

Climate Impact Assessment, Appendix 4 Rotherham Regionally Important Geological Sites Series Update 2025

Will the decision/proposal impact...	Impact	If an impact or potential impacts are identified:			
		Describe impacts or potential impacts on emissions from the Council and its contractors.	Describe impact or potential impacts on emissions across the Borough as a whole.	Describe any measures to mitigate emission impacts	Outline any monitoring of emission impacts that will be carried out
Emissions from non-domestic buildings?	None		No buildings are indicated within the sites' proposed boundaries, as per Appendix 1, Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) Boundary Maps.		
Emissions from transport?	Unknown		Rotherham RIGS in Rotherham are designated for their geo-conservation interest. Local sites may provide other benefits e.g., as amenities for people living nearby: designation might possibly increase public awareness of and travel to the proposed sites.		It would be good practice to monitor visitor numbers and any consequent impact on sites' condition. No site monitoring visits are programmed at this time.
Emissions from waste, or the quantity of waste itself?	Unknown		Designation will seek to protect remaining conservation interests at the proposed sites and to update the Local Plan. Designation as a RIGS is a material consideration in planning decisions relating to development on or affecting any such		

			site, including any applications which involve waste at the site.		
Emissions from housing and domestic buildings?	None		No buildings are indicated within the proposed sites' boundaries as per Appendix 1, RIGS Boundary Maps.		
Emissions from construction and/or development?	None		<p>Construction materials have a significant 'embodied' carbon impact.</p> <p>Designation will seek to protect remaining conservation interests at the proposed sites and to update the Local Plan. Designation as a RIGS is a material consideration in planning decisions relating to development on or affecting any such site.</p>	Designation of the proposed sites will not prevent construction and development. However, designation may steer future development towards sites of less natural interest, elsewhere in the Borough of Rotherham. Protecting the land in this way might avoid some potential carbon impacts.	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Increase		The proposed designations seek to conserve R155 Lindrick Common Quarry and R108 Seed Hill Wood which include areas of woodland cover. These sites' tree cover and ecological interest imply significant carbon storage: their designation		The RIGS series should be kept valid and up to date through regular monitoring. Monitoring sites' annual carbon sequestration and total carbon storage would increase awareness of ecosystem services and natural capital, as

			may prevent some carbon impacts from unsustainable development. Though good site management would be to keep the rock features visible for inspection.		material considerations in Council decision making.
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Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:

None

Will the proposal affect Council services' resilience to climate change, or the capacity of people living in the Borough to adapt to climate change?

The protection of sites from development will maintain any existing natural resilience provided by this site. Where sites are already locally accessible, they may already provide beneficial green space with a number of ecosystem benefits such as water management, and natural cooling through foliage or shading.

The climate in Rotherham is already changing, with visible impacts throughout the Borough. Hotter summers are increasing the risk of extreme temperatures such as those experienced in July 2022, as wetter winters and more intense rainfall are increasing the risk of floods such as those in 2007, 2019 and 2023. More information on climate change impacts in Rotherham is available from: <https://www.reports.esriuk.com/view-report/b8eb3cee8f764147a2cfcd69cf36238f/E08000018>

- The proposal for two new RIGS will not affect Council services in respect of climate change.
- The RIGS designation is an extra layer of protection for these sites against inappropriate development, existing land uses are anticipated to be unaffected.

Provide a summary of all impacts and mitigation/monitoring measures:

The proposal is not envisaged to have a major impact on climate change, it will seek to maintain existing geo conservation features at two sites in Rotherham. The boundaries would be a material consideration in future planning applications so it might be beneficial in helping prevent harmful future land uses, though the sites are already designated as Greenbelt in the Local Plan. The designation does not bring extra legal requirements on how the land needs to be managed. Any existing legislation that applies to the site will remain in force. It is good practice to visit sites periodically, to monitor and manage their conservation interests.

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Supporting information:	
Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rachel Lindsay Planning Officer Planning and Building Control Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	None
If quantities of emissions are relevant to and have been used in this form please identify which conversion factors have been used to quantify impacts.	None
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA441 Louise Preston Climate Change Manager