

# Habitats Regulations Assessment



## Pembridge Neighbourhood Area

July 2017

# **Pembridge HRA**

## **HRA Screening Assessment**

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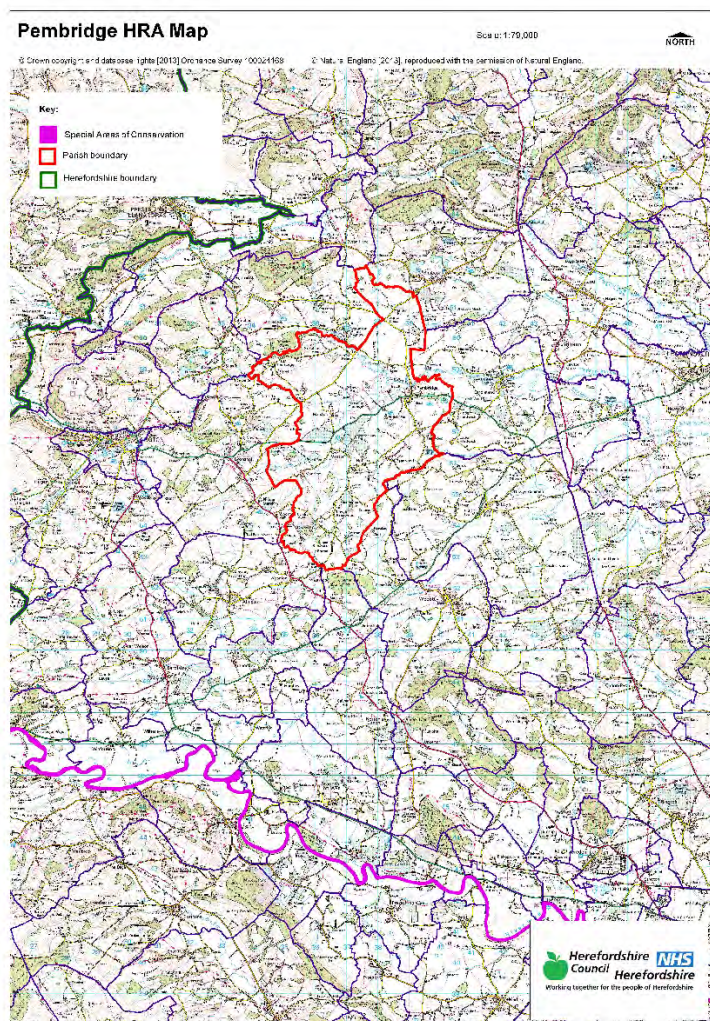
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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Pembridge Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Pembridge 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 Pembridge Plan June 2017.
- 1.3 The NDP has 26 criteria based policies and allocates 7 sites across the village. 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 Pembridge Neighbourhood Area with the European Site highlighted.



## 2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the "Habitats Regulations" published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore, when preparing its NDP, Pembridge 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 Pembridge 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 (August 2012) found that the Neighbourhood Area is in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC and that the Parish is within the River Arrow catchment area. Therefore a full screening assessment is required.
- 4.2 For full details of the River Arrow and River Wye SAC attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Pembridge Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, August 2012, 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 Pembridge Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Of the 4 options put forward the no NDP option was not considered viable for the Parish. The remaining three options all 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 SAC.
- 4.4 As Pembridge progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred 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 Pembridge Neighbourhood Development Plan**

- 5.1 The Draft Pembridge NDP presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background of the village.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period and 17 objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

**Housing**  
**Enterprise, Local Economy & Business**  
**Community Facilities, Amenities & Services**  
**Environment**  
**Transport**

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 26 policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the village, these include:

Policy PEM1 – Promoting Sustainable Development

Policy PEM2 – Development Strategy

Policy PEM3 – Housing Development in Pembridge village

- 
- Policy PEM4 – Housing Sites in Pembridge
  - Policy PEM 5 – Meeting Housing Needs
  - Policy PEM6 – Design Criteria for Residential Development
  - Policy PEM7 – Providing for Local Housing Need
  - Policy PEM8 – Reuse of Rural Buildings and Brownfield Land for Employment Enterprises
  - Policy PEM9 – Working from Home
  - Policy PEM10 – Agricultural Diversification and Tourism Enterprises
  - Policy PEM 11 – Intensive Livestock Units
  - Policy PEM12 – Supporting Infrastructure
  - Policy PEM13 – Development on Shobdon Airfield
  - Policy PEM14 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation
  - Policy PEM15 – Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities and Services
  - Policy PEM16 – Safeguarding Local Green Space
  - Policy PEM17 – Contributions to Community Services, Youth Provision and Recreation Facilities
  - Policy PEM18 – Retaining the Natural Environment and Landscape
  - Policy PEM19 – Protecting Heritage Assets
  - Policy PEM20 – Development within Pembridge Conservation Area
  - Policy PEM21 – Protection from Flood Risk
  - Policy PEM22 – Sewage Infrastructure
  - Policy PEM23 – Sustainable Design
  - Policy PEM24 – Traffic Measures within the Parish
  - Policy PEM25 – Highway Design Requirements
  - Policy PEM26 – Protection and Development of Public Rights of Way

## **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 Pembridge 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 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 Pembridge Plan (June 2017) policies were concluded to be likely to have no significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Pembridge Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version / proposed modifications addendum of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.

8.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e., it related instead to criteria for development. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment, including biodiversity 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 mainly criteria based, however does allocate sites.

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 Pembridge 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 Pembridge 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 and in line with the proportional growth specified in the Core Strategy.

- 8.6 It is therefore concluded that the Pembridge Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post June 2017) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.



# Appendix 1

## Pembridge NDP Options Considered

- Option 1- Seeing one or two large housing sites that might accommodate the Core Strategy target for the parish
- Option 2 – Identifying a number of small housing sites that would be in keeping with the scale of development within Pembridge
- Option 3 – identifying a limited number of sites which form logical extensions to the current settlement boundary to provide for some of the required housing target but setting criteria as the basis for the deficit in the light of currently limited acceptable options
- Option 4 – not to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan but rely upon Herefordshire Core Strategy, developer pressures and any subsequent Rural Areas Local Plan that Herefordshire Council may produce.

# Appendix 2

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

Parish Council Name: Pembridge

NDP Title: Pembridge NDP

Date undertaken: June 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)  <i>(If no, progress on to next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress on to next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected  (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
<b>OBJECTIVES</b>		<i>The significance of the effect is key when assessing the effects.</i>			
Objective 1	Providing a variety of types of housing through development would give certainty to future development and the safeguarding of facilities would benefit the	This objective would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria can be added to	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation site as an outcome to this objective to mitigate the impact.

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	community. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	site allocations policies to ensure no likely significant effect would occur.			
Objective 2	Protection of the visual effect of all development proposals enhance the unique character of the parish and protect our landscape and historic environment.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself does not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance historic amenity.
Objective 3	Encouragement of exemplary design and high standards in all elements of a development proposal – to reflect and enhance our historic environment and unique local distinctiveness.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself does not lead to development but seeks to ensure good design is considered and aims to protect and enhance historic amenity.
Objective 4	To ensure that all development is based upon sound environmental sustainability principles	Any development of residential or business infrastructure could have a possible increase in recreation	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	Specific environmental issues could be positively addressed within supporting	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards

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	(ecological, social and economic)	activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.  Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development.		policy wording.	which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects and this objective actively aims to mitigate impacts regarding environmental aspects.  Additional reference to the River Wye SAC and the safeguarding of its water quality would help strengthen the policy.
Objective 5	To encourage and sustain the parish's currently thriving self-employed sector and to encourage small-scale staffed business development as and where appropriate.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective would not lead to development itself but seeks to ensure support of local employment and business development.
Objective 6	To ensure a suitable environment for	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective would not lead to

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	Pembridge's larger businesses to flourish				development itself but seeks to ensure support of local employment and business development.
Objective 7	To maintain and encourage new and existing community facilities and amenities for the benefit and enjoyment of all parishioners	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development, instead it seeks to enhance the prospects of local life for residents through community facilities.
Objective 8	To ensure the physical facilities, amenities and services are adequate and are developed and expanded to meet the needs and future growth of the parish. Protect, enhance and provide appropriate facilities for existing potential activities (including through the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy)	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development, instead it seeks to enhance the prospects of local life for residents through community facilities.  <b>Note CIL currently on hold.</b>

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Objective 9	To ensure the public services (in particular roads, water, sewage system, the bus service and broadband) are adequate and are development in advance of future needs.	<p>Any development of residential or business infrastructure could have a possible increase demand for water abstraction and treatment and this objective aims to address and future proof.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	Specific environmental issues could be positively addressed within supporting policy wording.	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects and this objective actively aims to mitigate impacts regarding environmental aspects.</p> <p><b>Additional reference to the River Wye SAC and the safeguarding of its water quality would help strengthen the policy.</b></p>
Objective 10	To give a high priority to the retention and support of businesses that provide important community services such as public houses, shops and catering	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development, instead it seeks to enhance the prospects of local life for residents

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	establishments.				through catering facility and community services.
Objective 11	To improve communication and connectivity to parishioners to promote greater community involvement.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development directly but the enhancement of networks and community.
Objective 12	To protect public and local green spaces within the parish.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it seeks to maintain the character, vitality of the village
Objective 13	To seek improved access to services and facilities, particularly health and social care provision.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it seeks to maintain the character of the village and the health of the residents.
Objective 14	To maintain and reinforce Pembridge Parish's natural environment and landscape character.	N/A	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it seeks to maintain the character,

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	To achieve this new development shall have regard to conserving and enhancing the natural beauty and amenity of the Arrow Valley and respecting the setting, character, appearance and cultural heritage of the Parish in general				cultural heritage and amenity of the village.
Objective 15	To address community concerns about the speed and level of traffic through the village.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development directly but relate to traffic management issues.
Objective 16	To ensure that traffic generated by development can be accommodated successfully.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it seeks to maintain the character, cultural heritage and amenity of the village.
Objective 17	To promote measures to make the roads safer for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development directly but relate to traffic

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					management issues.
<b>OPTIONS</b>					
Option 1- Seeing one or two large housing sites that might accommodate the Core Strategy target for the parish	Allocation of one or two larger sites for housing would give certainty to future development, however may have further environmental impacts than smaller sites. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	Pursuing this option would give certainty over future development within the area located within the River Wye SAC. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure no likely significant effect would occur.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.
Option 2 – Identifying a number of small housing sites that would be in keeping with the scale of development within Pembridge	Allocation of sites for housing would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye SAC. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure no likely significant effect would occur.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.
Option 3 – identifying a limited number of sites which form logical extensions to	Allocation of sites for housing which form logical extensions to the current settlement	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to

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the current settlement boundary to provide for some of the required housing target but setting criteria as the basis for the deficit in the light of currently limited acceptable options	boundary 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 settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside	area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies. However the majority of the village where proportional growth and the settlement boundary are likely to be located are away from directly impacting the SAC.			mitigate.
Option 4 – not to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan but rely upon Herefordshire Core Strategy, developer pressures and any subsequent Rural Areas Local Plan that Herefordshire Council may produce.	Not producing a neighbourhood plan would result in any future growth decisions within the parish being made based on the strategic policies within the Core Strategy.  Proportional housing and employment growth would be in accordance with the Core Strategy.	Core Strategy HRA has examined the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy rural policies in May 2014 and April 2015 and concluded that there are no LSE but acknowledges the role of neighbourhood plans to provide additional certainty.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	N/A	N/A
<b>POLICIES</b>					
Policy PEM1	Sustainable measures of development	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to include of

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	incorporated in new development				renewable energy design within any residential schemes but does not directly lead to development itself.
Policy PEM2	Development of residential and business infrastructure	<p>Any development of residential or business infrastructure could have a possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye from any new employment or business uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015</p>	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.

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				and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.	
Policy PEM3	Development of housing in Pembridge	<p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated during further site investigation 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</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that there will be an</p>

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		location of the development.		<p>potential headroom capacity at the local STW</p> <p>The policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following:  Development should ensure that any adverse effects on the River Wye SAC can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p>	<p>increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at site allocation stage.</p>
Policy PEM4	Sites to be identified for development	Development of residential infrastructure could	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy)

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		<p>have a possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development.</p>		<p>further site investigation 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>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the River Wye SAC can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the</p>	<p>policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within</p>
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				ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.	the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at site investigation and or further allocation stage.
Policy PEM 5	Meeting Housing Needs	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to meet housing needs but does not directly lead to development itself.
Policy PEM6	Design Criteria for Residential Development	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to address the design for any residential schemes but does not directly lead to development itself.
Policy PEM7	Providing for Local Housing Need	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to meet housing needs but does not directly lead to

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					development itself.
Policy PEM8	Reusing existing buildings and land that has been previously developed as opposed to greenfield sites for employment.	<p>Reuse or infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in vehicular movements, business activity and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	<p>This policy should help to reduce the extent to which people need to travel to work by allowing existing businesses the opportunity to expand.</p> <p>Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye from any new employment or business uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main</p>	<p>No, this policy is seeking retention of existing and development businesses at a local level. This may have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>There are policy safeguards within Local Plan (Core Strategy) and other NDP policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p>

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				<p>Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> <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.</p>	
Policy PEM9	Working from Home	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to address issues relating to home working but does not directly lead to development itself.
Policy PEM10	Increase tourism, employment and diversification	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, the objective itself will not lead to development, instead it seeks to enhance the prospects of local

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					employment and tourism opportunities.
Policy PEM 11	Intensive Livestock Units location and environmental impacts	<p>New development of infrastructure and or environmental impacts as a result of increased agricultural activity.</p> <p>Possible increase in vehicular movements, business activity and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on specific location of the development, size and type.</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	<p>This policy potentially should help to reduce the impact of intensive farming on the parish.</p> <p>Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye from any new employment or business uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main</p>	<p>Significant mitigation to the policy will be required to ensure that the outcomes and aims of the policy are clear and structured and that it addresses the correct aspects of land use issues and environmental issues.</p>

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				<p>Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> <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.</p>	
Policy PEM12	Supporting Infrastructure	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to address issues relating to home working but does not directly lead to development itself.
Policy PEM13	Development on Shobdon Airfield	<p>New development of infrastructure.</p> <p>Possible increase in vehicular movements, business activity and demand for water</p>	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	This policy should help to reduce the extent to which people need to travel to work by allowing existing businesses at Shobdon or new businesses the	No, this policy is seeking retention of existing and development of businesses at a local level on an already utilised site. This may

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		<p>abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on specific location of the development, size and type.</p>		<p>opportunity to expand.</p> <p>Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye from any new employment or business uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan</p>	<p>have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>There are policy safeguards within Local Plan (Core Strategy) and other NDP policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p>
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				(NMP) should avoid adverse effects.  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.	
Policy PEM14	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to work towards the generation renewable energy across new development but does not directly lead to development itself.
Policy PEM15	Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities and Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy seeks to protect and enhance existing facilities rather than leading to significant new development itself.
Policy PEM16	Safeguarding Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to development;

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	Green Space				rather it seeks to conserve areas of green space and prevent alternative forms of use, to the benefit of the natural environment and landscape character.
Policy PEM17	Contributions to Community Services, Youth Provision and Recreation Facilities	<p>Possible new community facilities.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye from new community uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main</p>	No, although this policy could result in the development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.

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				<p>Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> <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.</p>	
Policy PEM18	Retaining the Natural Environment and Landscape	N/A	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	N/A	<p>No: this policy will not lead to development itself but encourages the inclusion and protection of wildlife corridors and trees within the existing landscape and new development.</p> <p><b>Additional reference to the River Wye SAC and the safeguarding of its</b></p>

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					water quality could help strengthen the policy.
Policy PEM19	Protecting Heritage Assets	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect any heritage assets in development proposals.
Policy PEM20	Development within Pembridge Conservation Area	<p>Some housing development.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment on possible historic sewage network.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location and specifics of the development.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<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 within the historic core and especially the conservation area.</p> <p>The policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy</p>

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				<p>following:  Development should ensure that any adverse effects on the River Wye SAC can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p>	<p>(April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at site allocation stage.</p>
Policy PEM21	Protection from Flood Risk	<p>Development needs to be tested before it commences.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible loss of surface drainage capacity</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated at development stage but be positively addressed within the policy wording.</p> <p>Policy would need to take account of the</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely</p>

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		Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location and specifics of the development.		proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW and the impact this will have on flooding in the development areas and SAC.	significant effects.
Policy PEM22	Sewage Infrastructure	<p>Housing, infrastructure development of sewage infrastructure.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location and specifics of the development</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Specific environmental issues could be investigated at development stage but 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 and the impact this will have on flooding in the development areas and SAC.</p>	<p>No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy RA2 and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the SAC from necessary infrastructure regarding the sewage network.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water</p>

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					<p>abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented</p> <p>Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at site allocation stage.</p>
Policy PEM23	Sustainable Design	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy will not lead to development but looks at sustainable design measures.

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Policy PEM24	Review of Traffic Measures within the Parish	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy will not lead to development as such but looks to review the traffic issues in the parish.
Policy PEM25	Highway Design Requirements	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy will not lead to development but focuses on design requirements for highway rather than the development. The policy does not directly implicate development.
Policy PEM26	Protection and Development of Public Rights of Way	N/A	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.	No: this policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect public rights of way but these could be near to parts of the SAC that are of significance.

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**Table 1a: HRA Screening of Neighbourhood Development Plan Proposed Site Allocations**

Parish Council Name: Pembridge

NDP Title: Pembridge NDP

Date undertaken: June 2017

Proposed Site Allocations	Characteristics of development, such as size <i>(Use the SEA Criteria in Appendix 2 point 1 of the internal user guide)</i>	Location of proposed site allocation <i>(Use the SEA Criteria in Appendix 2 point 2 of the internal user guide)</i>	HRA Screening of NDP Proposed Site Allocations			
			European Sites potentially affected <i>(Refer to Initial Screening)</i>		Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no likely significant effect?  <i>(Yes/No with reasons)</i>
Land of approximately 1.80 hectares to rear and south of the Village Hall, Bearwood Lane	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.	south of the Village Hall, Bearwood Lane South	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC.	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.

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Land of approximately 0.8 hectares off Manley Crescent	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.	Manley Crescent Central, west	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.
Land of approximately 0.6 hectares off Sandiford Ploc	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.	Sandiford Ploc north	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.
Land of approximately 0.25 hectares to the rear of the Old Surgery	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future	Rear of the Old Surgery Central, north east	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to

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	development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.			development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC		mitigate.
Land of approximately 0.65 hectares to the rear of the Gables	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.	Rear of the Gables Central, south east	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.
Land of approximately 2.00 hectares at Townsend	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be	Townsend East	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.

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	investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.			catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC		
Land of approximately 0.8 hectares to the west of Manley Lane	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.	West of Manley Lane West	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However there is a low likelihood of effect on the SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.

# Appendix 3

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## **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)**

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<b>Neighbourhood Area:</b>	Pembridge Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Pembridge Parish Council
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	31/08/2012

#### **Introduction**

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

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

**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 is 7.1km 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 River Arrow catchment area.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Pembridge

**Downton Gorge SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 11.78km away from the Parish
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**River Clun SAC:**

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

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 40.05km away from the Parish
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**Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Parish is 43.21km 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 Parish is 41.25km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
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**HRA Conclusion:**

The assessment above highlights that the following European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Pembridge 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 Pembridge 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.

<b>SEA features</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>SEA required</b>
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	8	Ravensmere Wood; Vallets Coppice; Butts Wood; Rise Coppice; Crump Oak Wood; 2 unlabelled at Nutfield and 1 south of Moorcot; Sherrington Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAI's within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no AONB's within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	1	Pembridge village is a Conservation Area	Y
European Sites	0	There are no SAC's within the Parish	N
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 predominately in the north of the Parish. There is also a Flood Zone south of Bearwood flowing west and ending south of Lower Green. The curl brook to the west of the Parish also has a Flood Zone	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings within the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	12 (SWS)	Mowley & Grove Woods; Disused railway – Kington to Leominster; Land at Moorcourt Farm; Field near Lower Broxwood; Sherrington Wood (border); Land at Bearwood; Field near Bearwood; Tippets Brook; River Arrow; Land adjacent to Moseley Common x2; Moseley Common	
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no long distance footpaths/trails within the Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Parish	N
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered 2 Unregistered	Registered: Broxwood Court Unregistered: Court of Noke; Moor Court- Pembridge	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	4	North Herefordshire Rowe Ditch; Bowl Barrow 490m south east of Milton Cross; Moated Site at Court House Farm; Dovecote at Luntley Court	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1	Moseley Common (Unfavourable Recovering)	Y

**Decision Notification:**

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

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

**Assessment date: 20/05/2013**

**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.

<b>Downton Gorge</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 10km for air quality associated with poultry units or other intensive agricultural practices.

<b>River Clun</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> Water quality is important to maintain the site feature. Parishes either side of the River Clun will be affected.

<b>River Wye</b>
<b>Site Features:</b> 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>
<b>Vulnerability data:</b> 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."

### 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

