

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Hope under Dinmore Group Neighbourhood Area

October 2015

Hope-under-Dinmore HRA

HRA Screening Assessment

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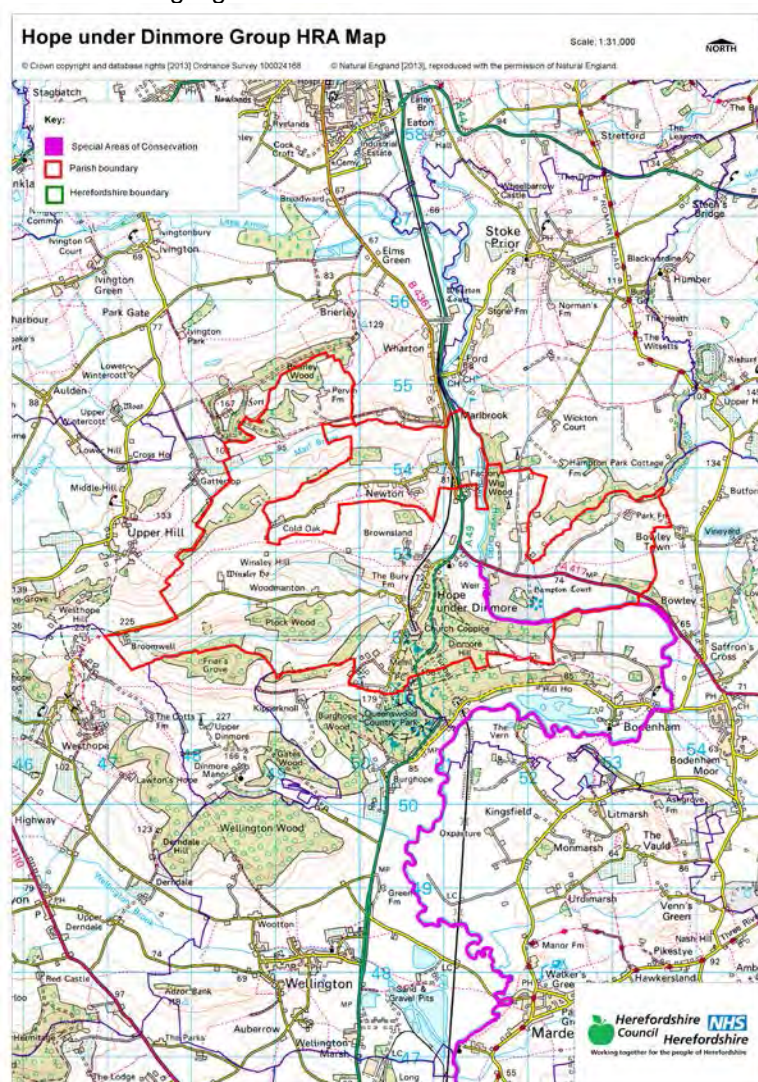
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1 Introduction

- 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 Hope-under-Dinmore Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Hope-under-Dinmore 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 Hope-under-Dinmore Plan November 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 (April 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Hope-under-Dinmore 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, Hope-under-Dinmore 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 Hope-under-Dinmore NDP 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 (October 2014) found that the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC is located within 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 Hope-under-Dinmore Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, October 2014, can be found in Appendix 1 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 Hope-under-Dinmore 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 majority of options listed are all on a small scale and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC. Option 2c could have an impact due to the scale and size but will be dependent upon location, however a larger housing site could bring more potential mitigation in terms of flooding and protection to the environment.
- 4.4 As Hope-under-Dinmore 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 2, and the Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 3.

5 Description of the Hope-under-Dinmore Neighbourhood NDP

- 5.1 The Draft Hope-under-Dinmore NDP 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 of the village.

- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period and five objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

Social and Community
Environment and heritage
Economy and employment

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 11 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the village, these include:

Housing Strategy
Settlement Boundary
Criteria for new housing development

Flood Risk
Community Facilities
Landscape character
Local green space
Biodiversity and heritage assets
Renewable energy
Employment development
Communications infrastructure

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 Hope-under-Dinmore 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 (including the River Lugg) 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 / proposed modifications addendum 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, along with encouragement for home working with improvements to broadband infrastructure will reduce the need to travel.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Hope-under-Dinmore NDP (November 2015) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP, Herefordshire Core Strategy, the Pre-submission version of the HRA and the Proposed modifications addendum for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) 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. The plan is very much criteria based, and does not allocate sites for development.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 It is unlikely that the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP 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.
- 8.5 It is therefore concluded that the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.
- 8.6 Any further amendments to policies (post October 2015) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

**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)**

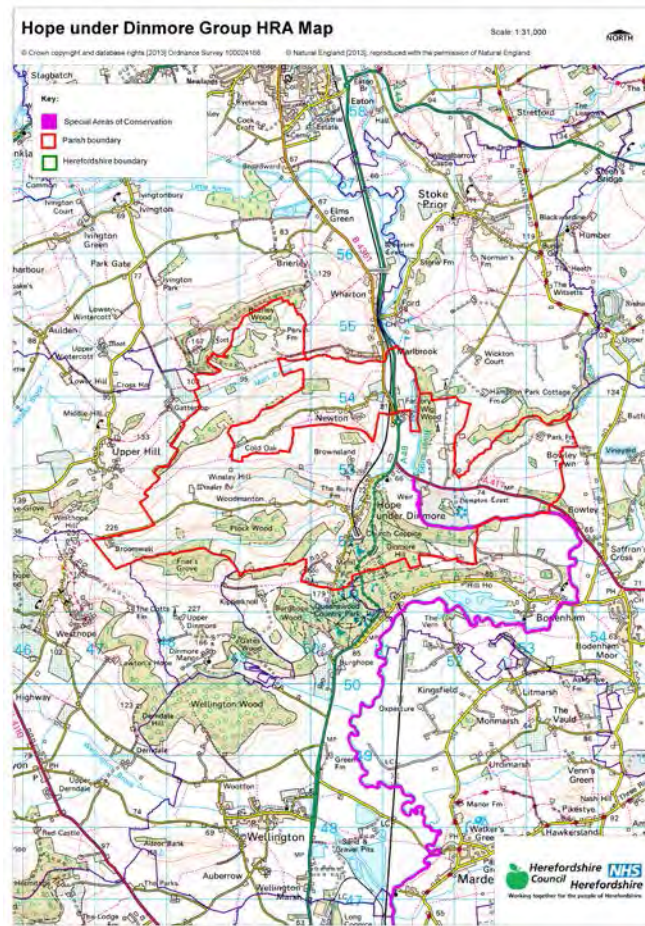
Neighbourhood Area:	Hope under Dinmore Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Hope under Dinmore Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	29/08/2013

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?	Y	The River Lugg SAC is within the Group Parish.
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the River Lugg hydrological catchment area
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	N	There is no mains drainage at Hope under Dinmore

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 18.8km away from the Group 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 Group Parish
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Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 45.3km away from the Group Parish
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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 Group Parish is 34.6km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
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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 Group Parish is 37.6km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
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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 Hope under Dinmore Group 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 Hope under Dinmore Group 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 AQMA's within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	10	Friars Grove (border); Old Nash Coppice; Plock Wood; Dinmore Hill Wood; The Rookery (border); Hill Hole Dingle; Lower Mile's Rough; Titterstone Plantation; Marl Brook Wood; Draycott Wood	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	1	River Lugg	Y
Flood Areas		There are Flood Zones 2 and 3 around the River Lugg and Marl Brook	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings within the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	11 (SWS)	Titterstone Plantation, Woodfield and Lime Kiln Copse; Woodland near Hope under Dinmore; Westhope Hill and surrounding woodlands; Land at Oxpasture; Land at Plock Wood; Dinmore Hill and adjoining Woodland; Land adjacent to Church Hill Coppice; Field near Bury of Hope; Lower Mile's Rough; Wig Wood, Lewis' Plantation and Kennel Gorse; Hill Hole Dingle (3)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no long distance footpaths/trails within the Group Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	1	Area around Wellington constrained by 200m zone and area to north of Wellington outside 200m zone	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	1 Unregistered	Hampton Court	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	1	Ivington Camp multivallate hill fort (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	4	The Bury Farm (Favourable); Dinmore Hill Wood (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)); River Lugg (Unfavourable Recovering); Hill	Y

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Hope under Dinmore Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 25/07/2013

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.

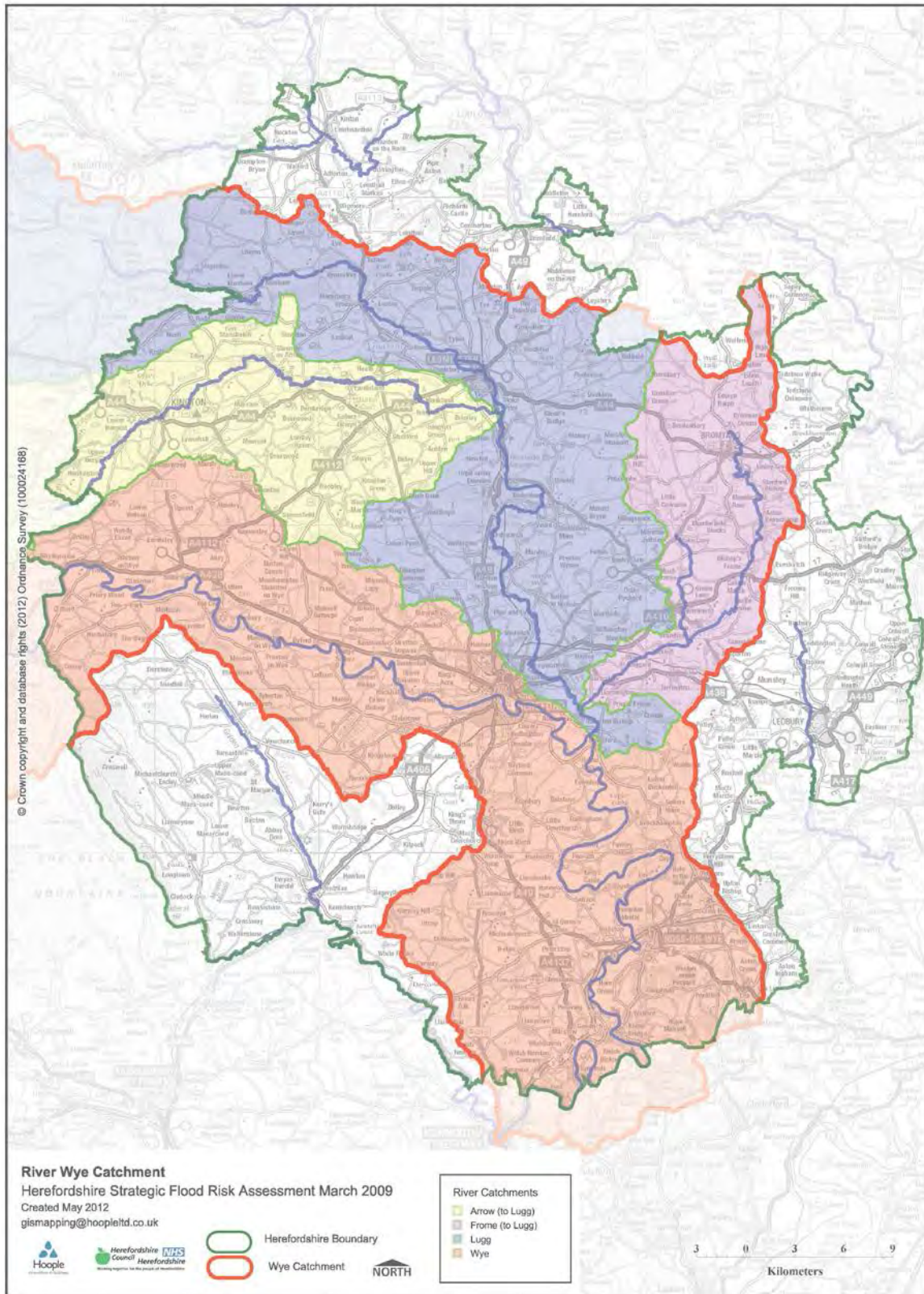
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation. 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



Appendix 2

Hope-under-Dinmore NDP • Note on options considered in formulating the draft Plan

Option area	Options considered	Evidence	Conclusion	Plan ref.
1: NDP preparation	A. Prepare a NDP. B. Do nothing.	Parish Council minutes.	The view of the Parish Council was that the opportunity to prepare an element of the statutory development plan for the area should be taken, to help deliver greater local control over development and enhance ability to address local flooding and environmental protection concerns. Selected option: 1A.	1.2
2: Size of housing developments	A. Individual new homes within areas of existing dwellings. B. Smaller developments of 3-5 houses in more than one place. C. Single development of 10-15 houses.	Survey Q3.	Evidence shows single dwellings and smaller developments are favoured. Smaller schemes are considered to better support local character and distinctiveness. Selected options: 2A and 2B.	Policy HUD3
3: Village boundary	A. Use a settlement boundary to manage development at Hope-under-Dinmore. B. Do not use a settlement boundary to manage village development.	Survey Q7, Core Strategy Modification MM038.	Evidence and strategic policy strongly favour definition of a settlement boundary for the village. Selected option: 3A.	Policy HUD2
4: Housing delivery	A. Allocating land for housing, as part of overall approach to managing delivery. B. Deliver housing through managed windfall development, with no site allocation.	Survey Q3, Q4, Housing Site Assessment	The outcome of the Housing Site Assessment was that no sites could be demonstrated to be suitable for allocation in the Plan. Selected option: 4B.	Policy HUD1

Option area	Options considered	Evidence	Conclusion	Plan ref.
5: Type of village boundary	<p>A. Restrictive boundary, limiting development to that identified in the Plan.</p> <p>B. Permissive boundary, including areas of open land for possible later development.</p>	Survey Q8, Housing Site Assessment, SEA Scoping Report.	<p>A mixed survey response to these options has been assessed in the light of the HSA and the SEA scoping reports. The proposed settlement boundary reflects these evidence-based environmental and other constraints, notably access and severance, biodiversity and flooding.</p> <p>Selected option: refined option to define a boundary taking into account evidence-based constraints.</p>	Policy HUD2
6: Employment development	<p>A. Allocating land for employment, as part of the overall approach to economic development.</p> <p>B. Not to allocate land for employment development.</p>	Survey Q11 and Q12, Local Plan Core Strategy policy RA6 and E1.	<p>The survey showed limited support for new light industry or manufacturing within the Plan, or for new land allocations. Strategic policy directs such growth to larger centres, such as nearby Leominster Enterprise Park. Policy HUD10 supports small-scale employment development through building conversion and home working, and protects existing employment sites.</p> <p>Selected option: 6B.</p>	Policy HUD10.
7: Renewable energy	<p>To encourage the following ways of producing local renewable energy:</p> <p>A. Wind turbines.</p> <p>B. Solar power.</p> <p>C. Ground heat pumps.</p> <p>D. Biomass units.</p>	Survey Q18.	<p>Survey responses did not favour wind turbines. On this basis, and taking account of environmental constraints, the Plan does not identify sites/areas as suitable for wind energy development. The Plan includes a balanced policy supporting local renewable energy whilst taking heed of associated impacts.</p> <p>Selected options: 7B, 7C and 7D.</p>	Policy HUD9.
8: Leisure and recreational facilities	<p>A. Make provision for recreational open space.</p> <p>B. Make provision for a children's play area.</p>	Survey Q21.	<p>Survey support for both options was equivocal. Given this and uncertainties about the arrangements for site provision, funding and ongoing maintenance, particularly given the relatively low levels of residential development likely to be taking place within the Plan area, neither option is included in the draft Plan. Over the Plan period, land identified as local green space may, subject to access and funding, offer potential opportunity for recreational uses.</p>	Policy HUD7

Appendix 3

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Parish Council Name: Hope-under-Dinmore Group Parish Council

NDP Title: Hope-under- Dinmore group Neighbourhood Development Plan (Reg14 Consultation Draft)

Date undertaken: October 2015

Core Strategy HRA version: Pre-submission Core Strategy (May 2014) and Proposed Modifications Addendum B (July 2015)

NDP options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of option and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Option 1 a) Prepare a NDP	Producing a NDP would result in greater certainty and would meet the requirements of the Core Strategy.	Pre-submission Core Strategy HRA has examined the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy rural policies in May 2014 and concluded that there are no LSE but acknowledges the role of neighbourhood plans to provide additional certainty.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any policy to mitigate.
b) Do nothing	Not producing a neighbourhood plan would result in any future growth decisions within	Pre-submission Core Strategy HRA has examined the likely significant effects of the	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	n/a	n/a

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	<p>the parish being made based on the strategic policies within the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Proportional housing and employment growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>Core Strategy rural policies in May 2014 and concluded that there are no LSE but acknowledges the role of neighbourhood plans to provide additional certainty.</p>			
<p>Option 2 Size of housing developments</p> <p>A/ Individual new homes within areas of existing dwellings</p>	<p>The smaller developments can help provide certainty with location as they will be within the existing built up area. This can maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings.</p>	<p>Policies within the NDP will need to be criteria based, which can have mitigation criteria included.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>The scale and location of these new houses will be key. However as the housing would be located adjacent to existing properties it is unlikely to cause a significant effect.t Mitigation methods provided would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.</p>
<p>B/ Smaller developments of 3-5 houses in more than one place</p>	<p>Smaller developments can help integrate the new housing into the existing, which can help maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings.</p>	<p>Policies within the NDP will need to be criteria based, which can have mitigation criteria included.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>The scale and location of these new houses will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.</p>
<p>C/ Single development of 10-15 houses</p>	<p>Although larger scale so may have an impact upon the existing built form, larger housing sites can bring many</p>	<p>Policies within the NDP will need to be criteria based, which can have mitigation criteria</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Ensure that any policy includes mitigation methods, and that suitable site assessments are</p>	<p>The scale and location of these new facilities will be key. Mitigation methods provided by the other options put</p>

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	mitigation	included. Dependent upon location within the parish. Increased in traffic levels		undertaken to identify the most suitable.	forward would need to be incorporated into a proposed policy.
Option 3 Village boundary A/ Use a settlement boundary to manage development at Hope-under-Dinmore	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against any likely effects. However the majority of the village is outside of the catchment for the River Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any settlement boundary criteria policy to mitigate.
B/ Do not use a settlement boundary to manage village development	There is less certainty without a settlement boundary as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Policies within the NDP will need to be criteria based, which can have mitigation criteria included.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.
Option 4 Housing Delivery A/ Allocate sites for housing	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.

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	site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	can be added to site allocations policies.			
B/ Deliver housing through managed windfall development, with no site allocation	Reduced certainty, but housing capacity would need to be identified within the NDP therefore safeguards through other policies would be required.	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.
Option 5 Type of Village boundary A/ Restrictive boundary, limiting development to that identified in the Plan	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.
B/ Permissive boundary, including areas of open land for possible later development	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.
Option 6 Employment development A/ Allocating land for employment, as part of	Attracting employment to the area and providing good facilities will meet the requirements within	Potential Physical disturbance depending upon location and type of employment	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent

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the overall approach to economic development	the Core Strategy	Increased traffic levels		phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	significant effect occurring.
B/ Not to allocate land for employment development	Lose certainty of where employment will be based. Increased traffic in the rural area as location could be sporadic	Policies within the NDP will need to be criteria based, which can have mitigation criteria included.	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, and includes mitigation schemes.	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.
Option 7 Renewable Energy A/ Wind turbines	Community and individual renewable energy schemes	Potential disturbance if large scale and depending upon location	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring. Scale of individual schemes unlikely to have an impact.
B/ Solar Power	Community and individual renewable energy schemes	Potential disturbance if large scale and depending upon location	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent

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				phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	significant effect occurring. Scale of individual schemes unlikely to have an impact.
C/ Ground Heat pumps	Community and individual renewable energy schemes	Fairly small scale therefore should have little impact upon the SAC	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases.	No; policy criteria can be added to any settlement boundary criteria policy to mitigate.
D/ Biomass units	Community and individual renewable energy schemes	Dependent upon size and scale	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Policies can also ensure mitigation avoids any adverse impact.	No; policy criteria can be added to any settlement boundary criteria policy to mitigate.
Option 8 Leisure and recreational facilities A/ Make provision for recreational open space	Protect, improve and develop green spaces	n/a	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	n/a

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B/ Make provision for a children's play area	Provide a facility for the community and the local children	n/a	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	n/a
Objectives					
Social and Community	<p>This objective will help to contribute towards reducing flood risk.</p> <p>Local services will be maintained and supported.</p>	<p>There will be mitigation in place to help reduce the impact of new homes. The remainder of the objective could have a positive impact upon European sites.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No, potential damage to the interests of species using the SAC would be significantly reduced by the criteria within various policies
Environment and Heritage	<p>The objective will contribute towards sustainable development, by protecting the natural and historic environment, safeguarding agricultural land, maintaining high quality built and natural settings.</p>	<p>If objective is realised then the policies that deliver it could have a positive impact upon European sites.</p>	n/a	n/a	No, the policies involved in delivering this objective would only have positive impacts upon the European sites if they are successfully implemented.
Economy and Employment	<p>More people will be encouraged to work from home or closer to their work. The plan will attract employment opportunities that are suitable for a rural area, and support agricultural</p>	<p>There enough emphasis within the related policies on limiting pollution from business activity/attracting non-polluting activity to avoid adverse impacts on the</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No, potential damage to the interests of species using the SAC would be significantly reduced by the criteria within various policies.

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	sector. High quality broadband and mobile phone coverage will extend to all parts of the parish.	European sites.			
Policies					
Policy HUD1 : Housing Strategy	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye (Including the River Lugg) SAC depending upon location of development	River Wye (including the 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.	No. This policy highlights the number of houses to be developed within the village over the Plan period. This figure remains within the figure set out in the Core Strategy RA2 policy and therefore is not over and above the proposed. Although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment the Core Strategy has identified that there is sufficient headroom and capacity for the additional houses over

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					the plan period.
Policy HUD2 : Settlement Boundary	Highlights the boundary for the village core of where development would be acceptable	No significant effect upon the River Wye	N/A	N/A	No. The policy would itself not lead to development; instead it relates to criteria for where the village core is and therefore where development is demonstrated as acceptable.
Policy HUD3: Criteria for new housing development	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment	No significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.	River Wye (including the 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. This policy should help to mitigate the potential effects of future development.	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to criteria for development
Policy HUD4: Flood Risk	N/A	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 has no or little impact upon surface water flooding or fluvial flooding due to the mitigation methods encouraged.

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Policy HUD5: Community facilities	Development of social and community facilities and infrastructure	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	n/a	The measures in this policy will help to ensure that any potential adverse impact will be mitigated against. In addition the measures set out in other policies within the NDP will mitigate against any potential adverse impact.	No. This policy will not itself lead to development, instead it relates to the criteria for the protection of existing community facility or any new community development, which ensures that mitigation methods are put in place for any adverse impacts that may arise.
Policy HUD6: Landscape Character	n/a	n/a	n/a	The measures in this policy to conserve and enhance the landscape character across the Parish should help to provide mitigation against the potential adverse impacts of new developments	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to ensure that any development proposed will conserve, restore and enhance landscape character. As such this policy could help to provide mitigation against the potential of other NDP policies.
Policy HUD7: Local green space	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to

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					protect existing local green space.
Policy HUD8: Biodiversity and Heritage assets	n/a	n/a	n/a	This policy should help to mitigate the potential effects of future development.	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to ensure that any development proposed will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and heritage assets. As such this policy could help to provide mitigation against the potential of other NDP policies.
Policy HUD9: Renewable energy	Development of renewable energy infrastructure	No significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	N/A	This policy should help to mitigate the potential impacts of any renewable energy developments.	No, although this policy could result in the development of renewable energy infrastructure, it is likely to be small scale and mitigation methods are within the policy.
Policy HUD10: Employment Development	Increase in home working Small work premises Reduced vehicle traffic	No significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.	n/a	This policy should help to mitigate the potential impacts of other NDP policies in relation to increased traffic and developments due to	No. Although this policy encourages some development it is of small scale and encourages home working thereby

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	Retaining existing employment sites			reducing the extent to which people need to travel for work.	reducing the need to travel in both instances. There are measures in other policies in the Plan that will help to mitigate against any negative impact the policy may have.
Policy HUD11: Communications infrastructure	New infrastructure for Broadband development	No significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.	N/A	This policy should help to mitigate the potential impacts of other NDP policies in relation to increased traffic, and new business developments due to reducing the extent to which people need to travel for work.	No. Although this policy may lead to some new development this will be small scale to allow for the implementation of high speed broadband across the Parish. This in turn can allow new types of businesses to occupy the Parish and also allow for home working, thereby reducing the need vehicle traffic travelling across the County.