

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Bishops Frome Neighbourhood Area

June 2016

Bishops Frome HRA

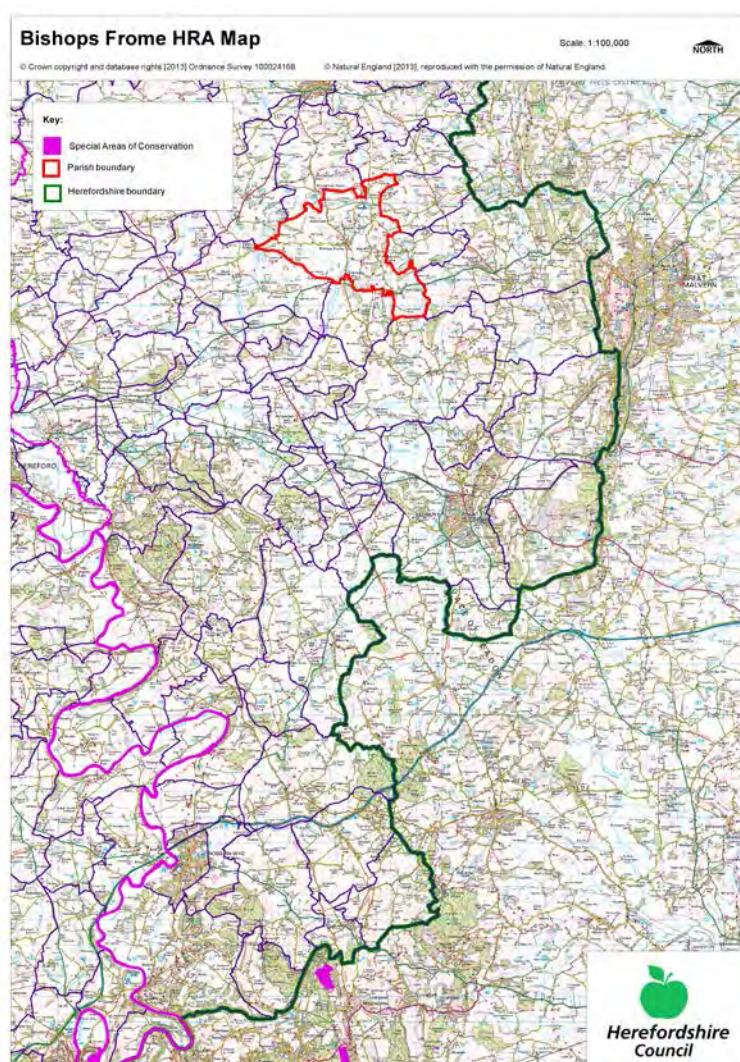
HRA Screening Assessment

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Bishops Frome Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Bishops Frome Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Bishops Frome Plan February 2015.
- 1.3 The NDP is criteria based and does not allocate sites. It provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. This high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (October 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Bishops Frome Neighbourhood Area with the European Site highlighted.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the "Habitats Regulations" published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore, when preparing its NDP, Bishops Frome Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment". It is also a requirement in Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:
Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.
- 2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a neighbourhood plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):
- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
 - **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 As the Bishops Frome Plan is not directly connected with the management of any European sites, and includes proposals for development which may affect European sites, it is necessary under Regulation 102(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to undertake screening for likely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.2 The HRA of neighbourhood plans is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated) and are measured with reference to the conservation objectives for those qualifying features as defined by Natural England.
- 3.3 The first process is to undertake an initial screening report to determine the need to undertake the requirement for a HRA, this initial screening identifies whether the Plan could impact upon any European site that could be within the Neighbourhood Area or nearby.

- 3.4 If a European Site is within the Neighbourhood Area or the Neighbourhood Area could impact upon a European site then this will need to be taken into account and a full screening assessment will need to be undertaken.
- 3.5 The full screening stage consists of a description of the plan, identification of potential effects on European Sites, assessing the effects on European Sites (taking into account potential mitigation provided by other policies in the plan). For Neighbourhood Plans the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur then there will need to be amendments to the NDP made and be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (14/10/13) found that the Bishops Frome is in the hydrological catchment area of the River Wye SAC. This falls within the western half of the Neighbourhood Area and therefore a full screening assessment is required.
- 4.2 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Bishops Frome Plan Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, November 2013, can be found in Appendix 4 of this HRA report. This information made it possible to identify the features of each site which determine site integrity, as well as the specific sensitivities of each site, therefore enabling later analysis of how the potential impacts of the Bishops Frome Plan Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Overall the majority of the options proposing any growth appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact. However the options listed are all on a small scale and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC.
- 4.4 As Bishops Frome Plan progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred options from the consultation from the community. If a majority of these options are taken forward either as standalone policies or in combination with other policies then the mitigation from these options will help to counter balance the effect of all new development within the Parish. A list of the options assessed can be found in Appendix 1, and the Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 2.

5 Description of the Bishops Frome Plan Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Bishops Frome Plan presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background to each of the villages.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period and eight objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

Landscape and natural environment
Housing
Local businesses
Community facilities
Open spaces
Roads and Road Safety
Renewable energy

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 10 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the village, these include:

New Housing development
Design and Materials
Local economy, business and Tourism
Business Enterprises
Improvement of Community Facilities
Open space and recreation
Informal greenspaces and rights of way
Traffic and transportation
Flood risk, drainage and water quality
Renewable Energy

6 Identification of other plans and projects which may have ‘in-combination’ effects

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014). It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP.
- 6.3 The HRA for the Core Strategy also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire, which indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Core Strategy policies, and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

7 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Bishops Frome Plan NDP

- 7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a screening assessment has been undertaken to identify the ‘likely significant effects’ of the NDP. A screening matrix was prepared in order to identify whether any of the policies in the Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 3 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table 1 below.

Red	There are likely to be significant effects
Green	Significant effects are unlikely

- 7.3 The Screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for

the pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy was also taking into consideration.

- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through implementation of the other policies within the NDP which require good practice measures during and after construction phases, such as more efficient use of water, reduction in waste and encouragement of recycling. The provision and encouragement of use of more sustainable transport measures when improving the transport infrastructure, will also help to reduce car traffic around the parish and surrounding areas.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Bishops Frome Plan (June 2016) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Bishops Frome Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the submission version of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e. it related instead to criteria for development. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment, including biodiversity and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 The plan does not allocate sites for development. However the plan allocates settlement boundaries for Bishops Frome and Fromes Hill settlement. Within the settlement area there appears to be enough capacity within the two identified settlements to meet the target housing. Along with development from infill, commitments, completions and windfall to meet the housing target of 48 from 2011 to 2031.
- 8.4 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is sufficient existing permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Bromyard area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. In addition, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.
- 8.5 It is unlikely that the Bishops Frome Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a small scale.
- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the Bishops Frome Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post June 2016) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

Bishops Frome Options

Option -Do nothing
Option 1 -To define a new settlement boundary allowing for some limited new development
Option 1A -To allocate specific sites within the new boundary to direct development to preferred locations.
Option 2 - To dispense with a boundary and not identify specific sites but to rely on criteria based policies to control development guided by the comments received on preferred sites.
Option 3 -To create a new settlement boundary and allocate sites within it
Option 4 - To control development through criteria based policies
Option 5 -Allocate sites for new employment uses
Option 6 -Support small scale enterprises to set up or expand within policy guidelines
Option 7 -Reliance on Core Strategy policies to protect existing open space and recreation facilities.
Option 8 -Positively identify areas to be protected from development together with a desire to enhance facilities and proposals to create new facilities.
Site Option BF A -Land east of Summerpool.
Site Option BF B -The transport yard (trevors yard) next to the Old Post Office
Site Option BF C - Upper House (Everson Trust)- land west of Upper House
Site Option BF D - Land and Buildings west of Broadfield Court/ Mudwalls
Site Option BF E - Land between Wellington Farm and Filley Brook
Site Option BF F - Land area Broadfield Barn ND Olde Shop
Site Option BF G -Land south of Broadfield Court
Site Option BF 8 -Land west of Partridges garage
Site Option BF 9 -Land south of Partridge's garage (Christmas Tree field)
Fromes Hill Site Option A - Land east of Uplands on the eastern fringe of the village
Fromes Hill Site Option 2 -Land north of Uplands
Fromes Hill Site Option C - Field adjoining A4103 west of St Matthews church
Fromes Hill Site Option 4 -Land east of the Chapel at the western end of the village

Appendix 2

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives, Options and Policies

Parish Council Name: Bishops Frome

NDP Title: Bishops Frome Plan

Date undertaken: June 2016

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no LSE? (Yes/No with reasons)
Option- to do nothing	No NDP to determine planning applications.	Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist.	Bishops Frome parish is within the hydrological catchment area of the parish.	N/A	N/A

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<p>Option 1-To define a new settlement boundary allowing for some limited new development</p>	<p>Housing development within the defined boundary</p> <p>Increase in water usage</p> <p>Increase in traffic</p>	<p>Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>	<p>No, this option acknowledges sustainable scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.</p>
<p>Option 1A-To allocate specific sites within the new boundary to direct development to preferred locations.</p>	<p>New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.</p> <p>Greater development certainty.</p>	<p>Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p> <p>Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Option 2- To dispense with a boundary and not identify specific sites but to rely on criteria based policies to control development guided by the comments received on preferred sites.</p>	<p>New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.</p>	<p>Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p> <p>A degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>	<p>No, this option acknowledges sustainable scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.</p>

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		left to market forces.			
Option 3- To create a new settlement boundary and allocate sites within it	New housing will be developed in settlement boundary. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Option 4- To control development through criteria based policies	Housing development Increase in transport and facility use Increase in water and sewage waste production and water consumption Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	Less certain in comparison to allocating sites and settlement boundary, as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
Option 5- Allocate sites for new employment uses	Job creation Increase in traffic Employment/ work places	Due to the potential scale it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. However this can further be	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant

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	created New business created	determined at planning application stage.		stage.	
Option 6 -Support small scale enterprises to set up or expand within policy guidelines	Increase in small scale business development Community facilities used Water consumption and production of waste increase	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage. Environmental impact can be mitigated under Core Strategy policies.	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
Option 7 -Reliance on Core Strategy policies to protect existing open space and recreation facilities.	Open space and recreation use Increase in community activities	Due to the potential scale it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. This option is uncertain as it is open to market sources. However this can further be determined at planning application stage..	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Option 8 - Positively identify areas to be protected from development together with a desire to enhance facilities and proposals to create new facilities.	Increase usage in community facilities Improve of built environment Minimal increase in traffic	Due to the potential scale and size it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.	No, this option will not directly lead to development. Instead it aims to improve and protect community facilities.
Site Option BF A -Land	Damage to trees and hedgerows/ significant	Due to the proximity of the location to the Sac site it is		Ensure future policy balances out the scale of	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely

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east of Summerpool.	constrained site New housing Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands	likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	to be significant
Site Option BF B -The transport yard (trevors yard) next to the Old Post Office	New housing Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries. Design mitigation methods for development in flood sensitive areas should be added within the criteria.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Site Option BF C - Upper House (Everson Trust)- land west of Upper House	New housing Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
Site Option BF D - Land and Buildings west of Broadfield Court/	New housing Increase in water usage	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the	River Wye (including	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close	Will be a suitable mitigation technique to off set any impact from

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Mudwalls	Increase in traffic Parking demands	European Site.	River Lugg) SAC	to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	other developments
Site Option BF E- Land between Wellington Farm and Filley Brook	Natural boundary of the nearby brook may be effected. New housing Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries. Design mitigation methods for development in flood sensitive areas should be added within the criteria.	N/A
Site Option BF F- Land area Broadfield Barn ND Olde Shop	New housing Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. Policy would need to take account of the proportional	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant

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				growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	
Site Option BF G-Land south of Broadfield Court	Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands New housing	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning application stage.
Site Option BF H-Land west of Partridges garage	Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands New housing	Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries. Policy would need to take account of the proportional	No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning

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				<p>growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p> <p>Design mitigation methods for development in flood sensitive areas should be added within the criteria.</p>	application stage.
<p>Site Option BF I-Land south of Partridge's garage (Christmas Tree field)</p>	<p>Increase in water usage</p> <p>Increase in traffic</p> <p>Parking demands</p> <p>New housing</p>	<p>Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.</p> <p>Design mitigation methods for development in flood sensitive areas should be added within the criteria.</p>	<p>No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning application stage.</p>
<p>Fromes Hill Site Option A- Land east of Uplands on the eastern fringe of the village</p>	<p>Increase in water usage</p> <p>Increase in traffic</p> <p>Parking demands</p> <p>New housing</p>	<p>Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.</p>	<p>No. Unlikely to have significant environmental impact on the SAC. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning application stage.</p>
<p>Fromes Hill Site Option</p>	<p>Increase in water usage</p>	<p>Due to the proximity of the</p>		<p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of</p>	<p>No. Unlikely to have</p>

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<p>2-Land north of Uplands</p>	<p>Increase in traffic Parking demands New housing</p>	<p>location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.</p> <p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>significant environmental impact on the SAC. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning application stage.</p>
<p>Fromes Hill Site Option C- Field adjoining A4103 west of St Matthews church</p>	<p>Increase in water usage Increase in traffic Parking demands New housing</p>	<p>Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.</p>	<p>No. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning application stage.</p>
<p>Fromes Hill Site Option 4-Land east of the Chapel at the western end of the</p>	<p>Increase in water usage Increase in traffic</p>	<p>Due to the proximity of the location to the SAC site it is likely that there will be significant effects on the</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its</p>	<p>No. Environmental impact can be further determined on a case by case basis at planning</p>

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village	<p>Parking demands</p> <p>New housing</p>	European Site.		<p>tributaries.</p> <p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	application stage.
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Appendix 3

Appendix 3

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives and Policies

Parish Council Name: Bishops Frome Group

NDP Title: Bishops Frome Draft Plan

Date undertaken: June 2016

Core Strategy HRA version: Core Strategy

NDP objectives, policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Objective 1 To ensure a sustainable future through the implementation of Core Strategy policies which encourage appropriate growth of rural businesses and housing, facilities and	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment Sustainable housing growth	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of development, this is likely to be assessed on a case by case basis.	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on	No. This objective ensures the number of houses to be developed within the villages over the Plan period to be in proportion in size and scale.

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services and access to sustainable transport.				the water supply as a result of new development. Good practice measures are implemented during and after construction phase ensuring there is minimal noise and vibration.	
Objective 2 To protect and enhance the special character of the landscape, natural and built environment of the villages and the surrounding countryside.	Promoting measures to ensure the historic, cultural and ecological character of the Parish remains or is enhanced.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This objective will not lead to development itself but will seek to improve the local character of build and natural environment that currently exists within the Neighbourhood area.
Objective 3 To develop policies to identify the criteria for small scale housing developments of three to four houses to meet the requirement for growth identified in the core strategy in Bishops Frome and Fromes Hill up to 2031 to meet local needs. The preferred sites will	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment Sustainable housing growth	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of development, this is likely to be assessed on a case by case basis.	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new development. Good practice measures are	No. This objective ensures the number of houses to be developed within the villages over the Plan period to be in proportion in size and scale.

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be appropriate in terms of size, scale, design and sustainability and the ability of services and facilities to support them.				implemented during and after construction phase ensuring there is minimal noise and vibration.	
Objective 4 To encourage the development of small scale businesses that will contribute to local employment opportunities and promote the introduction of faster broadband and other technological aids for rural businesses.	<p>Promote improvement of communications for all members of the community</p> <p>Increase in home working, reduction in private car usage.</p> <p>Potential boost in rural and home businesses.</p>	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC depending upon location of potential development, this is likely to be assessed on a case by case basis.	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.	No. This objective encourages new development in a small and sustainable way.
Objective 5 To support existing and promote new community facilities	<p>Potentially increase use on public transport and public car use.</p> <p>Promotion of new community facilities</p>	<p>New community facilities.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	<p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development.</p> <p>Policy LD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new</p>	No, although this policy could result in the development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye. However, sufficient policy

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				<p>community uses. Measures within Policy SD1 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>The implementation of Policies SD3 and SD4 within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should also help to avoid any adverse impacts in relation to the hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water Quality in the River Wye is also being specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>Ensure sustainable transport measures are considered and public transport measures are considered to support any excess traffic caused from new facilities.</p>	<p>safeguards are in place within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and with the inclusion of additional wording in the Bishops Frome NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.</p>
<p>Objective 6 To protect and enhance open spaces, recreational facilities and areas of informal green and create new recreational facilities where a need is</p>	<p>Protect and enhance existing community facilities</p> <p>Increase in recreation activities use.</p> <p>Increase in outdoor activities.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No. This policy will not lead to development but ensures open spaces; green space and recreation spaces are enhanced and protected.</p>

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expressed.					
<p>Objective 7 To ensure that adequate provision is made for the necessary highway, footway and public transport improvements required for any new development and that necessary traffic and road safety provision is made.</p>	<p>Increase in walking and cycling.</p> <p>Decrease in traffic accidents.</p> <p>Improvement in public transport services.</p>	<p>Uncertain it may have an effect on the River Wye SAC</p> <p>Any effects of additional transport will be mitigated with providing additional highway and transport measures could affect air quality. Ensure sustainable measures of transport are considered within this policy- i.e- potential cycle paths, car sharing schemes etc.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC)</p>	<p>Ensure sustainable transport measures are considered and public transport measures are considered to support any excess traffic caused from new facilities.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not will ensure provision is made for needed highway, footway and public transport provisions in line with new development.</p> <p>This policy could help to provide mitigation against the potential transport impact caused from new development.</p>
<p>Objective 8 To ensure that essential infrastructure and services are adequate to cope with future growth</p>	<p>New services developed</p> <p>New infrastructure</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC)</p>	<p>Ensure good practice measures for construction process are followed to keep noise and nuisance to a minimum.</p>	<p>No. This policy helps to promote sustainable growth for essential infrastructure and services.</p>
<p>Objective 9 To promote initiatives for renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Renewable energy schemes to be development</p> <p>Small improvement to air quality</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No. This policy</p>

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Policy BF1 –Protecting and enhancing the character of the rural landscape and built Environment	Ensuring that any new housing development is fitting with its context and does not impact upon the character of the village and surrounding landscape.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC)	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to development; rather it aims to ensure that new development is in keeping with the local character of the village.
Policy BF 2 – New housing development	New development for houses Increase in vehicular traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC)	Good practice measures are implemented during and after construction phase ensuring there is minimal noise and vibration.	This policy will lead to housing growth and will need to ensure development is carried out in a sustainable and non-effective way.
Policy BF3 – Design and materials	Ensuring that any new housing development is fitting with its context and has suitable design and materials to be in keeping with the neighbourhood area existing context.	No Likely Significant effect on the River Wye SAC	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to new development; but rather it will ensure that any new development is in keeping with the surrounding design and context of Bishops Frome.
Policy BF4 – Business enterprises	Development of social and community facilities and infrastructure Strengthen broadband	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC)	N/A	No. The policy will not itself lead to development, but promote economy and job growth. This may

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	<p>infrastructure</p> <p>Reduction in car usage</p> <p>Small reduction in air pollution</p>				<p>increase traffic but this is mitigated by other NDP policies.</p> <p>This policy will also ensure communications infrastructure is strengthened for community use. Faster broadband speeds may provide work from home opportunities, thereby reducing the need to travel.</p>
Policy BF5 – Retention and improvement of community facilities	<p>Improvement of existing facilities</p> <p>Increase in activity around community facilities</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	Ensure sustainable transport measures are considered during the construction phases of the development.	No. This objective will not lead to development itself but will look to ease the pressures between the community facilities and transport through the Parish.
Policy BF6 – Retention and improvement of open space and recreation	<p>Improvement of open space</p> <p>Increase in recreation activities</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	N/A	No. This policy will lead to improvement of open space and green space within Bishops Frome Parish.
Policy BF7 – Informal green spaces and	New public rights of way created.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including	N/A	No. The policy aims to promote and boost

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rights of way	Provision of landscaping and planting.		River Lugg (SAC)		biodiversity by creating more green spaces within the parish.
Policy BF8 – Traffic and transportation	Development of transport infrastructure Traffic Calming measures Improvement of road safety	No significant effect upon the River Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	N/A	No the policy ensures that sustainable transport measures have been considered within this policy.
Policy BF9 – Prevention of flooding and improvement of water quality	Development of flood alleviation schemes Improvement of water quality	No significant effect upon the River Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	N/A	No the policy ensures new proposals to improve water quality and ensure the parish is protected from flooding.
Policy BF10 – Renewable energy	Development of renewable energy schemes	No likely significant effect upon the River Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg (SAC))	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to have significant effect on the SAC as it will provide renewable energy schemes and help reduce air pollution.

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Appendix 4

Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Notification

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (Reg. 32)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

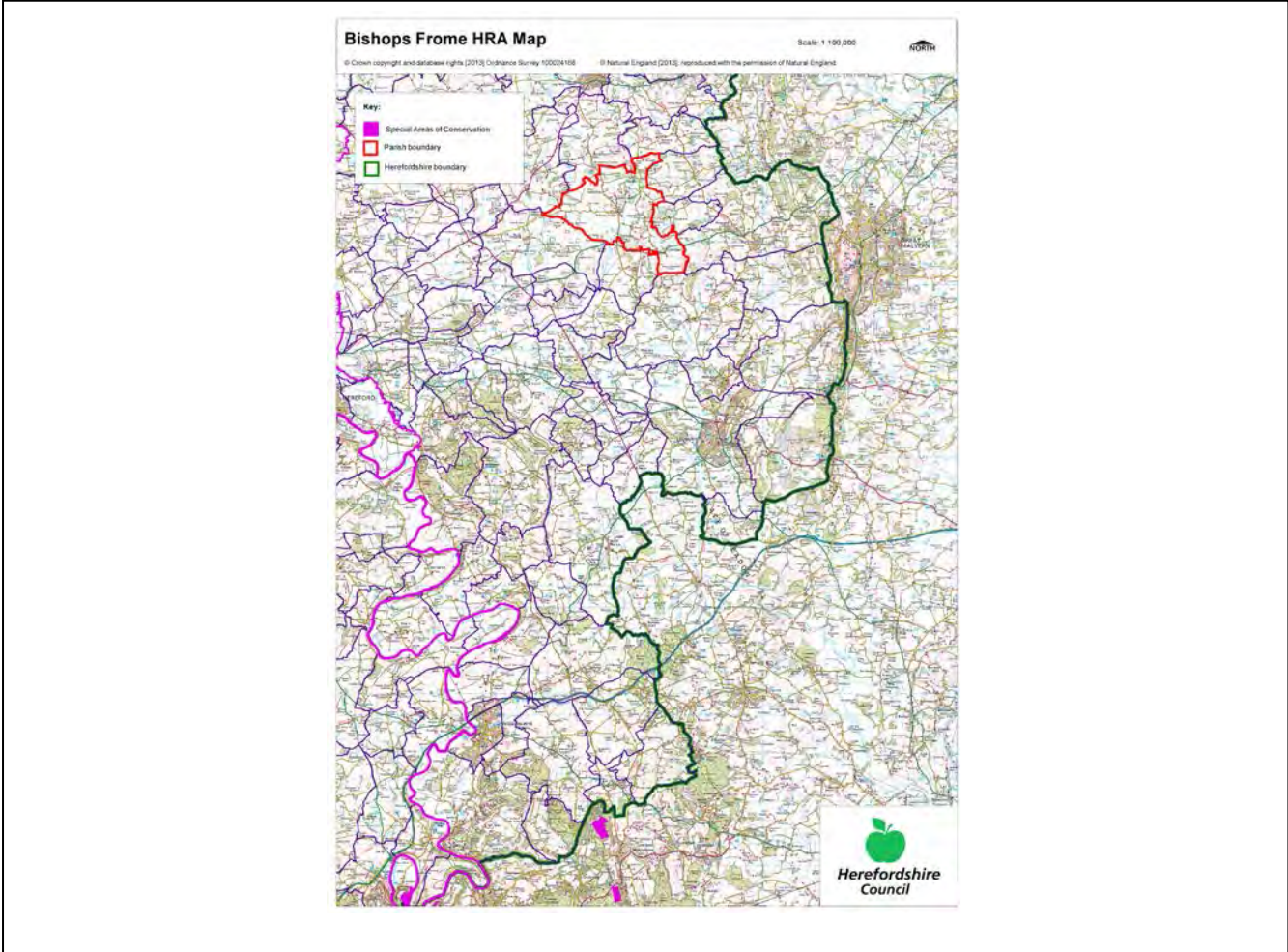
Neighbourhood Area:	Bishops Frome Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Bishops Frome Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	08/11/2013

Introduction

This Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening has been undertaken to assess whether any European Sites exist within or in proximity to the Neighbourhood Area which could be affected by any future proposals or policies.

Through continual engagement the outcomes of any required assessments will help to ensure that proposed developments will not lead to Likely Significant Effects upon a European Site or cause adverse impacts upon other environmental assets, such as the built historic or local natural environment.

**HRA Initial Screening: Map showing relationship of Neighbourhood Area with European Sites
(not to scale)**



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Lugg SAC is 11.1km away from the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The western half of the Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Frome
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Bishops Frome

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 31.8km away from the Parish
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River Clun SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area include: Border Group Parish Council or Leintwardine Group Parish Council?	N	River Clun does not border the Parish
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Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 53.3km away from the Parish
--	---	---

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Parish is 25.3km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
--	---	--

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Parish is 31.1km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
--	---	---

HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that the following European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Bishops Frome Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

Strategic Environmental Assessment Initial Screening for nature conservation landscape and heritage features

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Bishops Frome Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMAs within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	11	Hanging Covert; Rough Coppice; Cheyney Court Wood; Bromtrees Coppice; Merrells Wood (border); Beacon Hill (border); Fishpool Wood (border); Camp Coppice (border); Ashen Coppice (border); Penshill Coppice (border); Court Coppice (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONBs within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SACs within the Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones follow the River Frome from north to south through the Parish	Y
Geoparks	1	Malvern Hills Geopark	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Nature Trails	2		Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	15 SWS	Cowarne Wood; Swill Meadow; Field near Ward Hill; Field near Evesbatch Coppice; Field near The Major Arms; Cheyney Court Wood; Merrells Wood (border); River Frome; Ashen & Yewberry Coppices (border); Beacon Hill (border); Meadows at Catley Farm (border); Foxhill & Fishpool Wood (border); Fisher's Coppice (border); Pools at Moored Farm (border); Hopton Dingle (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	2	Herefordshire Trail; Bromyard Walks	Y
Mineral Reserves	2	Stretton Grandison to Canon Frome to Bishops Frome; South of Little Cowarne, Crossways to Starpit Farm, Much Cowarne (border)	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	1 Unregistered	Leadon Court	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	1	Castle Frome Castle (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	0	There are no SSSIs within the Parish	N

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Bishops Frome Neighbourhood Area:

- a) Will require further environmental assessment for Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Assessment date: 14/10/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

The table below provides the name of each European Site, which has been screened in for the purposes of neighbourhood planning in Herefordshire; includes their site features of integrity; and vulnerability data. This is based on the sites individual features of integrity and their vulnerabilities, which could include distance criteria. This has been used in identifying which parishes are likely to require a full HRA Screening of their future Neighbourhood Development Plan, to establish if their plan might have Likely Significant Effects on a European Site.

Downton Gorge
Site Features: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
Vulnerability data: 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.
River Clun
Site Features: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
Vulnerability data: Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.
River Wye
Site Features: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation. Transition mires and quaking bogs. White-clawed (or Atlantic Stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> . Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> . Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> . River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> . Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> . Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> . Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> . Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> . Allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>
Vulnerability data: Proximity: Developments should not be within 100m of the designated bank. Some developments beyond 100m may also have impacts based on proximity and these issues should be addressed where possible when developing NDP policy and choosing site allocations. Water Quality: Within the whole catchment of the River Wye, which includes the River Lugg, mains drainage issues with regards to water quality are being resolved through the Core Strategy / Local Plan and development of a Nutrient Management Plan. Welsh Water should be consulted to ensure that the proposed growth will be within the limit of their consents. Otters: "An otter will occupy a 'home range', which on fresh waters usually includes a stretch of river as well as associated tributary streams, ditches, ponds, lakes and woodland. The size of a home range depends largely on the availability of food and shelter, and the presence of neighbouring otters. On rivers, a male's home range may be up to 40km or more of watercourse and associated areas; females have smaller ranges (roughly half the size) and favour quieter locations for breeding, such as tributary streams. Otters without an established home range are known as 'transients'. They are mostly juveniles looking for a territory of their own, or adults that have been pushed out of their territories. Transient otters may use an area for a short while, but they will move on if conditions are not suitable or if they are driven away by resident otters. Transients will have been important in extending the range of otters, but they are very difficult to identify from field signs. Within a home range an otter may use many resting sites. These include above-ground shelters, such as stands of scrub or areas of rank grass, and underground 'holts' – for example, cavities under tree roots and dry drainage pipes." (Source: EA website: http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/static/documents/Business/Otters_the_facts.pdf accessed 09/04/2013)

Usk Bat Site

Site Features: Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: European dry heaths, Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration, Blanket bogs, Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation, Caves not open to the public, *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines. Annex II species of primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, UK population 5%, although it is suggested this is an underestimate.

Vulnerability data: Lesser Horseshoe bats are known to migrate between 5km and 10km between their summer and winter roosts. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Check with the planning ecologist for other issues.

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

Site Features: Annex II species that are a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*. Greater horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*

Vulnerability data: Lesser Horseshoe bats are known to migrate between 5km and 10km between their summer and winter roosts. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Check with the planning ecologist for other issues.

Greater Horseshoe bats are known to migrate between 20-30km between their summer and winter roosts.

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat: Old buildings; woodland locations; sheltered valleys, extensive deciduous woods or dense scrub, close to roost sites. In areas of fragmented habitats, linear habitats such as hedgerows are important corridors. Vulnerable to loss or disturbance of both summer and winter roosts and removal of linear habitat.

Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation. A system/series of sites required. Vulnerable to loss of insect food supply, due to insecticide use, changing farming practices and loss of broad-leaved tree-cover and loss / disturbance of underground roosts sites.

Wye Valley Woodlands

Site Features: Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for site selection: Beech forests *Asperulo-Fagetum*, *Tilio-Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines, *Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles. Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, 51-100 residents

Vulnerability data: Lesser Horseshoe bats are known to migrate between 5km and 10km between their summer and winter roosts. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Check with the planning ecologist for other issues. NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider: Woodland habitat buffer. Lesser Horseshoe Bat: Old buildings; woodland locations; sheltered valleys, extensive deciduous woods or dense scrub, close to roost sites. In areas of fragmented habitats, linear habitats such as hedgerows are important corridors. Vulnerable to loss or disturbance of both summer and winter roosts and removal of linear habitat.

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

