

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Stretton Sugwas Neighbourhood Area

July 2015

Contents

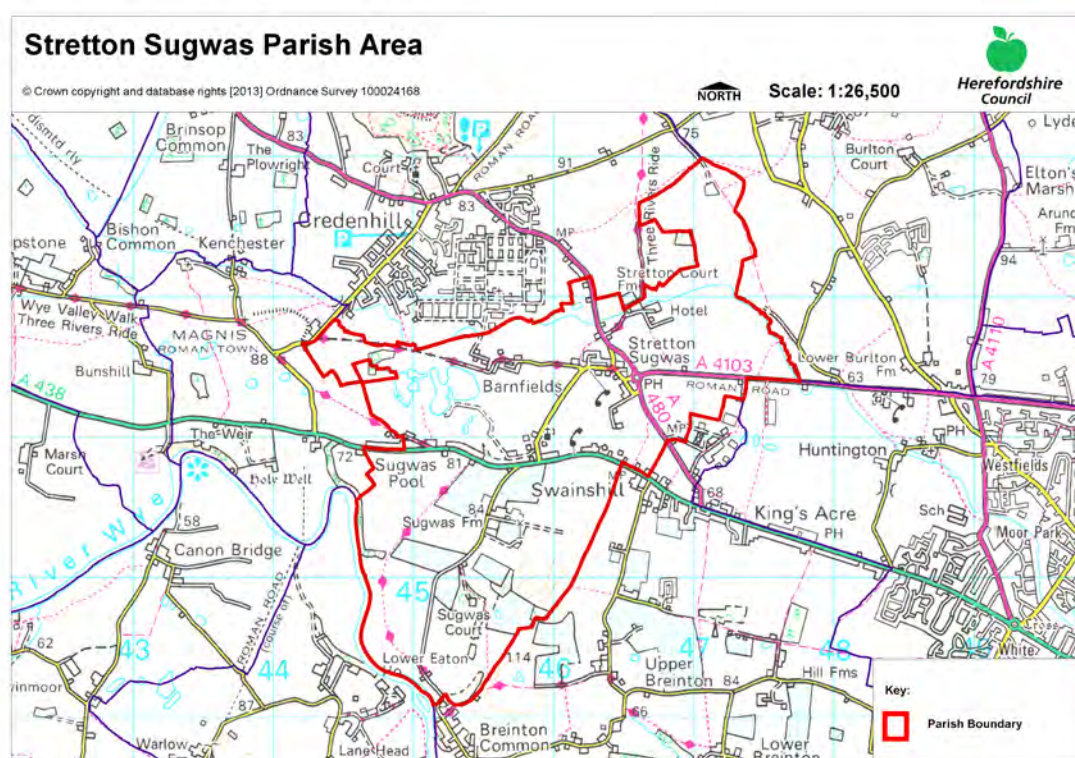
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Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report (October 2013)

Appendix 2: Screening of policy matrix

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the National Planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Stretton Sugwas NDP is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Stretton Sugwas Parish Council is preparing an NDP for whole administrative area of the parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for its development of the Parish up to 2031 (Draft plan July 2015, being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has not allocated sites but provides general policies that clarify and add locally specific detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). Therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report undertaken in respect of strategic policies.
- 1.4 This high level screening assessment, which should be read in conjunction with the Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), together with the Proposed Main Modifications (March 2015) and Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (published in April 2015), ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Stretton Sugwas Neighbourhood Area and parish boundary.



2.0 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans

2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development/neighbourhood 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, Stretton Sugwas Parish Council is required to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment" pursuant to 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.
- **Ramsar sites** support internationally important wetlands habitats

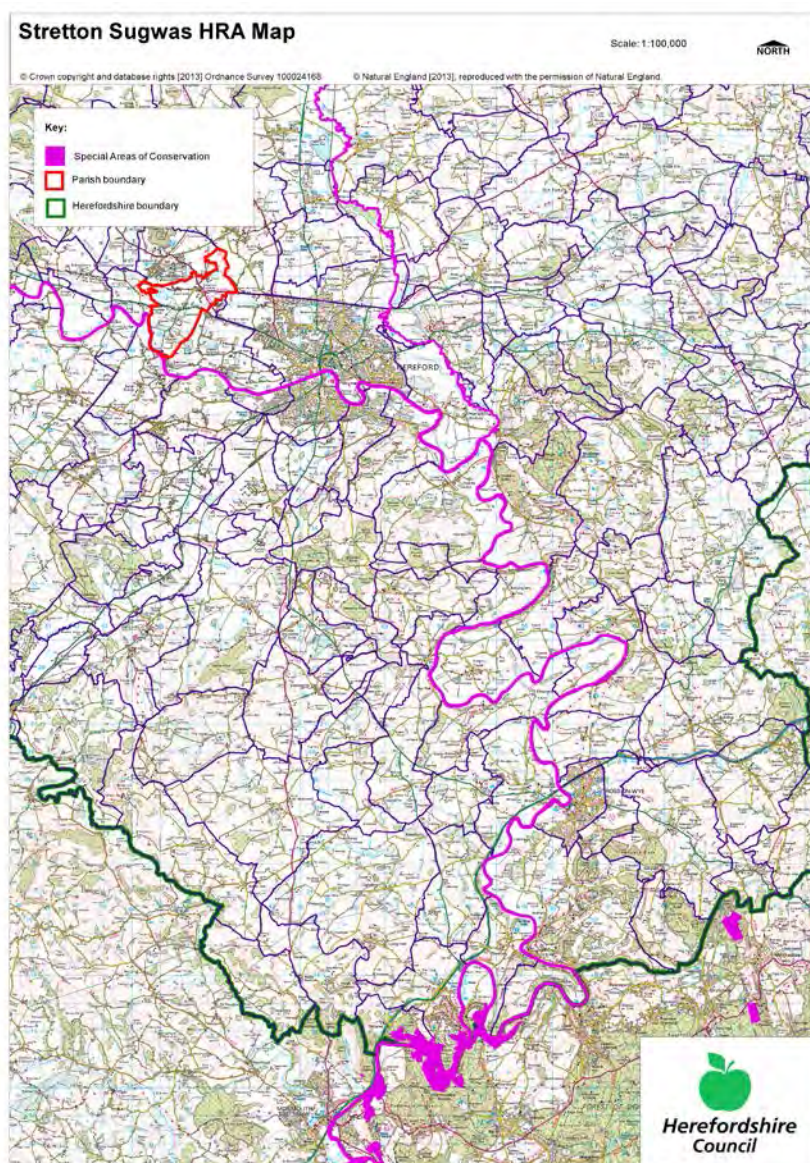
2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 As the Stretton Sugwas 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 NDPs 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 NDP would 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 must 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). In the context of NDPs, the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur there will be a need to make amendments to the NDP, which will then have to be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4.0 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening Report (21 October 2013) shown in Appendix 1 revealed that the River Wye SAC borders the southern edge of the Stretton Sugwas neighbourhood area and therefore a full screening assessment would be required.
- 4.2 The following map highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.3 European sites can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), the water supply in this area comes from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes in water quality are expected in relation to the proportional growth outlined with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 4.4 In relation to water quality, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated by existing water discharge permits and would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.

- 4.5 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Stretton Sugwas Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 of this HRA report).
- 4.6 Options for initial policy choices have been assessed to determine their environmental impact on the River Wye SAC (refer to Appendix 2). In general, the majority of the options concerning new development would appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact.

5.0 Description of the Stretton Sugwas NDP

- 5.1 The Draft Stretton Sugwas NDP presents criteria based policies for development in the neighbourhood area, which is equivalent to the administrative parish boundary, up to 2031.
- 5.2 The NDP sets out the vision for the parish over the plan period and nine objectives for achieving this vision on the ground. These objectives are as follows:
1. To provide a robust, appropriate planning framework to guide an appropriate and realistic level of new housing and employment related development over the plan period – up to 2031.
 2. To protect the local identity and character of the existing communities in the Parish, as a distinct rural area separate from the neighbouring City of Hereford
 3. To protect the rural landscape setting of the Parish from the urbanisation of land to the east associated with the proposed new urban extension to Hereford at Three Elms and proposed Relief Road through consideration of sensitivity of the urban fringe and local landscape character
 4. To provide criteria based planning policies for ensuring that new housing development is appropriate in terms of quantity, phasing, siting and design and to ensure that changes of use of agricultural buildings to business uses is managed in a way which is sensitive to the rural character of the area.
 5. To promote high quality design for new development to ensure new buildings and landscaping relate well to the local context and distinctive rural character of Stretton Sugwas Parish.
 6. To provide a realistic and deliverable framework for developer contributions to provide improvements in local infrastructure and in particular to support community facilities and improved accessibility for all.
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 7 general policies on themes based on the objective headings above:
- Policy SS1: Protecting sensitive landscapes.
 - Policy SS2: New development and protection of green gaps.
 - Policy SS3: Landscape design principles.
 - Policy SS4: Building design principles.
 - Policy SS5: Managing new business development in former agricultural buildings.
 - Policy SS6: Criteria for new housing sites.
 - Policy SS7: Community facilities and infrastructure.

6.0 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. It should be noted, however, that NDP cannot be Made (adopted) if likely significant effects occur.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), and these plans have been reviewed and can be found at Appendix 2 of the Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014).
- 6.3 It is seen that as the Stretton Sugwas NDP does not allocate sites for development and does contain policies which would result in greater levels of development than envisaged by strategic policies, as set out in the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), this review will suffice for the purposes of the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Breinton, Belmont Rural and to a lesser extent Eaton Bishop and Credenhill) are at varying stages of their production, but none of the proposals within these plans go over and above the requirements set within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) for their respective neighbourhood areas at this stage.
- 6.4 The latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment. The former, on the one hand, indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Local Plan’s policies, whilst the latter seeks to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

7.0 Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Stretton Sugwas 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. This involved the preparation of a screening matrix, which determined whether any of the policies in the NDP 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 Appendix 2 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 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, objective and site allocation individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the proposed Main Modifications were also taken into consideration.
- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through additional policy wording and the implementation of the other policies within the NDP and the Local Plan (Core Strategy). The Stretton Sugwas NDP will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment within Policies SS1, SS2, SS3 and SS4 in particular.

8.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Stretton Sugwas NDP objectives and policies (July 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Stretton Sugwas NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.
- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. In several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity. In addition, to conserve community facilities and heritage, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 It is unlikely that the Stretton Sugwas NDP will have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as these do not propose site allocations either.
- 8.4 Therefore it is concluded that, subject to the addition of safeguarding criteria within certain policies, the **Stretton Sugwas NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 8.5 Any further amendments to the policies (post July 2015) will be re-screened 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)

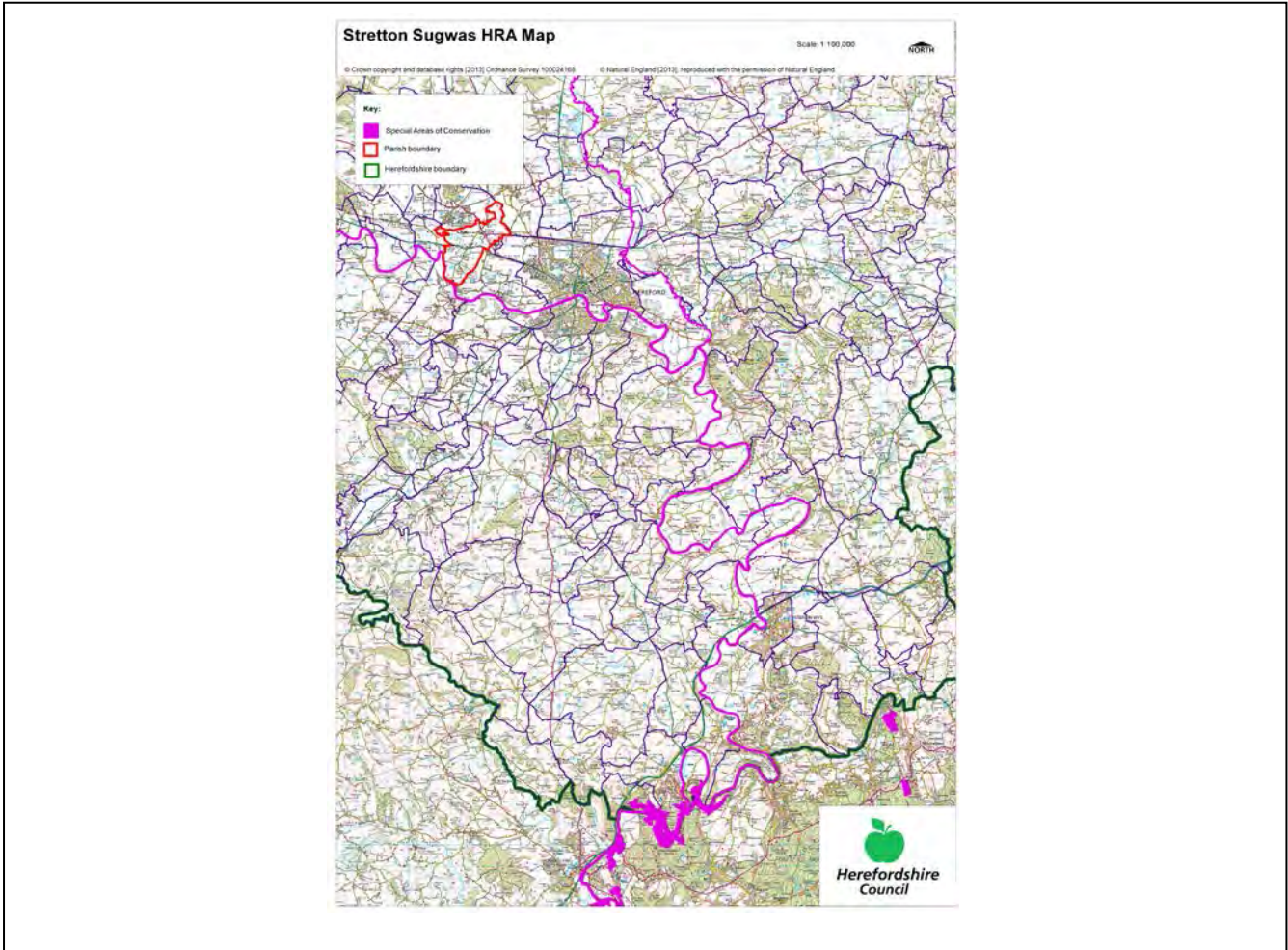
| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Neighbourhood Area: | Stretton Sugwas Neighbourhood Area |
| Parish Council: | Stretton Sugwas Parish Council |
| Neighbourhood Area Designation Date: | 25/11/13 |

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 Wye SAC borders the Parish in the south |
| Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC? | Y | The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye |
| If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage? | Y | There is mains drainage in Hereford |

Downton Gorge SAC:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC? | N | Downton Gorge is 29.2km away from the Parish |
|---|---|--|

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 |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary? | N | Usk Bat Sites are 34.5km away from the Parish |
|--|---|---|

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites? | N | The Parish is 28.2km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites |
|--|---|--|

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site? | N | The Parish is 27.6km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands |
|--|---|---|

HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that the following European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Stretton Sugwas 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 Stretton Sugwas Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

| SEA features | Total | Explanation | SEA required |
|---|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| Air Quality Management Areas | 0 | There are no AQMAs within the Parish | N |
| Ancient Woodland | 2 | Credenhill Park Wood (border); 1 x unlabelled piece of land along A438 | Y |
| Areas of Archaeological Interest | 0 | There are no AAls within the Parish | N |
| Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty | 0 | There are no AONBs within the Parish | N |
| Conservation Areas | 2 | Huntington (border); Burghill (border) | Y |
| European Sites | 1 | River Wye | Y |
| Flood Areas | | Flood Zones 2 and 3 flow through the north and south of the Parish | Y |
| Listed Buildings | Numerous | There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the parish | Y |
| Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS) | 2 (SINCs) 11 (SWS) | SINC: Yazor Brook (border); Railway Line near Green Farm (border) SWS: Two pools at Stretton Sugwas Gravel Workings; Pond near Stretton House; River Wye; Pool near Magna Castra House (border); First pond near Bunshill (border); Credenhill Park Woods and Sally Coppice (border); Pond at Huntington Court (border); Kings Acre Reserve (border); Field near Eaton camp (border); Warlow Pool (border); Pond near Longmoor Cottage (border) | Y |
| Long distance footpaths/trails | 2 | Three Rivers Ride; Wye Valley Walk | Y |
| Mineral Reserves | 7 | South of Roman Road to A438 and area between Wye and A438; North west of Credenhill (border); Kings Acre, Linden House (border); South of Canon Bridge (border); Kings Acre, Caravan Park (border); Cot Barn (border); West and south of Portway, east of Burghill down Canon Pyon Road (border) | Y |
| National Nature Reserve | 0 | There are no NNRs within the Parish | N |
| Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens | 9 Unregistered | Sugwas Court; Burghill Court; Lower Eaton (border); New Weir (border); Canon Bridge House (border); Burghill Hospital (border); Huntington Court, Hereford (border); Wycliffe Court (border); Credenhill Court (border) | Y |
| Scheduled Ancient Monuments | 6 | Medieval Bridge 870m north east of Stretton Court Farm; Churchyard cross at St Mary the Virgins Churchyard (border); Site of Romano-British town of | Y |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Magna (border); New Weir Roman Site (border); Credenhill Camp (border); Eaton camp (border) | |
| Sites of Special Scientific Interest | 2 | River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering); Bishon Meadow (Favourable) (border) | Y |

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 21/10/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map



Appendix 2

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Option 1 Do nothing. | No NDP to determine planning applications. | Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist. | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Option 2 Allocate sites for housing. | Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map. | Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the River Wye SAC, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces. | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. | No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage. |
| Option 3 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary. | Small scale proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary area. | Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development. The River Wye flows immediately west of Stretton Sugwas Common. | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. | No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage. |

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Option 4 Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary. | Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map and within a defined settlement boundary area. | Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the River Wye SAC, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and the settlement boundary would provide a clear distinction between open countryside and the built environment. | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. | No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage. |
| Option 5 (Preferred Option) Manage future housing through a development management policy. | Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy. | Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development. The River Wye flows immediately west of Stretton Sugwas Common. | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW. | No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage. |
| NDP Objectives | | | | | |
| Objective 1 ¹ | Small scale proportional growth in line with Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it acknowledges the need for the need for a planning policy framework that allow for limited growth across the neighbourhood area in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy). |

¹ Refer to Draft Plan for Policy Criteria

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Objective 2 | Promoting measures to ensure that new developments do not have an adverse effect upon the character of existing communities across the parish. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it will seek to ensure that all development can be well integrated with its surroundings and avoid the urbanisation of the traditional rural feel to the parish. |
| Objective 3 | Protection or enhancement of the parish's traditional landscape and heritage assets. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, this objective will not lead to new development; rather it aims to ensure that all development proposed will protect or enhance Stretton Sugwas's landscape character, natural environment and cultural heritage assets, as well as habitats. |
| Objective 4 | Promoting measures to ensure that housing developments are located in the right place, as well as support for the sympathetic conversion of agricultural buildings for new business and employment uses. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it will help to ensure that housing developments and conversions are appropriate in terms of their location, phasing and impact on the wider area. |
| Objective 5 | Promoting measures to ensure that new developments are designed to the highest standards and are locally distinctive. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it will help to ensure that the aesthetic quality of new buildings and landscaping is high, to the point that they make a positive contribution to the parish. |
| Objective 6 | Encourage and enhance the use of community facilities, as well as facilitating the provision and development of new ones. | New community facilities and other infrastructure. | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | Policy LD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and Policies SS1, SS2, SS3 and SS4 will help to avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new community uses. | No, this objective could result in the development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and elsewhere within the NDP policy, all of which will help to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye. |
| NDP Policies | | | | | |

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Policy SS1 | Requirement for development proposals to provide a greater level of analysis in terms of their effect on landscape character. Development proposals must also show regard to the character of the landscape and natural features within it. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, as the policy merely emphasises the importance of avoiding urban sprawl and enhancing landscapes which are identified within the evidence base as being sensitive. |

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Policy SS2 | Policy to control the location of growth brought about by Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy (Local Plan). | <p>Proportional growth on brownfield sites and on the edge of existing settlements.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development and possible increase in recreational activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites dependent on the location of non-allocated development.</p> | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | <p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following sentence: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> | No. This policy conforms to the Local Plan (Core Strategy), and although it is acknowledged that there may be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented. |

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Policy SS3 | Policy requires all proposals to demonstrate how they have taken account of a range of landscape design proposals. | N/A | N/A | N/A | No, as the policy merely seeks to ensure that greater checks and balances are placed on proposals that directly affect landscape character, at the planning application stage. |
| Policy SS4 | Policy determining the criteria to which new developments will need to be designed around. | N/A. | N/A | Policy could include an encouragement for developments to utilise physical or technical sustainability features such as carbon saving (passive heating, orientation, energy conservation), water conservation and, renewable energy infrastructure etc. | No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon the European site. |
| Policy SS5 | Re-use of agricultural buildings no longer required for the purpose they were intended to serve. | Small scale employment and business development | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following sentence: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so. | No, this policy would allow for, and indeed encourage the re-use of buildings for business or employment uses. There are additional policy criteria in place to ensure that proposed uses are appropriate and to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. |

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Policy SS6 | <p>Policy to support the delivery of market housing to meet housing needs in line with Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy RA2.</p> <p>Measure to control the phasing of development proposals over the plan period, as well as control over the size and scale of new housing.</p> | <p>Proportional growth.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development and possible increase in recreational activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites dependent on the location of non-allocated development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.</p> | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | <p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following sentence: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> | No. This policy conforms to Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), and although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented. |

| NDP objectives | HRA Screening of NDP objectives 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 on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons) | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy. | Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)? |
| Policy SS7 | Measures to resist the loss of specific community assets and support the provision of new or enhanced facilities | Various projects ranging from the provision of new roads to village hall refurbishment. | N/A | N/A | No, as the policy merely seeks to avoid the loss of specific premises, some of which may be nominated as Assets of Community Value, whilst it seeks improvements to existing provision or new facilities. |