

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Leominster Neighbourhood Area

October 2014

Leominster

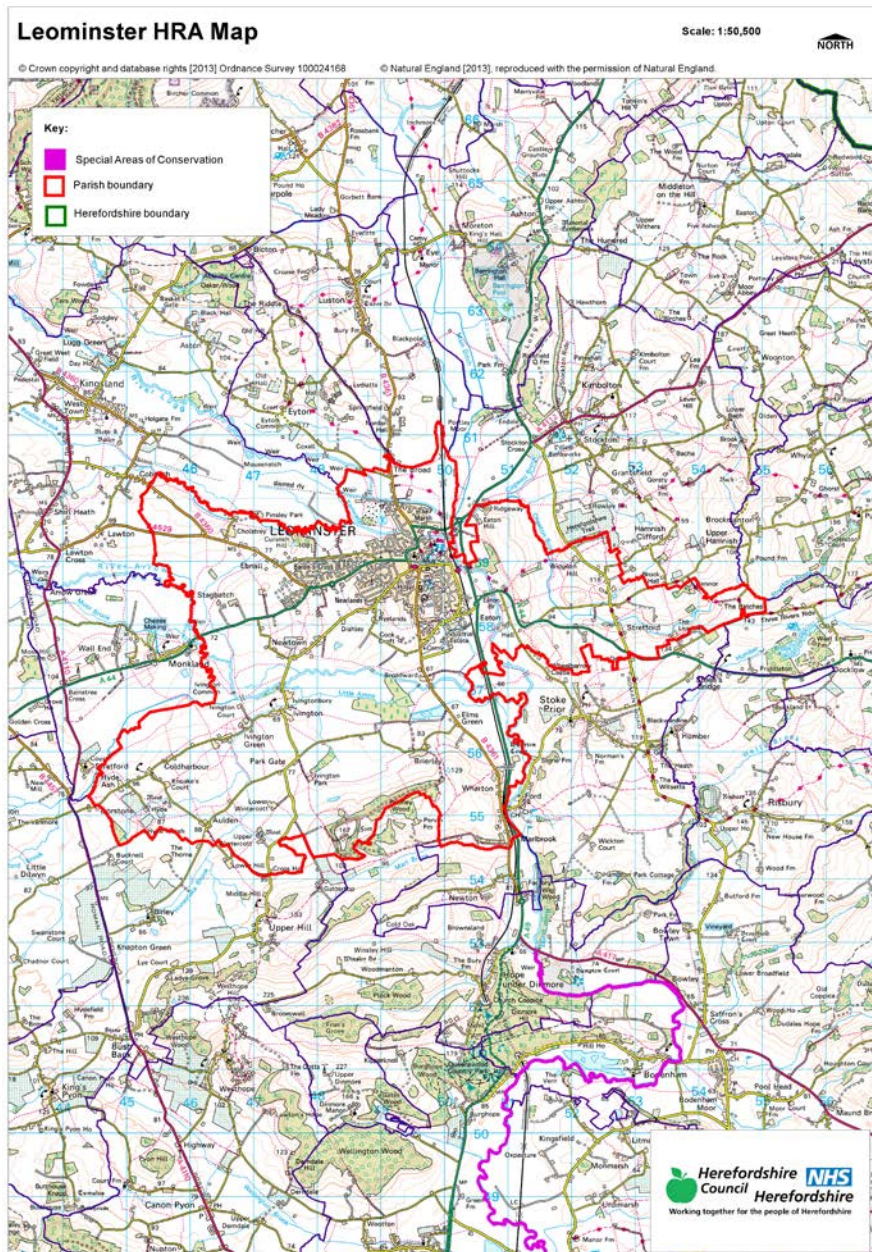
HRA Screening Assessment

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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 Leominster Town Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Leominster, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031 (Draft plan 08/14, being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has not allocated sites but 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 (May 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Leominster Neighbourhood Area with the European Site highlighted.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of 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, Leominster Town Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as “Habitats Regulations Assessment”. Reg 32 Schedule 2 Neighbourhood Planning regulations.

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 development 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 Leominster 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 matrix

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (31/07/12) found that the River Wye SAC is located south 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 Leominster Plan Initial Screening Report (Appendix 1 of this 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 Leominster Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.

4.3 There were a number of options that were considered by the Leominster Plan Steering Group at the early stages of the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plan. These initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. The options were as follows:

- 1/ Do nothing - Not to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan and rely solely on the Core Strategy Policies
- 2/ No Sustainable Urban Extension
- 3/ No new Link Road to the South of the Town
- 4/ Allocate additional housing sites and employment sites
- 5/ Utilise the policies in the Core Strategy and add additional sustainability measures to improve the town as a whole.

4.4 Overall the majority of the options proposing any growth appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact. If option 2 was undertaken then there would be a need to identify housing sites around the Town for the additional growth. Option 3 'no new link road' could lead to higher levels of traffic travelling through the Town and around the Neighbourhood Area although this may not lead to additional pollution than a new link road it could cause additional problems if the traffic has no direct route to follow. In addition, these two options would not meet the basic conditions as they are not in conformity with the emerging policies of the Core Strategy. The favoured option would be to undertake the Neighbourhood Plan and to incorporate additional sustainability measures as this would off-set and provide mitigation methods for the remainder of the proposals for Leominster.

4.5 As Leominster NDP 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 with the community.

5 Description of the Leominster Neighbourhood Plan

5.1 The Draft Leominster Plan Neighbourhood Development 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 objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

- Housing
- Open space and recreation
- Community Facilities
- Jobs and the Economy
- Enabling mixed use development
- Community engagement

5.3 The NDP also sets out twenty three general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for each of the villages, these include:

- LANP1 – Supporting the strategic development.
- LANP2 – Supporting the strategic housing development needs in Leominster town.
- LANP3 – Leominster sustainable urban extension.
- LANP4 – New housing development in Brierley, Ivington and Wharton.
- LANP5 – New homes in the countryside.
- LANP6 –Renewable energy.
- LANP7 – New business development.
- LANP8 – Protecting existing employment sites.
- LANP9 – Development in Leominster town centre.
- LANP10 – Green infrastructure.
- LANP11 –Open spaces.
- LANP12 – Greening the town (centre).
- LANP13 – Dark skies.
- LANP14 – Promoting a healthy community.
- LANP15 – Assets of community value.
- LANP16 – Landscapes.
- LANP17 – Protecting and enhancing the character of Leominster town centre.
- LANP18 – New building in Leominster.
- LANP19 – Tourism.
- LANP20 – Protecting important views.
- LANP21 – Reducing the need to travel.
- LANP22 – Improving walking, cycling and public transport.
- LANP23 – Moving around Leominster town centre.

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.
- 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 Leominster Group 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 1 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

Table 1

- 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 taken 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. The Leominster NDP will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment. The NDP will do this by ensuring there is no adverse impact on the environment and biodiversity; there is no detrimental impact to conservation areas; no unacceptable impacts on privacy; that there is adequate parking provision and access with development; the highway network can accommodate increase in traffic; and to ensure development is sympathetic to landscape and environment.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Leominster policies (August 2014) was concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Leominster Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-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. Also to conserve community facilities and heritage, 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 For those policies that were referring to potential development this could potentially have some impact upon the River Wye SAC, but depends on the location of sites selected i.e. not directly on the River Banks or adjacent to a watercourse that feeds into the River. It also depends on the scale of the sites for homes and businesses and at the scale of growth that is

required by the Herefordshire Core Strategy and no more. However the policies stated within Leominster Plan is criteria based and has not allocated any sites for development. Therefore it is uncertain if the sites selected would not have an appreciable effect on the River Wye SAC.

- 8.4 The water cycle study highlights that most of the River Wye catchment is in a moderate ecological status, the upper reaches of the River Lugg from Presteigne to Leominster are in poor ecological status. In addition there is not sufficient existing permitted headroom in the STWs serving Leominster and parts of rural Herefordshire to continue to treat water from all new housing provided for in the Core Strategy without affecting the quality of the River Wye SAC. In terms of the rural areas, development in villages near Leominster and just north of Hereford are more likely to have an impact due to the sensitivity on the River Lugg and the lack of permitted headroom in the STW's. Where developments in Leominster and in rural areas are proposed, there would be no likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC. 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 Leominster Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring authorities due to the level of growth proposed is of the same that is proposed for the Leominster Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing and retail sites will be of a small scale.
- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the Leominster Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.7 Any further amendments to the policies (post October 2014) 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:	Leominster
Parish Council:	Leominster Town Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	31 st July 2012

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.

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**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 (not part of the SAC) runs through the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	Leominster Parish is in both the Lugg and Arrow river catchments
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	Yes at Ivington and Leominster Worcester Road

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 12.7km away from the northern boundary of 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 46km away from the 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	Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 37km away from the Parish
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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	Wye Valley Woodlands are 41km away from the Parish
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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 Leominster 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 Leominster 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	1	An area encompassing the junction between the A44 (Bargates) and B4361 (Dishley Street/Cursneh Road) in Leominster.	Y
Ancient Woodland	7	Marlbrook Woods; Ramshill Wood (border); Draycott Wood (border); Puddlestone Wood (border); Long Wood (border); Titterstone Plantation (border); Lower Miles Rough (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's in Leominster Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's in Leominster Parish	N
Conservation Areas	4	Leominster Bridge Street; Leominster River Meadows; Leominster Bargates; Leominster	Y
European Sites	0	There are no SACs in the Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 & 3 follow the Rivers Lugg and Arrow, as well as Cheaton Brook, Little Arrow and various other brooks and streams	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	21	Land at Eaton Hill; Land at Eaton; lands at Leasows; Pond near Bankfield House; River Lugg; River Arrow; Field near Stoke Prior (border); Land at Stoke Prior (border); marshland near Steens Bridge (border); Land near Stone Farm (border); Land at Stretford Bridge (border); Stretford Brook; Wig Wood, Lewis's Plantation & Kennel Gorse (border); Bach Camp (border); Fields east of Blackpole (border); Eyeton Common (border); Monkland Common (border); Field north of Harbour Farm (border); Pinsley Brook; Titterstone Plantation, Woodfield and Lime Kiln Copse (border); Lower Miles Rough (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	2	Herefordshire Trail; Three Rivers Ride	Y
Mineral Reserves	13	West of Cholstrey mill to B4360 (border); Cholstrey, east and west of village (border); Ivington Bury to Ivington Court; Newlands to Highfield House off	Y 12

		Passa Lane; Worcester Road from Leominster; East of Leominster, Tick Bridge Lane, north of Stretford Brook; Sparrow Hill north of Steens Bridge; East of Stoke Prior, Blackwardine; Area around Wellington constrained by 200m zone and area north of Wellington outside 200m zone; East of Sollers Dilwyn – Tyrells Court to Stretford (border); Manor Farm, Monkland to Wall End (border); South east of Pudleston Court (border); North of Uphampton Farm-Fort (border)	
National Nature Reserve	0	No NNR's in Leominster Parish	N
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	12 Unregistered	The Ryelands; Eaton Hill; Hennor House Upper Wintercott; Hamnish Clifford (border); Pudleston Court (border); Eyton Hall (border); Buckland (border); Eyton Old Hall (border); Pudleston Rectory (border); Hampton Court (border); Birley Court (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	9	Ivington Camp Multivallate Hillfort; Forbury Chapel; Leominster Priory; Three Moated Sites at The Hyde and Lower Hyde; Roman Settlement (border); Risbury Camp (border); Dovecote at Stockton Bury (border); Kingsland Castle (border); Bach Camp (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	6	River Lugg Meanders (Favourable) (border); River Lugg (Unfavourable Recovering); Hill Hole Dingle (Unfavourable Recovering) (border); The Bury Farm (Favourable) (border); Dinmore Hill Woods (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)) (border); Berrington Pool (Favourable) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 13/05/2013 re-screened 21/08/2013

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.

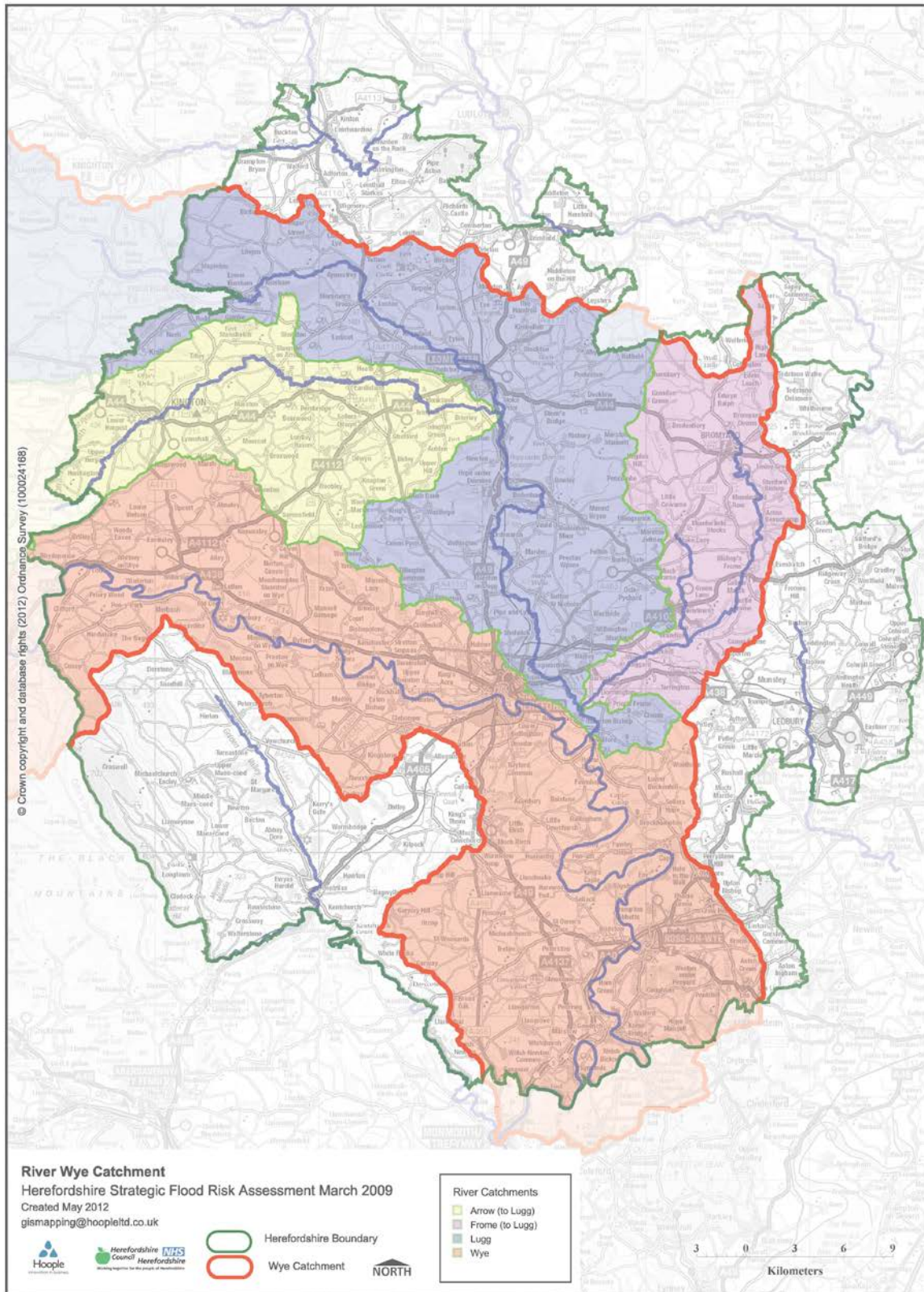
Downton Gorge
Site Features: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
Vulnerability data: 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.
River Clun
Site Features: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
Vulnerability 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, <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines. Annex II species of primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> , 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 <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> . Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>
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 <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> , <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines, <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles. Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> , 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

Appendix 2

Table 1: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Parish Council Name: Leominster

NDP Title: Leominster Plan

Date undertaken: June 2014

NDP Options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options and				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the 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)
Do nothing - Not to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan and rely solely on the Core Strategy Policies (Which have already been assessed for the HRA)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
No Sustainable Urban Extension	Risk of mass development and increased traffic across the whole town. Natural resources and facilities may be	Development may have an impact on the River Wye SAC depending upon location of the new housing, as the new growth would need to be identified on different sites	River Wye SAC	Additional policies would need to be in place to ensure minimal impact.	Location of the new development would need to be determined if this option was taken forward as NDP would need to meet the growth identified in the

Appendix 2

	<p>overstretched.</p> <p>Increase in parking and congestion.</p> <p>Increase in water abstraction and treatment.</p>	<p>across the town. These sites may have various additional impacts that are not on the southern extension.</p>			<p>Core Strategy. Mitigation methods would need to be implemented to ensure the development would not have a significant impact. However it is unlikely that any development will be within close proximity to the River Wye SAC.</p>
<p>No new Link Road to the South of the Town</p>	<p>Increased impact on traffic, within the Town.</p> <p>Further pressure on the AQMA</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Would require policies to encourage sustainable transport modes across the Neighbourhood Area</p>	<p>No. Any impact is likely to be on the AQMA within town centre but is unlikely to have an impact upon the River Wye SAC.</p>
<p>Allocate additional housing sites and employment sites</p>	<p>Small scale development across Leominster Town</p> <p>Increased in traffic</p>	<p>Small scale development. However new development may have an impact on the River Wye SAC if it is in close proximity</p>	<p>River Wye 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>Scale and location of the new development would need to be determined if this option was taken forward. Mitigation methods would need to be implemented to ensure the development would not have a significant impact. However it is unlikely that any development will be within close proximity to the River Wye SAC and will be of a small</p>

Appendix 2

					scale.
Utilise the policies in the Core Strategy and add additional sustainability measures to improve the town as a whole.	<p>Small scale development</p> <p>Potential sustainable techniques introduced</p> <p>Possible installation of renewable energy infrastructure</p>	No, as any new development is likely to be small scale	N/A	Mitigation methods from the additional sustainability measures could be used to counter balance the effect of development.	No this option should not have an effect on the River Wye SAC, as the additional policies will have a mitigation impact upon the remainder of the development. Further development proposed is likely to be small scale.

Appendix 3

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

Parish Council Name: **Leominster Town Council**

NDP Title: **Leominster Neighbourhood Development Plan (Draft dated 12/09/14)**

Date undertaken: **September 2014**

Core Strategy HRA version: **May 2014**

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective /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 (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/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 create a sustainable Leominster	More sustainable options in place for housing, transport and businesses.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This objective aims towards sustainable development, therefore will be likely to mitigate out any significant effect.
Objective 2: To create a prosperous Leominster	Sustainable economic and housing is likely to promote sustainable building design, transport, renewable energy, and ensure housing growth is sustainable.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. this objective aims to develop in a sustainable way. Therefore should not have a significant impact on the environment and the River Wye SAC.
Objective 3: To create a greener Leominster	This will promote green infrastructure. Likely to be promotion for sustainable modes of transport building design and enhance existing public space.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye SAC	N/A	No this objective will potentially enhance the environment and promote biodiversity from creation of open 'green' space. And protect existing habitat.

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Objective 4: To retain Leominster's distinctive identity	Promote sustainable development within the town centre. Conserve and preserve historic buildings within the town centre.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye SAC	N/A	No, this objective will result in conservation, preservation as well as sustainable development.
Objective 5: To create a healthy Leominster	Promote measures to support health, social and cultural wellbeing.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This objective aims to enhance and create a healthy environment and does not comment on potential development.
Objective 6: To create an accessible Leominster	Promote an accessible community through sustainable transport.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This objective aims towards sustainable development, therefore is unlikely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
Policy-LANP1 – SUPPORTING THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN LEOMINSTER	Flood infrastructure development. Develop renewable energy projects. Increase in public transport facilities. Job creation.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	Ensure location and scale of the development is suitable and has minimal impact to the surrounding environment.	No. This policy does not specifically identify sites for development but instead provides criteria that any new development must adhere to. It depends on the scale and location of particular development to determine if it has an impact on the River Wye SAC. However it is unlikely, as this policy aims towards sustainable development that conserves and enhances existing environment.
Policy-LANP2 – SUPPORTING THE STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN	Employment generation, Increase in small business, increase in industry around town centre, and the enterprise park. Housing developed in brownfield sites. Mixed use zoning and housing with live work units developed. Increase in water abstraction and treatment.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	Ensure location and scale of the development is suitable and has minimal impact to the surrounding environment. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of	No. This policy will lead to new development; but does not define any sites. It aims for sustainable development and growth and is in keeping with existing buildings and setting.

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LEOMINSTER TOWN				new development.	
Policy-LANP3 – LEOMINSTER SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION	<p>Enhance and improve open spaces. Protect landscape and enhance biodiversity. Encourage Sustainable design on new building development.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p> <p>Flood prevention measures throughout building development.</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	Sustainable transport options will help reduce vehicle traffic generated from economic development.	No. By contributing to a general increase in economic activity and population, could result in increase in vehicle traffic-however this may be mitigated by sustainable transport measure-resulting in a minimal impact to the River Wye SAC.
Policy-LANP4 – NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN BRIERLEY, IVINGTON AND WHARTON	<p>Housing development on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased water abstraction and treatment.</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	Sustainable transport within housing schemes may help reduce the impact of traffic increase from new homes provided. Improved water efficiency measures metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply through new development.	No. This policy aims towards sustainable development and potential problems can be mitigated through sustainable transport and development schemes.
Policy-LANP5 – NEW HOMES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE	<p>Agricultural/ Forestry housing development.</p> <p>Re use of an existing building.</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy relates to sustainable development through re use of an existing building. This is criteria for small development and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC.
Policy-LANP6 – RENEWABLE ENERGY	Development of renewable energy infrastructure.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	Overall this policy should help mitigate out any potential adverse effects of future development from other Leominster NDP policies. Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation etc, may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, but it depends on the scale and location of renewable energy infrastructure. However, sufficient policy safeguards within the NDP will help mitigate a likely significant effect on European sites.

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Policy-LANP7 – NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	<p>New business development.</p> <p>Live/ work unit developments.</p> <p>Tourism facilities expanded.</p> <p>Diversification of agricultural business.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase water abstraction and demand for water treatment.</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	Improved water efficiency measures metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply through new development. Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation etc, may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.	No. This policy relates to sustainable development through expanding business development. This may increase water resource usage and increase vehicle traffic but should be mitigated through other policies within Leominster's plan.
Policy-LANP8 – PROTECTING EXISTING EMPLOYMENT SITES	N/A	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy safeguards employment development, therefore should not have a substantial impact on the River Wye SAC.
Policy-LANP9 – DEVELOPMENT IN LEOMINSTER TOWN CENTRE	<p>Development of retail, leisure, office, commercial, cultural and tourism within the town centre.</p> <p>Re use and improvement of existing buildings and shop fronts.</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy encourages reuse of buildings in the town centre; buildings are reused helping to avoid the need for new construction. This may help reduce the potential for new development.
Policy-LANP10 – GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	<p>Tree planting within the urban environment.</p> <p>Green space creation.</p>	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to green space creation.
Policy-LANP11 – OPEN SPACES	Ensure green space is protected	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, as this policy is geared towards protecting existing green space.

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Policy-LANP12 – GREENING THE TOWN (CENTRE)	Tree planting Creation of footpaths and cycle ways.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the River Wye SAC, as it relates to tree planting and green space creation and is unlikely to lead to development.
Policy-LANP13 – DARK SKIES	Reduction of external lighting. Reduction of internal lighting. Use of energy efficient lighting.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to reducing light pollution.
Policy-LANP14 – PROMOTING A HEALTHY COMMUNITY	Improvement of tourism facilities in the town/ improvement works to existing tourism facilities. More car parking spaces provided. Improvement works to cycling paths/ facilitate new pedestrian/ cycle zones.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to healthy community promotion.
Policy-LANP15 – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE	Reuse/ redevelopment of the Old school. Development of supporting infrastructure.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy aims to ensure redevelopment for non- community uses will be permitted if there is no proven need for the existing use.
Policy-LANP16 – LANDSCAPES	Enhance low lying river corridors. Protect retain orchards, mature trees, hedgerows and other vegetation. Protect enhance heritage buildings/ assets. Protect field boundaries and drains and ditches.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to have an impact on the River Wye SAC, as it relates to protect and enhancing the natural environment as well as the historic built environment.

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<p>Policy-LANP17 – PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE CHARACTER OF LEOMINSTER TOWN CENTRE</p>	<p>Enhance and protect historic buildings.</p> <p>Improve and bring back into use vacant and under used buildings.</p> <p>Tree and plant planting.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>River Wye SAC</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, as this policy is criteria based and geared towards protecting and enhancing the existing character of Leominster.</p>
<p>Policy-LANP18 – NEW BUILDING IN LEOMINSTER</p>	<p>New builds to be of high design quality in keeping with the character of Leominster.</p> <p>Low carbon homes to be designed.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>River Wye SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation etc, may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction. 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.</p>	<p>No. This policy is criteria based specifying design and low carbon options for new buildings in Leominster This envisages Leominster to be a world leading sustainable town, and for all new buildings to have a low carbon design, this should mitigate out any environmental issues created out of development.</p>
<p>Policy-LANP19 - TOURISM</p>	<p>Creation of more tourist facilities.</p> <p>Permanent location for tourist information centre given.</p> <p>Relocation and development of the museum may increase traffic within the town.</p> <p>Job creation.</p> <p>Economic growth.</p> <p>Increase in recreation pressure.</p> <p>Increase water abstraction and demand for water treatment.</p> <p>Reuse of existing buildings.</p>	<p>No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC</p>	<p>River Wye SAC</p>	<p>Improved water efficiency measures metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply through new development. Sustainable and design efficiency should help mitigate potential impacts relating to nonphysical disturbance. Previous policies LANP 9 and 10 will help mitigate out increase in traffic.</p>	<p>No. Although an increase in tourist may create an increase in visitor pressure at sensitive European sites, sufficient policy safeguards are included within the NDP LANP 3,6,9,10,11.</p>

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Policy-LANP20 – PROTECTING IMPORTANT VIEWS	Ensure development will not obscure important views.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy is criteria based specifying on views and vistas. Therefore should not have an impact on the River Wye SAC.
Policy-LANP21 – REDUCING THE NEED TO TRAVEL	Sustainable transport development. Increase in cycling and walking.	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	River Wye SAC	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC. As it promotes sustainable development and may help mitigate adverse effects from other policies.
Policy-LANP22 – IMPROVING WALKING, CYCLING AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT	Increase in cycling and walking.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC. This may help improve environmental conditions through decreasing the amount of private car usage in Leominster.
Policy-LANP23 – MOVING AROUND LEOMINSTER TOWN CENTRE	Vehicle restriction in the town centre. Increase in cycling and walking.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy is unlikely to have an effect on the River Wye SAC. This may help improve environmental conditions through decreasing the amount of vehicle usage in Leominster.

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