

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Report for:

Tarrington Neighbourhood Area

July 2020



Tarrington Neighbourhood Plan HRA

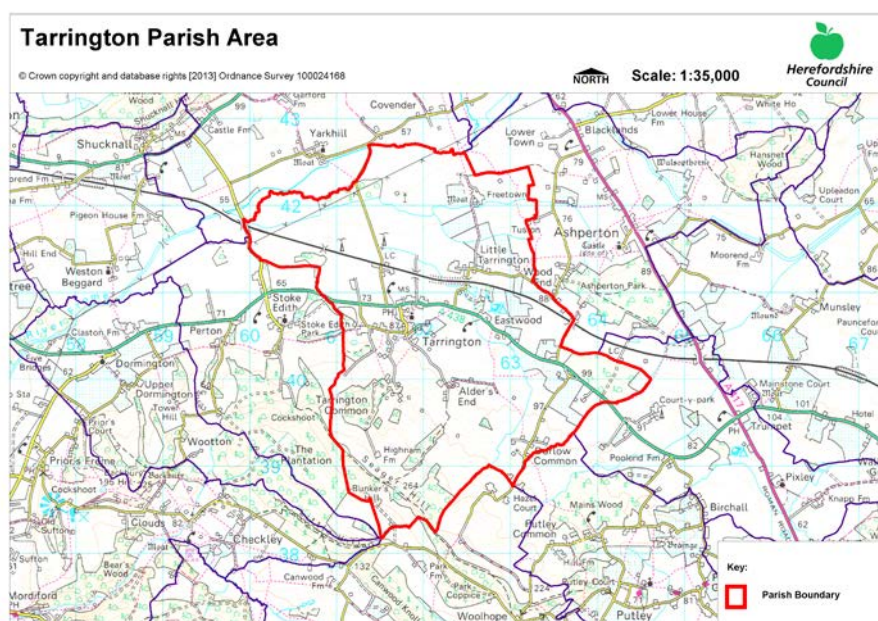
HRA Screening Assessment

Contents

- 1 **Introduction**
Map of the Neighbourhood Area with European sites shown
- 2 **The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of Neighbourhood Plans – Legislative background**
- 3 **Methodology - HRA Stages**
- 4 **Results of the Initial Scoping Report and qualifying features of European sites**
- 5 **Description of the Tarrington Neighbourhood Plan**
- 6 **Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of draft NDP policies**
Table 1 - Colour coding key for Matrix
- 8 **Conclusions from the Screening Matrix and if any ‘likely significant effects’**
- 9 **Identification of other plans and projects which may have ‘in-combination’ effects**
- 10 **Conclusion**
- 11 **Next steps**
Appendix 1 – Initial Screening Report (December 2013)
Appendix 2 – List of options assessed
Appendix 3 – Full Screening matrix of draft Reg14 policies
Appendix 4 – Consultation responses to Reg14
Appendix 5 – Re-screening of modified policies for Reg16

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 final Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Tarrington Parish Council has produced a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Tarrington neighbourhood area, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the submission Tarrington Plan (July 2020).
- 1.3 The NDP allocates one housing site and designated three settlement boundaries. It also provides general criteria policies that clarify and given more detail to those within the Herefordshire Core Strategy.
- 1.4 This requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Core Strategy. It should be read in combination with the Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.5 The map below shows Tarrington Neighbourhood Area to which this assessment related.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the "Habitats Regulations" published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore, when preparing its NDP, Wyeside Group Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment". It is also a requirement in Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:
Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or

in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

- 2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a neighbourhood plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):
- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; 'Birds Directive') for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
 - **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- 2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.
- 2.5 Herefordshire Council is aware of the recent judgement (People over Wind, Peter Sweetman vs Coillte). The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed within the framework of an appropriate assessment and that it is not permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan on a European site at the screening stage. The initial screening undertaken in December 2013 and concluded that a full HRA would be required. Mitigation was not taken into account at this stage.
- 2.6 The Co-operative Mobilisation (The Dutch Case) ruling will also have an impact in Herefordshire in areas within the catchment of the River Lugg. This will be covered in section 4.
- 2.6 The purpose of this HRA Report is to detail the findings of the screening of the modified policies and consider if they significantly effect on the River Wye SAC acknowledging the implications of *Sweetman and the Dutch Case on NDP*. .

3 Methodology

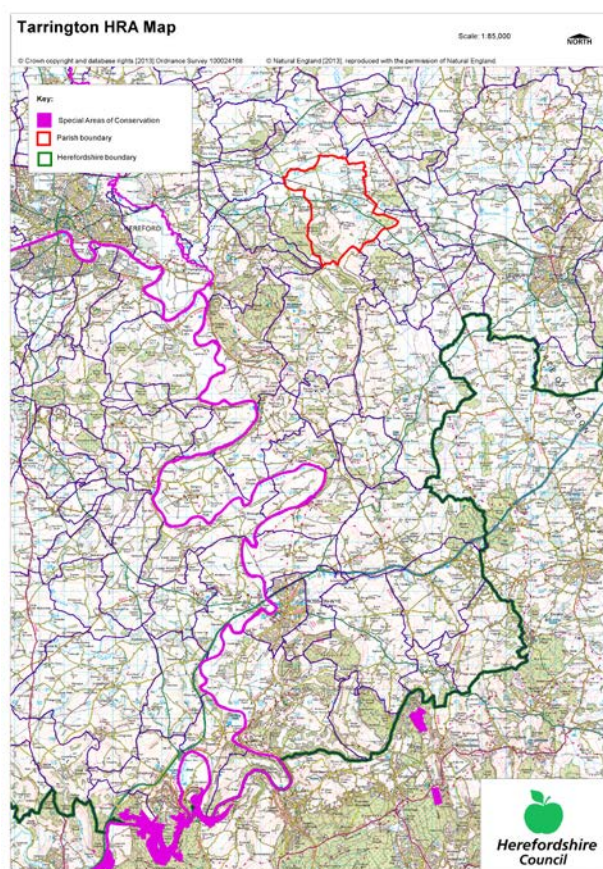
- 3.1 Although the Tarrington NDP is not directly regarding the management of any European sites, it does include proposals for development which may affect European sites. Therefore, it is necessary under Regulation 102(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to undertake screening for likely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.2 The HRA of neighbourhood plans is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated) and are measured with

reference to the conservation objectives for those qualifying features as defined by Natural England.

- 3.3 The first process is to undertake an initial screening report to determine the need to undertake the requirement for a HRA, this initial screening identifies whether the Plan could impact upon any European site that could be within the Neighbourhood Area or nearby.
- 3.4 If a European Site is within the Neighbourhood Area or the Neighbourhood Area policies 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. 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 addressed.

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and qualifying features of the European Sites

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (December 2013) found that the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC does not pass through the parish (it is 4.3km away) but the parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Frome, which is a tributary of the River Wye. Figure 2 below highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.2 There is also a duty under the Water Framework Directive to ensure that proposals for growth do not adversely affect the river water quality and this included the associated watercourses flowing into the rivers.

Site integrity of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC

- 4.3 The issues associated with maintaining the sites integrity include water levels and flow, water quality, eutrophication (nitrogen enrichment), sedimentation, disturbance and species maintenance.
- 4.4 The River Wye SAC can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire Core Strategy, the water supply in this area comes from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes in water quality are expected in relation to the proportional growth outlined with the Herefordshire Core Strategy.
- 4.5 Sections of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC where the water quality target are already exceeding are subject to measures to reduce nutrients in line with the targets. In light of the interpretation of the Dutch Case where a European site is failing its water quality objectives and is classified as unfavourable condition, there is limited scope for the approval of additional damaging effects and measures that can't be relied or are uncertain.
- 4.5 In relation to water quality, Policy SD4 of the Herefordshire Core Strategy indicates that any development should not undermine the achievement of water quality targets within the county's rivers. This should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC. This position is confirmed within the HRA of the Core Strategy in April 2015.
- 4.6 Although as present the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC cannot be relied upon in light of the Dutch case, Tarrington is located within the Frome catchment which feeds into the River Wye SAC, the level of phosphate is not an issue which is causing concern within the Frome itself. DCWW states that there is limited capacity within the sewerage treatment works serving the Tarrington areas and that improvements will be required.
- 4.7 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Wyeside Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, December 2013, can be found in Appendix 1 of this HRA report.
- 4.8 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 Tarrington Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.9 The initial screening assessment indicated that a full screening assessment is required to assess the likelihood of significant effects on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC of the policies within the Tarrington NDP.

5 Description of the Tarrington Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 5.1 The draft Tarrington NDP presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The Plan begins by introducing its preparation and highlighting its issues.

5.2 The NDP outlines the vision for the Parish over the Plan period; 'to be a rural parish where the natural and historic environments are protected, where all ages can enjoy a good quality of life, where community life thrives and where there are homes, businesses and facilities to meet the needs of a vibrant, rural village'. There are four objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

1. Environment
2. Housing
3. Employment
4. Community

5.3 The initial options for the NDP (refer to appendix 2) were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Of the five options put forward the 'no NDP / do nothing' option was not considered viable for the Parish.

The remaining four options of

- Use criteria based policies only to manage development
- Manage development using criteria-based policies and by allocating sites in the villages of Tarrington and Little Tarrington
- Manage development using criteria based policies and by defining settlement boundaries for the villages
- Manage development by defining settlement boundaries for the villages, allocating sites and specifying criteria.

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

5.4 As Tarrington Neighbourhood Plan progressed from options to draft NDP policies, the Plan needed to identify ways in which the least effect on the hydrological catchment of 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 2.

5.5 The NDP also sets out 14 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and one site allocation policy, these include:

Policy TAR1	Sustainable Tarrington
Policy TAR2	Natural Environment
Policy TAR3	Historic Environment
Policy TAR4	Building design
Policy TAR5	Housing delivery
Policy TAR6	Settlement boundaries
Policy TAR7	Housing size, type and tenure
Policy TAR8	Land at School Road
Policy TAR9	Employment development
Policy TAR10	Communications infrastructure
Policy TAR11	Renewable Energy
Policy TAR12	Transport
Policy TAR13	Local Green Space
Policy TAR14	Green Infrastructure
Policy TAR15	Community facilities

Modifications made to the submission version of the Tarrington NDP

5.6 Following the public consultation on the plan are regulation 14 some minor changes have been made to the policies which result in the need for a rescreening within this report.

Policy TAR2 (minor wording change)
 Policy TAR6 (settlement boundary changes)
 Policy TAR8 (minor wording changes to criteria 4 and 6)
 Policy TAR14 (minor wording change)

6.0 Assessments undertaken to date of the emerging Tarrington NDP policies

6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires that a Screening Assessment be undertaken, in order to identify the 'likely significant effects' of an NDP. Accordingly, a screening matrix was prepared and this determined the extent to which any of the policies within the Tarrington NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. This will be repeated at each statutory stage of the NDP consultation process.

Screening of the submission plan (Reg16); Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' and implications of *Sweetman* case.

6.2 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy and objective individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration. Policies have been reviewed in light of the *Sweetman* ruling to ensure compliance. The assessment has also been undertaken in light of the advice that Herefordshire Council have received from Counsel. The finding can be found in appendix 5.

6.3 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in the appendix. 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

6.4 Following the recent *Sweetman* judgement, it is not permissible to take account of measure intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan on the River Wye SAC at this final screening stage. Any likely significant effects would require an Appropriate Assessment to be required.

7 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

7.1 None of the submission Tarrington Neighbourhood Plan (July 2020) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC. Many of the changes were minor in nature and the settlement boundary change reflecting a current planning permission.

7.2 The site allocation and the three settlement boundaries are sufficiently distance from the River Frome to not have a direct impact on the river itself.

7.3 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) stated for the Core Strategy that there is currently limited existing capacity with regards to permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Tarrington area, to continue to treat the water from the quantity of housing indicated within the Core Strategy policies. Continuing work is required with DCWW to ensure that sufficient headroom can be provided through improvements and a potential feasibility study may be required to assess any further upgrade requirements. Policy SD4 of the Core Strategy indicates that development would not permitted if wastewater treatment and water quality cannot be assured. Counsel advice to Herefordshire Council has concluded that Policy SD4 would remove the pathways to harm. Therefore, no further mitigation would be required and the NDP policy itself does not give a pathway to harm in light of the Dutch case.

7.4 No mitigation measures have been included within the screening of the policies of the NDP. Policies of the Core Strategy and the NDP will form part of the development plans. A key requirement of the Core Strategy is to meet the Water Framework Directive.

7.6 This review together with the previous at Regulation 14 has been found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC. ***It is therefore concluded that the Tarrington Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.***

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

8.1 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (Oct 2015).

8.2 It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy.

8.3 Adjacent neighbourhood plans include Yarkhill, Putley and Pixley and District have reached adoption, Ashperton has reached referendum. Woolhope are in drafting stage in their production. These plans have not gone over and beyond the requirements set out within the Core Strategy for their area.

8.4 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 is ongoing to review the Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

8.5 It is unlikely that the Tarrington 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 Hereford Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy.

9.0 Conclusion

9.1 With reference to sections 6 to 8 above, it is concluded that the policies of the Tarrington NDP **will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**

10.0 Next steps

10.1 This Report will be published alongside the submission Tarrington NDP. This will be subject to a consultation with the statutory bodies during the Regulation 16 consultation period.

Appendix 1

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

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (Reg. 32)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

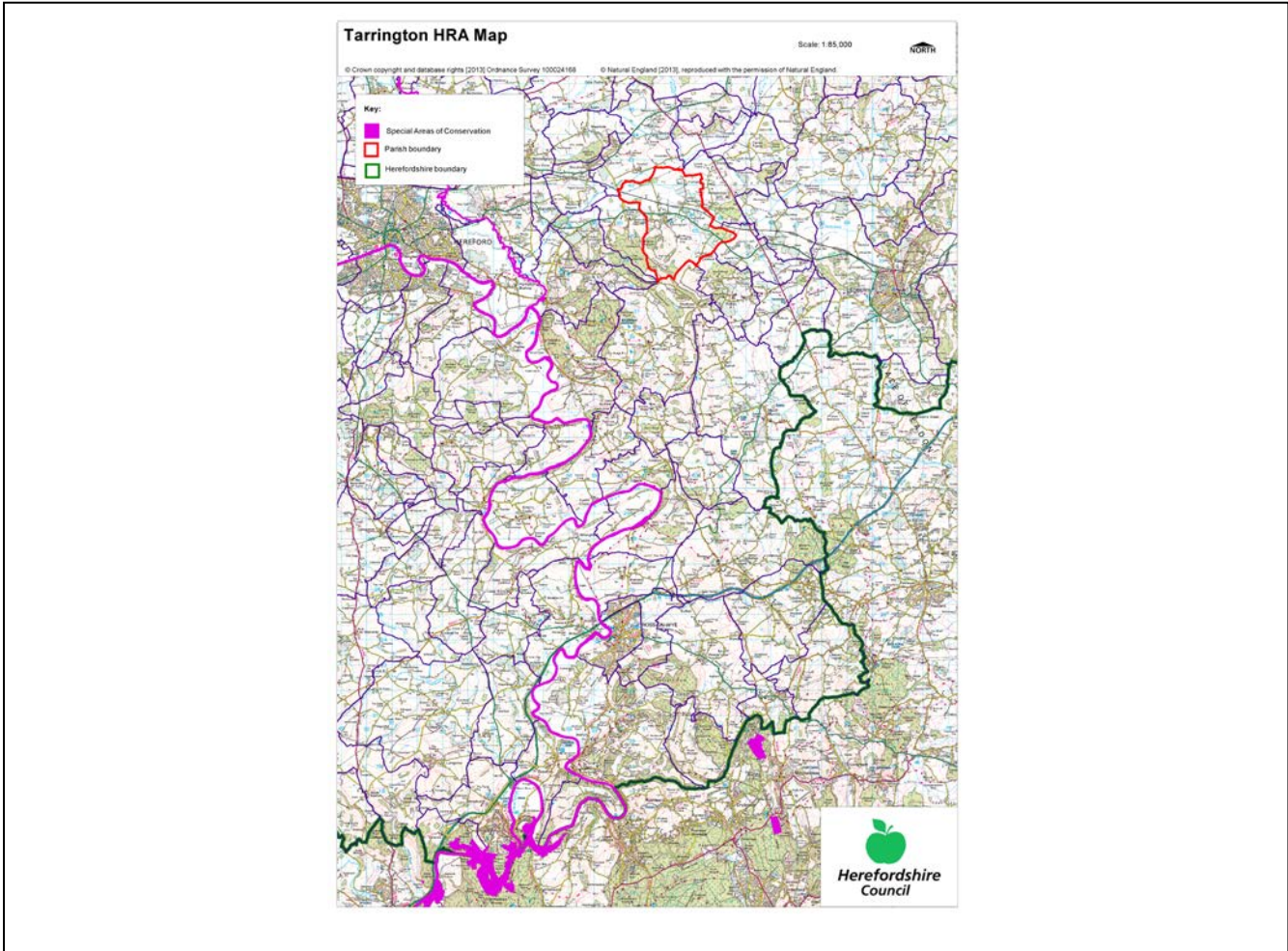
Neighbourhood Area:	Tarrington Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Tarrington Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	10/01/2014

Introduction

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

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

**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 SAC is 4.2km away from the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Frome
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage in Tarrington

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 35.5km 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 46.3km 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	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 18.3km away from the 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?	N	Wye Valley Woodlands are 23.1km away from the Parish
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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 Tarrington 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 Tarrington Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMAs within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	15	Dormington Wood; Swillow Wood; Ashperton Park (border); Eastwood; Whitfield Coppice (border); Mains Wood (border); Priggles Wood (border); Park Coppice (border); Nurdens Wood/Canwood Knoll (border); Green Hill Coppice (border); Sharpnage Wood (border); The Pendleholes (border); Fernhope Wood (border); Priors Court Wood (border); Westhide Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1	Wye Valley AONB (border)	Y
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
European Sites	0	There are no SACs within the Parish	N
Flood Areas		There are Flood Zones along the River Frome in the north of the Parish and also along a brook/stream that flows from the Frome south towards the A438 east of Tarrington village	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	1 (RIGS) 12 (SWS)	RIGS: Dormington Slip (border) SWS: River Frome (border); Old canal at Ashperton (border); Woodland on Shucknall Hill (border); Old canal at Monkhide (border); Ashperton Park (border); East Wood; Whitfield & Slade Coppices (border); Putley Common & surrounding woodlands (border); Woodland at Seager Hill (border); Woodland at Woolhope Cockshoot (border); Woodlands alongside Canwood Knoll (border); Perton roadside section and quarry (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no long distance footpaths/trails within the Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	3	River Lodon, Monkhide to Yarkhill to Bartestree; Perton Quarry to Sheepcote Hill to Woolhope Cockshoot; The Plantation to Devereux Park to Winslow Hill to Busland Wood to Sapness House (border)	Y

National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered 4 Unregistered	Registered: Stoke Edith Unregistered: Devereux Park; Putley Court (border); Canon Frome Court (border); Mainstone Court (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	7	Churchyard cross in St Phillip's and St James' Churchyard; Ashperton Castle (border); Ethelberts Camp (border); Moated site 360m north of Joanshill Farm (border); Moated Site (border); Roman Settlement (border); Roman fort and outworks 550yds (500m) south west of Canon Frome Church (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	4	Mains Wood (Unfavourable Declining) (border); Little Hill (Unfavourable No Change) (border); Perton roadside section and Quarry (Favourable) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 09/12/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

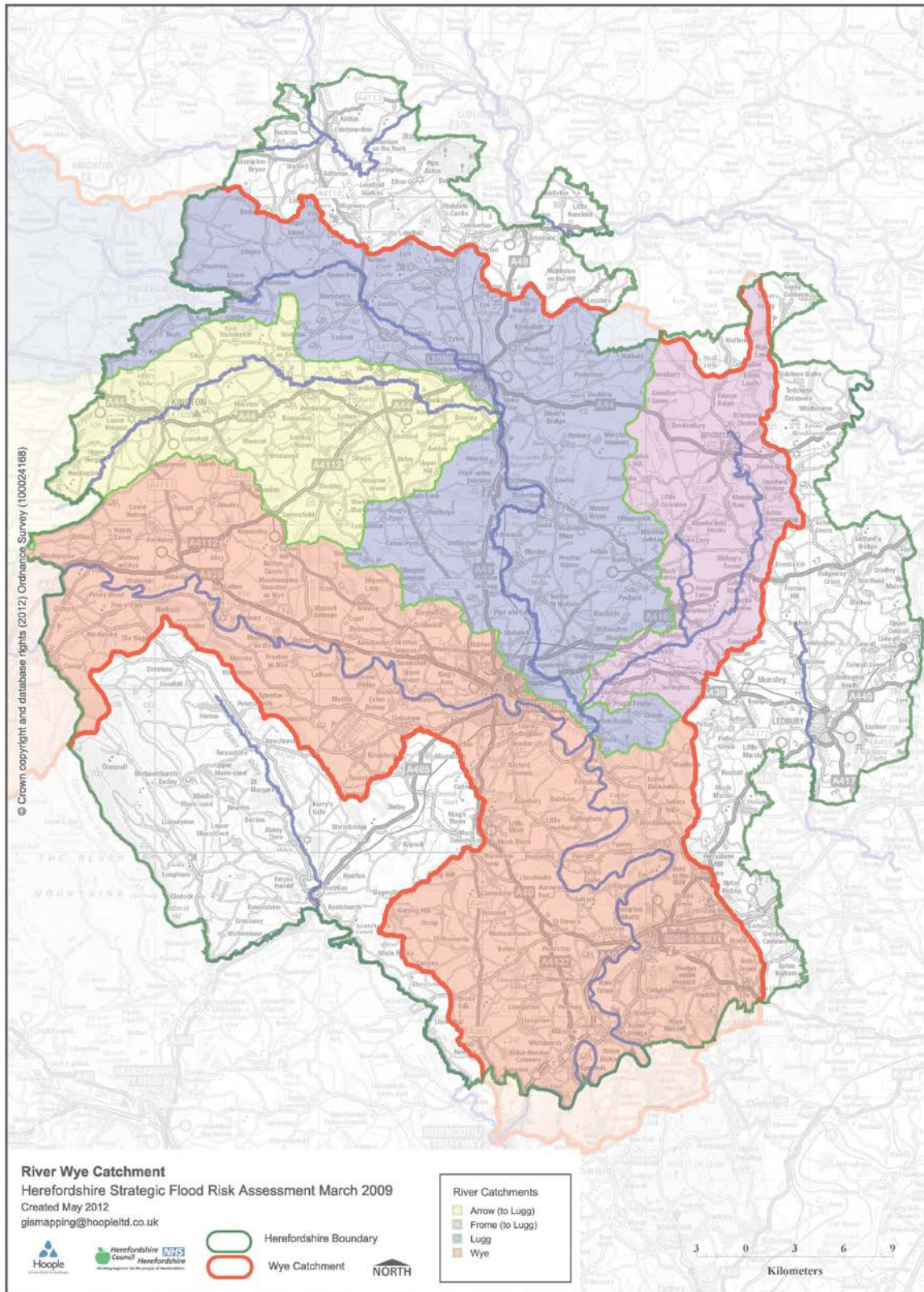
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map



Appendix 2

Tarrington NDP – HRA

Potential Options Considered

Option 1: do nothing.
Option 2: use criteria-based policies only to manage development.
Option 3: manage development using criteria-based policies and by allocating sites in the villages of Tarrington and Little Tarrington.
Option 4: manage development using criteria-based policies and by defining settlement boundaries for the villages.
Option 5: manage development by defining settlement boundaries for the villages, allocating sites and specifying criteria.

Appendix 3

HRA Screening of the Reg14 Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies

Date undertaken: February 2019

NDP objectives and policies	HRA Screening of draft NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Would it be possible that it would result in any LSE?	Requirement for an Appropriate Assessment
Objective 1 Environment	Protecting landscape and supporting biodiversity	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to directly lead to development that would affect the SAC.
Objective 2 Housing	Objective to support housing development in line with Core Strategy targets. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to directly lead to development that would affect the SAC.
Objective 3 Employment	Objective to support employment growth in line the Core Strategy.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to directly lead to development that

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	Increase in vehicle traffic Potential increase in water abstraction and sewerage treatment				would affect the SAC
Objective 4 Community	Objective to support community facilities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg)	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead to development that would affect the SAC
Policy TAR1 Sustainable Tarrington	Outlining a balanced approach to development.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg)	No	No, this is a criteria base policy which seeks a balanced approach to developments within the parish. It will not lead to development itself.
Policy TAR2 Natural Environment	Criteria seeking to support Core Strategy policy regarding the natural environment	The policy is seeking to compliment policy SD4 and LD2 of the Core Strategy	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, this policy is seeking to compliment policy SD4 and contains specific reference to avoiding adverse effects of the River Wye SAC in order for developments to gain planning permission.
Policy TAR3 Heritage assets	Criteria seeking to protect heritage assets	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg)	No	No, this policy contains criteria to protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets. It will not lead

					to development itself.
Policy TAR4 Building design	Design criteria for new developments to meet	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, this policy is seeking to use the more efficient building designs to reduce impact on the environment as a whole.
Policy TAR5 Housing delivery	Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Delivery of an additional 16 dwelling to those which already have planning permission. Policy SD4 and TAR2 indicate that development would only receive planning permission if the criteria is met.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR6 Settlement boundaries	Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Settlement boundary will assist in focusing development in areas away from the hydrological catchment of the River Frome. Policy SD4 and TAR2 indicate that development would only receive planning permission if the criteria is met.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the implementation of Policies SD3 and SD4 within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye as permission would not be granted.

Policy TAR7 Housing size, type and tenure	Policy to support proposals for a range of types, tenures and size of houses.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No: Scale and extent of development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and this policy will not lead to development itself
Policy TAR8 Land at School Road	Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR9 Employment development	Policy to support employment development. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR10 Communication infrastructure	Policy for additional communication equipment	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead to development that would affect the SAC
Policy TAR11	Policy to support	Unlikely that there will be	River Wye (including	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy

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Renewable energy	renewable energy	any significant effects on the European Site.	the River Lugg) SAC		SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR12 Transport	Support for additional cycling and walking routes	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR13 Local Green Space	Safeguarding of local green space	n/a	n/a	No	No, the policy is seeking to safeguard existing local green spaces
Policy TAR14 Green infrastructure	Provision of additional green infrastructure	n/a	n/a	No	No, the policy is seeking to encourage further areas of green infrastructure to support the natural environment.
Policy TAR15 Community facilities	Provision of community facilities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.

Appendix 4

Consultation date: 14 October to 25 November 2019

Consultation title: Tarrington Neighbourhood Development Plan (Reg14)

*N.B. This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the HRA draft report*

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
Natural England	No comments received	
Heritage England	Comments received regarding the Plan but not specific to the SEA	Noted
Environment Agency	No comments received	
Natural Resources Wales	No comments received	

Appendix 5

HRA Screening of the amended Reg16 Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies

Date undertaken: July 2020

NDP objectives and policies	HRA re-Screening of submission NDP policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/option/policy	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Would it be possible that it would result in any LSE?	Requirement for an Appropriate Assessment
Objective 1 Environment	Protecting landscape and supporting biodiversity	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead directly to development that would affect the SAC.
Objective 2 Housing	Objective to support housing development in line with Core Strategy targets. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead directly to development that would affect the SAC.
Objective 3 Employment	Objective to support employment growth in line the Core Strategy.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead directly to development that

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	Increase in vehicle traffic Potential increase in water abstraction and sewerage treatment				would affect the SAC
Objective 4 Community	Objective to support community facilities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg)	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead to development that would affect the SAC
Policy TAR1 Sustainable Tarrington	Outlining a balanced approach to development.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg)	No	No, this is a criteria base policy, which seeks a balanced approach to developments within the parish. It will not lead to development itself.
Policy TAR2 Natural Environment (minor amendment to policy wording)	Criteria seeking to support Core Strategy policy regarding the natural environment	The policy is seeking to compliment policy SD4 and LD2 of the Core Strategy	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, this policy is seeking to compliment policy SD4. It contains specific reference to avoiding adverse effects of the River Wye SAC in order for developments to gain planning permission.
Policy TAR3 Heritage assets	Criteria seeking to protect heritage assets	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg)	No	No, this policy contains criteria to protect, conserve and enhance heritage assets. It will not lead to development itself.

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<p>Policy TAR4</p> <p>Building design</p>	<p>Design criteria for new developments to meet</p>	<p>Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No, this policy is seeking to use the more efficient building designs to reduce impact on the environment as a whole.</p>
<p>Policy TAR5</p> <p>Housing delivery</p>	<p>Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p>	<p>Delivery of an additional 16 dwelling</p> <p>This is in addition to those already having planning permission.</p> <p>Policy SD4 and TAR2 indicate that development would only receive planning permission if the criteria is met.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.</p>
<p>Policy TAR6</p> <p>Settlement boundaries (settlement boundary change)</p>	<p>Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets.</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p>	<p>Settlement boundaries will assist in focusing development in areas away from the hydrological catchment of the River Frome. Policy SD4 and TAR2 indicate that development would only receive planning permission if the criteria is met.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No, the implementation of Policies SD3 and SD4 within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) will avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye as permission would not be granted.</p>

Policy TAR7 Housing size, type and tenure	Policy to support proposals for a range of types, tenures and size of houses.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No: Scale and extent of development is in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and this policy will not lead to development itself
Policy TAR8 Land at School Road (minor amendments to criteria 4 and 6)	Policy for housing development in line with Core Strategy targets. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR9 Employment development	Policy to support employment development. Increase in vehicle traffic. Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR10 Communication infrastructure	Policy for additional communication equipment	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, the criteria is not likely to lead to development that would affect the SAC
Policy TAR11	Policy to support	Unlikely that there will be	River Wye (including	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy

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Renewable energy	renewable energy	any significant effects on the European Site.	the River Lugg) SAC		SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR12 Transport	Support for additional cycling and walking routes	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.
Policy TAR13 Local Green Space	Safeguarding of local green space	n/a	n/a	No	No, the policy is seeking to safeguard existing local green spaces
Policy TAR14 Green infrastructure (minor word change)	Provision of additional green infrastructure	n/a	n/a	No	No, the policy is seeking to encourage further areas of green infrastructure to support the natural environment.
Policy TAR15 Community facilities	Provision of community facilities	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	No	No, implementation of Core Strategy policy SD4, LD2, SD1 to grant planning permission will ensure water quality issues are addressed.