

# Habitats Regulations Assessment

Report for:

Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Area  
February 2018



## **Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group HRA**

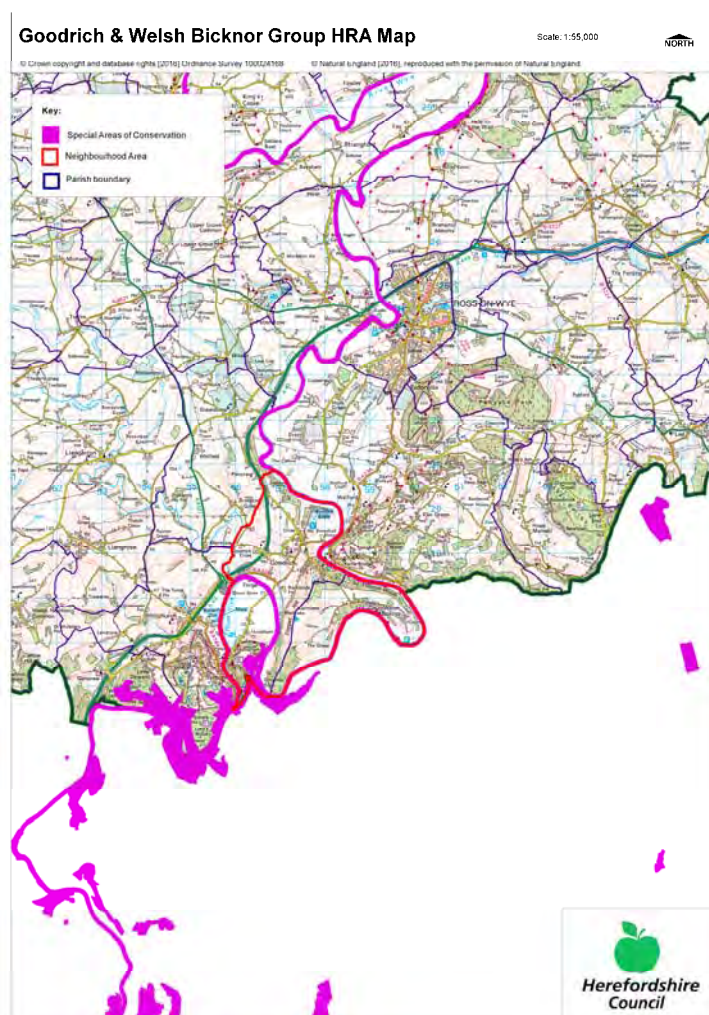
### **HRA Screening Assessment**

#### **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 Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Plan**
  - 6 Identification of other plans and projects which may have ‘in-combination’ effects**
  - 7 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group NDP**  
Table 1 - Colour coding key for Matrix
  - 8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix**
- Appendix 1** – List of options assessed
- Appendix 2** – Options assessment matrix
- Appendix 3** – Full Screening Matrix
- Appendix 4** – Initial Screening Report (2016)

## 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 Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council are producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Plan February 2018.
- 1.3 The NDP is a mix of criteria based policies and has allocated 3 sites within the designated settlement boundary of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group. It provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. This high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (August 2016) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor 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, Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment". It is also a requirement in Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:  
*Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.*
- 2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a neighbourhood plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):
- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
  - **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

## 3 Methodology

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

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

#### **4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options**

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (August 2016) found that the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Parish runs along the boundary of the River Wye. The SAC is located southwest of the Neighbourhood Area and therefore a full screening assessment is required. The area also falls within the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites and is 5.5km away. The parish is within the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.
- 4.2 For full details of the Wye Valley Woodlands, Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat sites and the River Wye (including the Lugg ) SAC attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Plan Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, August 2016, can be found in Appendix 4 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 Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Plan 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 Wye Valley Woodlands, Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat sites and the River Wye (including the Lugg) SACs. Overall the majority of the options proposing any growth appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact. There are 12 site options, 21 policies and 3 objectives which have been screened to assess the impact on the three identified SACs. However the site options listed are all on a small scale and located away from the SACs and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the SACs.
- 4.4 As the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Plan progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the Wye Valley Woodlands, Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat sites and the River Wye (including the Lugg) SACs could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred options from the consultation from the community. If a majority of these options are taken forward either as standalone policies or in combination with other policies then the mitigation from these options will help to counter balance the effect of all new development within the Parish. A list of the options and site options assessed can be found in Appendix 1, and the Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 2.

#### **5 Description of the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Plan**

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

- Environment
- Business and Employment
- Safeguard local heritage

5.3 The NDP also sets out 21 policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the village, these include:

- Promoting Sustainable Development
- Conserving the landscape and scenic beauty within the Wye Valley AONB
- Enhancement of the natural environment
- Protecting Heritage Assets
- Protection from flood risk
- Sustainable Design
- Sewerage Infrastructure
- Traffic Measures within the Group Parish
- Highway Design Requirements
- Broadband and Telecommunication Infrastructure
- Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities and Services
- Contributions to Community Services, Youth Provision and Recreation Facilities
- Moors Meadow Local Green Space
- Housing Development in Goodrich Village
- Housing Sites in Goodrich Village
- Meeting Housing Needs
- Affordable and Intermediate Homes
- Tourism Enterprises
- Scale of Economic Development
- Farm Diversification
- Working from Home

5.4 The NDP proposes that the following sites be allocated for housing, in order to facilitate the proportional growth envisaged by Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy):

**Site 1-** Land opposite Dean Swift Close for 6

**Site 2-** Land comprising the former Nutshell Caravan Park for 15

**Site 3-** Land off Springfield Road north of Goodrich Manor for 9

Total capacity of 30 dwellings.

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

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment. 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 SACs 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 Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group 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 Woodlands SAC and Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat SACs .
- 7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 3 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 submission version of the Herefordshire Core Strategy were 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.

## 8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group plan (February 2018) policies and sites were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC, Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat sites SAC and the River Wye (including the Lugg ) SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor 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 (including Lugg) 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 and development from the allocated sites.
- 8.3 The plan allocates settlement boundaries and 3 sites for development; within the settlements of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor. Within the settlement area there appears to be enough capacity within the three identified settlements to meet the target housing growth. Three of the allocated sites are within the identified settlement boundary of Goodrich are recommended to be developed due to the scale of the sites

and location within the settlement of Goodrich. This will leave three sites with a potential to provide up to 30 dwellings, this meet proportionate growth figures.

- 8.4 The three sites for development of up to 30 dwellings, along with development from 13 commitments, 5 completions and windfall to meet and potentially exceed the housing target of 35 (to 48) from 2011 to 2031.
- 8.5 It is unlikely that the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Plan will not 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 relatively small scale.
- 8.6 **It is therefore concluded that the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on the Wye Valley Woodlands, Wye Valley Forest of Dean Bat sites and the River Wye (including the Lugg) SACs.**
- 8.7 Any further amendments to policies (post February 2018) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.



# Appendix 1

## GOODRICH AND WELSH BICKNOR GROUP OPTIONS

**Option 1-** Locating housing sites to meet the required level within or adjacent to the two settlement areas Goodrich Church and Goodrich Cruse.

**Option 2-** In addition to the settlement areas described in option 1, including Goodrich Cross as a further settlement area from which the best sites may be chosen. Goodrich Cross is a settlement of some 53 houses set on each side of the A40.

**Option 3-** Seeking a wider definition of what the settlement of Goodrich might comprise where it might encompass other areas around the three built-up areas.

**Option 4-** To provide for a notable expansion beyond the level of required housing growth within whichever of the previous three options is chosen.

**Option 5-** Do nothing

**Site Options-** 30 sites were initially looked at from call of sites in autumn 2017, 12 sites were assessed further as site options.

**Site 1- Land off of 6 dwellings**

**Site 2- Old Caravan Site 15 dwellings**

**Site 3- Land next to Old Caravan site 5-7 dwellings**

**Site 4- 3 dwellings**

**Site 5- Site opposite Goodrich Manor 8-10 dwellings**

**Site 6-Goodrich Manor 9 dwellings**

**Site 7- 8-10 dwellings**

**Site 8- 3 dwellings**

**Site 9- Land next to Bryants Court 6-8 dwellings**

**Site 10- Bryants Court 35-40 dwellings**

**Site 11- Land next to south lodge 5 dwellings**

**Site 12- The Square 6-10 dwellings**

# Appendix 2

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

Parish Council Name: **Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group**

NDP Title: **Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Plan**

Date undertaken: **February 2018**

NDP objectives, Site 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)
<b>Option 1</b> -Locating housing sites to meet the required level within or adjacent to the two settlement areas Goodrich Church and Goodrich Cruse.	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.	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 to ensure no likely significant effect would occur	River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).  Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands SAC	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.	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth and settlement boundary would be located is outside of the catchment area for the River Wye.

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<p><b>Option 2</b>-In addition to the settlement areas described in option 1, including Goodrich Cross as a further settlement area from which the best sites may be chosen. Goodrich Cross is a settlement of some 53 houses set on each side of the A40.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 to ensure no likely significant effect would occur</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).  Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth and settlement boundary would be located is outside of the catchment area for the River Wye.</p>
<p><b>Option 3</b>-Seeking a wider definition of what the settlement of Goodrich might comprise where it might encompass other areas around the three built-up areas.</p>	<p>Proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary area.</p>	<p>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 to ensure no likely significant effect would occur</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).  Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth and settlement boundary would be located is outside of the catchment area for the River Wye.</p>

<p><b>Option 4-</b>To provide for a notable expansion beyond the level of required housing growth within whichever of the previous three options is chosen.</p>	<p>Large scale housing growth within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor beyond the proportionate growth target.</p>	<p>Large increase in vehicle usage increasing traffic.</p> <p>Large demand in water resources and water extraction.</p> <p>Demand in energy and broadband.</p> <p>Non physical disturbance within the construction phase</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Impact on the SACs are unknown due to location and scale of housing growth. Excessive housing growth within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor is likely to be unsustainable, even with mitigation measures.</p>
<p><b>Option 5-</b> Do nothing</p>	<p>No NDP to determine planning applications.</p>	<p>Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Site Options</p>					
<p><b>Site option 1 –Land opposite dean swift close SELECTED</b></p>	<p>Develop 6 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Loss of greenfield land</p> <p>Increase in traffic and</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However the location of the site and impact of road noise and traffic may</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p><b>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for</b></p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site is unlikely to have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. However due to the</p>

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	<p>parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>prove difficult in delivering this site.</p>		<p>proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>location and proximity to a major A road, it could prove difficult in delivering this site due to pollution and noise concerns.</p> <p>This is due to the small scale and location of the proposed development, mitigation criteria within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Core Strategy will help alleviate any potential impact on the SACs.</p>
<p><b>Site option 2-Land comprising the former Nutshell Caravan Park</b> <b>SELECTED</b></p>	<p>Develop 15 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However the location of the site and impact of road noise and traffic may prove difficult in delivering this site. There are mitigation measures, such as screening and positing of houses could help deliver part of the site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This is due to the scale and location of the proposed development, mitigation criteria within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Core</p>

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	construction				Strategy will help alleviate any potential impact on the SACs.
<b>Site option 3</b>	<p>Develop 5-7 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. Scale and location of this site is quite far from the existing settlement.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site due to the scale and location will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>
<b>Site option 4</b>	<p>Develop 3 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>New housing for dwellings located on the edge of settlement.</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. Scale and location of this site is on the edge of the existing settlement.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site due to the scale and location will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>

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	<p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>			<p>detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	
<p><b>Site option 5</b></p>	<p>Develop 8-10 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site due to the scale and location will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>
<p><b>Site option 6-Land off Springfield Road north of Goodrich Manor</b> <b>SELECTED</b></p>	<p>Develop 9 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of</p>

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	<p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>		SAC	<p>identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This is due to the small scale and location of the proposed development, mitigation criteria within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Core Strategy will help alleviate any potential impact on the SACs.</p>
<b>Site option 7</b>	<p>Develop 8-10 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. It is located on the edge of an existing settlement however may cause detrimental impact on the existing transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>
<b>Site option 8</b>	<p>Develop 3 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage,</p>	<p>Although this small site is located within the existing settlement it may have</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site due to the scale</p>

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	<p>abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>issues with access and impact on neighbouring amenity.</p>	<p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>and location will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. However the site is used by the community as a place for recreation therefore may benefit as local greenspace rather than a housing site.</p>
<b>Site option 9</b>	<p>Develop 6-8 dwellings land next to bryants court</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. It is located on the edge of an existing settlement however may cause detrimental impact on the existing transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>
<b>Site option 10</b>	<p>Develop 35-40 dwellings</p>	<p>Uncertain: the location and scale of development</p>	<p>River Wye (including</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other</p>	<p>Uncertain. The scale and extent of</p>

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	<p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Loss of greenfield land</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>New housing for dwellings located on the edge of settlement.</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>Is quite large if the whole site was developed. It may give rise to likely significant effects, and that development may result in the loss of foraging space in the form of an open agricultural field. However further details of development proposed need to be known to determine its true effect. Part of the site may have a less significant impact if only some of the site was developed and have less impact on the existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>development on this site may to have a significant impact on the SACs</p> <p>However all of site is not recommended to be developed, as it is of a large scale and will impact the resources for growth in accordance Core Strategy policies RA1 and RA2.</p>
<b>Site option 11</b>	<p>Develop 5 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p>	<p>This site is located far from the existing settlement and may not be considered as a sustainable location for development.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>

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	Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction				
<b>Site option 12</b>	<p>Develop 6-10 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water usage, abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Loss of greenfield land</p> <p>Increase in traffic and parking demands</p> <p>Demand in broadband and communication services.</p> <p>Light pollution</p> <p>Increase in non-physical disturbances during construction</p>	<p>This site is located on the edge of the existing settlement. Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts, and the inclusion of additional policy wording in the NDP. This site identified falls within an area which identified as an area for proportionate growth as it is in or adjacent to the existing settlement as detailed in policy RA1 of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs</p>

# Appendix 3

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

Parish Council Name: **Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council**

NDP Title: **Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Group Draft Plan reg 14**

Date undertaken: **February 2018**

Core Strategy HRA version: **Adopted Core Strategy 2011-2031**

NDP objectives, 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	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop the built environment in a way that maintains and enhances its distinctiveness and attractiveness whilst catering for the housing needs of all age groups</li> </ul>	Housing development  Maintain character and distinctiveness of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.	This objective itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development.	River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).  Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands	The objective will help safeguard against unsuitable development in Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.	No, this objective will not directly lead to development. Instead it aims to support appropriate development that caters for all age groups.

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			SAC		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To encourage successful farming and small businesses, where members of the community can find employment</li> </ul>	<p>Promote successful farming practises.</p> <p>Employment and local job creation</p> <p>Small increase in traffic and usage of natural resources.</p> <p>Water absorption and usage</p>	<p>Impact on the SACs can be better assessed when further details such as location and type of business are known. However the likelihood is that these businesses will be a small scale and rural in nature.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>There are safeguards within the Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan that can help mitigate impact from development and effects from new businesses/ employment areas.</p>	<p>No. This supports small scale farming and businesses encouraging employment within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor. Safeguards within the NDP will help alleviate impact from new development and unlikely to have a significant impact on the SACs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain and enhance the natural environment and the local heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Protect And enhance the existing natural environment, landscape and views.</p> <p>Sustainable development encouraged.</p> <p>Local heritage is protected against inappropriate development.</p>	<p>This objective itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The objective will help safeguard against unsuitable development in Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>	<p>No, this objective will not directly lead to development. Instead it aims to encourage suitable designed developments to be in keeping with the vernacular of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>

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Policies					
<p><b>Policy GWB1</b> Promoting Sustainable Development</p>	<p>New housing allocated in selected sites to accommodate up to 30 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in water consumption.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance during construction phase.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Further protection of AONB</p>	<p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of any development.</p> <p>Housing development, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements 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 the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p>	<p>No. The scale and extent of development is unlikely to be significant, as the development is contained in a sustainable approach. Allocations help give greater certainty.</p> <p>Due to the safeguarding criteria included within the NDP and Core Strategy, this policy is unlikely to have an impact on the River Wye, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB2</b> Conserving the landscape and scenic beauty within the Wye Valley AONB</p>	<p>Safeguard existing landscape against inappropriate development within the Wye Valley AONB.</p> <p>Encouragement of sustainable development which preserves and protects the landscape, environment and habitats.</p>	<p>This policy itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development. Therefore will help to safeguard the natural and manmade landscape within the Wye Valley AONB.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands 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. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy ensures existing landscape within the AONB is protected against inappropriate development.</p>

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<p><b>Policy GWB3</b></p> <p>Enhancement of the natural environment</p>	<p>Protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p>Encouragement of sustainable development which preserves and protects the landscape, environment and habitats.</p> <p>Protection against impact on the amenity of Goodrich Castle and Coppet Hill Local Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>This policy itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development.</p> <p>This policy actively promotes the protection of the conservation status of the River Wye and Coppet Hill Local Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to ensure environmental protection and enhancement in Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy ensures existing environment particularly the River Wye and Coppet Hill is protected against inappropriate development.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB4</b></p> <p>Protecting Heritage Assets</p>	<p>Protection and enhancement of heritage assets within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p> <p>Sensitive housing development nearby heritage assets.</p> <p>Unregistered parks and gardens protected against insensitive development</p> <p>Positively promoting sensitive conversions of historic farmsteads</p>	<p>This policy itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to ensure heritage protection and enhancement in Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. The policy is a mitigation measure to protect heritage assets within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB5</b></p> <p>Protection from flood risk</p>	<p>Strive to reduce impact of flooding within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p> <p>New development designed to appropriately reduce flood risk.</p>	<p>This policy will help to safeguard against flooding from foul and storm drainage.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites</p>	<p>None. This policy acts as a mitigation measures to ensure new developments avoid and alleviate flooding impacts in Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This policy ensures new</p>

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	<p>Sustainable design promoted.</p> <p>Infrastructure development phased in line with infrastructure works within the plan period.</p> <p>Support for SUDs to be used in new development.</p>		<p>SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>		<p>development in Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor is safeguarded against flooding. Also that the infrastructure will have enough capacity for any planned development.</p> <p>There are sufficient policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy to help avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB6</b> Sustainable Design</p>	<p>Promotion of sustainable design. Sustainable development encouraged.</p> <p>The built character is protected along with landscape character.</p> <p>Utilisation and development of sustainable building design</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable transport measures</p> <p>Minimise waste production</p>	<p>This policy itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development by ensuring design is suited to surrounding.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to ensure development is sustainable in the lifecycle of developments. This policy supports renewable energy schemes and minimise traffic and waste within developments.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy promotes sustainable design and development within the plan period, criteria within this policy will help alleviate and minimise potential impact on the SACs in the short, medium and long term timescale of the plan.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB7</b> Sewerage Infrastructure</p>	<p>Utilisation of existing sewage infrastructure</p> <p>Support developer contributions for infrastructure improvement.</p>	<p>None identified.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites</p>	<p>Measures are included in both the Core Strategy and the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Neighbourhood Plan to help relieved any increased pressure on the</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p>

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			SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands SAC	River Wye.	
<b>Policy GWB8</b>  Traffic Measures within the Group Parish	<p>Promotion of safer roads.</p> <p>Improved sustainable modes of transport such as cycling, walking, and public transport links.</p> <p>Decrease in nonphysical disturbances- noise</p> <p>Increase in walking and cycling.</p> <p>Decrease in traffic accidents.</p> <p>Development of transport infrastructure</p> <p>Traffic Calming measures</p> <p>Improvement of road safety</p>	Any effects of additional transport will be mitigated with providing additional highway and transport measures.	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to ensure new development could help to alleviate traffic speeds and promote sustainable and public transport means.	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This policy would only lead to some sustainable transport improvements as well as promoting transport choices and highway safety. There are policy safeguards within the Core Strategy to mitigate any potential likely significant effects. Of new development.</p>
<b>Policy GWB9</b>  Highway Design Requirements	<p>Sets out criteria for highway design.</p> <p>Sustainable development encouraged.</p> <p>Decrease in nonphysical disturbances- noise</p> <p>Increase in walking and cycling.</p>	This policy itself is likely to mitigate the impact caused from development.	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands</p>	None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to ensure new development will promote road safety.	No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.

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	<p>Decrease in traffic accidents.</p> <p>Development of transport infrastructure</p> <p>Traffic Calming measures</p> <p>Improvement of road safety</p>		SAC		
<b>Policy GWB10</b> Broadband and Telecommunication Infrastructure	<p>Broadband strengthen and improved</p> <p>Increase in local businesses and productivity</p> <p>Increase in working from home</p> <p>Greater connectivity to the county, country and globe.</p> <p>Small decrease in vehicular usage</p>	Unlikely that there will have a significant effect on the European Site.	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Measures included within policy SD2 of the Core Strategy should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>The policy will result in an improvement of communications infrastructure. Impact during the construction phase can be mitigated by policies within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy.</p>
<b>Policy GWB11</b> Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities and Services	<p>Community facilities and services protected and improved.</p> <p>Increase of visitors using facilities.</p> <p>More activities and events</p> <p>Greater social mobility</p>	Unlikely that there will have a significant effect on the European Site.	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.</p>	This policy lists mitigation criteria if there are proposals to improve or add further facilities.	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. No this policy intends to retain Community facilities and the services they provide. It lists criteria to enhance and protect existing facilities.</p> <p>Although this policy could</p>

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					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 SAC. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and with the inclusion of additional wording in the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.
<b>Policy GWB12</b> Contributions to Community Services, Youth Provision and Recreation Facilities	<p>Support and upkeep of existing local community facilities.</p> <p>Promote new development of community facilities.</p> <p>Increase of visitors using facilities.</p> <p>More activities and events</p> <p>Greater social mobility</p> <p>Potential increase in vehicular movements.</p> <p>Potential increase in nonphysical disturbance.</p> <p>Provision of youth facilities.</p>	<p>New community facilities.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements 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 the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>This policy lists mitigation criteria if there are proposals to improve or add further facilities.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This policy supports contributions to community services, youth provision and recreation facilities through section 106 and CIL.</p>

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<p><b>Policy GWB13</b> Moors Meadow Local Green Space</p>	<p>Protection of identified green space.</p> <p>Increase in recreational activities</p> <p>Protection of Moors Meadow for Local Greenspace</p> <p>Protection of Land immediately to the south west of St Giles Church</p>	<p>This policy safeguards important greenspace within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>None. This policy acts as a mitigation measure to safeguard identified greenspace.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy will not directly lead to development. Instead it protects identified greenspace for the community of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor parish to utilise.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB14</b> Housing Development in Goodrich Village</p>	<p>New housing development for up to 30 houses within the designation settlement boundaries of Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicular usage.</p> <p>Increase in nonphysical disturbance.</p>	<p>Depending on type, location of infrastructure.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p> <p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye Employment and infrastructure development.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p><b>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</b></p> <p><b>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</b></p> <p><b>Additional criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance of locations which could have an adverse impact on the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is known to travel 5-10km between summer and winter roosts, and is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat</b></p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>The scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant, as the majority of development is contained in a settlement boundaries located away from the SACs. This sustainable approach in accordance with policies SS1 and RA2 of the Core Strategy.</p>

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				loss. Development proposals will need to consider woodland habitat buffers and measures to minimise light pollution.	
<b>Policy GWB15</b> Housing Sites in Goodrich Village	<p>Three housing sites identified within Goodrich Village.</p> <p>Promotion of achieving housing target.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Sustainable housing growth</p>	<p>Small scale housing development.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements 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 the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>Additional criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance of locations which could have an adverse impact on the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is known to travel 5-10km between summer and winter roosts, and is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Development proposals will need to consider woodland habitat buffers and measures to minimise light pollution.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy would allow for small to medium scale housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy RA1 and RA2. Further assessment of the sites considered can be tested at planning application stage when further details are known.</p> <p>There are additional policy criteria in place in both the Core Strategy and the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects towards the SACs.</p>

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<p><b>Policy GWB16</b> Meeting Housing Needs</p>	<p>Housing sites identified.</p> <p>Promotion of achieving housing target.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Sustainable housing growth</p>	<p>Small scale housing development.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements 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 the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Mitigation measures within this policy will help alleviate any potential detrimental impacts on the SACs.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy lists criteria for development to adhere to in order to meet housing needs of the group parish. Mitigation measures included within the policy to mitigate any undesirable impact on the existing natural and built environment.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB17</b> Affordable and Intermediate Homes</p>	<p>Affordable and intermediate housing promoted and identified within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Sustainable housing growth</p> <p>Mixture of people living within the group parish</p>	<p>Affordable and intermediate homes supported.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Mitigation measures within this policy will help alleviate any potential detrimental impacts on the SACs.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy lists criteria to provide affordable and intermediate housing within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor in accordance with policy H1 and H2 of the Core Strategy. Mitigation measures included within the policy to mitigate any undesirable impact on the existing natural and built environment.</p>

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<p><b>Policy GWB18</b> Tourism Enterprises</p>	<p>Tourism promoted within Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor</p> <p>Small scale tourism facilities provided</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>	<p>Small scale tourism facilities developed, this may be of a seasonal basis.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of any development.</p> <p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye Employment and infrastructure development.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p>	<p>No. It is unlikely that tourism development will have a significant impact on the identified SACs. The criteria within this policy supports tourism based activities that does not significantly impact the surrounding environment and landscape.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB19</b> Scale of Economic Development</p>	<p>Business growth</p> <p>Local job growth</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased demand for</p>	<p>Small scale employment growth.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of</p>	<p>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 the scale and nature of employment growth.</p>

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	<p>water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicular usage.</p> <p>Increase in nonphysical disturbance.</p>	<p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of any development.</p>	<p>Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p>	
<p><b>Policy GWB20</b> Farm Diversification</p>	<p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicular usage and traffic</p> <p>Increase in nonphysical disturbance.</p> <p>Increase in business Potential job creation</p>	<p>Small scale employment growth.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of any development. This can be tested at a later stage</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. This policy lists criteria to support criteria to support a range of economic activities on a farm, There is mitigation criteria within this policy to alleviate any potential impact on the surround environment that farm diversification may cause.</p>
<p><b>Policy GWB21</b> Working from Home</p>	<p>Encourage of small domestic based employment facilities.</p> <p>Promotion of business development</p> <p>Job creation in local area</p>	<p>Employment growth and infrastructure development</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Non-physical</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites</p>	<p>Mitigation measures within this policy will help alleviate any potential detrimental impacts on the SACs.</p>	<p>No. This policy will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>The scale and extent of potential employment</p>

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	Small reduction in vehicular usage.	disturbance such as noise.	SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands SAC		development is unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC. There are sufficient policy safeguards within the NDP and Core Strategy to help avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye SAC.  Mitigation measures are covered in policy LD2 and LD3 of the Core Strategy and policies within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP.
<b>Site selection</b>					
Land opposite Dean Swift Close	Site allocation for up to 6 dwellings  Increase in vehicle traffic.  Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.  Increase in vehicular usage.  Increase in nonphysical disturbance.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However the location of the site and impact of road noise and traffic may prove difficult in delivering this site.	River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).  Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.  Wye Valley Woodlands SAC	<b>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</b>  <b>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</b>	No. Housing development on this site is unlikely to have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs. However due to the location and proximity to a major A road, it could prove difficult in delivering this site due to pollution and noise concerns.  This is due to the small scale and location of the proposed development, mitigation criteria within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Core Strategy will help alleviate

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					any potential impact on the SACs.
Land comprising the former Nutshell Caravan Park	<p>Site allocation for up to 15 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicular usage.</p> <p>Increase in nonphysical disturbance.</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. However the location of the site and impact of road noise and traffic may prove difficult in delivering this site. There are mitigation measures, such as screening and positing of houses could help deliver part of the site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This is due to the scale and location of the proposed development, mitigation criteria within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Core Strategy will help alleviate any potential impact on the SACs.</p>
Land off Springfield Road north of Goodrich Manor	<p>Site allocation for up to 9 dwellings</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Increase in vehicular usage.</p> <p>Increase in nonphysical disturbance.</p>	<p>Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the Lugg SAC).</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p>	<p>No. Housing development on this site will not have an impact on the River Wye sac, Wye Valley Woodlands and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean bat sites SACs.</p> <p>This is due to the small scale and location of the proposed development, mitigation criteria within the Goodrich and Welsh Bicknor NDP and Core Strategy will help alleviate any potential impact on the SACs.</p>

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# Appendix 4

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**Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental  
Assessment Screening Notification**

**The Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations  
2015 (Reg. 32)**

**Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)**

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<b>Neighbourhood Area:</b>	Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Parish Council
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	16 August 2016

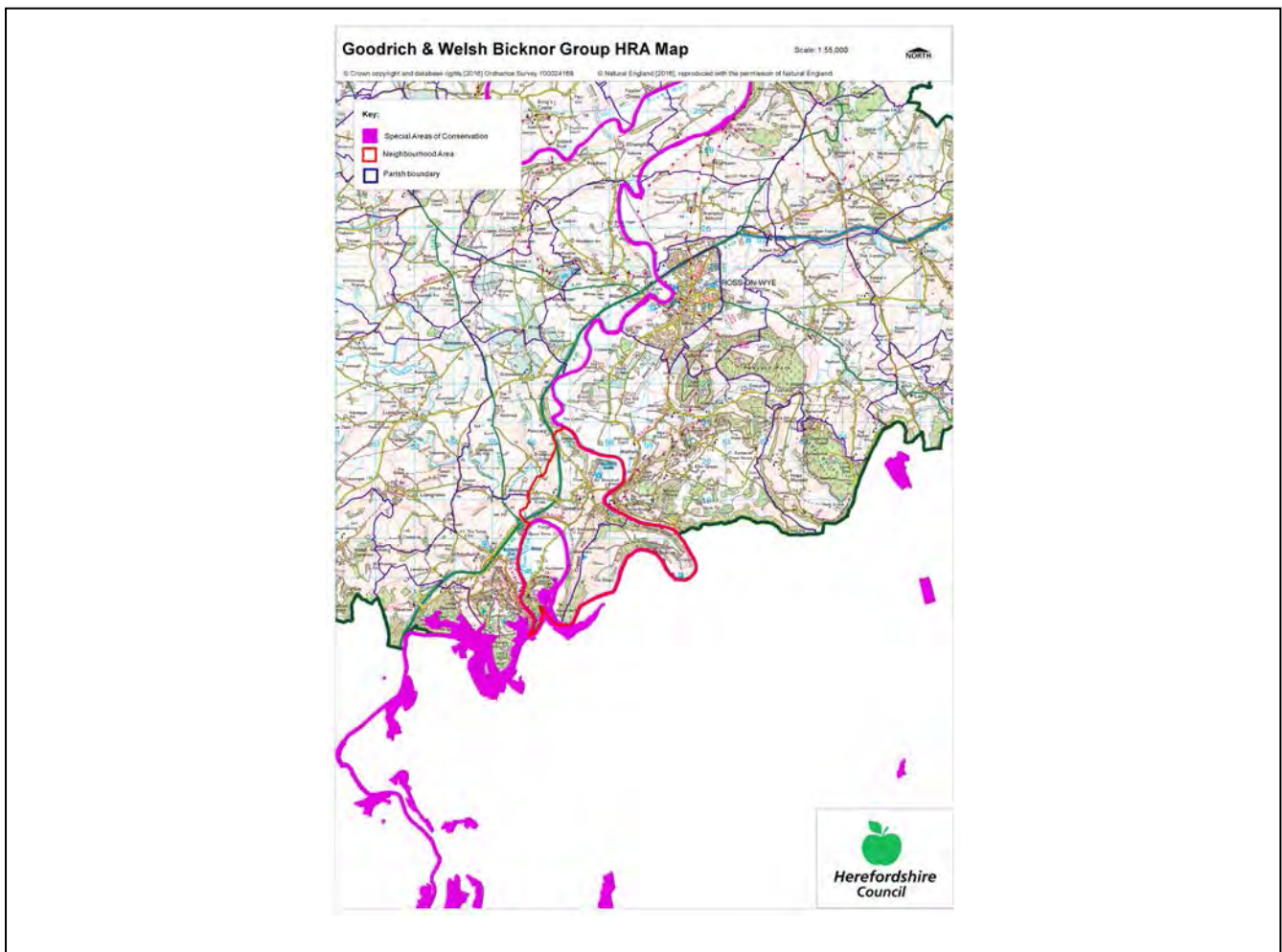
### **Introduction**

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)



### River Wye (including the River Lugg) Special Area of Conservation (SAC):

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC runs along the boundary of the Group Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the River Wye hydrological catchment area.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Goodrich

### Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 54km away from the Group Parish
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**River Clun SAC:**

Does the River Clun border the Neighbourhood Area	N	The River Clun does not border the Group Parish
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**Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	Y	The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 5.5km away from the Group Parish
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**Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:**

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	Y	The Wye Valley Woodlands are within the Group Parish
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**HRA Conclusion:**

The assessment above highlights that European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will be required.

**European Site**

*(List only those which are relevant)*

River Wye (including the River Lugg) Special Area of Conservation (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 Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Within Neighbourhood Area		Bordering Neighbourhood Area	
	Total number	Name(s)	Total number	Name(s)
Ancient Woodland	6	Thomas Wood; Park Wood; Coldwell Wood; Collins Grove; Elliotts Grove; Huntsham Hill Wood.	11	Ferry Bank, Mayers Grove; Dam Wood; Wet Wood; Beechtree Wood; Tumps Wood; Ferry Wood; Yew Wood; Crabtree Ption (East); Brookshhead Grove; Woodside Wood; Trebandy Wood.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	1	Wye Valley.	0	-
Conservation Areas	0	-	0	-
Flood Areas	Flood Zones follow the River Wye and tributaries off this.			
Geoparks	0	-	0	-
Listed Buildings	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Group Parish.			
Local Geological Sites (LGS)	3	Goodrich Castle; Huntsham Bridge; Huntsham Hill roadside section.	6	Quarry north of King Arthurs Cave; King Arthurs Cave; The Biblins; Little Doward Hillside; Lords Wood Quarry;

				Limestone Pavement, Little Doward.
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	8	Goodrich Court Wilderness; River Wye; Marsh near Goodrich; Pool Ellocks; Park Wood; Coppett Hill and adjoining woodlands; Garren Brook; The Doward and Huntsham Hill.	7	Disused railway line, Ross to Kerne Bridge; Coughton Wood and Marsh; Howle Hill and Marks Well; Field near Forest Green; Field near Kiln Green; Woodland east of Kern Bridge; Dam Wood and Copse, Coal Hill and 16 Acre Wood.
Mineral Reserves	4	In bend of River Wye, north of Huntsham Court and Huntsham Hill; The Windles, east of Welsh Bicknor to Courtfield; South of Symonds Yat; East of Symonds Yat, on opposite bank to River Wye.	3	Great Doward, Little Doward including Lords Wood; West of Wye, east of Rockview Farm; Howle Hill, Kiln green, west of Hope Mansell, south east of Coughton.
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	-	0	-
Nature Trails	1	Wye Valley Walk.	0	-
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	-	0	-
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	4	Goodrich Castle; Flanesford Priory; Dry Arch Bridge 300yds (270m) north east of St Giles Church; Kerne Bridge.	4	Churchyard Cross in St Dubricius' Churchyard; Merlin's Cave, Great Doward; Little Doward Camp; King Arthurs Cave, Great Doward.
Sites of Importance in Nature Conservation (SINC)	0	-	0	-
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	2	River Wye; Wye Valley Woodlands.	0	-
Unregistered parks and gardens	3	Goodrich Court; Huntsham Court; Courtfield.	2	Hazelhurst; Bishopswood.

			<b>SSSI Status</b>			<b>SSSI Status</b>
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	3	River Wye; Park Wood; Upper Wye Gorge.	Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable Recovering; Favourable, Unfavourable Recovering.	3	Great Doward; Coughton Wood & Marsh; Brooks Head Grove.	Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable Recovering; Favourable.

**Decision Notification:**

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Goodrich & Welsh Bicknor Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

**Assessment date: 5 August 2016**

**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."

### 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.