



**Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Draft
Neighbourhood Plan**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
Screening Report**

Prepared by Ashfield District Council

March 2017

Contents

- 1.0 Introduction.
- 2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.0 The SEA Screening Process.
- 4.0 Screening Outcome and Statement of Reasons for the Determination.

Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Plan Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This screening report has been prepared by Ashfield District Council to determine whether the Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Plan (NP) should be subject to a Strategic Environment. Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and implemented through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. (Typically identified as the SEA Regulations).
- 1.2 Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Forum has prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP). In preparing a draft Plan, the Neighbourhood Forum carried out a community consultation identifying key priorities for the Neighbourhood Plan to address and as a result a number of planning policies have been created. The Neighbourhood Plan has undergone a pre-submission consultation which ended on the 28th October 2016. Consequently the Plan has reached a stage where it is considered there is sufficient information available to consider whether the proposed contents of the Plan are likely to lead to significant environmental effects.

2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Neighbourhood Plan

2.1 A neighbourhood plan is required to be compatible with European Union obligations, as incorporated into UK law, in order to be legally compliant.

2.2 European Directive 2001/42/EC is the legislative basis for Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), and it was transposed into UK law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). Under the requirement of the Directive and the Regulations, plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects should be subject to an environmental assessment.

2.3 The objective of the SEA Directive is

‘to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans ... with a view to promoting sustainable development.’ (Article 1)

2.4 Detailed guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication ‘A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive’.

2.5 Planning Practice Guidance at Paragraph: 027 Reference ID: 11-027-20150209 identifies that:

‘In some limited circumstances, where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, it may require a strategic environmental assessment. Draft neighbourhood plan proposals should be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is commonly referred to as a “screening” assessment and the requirements are set out in regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.’

2.6 Planning Practice Guidance also provides that:

Whether a neighbourhood plan proposal requires a strategic environmental assessment, and (if so) the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed. A strategic environmental assessment may be required, for example, where:

- *a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development.*
- *the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan*

- *the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.*

Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209

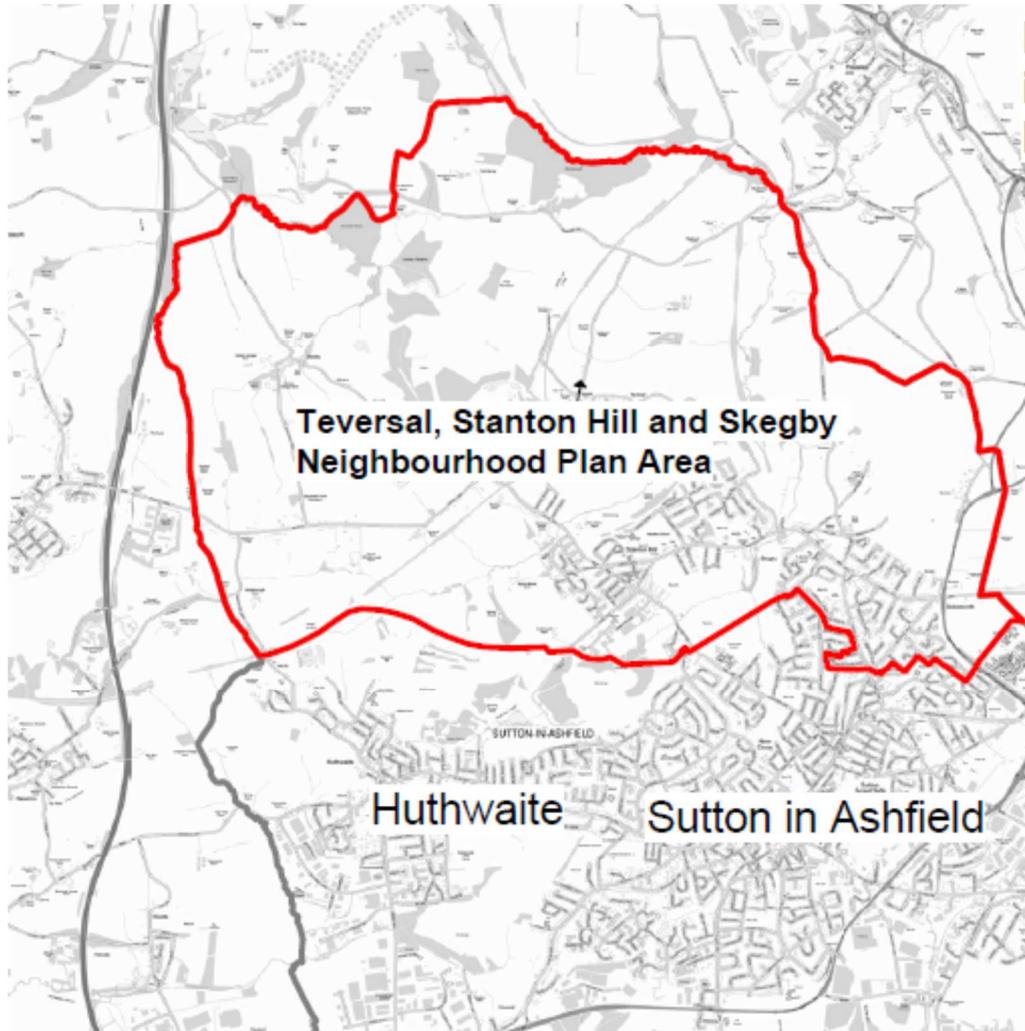
- 2.7 In the context of neighbourhood planning, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in negative significant effects occurring on protected European Sites as a result of the Plan's implementation¹.
- 2.8 The SEA Regulations require the 'responsible authority' to 'determine' whether or not a plan is likely to have significant effects and therefore whether a SEA is needed. Consequently, a screening determination will need to be produced by either the qualifying body (the parish council or neighbourhood forum) or the Local Planning Authority. This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report has been prepared by Ashfield District Council, Forward Planning for the Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Plan. The Screening Report is based on the 'Final Version' of the Neighbourhood Plan 2016 – 2031. This reflects the amended version after the Pre Submission Consultation Draft but before submission to the Council.
- 2.9 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England were consulted in relation to the draft SEA Screening Report before a final determination was made.

The Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Plan

- 2.10 The Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Forum and Neighbourhood Plan Area was approved by Ashfield District Council on 23rd February 2015.
- 2.11 The draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been prepared by the local community and business living within and operating within the NP Area. The draft NP covers the period from 2016-2031 in line with the emerging Local Plan and , when made, will be used by councillors and officers at Ashfield District Council in assessing planning applications as part of the development plan for the Area.
- 2.12 The NP Area is located to the northern part of Ashfield District and its north and west boundary adjoins Derbyshire. The draft NP identifies that it covers 1,682 hectares and has a population of approximately

¹Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

8,991 (Census 2011). This equates to 7.5% of the District's population but is 14% of the geographical area of Ashfield District.



Plan One: Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Plan Area.

Source: Ashfield District Council

- 2.13 The Ashfield Local Plan Review 2002 classify Skegby and Stanton Hill as part of the Sutton in Ashfield Urban Area. Teversal village is a conservation area separated from the urban area by open countryside. Other smaller settlements such as Fackley, Stanley Wild Hill and Norwood are located in the countryside. The market town of Mansfield is located to the east of the Plan area and the historic grounds of Hardwick Hall comprise the northern boundary (the Hall itself is outside the Plan area).
- 2.14 The Neighbourhood Area is distinctly diverse, ranging from Stanton Hill, which is an area of particularly high deprivation, to the village of Teversal, a particularly desirable place to live. Skegby and Teversal

are of significant historical and cultural value with a number of listed buildings including Teversal Manor and St. Katherine's C of E Church, a Grade 1 listed church. Teversal Conservation Area is regarded as the most significant conservation area in the District of Ashfield. The northern boundary of the NP includes part of the grounds of Hardwick Hall, a Grade 1 listed building, which are on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. A number of environmentally important sites are located in the NP Area including SSSI and ancient woodlands. There are small areas of the NP Area in Flood Zone 2 or 3 in relation to the River Meden, the River Doe Lea and their feeder streams. Further information on environmental, heritage and flooding aspects in the NP Area is set out as part of the [draft NP](#) and through the [Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report](#)

- 2.15 The Ashfield Local Plan Publication 2016 identifies that the NP Area is part of the Local Plan Area of Sutton in Ashfield and Kirkby-in-Ashfield where substantial housing development will be required to meet the District's Objectively Assessed Housing Needs. The Local Plan Publication identifies sites around the urban edges of Stanton Hill and Skegby which is acknowledge by the draft NP.
- 2.16 The draft NP does not allocate any sites for housing, retail or employment. It places an emphasis on policies linked to ensuring that development meets local requirements and integrates with the existing settlements and the wider environment. The draft NP sets out the following policies:
- NP 1: Sustainable Development;
 - NP 2: Design Principles for Residential Development;
 - NP 3: Housing Type;
 - NP 4: Protecting the Landscape Character;
 - NP 5: Protecting and Enhancing Heritage Assets;
 - NP 6: Improving access to the countryside;
 - NP 7: Strengthening the Retail Centre in Stanton Hill;
 - NP 8: Improving Digital Connectivity;
 - AP 1: Road Safety and Public Transport.

The Neighbourhood Forum has set out a [Sustainability Matrix](#) as part of their evidence base.

3.0 The SEA Screening Process

- 3.1 The process for determining whether or not an SEA is required is called screening. Effectively this means that a determination is made whether a plan will have significant environmental effects. A final determination cannot be made until the three statutory consultation bodies have been consulted. That is the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England.
- 3.2 Within 28 days of making a determination, a statement must be published, setting out its decision. If they determine that an SEA is not required, the statement must include the reasons for this.
- 3.3 In addition to whether an SEA is required, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will be required where a Neighbourhood Plan is deemed likely to result in negative significant effects occurring on protected European Sites (Natura 2000 sites), as a result of the Plan's implementation.
- 3.4 The ODPM publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (2005) provides guidance on undertaking an SEA. Whilst somewhat dated, this is still regarded as best practice and clearly illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required. The Diagram 1 from "A Practice Guide" illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.
- 3.5 The District Council has prepared this screening assessment to determine whether:
- the content of the draft Neighbourhood Plan require a SEA in accordance with European Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and/or
 - a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is required in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
- 3.6 Consideration of the likely significant effects is undertaken against the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations. Schedule 2 identifies that the likely significant effects on the environment can be seen in relation to 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. Table 1 of the screening report sets out the Council's assessment of whether the Plan will require a full SEA. The questions are drawn from Diagram 1, which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied. It reflects

the findings in Table 2, which sets out an assessment of the Plan against the criteria within Annex II of European Directive 2001/42/EC and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations.

- 3.7 Providing there are no significant changes to the proposals and the policies of the current draft Neighbourhood Plan, this screening assessment undertaken by Ashfield District Council fulfils the requirement to identify whether or a SEA is required in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.8 Ashfield District Council's Local Plan 2017 to 2032 Ashfield Local Plan Publication has been subjected to a representation period which expired on 19th December 2016. The Local Plan Publication is accompanied by:
- A Sustainability Appraisal which included the significant effects under the SEA Directive, and
 - A Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Table 1: Assessment of whether the Plan will require a full SEA.

STAGE	Yes or No	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>The preparation and adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is regulated under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The draft NP is prepared by Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Forum (as the 'relevant body') and will be 'made' by Ashfield District Council as the local planning authority if it receives more than 50% affirmative votes at a referendum.</p> <p>The preparation of a NP is subject to the following regulations: The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended, and the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations 2012.</p>
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	No	<p>Communities through a parish council or neighbourhood forum have a right to produce a NP, however it is not required by legislative, regulatory or administrative purposes. Whilst the NP is optional under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Localism Act 2011, it will, if 'made', form part of the Development Plan as set out in The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Consequently, although identified as no, it is therefore important and necessary for the NP to continue to be screened under the SEA Directive.</p>
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I	No	<p>The draft NP is being prepared for town and country planning and land use purposes. As such, the draft NP contains a framework of policies relating to the future land use within the Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Area. While Annex II can include housing in the 'urban development projects' category*, the draft NP does not allocate sites for development or indicate the preferred location for future development, not</p>

and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))		does it explicitly set the scale and nature of development in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (Art 3.2(a)). * Interpretation of definitions of project categories of Annex I and II of EIA Directive, European Commission 2015.
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive?(Art. 3.2 (b))	No	A Habitat Regulations Assessment was undertaken for the Local Plan Publication in consultation with Natural England. It concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Ashfield Local Plan is not required for the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC or the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA or the Sherwood ppSPA.
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	No	The draft NP does not make allocations to determine the use of land. However, the Policies will influence how land is brought forward for development.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	The draft NP sets policies which planning application within the Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Area must adhere to. However, the draft NP does not allocate sites for development or indicate the preferred location for future development, nor does it set the scale and nature of development. However, it sets out policies which will have an impact in relation to design of residential development, housing types and landscape character.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)		Not applicable
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	No	It is concluded from the evidence that the draft NP is unlikely to have any significant effect on the environment.

- 3.9 The key screening decision is the determination of whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. The criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004) can be used to determine the likely significance of effects. These criteria are set out in Table 2, which identifies the likely effects of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 2: Assessment of the draft Neighbourhood Plan against The Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004 - Schedule 1 (SEA Regulations)

SEA Regulations Criteria	Response	Is there a significant environmental effect?
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p>	<p>The draft NP sets out a Vision and 9 objectives to help shape future development within the NP Area. A number of planning policies have been formulated to help deliver the Vision</p> <p>The draft NP is set in the context of the emerging Ashfield Local Plan Publication 2016 and does not seek to specify the need for further development beyond that in the Local Plan Publication, which has been subject to SA and SEA appraisal. The draft NP does not allocate any development. It recognises that Skegby and Stanton Hill are on the edge of built up area of Sutton in Ashfield and the settlements will be required to contribute towards meeting housing need. The draft NP sets out the following policies which reflect this context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP 1: Sustainable Development; • NP 2: Design Principles for Residential Development; • NP 3: Housing Type; 	<p>No</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NP 4: Protecting the Landscape Character; • NP 5: Protecting and Enhancing Heritage Assets; • NP 6: Improving access to the countryside; • NP 7: Strengthening the Retail Centre in Stanton Hill; • NP 8: Improving Digital Connectivity; • AP 1: Road Safety and Public Transport. <p>In summary its sets out the planning criteria at a local level that should be met for development to be acceptable in relation to the existing settlements and the countryside.</p>	
<p>1b) The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>The draft NP is required to conform to European Directives, national policy (National Planning Policy Framework) and strategic policies stipulated in the Local Plan. The draft NP, if made, will form part of the Development Plan for Ashfield District and will be used to determine planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area. However, those policies will only apply to the NP area.</p> <p>The draft NP has come forward over a similar timescale as the emerging Ashfield Local Plan. Consequently, there has been some element of interactions between the developments of the respective plans. The draft NP has utilised the evidence base that has informed the emerging Local Plan but has also developing its own evidence from studies and consultations but these are reflective of the context set by the emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>The draft NP in Appendix A identifies a number of projects, which are important to the local community but it is stressed that they are not part of the neighbourhood plan. However, they are local in nature and are anticipated to have positive environmental impacts.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p>1c) The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>The draft NP promotes sustainable development. Policy NP 1 specifically addresses Sustainable Development. The other NP policies takes a positive approach to development to meet wider objectively assessed housing needs, while emphasising the imports of local housing need, good design the role of infrastructure and integration with the wider environment. Policies are anticipated to have a positive environmental impact.</p> <p>The draft NP advocates environmental protection, for the landscape, heritage assets, and the character of settlements within the plan area, access to the countryside green and open spaces and for local biodiversity. The draft NP does not allocate housing development but includes a policy that looks to ensure any housing mix reflects the local identified need.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>1d) Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</p>	<p>It is acknowledge that there are a number of important environmental and historic assets within the Neighbourhood Area as is identified in the draft NP and its Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. This includes SSSI, schedules ancient monuments, the Teversal Conservation Area, listed buildings as well as local wildlife sites and local heritage assets. The NP Area includes at its most northerly point the historic park and gardens and ancient woodland that is part of Hardwick Hall, a Grade 1 listed building and on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. A significant part of the NP Area falls within The Hardwick Setting Study 2016 commissioned by the National Trust. A specific policy in the NP provides policy protection for historic assets.</p> <p>There are flood zones 2 and 3 within the NP Area in relation to the River Meden, the River Doe Lea and their tributary streams. However, the proposals and polices in the draft NP are not anticipate to have any impact on these flood zones.</p> <p>As the draft NP does not allocate sites it will not have a direct impact on soils and</p>	<p>No</p>

	<p>landscape. However, policies look to have an integrated approach in relation to the local landscape and access to the countryside, reflecting the development sites proposed in Ashfield Local Plan Publication 2016.</p> <p>Former coal mining locations in the NP Area have been reclaimed and restored either for employment purposes, Brierley Industrial Park (Sutton Colliery) or as a countryside parks (Sutton Colliery and Silverhill Colliery). No Air Quality Management Areas are designated in the District of Ashfield. The draft NP identifies that there are concerns about the impact of traffic congestion but this does not arise from the proposals within the draft NP.</p> <p>The draft NP sets out a series of policies which area positive in relation to these environment aspects and the draft NP is not anticipated to result in environmental problems in this context.</p>	
<p>1e) The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).</p>	<p>The draft NP is a land-use plan. If made, it will form part of the Development Plan and policies in the draft NP will be reflected in the consideration of development within the Neighbourhood Area. It will also have to comply with national planning policy and European legislation.</p> <p>The draft NP does not allocate land or propose levels of development. It sets out policies to be considered with applications for development proposed by the emerging Ashfield Local Plan, which is informed by a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating an SEA.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2a) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects</p>	<p>The emerging Ashfield Local Plan identifies there will be housing development within the area covered by the draft NP consequently there will be changes to the land use within the NP Area. These developments will be concentrated on the fringe of the urban boundary of Sutton in Ashfield and will impacting on Stanton Hill and Skegby.</p>	<p>No</p>

	<p>However, they do not arise from the draft NP which does not allocate new land for development. The policies in the draft NP are likely to be positive for environmental factors seeking to facilitate the integration of development into the existing character of the urban environment while emphasising the importance of access to the countryside for the local population. No negative significant effects from the draft NP are anticipated on Biodiversity, Population, Human Health, Flora, Fauna, Soil, Air, Climatic Factors, Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and Landscape in the Neighbourhood Area.</p> <p>The draft NP timescale reflects the timescale of the Local Plan Publication 2016. It is proposed that the NP will be updated as necessary.</p>	
2b) The cumulative nature of the effects	It is not expected any accumulative effects of the draft NP proposals and policies will lead to negative impacts, but results into positive impacts that will affect the Area.	No
2c) The trans-boundary nature of the effects	All effects of the draft NP are considered to be entirely local and the majority will fall within the NP Area. Consequently, there are not expected to be any significant trans-boundary effects.	No
2d) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	There are no significant effects to human health. The policies with the NP are anticipated to facilitate health and wellbeing.	No
2e) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	The NP area covers 1,681 hectares and has a population of approximately 8,991 (Census 2011). This equates to 7.5% of the Ashfield District's population but is 14% of the geographical area of Ashfield District. The Policies in the draft NP are anticipated to have positive environmental impacts at a local level.	No

<p>2f) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <p>I. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,</p> <p>II. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values</p> <p>III. intensive land-use</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report supporting the NP identifies the environmental and historic assets within the NP Area. This includes SSSI, schedules ancient monuments, the Teversal Conservation Area, listed buildings as well as local wildlife sites and local heritage assets. The NP Area includes at its most northerly point the historic park and gardens and ancient woodland that is part of Hardwick Hall, a Grade 1 listed building and on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. A significant part of the NP Area falls within The Hardwick Setting Study 2016 commissioned by the National Trust. A specific policy in the NP provides policy protection for historic assets.</p> <p>There are flood zones 2 and 3 within the NP Area in relation to the River Meden, the River Doe Lea and their tributary streams. However, the proposals and polices in the draft NP are not anticipate to have any impact on these flood zones.</p> <p>As the draft NP does not allocate sites it will not have a direct impact on soils and landscape. However, policies look to have an integrated approach in relation to the local landscape and access to the countryside, reflecting the development sites proposed in Ashfield Local Plan Publication 2016.</p> <p>Former coal mining locations in the NP Area have been reclaimed and restored either for employment purposes, Brierley Industrial Park (Sutton Colliery) or as a countryside parks (Sutton Colliery and Silverhill Colliery). No Air Quality Management Areas are designated in the District of Ashfield. The draft NP identifies that there are concerns about the impact of traffic congestion but this does not arise from the proposals within the draft NP.</p> <p>The proposals and policies within the draft NP are not anticipated to have a negative impact on these assets. None of the draft plans proposals will exceed</p>	<p>No</p>
---	--	-----------

	<p>environmental quality standards or limit values or give rise to intensive land use. The draft NP sets out a series of policies which are anticipated to have positive environment effects.</p>	
<p>2g) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status</p>	<p>There are no landscapes within the NP Area which have national or international protection. The NP includes a policy on the importance of local landscape in relation to development. The NP area does include the setting of Hardwick Hall, a Grade 1 listed building and on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. However, it is not anticipated that the NP policies and proposals will have an adverse effect on the setting of Hardwick Hall.</p>	<p>No</p>

4.0 Screen Outcome and Statement of Reasons for the Determination

4.1 This screening report has explored the likelihood of potential adverse environmental effects arising through the Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby Neighbourhood Plan on the local environment. In determining the requirement for an environmental assessment under the SEA Directive, the results of the screening process set out in Section 3 indicate that there is sufficient information about the size, nature and location of the likely proposals in the draft NP.

4.2 The Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England were consulted on 24th January 2017 and the following responses were received:

- The Environment Agency has advised that it has no comment as to whether the Plan should be subject to full SEA, however they are of the opinion that the Plan is unlikely to have any significant environmental effects within their remit.
- Natural England has advised that Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome; i.e. that no SEA is required. In relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Natural England notes the screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon the named European designated sites: Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA - Sherwood ppSPA.
- Historic England have advised that on the basis of the information supplied, including that set out in the draft plan in which no new development sites are allocated over and above those set out in the development plan which have been considered by SA already, and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

4.3 In accordance with issues cited in Schedule 2 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, it is considered that the draft NP is unlikely to have any significant effect on environment issues including 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. As such it is the Council's conclusion that the

Teversal, Stanton Hill and Skegby draft Neighbourhood Plan does not requires a SEA or Habitat Regulations Assessment to be undertaken.

4.4 Ashfield District Council has reached this conclusion for the following reasons:

- The characteristics and issues of the NP Area have been recognised through the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report
- The NP does not allocate land any new land for development.
- Primarily the Policies within the NP are regarding as having a positive impact at a local level. In the context of the policies in the emerging Ashfield Local Plan, the NP policies seeking to facilitate the integration of development into the existing character of the urban environment while emphasising the importance of access to the countryside for the local population.
- The analysis of the implication from the draft NP and its policies undertaken in Section 3 of this Screening Report.
- There is an absence of any forecast impact upon sensitive environmental receptors based upon the draft policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Ashfield Local Plan Publication 2016 is supported by a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the SEA for the District which would include the area covered by the NP. The NP does not seek to alter the District development strategy.
- As part of the supporting evidence for the emerging Local Plan Publication 2016 the District Council has undertaken a Habitat Regulations Assessment. It concluded that an Appropriate Assessment of the Ashfield Local Plan is not required for the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC or the South Pennine Moors SAC and SPA or the Sherwood ppSPA. As the NP Area falls within the District the conclusions are applicable to the NP Area.

4.5 This Screening Report sets out the Council's determination and "statement of reasons," why the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, according, does not require an environmental assessment). In accordance with Regulation 11², a copy of the SEA determination has been sent to each consultation body.

² The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulation 2004

