



Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan

Environmental Report to accompany Regulation
14 consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan

Ripley Town Council

June 2021

Quality information

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorised	Name	Position
01	09/06/2021	First draft	LM	Laurie Marriott	Graduate Urban Planner
02	15/06/2021	Review	IM	Ian McCluskey	Associate Director
03	22/06/2021	Group Review	LM	Linda McCormick	Ripley Town Clerk
04	13/07/2021	Locality Review	JW	John Wilkinson	Neighbourhood Planning Officer

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Acronyms

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ALC	Agricultural Land Classification
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
DBEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DPA	Dwellings per Annum
DPD	Development Plan Document
EA	Environment Agency
GCN	Great Crested Newt
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LNR	Local Nature Reserves
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Area (Census statistical output area)
MHCLG	Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
MSOA	Middle Layer Super Output Area (Census statistical output area)
NCA	National Character Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WHS	World Heritage Site

1. Non-Technical Summary

What is a Strategic Environmental Assessment?

A strategic environmental assessment has been undertaken to inform the Ripley Neighbourhood (NP) review. This process is required by the SEA Regulations.

NP groups use SEA to assess Neighbourhood Plans against a set of sustainability / environmental objectives developed in consultation with interested parties. The purpose of the assessment is to avoid adverse environmental and socio-economic effects through the NP and identify opportunities to improve the environmental quality of the area covered by the NP and the quality of life of residents.

What is the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan?

The Ripley NP presents a plan for the Ripley Parish. The plan is an update on a previously 'made' version of the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015). It seeks to update policies to ensure conformity with the emerging Amber Valley Local Plan (now withdrawn), whilst making the plan more effective by reviewing the wording of existing policies and adding new policies. The updated Ripley NP will help to shape development in the area until 2028. It has been prepared in the context of the Amber Valley Local Plan (2006) and sets out a vision and range of policies for the NP area; these relate to the high-level topics including housing, open and green space, environment, economy and transport.

Purpose of the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report, which accompanies the current consultation on the Ripley NP, is the second document to be produced as part of the SEA process. The first document was the SEA Scoping Report (April 2021), which includes information about the NP area's environment and community.

The purpose of the Environmental Report is to:

- Identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Ripley NP and any alternatives deemed reasonable; and
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to offer views on any aspect of the SEA process which has been carried out to date.

The Environmental Report contains:

- An outline of the contents and main objectives of the Ripley NP and its relationship with other relevant policies, plans and programmes;
- Relevant aspects of the current and future state of the environment and key sustainability / environmental issues;
- The SEA Framework of objectives against which the Ripley NP has been assessed;
- The justification for determining that there were not any reasonable alternative approaches for the Ripley NP;
- The likely significant environmental effects of the Ripley NP;

- The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects as a result of the Ripley NP; and
- Potential monitoring measures.

Scoping

The scoping stage involves the collection of information relating to:

- the state of the environment in the plan area; *and*
- relevant objectives and targets set out within plans, policies and programmes.

This information allowed for a range of key issues to be identified, and to establish what topics should be the focus of the SEA. The scoping process led to the following topics being scoped in or out of the SEA. These topics then formed the basis of an SEA Framework, which underpins the process of appraising the Plan (and reasonable alternatives).

- Air Quality: **Scoped out**
- Biodiversity: **Scoped in**
- Climatic change resilience: **Scoped in**
- Climate change mitigation: **Scoped in**
- Health and wellbeing: **Scoped out**
- Historic environment: **Scoped in**
- Landscape: **Scoped in**
- Minerals: **Scoped out**
- Population and housing: **Scoped in**
- Soil and land: **Scoped out**
- Water quality and resources: **Scoped out**
- Transport and accessibility: **Scoped out**

Assessment of Alternative Approaches for the Ripley NP

Due to the fact that this is a NP review, it was deemed unreasonable for the plan to identify alternative spatial strategies in relation to housing and employment delivery. The group wanted to retain their existing housing allocations as well as allocating one additional housing site which had received planning permission on a hybrid application for mixed use development in the hopes that the NP policies could influence some of the reserved matters. Similarly, with employment allocations the NP group did not seek to update their strategy and as such, alternative approaches were not deemed necessary to explore.

The following housing allocations are made in the Ripley NP:

- **Policy HQ: 165 dwellings** (allocated for housing in the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015));

- **Cemetery Lane: 20 dwellings** (allocated for housing in the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015));
- **Nottingham Road: 129 dwellings** (allocated for housing in the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015));
- **Butterley Iron Works:** The site's hybrid planning application grants permission for **up to 70 dwellings**.

The following employment allocation is made in the Ripley NP:

- **Former Butterley Brick Works:** Employment/business development

Assessment of the Current Version of the Ripley NP

The draft update to the Ripley NP has been appraised against each of the environmental objectives in the SEA Framework. In undertaking the appraisal, each of the policies in the NDP has been considered individually and collectively. A summary of the findings is presented below.

Significant Negative	Minor Negative	Negligible Negative	Neutral	Negligible Positive	Minor Positive	Significantly Positive
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Policy Focus	Policy	SA Objectives					
		Biodiversity	Climate Change Resilience	Climate Change Mitigation	Historic Environment	Landscape	Population and Housing
Housing	H1	/	/	/	++	/	/
	H2	/	+	/	++	+	++
	H3	/	/	/	/	/	+++
	H4	/	/	/	/	/	+++
	H5	/	/	/	/	/	++
Open space and other green spaces	OS1	/	/	/	/	/	/
	OS2	/	/	/	/	/	/
	OS3	/	/	/	/	/	/
Environment	E1	++	+	+	/	/	/
	E2	/	/	/	+++	++	/
	E3	/	/	/	+++	++	/
	E4	++	++	+	++	+++	/
	E5	/	++	++	++	++	++
	E6	/	/	/	/	/	/
	E7	/	/	++	/	/	/
	E8	++	/	/	/	/	/
Economic and employment development	EMP1	/	/	/	/	/	/
	EMP2	/	/	/	/	/	+
	EMP3	/	/	/	/	/	++
	EMP4	/	/	++	++	/	/
Transport	TR1	/	/	/	/	/	/
	TR2	--	/	++	/	/	+
	TR3	--	/	/	/	/	/
	TR4	/	/	+	/	/	+

Overall, the Ripley NP is predicted to have broadly positive effects, with the most pronounced being for the historic environment, landscape and population and housing SEA topics. Some minor negative effects may be realised in relation to undesignated biodiversity assets as well as some more uncertain potential negative effects relating to effects upon the landscape.

Mitigation

A number of recommendations were made to enhance the positive effects of the draft plan and mitigate any negatives. These are summarised below:

- **Environment section** supporting text: Where ‘Ambergate and Ridgeway Quarries’ have been added to the list of existing sites of environmental and ecological significance, these should also be added to the supporting text of the policy, found above ‘Policy E1’ in the Ripley NP.
- **Policy TR2:** Policy wording could include some protections for biodiversity along walking and cycling routes which see protections and improvements as part of the policy.
- **Policy TR3:** protections for biodiversity on waterbodies or courses should be given to the River Derwent, River Amber and the Cromford Canal in the same way that they are given to ‘other’ waterbodies or courses.
- **Policy E1:** Wording could be expanded to include support for integrated green infrastructure and habitat creation across any development sites.
- **Policy E5:** this could provide more specific clarity on the role design can play in adapting to climate change. This could include, but not limited to, green roofs, green walls, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)¹.
- Integrated into **transport policies:** Support for development to incorporate principles of ‘low traffic neighbourhoods’ into their design should be considered. This should take note of the Department for Transport’s LTN 1/20 design guidance². Policy could also require developments to ensure sufficient bicycle locking infrastructures are provided both nearby to homes, as well as at key facilities, service centres and new employment developments.
- Integrated into **heritage policies:** The Neighbourhood Plan could provide specific support for proposals which would improve the energy efficiency of heritage assets as well as considering providing specific support for renewable energy generation.
- **Policy E7:** The policy could provide more specific information related to schemes which would be supported as well as potentially allocating sites where evidence suggests a renewable energy scheme would be viable.
- **Policy EMP1:** The policy could consider specific support for developments which support flexible, remote working/shared working arrangements within the town centre.

¹ British Geological Survey. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) [online] [available here](#).

² DfT. (2020) Cycle Infrastructure Design (LTN 1/20) [online] [available here](#)

- There could be some supporting policy for development at the **Butterley Ironworks site** which has had permission granted on a hybrid application. More detailed policy provided for the site could help to influence the aspects of the planning application which have outline planning permission only.

It is considered that the above changes would help to minimise some potential negative effects relating to the Ripley NP as well as potentially enhance some of the positive effects.

Monitoring

There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

The following policies have been predicted to lead to significant effects in relation to the mentioned sustainability topics. The recommendations on potential monitoring techniques are detailed below:

- Policy H3 and H4 - Population and Housing SEA topic: Monitoring could take place to measure progress against this anticipated effect by reviewing the housing make-up of new residential developments over incremental periods of time with particular attention paid to the provision of accessible housing, affordable housing and the mix of housing types and tenures.
- Policy E2- Historic Environment SEA topic: The effects of this policy could be monitored via surveys of the historic environment and historic character within new developments, including potentially more pronounced effects being seen by monitoring design and masterplanning proposals of potential future developments.
- Policy E3- Historic Environment SEA topic: The effects of this policy could be monitored via surveys of the historic environment and historic character in Ripley Town Centre over incremental periods as well as within the proposed new development at the Butterley Ironworks site. For the later, more pronounced effects could be seen by monitoring design and masterplanning proposals for the proposed development.

2. Introduction

Background

- 2.1 Ripley Town Council is in the process of updating its Neighbourhood Plan for the sustainable future growth of the area. The original NP was ‘made’ after a referendum supported its adoption in 2015. AECOM has been commissioned to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of Ripley’s Neighbourhood Plan Review on behalf of the Neighbourhood Group.
- 2.2 The Neighbourhood Plan review is being prepared in the context of the Amber Valley Local Plan (2006) as well as the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (Ripley NP) (2015). Amber Valley Borough Council withdrew their Local Plan Submission in May 2019. The Borough Council are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan, it is due for adoption in 2023 and is expected to run until 2038, though as of yet there are no policies to go by.
- 2.3 The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the development framework for the Ripley area in Amber valley, alongside the Local Plan. Neighbourhood Plans are required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and can develop policies and proposals to address local place-based issues. In this way it is intended for the Local Plan to provide a clear overall strategic direction for development in Amber Valley, whilst enabling finer detail to be determined through the neighbourhood planning process where appropriate.
- 2.4 The Key information relating to the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan is presented in the table below (Table 2.1).

Table 2.2-1 Key facts relating to the Neighbourhood Plan for Ripley

Name of Responsible Authority	Ripley Town Council
Title of Plan	Ripley Neighbourhood Plan
Subject	Neighbourhood Planning
Purpose	The Ripley Neighbourhood Plan update is being prepared as a Neighbourhood Development Plan under the Localism Act 2011 and Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The plan will be in general conformity with the adopted Amber Valley Local Plan.
Timescale	To 2028
Area covered by the plan	The Neighbourhood Plan area covers an area in Amber valley and the boundary is illustrated in Figure 2.1.
Summary of content	The Ripley Neighbourhood Plan review will update the existing NP to ensure conformity with the emerging Amber Valley Local Plan, whilst making the plan more effective by reviewing the wording of existing policies and adding new policies.
Plan contact point	Linda McCormick Email address: townclerk@ripleytowncouncil.gov.uk

- 2.7 The SEA has been prepared in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations).
- 2.8 The SEA Regulations require that a report is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that ‘identifies, describes and evaluates’ the likely significant effects of implementing ‘the plan, and reasonable alternatives’. The report must then be taken into account, alongside consultation responses, when finalising the plan.
- 2.9 In line with the SEA Regulations this Environmental Report must essentially answer four questions:
- What is the scope of the SEA?
 - What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?
 - ‘Reasonable alternatives’ must have been considered for the plan.
 - What are the appraisal findings at this stage?
 - i.e. in relation to the draft plan.
 - What happens next?
- 2.10 These questions are derived from Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations, which present ‘the information to be provided within the report’. **Table 2.2** presents the linkages between the regulatory requirements and the four SEA questions.

Structure of this Environmental Report

- 2.11 This document is the Environmental Report for the Ripley NP and hence needs to answer all four of the questions listed above with a view to providing the information required by the SEA Regulations.
- 2.12 Each of the four questions is answered in turn within this report, as follows:

Table 2.2: Questions that must be answered by the Environmental Report in order to meet regulatory³ requirements

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... ⁴
What’s the scope of the SEA?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes
What is the plan seeking to achieve?	
What is the sustainability ‘context’?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relevant environmental protection objectives, established at international or national level • Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance

³ Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

⁴ NB this column does not quote directly from Schedule II of the Regulations. Rather, it reflects a degree of interpretation.

Environmental Report question	In line with the SEA Regulations, the report must include... ⁴
What is the environmental 'baseline'?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan • The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected • Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance
What are the key issues & objectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key problems/issues and objectives that should be a focus of (i.e. provide a 'framework' for) assessment
What has plan-making/SEA involved up to this point?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with (and thus an explanation of the 'reasonableness' of the approach) • The likely significant effects associated with alternatives • Outline reasons for selecting the preferred approach in-light of alternatives appraisal/a description of how environmental objectives and considerations are reflected in the draft plan.
What are the assessment findings at this stage?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The likely significant effects associated with the draft plan • The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the draft plan
What happens next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next steps for plan making/SEA process.

Local and Neighbourhood Plan Context for the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.13 The Ripley Neighbourhood Plan update aims to make some changes to the existing Ripley Neighbourhood Plan which was made in 2015. Changes had been sought to ensure adherence with the (then) emerging Amber Valley Draft Local Plan (which was withdrawn from submission in 2019), as well as to improve policy wording and provide additional policy to make the plan more robust. The Ripley NP area falls within Amber Valley Borough Council's administrative area and as such it is being prepared in the context of the Amber Valley Local Plan (2006). The Borough Council are in the process of preparing a new Local Plan, it is due for adoption in 2023 and is expected to run until 2038, though as of yet there are no policies to go by.
- 2.14 The Amber Valley Local Plan (2006) does not set out a housing delivery target for the Ripley NP area and nor have Amber Valley Borough Council for the purpose of the Ripley NP. As part of the Plan making process, the Ripley NP group have sought to establish their own housing needs figure. The approach triangulated three assessment methods. Each approach used figures relating to the entire Borough of Amber Valley and assumed a housing market share of 17% for the Ripley NP area (in line with the proportion of houses in Amber Valley which fall within Ripley). The three approaches and their resultant housing need figures for the Ripley NP area were as follows:
- **Local Development Plan (2018)** (now withdrawn): 1,661 dwellings over the Plan Period from 2011-2028. **98 dwellings per annum (dpa)**;
 - **Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2016)** (for Amber Valley): 1,257 dwellings over the Plan Period from 2011-2028. **74 dwellings per annum (dpa)**;
 - **MHCLG 2014 live projection tables**: 1,037 dwellings over the Plan Period from 2011-2028. **61 dwellings per annum (dpa)**.
- 2.15 These housing figures were then offset against dwellings which had been built between 2011 and 2018. The resultant figure then subtracted the sites in the area with planning permission which were classified as 'commitments', leaving a figure for each approach showing the residual need from 2019-2028. The average of the three figures was **-33 dwellings**. This suggests that the Ripley NP area has already met its housing needs with completions and commitments. Notwithstanding this, the NP update intends on retaining the housing sites allocated with the made Ripley NP, as well as allocating one additional site for housing (which is already allocated for business and industrial use (Policy ER4) within the Amber Valley Local Plan (2006) and has received permission for a hybrid planning application for a mixed use development on the site (including up to 80 dwellings).

Vision for the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan

2.16 The Ripley NP vision was developed during the development of the Plan which was made in 2015, the NP update does not seek to amend the vision which was originally established. It is as follows:

““ The overwhelming view from local people is that they value the individual character of the town and surrounding area.

Local people and businesses have indicated a desire to increase and improve the range of facilities and services available in the area and for Ripley Township to be more self-sufficient. There is a strong preference for new development to take place on previously developed brownfield sites, with a corresponding minimal reliance on Greenfield sites, with particular emphasis on the avoidance of the use of land within the Green Belt if possible.

The community has indicated that the character of the area is founded upon the important open spaces within and around Ripley town itself, and the countryside in the wider Township. This includes several heritage features of great significance which should be afforded appropriate protection.””

2.17 The Ripley NP sets out a number of core objectives which underpin the policy framework for the plan. As with the vision, those set out in the updated plan are unchanged from those set out in the made Ripley NP (2015). The objectives are split into the following themes:

- Housing
- Open and green space
- Environment and ecology
- Economic and employment development
- Town centres
- Villages
- Community facilities
- Heritage
- Transport and connectivity
- Sustainability

2.18 The objectives for the plan can be seen in full at **Appendix A**.

3. The Scope of the SEA

SEA Scoping Report

- 3.1 The SEA Regulations require that: “When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report, the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies”. In England, the consultation bodies are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England.⁵ These authorities were consulted on the scope of the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan SEA for a 5 week period from 30th April 2021.
- 3.2 The purpose of scoping is to outline the key issues that the SEA should focus on through setting out:
- A context review of the key environmental and sustainability objectives of national, regional and local plans and strategies relevant to the NP;
 - Baseline data against which the NP can be assessed;
 - The key sustainability / environmental issues for the NP; and
 - An ‘SEA Framework’ of objectives against which the NDP can be assessed.
- 3.3 Natural England provided a response to the Scoping Report, however the Environment Agency and Historic England did not respond to the consultation. The comments made and how they have been considered and addressed, are presented in **Table 3.1** below.

Table 3.1: Consultation responses received on the SEA Scoping Report

Statutory Consultees	How the response was considered and addressed
Environment Agency	No response. AECOM Response: No alterations required.
Natural England	<i>“In our review of the ‘Ripley Neighbourhood Plan SEA Scoping Report’ (March 2021) we are satisfied with the scope and content of the proposed SEA.”</i> AECOM Response: No alterations required.
Historic England	No response. AECOM Response: No alterations required.

Key Sustainability/ Environmental Issues

- 3.4 The full Scoping Report is attached as Appendix B to this report. This section sets out a summary of the key issues that were identified through scoping.

⁵ In-line with Article 6(3).of the SEA Directive, these consultation bodies were selected because ‘by reason of their specific environmental responsibilities, [they] are likely to be concerned by the environmental effects of implementing plans and programme.’

- 3.5 Drawing on the review of the policy context and baseline information, the SEA Scoping Report was able to identify a range of sustainability / environmental issues that should be a particular focus of SEA.
- 3.6 The selected environmental themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive⁶. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects (drawing from the screening opinion and local knowledge).
- 3.7 The scoping process allowed for some sustainability topics to be 'scoped out'; as it was considered the Plan is unlikely to have significant effects on certain factors. Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England have not raised any concerns in regards the scoping out of any sustainability topics.
- 3.8 The following environmental themes present the sustainability / environmental issues identified at the scoping stage with their scoping outcome:

Air Quality

- A desktop study of high-level constraints within the NP area has been undertaken. As a result of this assessment, Air Quality has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.

Biodiversity

- There are multiple SSSIs within the Ripley NP area (located to the eastern side), as well as two LNRs which are located within or adjacent to Ripley.
 - Crich Chase SSSI
 - Cromford Canal SSSI
 - Ambergate and Ridgeway Quarry SSSI
 - Hammersmith Meadows LNR
 - Carr Wood LNR
- A variety of priority habitats are present in the Neighbourhood Plan Area, including deciduous woodland, good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland dry acid grassland and lowland meadows and these habitats contribute to ecological connectivity in the Plan area. There are a number of areas which have been identified as being home to bats, as well as one area where Great Crested Newts have been discovered.
- The SEA topic 'Biodiversity' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA due to the potential for development in the area to have significant effects on sensitive habitats and species.

Climate Change Resilience

- There are areas of fluvial flood risk to the west of the NP area, as well as to the north of Ripley, though it should be noted that Ripley is largely not vulnerable to fluvial flooding due to its elevated position.

⁶ The SEA Directive is 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on '*the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors*' [our emphasis]

- Some areas of surface water flood risk.
- The SEA topic 'Climate Change Resilience' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA as there is potential for development to be affected by or contribute towards flooding.

Climate Change Mitigation

- Rural areas of Ripley show greater signs of contributing disproportionately to CO2 emissions from transport and domestic (gas and electricity) sources
- Amber Valley has higher than nationally average transport related CO2 emissions
- Amber Valley has higher than nationally average domestic CO2 emissions
- The SEA topic 'Climate Change Mitigation' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for the Plan review to influence the per capita emissions within Ripley.

Health and Wellbeing

- This topic has undergone a desktop study of high-level constraints within the NP area. As a result of this assessment, Health and Wellbeing has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.

Historic Environment

- The World Heritage Site (Derwent Valley Mills) including its' buffer zone is vulnerable to threats from inappropriate development that could adversely impact historic values and detract from its special qualities or setting.
- The western half of the Ripley NP area is generally more sensitive in terms of the concentration of listed buildings and the presence of the WHS.
- The NP area contains two Conservation Areas.
- In all, there are 62 listed buildings within the NP area alongside a Scheduled Monument (Butterley Works Blast Furnaces, Canal Tunnel and Underground Warf), the latter of which has been highlighted as 'at risk'.
- Development has the potential to positively affect the setting of designated heritage assets through townscape/public realm improvements, and may also increase access to and awareness of heritage assets.
- The SEA topic 'Historic Environment' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is potential for the Plan review to lead to effects upon the historic environment, especially where identified as at risk.

Landscape

- The Ripley NP area is located within the Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent and the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield National Character Areas.
- The western side of the NP area is of high landscape quality and the eastern side is predominantly urban
- The NP area contains a large area of greenbelt which restricts urban sprawl

- The majority of land outside of the urban areas across Ripley are considered to be landscapes of importance, with some large areas of high sensitivity.
- The SEA topic 'Landscape' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. There is the potential for the Plan review to lead to effects on land identified as sensitive in terms of its contribution to the landscape character.

Minerals

- This topic has undergone a desktop study of high-level constraints within the NP area. As a result of this assessment, Minerals has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.

Population and Housing

- Urban areas are generally more deprived than rural areas in Ripley, with more and less deprived areas adjacent to one another, suggesting some spatial polarity within the town of Ripley.
- The Ripley NP area has seen smaller population increases than observed at larger scale geographies. The local population is ageing and generally has a lower age profile in urban areas with more elderly people in rural areas.
- The NP area has lower than average education attainments than comparative geographies.
- Ripley has high rates of owner-occupied households and low rates of socially and private rented properties, with the significant majority consisting of houses or bungalow.
- Ripley has already 'met' its housing need for the plan period of 2014-2028.
- Urban areas of Ripley generally have higher rates of overcrowding, higher rates of social rented accommodation, lower rates of home ownership as well as being the most affordable area of the Parish.
- The SEA topic 'Population and Housing' has been **SCOPED IN** to the SEA. The Plan review could result in effects on community needs for both existing and future residents as well as potentially allocating housing which could alter the housing stock in the area.

Soil and Land

- This topic has undergone a desktop study of high-level constraints within the NP area. As a result of this assessment, Soil and Land has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.

Water Quality and Resources

- This topic has undergone a desktop study of high-level constraints within the NP area. As a result of this assessment, Water Quality and Resources has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA.

Transport and Accessibility

- Ripley as an area has high rates of car dependence and ownership, when compared to regional and national averages.

- Rural settlements and countryside areas have low rates of active travel commuting.
- Rural areas outside of the main established settlements within the NP area have low rates of commuting via public transport.
- Commuting within, outside of and into Ripley shows that the greatest flows are to and from relatively local areas (mostly within 10 miles (Euclidean distance)).
- The area has a number of railway stations located in areas nearby to established settlements, though some areas have better accessibility to these than others in terms of proximity.
- The SEA topic ‘Transport and Accessibility’ has been **SCOPED OUT** of the SEA. The likely scale of additional housing growth in the NP area is unlikely to lead to significant effects.

SEA Framework

3.9 The SEA Framework has been established through the identification of key issues and environmental objectives as part of the scoping exercise. This draws upon the baseline position and policy context that has been prepared for a range of SEA topics. The framework consists of a set of headline objectives and ancillary questions, which has been used to appraise the environmental effects of the draft Plan (and any reasonable alternatives).

3.10 **Table 3.2** outlines the full SEA Framework, which focuses on those issues that have been identified as the most important to consider in the preparation of the Plan; but acknowledging the limited influence that the Plan can/will have in some areas.

3.11 These issues were then translated into an ‘SEA Framework’. This SEA Framework provides a methodological framework for the appraisal of likely significant effects on the baseline.

3.12 The statutory bodies were consulted on the SEA scope and SEA Framework at the scoping stage. The SEA Framework reflects the SEA objectives which were scoped in during the scoping exercise. The current SEA Framework reflects the feedback received from all statutory consultees on the SEA scope.

Table 3.2: The SEA Framework for Ripley Neighbourhood Plan

SEA theme	SEA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Biodiversity	Protect and enhance all biodiversity and geological features, and support ecological connectivity.	<p>Support/ improve the status and condition of the area’s Local Nature Reserves and SSSIs?</p> <p>Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitats of priority species?</p> <p>Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</p> <p>Support ecological connectivity within the Plan area and in the wider surroundings?</p> <p>Support enhancements to multifunctional green and blue infrastructure networks?</p>

Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?

Climate Change Resilience	Support the resilience of the Neighbourhood Plan Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding	<p>Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?</p> <p>Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change?</p> <p>Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area?</p> <p>Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation?</p> <p>Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)?</p>
Climate Change Mitigation	Reduce the level of contribution to climate change made by activities within the Neighbourhood Plan Area	<p>Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</p> <p>Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources?</p> <p>Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</p> <p>Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made?</p> <p>Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</p> <p>Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel?</p>
Historic Environment	Protect, maintain and enhance the rich historic environment within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan Area, including the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, further designated and non-designated heritage assets and archaeological assets.	<p>Protect or enhance the integrity and special qualities of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its setting, and positively contribute to its ongoing conservation?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, and their settings, within and surrounding the Plan area?</p> <p>Conserve, enhance and help to restore the Butterley Works Blast Furnaces, Canal Tunnel and Underground Warf?</p> <p>Conserve and enhance local identity, distinctiveness and character?</p> <p>Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic environment?</p>
Landscape	Protect and enhance the character and	Conserve and enhance landscape character?

	<p>quality of landscapes and townscapes within and surrounding the Neighbourhood Plan area</p>	<p>Conserve and enhance townscape character? Protect and enhance key landscape features?</p>
<p>Population and Housing</p>	<p>Cater for existing and future residents' needs as well as the needs of different groups in the community, improve access to local, high-quality community services and facilities and reduce deprivation in the most deprived areas.</p>	<p>Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities? Encourage and promote social cohesion and encourage active involvement of local people in community activities? Minimise fuel poverty? Maintain or enhance the quality of life of existing local residents? Improve the availability and accessibility of key local facilities, including specialist services for disabled and older people? Support the provision of land for allotments and cemeteries?</p>
	<p>Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing, and ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures.</p>	<p>Support the provision of a range of house types and sizes, including specialist needs? Support the provision of affordable housing? Support enhancements to the current housing stock? Meet the needs of all sectors of the community? Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs? Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction? Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</p>

4. What has Plan Making/ SEA Involved to this Point?

Introduction

4.1 In accordance with the SEA Regulations the Environmental Report must include:

- An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with; and
- The likely significant effects on the environment associated with alternatives / an outline of the reasons for selecting the preferred approach in light of alternatives appraised.

4.2 The 'narrative' of plan-making / SEA up to this point is told within this part of the Environmental Report. Specifically, this section explains how preparation of the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan has evolved, including justification for the sites which are planned to be allocated.

Overview of Plan Making/ SEA Work Undertaken

4.3 In March 2013, the Parish of Ripley was designated as a Neighbourhood Area, for which the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan would apply. In October 2015, the local support for the Plan was confirmed by means of a referendum and the NP was formally 'made' by Amber Valley Borough Council in November 2015.

4.4 The Plan was developed through a process of extensive community engagement with members of the local population forming part of the 'Ripley Neighbourhood Plan Group'. The group was assisted by professionals from disciplines relating to the built-environment, planning and transport.

4.5 In 2019, coinciding with progress on the development of a new Amber Valley Local Plan, the Ripley NP opted to update their existing plan in order to ensure conformity with the emerging Amber Valley Local Plan, as well as to make the plan more effective by reviewing the wording of existing policies and adding new policies. The emerging Amber Valley Local Plan has since been withdrawn.

4.6 The review of the plan did not seek to significantly alter the housing allocations which were included within the made Ripley NP. The only change was to allocate one additional site which had been granted permission for a hybrid planning application for a mixed use development in order to seek influence over details of the outline matters.

4.7 The first step in the SEA process was the development of a Scoping Report, which was published for consultation in April 2020. The SEA process is being delivered by AECOM as part of the Locality Technical Support Programme.

4.8 AECOM has worked alongside the NP steering group to establish the scope of the NP update and whether there were any reasonable alternatives to be considered.

Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives for the Neighbourhood Plan

- 4.9 A key element of the SEA process is the consideration and appraisal of 'reasonable alternatives' for the Ripley NP. The SEA Regulations are not prescriptive as to what constitutes a reasonable alternative, stating only that the Environmental Report should present an appraisal of the 'plan and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan'.
- 4.10 Considering the housing need for the area having already been met through planned developments and completions, alongside the fact that there is already a neighbourhood plan in place for Ripley, it was considered unreasonable for the update to deviate significantly from the allocations set out in the made Ripley NP (2015).

Housing Strategy and Site Allocations

- 4.11 The NP group established a housing need figure which, considering completions and committed development over the trajectory of the Ripley NP, has already been met, leaving a surplus of 33 dwellings over the plan period. It was deemed unreasonable to allocate alternative sites to those which have been allocated in the made Ripley NP (2015). The Ripley NP update seeks to allocate one additional site for housing (which is already allocated for business and industrial use (Policy ER4) within the Amber Valley Local Plan (2006) and has received permission for a hybrid planning application for a mixed use development on the site (including up to 80 dwellings). Appraising alternatives to this additional allocation was deemed unreasonable because of the fact that its allocation was sought in order to influence the planned development on the site (which has had permission granted for a hybrid planning application (aspects of the scheme have received outline permissions whilst others have received full permission)).
- 4.12 One alternative to the housing growth would be to not allocate any sites for housing, instead relying on committed developments and completions to meet the identified housing need for Ripley. However, as one of the key focuses of the Ripley NP is to direct development onto previously developed land, taking advantage of any associated improvements to public realm and availability of public services, it is deemed unreasonable.
- 4.13 Another alternative approach would be to pursue a strategy which seeks to deliver a higher level of growth. Whilst this can provide a wider range of choice and flexibility in delivering additional housing, there is no evidence to justify higher levels of housing growth. Therefore, this alternative is also considered to be unreasonable.
- 4.14 Taking the above into account, it is concluded that there are no further reasonable alternatives to the level of growth proposed through the NDP at this stage.
- 4.15 The update to the Ripley NP seeks to allocate four housing sites for development (see **Figure 4.1**).

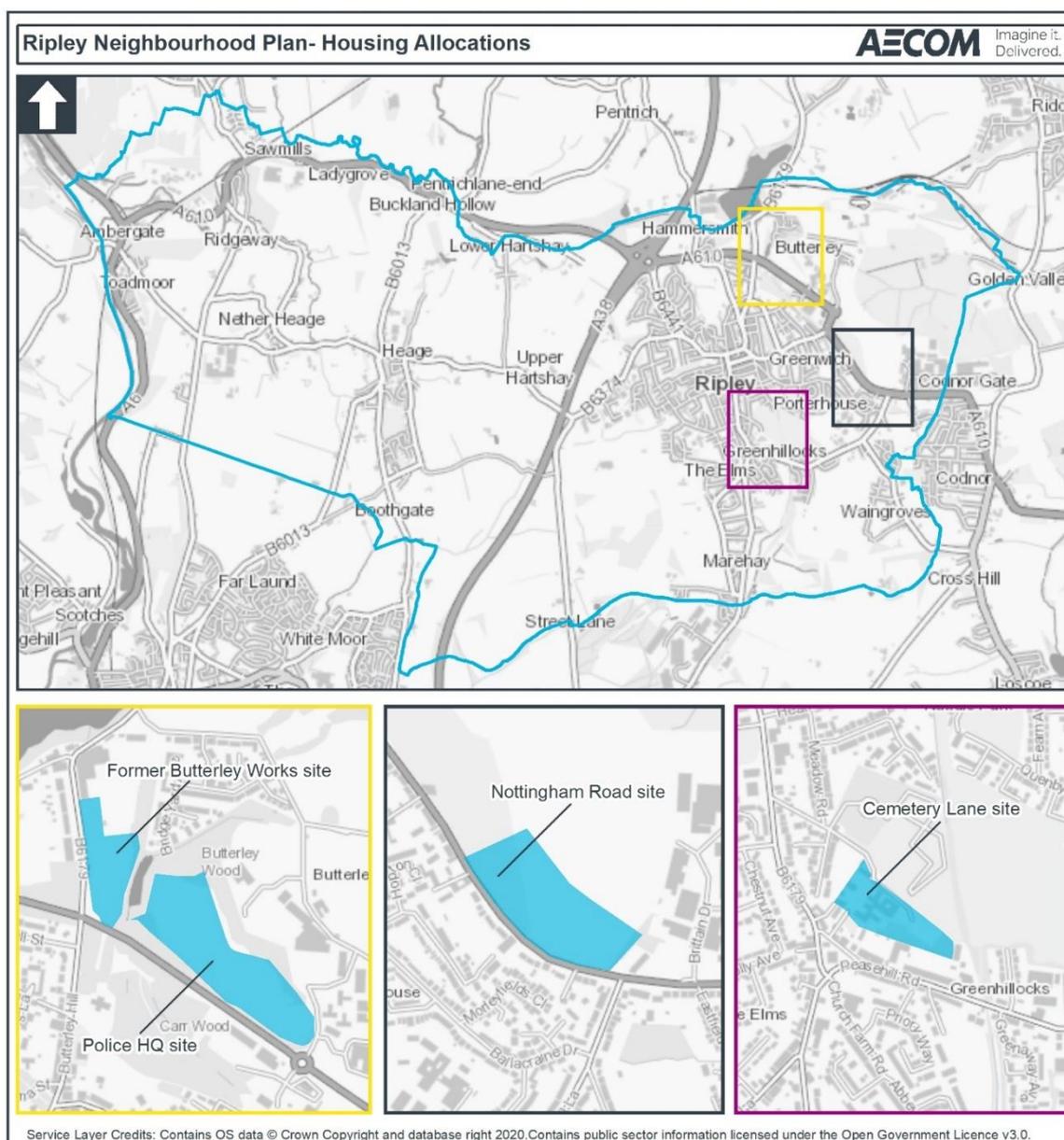


Figure 4.1: Ripley Neighbourhood Plan housing site allocations

4.16 The housing site allocations and their indicative capacities are as follows:

- **Policy HQ: 165 dwellings** (allocated for housing in the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015));
- **Cemetery Lane: 20 dwellings** (allocated for housing in the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015));
- **Nottingham Road: 129 dwellings** (allocated for housing in the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan (2015));
- **Butterley Iron Works:** The site's hybrid planning application grants permission for **up to 70 dwellings**.

4.17 In addition to the above site allocations and to allow a degree of flexibility, the plan proposed allowances for other housing development on previously developed land or on land which is well located in relation to existing settlements with an aim of boosting affordable housing.

4.18 As the Ripley NP is not actively selecting between housing sites, its spatial strategy does not require consideration of alternative housing sites. As such, the SEA process has not included a site assessment process which would be designed to help inform site selections.

Employment Strategy and Site Allocations

4.19 The Ripley NP seeks to actively support employment development which meets particular criteria which aim to retain and increase local employment and economic activities. The Plan update also re-allocates a site for employment uses (Former Butterley Brick site (see **Figure 4.2**), although it shifts the focus of support, the thrust of the allocation does not differ significantly from the made Ripley NP.

4.20 The Ripley NP group did not seek to de-allocate or adjust their 2015 NP's employment allocations, and as such, appraising alternative strategies for allocating employment land was not deemed reasonable.

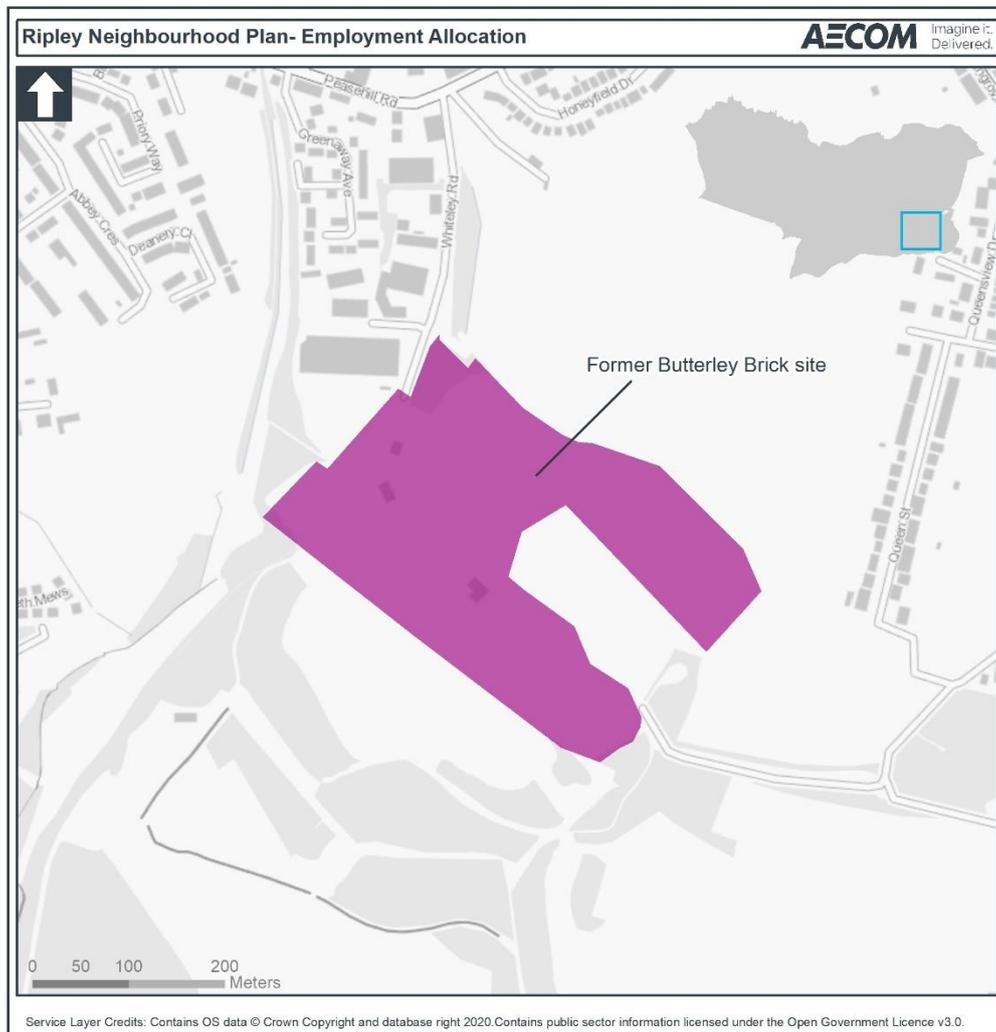


Figure 4.2: Ripley Neighbourhood Plan employment site allocation.

5. What are the Appraisal Findings at this Current Stage?

Introduction

5.1 The aim of this chapter is to present appraisal findings and recommendations in relation to the Regulation 14 version of the Ripley Neighbourhood Plan.

Current Approach in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Development of the Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Ripley NP Policies

Changes (2015 made Ripley NP – 2019 Draft Ripley NP update) Yes / No / New policy.

Ripley NP Policies	Changes (2015 made Ripley NP – 2019 Draft Ripley NP update) Yes / No / New policy.
Housing	
Policy H1 Proposed Sites for Housing Development	Orange
Policy H2 Other Sites for New Housing Development	Orange
Policy H3 Housing for Older or Disabled People	Orange
Policy H4 Affordable Housing	Orange
Policy H5 – Housing Mix	Purple
Open space and other green spaces	
Policy OS1 New Local Green Spaces	Green
Policy OS2 Protection of Recreation Facilities	Green
Policy OS3 Allotments and Community Gardens	Green
Environment	
Policy E1 - Ecology	Purple
Policy E2 - Recognising, Protecting and Revealing our Heritage	Purple
Policy E3 - Heritage Action Areas	Purple
Policy E4 - Reinforcing and Enhancing Landscape Character	Orange
Policy E5 - Good Design	Purple
Policy E6 - Public Art	Purple
Policy E7 – Renewable Energy Developments	Purple
Policy E8 – Pollution	Purple
Economic and employment development	
Policy EMP1 - Economic and Employment Development	Orange
Policy EMP2 - Employment/business development at the former Butterley Brick site, Butterley	Orange
Policy - EMP3 Ripley Town Centre	Orange
Policy EMP4 - Mixed Use Development at the Former Butterley Ironworks Site	Purple
Transport	
Policy TR1 – improving the Highway Network	Purple
Policy TR2 – Improving Footpath and Cycle Path Links	Purple
Policy TR3 – improving Public Access to Watercourses	Purple
Policy TR4 – integrating New Development	Purple

Approach to the Appraisal

- 5.2 The appraisal is structured under each of the SEA Objectives that are set out in the SEA Framework.
- 5.3 For each Objective, 'significant effects' of the current version of the plan on the baseline are predicted and evaluated. Account is taken of the criteria presented within Schedule 2 of the Regulations.⁷ So, for example, account is taken of the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects as far as possible. These effect 'characteristics' are described within the assessment as appropriate.
- 5.4 Every effort is made to identify / evaluate effects accurately. The ability to predict effects accurately is limited by understanding of the baseline and the nature of future planning applications. Because of the uncertainties involved, there is a need to exercise caution when identifying and evaluating significant effects and ensure all assumptions are explained. In many instances it is not possible to predict significant effects, but it is possible to comment on merits (or otherwise) in more general terms.

Biodiversity

Housing (*Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5*)

- 5.5 Policy H1 proposes four housing allocations, as previously referenced under Section 4 of this report. The Police HQ, Cemetery Lane and Nottingham Road sites are allocated in the Ripley NP which was made in 2015 and as such, the effects from these allocations are considered to be neutral. Whilst the Butterley Iron Works site is a new allocation in the Ripley NP update, the site has been granted planning permission for a mixed use development, as such, it would be expected to come forward for development in absence of the Ripley NP update. Effects from this site would be likely to be **neutral**.
- 5.6 Policy H2 has seen some rewording and added detail relating to the support of housing developments not included within the allocations set out under Policy H1. Greater support is given to developments on infill and brownfield land with conditions relating to the relative scale and character of a development and accessibility to infrastructure and services. This would be unlikely to lead to significant negative effects because ad-hoc housing developments would not be expected to come forward on sensitive sites which see protections from neighbourhood, local or national planning policies. Where brownfield sites can often offer valuable habitats for species, leading to potential negative effects, a requirement for 'biodiversity net gain' would be expected to mitigate any potential losses to biodiversity. **Neutral effects** are likely in this respect.
- 5.7 Policies H3, H4 and H5 are not related to biodiversity and are unlikely to have any effects upon biodiversity in the Ripley area. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Open space and other green spaces (*Policies OS1, OS2, OS3*)

- 5.8 Policies OS1, OS2 and OS3 remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP (2015), as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

⁷ *Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004*

Environment (*Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8*)

- 5.9 Policy E1 provides support for proposals which seek to better manage, protect or enhance biodiversity on designated wildlife sites or other sites with ecological value. This is expected to strengthen protections of these sites by actively encouraging management, protections and enhancements. The policy could provide some added benefits relating to locations of biodiversity net gain enhancements which developers are required to contribute towards. The latter half of the policy, ensuring no loss of biodiversity is unlikely to lead to effects due to this being a key factor within national planning policy relating to biodiversity net gain. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.10 Policies E2 and E3 are related to heritage and as such, are unlikely to lead to direct effects upon biodiversity. **Neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.11 Policy E4 is related to reinforcing and enhancing landscape character. Whilst some of this policy is not likely to relate to biodiversity, specific aspects which mention accounting for ecological considerations and tree planting would be expected to somewhat preserve as well as integrate natural features into developments. This would be likely to encourage the retention of existing habitats as well as deliver new ones across new developments. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.12 Policies E5, E6 and E7 are not directly related to biodiversity and as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.13 Policy E8 ensures that development takes consideration of the potential effects of pollution of multiple types (air, water, noise, light, soil or other) on the natural environment. This is expected to provide increased protections for species either on, or nearby to developments where potential effects may be realised. This is especially pertinent when considering effects relating to pollution and its potential to disrupt habitats and breeding patterns. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

Economic and employment development (*Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3, EMP4*)

- 5.14 Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3 and EMP4 are related to employment development and are unlikely to lead to direct effects relating to biodiversity in the Ripley area. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

Transport (*Policies TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4*)

- 5.15 Policy TR1 is related to improving the highways network and the scale of any likely works would be unlikely to lead to any significant effects upon biodiversity in the area. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.16 Policy TR2 is related to improving footpath and cycle path links; whilst this is not directly related to biodiversity, off-road walking and cycling routes are often host to a variety of species. Where this policy does not offer protections for biodiversity on these routes, potential **minor negative effects** are predicted (improvement measures could lead to increased usage of cycle and path links for example).

- 5.17 Policy TR3 is related to improving public access to watercourses; the policy is expected to increase accessibility to watercourses across Ripley. Whilst the policy provides clarity on ensuring ecological protections for 'other' watercourses and water, those improvements at the River Derwent, River Amber and Cromford Canal are not afforded the same protections in relation to biodiversity. As such, **minor negative effects** are predicted due to the anticipated added recreational pressures. The scope of the policy could be widened to ensure that increased access does not lead to negative effects for any waterbodies/watercourses, even where existing access exists.
- 5.18 Policy TR4 is related to integrating new development to the existing transport network; this is not directly linked to biodiversity and as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Climate Change Resilience

Housing (*Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5*)

- 5.19 As described under the Biodiversity SEA theme above, all four housing site allocations form part of the baseline position for Ripley. As such, effects from Policy H1 would be likely to be **neutral**.
- 5.20 Policy H2 has seen some rewording and added detail relating to the support of housing developments not included within the allocations set out under Policy H1. The policy's general thrust shows favour for developments on brownfield land of a scale which is proportionate to the settlement context. This should help to reduce the potential for large-scale greenfield developments to come forward in the Ripley area, helping to protect natural greenfield land which plays an important role in flood risk mitigation through increased infiltration of rainwater. Overall, considering the scale of any likely development, **negligible positive effects** are anticipated.
- 5.21 Policies H3, H4 and H5 are not related to climate change resilience and are unlikely to have any effects which would affect the ability for Ripley to adapt to climate change's effects. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Open space and other green spaces (*Policies OS1, OS2, OS3*)

- 5.22 Policies OS1, OS2 and OS3 remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP (2015), as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Environment (*Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8*)

- 5.23 Policy E1 provides support for proposals which seek to better manage, protect or enhance biodiversity on designated wildlife sites or other sites with ecological value. Whilst this does not directly relate to climate change resilience, assets which provide habitats for species can commonly have beneficial outcomes for climatic receptors too. For example, the protections of green infrastructure and the natural environment can lead to improved urban cooling to offset potential future extreme heating conditions as well as provide natural solutions to increased levels of rainfall (increased interception and infiltration rates). Overall, considering the scale of the likely effects, **negligible positive effects** are anticipated.
- 5.24 Policies E2 and E3 are related to heritage and as such, are unlikely to lead to effects upon climate change resilience. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

5.25 Policy E4 is related to reinforcing and enhancing landscape character, with specific support for the planting of trees. Whilst the policy does not directly link to adaptation to climate change, some aspects are likely to provide some beneficial effects. Firstly, where much of the land surrounding the build-up areas of Ripley is rural, this is likely to bear influence on landscaping design of any development coming forward, potentially increasing the role green infrastructure plays across development sites. This, alongside the express support for tree planting, is anticipated to deliver some small-scale natural mitigation measures to help boost resilience to urban heating and flood risk. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

5.26 Policy E5 is related to design and includes some specific requirements for developments to reduce flood risk both on and off site. The policy also supports well insulated buildings and natural ventilation which will help to improve resilience to extreme weather events associated with climate change. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

5.27 Policies E6, E7 and E8 are not directly related to the adaptation to climate change and as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Economic and employment development (*Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3, EMP4*)

5.28 Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3 and EMP4 are related to employment development and are unlikely to lead to effects relating to resilience to climate change in the Ripley area. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

Transport (*Policies TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4*)

5.29 Policies TR1, TR2, TR3 and TR4 are related to transport and are unlikely to lead to effects relating to resilience to climate change in the Ripley area. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

Climate Change Mitigation

Housing (*Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5*)

5.30 As described under the previous SEA themes above, all four housing site allocations form part of the baseline position for Ripley. As such, effects from Policy H1 would be likely to be **neutral**.

5.31 Policy H2 has seen some rewording and added detail relating to the support of housing developments not included within the allocations set out under Policy H1. The policy also seeks to ensure the location of development would be accessible to services by sustainable means of travel, potentially reducing transport modal choices which are associated with elevated greenhouse gas emissions. Whilst this offers some positive direction to the policy, the scale of anticipated ad-hoc housing developments for which this policy would be expected to apply would not be likely to lead to significant effects. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

5.32 Policies H3, H4 and H5 are related to housing for older or disabled people, affordable housing and housing mix; as such, it is unlikely that any effects upon climate change mitigation would be realised. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Open space and other green spaces (*Policies OS1, OS2, OS3*)

5.33 Policies OS1, OS2 and OS3 remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP (2015), as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Environment (*Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8*)

5.34 Policy E1 provides support for proposals which seek to better manage, protect or enhance biodiversity on designated wildlife sites or other sites with ecological value. Whilst this does not directly relate to climate change mitigation, any associated tree-planting may help to sequester CO₂ emissions from the atmosphere. Overall, whilst this is positive, the scale of planting would be unlikely to lead to significant effects on efforts to mitigate climate change.

Negligible positive effects are anticipated.

5.35 Policies E2 and E3 are related to heritage and as such, are unlikely to lead to effects upon climate change resilience. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

5.36 Policy E4 is related to reinforcing and enhancing landscape character, with specific support for the planting of trees. Whilst the policy does not directly link to climate change mitigation, the express support for tree planting, is anticipated to deliver some very small-scale carbon sequestration. **Negligible positive effects** are predicted.

5.37 Policy E5 is related to design and includes some specific requirements for developments to “ensure environmentally sustainable developments (for example incorporating electric vehicle charge points and opportunities for microgeneration, high levels of insulation and natural ventilation)”. This would be likely to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with new developments’ energy requirements for domestic and transportation purposes, as well as potentially leading to clean energy generation. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

5.38 Policy E6 is related to public art, and as such, is unlikely to affect climate change mitigation measures in Ripley. Hence, **neutral effects** are predicted.

5.39 Policy E7 provides support for renewable energy developments in Ripley, subject to them being in accordance with other policies in the Ripley NP. This policy provides positive direction towards the support of low carbon energy generation developments, an important step in decarbonising the energy network. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

5.40 Policy E8 is related to pollution; whilst greenhouse gas emissions are technically a form of pollutant into the atmosphere, the policies general thrust is more focused around pollution such as air, water, noise light or soil pollution on a local level. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Economic and employment development (*Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3, EMP4*)

- 5.41 Policy EMP1 supports economic and employment development; this policy does not provide direct correlation to attempts to mitigate climate change, however it does provide support for “home working”. This could reduce the need for people to travel to workplaces, potentially reducing transport related CO₂ emissions. Whilst this is positive, the scale of any likely development which would support homeworking would not be expected to be of a sufficient magnitude to lead to any measurable effects. Hence, **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.42 Policies EMP2 and EMP3 are not related to climate change mitigation, as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.43 Policy EMP4 provides support for a mixed use development at the Butterley Ironworks site. The support is subject to “connectivity with footpaths, cycle and public transport networks” and as such helps to encourage future residents of Ripley to travel by sustainable means, potentially reducing transport related emissions. **Minor positive effects** are predicted in this respect.

Transport (*Policies TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4*)

- 5.44 Policy TR1 is related to improvements to the highways network and it is not likely to lead to effects relating to climate change mitigation. Hence, **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.45 Policy TR2 is related to protecting and improving the footpath and cycle path links across Ripley. This is likely to improve the viability of active travel journeys across the area and thereby potentially reduce transport related emissions to some extent. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.46 Policy TR3 is related to access to watercourses and is therefore unlikely to promote effects relating to climate change mitigation, **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.47 Policy TR4 seeks to integrate developments of 10+ dwellings with the existing road, footpath, bus and cycle networks and maximise opportunities for access to services and facilities to be by “non-car modes”. This is likely to provide some increased potential for journeys to be made by sustainable modes of travel, thereby potentially reducing transport related CO₂ emissions. **Negligible positive effects** are anticipated.

Historic Environment

Housing (*Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5*)

5.48 As described under the previous SEA themes above, all four housing site allocations form part of the baseline position (either through already being allocated in the made Ripley NP or having received planning permission) for Ripley. That said, in relation to the Butterley Ironworks site, where the residential elements of the hybrid application have currently received outline permission, this policy would be likely to influence the more detailed aspects of the application. The site is an important heritage asset for the area, as well as being identified as a 'heritage action area' in the Ripley NP and it has been identified as 'at risk' by Historic England. The policy would be expected to support development which would help to restore and maintain the site which is currently identified as 'at risk'. Whilst this site forms part of the baseline position, this policy can be expected to bear some influence on the outcome and requirements for aspects of the proposed developments which have been granted outline planning permission only. As such, effects from Policy H1 would be likely to be **minor positive**.

5.49 Policy H2 has seen some rewording and added detail relating to the support of housing developments not included within the allocations set out under Policy H1. The policy seeks to ensure any ad-hoc housing development would be "of a scale, form and appearance which maintains or enhances the character of the settlement". This would be likely to ensure that any developments coming forward would not adversely affect the character of existing space in the Ripley area. **Minor positive effects** are anticipated, though these are expected to be local to any development and conditional on development coming forward in addition to any on allocated sites.

5.50 Policies H3, H4 and H5 are related to housing for older or disabled people, affordable housing and housing mix; as such, it is unlikely that any effects upon the historic environment would be realised. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Open space and other green spaces (*Policies OS1, OS2, OS3*)

5.51 Policies OS1, OS2 and OS3 remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP (2015), as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Environment (*Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8*)

5.52 Policy E1 is focused on ecology and as such, is not likely to lead to effects related to the historic environment. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

5.53 Policy E2 focuses on developments' requirement to recognise, protect and reveal local heritage with site context and surrounding character being reflected through design. This policy is likely to offer positive effects in terms of preserving and enhancing Ripley's historic character across areas which may not have designations related to the historic environment. **Significant positive effects** are predicted.

- 5.54 Policy E3 relates to “Heritage Action Areas” within Ripley Town Centre and at the former Butterley Ironworks site (part of which is allocated for mixed use development and has received planning permission on a hybrid planning application for a mixed use development at the site). This policy provides added focus on requirements for developments within the two mentioned action areas to pay particular attention to the role proposals can play in “sustain[ing], restor[ing],]enhance[ing] and better reveal[ing] heritage assets”, with particular emphasis placed on the significance of the asset in question. This will be likely to protect two areas with particular historic significance from the deterioration of their settings and local historic character through inappropriate development. It may also help to make better use of historic assets, including through increasing awareness and access to the areas history. **Significant positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.55 Policy E4 relates to “reinforcing and enhancing landscape character”, the policy should prevent developments from significantly disrupting the landscape character across the Ripley area. Where the urban form in parts of the built-up areas of Ripley hold historic importance and links to the area’s industrial past, this policy is likely to ensure that new developments take due consideration of aspects such as streetscapes and urban character in order to preserve aspects of historic importance within the landscape. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.56 Policy E5 relates to design, with specific requirements for regard to be paid to “distinctive, attractive developments which respond to local character”; this is likely to contribute towards developments coming forward which are locally relevant and ensure the continuation of local character, including aspects of historical importance. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.57 Policies E6, E7 and E8 are not related to the historic environment and as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Economic and employment development (Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3, EMP4)

- 5.58 Policy EMP1 is related to economic and employment development and is unlikely to see significant effects relating to the historic environment. **Neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.59 Policy EMP2 is related to employment development at the former Butterley Brick site which is unlikely to promote significant effects relating to the historic environment. **Neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.60 Policy EMP3 promotes suitable uses in the town centre, strongly encouraging active uses in the core areas, and supporting the re-use of vacant buildings. This should contribute to a higher quality public realm, with knock on **minor positive effects** in terms of heritage.

5.61 Policy EMP4 relates to mixed use development at the former Butterley Ironworks site. The site is an important heritage asset for the area, as well as being identified as a 'heritage action area' in the Ripley NP and it has been identified as 'at risk' by Historic England. The development would be likely to include aspects which ensure its heritage is better revealed, including the policy's requirement for a "museum/heritage centre". The policy would also be expected to support development which would help to restore and maintain the site which is currently identified as 'at risk'. Whilst this site forms part of the baseline position, this policy can be expected to bear some influence on the outcome and requirements for aspects of the proposed developments which have been granted outline planning permission only. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

Transport (*Policies TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4*)

5.62 Policies TR1, TR2, TR3 and TR4 are related to transport and are unlikely to have any significant effects upon the historic environment. As such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Landscape

Housing (*Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5*)

5.63 As described under the previous SEA themes, all four housing site allocations form part of the baseline position for Ripley. Any outstanding matters on the Butterley Ironworks site would be unlikely to lead to effects relating to the landscape of the area. As such, effects from Policy H1 would be likely to be **neutral**.

5.64 Policy H2 relates to other developments which may come forward on an ad-hoc basis over the plan period. It seeks to ensure proposals would prioritise brownfield sites and infill developments of a scale and form which is relevant to the settlement to which it adjoins. This would be expected to protect the rural character of the countryside by preventing inappropriate developments from significantly encroaching on open space. **Negligible positive effects** are predicted.

5.65 Policies H3, H4 and H5 are related to housing for older or disabled people, affordable housing and housing mix respectively; it is considered very unlikely that any of these would bear influence on the landscape within Ripley. As such, effects would be likely to be **neutral**.

Open space and other green spaces (*Policies OS1, OS2, OS3*)

5.66 Policies OS1, OS2 and OS3 remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP (2015), as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Environment (*Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8*)

5.67 Policy E1 relates to ecology and whilst there are ties between habitats and landscape outcomes, the specific thrust of this policy is unlikely to lead to significant effects upon landscape in the Ripley area; **neutral effects** are predicted.

- 5.68 Policy E2 and E3 both relate to heritage and protections and enhancement of the historic character in Ripley. This is likely to ensure future developments adhere to locally relevant settlement characteristics, resulting in some protections and potential enhancements to the local built form. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.69 Policy E4 seeks to reinforce and enhance landscape character in Ripley through proposals taking consideration of character, distinctiveness and quality of the local landscape whilst seeking to reinforce and enhance it where possible. This is expected to ensure that new development does not act to the detriment of the landscape character in the area, leading to **minor positive effects**.
- 5.70 Policy E5 is related to design; specific aspects of the policy including the materials and detailing, consideration of local character and requirement for distinctive, attractive development are likely to ensure that the design of any development is coherent with the existing built-form, reducing any potential adverse effects upon the urban landscape within Ripley. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.71 Policy E6 is related to public art and as such is not expected to lead to significant effects upon Ripley's landscape; **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.72 Policy E7 relates to renewable energy developments; the policy provides support for any such development providing it complies with the Ripley NP's other policies. Whilst certain renewable energy schemes can lead to significant effects on landscape, there would also be a need to address environmental impacts as per the NPPF. As such, the policy is predicted to have neutral effects given it has relatively limited influence. .
- 5.73 E8 is related to pollution and as such, is not predicted to have any discernible effects upon landscape outcomes in Ripley. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

Economic and employment development (*Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3, EMP4*)

- 5.74 Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3 and EMP4 are all related to supporting developments which may promote an increase in local employment and vitality of employment areas across Ripley. In the main, there would be **neutral effects**. Support for farm diversification and tourism could potentially lead to changes in the appearance of rural areas though, which are **minor negative effects**.

Transport (*Policies TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4*)

- 5.75 Policies TR1, TR2, TR3 and TR4 are all related to ensuring the continued function of the transport network throughout Ripley, including multiple forms of transport, integration of transport systems into new development and a promotion of sustainable modal choices. These are unlikely to lead to significant effects in relation to landscape objectives, and as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Population and Housing

Housing (*Policies H1, H2, H3, H4, H5*)

- 5.76 As described under the previous SEA themes, all four housing site allocations form part of the baseline position for Ripley. Any outstanding matters on the Butterley Ironworks site would be unlikely to lead to effects relating to population and housing objectives for the area. As such, effects from Policy H1 would be likely to be **neutral**.
- 5.77 Policy H2 provides support for other housing developments which meet certain conditions relating to their scale, location and current land use. This would be expected to deliver additional housing over the plan period, helping to improve the availability of a mix of housing types and tenures. Considering the small scale of any potential ad-hoc development, **minor positive effects** are anticipated.
- 5.78 Policy H3 encourages developers of larger schemes to provide accessible housing within the development; this is expected to ensure appropriate housing and accessibility standards are adhered to for disabled, elderly or those with specialist needs as well as adding to the housing mix to ensure it is appropriate. **Significant positive effects** are predicted in this respect.
- 5.79 Policy H4 is related to the requirement for sites above a threshold to provide affordable homes for both social rented and affordable housing needs. It also supports proposals which seek to build affordable homes as a standalone development. This policy is expected to increase the affordability of homes through both ownership and affordable rent; ensuring that there is sufficient housing available for those who need it. **Significant positive effects** are predicted.
- 5.80 Policy H5 is related to housing mix, seeking to ensure that new developments provide a mix of housing types which are relevant to local needs. This is expected to provide homes which meet the needs of local people; which is a **minor positive effect**.

Open space and other green spaces (*Policies OS1, OS2, OS3*)

- 5.81 Policies OS1, OS2 and OS3 remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP (2015), as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Environment (*Policies E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, E6, E7, E8*)

- 5.82 Policies E1, E2, E3 and E4 are related to ecology, heritage and landscape character and as such, as unlikely to lead to direct effects on population and housing in Ripley; **neutral effects** are predicted.
- 5.83 Policy E5 is related to good design, whilst the policy is not directly related to population and housing objectives, the aspect of the policy which promotes developments in having a 'high-quality living environment and protect[ing] the amenities of neighbours' may lead to some beneficial outcomes in terms of improving the public realm and accessibility to facilities. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

5.84 Policy E6 is related to public art, Policy E7 is related to renewable energy generation and Policy E8 is related to pollution. These are unlikely to lead to significant effects upon population and housing outcomes in Ripley and as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

Economic and employment development (*Policies EMP1, EMP2, EMP3, EMP4*)

5.85 Policies EMP1 and EMP4 are related to employment and economic development; none of these policies are anticipated to have a significant effect upon population and housing outcomes in Ripley. As a result, **neutral effects** are predicted.

5.86 Policy EMP2 relates to employment/business development at the former Butterley Brick site with specific support for the retention of existing sports facilities or replacement of existing facilities with recreational or amenity space. This is expected to lead to some protections of a community space which supports community activities. Whilst this is positive, the magnitude of the likely effects is anticipated to mean that overall, **negligible positive effects** are predicted.

5.87 Policy EMP3 relates to Ripley Town Centre, it supports proposals which are likely to improve the viability and vitality of the core shopping area and public safety. This is likely to lead to some beneficial outcomes in terms of improving the public realm and accessibility to facilities. **Minor positive effects** are predicted.

Transport (*Policies TR1, TR2, TR3, TR4*)

5.88 Policy TR1 is related to improving the highways network and is unlikely to lead to effects on population and housing in Ripley. **Neutral effects** are predicted.

5.89 Policy TR2 is related to improving the active travel network across the Ripley area. This is likely to better connect housing to services and facilities, leading to beneficial outcomes for population and housing related objectives. Given the indirect correlation between the policy and the SEA objectives, only **negligible positive effects** are predicted.

5.90 Policy TR3 is related to improving public access to watercourses and is unlikely to lead to any discernible effects relating to population and housing SEA objectives; as such, **neutral effects** are predicted.

5.91 Policy TR4 seeks to ensure that larger developments integrate themselves with the existing transport infrastructure in the area, considering all available modal choices and emphasising a prioritisation for non-car modes. This is likely to better connect housing to services and facilities, leading to beneficial outcomes for population and housing related objectives. Given the indirect correlation between the policy and the SEA objectives, only **negligible positive effects** are predicted.

Conclusions at Current Stage

Summary of Effects

5.92 This section summarises the overall effects of the Plan against each of the SEA Topics. It is important to differentiate between significant effects, which are predicted to lead to changes in the baseline position, and those effects that are broadly positive or negative, but are less likely to lead to substantial changes.

5.93 Table 4.1 summarises the effects of the policies within the draft NP for each SEA topic according to the below colour scale and associated predicted effects.

Table 5-1: Summary of effects table

		Significant Negative	Minor Negative	Negligible Negative	Neutral	Negligible Positive	Minor Positive	Significantly Positive
								
Policy Focus	Policy	SA Objectives						
		Biodiversity	Climate Change Resilience	Climate Change Mitigation	Historic Environment	Landscape	Population and Housing	
Housing	H1	/	/	/	++	/	/	
	H2	/	+	/	++	+	++	
	H3	/	/	/	/	/	+++	
	H4	/	/	/	/	/	+++	
	H5	/	/	/	/	/	++	
Open space and other green spaces	OS1	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	OS2	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	OS3	/	/	/	/	/	/	
Environment	E1	++	+	+	/	/	/	
	E2	/	/	/	+++	++	/	
	E3	/	/	/	+++	++	/	
	E4	++	++	+	++	++	/	
	E5	/	++	++	++	++	++	
	E6	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	E7	/	/	++	/	/	/	
	E8	++	/	/	/	/	/	
Economic and employment development	EMP1	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	EMP2	/	/	/	/	/	+	
	EMP3	/	/	/	++	/	++	
	EMP4	/	/	++	++	/	/	
Transport	TR1	/	/	/	/	/	/	
	TR2	--	/	++	/	/	+	
	TR3	--	/	/	/	/	/	
	TR4	/	/	+	/	/	+	

- 5.94 Overall, it can be seen that the Ripley NP update's policies are likely to lead to positive effects upon the area's sustainability factors in relation to the baseline position.
- 5.95 The housing policies are likely to promote the most beneficial outcomes for sustainability issues related to the historic environment and housing and population. The open space policies remain unchanged from the made Ripley NP, and as such no effects are predicted.
- 5.96 Environmental policies (including ecology, heritage, landscape, design, renewable energy and pollution) are likely to promote positive effects across most sustainability topics. The most pronounced positive effects are likely to be realised under the historic environment and landscape topics.
- 5.97 The economic and employment policies have a more limited range of effects, with more positive effects likely to be seen under the climate change mitigation, historic environment and population and housing topics.
- 5.98 Transport related policy may see some more mixed effects, with some negatives relating to biodiversity objectives contracted with more positive effects relating to climate change mitigation and population and housing.

Recommendations

- 5.99 A number of recommendations have been identified to enhance the positive effects of the NP and mitigate any negatives. These are summarised below:
- **Environment section** supporting text: Where 'Ambergate and Ridgeway Quarries' have been added to the list of existing sites of environmental and ecological significance, these should also be added to the supporting text of the policy, found above 'Policy E1' in the Ripley NP.
 - **Policy TR2:** Policy wording could include some protections for biodiversity along walking and cycling routes which see protections and improvements as part of the policy.
 - **Policy TR3:** protections for biodiversity on waterbodies or courses should be given to the River Derwent, River Amber and the Cromford Canal in the same way that they are given to 'other' waterbodies or courses.
 - **Policy E1:** Wording could be expanded to include support for integrated green infrastructure and habitat creation across any development sites.
 - **Policy E5:** this could provide more specific clarity on the role design can play in adapting to climate change. This could include, but not limited to, green roofs, green walls, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)⁸.
 - Integrated into **transport policies:** Support for development to incorporate principles of 'low traffic neighbourhoods' into their design should be considered. This should take note of the Department for Transport's LTN 1/20 design guidance⁹. Policy could also require developments to ensure sufficient bicycle locking infrastructures are provided both nearby to homes, as well as at key facilities, service centres and new employment developments.

⁸ British Geological Survey. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) [online] [available here](#).

⁹ DfT. (2020) Cycle Infrastructure Design (LTN 1/20) [online] [available here](#)

- Integrated into **heritage policies**: The Neighbourhood Plan could provide specific support for proposals which would improve the energy efficiency of heritage assets as well as considering providing specific support for renewable energy generation.
- **Policy E7**: The policy could provide more specific information related to schemes which would be supported as well as potentially allocating sites where evidence suggests a renewable energy scheme would be viable.
- **Policy EMP1**: The policy could consider specific support for developments which support flexible, remote working/shared working arrangements within the town centre.
- There could be some supporting policy for development at the **Butterley Ironworks site** which has had permission granted on a hybrid application. More detailed policy provided for the site could help to influence the aspects of the planning application which have outline planning permission only.

5.100 It is considered that the above changes would help to minimise some potential negative effects relating to the Ripley NP as well as potentially enhance some of the positive effects.

Monitoring

5.101 There is a requirement to present measures that could be used to monitor the effects of the Plan identified through the SEA. It is particularly important to monitor effects that are predicted to be significant, whether this be positive or negative. Monitoring helps to track whether the effects turn-out as expected, and to identify any unexpected effects.

5.102 The following policies have been predicted to lead to significant effects in relation to the mentioned sustainability topics. The recommendations on potential monitoring techniques are detailed below:

- Policy H3 and H4- Population and Housing SEA topic: Monitoring could take place to measure progress against this anticipated effect by reviewing the housing make-up of new residential developments over incremental periods of time with particular attention paid to the provision of accessible housing, affordable housing and the mix of housing types and tenures.
- Policy E2- Historic Environment SEA topic: The effects of this policy could be monitored via surveys of the historic environment and historic character within new developments, including potentially more pronounced effects being seen by monitoring design and masterplanning proposals of potential future developments.
- Policy E3- Historic Environment SEA topic: The effects of this policy could be monitored via surveys of the historic environment and historic character in Ripley Town Centre over incremental periods as well as within the proposed new development at the Butterley Ironworks site. For the latter, more pronounced effects could be seen by monitoring design and masterplanning proposals for the proposed development.

6. What are the next steps?

- 6.1 A round of consultation (Regulation 14) will be undertaken on the draft Plan, and this will be accompanied by this Environmental Report.
- 6.2 Following consultation, the Ripley NP will then be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (Amber Valley Borough Council), for its consideration with the Environmental Report.
- 6.3 Amber Valley Borough Council will consider whether the plan is suitable to go forward to Independent Examination in terms of the Ripley NP meeting legal requirements and its compatibility with the Local Plan (2006).
- 6.4 Subject to the Borough Council's agreement, the NP will then be subject to independent examination. The Examiner will consider whether the plan is appropriate having regard to national policy and whether it is in general conformity with local policies.
- 6.5 The Examiner will be able to recommend that the Ripley NP is put forward for a referendum, or that it should be modified or that the proposal should be refused. Amber Valley Borough Council will then decide what should be done in light of the Examiner's report. Where the report recommends modifications to the plan, Amber Valley Borough Council will invite the Ripley NP Steering Group to make modifications to the plan, which will be reflected in an updated Environmental Report. Where the Examiner's Report recommends that the proposal is to be refused, Amber Valley Borough Council will do so.
- 6.6 Where the examination is favourable, the Ripley NP will then be subject to a referendum, organised by Amber Valley Borough Council.
- 6.7 If more than 50% of those who vote agree with the plan, then it will be passed to Amber Valley Borough Council with a request that it is 'made'. Once 'made', the Ripley NP will become part of the Development Plan for the district.

Appendix A Ripley Neighbourhood Plan Core Objectives

Housing

1. To identify sites where new development would readily integrate into the area.
2. To steer the provision of new housing to previously developed sites and other sites within and around the town which avoid, where possible, areas in the Green Belt and other important open spaces.
3. To avoid housing development on sites that would lead to the coalescence of Ripley with neighbouring settlements, particularly with Codnor.
4. To provide for a greater range of affordable housing which meets local needs.
5. To provide a range of housing types across all tenures, designed to the highest standards and which reflect the local vernacular.
6. To avoid housing in areas at risk of flooding and to ensure new development does not increase the flood risk in other properties.
7. To prevent commencement of site development until any contamination issues have been fully assessed, removed or made safe and dealt with as necessary.

Open and Green Space

1. To protect and enhance the character and quality of the environment of the area.
2. To protect the area from inappropriate development.
3. To safeguard important open areas within and around the town and surrounding settlements within the Township.
4. To designate appropriate areas as Local Green Spaces.
5. To enhance existing public open spaces and seek to ensure more public open spaces are provided within new housing developments.
6. To protect and enhance the network of public footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths.
7. To protect and enhance the biodiversity interests of the area.

Environment and Ecology

1. To identify and protect sites of ecological importance.
2. To identify and protect existing wildlife corridors and to develop and enhance new wildlife corridors.
3. To accommodate the development needs of the area without adversely affecting the biodiversity interests of the area.
4. To ensure development does not have a negative impact on watercourses and, where possible, use the development to improve the water environment.

Economic and Employment Development

1. To provide new employment opportunities to meet the needs of the community, to offset the decline in the area's traditional economic base and to reduce commuting.
2. To encourage and support the installation of a digital highway available to all properties within the Township.

Town Centre

1. To maintain a healthy and vibrant town centre.
2. To encourage and facilitate the re-use of vacant town centre buildings with appropriate new uses.
3. To encourage the re-use of empty floors above town centre shops and buildings providing other services.
4. To provide free town centre parking for up to two hours to support the viability of the town centre.
5. To support the retention and enhancement of Ripley Market.

Villages

1. To maintain healthy and vibrant villages.
2. To support the retention of all community assets.
3. Where development is to occur, to encourage and support high quality design and the use of high-quality materials.

Community Facilities

1. To enhance and extend the range of community facilities in the area.
2. To ensure the provision of new or extended community facilities in proportion to the scale of new housing development.
3. To encourage the re-establishment of a town centre community facility large enough to accommodate a wide range of activities such as stage productions, cinema, dances, concerts and other complementary activities.
4. To encourage recycling by ensuring there are local public amenity facilities for recyclable waste.

Heritage

1. To identify, protect, support and enhance the heritage features of the area.
2. To develop public awareness of the heritage features of the area and to increase visitor numbers both from people within the area and from people living further afield.
3. To protect and enhance the remaining buildings and features of the former Butterley Engineering Works site (including the underground wharves and canals).
4. To seek to establish appropriate conservation areas throughout the Township.
5. To restore the section of the Cromford Canal within the Ripley area.

Transport and Connectivity

1. To promote sustainable transport choices for local people.
2. To promote accessibility to employment, shopping, services and leisure facilities by public transport, walking and cycling.
3. To reduce the need to travel, especially by car.
4. To create a movement network that reflects the character of the area, serves local transport and encourages more sustainable modes of transport.

Sustainability

1. To promote the expansion of sustainable transport choices for local people.
2. To ensure employment, shopping and leisure facilities are accessible through public transport, walking and cycling.
3. To reduce the need to travel, especially by car.
4. To value and protect Green Belt and open spaces and watercourses and recognise the services they provide to people and wildlife.
5. To minimise the impact on the environment by reducing the use of material and energy.
6. To create a transport network that reflects the character of the area, serves local needs and encourages more sustainable modes of travel (including the extension of tram services from Nottingham to Ripley).

Appendix B Scoping Report

6.8 The Scoping Report can be found as a supplementary document to this report.

