

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Report for:

Lea Neighbourhood Area

August 2017



Lea Parish HRA

HRA Screening Assessment

Contents

- 1 Introduction**
Map of the Neighbourhood Area with European sites shown
- 2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Neighbourhood Plans**
- 3 Methodology**
- 4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options**
- 5 Description of the Lea Neighbourhood Plan**
- 6 Identification of other plans and projects which may have 'in-combination' effects**
- 7 Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Lea Parish NDP**
Table 1 - Colour coding key for Matrix
- 8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix**

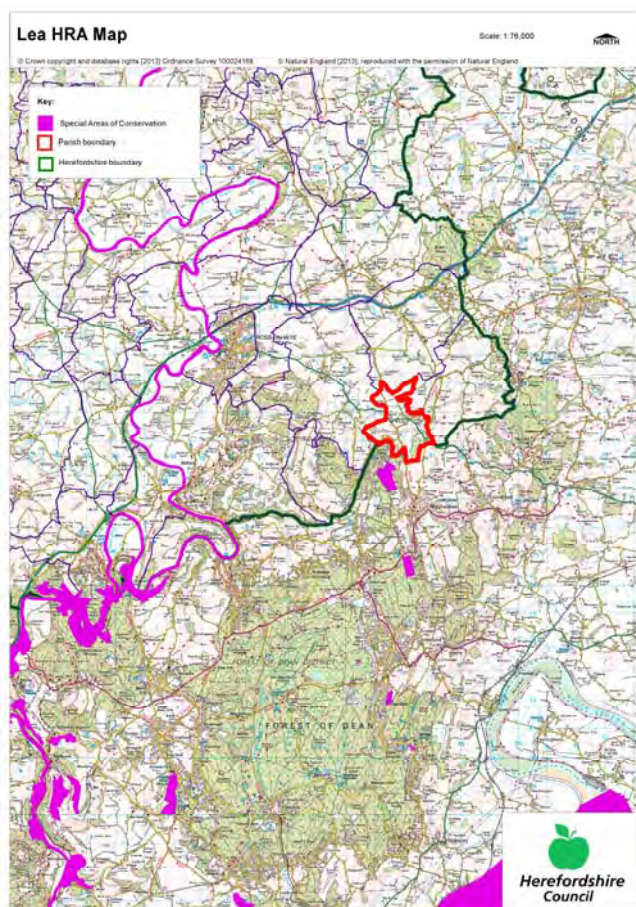
Appendix 1 – List of options assessed

Appendix 2 – Options Assessment and Full Screening matrix

Appendix 3 – Initial Screening Report (April 2014)

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 Lea Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Lea 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 Lea Plan August 2017.
- 1.3 The NDP is criteria based plan and has no site allocations, but allocates a settlement boundary for Lea. The proportionate target figure for growth is 43, Lea has exceeded this amount by 58. There have been 101 applications in Lea which have been either constructed or granted permission from 2011 to 2017. Therefore the plan provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Lea Group Neighbourhood Area with 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 European Site highlighted.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

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

3 Methodology

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

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

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (April 2014) found that the Parish falls within the hydrological catchment for the River Wye (including River Lugg), and is 6.4km away from the River Wye SAC and 0.3 km away from the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites and 9.6km away from Wye Valley Woodlands which are all European sites (Special Area of Conservation). Therefore a full HRA screening assessment is required
- 4.2 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Lea Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, April 2014, 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 Lea Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial eleven options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites or Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Of all five development options put forward the no NDP option was not considered viable for the Parish. The remaining two options both proposed growth however they would both be within the proportional growth targets of the Core strategy and are therefore unlikely to have a significant impact on the SACs. Six design options were also considered these all had a positive impact of the baseline data.
- 4.4 As Lea progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites and Wye Valley Woodlands 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 Lea Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Lea NDP presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background of the village.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the parish over the plan period and nine objectives of how this will be achieved. The 9 objectives cover the following topics:

Objective 1: To maintain the rural integrity, identity and character of community

Objective 2: To meet local housing requirements

Objective 3: To protect and enhance the local environment – air and water quality, green and open spaces, woodland and hedgerows, wildlife, footpaths and cycleways, and views

Objective 4: To meet the needs of large/small and home-based businesses

Objective 5: To support tourism through B&B provision and other local small-scale initiatives

Objective 6: To improve local infrastructure, including public transport, road improvements, gas supply installation, and telecommunications

Objective 7: To enhance the safety of inhabitants

Objective 8: To provide support for small-scale renewable energy opportunities linked to individual developments

Objective 9: To provide support for existing and new community facilities, e.g. shop, post office, garage, school, pub, church and allotments

5.3 The NDP also sets out 8 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the village, these include:

- Lea 1- The right housing in the right place.
- Lea 2-Surface and foul water drainage
- Lea 3- A valued environment in which to live
- Lea 4- Poly tunnels
- Lea 5- Sustaining open spaces
- Lea 6- Supporting a thriving community
- Lea 7- Delivery of local infrastructure
- Lea 8-Access to community facilities

5.4 It is concluded that none of the NDP policies have a significant impact on the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites or Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.

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

6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.

6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014). It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP.

6.3 The HRA for the Core Strategy also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire, which indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Core Strategy policies, and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

7 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Lea 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, Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC and Wye Valley Woodlands 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 pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy was also taking into consideration.

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

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Lea Plan (August 2017) policies and sites were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites or Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. This is primarily because although the parish lies within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye, development is in line with the Core Strategy and existing safeguards exist within both plan policies. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Lea Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the submission version of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites or Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.
- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e., it related instead to criteria for development. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment, including biodiversity and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 The plan is very much criteria based, and does not allocate sites for development as Lea have exceeded their housing target by 58, by having 101 dwelling either completed or permitted. Lea still allocates a settlement boundary for Lea including development that has been granted planning permission.
- 8.4 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is sufficient existing permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Lea area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. In addition, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC.
- 8.5 It is unlikely that the Lea Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a small scale.
- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the Lea Plan **will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites or Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.**
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post August 2017) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

Lea Options

Option 1- Do nothing and NDP and let HC use the Core Strategy and Allocations Plan.
Option 2- Use a criteria based plan only
Option 3- Allocate sites
Option 4- Define settlement boundaries
Option 5- Define settlement boundaries and allocate sites
Option 6- Include green space and trees within settlements
Option 7- Include design that respects the scale of the existing area
Option 8- Include developments built in a style, and with materials, in keeping with existing local traditional buildings
Option 9- Include better pedestrian and cycling access to local facilities/public transport pick-up points.
Option 10- Signage, advertising and street furniture that respects the locality
Option 11- Include minimum standards for living space in dwellings

Appendix 2

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

Parish Council Name: Lea Parish Council

NDP Title: Lea Neighbourhood Plan

Date undertaken: August 2017

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no LSE? (Yes/No with reasons)
Option 1- Not prepare and NDP and let HC use the Core Strategy and Allocations Plan.	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.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	N/A	N/A
Option 2- Use a criteria based policy for allocating sites - as in the informal consultation draft.	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a criteria based policy.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites	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. Policies	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

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

			SAC	<p>within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</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. Policies within the Core Strategy help to mitigate effect of development.</p>	<p>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 3-Allocate sites	Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map.	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>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites 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>
Option 4- Define settlement boundaries as in the current	Small scale proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

version of the plan.	area.	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	Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	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.	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-Define settlement boundaries and allocate sites	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.
Option 6-Include green space and trees within	Green space identified in Lea. This will be	None identified.	River Wye (including	This option would not directly lead to	No, this option will not directly lead to

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

settlements	<p>safeguarded against development.</p> <p>Important trees are identified.</p>		<p>the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley</p>	<p>development, instead it intends to safeguard important green spaces and trees within the NDP Area. This option will help Lea to avoid inappropriate development and mitigate impact caused from development.</p>	<p>development instead it provides criteria to help safeguard local greenspace and trees.</p>
Option 7 -Include design that respects the scale of the existing area	<p>Development designed that is in scale and keeping with its surrounding context.</p>	None identified.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>This option will help Lea to avoid inappropriate development and mitigate impact caused from development.</p>	<p>No, this option will not directly lead to development instead it provides design criteria to ensure developments are in keeping with the village.</p>
Option 8 -Include developments built in a style, and with materials, in keeping with existing local traditional buildings	<p>Development designed that is in keeping with its surrounding context. Using appropriate materials in keeping with the local village scape.</p>	None identified.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>This option will help Lea to avoid inappropriate development and mitigate impact caused from development.</p>	<p>No, this option will not directly lead to development instead it provides design criteria to ensure developments are in keeping with the village.</p>
Option 9 -Include better pedestrian and cycling access to local facilities/public transport pick-	<p>Increase in walking and cycling</p> <p>Safer routes for cycling</p>	None identified.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley</p>	<p>This option will help Lea to avoid inappropriate development and mitigate impact caused</p>	<p>No, this option will not directly lead to development instead it provides criteria to ensure sustainable</p>

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

up points.	Decrease in air pollution		Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	from development.	transport access
Option 10 -Signage, advertising and street furniture that respects the locality	Development designed that is in scale and keeping with its surrounding context. Improvement within the public space in village area.	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	This option will help Lea to avoid inappropriate development and mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development instead it provides design criteria to ensure developments are in keeping with the village.
Option 11 -Include minimum standards for living space in dwellings	Development designed that is in scale and keeping with its surrounding context.	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	This option will help Lea to avoid inappropriate development and mitigate impact caused from development.	No, this option will not directly lead to development instead it provides design criteria to ensure developments are in keeping with the village.

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

Parish Council Name: Lea Parish

NDP Title: Lea NDP

Date undertaken: August 2017

NDP objectives, options policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/ option/ policy	Likely effect if objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Objective 1: To maintain the rural integrity, identity and character of community	Protect and enhance the character of existing natural environment, landscape.	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	None. This objective is a mitigation measure in itself.	No, this objective aims to protect the existing natural environment, enhancing character within the parish.
Objective 2: To meet local housing requirements	Housing targets to be met.	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	None. This objective is a mitigation measure in itself.	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

Objective 3: To protect and enhance the local environment – air and water quality, green and open spaces, woodland and hedgerows, wildlife, footpaths and cycleways, and views	<p>Natural landscape protected.</p> <p>Protection of local biodiversity, flora and fauna.</p> <p>Views safeguarded</p> <p>Cycleways and footpaths retained and enhanced.</p>	None identified.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	None. This objective is a mitigation measure in itself.	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Objective 4: To meet the needs of large/small and home-based businesses	<p>Growth of local jobs</p> <p>Increase in traffic</p> <p>Increase in water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Sufficient safeguards within the Core Strategy will help mitigate detrimental impact caused from business growth.	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. This will promote employment growth and jobs within Lea.
Objective 5: To support tourism through B&B provision and other local small-scale initiatives	<p>Increase in traffic</p> <p>Increase in water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>	None identified.	Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.	Sufficient safeguards within the Core Strategy will help mitigate detrimental impact caused from small scale tourism growth.	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. This will promote small scale tourism growth within Lea.

Objective 6: To improve local infrastructure, including public transport, road improvements, gas supply installation, and telecommunications	Improvement of infrastructure Non physical disturbance Increase in construction traffic Short term ground disruption Short term traffic disruption	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	Sufficient safeguards within the Core Strategy will help mitigate detrimental impact caused from infrastructure works.	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Objective 7: To enhance the safety of inhabitants	Promotion of safety within Lea	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	None. This objective is a mitigation measure in itself.	None identified. This objective is non specific and as it stands appears not to have an impact on any of the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Objective 8: To provide support for small-scale renewable energy opportunities linked to individual developments	Small scale domestic renewable energies development	None identified.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	Sufficient safeguards within the Core Strategy will help mitigate detrimental impact caused from small scale renewable energy development.	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Objective 9: To provide support for existing and	Community facilities	None identified.	River Wye (including	Sufficient safeguards within the Core Strategy	No. It is unlikely that this objective will have

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

<p>new community facilities, e.g. shop, post office, garage, school, pub, church and allotments</p>	<p>protected and enhanced</p>		<p>River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>will help mitigate detrimental impact caused from support for community facilities.</p>	<p>a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Lea 1- The right housing in the right place.</p>	<p>Policy to support sustainable development within Lea. Promotion of achieving housing target. Increased vehicle traffic Small increase in demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p>	<p>Depending on type, location of infrastructure. Physical damage of disturbance. Non-physical disturbance such as noise. Small scale housing development. Housing, infrastructure development Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC. Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>Measures included within policy SD2 of the Core Strategy should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances. Policies SD3 and SD4 should help avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency. Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p>	<p>No. The scale and extent of potential development unlikely to have a significant impact on the SACs . There are sufficient policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and NDP to safeguard and where necessary mitigate detrimental impact caused from development towards the SACs. Environmental impact caused from new housing can be tested further at planning application stage.</p>

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

<p>Lea 2-Surface and foul water drainage</p>	<p>Increase of suitable SUDs where appropriate</p> <p>Flood alleviation</p> <p>Pollution reduction</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>Measures included within policy SD2 of the Core Strategy should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances. Policies SD3 and SD4 should help avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency. Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p>	<p>No. It is unlikely that this policy will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Lea 3- A valued environment in which to live</p>	<p>Increase in recreation activities.</p> <p>Views protected</p> <p>Important trees and hedgerows retained</p> <p>Safeguard woodlands and orchards</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to ensure developments to be fitting for its context and ensures protection to the exiting landscape.</p>	<p>No. It is unlikely that this policy will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

Lea 4- Poly tunnels	<p>Poly tunnel development</p> <p>Poly tunnel to be in keeping with local character.</p>	None identified.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	None. This policy has criteria within it to mitigate impact caused from development.	No. It is unlikely that this policy will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Lea 5- Sustaining open spaces	<p>Open green space protected</p> <p>Increase in recreation and outdoor activities</p> <p>Operation and maintenance of play provision</p>	None identified.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	None. This policy has criteria within it to mitigate impact caused from development.	No. It is unlikely that this policy will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Lea 6- Supporting a thriving community	<p>Promotion of small scale business initiatives</p> <p>Business extension building</p> <p>Small increase in water abstraction and traffic</p> <p>Promotion of farm diversification</p> <p>Increase in traffic</p>	Any effects of additional transport will be mitigated with providing additional highway and transport measures.	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	None. This policy has criteria within it to mitigate impact caused from development.	No. It is unlikely that this policy will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part.

<p>Lea 7- Delivery of local infrastructure</p>	<p>Support high quality infrastructure</p> <p>High speed broadband development</p> <p>Mobile communication infrastructure</p> <p>Renewable energy schemes developed</p> <p>Sustainable modes of transport increased</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>None. Sufficient safeguards within the Core Strategy will help mitigate detrimental impact caused from local infrastructure delivery.</p>	<p>No. It is unlikely that this policy will have a detrimental impact on the SACs. There are policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>
<p>Lea 8-Access to community facilities</p>	<p>Community facility development.</p> <p>Community benefit.</p> <p>Increase in recreation and community events.</p> <p>Support and upkeep of existing local community facilities.</p> <p>Promote new development of community facilities.</p> <p>Increase in vehicular movements.</p>	<p>Increase of vehicular movement and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p>	<p>River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development. Measures within Policy SD1 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances</p>	<p>No, although this policy could result in the re development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the SACs.</p>

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:	Lea Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Lea Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	13/05/2014

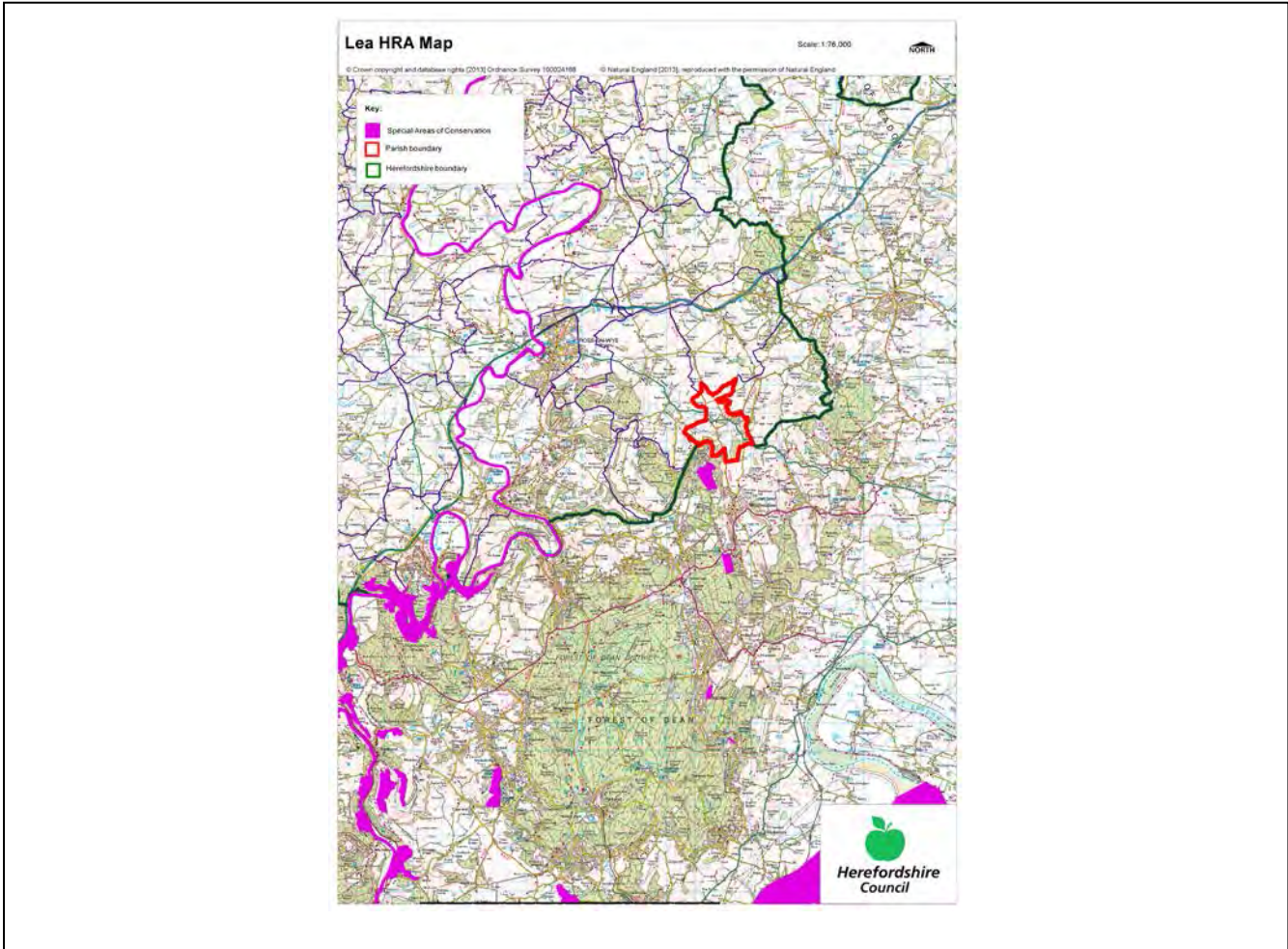
Introduction

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.

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye/Lugg SAC is 6.4km away from the Parish.
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?	N	There is no mains drainage within the Parish.

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 55km 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 44km 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?	Y	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 0.3km away from the Parish.
--	---	---

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	Y	Wye Valley Woodlands are 9.6km away from the Parish.
--	---	--

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 Lea 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

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC

Wye Valley Woodlands 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 Lea 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 (AQMA)	0	There are no AQMAs within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	11	Howley Grove; Cornage Wood; Purlieu Wood (border); Hengrove and Warmhill Woods (border); Penyard Park (border); Withymoor Wood (border); Newhouse Wood (border); Hay Wood (border); Newent Wood (border); Moate Wood (border); Reslaw Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest (AAI)	0	There are no AAI's within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	0	There are no AONB's within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
European Sites (SAC)	1	Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites (border)	Y
Flood Areas/Zones		There is a small area in the west of the Parish	Y
Geoparks	1	Malvern Hills Geopark (border)	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous listed buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	9 (SWS)	Howley Grove; Fields near Norton Farm; Lea Bailey Enclosure (border); May Hill (border); Meadow near Coldwell Cottage (border); Marsh near Haygrove Farm (border); Withymoor and Baldwins Wood (border); Reslaw and Newhouse Woods and adjoining woodlands (border); Aston Ingham Meadows (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no long distance footpaths/trails within the Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves Sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	There are no NNR's within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered Parks and Gardens	5 (unregistered)	Burton Court, Linton (border); Bolitree Castle (border); Weston Hall (border); Penyard Park (border); Rudhall House (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	1	Roman Town of Ariconium (border)	Y

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	9	Wigpool Ironstone Mine (Favourable) (border); May Hill (Unfavourable Recovering) (border); Hobbs Quarry, Longhope (Favourable) (border); Longhope Hill (Unfavourable Recovering) (border); Scully Grove Quarry (Unfavourable No Change) (border); Aston Ingham Meadows (Favourable) (border); Puddlebrook Quarry (Favourable) (border); Stenders Quarry (Favourable) (border); Linton Quarry (Unfavourable Declining) (border)	Y
---	---	--	---

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 04/04/2014

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

