

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Wyeside Group Neighbourhood Area

April 2016

Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan HRA

HRA Screening Assessment

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Wyeside Group Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Wyeside Group Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Wyeside Plan March 2016.
- 1.3 The NDP is criteria based and does not allocate sites or allocate a settlement boundary within Wyeside Group. It provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. This high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (April 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Wyeside Group Neighbourhood Area.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the "Habitats Regulations" published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore, when preparing its NDP, Wyeside Group Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment". It is also a requirement in Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

- 2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a neighbourhood plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):
- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
 - **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.
- 3 Methodology**
- 3.1 Although the Wyeside NDP is not directly regarding the management of any European sites, it does include proposals for development which may affect European sites. Therefore, it is necessary under Regulation 102(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to undertake screening for likely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.2 The HRA of neighbourhood plans is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated) and are measured with reference to the conservation objectives for those qualifying features as defined by Natural England.
- 3.3 The first process is to undertake an initial screening report to determine the need to undertake the requirement for a HRA, this initial screening identifies whether the Plan could impact upon any European site that could be within the Neighbourhood Area or nearby.
- 3.4 If a European Site is within the Neighbourhood Area or the Neighbourhood Area could impact upon a European site then this will need to be taken into account and a full screening assessment will need to be undertaken.
- 3.5 The full screening stage consists of a description of the plan, identification of potential effects on European Sites, assessing the effects on European Sites (taking into account potential mitigation provided by other policies in the plan). For

Neighbourhood Plans the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur then there will need to be amendments to the NDP made and be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (31st May 2013) found that the River Wye SAC borders along the parishes of Moccas, Bredwardine and Preston on Wye to the north; therefore a full screening assessment is required. Figure 2 below highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.2 European sites can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire 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 Core Strategy. 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 within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC. This position is confirmed within the HRA of the Core Strategy in April 2015. DCWW states that a feasibility study is required for Bredwardine and Preston on Wye, this will identify any potential sewage capacity. Moccas Sewerage treatment works (STW) and require further works to increase capacity in order to accommodate the specific growth highlighted within the Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.3 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Wyeside Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, May 2013, can be found in Appendix 3 of this HRA report. This information made it possible to identify the features of each site which determine site integrity, as well as the specific sensitivities of each site, therefore enabling later analysis of how the potential impacts of the Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.

- 4.4 The initial options for the NDP (refer to appendix 2) were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Of the nine options put forward the 'no NDP / do nothing' option was not considered viable for the Parish. The remaining eight options of
- Prepare a neighbourhood plan
 - Allocate sites for housing
 - Manage future housing using a settlement boundary,
 - Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary
 - Manage future housing through a development management policy
 - Allocate housing development on one site/village
 - Allocation housing on smaller sites within all villages
 - Manage development via a contiguous to each village centre policy.

All of which indicated towards growth however all the options would be seeking to provide proportional growth in line with the Core strategy and are therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC

- 4.5 As Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan progresses from options to draft 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 option from the consultation from the community. A list of the options assessed can be found in Appendix 1, and the Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 2.

5 Description of the Wyeside Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Wyeside NDP presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The Plan begins by introducing its preparation and highlighting its issues.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period; 'to ensure that the special characteristics of the villages within the five parishes that residents know and love, including their rural feel, historic buildings and relationship with the surrounding countryside, are enhanced and protected'. There are six objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:
1. Local enterprise and job creation
 2. Sustainable housing development
 3. Mixed range of housing tenures
 4. Protection of the existing built and rural environment
 5. Protect and sustain rural services and community facilities
 6. Community involvement

From these 6 objective a further 25 sub-objectives around housing, environment and facilities have been included to further development the overall objectives into specific policies areas.

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 16 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for group parish, these include:

Policy WB01	New Business Opportunities
Policy WB02	Retail Development
Policy WH01	New Housing Development
Policy WH02	Ensuring an appropriate Range of Tenures, Types and Size of Houses
Policy WH03	Affordable Housing
Policy WH04	Re-use of Rural Buildings
Policy WH05	Housing in Open Countryside

Policy WHD01	New Building Design
Policy WHD02	Change of Use
Policy WE01	Environmental Restrictions on Development
Policy WE02	Landscape Design Principles
Policy WE03	Protecting Local Green Spaces and Important Views
Policy WE04	Renewable Energy
Policy WF01	Retention of Existing Recreational Facilities
Policy WF02	Picnic Areas, Improving Footpaths and Access to the River Wye
Policy WF03	Additional Community and Recreational Facilities

- 5.4 A draft consultation is planned to be undertaken in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, any amendments or changes suggested as part of this assessment would need to be considered as part of the review of comments received to this public consultation.

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

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (Oct 2015). 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. Adjacent neighbourhood plans include Eardisley Group and Staunton on Wye Group have both passed examination and awaiting referendum. Dorstone and Peterchurch have completed the draft plan consultation under regulation 14. Clifford, Madley and Bishopstone group are in drafting stage in their production. These plans have not gone over and beyond the requirements set out within the Core Strategy for their area.
- 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 Wyeside 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 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 1 below.

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

- 7.3 The Screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the 2015 adopted version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy was also taking into consideration.
- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through implementation of the other policies within the NDP which require good practice measures during and after construction phases, such as more efficient use of water, reduction in waste and encouragement of recycling. The provision and encouragement of use of more sustainable transport measures when improving the transport infrastructure will also help to reduce car traffic around the parish and surrounding areas.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan (March 2016) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Although three of the parishes making up the Wyeside Group border the River Wye SAC, only one village is in close proximity to the river itself. Policy WE01 has been included within the Wyeside NDP to provide sufficient policy safeguards together with the Core Strategy policy SD3 and SD4. NDP policy WE01 included no development within 100m of the River Wye SAC boundary criteria in line with the vulnerability data: proximity (see Screening Report in appendix 3). This is based on assumptions and information contained within the Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the HRA for the Core Strategy. All of the NDP objectives and policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.2 The Wyeside NDP is primarily a criteria based plan and therefore the policies themselves would not result in development. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment (WE01, WE02, WE03), including biodiversity and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 There are no allocated sites for development, just a highlighted development strategy of contiguous growth. For those policies that were referring to potential development this could potentially have some impact upon the River Wye SAC, it was determined that due to the location of these sites, i.e. not directly on the river banks or adjacent to a watercourse that feeds into the River, and due to the scale of the sites for homes and businesses being small (no larger than 3 dwellings per plot and retail development under 80sq metres) and at the scale of growth that is required by the Herefordshire Core Strategy and no more, that these sites would not have an appreciable effect on the River Wye SAC, i.e. that they were not likely to be significant.
- 8.4 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is currently no existing capacity with regards to permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Wyeside Group area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. Continuing work is required with DCWW to ensure that sufficient headroom can be provided through improvements and a potential feasibility study may be required to assess any further upgrade requirements. 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 Wyeside Plan will have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy.
- 8.6 ***It is therefore concluded that the Wyeside Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.***
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post March 2016) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

Options considered – Wyeside Group Neighbourhood Development Plan

- Do nothing / No neighbourhood development plan
- Produce a neighbourhood development plan
- Allocate sites for housing
- Manage future housing using settlement boundaries
- Allocate sites and identify settlement boundary
- Manage future housing through a development management policy
- Allocation one larger site for housing
- Allocation of smaller sites for housing
- Manage future housing by allowing development that is contiguous to each village centre

Appendix 2

Date undertaken: March 2016

Core Strategy HRA version: Adopted October 2015

NDP options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	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? ()
Option 1 Do nothing / No neighbourhood development plan produced.	No NDP to determine planning applications and future applications guided by the Core Strategy only.	Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist. The River Wye SAC borders Bredwardine, Moccas and Preston on Wye to the north. The parish is within the hydrological catchment area of the parish.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Could have the effect on the River Wye SAC if development is close to the north boundary of the parish particularly within Bredwardine which is adjacent to the river. Policies exist within the Core Strategy to safeguard development impacts on the River Wye particularly with regards to water quality.	Could have a detrimental effect if additional locational details are not provided. However existing safeguards exist within the Core Strategy.
Option 2 – produce	The location of small	Greater degree of	River Wye	Specific environmental	No, development in

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<p>a neighbourhood plan</p>	<p>scale proportional growth could be indicated with additional local level policies</p>	<p>certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as additional local policies and sites can be included within the NDP</p>	<p>(including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>issues can be investigated during the preparation of the plan and adequate safeguarding policies could be developed to ensure the safeguarding of the European site.</p>	<p>line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this.</p>
<p>Option 3 Allocate sites for housing.</p>	<p>Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.</p>	<p>Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces. Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Unlikely that</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>

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		there will be any significant effects on the European Site.			
Option 4 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary.	Small scale proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary area. Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development	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.
Option 5 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. Increase demand in transportation.	Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and the settlement boundary would provide a clear	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	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.

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	Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.	distinction between open countryside and the built environment.		<p>accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
Option 6 Manage future housing through a development management policy.	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	<p>Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.</p> <p>The River Wye SAC borders Bredwardine, Moccas and Preston on Wye to the north.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>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.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>

<p>Option 7: Allocation of one larger site for housing</p>	<p>Small scale proportionate growth on a specific site / one village identified on a proposals map.</p> <p>Increase demand in transportation. Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.</p>	<p>Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.</p> <p>Sites in Bredwardine will require assessment given the proximity of the settlement to the River Wye SAC.</p> <p>However, any site allocated would need to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
<p>Option 8: Allocation of smaller sites for housing</p>	<p>Small scale proportionate growth on specific smaller</p>	<p>Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River</p>	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy)</p>

	<p>sites across the five areas and identified on a proposals map.</p> <p>Increase demand in transportation.</p> <p>Increase demand in water abstraction and waste production. New houses developed.</p>	<p>development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.</p> <p>Any sites would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	Lugg) SAC	<p>site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.</p>	<p>and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.</p>
Option 9: Contiguous development strategy policy	<p>Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria policy based on the principle of contiguous development of existing village centres</p>	<p>Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.</p> <p>The River Wye SAC borders Bredwardine, Moccas and Preston on Wye to the north</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>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.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within</p>

HRA Report – Wyeside Neighbourhood Plan (March 2016) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

				Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
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Table 2: HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives, Options and Policies

Date undertaken: March 2016

Core Strategy HRA version: Adopted October 2015

NDP objectives and policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	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)
Wyeside Objectives					
WO1- support local enterprise and the creation of job opportunities	Objective to encourage job creation Increase in movement Local employment	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it will support and encourages local enterprise and job creation.
WO2- sustainable development in the five villages of Wyeside	Objective promotes sustainable development Additional housing Services and facilities supported	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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WO3- range of tenures (owned and rented)	Housing developed Increase of movement Promotes range, size and type of housing to suit need.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but ensures a mix of housing types in line with housing need.
WO4- residential amenity	Small scale development (Extensions).	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC.	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but promotes well designed and sensitive development along neighbouring properties.
WO5- rural services, social, recreational and sports facilities	Facilities maintained and utilised in rural areas. Protected sports facilities and additions where required. Increased movement	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but aims to protect and retain community services.
WO6- local people in the decision making process	Community engagement Increase of movement and activity within the parish	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this is not a land use policy but an objective to encourage community engagement and involvement in decision making.
Wyeside sub-objectives					

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Housing objective 1 Involve local people in the decision making process	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this is not a land use policy
Housing objective 2 Limit the number per development site to maintain scale and feel of villages	Small scale development	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC.	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but promotes small scale development within the 5 villages
Housing objective 3 Development will be contiguous to the centre of each village	Small scale development	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC.	N/A	Safeguarding to the included within the policy wording	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but promotes small scale development within the 5 villages
Housing objective 4 Encourage a suitable mix of houses, but mainly two and three bedrooms	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective would not lead to development but indicates the mix of housing within any development
Housing objective 5 New development relate directly to the existing built form	Small scale development	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC. Additional policy safeguards required for development close to the River Wye at Bredwardine.	N/A	Safeguarding to the included within the policy wording	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but promotes development adjacent to the built form.
Housing objective 6 Ensure that development is	Small scale development	Small scale development is unlikely to have a	N/A	Additional safeguarding to be included within	No; this objective in itself would not lead to development but

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sensitive to residential amenity and the rural environment		significant impact on the River Wye SAC. Additional policy safeguards required for development close to the River Wye at Bredwardine.		policy wording	promotes residential amenity
Housing objective 7 Develop affordable housing where a local need is identified	Small scale development	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC. Additional policy safeguards required for development close to the River Wye at Bredwardine.	N/A	Additional safeguarding to be included within policy wording	No, this objective is seeking to promote affordable housing
Housing objective 8 Develop retirement homes for old/less able people	Small scale development	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC. Additional policy safeguards required for development close to the River Wye at Bredwardine.	N/A	Additional safeguarding to be included within policy wording	No, this objective is seeking to promote retirement homes housing
Environment objective 1 Comply with the Herefordshire Strategy for Green infrastructure	Safeguarding, improving and promoting green spaces and infrastructure	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective is to promote additional green infrastructure within the parish

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Environmental objective 2 Maintain as an area free of chemicals, airborne noise and light pollution insofar as practical	Reduce the amount of pollutants within the parish	Reducing phosphates and other chemicals within the fluvial system. The resulting policy wording should include safeguarding reference to the River Wye SAC and priority species and habitats.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguarding to be included within policy wording	No, this objective aims to reduce pollution within the parish
Environmental objective 3 Protect and enhance the traditional heritage and landscapes	Safeguarding and enhancing heritage assets	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development but is seeking to protect and enhance heritage assets
Environmental Objective 4 Development will not adversely affect views and vistas valued by residents	Safeguarding views and vistas	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective seeks to protect views and vistas
Environmental objective 5 Protect green spaces	Local green spaces safeguarded from development Increase in recreational activity.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. The resulting policy wording should include safeguarding reference to the River Wye SAC and priority species and habitats.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguarding to be included within policy wording	No: this objective is seeking to protect green spaces

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Environmental objective 6 New development should not be permitted within in 100 metres of the River Wye SAC	Safeguards species and local biodiversity. Ensuring development is does not have a detrimental impact on European site.	Objective specifically to safeguard the River Wye SAC.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No: This objective is likely to have a beneficial effect on environment and biodiversity of Wyeside group.
Environmental objective 7 New development should not be permitted in Flood Zone 2 or 3	Safeguard areas of flood plain	Potential positive effect of reducing disturbance	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No, this objective is likely to have a beneficial effect on environment and biodiversity of Wyeside group.
Environmental objective 8 Solar panels farms will be permitted where they are in compliance with the environmental policies	Support for renewable energy projects	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC. Additional policy safeguards required for development close to the River Wye.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguarding to be included within policy wording	No, this objective supports renewable energy
Environmental objective 9 Encourage and engage in both conserving and producing renewable energy, where environmental policies are met.	Support for renewable energy projects	Small scale development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC. Additional policy safeguards required for development close to the River Wye	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguarding to be included within policy wording	No, this objective supports renewable energy

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Facilities objective 1 Protect current community facilities	Safeguarding community facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development but will safeguard existing facilities
Facilities objective 2 Protect public houses as a vital part of the community	Safeguarding community facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development but will safeguard existing facilities
Facilities objective 3 Improve footpaths	Policy to support improvement to footpath Increased direct access to the River Wye	Any developments near the River Wye will need to take account of the water quality and flooding issues. Developments of this scale are unlikely to have any significant effects	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguard required within the policy wording for footpaths near River Wye	No: this policy itself is seeking to support additional footpaths within the parish.
Facilities objective 4 Improve public access to the River Wye	Policy to support improvement to footpath Increased direct access to the River Wye	Any developments near the River Wye will need to take account of the water quality and flooding issues. Developments of this scale are unlikely to have any significant effects	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguard required within the policy wording for footpaths near River Wye	No: this objective itself is seeking to support additional footpaths within the parish.
Facilities Objective 5 Promote Wyeseide as a tourism attraction	Increase movement and visitor numbers	Any developments near the River Wye will need to take account of the water quality and flooding issues. Developments of	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguard required within the policy wording for footpaths near River Wye	No, this objective itself is seeking to promote the area for tourism

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		this scale are unlikely to have any significant effects			
Facilities objective 6 Protect current public transport facilities	Increase movement and visitor numbers	N/A	N/A	N/A	No this objective is seeking to protect existing facilities
Facilities objective 7 Provide additional community and recreational facilities	Increase movement and visitor numbers	Any developments near the River Wye will need to take account of the water quality and flooding issues. Developments of this scale are unlikely to have any significant effects	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional safeguard required within the policy wording for footpaths near River Wye	No, this objective will not lead to development but is seeking to promote additional facilities within the parish
Facilities objective 8 Provide additional transport facilities	Increase movement and visitor numbers	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development but seek to encourage additional rural transport
Wyeside Policies					
WB01 – New Business Opportunities	Policy to support proposals for new business opportunities. Potential additional traffic movements Additional water use	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No, policy criteria exist within the NDP to safeguard the River Wye SAC particularly policy WE01.

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		NDP policy.			
WB02 – Retail Development	Policy to support proposals for small retail development.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. This policy is promoting very small scale retail facilities within the parish	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No, policy criteria exist within the NDP to safeguard the River Wye SAC particularly policy WE01.
WH01 – New Housing Development	<p>Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increase recreation activities.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p>	Small scale development proposed (plots of 5 or less) Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	<p>Implementation of Core Strategy policy LD2: Biodiversity and Geodiversity, which aims to avoid adverse impacts on European sites from development including housing. Policy SD1: Sustainable design and Energy efficiency should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbance</p> <p>Policy WE01 of the NDP also contains restrictive criteria including no development within 100m of the boundary of the River Wye.</p>	No: development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the NDP (WE01) will avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
WH02 – Ensuring an appropriate Range of Tenures, Types and Size of Houses	Policy to support proposals for a range of types, tenures and size of houses.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy is criteria based policy for affordable housing within Wyeside Group. Safeguarding criteria exists within policy WE01	No: development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core

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		with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy		which restricts development within 100m of the boundary of the River Wye.	Strategy should help avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
WH03 – Affordable Housing	Affordable housing development in rural areas. Increase in vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy is criteria based policy for affordable housing within Wyese Group and conforms to Core Strategy policy H1.	No: Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant. But this can be determined further at planning application stage.
WH04 – Re-use of Rural Buildings	Policy to support redevelopment of rural buildings into dwelling Small increase in transport usage Increase in water usage	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Criteria is contained within the policy regarding the safeguarding of priority habitats and species.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy deals with rural development and accords with Core Strategy Policy RA5 Re-use of rural buildings.	No: Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant. But this can be determined further at planning application stage.
WH05 – Housing in Open Countryside	Restrict housing in the open countryside and in line with Core Strategy policy RA3	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Development will be very small scale and in line with policy RA3 of the Core Strategy	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy sets out criteria for housing development in the countryside. This policy conforms to Core Strategy policy RA3, RA4 and RA5.	No: Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant. But this can be determined further at planning application stage.
WHD01 – New Building	Policy to support	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on	River Wye (including	In accordance with policy Core Strategy policy	No this policy will not lead to development

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Design	residential development.	the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy	River Lugg) SAC	SD1, this policy can help mitigate the effects of development through sustainable housing design. This can help minimise adverse impact on the environment and the SAC.	but contains the criteria to design adjudge applications against.
WHD02 – Change of Use	Policy to support change of use Potential increase in traffic and water use.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Contains criteria for the change of use of an existing building.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No: this policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to criteria based objective. Criteria is included within the policy to reference priority species and habitats.
Policy WE01 – Environmental Restrictions on Development	This policy safeguards species and local biodiversity against development. Ensuring development is does not have a detrimental impact on surrounding environment.	The policy contains criteria to specifically safeguard the River Wye SAC and the flood zones. This includes no development with 100m of the boundary of the River Wye SAC.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy helps to safeguard local environment in line with policy LD2, and help mitigate adverse effects caused from development.	No: This policy is likely to have a beneficial effect on environment and biodiversity of Wyeside group.
Policy WE02 – Landscape Design Principles	Contains the design criteria for development particularly landscape features.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy helps to safeguard landscape around Wyeside Group parish and accords with Core Strategy policy LA1.	No: this policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to criteria based objective. This policy safeguards natural and built

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		Core Strategy and by NDP policy			landscape of Wyeside.
Policy WE03 - Protecting Local Green Spaces and Important Views	Local green spaces safeguarded from development Increase in recreational activity.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. The policy wording includes safeguarding reference to the River Wye SAC and priority species and habitats.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	This policy helps to safeguard local green spaces and significant views.	No: this policy itself refers to the River Wye SAC and other priority species and habitats. Additional policy criteria is contained within NDP policy WE01.
Policy WE04 – Renewable Energy	Support for renewable energy projects	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Policy seeks to support appropriately sites schemes predominately solar power.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	The Core Strategy and the NDP contain environmental policies to ensure that any development is mitigated to ensure no significant affects.	No: this policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to criteria based objective. This policy safeguards
WF01 – Retention of Existing Recreational Facilities	Recreation facilities maintained	Local community recreation facilities will be protected as community assets. No Likely significant impacts expected.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Core Strategy policies OS1-OS3 relating to open space, sport and recreation may help relieve any increase pressure on European sites for recreation space, if appropriately implemented.	No: this policy is seeking to safeguard existing facilities. There is currently very limited facilities within the five settlements
WF02 – Picnic Areas, Improving Footpaths and Access to the River Wye	Policy to support improvement to footpath Increased direct access	Any developments near the River Wye will need to take account of the water quality and flooding	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No, any detrimental effect caused from improvement works can be mitigated with policies within the Core Strategy	No: this policy itself is seeking to support additional footpaths and picnic stops within

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	to the River Wye	issues. Developments of this scale are unlikely to have any significant effects given the safeguards within Core Strategy policy SD3, SD4 and NDP policy WE01		SD3 and SD4 and NDP policy WE01.	the parish.
WF03 – Additional Community and Recreational Facilities	Development of additional community and recreational facilities Increased recreational activity	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy WE01	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No, any detrimental effect caused from additional facility development can be mitigated with policies within the Core Strategy.	No: this policy itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to criteria based objective. This policy safeguards

Appendix 3

**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:	Wyeside Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Wyeside Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	31/01/2013

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Wye borders Bredwardine, Moccas and Preston on Wye to the north
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group 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 at Moccas, Preston on Wye and Bredwardine

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 28.04km away from the Group Parish
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River Clun SAC:

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

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 29.5km away from the Group Parish
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Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Group Parish is 32.3km away from Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
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Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Group Parish is 27.5km 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 Wyeside Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

European Site

(List only those which are relevant from above)

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

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

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

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	12	Benfield Park; Bredwardine Wood (border); Finestreet Wood; Old House Farm Wood; Mill Copse; Woodbury Hill Wood; 1 Unlabelled site north of Moccas Parish (border); Kinley Coppice; Barretts Hill Wood; Woodfield Barn Coppice; Rushden Wood (border); Kiln Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites	1	The River Wye	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones follow the River Wye along the northern borders of the Group Parish. There is also Flood Zones along the northern border of Tyberton and Blakemere Parishes, and also around Moccas Court	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	15 (SWS)	River Wye; Pond near Turners Boat; Merbach Hill, Benfield Park and Weston Hill Wood; Ox-bow Lake, Letton Court (border); Court Wood; Trap Coppice and Mill, Leasowe Wood (border); Depple Wood and Castle Coppice; Wern Wood; Moccas Park and adjoining woodland; Mere Pool, Blakemere; Land at Rose Bank, Preston on Wye; The Flits; Land near Hacton, Preston on Wye; Ponds near Woodfield Farm; Timberline Wood and adjoining woodlands	
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	4	Three Rivers Ride; Wye Valley Walk; Vaughans Way; Herefordshire Trail (border)	Y
Mineral Reserves	2	2 sites border Preston on Wye to the east	Y
National Nature Reserve	2	Moccas Park; The Flits	Y
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered 5	Registered: Moccas Court Unregistered: Bredwardine Castle;	Y

	Unregistered	Bredwardine Village; Monnington Deer Park (border); Tyberton Court; 1 unlabelled site to the north of Bredwardine Parish (border)	
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	4	Moated site known as Old Court Mound at Old Court; Bredwardine Castle; Churchyard Cross at St Leonards Churchyard; Churchyard Cross at St Mary's Churchyard	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	4	Moccas Court (Favourable (part) Unfavourable recovering (part)); The Flits (Unfavourable Recovering (part) Favourable (part) Unfavourable No Change (part)); River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering); Monnington Scar (Favourable) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 31/05/2013

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

