

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, LWS Boundary Maps.		
Emissions from transport?	None		Local Wildlife Sites in Rotherham are designated for their ecological interest. Local sites may provide other benefits e.g., as amenities for people living nearby.		It would be good practice to monitor site 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 Local Site 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, 3 Maps.		
Emissions from construction and/or development?	Decrease		Construction materials have a significant 'embodied' carbon impact. Designation will seek to protect remaining conservation interests at the proposed sites and to update the Local Plan. Designation as a Local Site is a material consideration in planning decisions relating to development on or affecting any such site.	Designation of the proposed sites will not prevent construction and development. However, designation may steer future development towards sites of less conservation interest, elsewhere in the Borough of Rotherham. Protecting the condition of local habitats in this way might avoid some potential carbon impacts, since greater biodiversity may be associated with greater capacity for carbon storage. Albeit major developments are required to demonstrate biodiversity net gain, the loss of habitat in one location cannot quickly or easily be compensated elsewhere: as referenced in the framework for Rotherham's Local Wildlife System, "the majority of terrestrial habitats are the result of complex events spanning many centuries which	

				defy re-creation over decades.”	
Carbon capture (e.g. through trees)?	Decrease		The proposed designations seek to extend the area of local sites. Some of these sites include areas of woodland cover. These sites’ tree cover and ecological interest imply significant carbon storage: their designation may prevent some carbon impacts from unsustainable development.		As noted in the framework for Rotherham’s Local Wildlife System, the appraisal of sites 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 material considerations in Council decision making.
Identify any emissions impacts associated with this decision which have not been covered by the above fields:					

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

Designation may protect local sites from inappropriate development, as an additional, material consideration in planning applications, with long-term benefits for the extent and quality of green-blue infrastructure in Rotherham and ecosystem services which it provides e.g., in respect of urban cooling and interception of stormwater flows, mitigating flood risk. These are high-level examples of nature-based solutions to climate adaptation, such as referenced in full Council’s 2022 motion declaring a Nature Crisis in Rotherham.

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

The proposal is not expected to have a significant impact on climate change. It will seek to maintain existing valuable habitats at two sites in Rotherham and to protect geological features at three further sites. Site boundaries would be a material consideration in future planning applications, which may help prevent harmful, future land use change, although the sites are already designated as green belt in the Local Plan. Designation as local sites 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.

Supporting information:

Climate Impact Assessment Author	Rachel Lindsay Planning Officer Planning, Regeneration and Transport Regeneration and Environment
Please outline any research, data or information used to complete this Climate Impact Assessment.	• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2011. <i>Local Wildlife Site System Part 1: The Framework for Rotherham's Local Wildlife System</i>. [Online]. [Accessed 6 July 2026]. Available from: https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/downloads/file/691/local-wildlife-system-parts-1-and-2. • Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. 2022. <i>Notice of Motion - Nature Crisis</i>. [Online]. Full Council, 25 May 2022. [Accessed 6 July 2026]. Available from: https://moderngov.rotherham.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=91028.
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.	
Validation	Tracking Reference: CIA 671 Arthur King Principal Climate Change Officer