WNP does not require a Habitat Regulation Assessment.

The statement also intends to demonstrate that the WNP is compatible with certain European Union obligations as required by the basic conditions, specifically:

- Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment; and

- Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

This determination has been made on 12 April 2021. Within 28 days of this determination, Wickersley Parish Council will publish this determination statement in accordance with its regulatory requirements (as per Regulation 11 of the SEA Regulations). Statutory consultees will be sent a copy of this statement and copies of the statement will be available for inspection on Rotherham Council's website www.Rotherham.gov.uk and on the Parish Council's website www.wickersleypc.org.uk

Officers at RMBC have been consulted and kept informed of the work that has been undertaken on both the SEA & HRA screening for the WNP. It is expected that RMBC will agree with the contents of this report.

1.2 Determination Statement

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening opinion was prepared on behalf of Wickersley Parish Council for the draft Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan. This opinion, included in the appendix to this statement was made available to the statutory environmental bodies (Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency) for comment starting on 8th October 2019. Consultation responses were received from all three bodies. Their conclusions are summarised below and detailed responses are includes as Appendix 2.

Natural England
Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment

- If you do not receive a response from Natural England (or communication on a revised response date), **we have no specific comments to make**. Please refer to our general advice in the Annex below. The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that **the proposals are not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes**. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not the proposals are consistent with national and local policies on the natural environment.

Historic England
Strategic Environmental Assessment

- *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 concurs with your conclusion that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.***

Environment Agency
Strategic Environmental Assessment

- *We note that the Council has a responsibility to advise the Parish Council if there is a need for formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. You are seeking our views in order to inform the Council's decision on this matter. We have considered the draft plan and its policies against those environmental characteristics of the area that fall within our remit and area of interest. Having considered the nature of the policies in the Plan****, we consider that it is unlikely that significant negative impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan.***

In summary, it is determined that the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan would not have a significant effect on the environment because:

- It does not allocate land for development
- As detailed in the SEA screening report, the policies were found to have no impacts on the environmental criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations.

The HRA screening concludes that the Neighborhood Plan is not predicted to have any likely significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Based on the screening opinion prepared by Wickersley Parish Council in October 2019 and having considered the consultation responses from the statutory environmental bodies, Wickersley Parish Council determines that the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore does not require a strategic environmental assessment. This screening determination is applicable to the pre-submission version of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

APPENDIX

1. SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION
2. CONSULTEE RESPONSES
3. SSSI CITATIONS

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report sets out the screening assessment for the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan (WNP). The purpose of screening is to establish if the WNP will require a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA). Sections 5 and 7 shows the conclusions of the screening assessment.

1.2 An SEA is a process for evaluating the environmental effects of a plan before it is made. The SEA screening determines whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. If likely significant environmental effects are identified, an environmental report must be produced.

1.3 A Habitats Regulations Assessment identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) as a result of the implementation of a plan/ project. The HRA screening will determine whether significant effects on a European site are likely.

1.4 This report explains the legislative background to SEA and HRA screening, provides details of the draft WNP before undertaking a SEA and HRA screening exercise and providing conclusions.

1.5 Integreat Plus has prepared this screening report on behalf of the Wickersley Parish Council (WPC) who is the qualifying body for the WNP. Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) has a responsibility to advise the WNP if there is a need for formal SEA/ HRA of the draft plan. One of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the neighbourhood plan is compatible with European Union obligations (this includes the SEA Directive).

1.6 For the purposes of this assessment the draft version of the plan which was sent to the Local Authority in March 2019 has been screened. This version of the plan is an informal second draft and is considered to be an appropriate stage to undertake the screening assessments as the general scope and content of the plan has emerged.

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).

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2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

2.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA as discussed within the NPPF at paragraph 165. However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal for only development plan documents (DPD's), but did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment. As a Neighbourhood Plan is not a development plan document it therefore does not legally require a Sustainability Appraisal. Where appropriate, however, an SEA still needs to be undertaken in line with the SEA regulations.

2.3 In February 2015 amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan Regulations came into force. Regulation 2(4) of these amendments adds additions to the list of documents that a qualifying body must submit to a local planning authority with a Neighbourhood Plan. The additional document which must be submitted is either an environmental report prepared in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or a statement of reasons why an environment assessment is not required.
The amendment to the Regulations is to ensure that the public can make informed representations and that independent examiners have sufficient information before them to determine whether a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

2.4 The legislation advises that draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a 'screening' assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. The regulations state that before an authority makes a determination on a plan it should:

a) Take into account the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment specified in schedule 1 of the Regulations.

b) Consult the environmental consultation bodies.

2.5 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) provides further guidance on SEA screening. It advises that whether a neighbourhood plan proposal requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed. A SEA may be required, for example, where:

- A neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development.
- The neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by 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.

2.6 Where it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects, and accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment, the authority is required to prepare a statement for its reasons for the determination. If likely significant environmental effects are identified then an environmental report must be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

2. LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

2.7 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has its origins in European law under the Habitats Directive. This has been translated into UK law via The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

2.8 Article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) require that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

2.9 The NPPG advises that it is required to determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled on the basis of objective information. If the conclusion of the screening is that the 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 a SEA.

3. WICKERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3.1 Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires an SEA or HRA depends on what is being proposed in the plan. The draft WNP includes locally specific policies and guidance for the plan area but importantly does not allocate any sites for development.

3.2 This section of the report sets out the context of the WNP and details the characteristics of the Plan Area.

Wickersley is designated as a principle settlement for growth, located 3.5 miles east of Rotherham town centre. It is a community of around 7,500 people. The WNP Area is around 537 hectares. Around half of the parish is undeveloped and contains agricultural land, areas of woodland and other types of green spaces. There is a conservation area within the historic core of the parish that contains 8 listed buildings. Overall there are 9 listed building in the WNP area.

Within the plan area there are no sites designated as SPA, SAC or SSSI. There are several areas of ancient and semi-natural woodland and priority habitats (woodland). Parts of the WNP area are included within the South Yorkshire Strategic and Local Green Infrastructure Corridors (Green infrastructure corridor Thrybergh).

Within a 15km buffer of the WNP area there are the following sites designated as SSSI. Cadeby Quarry, Edlington Wood, Denaby Ings, Lindrick Golf Course, New Edlington Brick Pit, Maltby Low Common, Ashfield Brick Pits, Wood Lee Common, Roche Abbey Woodlands, Bradgate Brickworks, Sprotbrough Gorge, Anston Stones,Dyscarr Woods, Ginny Spring Whitwell Wood, Hollinhill & Markland Grips, Crabtree Wood, Bilham Sandpits, Moss Valley, Moss Valley Meadows, Moss Valley Woods, Neepsend Railway, Styrrup Quarry, Wadsely Fossil Forest, Neepsend Brickworks, Potteric Carr. These are shown on the map included in 3.3.

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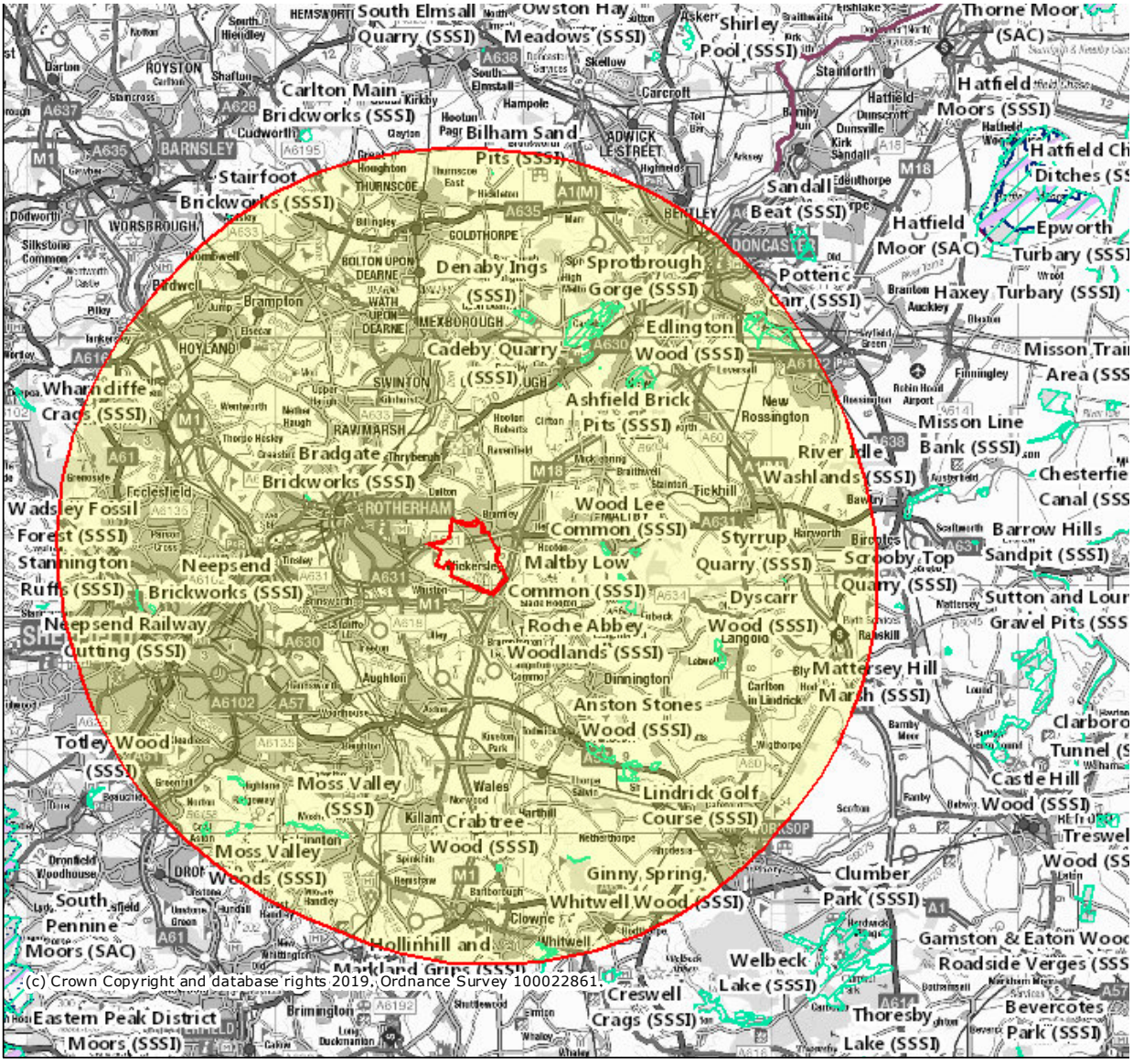
3.3 The WNP boundary with 15km buffer, layers showing SSSI. (No SPA or SAC within buffer)



Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Special Protection Area (SPA)

Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan Boundary

15km buffer

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3. WICKERSLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3.4 VISION

Wickerlsey will continue to be a thriving community with a variety of amenities and facilities serving a diverse local population.

New, high quality housing will meet the needs of local people whilst sympathetically responding to the character of its area.

Green and open spaces will be protected, and where possible, enhanced, with new recreational facilities for young people. Public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure will be improved making it accessible and safe for all to travel and commute.

The village centre will be vibrant and sustainable, boasting a range of shopping, leisure and community services with high quality public realm.

Historic and heritage assets will continue to be protected and new development will be designed in a way that is respectful of and sensitive to these defining characteristics.

3.5 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. Ensure new development is high quality, well-designed and responds to distinctive character of Wickersley

2. Ensure new housing meets local needs

3. Promote sustainable transport including improvements to pedestrian and cycle infrastructure, reduce car dependency and the impact of vehicles on streets / parking

4. Conserve and enhance green and open spaces and secure green infrastructure provision in new developments

5. Conserve and enhance heritage assets including non-designated heritage assets

6. Encourage the enhancement of the Tanyard and encourage appropriate uses in local centre, with greater regulation of drinking establishments and improved parking management

7. Retain existing community facilities and secure new facilities to meet any future demand, including but not limited to sports and recreational or children's and young people's play facilities

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3.6 POLICIES

GENERAL POLICIES

GP1 - High Quality Design
Policy encouraging development to be of high quality and refer to design code produced alongside the plan. A comprehensive design code is being produced that promotes best practice and principles of high quality design including sustainable design and placemaking. This policy will not lead to additional development, but will ensure any new development is in line with the principles set out.

GP2 – Protect existing community facilities
Policy promoting protection and retention of community facilities. Preference for continued community uses, alternative uses accepted if it can be demonstrated community use is no longer viable.

GP3 – Heritage
Policy promoting local buildings and structures to be designated as non-designated heritage assets and therefore protected from demolition. Any proposal affecting these assets should be undertaken sensitively and seek to enhance these heritage assets.

GP4 - Stone walls
Policy encouraging retention of traditional stone walls

HOUSING POLICIES

H1 - House type & mix
Policy encouraging residential developments of 10 or more dwellings to provide a mix of house types in line with local needs

H2 - Lifetime Homes & Building for Life
New residential developments should be built to Lifetime Homes standards. Proposals should undertake an independent Building for Life assessment. Proposals that score 9 or more out of 12 will be supported.

GREEN SPACE POLICIES

GS1 - Green infrastructure
All new developments should:

- provide provision of green infrastructure (GI)
- aim for biodiversity net gain
- seek to connect with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridors or Local Wildlife Sites
- ensure design and management of GI responds to landscape and habitat types
- replace trees at a ration of 3:1
- not sever existing GI

GS2 - Local Green Spaces
Designation of several Local Green Spaces within the WNP area

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3. WICKERSLEYNEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3.6 POLICIES

MOVEMENT & TRANSPORT POLICIES

MT1 - Pedestrian & cycle infrastructure
Policy requiring new developments to connect with existing pedestrian and cycle network, encouragement to enhance the network where required.

MT2 - Parking solutions
Policy requiring new developments to comply with RMBC parking standards, to include visitor parking where necessary, to provide on-site secure cycle storage, to provide EV charging points, to produce design-led street layouts, and to include driveways and garages to the side or rear of properties. Garages to have minimum internal dimension of 3.5m x 6.5m and driveways to be a minimum of 3.5m wide.

VILLAGE CENTRE POLICIES

VC1 - Drinking establishments
Policy requiring applicant for new A4 uses to demonstrate there will be no negative impact either alone or in cumulation and for a threshold of 5% to be introduced and enforced on A4 uses within the District Centre.

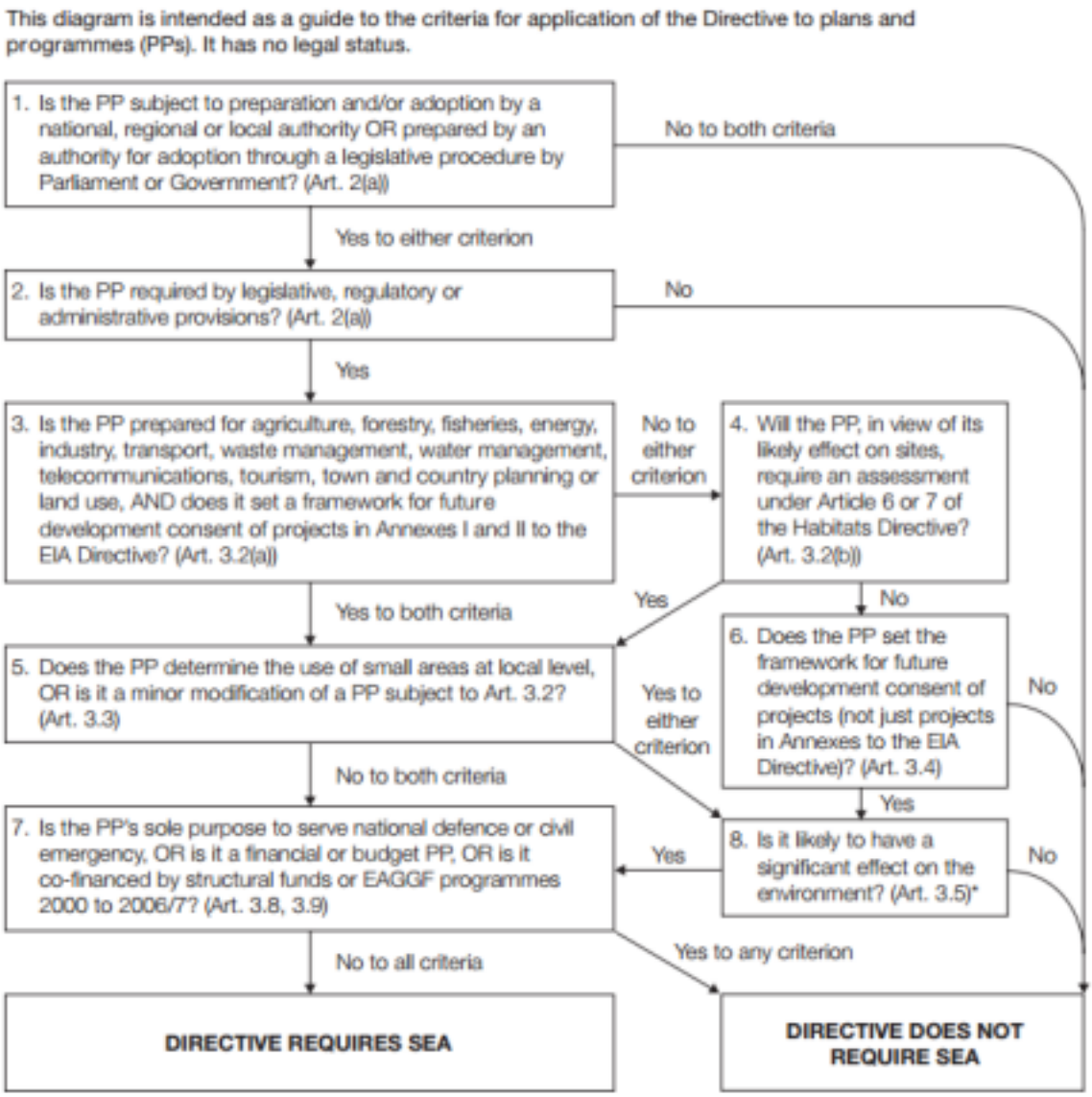
VC2 - Shop frontages
Policy requiring shop frontages to be design in accordance with the principles set out in the design code

VC3 - Tanyard improvements
Policy encouraging improvements to the main shopping area, including but not limited to:
- Physical appearance of shopping area
- Public realm, hard & soft landscaping, street furniture, accessibility
- Flood and water management

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

4.1 The flowchart below illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required:



*The Directive requires Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and/or by specifying types of plan or programme.

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

4.2 Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive to the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan

STAGE	YES/NO	REASON
1. Is the Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority or prepared by an authority through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Article 2(a))	Yes	Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by a qualifying body (Parish Council) under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). This Neighbourhood Plan is prepared by Wickersley Parish Council (as the "relevant body") and will be 'made' by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as the Local Authority, if successful at referendum. The preparation of Neighbourhood Plans is subject to The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 and The Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.
2. Is the Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))	No	Communities have the right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, communities are not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, if 'made', the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan would form part of the statutory development plan; it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if SEA is required.
3. Is the Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste 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? (Article 3.2(a))	Yes	A Neighbourhood Plan can include these policy areas and could provide, at a Neighbourhood Area level, the framework for development that would fall within Annex II of the EIA Directive. Developments that fall within Annex I are 'excluded' development for Neighbourhood Plans, as set out in Section 61(k) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). It is not anticipated that the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan would be the tool to manage development of the scale and nature envisaged by Annex I and Annex II of the EIA Directive.
4. Will the Plan, in view of its likely effects on sites, require an assessment of future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b))	No	The screening section for the HRA is included later in this report.

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

4.2 Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive to the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan

STAGE	YES/NO	REASON
5. Does the Plan determine the use of small areas at local level or is it a minor modification of a plan or proposal subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)	Yes	Once made the WNP will be part of the land use framework for the area and will help determine the use of small areas at the local level.
6. Does the Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Article 3.4)	Yes	The WNP will form part of the statutory Development Plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications in the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore, it sets the framework for future developments at a local level within the context of the Rotherham Core Strategy and the NPPF. The plan gives support to certain types of development and projects within the plan area but these conform to the strategic aims of the Core Strategy.
7. Is the Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, or is it a financial or budget plan or proposal, or is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Article 3.8, 3.9)	No	The Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)	No	The Neighbourhood Plan does not propose any development but instead provides guidance on how local people would like to see the area developed. The plan contains both policies and design guidance which seek to protect and enhance natural and historic assets. The plan promotes the safeguarding of wildlife and biodiversity and encourages the creation and enhancement of wildlife corridors and green buffers. It is therefore considered unlikely the plan will have a significant effect on the environment.

4. STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

4.3 The criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2 - CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to

- the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,

- the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,

- the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,

- environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,

- the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to

- the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,

- the cumulative nature of the effects,

- the trans-boundary nature of the effects,

- the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),

- the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),

- the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,

- exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,

- intensive land-use,

- the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. Table 2:
Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on the environment

4.4

Criteria (Schedule 1)	
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	
(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	Alongside the Local Plan the WNP will provide a statutory development plan for the area. This mean planning applications will be determined against its policies and design guidance. The policies can be categorised into the following themes: **Protection & enhancement policies** Natural and historic environment, green infrastructure, local green spaces, footpaths and cycle ways, community facilities and services. **Design & development policies** Ensuring high quality design, parking and street design guidance, housing type and mix, design guidance for conservation areas, SUDS, green and renewable technologies **Aspirational & encouragement policies** Improvements to shopping area, lifetime homes and building for life standards.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The WNP dovetails the RMBC Core Strategy and the NPPF and is in-line with the strategic context of both documents. It adds fine-grain, locally specific policies which complement and add value to higher-level plans. It is unlikely to influence other Plans and programmes as this Plan is at the bottom of the planning hierarchy.
(c) The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The Plan promotes sustainable development, defined as "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." It has an emphasis on protecting the natural environment, wildlife, biodiversity, promoting better flood and water management and protecting heritage and historic assets. These are included in both policy and design guidance. Before the plan is made it will go through the basic conditions test, this includes a requirement to contribute towards sustainable development.

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. Table 2:
Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on the environment

4.4

Criteria (Schedule 1)	
The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:	

(d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan;	There are no environmental designations (SSSI, SPA, SAC, LNR, LWS) within the WNP area. There are 25 SSSI within the 15km buffer of the Parish boundary. Part of the eastern WNP area is within the Thrybergh Green Infrastructure Corridor.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection)	There are no conflicts between the WNP and statutory plans linked to waste, water etc.

APPENDIX 1 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

4. Table 2:
Assessment of the likelihood of significant effects on the environment

4.4

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:	
(a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	The plan does not allocate any sites for development. It does contain several polices and design guidance which seek to protect and enhance the natural and historic environment, including heritage assets, wildlife and biodiversity. It is unlikely the WNP will lead to any environmental effects that have not already been raised and addressed by the Core Strategy. The policies do not promote or encourage any form of additional development above what is in the Local Plan.
(b) The cumulative nature of the effects	The cumulative effects of proposals within the NP are unlikely to be significant on the local environment. The effects of the NP need to be considered alongside the RMBC Core Strategy. The NP is required to be in general conformity with the emerging Adopted RMBC Local Plan. It is not considered that the NP introduces significant additional effects over and above those already considered in the SA/SEA for the Local Plan. Notably the NP does not propose any more development than what is included in the Local Plan for the area. It is therefore unlikely the culmination of the plans will have an effect.
(c) The transboundary nature of the effects	The proposals within the NP are unlikely to have a significant impact beyond the Neighbourhood Area boundary. There is no proposed development within the NDP.
(d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	None identified
(e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),	The NP is concerned with development within the Wickersley Neighbourhood Area. The potential for environmental impacts are likely to be local, limited and minimal. The plan area is 537 hectares and has a population of around 7,500 people.
(f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: • special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, • exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, • intensive land-use	The NP is unlikely to adversely affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to its special natural characteristics or cultural heritage. The policies within the plan seek to provide greater protection to the character of the area. The NP does not allocate any sites for development.
(g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	It is not considered that the draft policies in the NP will adversely affect areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status. There are no AONBs SPAs, SACs, or SSSIs within the plan area.

5. SEA SCREENING CONCLUSION

5.1 In conclusion, as a result of the assessment carried out in Table 2 above and the more detailed consideration of the draft policies, it is considered that it is unlikely that any significant environmental effects will arise as a result of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan. Consequently, the assessment within Table 1 concludes (subject to HRA screening outcome), that an SEA is not required when judged against the application of the SEA Directive criteria. This section will be updated once the screening opinions from statutory consultees has been received.

5.2 Notably, the draft neighbourhood plan does not propose any allocations. No sensitive natural or heritage assets will be significantly affected by proposals within the plan as they seek to protect and, where possible, enhance them. The plan contains several policies which seek to protect and in places enhance the natural environment. The neighbourhood plan's policies seek to guide development within the Neighbourhood Area and are required to be in general conformity with those within the Local Plan. It is unlikely that there will be any significant additional environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a SEA/SA of the Local Plan.

6. HRA SCREENING

6.1 The HRA involves an assessment of any plan or project to establish if it has potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA will consider if the proposals in the neighbourhood plan have the potential to harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites are:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

6.2 This section of the report:

- Identifies the European sites within 15km of the plan area
- Summarises the reasons for designation and conservation objectives for each of the sites which have an impact risk zone stretching into the plan area
- Screens the NDP for its potential to impact upon European sites
- Assesses the potential for in-combination effects from other projects and plans in the area

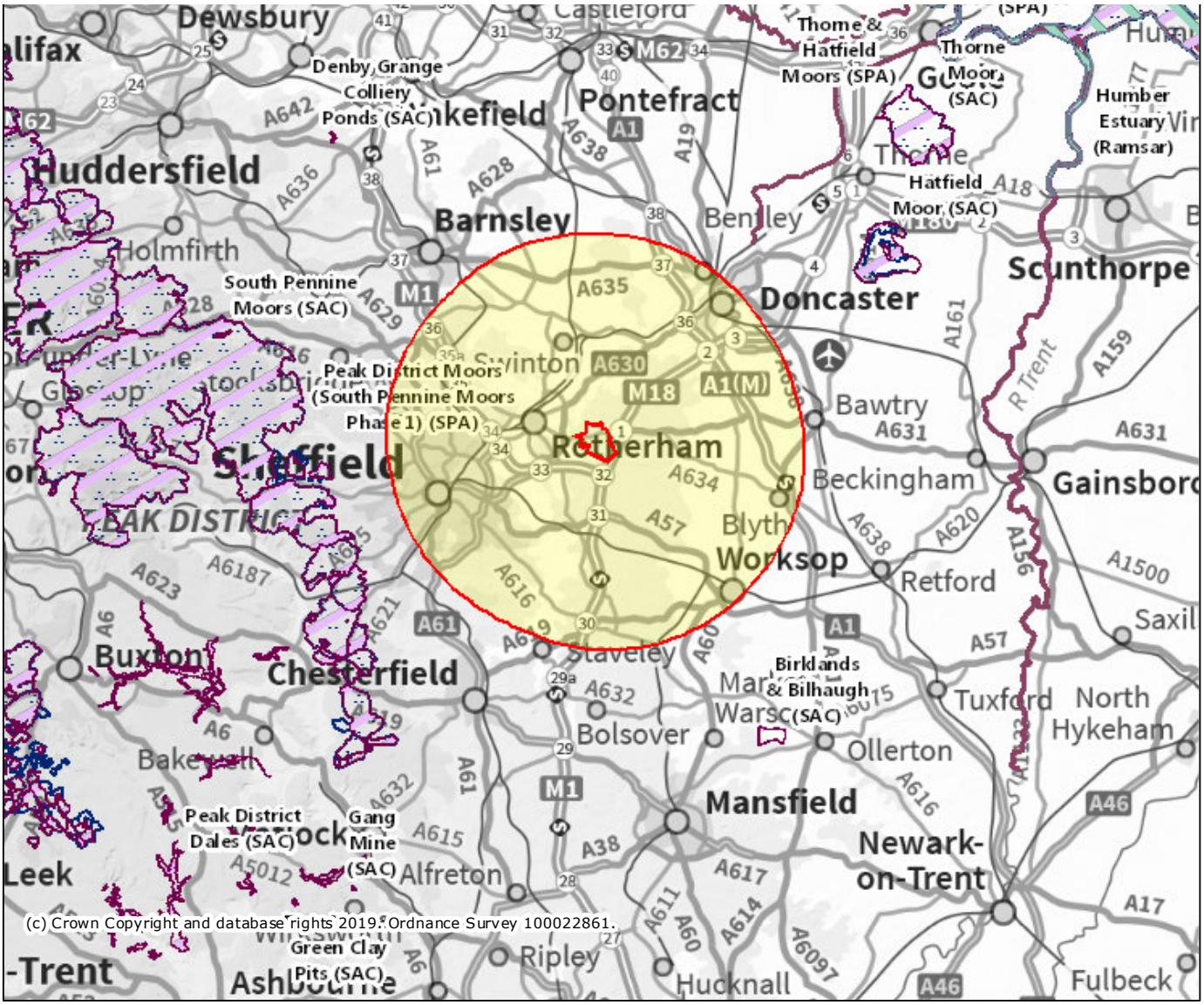
6.3 EUROPEAN SITES WITHIN 15KM OF THE NDP AREA

There are no European sites within a 15km radius of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan area.

A map is shown in 6.4 to demonstrate this.

6. HRA SCREENING

6.4 Map showing WNP boundary and 15km buffer. There are no SPA or SAC within this 15km buffer. The closest European designated site is Peak District Moor (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA which is 22.5km to the west of the WNP boundary.



Legend

- Ramsar Sites (England)
- Special Areas of Conservation (England)
- Special Protection Areas (England)

0 10 20
km

Projection = OSGB36
xmin = 362200
ymin = 354900
xmax = 534300
ymax = 434700

Map produced by MAGIC on 7 October, 2019.
Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission. Some information in MAGIC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.

7. HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

7.1 There are no European sites within the 15km buffer from the WNP boundary. The closest SPA / SAC is 22.5km away.

After considering the draft policies in the WNP it is therefore unlikely that the content of the Plan will lead to likely significant environmental effects and that an appropriate assessment is not required.

APPENDIX 2 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

8. HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

8.1 Responses from statutory consultees

Historic England

YORKSHIRE

Mr. Jamie Wilde,
Integreat Plus,
Unit 25,
53 Mowbray Street,
Kelham Island,
Sheffield,
S3 8EN

Our ref: PL00625750
Your ref:

Telephone 01904 601 879
Mobile 0755 719 0988

19 November 2019

Dear Mr. Wilde,

Wickersley Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Opinion Consultation

We write in response to your consultation, seeking a Screening Opinion for the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of this consultation, Historic England will confine its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect to our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied within the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

The Draft Neighbourhood Plan indicates that within the plan area there is a wide range and number of designated cultural heritage assets. There are also likely to be other features of local historic, architectural or archaeological value, and consideration should also be given to the wider historic landscape.

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 concurs with your conclusion that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required for the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

The views of the other two statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for an SEA is made. We should like to stress that this opinion is based on the information available in the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan.

To avoid any doubt, this does not reflect our obligation to provide further advice on later stages of the SEA process and, potentially, object to specific proposals which may subsequently arise (either as a result of this consultation or in later versions of the plan/guidance) where we consider that, despite the SEA, these would have an adverse effect upon the environment.

8. HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

8.1 Responses from statutory consultees

We would be pleased if you can send a copy of the determination as required by REG 11 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Historic England strongly advises that the conservation and archaeological staff of the Rotherham Council and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service are closely involved throughout the preparation of the plan and its assessment. They are best placed to advise on; local historic environment issues and priorities, including access to data held in the HER (formerly SMR); how the policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment; the nature and design of any required mitigation measures; and opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of historic assets.

We look forward to receiving a consultation on the Pre-submission Draft of the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan in due course.

Yours sincerely

Craig Broadwith
Historic Places Adviser
E-mail: Craig.Broadwith@HistoricEngland.org.uk

8. HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

8.1

Responses from statutory consultees

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency regarding the above mentioned proposed draft plan. We have reviewed the information submitted and we wish to make the following comments

Strategic Environmental Assessment
We note that the Council has a responsibility to advise the Parish Council if there is a need for formal Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. You are seeking our views in order to inform the Council's decision on this matter.

We have considered the draft plan and its policies against those environmental characteristics of the area that fall within our remit and area of interest.

Having considered the nature of the policies in the Plan, we consider that it is unlikely that significant negative impacts on environmental characteristics that fall within our remit and interest will result through the implementation of the plan.

Draft Plan

We have no objections to the draft plan, we are pleased to see the protection of green spaces.

Following are other environmental issues you could look at putting into your plan.

Flood Risk
I note that the area has a risk of flooding (within Flood Zone 2.3) around the watercourses

We would like to see flood risk policies and that minimising the impact of flooding referred to in an 'Environmental' section. This is a key sustainability issue and will be exacerbated in in the future due to climate change.

In terms of both policy and site selection, flood risk should be a major consideration in your plan. In drafting your flood risk policy, you should:

- Emphasise that inappropriate development will not be considered acceptable in areas of high flood risk.

- Highlight, where necessary, the need to undertake the sequential and exception tests.

- Promote a sequential approach to development layout, to ensure the highest vulnerability development is located in areas at lowest flood risk.

- Address the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk.

- Describe what is expected of developers in terms of surface water run-off rates (for both brownfield and Greenfield sites) and sustainable drainage systems.

- Where possible, expect development to result in a betterment to the existing flood risk situation.

- Ensure that new development does not increase flood risk to others

A sequential approach to flood risk will also need to be taken when allocating sites.

APPENDIX 2 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

8.

8.1 HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

New development proposals should be encouraged to contribute either financially or through physical works to reduce the flood risk to the wider village. This would require a clear understanding of what the flood risk reduction strategy is. This should be reflected in this section/policy.

Surface Water
The Lead Local Flood Authority is now the responsible authority for commenting on the surface water drainage arrangements. We therefore recommend you consult your LLFA regarding the proposed management of surface water within the Plan.

Water quality
Proper management is important to protect water quality, both for groundwater and surface water resources.

Drainage misconnections can occur in new developments, redevelopments, extensions or through refurbishment. Developers must ensure that they do not connect any foul drainage (including sinks, showers, washing machine/dishwasher outlets and toilets) to a surface water sewer, as this can send polluted water into watercourses. Similarly, developers should ensure that they do not connect surface water drainage (e.g. roof gutter downpipes) into foul sewers as this can cause overloading of the foul sewer during heavy rainfall.

Polluted surface water flows from areas like car parks or service yards should always have sufficient pollution prevention measures in place to ensure the protection of groundwater and watercourses from specific pollutants like petrol (hydrocarbons) and suspended solids. Developers should follow appropriate pollution prevention guidance when designing formal drainage for large areas of hardstanding.

Ideally, applicants should introduce more 'surface' or 'green' drainage solutions to aid improvements in water quality, such as swales along hardstanding boundaries, or a more advanced reed bed system for larger sites. These solutions are easier to access and maintain than engineered solutions like petrol/oil interceptors, which require regular maintenance to ensure they operate correctly.
We would welcome a policy which requires a net gain in biodiversity through all development,

River restoration
We would welcome the inclusion of a specific river policy, addressing the following:

- Minimum of 8 metre (m) buffer zones for all watercourses measured from bank top to provide an effective and valuable river corridor and improve habitat connectivity. A 5m buffer zone for ponds would also help to protect their wildlife value and ensure that the value of the adjacent terrestrial habitat is protected.

- Development proposals to help achieve and deliver WFD objectives. Examples of the types of improvements that we may expect developers to make are: removal of obstructions (e.g. weirs), de-culverting, regrading banks to a more natural profile, improving in-channel habitat, reduce levels of shade (e.g. tree thinning) to allow aquatic vegetation to establish, etc. Proposals which fail to take opportunities to restore and improve rivers should be refused. If this is not possible, then financial or land contributions towards the restoration of rivers should be required.

- River corridors are very sensitive to lighting and rivers and their 8m buffer zones (as a minimum) should remain/be designed to be intrinsically dark i.e. Lux levels of 0-2.

It may be useful to include ownership information details for landowners, applicants or developers who have a watercourse running through or adjacent to their site. Many people believe that the Environment Agency own 'main rivers' which is not the case. Whilst we hold permissive powers to carry out maintenance

8. 8.1 HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

on main rivers, the site owner is the 'riparian owner' of the stretch of watercourse running through their site (whole channel) or adjacent to their site (up to the centre line of the channel) – and this includes culverted watercourses. Our 'Living on the Edge' publication provides important guidance for riverside owners.

Applicants should remove watercourses from existing culverts where this is feasible. This will help to reduce flood risk from blocked or collapsed culverts, and open channels are significantly easier for the landowner to maintain. Culverts that cause blockages of the watercourse are the responsibility of the owner to repair. Additionally, we will usually object to planning applications that propose new culverts.

Your plan policy should also provide details of 'buffer zones' that are left adjacent to watercourses. We will always ask developers to maintain an undeveloped,

Naturalised, 8 metre buffer zone adjacent to main rivers. We ask that applicants do not include any structures such as fencing or footpaths within the buffer zone as this could increase flood risk - through the inclusion of close-board fencing for example. Any works or structures that applicants intend within 8m of a main river will require a flood defence consent from us, which is separate from and in addition to any planning permission granted.

Sustainable construction
You could also help your community save money through sustainable construction. Neighbourhood planning is an opportunity for communities to encouraging efficient water and waste management systems in new buildings, and use locally sourced wood fuel for heating. You could also help to promote the use of sustainable materials in construction, and encourage energy efficiency measures for new builds. These measures will reduce the cost of construction for developers and help to reduce utility bills for those using the building. This will also help the environment by reducing emissions and improving air quality.

We hope this response helps you develop your plan.

Kind Regards

Claire Dennison
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor

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APPENDIX 2 - SEA & HRA SCREENING OPINION

8.

8.1 HRA SCREENING CONCLUSION

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for contacting Natural England. We will action your request as follows:

- For consultations on Development Management, we will respond within 21 days from the receipt of your email.
- For consultations on Development Plans, we will respond within 6 weeks from the receipt of your email.
- If you have specified a different deadline or we agree a revised deadline with you, we will respond within the time specified or agreed.
- If you are applying for the Discretionary Advice Service, we will respond to you within 15 working days.
- If you are a member of the public, we will respond to your query within 10 working days from receipt of your email.
- If your consultation relates to a Tree Preservation Order, Advertisement Consent, Hedgerow Removal Notice or Listed Building Consent, there is no requirement to consult us and you will not receive a further response.

If you do not receive a response from Natural England (or communication on a revised response date), we have no specific comments to make. Please refer to our general advice in the Annex below.

The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment, but only that the proposals are not likely to result in significant impacts on statutory designated nature conservation sites or landscapes. It is for the local planning authority to determine whether or not the proposals are consistent with national and local policies on the natural environment. Other bodies and individuals may be able to provide information and advice on the environmental value of sites and the impacts of development proposals to assist the decision making process. We advise local planning authorities to obtain specialist ecological or other environmental advice when determining the environmental impacts of development.

We recommend that local planning authorities use Natural England's Site of Special Scientific Interest Impact Risk Zones (available on Magic and as a downloadable dataset) prior to consultation with Natural England. Further guidance on when to consult Natural England on planning and development proposals is available on gov.uk at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-planning-authorities-get-environmental-advice https://www.gov.uk/guidance/developers-get-environmental-advice-on-your-planning-proposals https://www.gov.uk/guidance/consulting-on-neighbourhood-plans-and-development-orders

Kind regards
Natural England Consultations Team

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

CADEBY QUARRY SSSI
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan District
National Grid Reference: SE 522003 Area: 97.0 (ha) 240.0 (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The band of magnesian limestone outcropping to the west of Doncaster provides opportunities for both wildlife habitat and mineral exploitation. The River Don passes through the limestone at Cadeby, contributing to a complex of sites of known nature conservation interest including Pot Ridings Wood, Sprotbrough Flash and Foulsyke Flash. Although a limestone grassland flora and scrub has developed within the SSSI boundary at Cadeby Quarry, it is the geological exposures which provide the special interests.
This is the type locality for the Permian Cadeby Formation. The extensive quarry faces expose an excellent section through the Wetherby Member, Hampole Beds and lower part of the Sprotbrough Member. A wide variety of facies and fabrics associated with shallow-water carbonate deposition are found in the quarry, particularly in the Sprotbrough Member.
Numerous algal/bryozoan patch-reefs occur throughout the quarry and the lower parts of these reefs yield a well-preserved fauna – particularly brachiopods and bryozoans. Beds of multicoloured flaggy mudstones comprising the Hampole Beds are atypically thick at Cadeby
Quarry and contain plant remains. This is an important site, showing facies developments within the Magnesian Limestone Cadeby Formation.

EDLINGTON WOOD
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 549980 Area: 99.73 (ha) 246.73 (ac)

Reasons for Notification:
Edlington Wood is located 4 km south west of Doncaster and lies at between 45–80 metres above sea level. It is underlain by Permian magnesian limestone which outcrops as low crags close to the northern edge of the site. This is the largest single area of predominantly deciduous woodland on the magnesium limestone in South Yorkshire. It is a secondary woodland dating from Romano-British times and in the extreme northern part of the site, in association with the natural limestone crags, the predominance in the stand of small-leaved lime Tilia cordata, ash and wych elm together with numerous ancient yews suggests continuity of natural woodland regeneration from that time.
The greater part of the wood has been subject to reafforestation beginning around the 1700's.
Planting then and subsequently included sweet chestnut, sycamore, larch, beech and oak but, since these plantations incorporated coppice and seedling lime, ash, wych elm, oak and birch these occur now throughout the wood as a scattering of mature trees.
The understorey is well developed and representative of woodlands on limestone, containing an abundance of privet, hazel, guelder rose and dogwood with, more locally, spindle Euonymus europaeus, buckthorn Rhamnus catharticus and spurge-laurel Daphne laureola.
There is a particularly diverse ground flora reflecting the wide variation in soil type moisture conditions and completeness of canopy. For the most part there is a dominance of false brome and dog's mercury, but in places these are replaced by tufted hair-grass, wood melick Melica uniflora, creeping soft grass and bracken. Characteristic of woodlands on limestone are giant bellflower Campanula latifolia and columbine Aquilegia vulgaris while more unusual species include toothwort Lathraea squamaria, broad-leaved helleborine Epipactis helleborine, mountain melick Melica nutans and hard shield-fern Polystichum aculeatum.
The open woodland rides support a complimentary flora more typical of grassland on limestone with plants such as common twayblade, fairy flax, yellow rattle and ploughman's spikenard Inula conyza occurring widely.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

DENABY INGS SSSI
County: South Yorkshire Site Name: Denaby Ings
District: Doncaster
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SE 500009 Area: 24.5 (ha) 60.6 (ac)

Reasons for Notification:
Denaby Ings lies 1 km north of Mexborough, straddling the old course of the Dearne close to the confluence of the rivers Dearne and Don. The floodplain of the Dearne at this point lies between 10-15m above sea level.
The site was one part of extensive water meadows frequently subject to flooding in winter.
Whereas adjoining meadows have been improved for agriculture and some used for coal spoil disposal, Denaby Ings has remained and, as a result of mining subsidence beginning in the 1905's, and increasing area of open water has developed.
The site recalls the mosaic of open water, reed swamp and neutral grassland which the Dearne valley once contained in abundance. It now represents one of the most diverse wetlands in the county. The open water is predominantly shallow and supports a rich growth of aquatic plants including several pondweeds Potamogeton spp., Canadian pondweed and duckweed Lemna spp. Extensive marginal swamp is largely dominated by reed sweet-grass, but includes fool's water-cress Apium nodiflorum, common clubrush Schoenoplectus lacustris, branched bur-reed Sparganium erectum and bulrush Typha latifolia. The course of the old river Dearne is marked by large crack willow Salix fragilis and alder Alnus glutinosa and mixed deciduous woodland has been planted along the disused railway embankment marking the southern boundary of the site. The remainder of the site largely comprises neutral grassland in which false oatgrass, common bent and Yorkshire fog are dominant but with an abundance of herbs including betony, cowslip and common meadow rue, and a scattering of hawthorn scrub. The site is notable for its breeding bird community which includes typical riparian species such as sedge and reed warblers, mallard and coot together with more unusual waders like little ringed plover and common sandpiper. The wet meadows provide nesting sites for lapwing and yellow wagtail and woodland species such as spotted flycatcher and great spotted woodpecker also feature. A wide range of passage wildfowl and wader species are recorded for the site and regular overwintering parties of whooper swan are a noteworthy feature.
There are extensive invertebrate records and the assemblages of insects and the occurrence of particular species confirm the ancient wetland character of the site and include several close to the northern edge of their range and others which are nationally uncommon. An exceptionally rich fauna of the carabid genus Agonum including the rare Agonum livens has been recorded.
Other unusual species include the willow sawfly Xiphydria prolongata and the snake fly Rhapidia xanthostigma.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

LINDRICK GOLF COURSE SSSI
DISTRICT: ROTHERHAM
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
Local Planning Authority: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 543825, Area: 22.0 (ha.) 54.4 (ac.)
SK 545828,
SK 553827

Description:
The outcrop of Magnesian Limestone running north-south between Rotherham and Doncaster still supports a typical limestone flora where neither agriculture, industry nor residential development have led to severe modification. Lindrick Golf Course occupies what was formerly common land, allowing the survival of a natural flora away from the greens and fairways. Boundaries have been drawn to encompass the concentrations of special interests within this important site and include two disused quarries. Lindrick Dale Quarry is valued for its notable invertebrate fauna. The SSSI supports the largest and one of the most diverse areas of limestone grassland in South Yorkshire.
The mixture of habitats includes grassland, whose composition is dictated by thickness of soil, extent of scrub invasion and frequency of cutting. The two commonest species are tor grass and upright brome Brachypodium pinnatum and Bromus erectus together with such typical lime-loving plants as the carline thistle Carlina vulgaris, the stemless thistle Cirsium acaule on the northern limit of its range, small scabious Scabiosa
columbaria, greater knapweed Centaurea scabiosa, yellow-wort Blackstonia perfoliata, common centaury Centaurium erythraea and spring sedge Carex caryophyllea. Cowslips Primula veris are common, while the thin soils above quarry faces support common rock rose Helianthemum chamaecistus and common Whitlow grass Erophila verna. Grassland plants of particular interest include autumn lady's tresses Spiranthes spiralis, pale St John's wort Hypericum montanum, and rare spring sedge Carex ericetorum. Gorse, scrub, woodland and the marshy fringes of the River Ryton, although not of special interest for their flora, support a number of notable invertebrates. These include the rare crane fly Limonia masoni and the soldier-fly, Stratiomys potamida. The glowworm Lampyris noctiluca is a declining species nationally, found here at two separate locations.
A small pond and associated fen vegetation north of the A57 is the only location within the Rotherham District for the tubular water dropwort Oenanthe fistulosa. Amphibians and reptiles within the site include common lizard, grass snake and both smooth and great crested newts.

NEW EDLINGTON BRICKPIT
District: Doncaster
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
National grid reference: SK 531988 Area: 0.2 (ha) 0.4 (ac)

Description and reasons for notification:
The site is located in a disused brickpit half-a-mile to the west of New Edlington and four south west of Doncaster, on the Magnesian Limestone. The geological interest occurs on the north-eastern face. Most of the pit has been infilled, but this has not obscured the significant strata. Ruderal vegetation partially covers the tipped material. This locality shows the type section of the Permian Edlington Formation (formerly the Middle Marls). This middle portion of the Upper Permian sequence is here 8 metres thick; it consists of red-brown mudstones, siltstone and subordinate evaporates. Lenses and continuous beds of dolomite at the top of the section may be part of the overlying Brotherton Formation.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

MALTBY LOW COMMON
District: Rotherham
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 545913 Area: 6.0 (ha) 14.8 (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Maltby Low Common is situated 1 km east of the town of Maltby on the Middle Permian Marl which overlies the Lower Magnesian Limestone. The calcareous rock outcrops to form Pieces Bank, rising 10–12 m above the remainder.
The base-enriching influence from the bank, together with the neutral and acidic conditions arising from partial leaching of the marl, supports a mosaic of grassland communities with a diversity of flora not yet recognised at any other site in South Yorkshire. Other habitats, such as woodland scrub, bracken and marshy grassland, whilst not in themselves being notable, contribute to an overall diversity, making the site more attractive to birds and invertebrates. Neutral grassland covers much of the site, with Yorkshire fog, sweet vernal-grass, timothy and common bent the principal species. Associated with this community are numerous herbs including wood anemone, yellow rattle Rhinanthus minor, betony Betonica officinalis and common dog-violet. Several more uncommon species are also present including common spotted-orchid Dactylorhiza fuchsii and adder's-tongue Ophioglossum vulgatum.
Pieces Bank bears calcareous grassland in which tor-grass Brachypodium pinnatum, upright brome Bromus erectus and quaking grass Briza media are conspicuous. Common herbs include the greater knapweed Centaurea scabiosa, salad burnet Poterium sanguisorba and cowslip Primula veris, while the grass of Parnassus Parnassia palustris is not found elsewhere in South Yorkshire.
Where the soils are more acidic, grassland dominated by mat-grass Nardus stricta, common bent grass Agrostis tennuis and sheep's fescue Festuca ovina has developed and in which tormentil Potentilla erecta and bugle Ajuga reptans are abundant with small patches of heather Calluna vulgaris and in the wetter areas bog moss Sphagnum spp.
Drainage is impeded towards the centre of the common despite the presence of a water course artificially incised into the marl. Here the marshy grassland or fen communities flourish and tufted hair-grass Deschampsia caespitosa, wild angelica Angelica sylvestris and meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria are abundant. For the most part the fen flora is diverse, with marsh valerian Valeriana dioica, ragged robin Lychnis flos-cuculi, pepper saxifrage Silaum silaus, lesser spearwort Ranunculus flammula and greater bird's-foot trefoil Lotus uliginosus; however, the enriching influence of the central water course is marked by the dominance of great hairy willow herb Epilobium hirsutum and stinging nettles Urtica dioica. Other habitats include a small ephemeral pond fringed by greater reed mace Typha latifolia and areas dominated by bracken. Scrub coalesces to form woodland in parts, while the more mature stands of trees on Pieces Holt include the wild service tree Sorbus torminalis.
The vegetation also provides a suitable mix of habitats for 15 nationally notable invertebrates. Amongst these the national status of the Dipterans (flies) Opomysa punctella and Platypalpus aeneus is classed as vulnerable, while the Lepidopterans Metzneria aprillela (a micro-moth) and Sesia bembeciformis (lunar hornet clearwing moth) are also particularly notable.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

ASHFIELD BRICK PITS SSSI
District: Doncaster
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 515981 Area: 0.56 (ha) 1.43 (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The extraction of clay from this quarry on the southern edge of Conisbrough has exposed several geological strata, ranging from the highest Coal Measures in Yorkshire through Permian
Marl to Magnesian Limestone. Partial filling has to some extent obscured the lower interface and it is the transition from Marl to Limestone that now constitutes its special interest.
The section exposed at Ashfield Brick Pits shows Magnesian Limestone overlying Permian Marl and basal sands. An abundant fauna has been obtained from the Wetherby Member. This lithostratigraphic unit displays a wide variety of facies, from grey marls and clays to shelly ooid grainstones. The site includes a fossiliferous bryozoan patch reef, with flanking grainstones and oolites. This locality is unique in displaying such a wide variety of(predominantly carbonate) facies in the Permian rocks of the Yorkshire Province.

WOOD LEE COMMON SSSI
District: Rotherham
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 533915
Ordnance Survey Sheet 1:50,000: 111 1:10,000: SK 59 SW
Area (Ha): 6.4149

Description and Reasons for Notification:
This shallow valley running NW–SE through the Magnesian Limestone just to the south-west of Maltby, exhibits fine exposures of the Marine Permian strata on its north eastern slope.
Although supporting calcareous grassland, scrub and woodland it is the geological features which contribute its special interest.
This is an important site, displaying various patch-reef subfacies in the Wetherby Member of the Magnesian Limestone. Numerous outcrops of algal/bryozoan patch-reefs have been eroded into a series of upstanding crags. Many of these are highly weathered and this picks out the internal structure of these reefs. The reefs can be seen in three dimensions and their material make-up, with sack-shaped, stacked algal bryozoan masses, discerned.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

ROCHE ABBEY WOODLANDS SSSI
District: Rotherham
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981
Local Planning Authority: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 542899 Area: 52.8 (ha) 143.8 (ac)

Reasons for Notification:
The Roche Abbey Woodlands lie on the Magnesian limestone immediately south east of Maltby and include the wooded valley slopes and rocky crags around Roche Abbey. Although the majority of the site comprises woodland it includes also areas of marshy grassland and calcareous grassland.
This site is the most important woodland for nature conservation on the southern parts of the Magnesian limestone in Great Britain and is the largest of its type in South Yorkshire. The semi-natural parts include examples of rare woodland types, notably calcareous sessile oakash-wych elm and sessile oak-ash-lime, and the structure approximates to a natural state which is very rare indeed amongst lowland mixed broadleaf woods. Large-leaved lime is unusually common and like other ancient semi-natural woods this site contains a range of natural soils. The main tree species are sessile oak, ash, lime (both small-leaved and large-leaved), wych elm and silver birch. Hazel, holly and yew are common in the understorey while less frequently occurring shrubs include buckthorn Rhamnus catharticus, field maple, spindle, wild privet and wild service tree Sorbus torminalis.
The field layer contains a number of species largely confined to ancient woodlands including Lily-of-the-valley Convallaria majalis, yellow star of Bethlehem Gagea lutea, green helleborine Helleborus viridis, toothwort Lathraea squamaria, hard shield fern Polystichum aculeatum and wood barley Hordelymus europaeus.
In the valley bottom alder and willow carr is developing to replace marshy grassland and the swamp vegetation around the margins of Laughton Pond. Together with areas of calcareous grassland and scrub on the northern most valley slopes of Norwood these habitats, although subsidiary to the main woodland interest of the site, contribute significantly to the botanical and entomological interest of the site as a whole.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

BRADGATE BRICKWORKS
District: Rotherham
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 413935 Area: 0.9 (ha) 2.2 (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The disused Bradgate Quarry lies one mile to the west of Rotherham town centre. The special interest is within an exposed quarry face.
This is the best available exposure of strata lying immediately above the Clay Cross Marine
Band (= Vanderbeckei Marine Band, Westphalian B – Middle Carboniferous) in the Pennine coalfields. The marine band itself is poorly exposed here, and has only yielded a Lingula facies fauna. However, the 30 or so metres of overlying non-marine sediments are very well seen and include the Lidgett Coal Seam, a useful marker horizon which occurs over a wide area. Several beds of shale contain non-marine bivalves which seem to belong to the Anthracosia regularis
Subzone (middle Anthraconaia modiolaris Biozone) and this is probably the best site in the country for yielding this fauna. As an aid to interpreting the development of the Coal Measures in the Pennines basin-complex, the most important source of coal in Great Britain, this site is of considerable scientific interest

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SPROTBROUGH GORGE
District: Doncaster
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SE 534007 Area: 76.9 (ha) 190.1 (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The River Don passes through the Magnesian Limestone west of Doncaster via the Sprotbrough Gorge. Although much of the slopes have been quarried for their particularly pure limestone used in the glass industry, fragments of ancient woodland remain. Together with other features such as marshland and open water, they provide an important mosaic for invertebrate species and birds.
North-west and south-east facing slopes of the Gorge bear calcareous ash-wych elm woodland (southern variant) in Pot Ridings, Levitt Hagg, Engine, Farcliff and Nearcliff Woods. Wych elm, ash and sycamore are typically abundant in the canopy, with field maple, silver birch, pedunculate oak, yew, small and large-leaved lime, crab-apple and wild cherry. Collectively, they are among the three best examples of this type in the county. The shrub layer is diverse and well-developed, with hazel, hawthorn, elder, dogwood, guelder rose, wild privet, holly, field rose, goat willow, buckthorn and spindle. The field layer is very rich and also diverse, with dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis, ramsons Allium ursinum, wood anemone Anemone nemorosa, wood sedge Carex sylvatica, enchanter's nightshade Circaea lutetiana and sanicle Sanicula europaea.
The north-western parts of Pot Ridings Wood support a nationally notable invertebrate fauna, many of the species being particularly associated with ancient woodland sites. Beetles, such as Scaphidema metallicum, flies, such as Mycomya ornata and the bush cricket Meconema thalassinum are associated with the foliage or dead wood of the trees and the tree-associated fungi, while other species, such as the crane-fly Limonia masoni, are found within the herb Layer or humus soils.
Sprotbrough Flash is a water-filled subsidence area lying parallel to the River Don and is fringed with tall marginal plants, particularly reed sweet grass Glyceria maxima. It is regionally notable for its breeding birds, including water fowl such as Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Gadwall and Tufted Duck.
Small areas of limestone grassland occur, such as to the south of Nursery Lane Quarry, and although not in themselves regionally notable, they are of local importance and add diversity to the Gorge. They include attractive plants such as bee orchid Ophyrs apifera and cowslip Primula veris. Likewise, Fowlsyke Flash is of local importance and has a good range of aquatic plants by comparison with other water-bodies in the region, with spiked water milfoil Myriophyllum spicatum and rigid horn wort Ceratophyllum demersum.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

ANSTON STONES WOOD
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981
Local Planning Authority: Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 531831 Area: 33.7 (ha) 88.3 (ac)

Reasons for Notification:
Anston Stones Wood is situated 6–7 km north west of Worksop in the Anston Brook valley- and lies between 60–110 m above sea level.
The site is underlain by Lower Magnesian Limestone which outcrops as natural crags on the valley slopes and within the railway cutting.
Anston Stones Wood contains the second best example of limestone woodland in South Yorkshire. It is ranked second to Kings Wood which contains a greater variety of woodland stand types. The lower valley slopes support ash Fraxinus excelsior – wych elm Ulmus glabra woodland. Both native species of lime Tilia cordata and Tilia platyphyllos, yew Taxus baccata, field maple Acer campestre and rowan Sorbus aucuparia are commonly associated with this stand type. Dogwood Cornus sanguinea, hazel Corylus avellana, holly Ilexaquifolium, guelder rose Viburnum opulus, and elder Sambucus nigra are common in theunderstorey with less frequently buckthorn Rhamnus catharticus, spindle Euonymus europaeus and wild privet Ligustrum vulgare. The field layer which is largely dominated by dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis, enchanter's nightshade Circaea lutetiana and ivy Hedera helix contains several uncommon plants such as early dog-violet Viola reichen-bachiana, toothwort Lathraea squamaria, wood barley Hordelymus europaeus, fingered sedge Carex digitata and mountain melick Melica nutans. These species are generally confined to ancient woodland and have a very limited distribution in South Yorkshire.
The upper valley slopes and plateau are characterised by oak Quercus spp., - ash-lime woodland which also contains substantial numbers of birch Betula spp. Alder woodland features along the streamside and contains the uncommon pendulous sedge Carex pen-dula. The remaining areas of woodland consist of beech Fagus sylvatica plantation and in places sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus.
Within the site is an area of ungrazed species-rich limestone grassland dominated by up-right brome Bromus erectus and tor-grass Brachypodium pinnatum but with species such as quakinggrass Briza media, cowslip Primula veris, yellow-wort Blackstonia perfoliata and yellow rattle Rhinanthus minor being frequent.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

DYSCARR WOOD
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
DISTRICT: BASSETLAW/ROTHERHAM
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended
Local Planning Authority: BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SK 581871 Area: 18.51 (ha.) 45.72 (ac.)

Reasons for Notification:
The site comprises one of the best examples of a calcareous ash-wych elm wood in Nottinghamshire and is representative of semi-natural woodland on limestone soils in the English North Midlands.
Biology
A fine example of an ash-wych elm wood developed on soils derived from the Permian Upper Magnesian Limestone. Over most of its area the wood is dominated by ash Fraxinus excelsior, together with birch Betula pendula, wych elm Ulmus glabra, sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus and oak Quercus robur. The understorey contains abundant hazel Corylus avellana and hawthorn Crataegus monogyna together with field maple Acer campestre, dogwood Swida sanguinea, elder Sambucus nigra, privet Ligustrum vulgare and sloe Prunus spinosa. The ground vegetation is characterised by an abundance of dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis, enchanter's nightshade Circaea lutetiana, false brome Brachypodium sylvaticum, hedge woundwort Stachys sylvatica and sanicle Sanicula europaea, together with a range of herbs indicative of ancient woodland including sweet woodruff Asperula odorata, ramsoms Allium ursinum, yellow archangel Galeobdolon luteum and wood melick Melica uniflora. Of particular interest is the presence of the gladdon Iris foetidissima at one of its most northerly British stations. A number of small watercourses cross the site and the water table is very close to the surface. Where the soils are wet there is a change to woodland dominated by alder Alnus glutinosa, together with crack willow Salix fragilis. The shrub and ground layer vegetation is similar to that of the ash-wych elm wood but locally meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria and hemp agrimony Eupatorium cannabinum dominate the ground vegetation. To the north-east of the site the wood gives way to grassland, marsh and scrub. Wetter areas are dominated by Filipendula ulmaria and Eupatorium cannabinum in a marsh community which includes marsh thistle Cirsium palustre, spotted orchid Dactylorhiza fuchsii, lesser spearwort Ranunculus flammula, marsh valerian Valeriana dioica and common yellow-sedge Carex demissa. Additional interest here is provided by the occurrence of a large number of small pools. The diversity of habitats present provides ideal conditions for varied breeding bird, amphibian and insect faunas.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SITE NAME: GINNY SPRING, WHITWELL WOOD
DISTRICT: BOLSOVER SITE REF: 15 WMP
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Bolsover District Council
National Grid Reference: SK 520788 Area: 4.2 (ha.) 10.4 (ac.)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Ginny Spring is a small flush on the Magnesian Limestone. It has a very rich flora including species such as marsh helleborine Epipactis palustris, green helleborine Epipactis phyllanthes and broad-leaved cotton-grass Eriophorum latifolium which are rare in the north midlands and for which this is the only known site in Derbyshire. Other plants present which are also rare in Derbyshire include common butterwort Pinguicula vulgaris, bog pimpernel Anagallis tenella, columbine Aquilegia vulgaris, fragrant orchid Gymnadenia conopsea, few-flowered spikerush Eleocharis quinqueflora and bird's nest orchid Neottia nidus-avis.
The flush is surrounded by woodland and scrub composed of alder Alnus glutinosa, birch Betula pubescens and B. pendula, ash Fraxinus excelsior and alder buckthorn Frangula alnus.

SITE NAME: BILHAM SAND PITS
District: Doncaster
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and
Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster
National Grid Reference: SE 487066 Area: 0.19 (ha) 0.08 (ac)

Description:
This site lies g mile north of the village of Hickleton to the west of Doncaster, overlying Permian sediments.
The basal Permian sands are more patchily developed in the Yorkshire Province than in the Durham Province and Bilham provides an excellent section through the sands and overlying limestones of the Cadeby formation (Zechstein Cycle 1). The lower part of the Cadeby Formation yields an abundant but, in terms of species, restricted shelly fauna, including Bakewellia and Schizodus. This is one of a very few sites in this part of the Zechstein Basin showing the basal Magnesian Limestone overlying non-marine Permian sediments.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

9.1

SITE NAME: HOLLINHILL AND MARKLAND GRIPS
DISTRICT: BOLSOVER SITE REF: 15 WMT
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, as amended.
Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Bolsover District Council
National Grid Reference: SK 510750 Area: 20.7 (ha.) 51.1 (ac.)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Hollinhill and Markland Grips lie between Clowne and Cresswell in the north east corner of Derbyshire. The site lies on the narrow band of Magnesian Limestone which runs south from Durham to the Derbyshire-Nottinghamshire border. At this southern end it is cut by a series of valleys often with vertical cliff-like sides, one of the most striking examples of which is known as Hollinhill and Markland Grips. Hollinhill and Markland Grips run east-west consequently there is a contrast between the vegetation of the north and south facing slopes and cliffs, the north facing being moist and subject to less temperature fluctuation. Magnesian and Carboniferous limestone grasslands in Derbyshire differ from each other in the presence or relative abundance of a number of plants that cannot be accounted for by differences in altitude, topography or climate. Tor-grass Brachypodium pinnatum dominates the dryer Magnesian Limestone grasslands but is uncommon on the Carboniferous Limestone. Common centaury Centaurium erythraea like tor grass is uncommon on the Carboniferous but common on the Magnesian Limestone and yellow-wort Blackstonia perfoliata is common in wetter areas in the Magnesian Limestone but absent from semi-natural sites on the Carboniferous Limestone. Unimproved Magnesian Limestone grassland is generally uncommon and at many sites has been depleted by scrub and woodland encroachment. At Hollinhill and Markland Grips larger areas have survived than at other similar sites. The floor of Markland Grips consists of damp calcareous grassland which is grazed. The presence of adder's-tongue Ophioglossum vulgatum, confirms its unimproved nature . The warmer dryer grassland below the south facing crags is locally dominated by tor grass. However on the plateau, in clearings in the scrub and woodland and above the edges of the crags grassland is dominated by false brome Brachypodium sylvaticum and glaucous sedge Carex flacca. In places the nationally rare soft-leaved sedge Carex montana occurs with saw-wort Serratula tinctoria and other more common calcareous grassland herbs. In one area where the valley opens out to a less steep profile red fescue Festuca rubra and spring-sedge Carex caryophyllea are dominant with common rock-rose Helianthemum nummularium and salad burnet Sanguisorba minor and a wide range of other species. In this area another notable species the rare spring-sedge Carex ericetorum is present.
The woodland and scrub on the crags and on the scree below is very varied with pedunculate oak Quercus robur and birch Betula pubescens and Betula pendula where the soils have become leached and ash Fraxinus excelsior and wych elm Ulmus glabra elsewhere with small-leaved lime Tilia cordata and wild service-tree Sorbus torminalis. Of particular note is the presence of the nationally rare largeleaved lime Tilia platyphyllos along the cliff top and the abundance of yew Taxus baccata along the cliff edge. The scarce wood barley Hordelymus europaeus is scattered throughout the woodland. The scrub is notable for the presence of alder buckthorn Frangula alnus here found in dryer and more calcareous conditions than elsewhere in Derbyshire. Hazel Corylus avellana is the dominant shrub on the cliff tops and edges but elder Sambucus nigra is dominant in the moist areas below the cliffs and on the scree. The nationally rare mountain currant Ribes alpinum is present in these areas. Little is at present known about the fauna of the grips although the scrub is important for many nesting birds and provides winter food for many others. What is known of the invertebrates suggests that a rich fauna is present. Hollinhill and Markland Grips are part of a series of international archaeological and geological sites centered on Cresswell Crags which are of interest for their Quaternary deposits.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SITE NAME: MOSS VALLEY
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
DISTRICT: NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE, SITE REF: 15 WMN
SHEFFIELD
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended
Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North East
Derbyshire District Council, Sheffield City Council
National Grid Reference: SK 415802 Area: 25.9 (ha.) 63.9 (ac.)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The Moss Valley is situated on the eastern side of the Pennines to the south of the City of Sheffield, and is virtually surrounded by urbanisation and industrialisationwhich contrasts sharply with its rural character and semi-natural vegetation. It is a wide valley of about 10 square km formed by the Moss Brook and its tributaries which rise at its western end. The Moss Brook is a small, fast-flowing stream of high quality water. The valley lies on the shales and sandstones of the Lower Coal Measures of the Upper Carboniferous period, producing a wide range of soil types and fertility. The site includes the Moss Brook from near Ford village in the west, to Eckington in the east. It contains wet habitats of the valley bottom associated with the brook and its flood plain, and the bogs and open water of several derelict mill ponds. There are areas of open marshy grassland, shady wet woodland, old hedgerows, ditches, and scrub. The meanders of the brook produce high, shaley banks and pools. The woodland and field boundaries contain old and rotting trees and much fallen dead wood. This diverse mosaic of topographic features and vegetation types supports rich assemblages of invertebrates, including nationally rare species. The site provides essential habitats for the life cycles of these invertebrates, many of which are at the edge of their range here. The wet woodlands are dominated by alder Alnus glutinosa, with crack willow Salix fragilis, ash Fraxinus excelsior and sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus. The understorey contains hawthorn Crataegus monogyna, hazel Corylus avellana and willows Salix spp. The ground flora is dominated by bramble Rubus fruticosus, wood club-rush Scirpus sylvaticus and great willowherb Epilobium hirsutum, with reed canary-grass Phalaris arundinacea, wild angelica Angelica sylvestris and
common marsh-bedstraw Galium palustre. There are two types of drier woodland. Some areas are predominantly sessile oak Quercus petraea and silver birch Betula pendula with a ground flora of wavy hair-grass Deschampsia flexuosa and creeping soft-grass Holcus mollis. Elsewhere wych elm Ulmus glabra and sycamore are dominant, with birch, ash and alder locally abundant. The understorey contains oak and hazel and the ground flora includes wood melick Melica uniflora, dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis, ivy Hedera helix and yellow archangel Galeobdolon luteum. The range of woodland types and their component of dead or dying timber makes them or special importance for invertebrate communities. The neutral grasslands are dominated by creeping bent Agrostis stolonifera and Yorkshire-fog Holcus lanatus with devil's-bit scabious Succisa pratensis and betony Stachys officinalis. Areas of marshy grassland are dominated by tufted hairgrass Deschampsia cespitosa and rushes Juncus spp. with bulrush Typha latifolia in the wettest areas. There is a diversity of wet grassland plants here including common bistort Polygonum bistorta, common spike-rush Eleocharis palustris, greater bird's-foot-trefoil Lotus uliginosus and marsh ragwort Senecio aquaticus. The site is of special interest for its range of invertebrate species. The beetle and
hoverfly fauna associated with dead and dying timber is of particular importance.
Beetles include the net-winged beetle Pyropterus nigroruber, the larvae of which live in dead wood, and Hylecoetus dermestoides which requires dying wood. Hoverflies include Melangyna guttata, the larvae of which feed on aphids in ancient woodland sites, and Xylota florum which requires dead wood in wet woodland. At least two other nationally scarce species and seven species of regional significance associated with overmature timber are found here. About 30 species which are recognised as indicating a continuity of cover by mature woodland have so far been recorded. Other uncommon species present include those associated with acidic wet grassland such as the cranefly Prionocera pubescens and others such as the digger wasp Lindenius albilabris which requires open sandy soil in which to nest. A total of 14 nationally scarce species has been recorded from the site.
The area is important for grass snakes Natrix natrix which inhabit the wet grassland areas of the Moss Brook. Great crested newts Triturus cristatus are recorded from the site and the native British freshwater crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes is found in the waters of the Moss Brook. The valley is also important for breeding birds. Species recorded from the site include green woodpecker Picus viridus, great spotted woodpecker Dendrocopos major, tawny owl Strix aluco, kingfisher Alcedo atthis and grey wagtail Motacilla cinerea

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SITE NAME: MOSS VALLEY MEADOWS
DISTRICT: NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE SITE REF: 15 WM7
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North East Derbyshire District Council
National Grid Reference: SK 385822, Area: 16.7 (ha.) 41.2 (ac.)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The Moss Valley is situated on the eastern side of the Pennines on the south side of the City of Sheffield. It is a wide valley of about 4 square miles formed by the Moss Brook and its tributaries which rise at the western end of the valley. The Moss Brook is a small fast-flowing stream of high quality water. The valley is situated on the shales and sandstones of the Lower Coal Measures (Upper Carboniferous), giving a wide range of soil types and fertility. The area is virtually surrounded by urbanisation and industrialisation, contrasting sharply with the rural semi-natural communities of the Moss Valley. The landscape consists of a mosaic of arable and pasture fields with many old hedgerows, woodlands, green lanes, small wetland areas, ditches and water courses. The site comprises three separate sections, all on north-facing slopes.
The soils of the meadows are neutral to acidic with many areas of flushing. The meadows form a series of species-rich grasslands reflecting the type of soil and are the most diverse examples from the few remaining unimproved pastures in the Moss Valley and the adjacent lower-lying areas of NE Derbyshire where very few semi-natural grasslands now remain. The plant and animal communities include several local and rare species. The dry grasslands, found mainly on the central and northern sections of the site, are dominated by bent grass Agrostis sp. and fescue Festuca sp. and are characterised by dyer's greenweed Genista tinctoria, betony Stachys officinalis and cowslip Primula veris. Other species include lousewort Pedicularis sylvatica, burnet-saxifrage Pimpinella saxifraga, and abundant purging flax Linum
atharticum, growing in an uncharacteristic assemblage of species. The wet grasslands, found mainly on the southern section of the site are dominated by bent grass, sedges Carex spp., rushes Juncus spp. and tufted hair-grass Deschampsia cespitosa, and are characterised by carnation sedge Carex panicea, sharp-flowered rush Juncus acutiflorus, jointed rush J. articulatus, marsh-marigold Caltha palustris and lesser spearwort Ranunculus flammula. Other species include southern marsh-orchid Dactylorhiza praetermissa, ragged-robin Lychnis floscuculi, hoary ragwort Senecio erucifolius and an abundance of the locally scarce sneezewort Achillea ptarmica. Most of the meadows are surrounded by old hedgerows from which 16 shrub species have been recorded, including field maple Acer campestre, blackthorn Prunus spinosa and aspen Populus tremula. Hedgerow trees include pedunculate oak Quercus robur, wych elm Ulmus glabra and alder Alnus glutinosa. The hedgerow flora includes many woodland species such as yellow archangel Lamiastrum galeobdolon and wood anemone Anemone nemorosa. Ancient woodland of ash Fraxinus excelsior and wych elm forms part of the northern-most section of the site, with oak Quercus sp., wild cherry Prunus avium and rowan Sorbus aucuparia. Within these areas some beech and sycamore have been planted. The understorey of hawthorn Crataegus monogyna and holly Ilex aquifolium has regenerating ash, oak and hawthorn beneath.
The site has a wide range of insects with an abundance of common butterflies, including common blue Polyomnatus icarus. Two rare hoverflies, Xylota florum and Syrphus torvus have been recorded.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SITE NAME: MOSS VALLEY WOODS
DISTRICT: NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE SITE REF: 15 W1W
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended
Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, North East Derbyshire District Council
National Grid Reference: SK 372801, SK 382800 Area: 17.69 (ha.) 43.69 (ac.)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
The Moss Valley lies to the east of the Pennines, just south of Sheffield and has an underlying geology of shales and sandstones from the lower Coal Measures. The valley is low-lying and rural with an altitude ranging from 45 m to 200 m. The River Moss and its tributaries drain the valley, the headwaters rising on the outskirts of Sheffield and flowing east to join the River Rother just beyond the valley. Much of the valley has remained wooded over the years; a high proportion of these woods being classified as ancient.
Two of these woodlands, Whinacre Wood and Brownstorth Wood are ancient and semi-natural with largely undisturbed ground floras and relatively unmodified canopies.
Whinacre Wood is a dry oak woodland, characterised not only by the large proportion of oak in the canopy layer, but also by a ground flora of bluebell Hyacinthoides non-scripta and creeping soft-grass Holcus mollis with patches of bracken Pteridium aquilinum and bramble Rubus fruticosus. Much of the oak would appear to be the natural hybrid between English oak Quercus robur and sessile oak Q. petraea; which is Q. x rosacea. Whinacre Wood is a fine example of an oak woodland where the canopy has had very little modification over the years and the ground flora has suffered very little from disturbance. Brownstorth Wood contains several different woodland plant communities. Oak woodland (the oak again being largely Q. x rosacea), with bluebell, creeping softgrass and bramble, forms a large proportion of the site, with the wetter areas containing tufted hair-grass Deschampsia cespitosa and stands of ferns such as male fern Dryopteris filix-mas and lady fern Athyrium filix-femina. There is a good mix of canopy species in this wood, with significant numbers of ash Fraxinus excelsior, elm Ulmus sp. rowan Sorbus aucuparia and birch Betula pendula and B. pubescens
in addition to the oak. The understorey is mainly holly Ilex aquifolium with some hawthorn Crataegus
monogyna and there is a large block of coppiced hazel Corylus avellana; an important habitat for breeding birds. The ground flora is species-rich, many of the plants being ancient woodland indicators such as yellow archangel Lamiastrum galeobdolon which is abundant, and wood sorrel Oxalis acetosella and sweet woodruff Galium odoratum which cover extensive areas. Bluebell, dog's mercury Mercurialis perennis and honeysuckle Lonicera periclymenum are also abundant, while ramsons Allium ursinum carpets the ground in the wetter parts. Wood anemone Anemone nemorosa and wood melick Melica uniflora are found occasionally. Alder Alnus glutinosa is the dominant tree growing alongside the streams and is found together with stands of ramsons, tufted hairgrass, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage Chrysosplenium oppositifolium, remote sedge Carex remota and townhall clock Adoxa moschatellina. The dead and dying timber is invaluable for many species of beetle and two hoverfly species which are ancient woodland indicators: Sphegina elegans and Criorhina berberina have been recorded from Whinacre Wood. The white-letter hairstreak butterfly Strymonidia w-album breeds on the elms in Brownstorth Wood. This species is at the northern edge of its range here and is rare and declining in the region.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SITE NAME: NEEPSEND RAILWAY
CUTTING
DISTRICT: SHEFFIELD
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
Local Planing Authority: Sheffield City Council
National Grid Reference: SK 344894 Area: 1.4 (ha.) 3.5 (ac.)

Description:
The rock outcrops are within the eastern side of a railway cutting, to the north of the Sheffield conurbation.
This is the best available exposure in the eastern Pennines area of the sequence between the Crawshaw Sandstone Formation and the Norton Coal (lower Westphalian ACarboniferous). It shows a predominantly lacustrine sequence, with abundant nonmarine bivalves of the Carbonicola lenisulcata Biozone. There is also some evidence of the periodic marine incursions that characterize the lower Westphalian A sequence of northern Britain. It provides a valuable comparison with the coeval sequences found further to the west such as Goyt's Moss and Upholland, and allows a more complete palaeogeographical reconstruction to be achieved for this early part of the Westphalian. A site of considerable scientific interest

Site name: Styrrup Quarry
District: Bassetlaw
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
Local Planning Authority: Bassetlaw District Council
National Grid Reference: SK 605902 Area: 0.3 (ha) (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Styrrup Quarry is a non-working quarry lying at the south-western edge of the village of Styrrup in north Nottinghamshire.
The north-eastern face of the quarry provides an extensive exposure of the Nottingham Castle Formation (Sherwood Sandstone Group, Triassic). The face shows a succession of accreted sand bodies in a section approximately at right angles to the palaeocurrent direction. As such, the section is complementary to that seen in the nearby Scrooby Top Quarry, where exposures are parallel to the current direction. Study of both sites together is therefore essential to the understanding of the facies of the Nottingham Castle Sandstone. The bounding surfaces between the larger packages of sediment seen at Styrrup have a lenticular form and a hierarchy of such surfaces can be recognised. The most persistent surfaces are interpreted as representing the migration of the channel belt. Lower order forms are interpreted as defining laterally and vertically accreted packages of sediments and the form of second order channel fills. Study of these structures provides a valuable insight into the nature of British Triassic palaeoenvironments and depositional processes.
Styrrup Quarry is a key site for studies of Triassic fluvial sediments and has additional educational potential.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

Site Name: Wadsley Fossil Forest
District: Sheffield
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Sheffield City Council
National Grid Reference: SK 318913 Area: 0.3 (ha) 0.7 (ac)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
This small site lies on the south-western side of the Don Valley, approximately 5 km north west of Sheffield city centre, within the grounds of Middlewood Hospital. The included sandstone bed contains a number of in situ fossil tree stumps, two of which have been exposed for many years. They are considered to be the best preserved example in the British Isles of trees which were part of the extensive coal forming swamp forests growing some 300 million years ago during the Westphalian, a sub-division of the Carboniferous Period.
Such preserved stumps provide a useful insight into the growth-habit of arborescent clubmosses and into the community structure of the forest. They also clarify details of how the trees were killed and how they became entombed in the sediment. The site is thus of considerable palaeobotanical interest.

SITE NAME: NEEPSEND BRICKWORKS
DISTRICT: SHEFFIELD
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
Local Planning Authority: Sheffield City Council
National Grid Reference: SK 350 891 Area: 4.3 (ha.) 10.6 (ac.)

Description:
Situated in open space within the City of Sheffield, this site displays a series of sheet rock faces of an abandoned quarry. Adjacent to the SSSI is an industrial estate*, behind which are the rock faces of special geological interest.
This is the best available exposure of the Greenmoor Rock Formation, a local variant of the Elland Flags Formation to the north and the Wingfield Flags Formation to the south. It is one of the most important sandstone intervals in the lower Westphalian A (Middle Carboniferous) of the Pennines area, and its sedimentology has been thoroughly investigated. Exposed here are sediments which show three coarsening upward cycles, with a wide variety of trace fossils and other sedimentary structures, including well preserved examples of Limulicubichnus, the resting traces of limulid arthropods. It is interpreted as a rapidly deposited deltaic system which extended into a flood-basin lake. It is a site of considerable importance for understanding the genesis of the non-marine deltaic systems in the Middle Carboniferous, and is of national scientific importance.
* NB The industrial estate is only partially marked on the SSSI boundary map.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

Site Name: Potteric Carr
District: Doncaster
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981.
Local Planning Authority: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SE 599003 Area: 118.6 (ha) 293.0 (ac)

Reasons for Notification:
This site is located 3 km south of Doncaster in the vicinity of a formerly extensive wetland complex of the same name, which occupied the flood plain of the river Torne and which was probably fully reclaimed before this century.
The present Potteric Carr has developed as the result of mining subsidence beginning in the early 1905's (but occurring particularly between 1960–67), which caused the flooding and severe waterlogging of former agricultural land and woodland. A mosaic of open water, reed bed, wet grassland and carr habitats was thus created which now represents the largest and most diverse wetland of its type in the county.
The open water and drains support an abundant and representative aquatic flora including several species of pondweed Potamogeton spp., duckweeds Lemna spp., amphibious bistort, whorled water-milfoil Myriophyllum verticilatum and water violet Hottonia palustris.
The extensive reed beds consist mainly of common reed and bulrush but include also reed sweet-grass, yellow iris and great pond sedge Carex riparia. Whereas these species may form near monocultures the emergent and marginal aquatic vegetation is in places more diverse and includes lesser water-plantain Baldellia ranunculoides, water dock Rumex hydrolapathum, tufted sedge Carex acuta, common spike-rush Eleocharis palustris, marsh pennywort
Hydrocotyle vulgaris and lesser spearwort Ranunculus flammula.
The reed beds grade into wet grassland and wet woodland. The wet grassland is largely dominated by tall herbs such as meadowsweet and great willowherb together with rushes
Juncus spp., but includes a range of sedges, for example, hammer sedge Carex hirta, common yellow-sedge Carex demissa and false fox-sedge Carex otrubae.
The wet woodland which is dominated by willow Salix spp., contains plants such as purple small-reed Calamagrostis canescens and meadow rue Thalictrum flavum. Recent oak and birch woodland occurs in drier parts of the site and notably on the railway embankment which cross the site. Where these embankments remain open the limestone ballast of their construction has permitted the development of an unusual limestone flora including species such as pyramidal orchid Anacamptis pyramidalis, ploughman's spikenard Inula conyza and yellow-wort
Blackstonia perfoliata.
Vegetational diversity is reflected in an equally varied fauna; the assemblages of invertebrates and birds being particularly notable. A number of insects recorded here are scarce in the county and close to the northern edge of their range, for example the beetle Anthocomus rufus and the fly Phonia atriceps. Some are nationally scarce, for example the cranefly Tanyptera
nigricornis.
Over 70 species of birds have been recorded breeding regularly at this site with particularly good populations of riparian species such as reed warbler and sedge warbler; waders, including lapwing and snipe, and wildfowl such as tufted duck and coot. The site also attracts good numbers of overwintering and passage waders and wildfowl.
Other Information:
1. Potteric Carr is a Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust reserve.
2. Site boundary changed at renotification by partial deletion.

9. APPENDIX 3 SSSI Citations

9.1 Citations from the SSSI within the 15km buffer are included below.

SITE NAME: CRABTREE WOOD
DISTRICT: BOLSOVER SITE REF: 15 WML
Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.
Local Planning Authority: DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, Bolsover District Council
National Grid Reference: SK 490785 Area: 3.5 (ha.) 8.6 (ac.)

Description and Reasons for Notification:
Biological Interest
The site consists of a small flushed area which formed part of a former sand quarry. It now lies within Crabtree Wood and has remained open where base-rich water seeps from the basal layers of the Permian (Magnesian) limestone.
The site has one of the two test base-rich flushes known in Derbyshire on the Permian limestone. It has an extremely diverse flora including many characteristic and some locally rare species. It includes calcareous grassy banks, spoil heaps and a wet flush with base-rich and acidic components.
Over much of the flush glaucous sedge Carex flacca, lesser spearwort Ranunculus flammula and meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria are abundant but within this are pockets of acidic vegetation with common cottongrass Eriophorum angustifolium and yellow sedge Carex demissa.
Yellow wort Blackstonia perfoliata a species typical of the Magnesian limestone but almost absent from the Derbyshire Carboniferous limestone is abundant in the grassland.
Narrow buckler-fern Dryopteris carthusiana occurs on the plantation margin.