

Herefordshire Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Adoption Statement

Final report

Prepared by LUC

March 2024



Herefordshire Council

Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Adoption Statement

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Herefordshire Council adopted the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) in March 2024. During the preparation of the MWLP, Herefordshire Council was required by law to carry out a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the MWLP as it developed. Both the SA and SEA requirements were met through a single integrated process (referred to as SA), the method and findings of which were described in a number of SA reports which were published alongside the different versions of the MWLP during its development.

1.2 The Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP¹ and its associated SA Report² were finalised in January 2021 and published for consultation for a six-week period from 12th April 2021.

1.3 Following the Regulation 19 consultation period, the representations received on the Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP and the SA Report were reviewed by Herefordshire Council and LUC. Herefordshire Council then prepared a Schedule of Proposed Pre-Examination Modifications to the Herefordshire MWLP in September 2021³. The proposed modifications related primarily to the representations received during the Regulation 19 consultation and to the revisions that had been made to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2021. The Schedule of Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications to the Herefordshire MWLP were subject to SA with the findings presented in an SA Addendum Report in December 2021⁴. The 2021 SA Addendum Report (which had not been published for public consultation) along with the Schedule of Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications, the Herefordshire MWLP and the 2021 SA Report, were submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination on 22nd March 2022.

1.4 Examination hearings took place in November 2022. Following the hearings, the Council prepared a final Schedule of Main Modifications in May 2023⁵. An updated SA

¹ Herefordshire Council (2021) Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Publication Draft [pdf]. Available at: [https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22074/1-publication-draft-herefordshire-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-jan-2021-](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22074/1-publication-draft-herefordshire-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-jan-2021)

² LUC (2021) Sustainability Appraisal of the Publication Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan [pdf]. Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22090/25-sustainability-appraisal-2021-publication-draft-stage>

³ Hendeca (2021) Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan - Schedule of Main Modifications and Minor Changes Proposed Pre-Examination

⁴ LUC (2021) Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24282/sustainability-appraisal-of-the-main-modifications-to-the-mwlp-sa-addendum-report>

⁵ Hendeca (2023) Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Schedule of Main Modifications and Minor Changes (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/25480/d4-71-schedule-of-main-modifications-and-minor-changes-may-2023->

Addendum Report⁶ was then prepared in June 2023 which appraised the final Main Modifications to the MWLP. Both documents were published for public consultation over an eight-week period from 26th June to 21st August 2023. Following the consultation period, some minor amendments were made to the detailed wording of the Main Modifications and consequential modifications were made where these were necessary for consistency or clarity. None of the amendments significantly altered the content of the modifications as published for consultation or affect the SA that has been undertaken.

Requirement for the Adoption Statement

1.5 The SEA Regulations⁷ require a number of steps to be taken upon adoption of a plan (in this case the Herefordshire MWLP). Specifically, Regulation 16 sets out the post-adoption procedures and requirements for SEA. The planning authority must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after the adoption of a plan for which an SA/SEA has been carried out, make a copy of the plan publicly available alongside a copy of the SA Report and an 'SEA Adoption Statement', and inform the public, Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency about the availability of these documents. The SA/SEA Adoption Statement must explain:

- How environmental (and sustainability) considerations have been integrated into the plan.
- How the Environmental Report has been taken into account during the preparation of the plan.
- How the opinions expressed by the public and consultation bodies during consultation on the plan and the Environmental Report have been taken into account.
- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.
- The measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental and sustainability effects of the implementation of the plan.

1.6 As the SEA process was incorporated into the SA process, this document constitutes the SA/SEA Adoption Statement for the Herefordshire MWLP. The remainder of the document is structured according to the SEA Regulation requirements listed above as follows:

- **Chapter 2** summarises how environmental considerations have been integrated into the MWLP including by explaining who carried out the SA/SEA and what assessment framework was used.
- **Chapter 3** summarises how the Environmental Report has been taken into account, considering the links between the plan-making and SA/SEA processes.
- **Chapter 4** summarises the consultation opinions provided on the Environmental Report at each stage and describes how the results were taken into account.
- **Chapter 5** describes why the adopted Herefordshire MWLP was chosen, in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.
- **Chapter 6** describes how the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the MWLP will be monitored.

⁶ LUC (2023) SA Addendum Report of the Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/25477/d4-73-sustainability-appraisal-of-the-main-modifications-may-2023>

⁷ The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633) as amended by The Environmental

Assessments and Miscellaneous Planning (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (SI 2018/1232) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Amendment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1531)

Chapter 2

How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

2.1 The SEA Regulations require that the SEA Adoption Statement provides an account of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the MWLP.

2.2 There have been seven key stages in the SA of the Herefordshire MWLP:

- An SA Scoping Report⁸ published for consultation with the Consultation Bodies in February 2017.
- An SA Report⁹ (August 2017) that accompanied the Issues and Options Paper published for consultation in August 2017.
- An SA Report¹⁰ (December 2018) that accompanied the Draft Herefordshire MWLP published for consultation in spring 2019.
- An SA Report¹¹ (January 2021) that accompanied the Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP published for consultation from April to May 2021.
- An SA Addendum Report¹² that accompanied the Proposed Pre-Examination Schedule of Main Modifications and Minor Changes in December 2021 (not published for consultation).
- An SA Addendum Report¹³ that accompanied the Final Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan published for consultation in June 2023.
- This SA/SEA Adoption Statement that will be made available alongside the adopted MWLP.

2.3 The SA was undertaken iteratively, such that at each stage of the MWLP's preparation, the sustainability and environmental effects of the options for the plan were assessed. The SA assessed a range of options for the MWLP, and the Council considered the SA findings to inform which

⁸ LUC (February 2017) SA Scoping Report for the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

⁹ LUC (August 2017) SA of the Issues and Options Paper (online) Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10499/sustainability-appraisal-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-august-2017>

¹⁰ LUC (December 2018) SA of the Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/16740/sustainability-appraisal-2018-main-report>

¹¹ LUC (2021) Sustainability Appraisal of the Publication Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan [pdf]. Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22090/25-sustainability-appraisal-2021-publication-draft-stage>

¹² LUC (2021) Sustainability Appraisal of the Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24282/sustainability-appraisal-of-the-main-modifications-to-the-mwlp-sa-addendum-report>

¹³ LUC (2023) SA Addendum Report of the Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Mineral and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/25477/d4-73-sustainability-appraisal-of-the-main-modifications-may-2023->

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options to take forward and what mitigation may need to be incorporated in the MWLP to address any adverse effects identified by the SA. Information on the options considered in the plan-making process and assessed through the SA process is set out in Chapter 4 of the 2021 SA Report. In this way, environmental and sustainability considerations were integrated into the MWLP as it was developed. Chapter 3 of this SA/SEA Adoption Statement expands on how the findings of the SA process have been taken into account through the plan-making process.

SA Framework

2.4 The relevant environmental and sustainability objectives identified by the review of plans and programmes, together with the key sustainability issues identified by the collection and review of baseline information, helped to inform the development of a set of objectives (the 'SA Framework') against which the effects of the MWLP were assessed. Development of the SA Framework is not a requirement of the SEA Regulations, but it is a recognised way in which the likely environmental and sustainability effects of the MWLP could be transparently and consistently described, analysed and compared.

2.5 The SA Framework that was used to appraise the MWLP is presented in **Table 2.1**. It is considered that the objectives selected adequately reflect the requirements of Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations. The last column shows how the 'SEA topics' (listed in Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations as the topics to be covered in the SEA) were all covered by at least one SA/SEA objective, i.e. no SEA topic was scoped out of the assessment.

2.6 The wording of some of the objectives was revised after the Scoping stage to take into account the suggestions of the statutory consultees. Additional sub-criteria for SA objectives **12: Biodiversity and Geodiversity** and **15: Flooding** were included based on recommendations made by Natural England and the Environment Agency. The recommendation made by Historic England to separate the SA objective relating to the historic and built environment into two distinct SA objectives was also addressed (now SA objective 6: **Historic Environment** and SA objective 7: **Built Environment**). In addition, reference to historic landscapes was removed from SA objective **13: Landscape** and is now considered in SA objective **6: Historic Environment**.

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Table 2.1: SA Framework for the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

SA/SEA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic Covered by Objective
Employment		
1. Support, maintain or enhance the provision of employment opportunities in the minerals and waste sectors.	1.1. Support the development and growth of the minerals and waste economy in Herefordshire and generate employment opportunities for local people.	Material assets ¹⁴ Population
2. Maintain or enhance conditions that enable a sustainable economy and continued investment.	2.1. Encourage long-term investment in Herefordshire's minerals and waste sectors. 2.2. Ensure a steady and adequate supply of minerals to meet the needs of society in accordance with national policy.	Material assets Population
Healthy and Prosperous Communities		
3. Protect and improve the health of the people of Herefordshire and reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically.	3.1. Avoid or minimise adverse effects on human health and safety to acceptable levels from mineral and waste operations. 3.2. Provide opportunities to improve health and amenity through delivery of green infrastructure, enhanced public rights of way and improved access to recreation as part of the development and restoration of sites. 3.3. Avoid or minimise adverse effects on the quality and extent of existing recreational assets.	Population Human health
4. Reduce poverty and social inclusion by closing the gap between the most deprived areas in the county and the rest of the county.	4.1. Provide opportunities for local people to access employment and skills in the minerals and waste sectors.	Population Human health
Transport and Access		
5. Reduce road traffic, congestion and pollution, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the county.	5.1. Reduce the vehicle kilometres travelled for the transportation of minerals and waste. 5.2. Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport. 5.3. Encourage the use of low emission vehicles for the transportation of waste and minerals.	Material assets
Built and Historic Environment		

¹⁴ 'Material assets' is listed as one of the topics to be considered in the SEA, but there is no clear definition of what this topic should cover in the SEA Directive or Regulations, and it has been variously defined in different SEA reports as relating to natural resources, e.g., minerals, or built infrastructure, e.g., transport infrastructure. For the purposes of this SEA, the material assets topic is assumed to include resources such as water, minerals and waste, as well as built infrastructure, including transport and waste infrastructure, but also economic and employment infrastructure and interests.

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SA/SEA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic Covered by Objective
6. Value, protect and enhance the county's historic environment and cultural heritage.	6.1. Conserve, protect and enhance designated and undesignated heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the Hereford Area of Archaeological Importance, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens Listed Buildings, archaeological remains, and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g., locally listed buildings.	Cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage
7. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods.	7.1. Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area.	Material assets Soil
Resource Consumption and Climate Change		
8. Move waste up the waste hierarchy.	8.1. Minimise disposal of waste to landfill from households, businesses etc. including hazardous waste. 8.2. Promote re-use, recovery and recycling of waste. 8.3. Deal with waste locally and/or through the best Practical Environmental Option. 8.4. Promote sustainable waste management principles.	Material assets
9. Promote sustainable use of mineral resources.	9.1. Safeguard mineral resources from loss by permanent sterilisation. 9.2. Promote the most efficient use of mineral resources.	Material assets
10. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	10.1. Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from waste and mineral transportation and management activities. 10.2. Promote energy efficiency by encouraging the use of energy efficient buildings and plant, and the use of appropriate renewable or lower carbon energy sources on site.	Climatic factors
11. Promote effective restoration and appropriate after use of sites.	11.1. Provide for the restoration of land to an appropriate after-use including the creation of accessible greenspace at former waste and mineral sites.	Water Air Soil
Environmental		
12. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity and geodiversity.	12.1. Protect and enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance. 12.2. Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species. 12.3. Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.	Biodiversity Fauna Flora

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SA/SEA Objective	Appraisal Question	SEA Topic Covered by Objective
	<p>12.4. Provide opportunities for enhancing biodiversity and achieve net gains in biodiversity, where possible as part of the development and restoration of a site.</p> <p>12.5. Maintain and improve geodiversity, avoid irreversible losses, and create, extend or enhance Local Geological Sites.</p>	
<p>13. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.</p>	<p>13.1. Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings.</p> <p>13.2. Minimise the landscape and visual intrusion of waste and mineral facilities on sensitive and/or distinct landscapes.</p>	<p>Landscape Fauna Flora</p>
<p>14. Value, protect and enhance the quality of watercourses and maximise the efficient use of water.</p>	<p>14.1. Protect and enhance the quality of watercourses.</p> <p>14.2. Maximise the efficient use of water and protect the quality and quantity of ground and surface water from over abstraction.</p>	<p>Water</p>
<p>15. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p>	<p>15.1. Ensure minerals and waste development are not at risk of flooding both presently and taking into account climate change and do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.</p> <p>15.2. Ensure flood risk reduction / improvements to the flood regime.</p>	<p>Water</p>
<p>16. Minimise noise, light, and air pollution.</p>	<p>16.1. Minimise air, noise and light pollution from activities associated with mineral and waste developments and the potential for such pollution.</p> <p>16.2. Help achieve the objectives of Air Quality Management Plans.</p>	<p>Air</p>
<p>17. Value, protect and enhance soil quality and resources.</p>	<p>17.1. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality and minimise contamination of soils.</p> <p>17.2. Avoid the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land by prioritising the location of waste and mineral developments to previously developed sites in preference to greenfield locations.</p>	<p>Soil</p>

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Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.7 To ensure that environmental considerations were taken into account during the drafting of the MWLP, the MWLP was subject to both SA/SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

2.8 A HRA Scoping Report¹⁵ was prepared by LUC on behalf of Herefordshire Council in August 2017 in relation to the MWLP Issues and Options Report (April 2017). A HRA Screening Report¹⁶ was prepared in parallel with the SA of the Draft MWLP in November 2018 and the findings were taken into account in the SA where relevant (for example to inform judgements about the likely effects of potential development locations proposed in the MWLP on biodiversity).

2.9 The HRA Report¹⁷ prepared to accompany the Publication Draft MWLP in December 2020 included a revised Screening Assessment in light of key changes and newly available information (e.g. issue of phosphates in the River Wye SAC) and detailed an Appropriate Assessment (AA). Following the Screening Assessment, the HRA Report (December 2020) identified the following potential Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) which required further consideration at the AA stage to determine whether they would result in Adverse Effects on Integrity (AEol), either alone or in combination with other plans and projects:

- River Wye SAC – physical damage and loss of habitat; non-physical disturbance; water quality and quantity, air pollution and non-toxic contamination.
- Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC – physical damage and loss of offsite functionally linked habitat, in relation to proposed minerals allocation M12 Callow Delve.
- Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site – water quality and quantity.

2.10 The Screening Assessment identified a lack of certainty as to whether the following policies would result in LSEs on European sites:

- M3: The winning and working of sand and gravel;
- M5: The winning and working of building stone (sandstone);
- W3: Agricultural waste management for livestock units;

- W4: Waste water management;
- W5: Preferred locations for solid waste treatment facilities; and
- W6: Preferred locations for construction, demolition and excavation waste facilities.

2.11 The Screening Assessment identified a lack of certainty as to whether the following proposed site allocations would result in LSE on European sites:

- M05 Wellington Quarry;
- M12 Callow Delve;
- W05 Leominster;
- W13 Former Lugg Bridge Quarry;
- M20 Westonhill Wood Delve;
- W63 Southern Avenue, Leominster;
- W66 Moreton Business Park, Moreton-on-Lugg;
- Preferred Area C (formerly referred to as Area of Search C); and
- W45 Wellington Quarry (waste use at site M05).

2.12 The Appropriate Assessment concluded that, providing the recommendations made in the HRA Report are implemented, and in light of the existing safeguards provided in the plan, the Publication Draft MWLP would not give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC or the Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar and SAC, either alone or in combination with the other plans or projects. The HRA Report (December 2020) was published for consultation from 12th April to 24th May 2021.

2.13 Following the Regulation 19 consultation period, Herefordshire Council prepared a Schedule of Proposed Pre-Examination Modifications (September 2021) to address the representations received during the Regulation 19 consultation and to reflect revisions to relevant national policy and legislation, as well as local plans and guidance documents published since January 2021.

2.14 Most notably for the HRA, the proposed Main Modifications provided the clarity requested by Natural England (NE), Environment Agency (EA) and Natural

¹⁵ LUC (2017) HRA Scoping Report of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/10501/hra-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-august-2017>

¹⁶ LUC (2018) HRA Screening Report of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/16744/habitats-regulations-assessment-2018>

¹⁷ LUC (2020) HRA of the Publication Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/22089/24-habitat-regulations-assessment-2021-publication-draft-stage>

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Resources Wales (NRW), particularly relating to the need for mineral and waste proposals to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality on the River Wye SAC. A HRA Addendum Report¹⁸ was prepared by LUC in November 2021 to consider whether the Main Modifications that were proposed at that time were likely to have any new or different effects on European sites from those identified in the 2020 HRA of the Publication Draft MWLP and, if so, to carry out HRA of the proposed modifications. The November 2021 HRA Addendum concluded that the proposed Main Modifications would not affect the overall conclusions of the 2020 HRA Report.

2.15 The December 2020 HRA Report for the Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP and the HRA Addendum Report (November 2021) were submitted for Examination to the Secretary of State on 22nd March 2022 alongside the MWLP and the Schedule of Proposed Modifications. On 9th May 2022, following an initial review of the Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP, the Schedule of Proposed Modifications and the associated HRA reports, the Planning Inspectorate requested that the November 2021 HRA Addendum be reviewed and updated, stating:

“Natural England has recently updated the conservation status of the River Clun SAC and has provided updated advice together with a new generic methodology for assessing nutrient pollution. A review of the HRA is necessary to take into account this advice and update. In carrying out this review, you should obtain the views of Natural England as the appropriate nature conservation body and consider any available nutrient neutral mitigation proposals. This work is necessary to enable us to consider whether the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will result in a likely significant effect on the integrity of the European site”.

2.16 An updated HRA Addendum¹⁹ was prepared by LUC in June 2022 to take into account the latest advice from Natural England. The HRA Addendum also re-presented the information from the earlier HRA Addendum (November 2021) about the implications of the Main Modifications that were proposed at that time for the HRA conclusions reported previously.

2.17 As the final set of Main Modifications had been prepared by the Council following Examination hearings, those modifications were assessed in the updated HRA Addendum²⁰ (June 2023), which was published alongside the final Main Modifications for a formal consultation period. The HRA Addendum (June 2023) concluded that the final Main Modifications would not affect the overall conclusion of the 2020 HRA Report.

¹⁸ LUC (2021) HRA Addendum of the Schedule of the Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/25479/d4-74-habitats-regulations-assessment-of-the-main-modifications-may-2023->

¹⁹ LUC (2022) HRA Addendum of the Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/24124/hra-of-the-schedule-of-proposed-modifications-to-the-herefordshire-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-hra-addendum-report-june-2022->

²⁰ LUC (2023) HRA Addendum of the Schedule of Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (online) Available at: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/25479/d4-74-habitats-regulations-assessment-of-the-main-modifications-may-2023->

Chapter 3

How the Environmental Report has been taken into account

3.1 The SA process for the Herefordshire MWLP was undertaken iteratively with the SA Reports at each stage informing the preparation of the plan. As part of the SA process, an assessment of the likely sustainability and environmental effects of the plan was made at each stage of the MWLP's development.

3.2 The SA assessed all options, policies and sites in each iteration of the plan and their reasonable alternatives, including the Main Modifications made to the MWLP following its submission. This helped Herefordshire Council to formulate its approach with regards to which options to take forward, alongside other material planning considerations.

3.3 **Table 3.1** overleaf shows how preparation of the SA reports (which included the Environmental Report requirements set out in the SEA Regulations) corresponded with each stage of the MWLP's preparation, and how the SA was taken into account.

Chapter 3

How the Environmental Report has been taken into account

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Table 3.1: Iterations of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and accompanying SA outputs

Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Consultation Stage and Document	SA Consultation Stage and Document	How the SA was taken into account
Scoping Stage		
Call for sites, evidence gathering, etc.	Scoping Report (February 2017)	The SA Scoping Report was prepared by LUC in 2017 on behalf of Herefordshire Council. It set out baseline information for Herefordshire and identified key sustainability issues facing the county, as well as reviewing relevant plans, policies and programmes. This resulted in the development of the SA Framework which was proposed to be used during the later stages of the SA. No appraisal work was undertaken or included in the SA Scoping Report.
Issues and Options Stage		
<u>Issues & Options Paper</u> (August 2017)	<u>SA Report on the Issues & Options Paper</u> (August 2017)	<p>The MWLP Issues and Options Report identified reasonable alternatives for the Vision, strategic objectives and the approach for addressing minerals and waste development in Herefordshire. In total, 34 reasonable alternatives (one option for the Vision, one option for the strategic objectives, 18 mineral-related options and 14 waste-related options) were presented in the MWLP Issues and Options Report.</p> <p>The options proposed in the MWLP Issues and Options Report were subject to a detailed appraisal in the SA Report (August 2017) against the SA objectives which were developed at the SA scoping stage. The findings of the assessment were presented to the Council prior to public consultation. The SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Issues and Options Paper from 14th August to 6th October 2017.</p>
Draft Stage		
<u>Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan</u> (January 2019)	<u>SA Report of the Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan</u> (December 2018)	<p>The SA of the 2018 Draft MWLP appraised the Vision, 12 strategic objectives, seven mineral-related policies, and seven waste-related policies, which constituted the policy options for the Draft MWLP. These were developed from the policy approach options considered in the Issues and Options Report, as described above.</p> <p>The SA of the Draft MWLP also identified 104 potential mineral and waste site options. The SA team and the plan-making team at Herefordshire Council worked together to identify which sites constituted reasonable alternatives and which should be rejected and not subject to detailed appraisal. The SA of the Draft MWLP (2018) assessed the following reasonable alternative site options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 24 reasonable alternative mineral sites – 20 were included in the Draft MWLP. M03c, M05f, M22 and M23 were discounted due to potential visual, landscape and/or heritage impacts.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Four potential Areas of Search (for minerals) – all were included in the Draft MWLP. ■ Eight reasonable alternative waste sites – all were included in the Draft MWLP. ■ Nine Strategic Employment Sites – all were included in the Draft MWLP. <p>The SA of the Draft MWLP also made several recommendations to strengthen the mitigation provided by the MWLP. The findings of the assessment, including the recommendations, were presented to the Council prior to public consultation. The Council subsequently updated the Draft MWLP to take into account the SA findings and to incorporate the proposed recommendations, where appropriate. The SA findings for the Draft MWLP, along with other factors, contributed to the Council's decision making regarding which policies and sites were included in the Draft MWLP. The SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Draft MWLP from 21st January to 4th March 2019.</p>
Publication Draft Stage		
<p><u>Publication Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (January 2021)</u></p>	<p><u>SA Report on Publication Draft Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (January 2021)</u></p>	<p>The Publication Draft MWLP included updates to the strategic policies, minerals policies and waste policies, as follows. Most notably the plan period was updated to 2041 and the policies were revised to make reference to restricting hydrocarbon extraction (M1), promoting circular economy (W1), recovery of phosphorus (W1, W4 and W7), updates to waste facility capacities (W2) and achieving nutrient neutrality or betterment within the River Wye SAC (W3 and W4). The greatest change to policy between the 2018 Draft MWLP and the 2021 Publication Draft MWLP was the removal of policy M7: Unconventional Hydrocarbons, due to the Government's moratorium on fracking (announced November 2019). These were appraised in the 2021 SA Report which accompanied the Publication Draft MWLP.</p> <p>Since the Draft MWLP SA Report (2018), the boundaries and site refencing numbering for several sites had been revised. Several sites were also amalgamated which accounts for the change in the number of sites assessed since the Draft MWLP. The SA of the Publication Draft MWLP (January 2021) appraised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 14 proposed mineral site allocations. ■ Four potential Areas of Search. ■ Four reasonable alternative mineral site options considered at the Publication Draft MWLP stage but not allocated in the Publication Draft MWLP. ■ Eight proposed waste site allocations.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nine Strategic Employment Areas. <p>The SA of the Publication Draft MWLP also made several recommendations to strengthen the mitigation provided by the MWLP, most notably to the Key Development Criteria (KDC) for the proposed sites. Recommendations related to requiring proposals to demonstrate their level of effect on residential amenity at nearby properties; to cross-check the Key Development Criteria with the SA findings for each site and update accordingly; and to reflect the recommendations outlined in the HRA Report and Level 2 SFRA.</p> <p>The findings of the assessment, including the recommendations, were presented to the Council prior to public consultation. The Council subsequently updated the Publication Draft MWLP to take into account the SA findings and to incorporate the proposed recommendations, where appropriate. The SA findings for the Publication Draft MWLP, along with other factors, contributed to the Council’s decision making regarding which policies and sites were included in the Publication Draft MWLP. The SA Report was published for consultation alongside the Publication Draft MWLP from 12th April to 24th May 2021.</p>
Proposed Pre Examination Schedule of Main Modifications		
Proposed Pre-Examination Schedule of Main Modifications and Minor Changes (September 2021)	SA Addendum Report (December 2021) (not published for consultation)	<p>Herefordshire Council prepared a Schedule of Proposed Pre-Examination Modifications to the Herefordshire MWLP (September 2021). The proposed modifications related primarily to the representations received during the Regulation 19 consultation and to the revisions that had been made to the NPPF in July 2021. The schedule proposed nearly 80 Main Modifications across the Herefordshire MWLP.</p> <p>An SA Addendum Report was prepared which considered whether the proposed pre-examination Main Modifications were likely to have any new or different sustainability effects to those identified in the SA of the Publication Draft MWLP and, if so, to carry out SA of the proposed modifications. The majority of the proposed modifications did not affect the SA findings presented in the 2021 SA Report of the Publication Draft MWLP, either because they were updates or clarifications to text within the MWLP or were not fundamental changes to the policies or site allocations.</p> <p>The proposed pre-examination Main Modifications provided the clarity requested by Natural England, Historic England, the Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales, particularly relating to the need for mineral and waste proposals to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality on the River Wye SAC and to demonstrate less than substantial harm to heritage assets and their settings. Therefore, the previously identified SA effect for SA objective 14: Water for Policy W5 was revised from a minor negative effect to a mixed effect (minor positive / minor negative). While the SA effects for SA objective 6: Historic Environment for the MWLP policies, including the KDC, remained unchanged, the SA Addendum Report made the following recommendations:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It is recommended that, in line with the advice received from Historic England in May 2021, the KDC for Holmer Road (W61) is updated to require a Heritage Statement to accompany any planning application for this site. Alternatively, the KDC could be updated to require proposals to demonstrate less than substantial harm to heritage asset(s) and their setting(s), which would be consistent with the KDC for other sites proposed to be allocated in the Herefordshire MWLP. ■ For consistency, it is recommended that the KDC for Leinthall Quarry (M07a and M07b) is updated to require applicants to demonstrate less than substantial harm on heritage asset(s) and their setting(s), particularly Croft Ambrey Hill Fort and Croft Castle Park. Currently it requires demonstration of the level of effect on heritage assets. <p>The findings of the assessment, including the recommendations, were presented to the Council prior to submission to the Secretary of State. As recommended in the SA Addendum, both of these changes could be made in the final Schedule of Main Modifications which would be prepared in agreement with the Inspector following the Examination hearings.</p>
Submission to the Secretary of State		
The Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP and its associated SA Report (January 2021), and the Proposed Pre-Examination Schedule of Main Modifications and Minor Changes and its associated SA Addendum Report (December 2021) were submitted to Secretary of State on 22 March 2022.		
Examination		
<p>Hearing sessions: 8th, 9th and 10th November 2022</p> <p><u>Schedule of Final Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (May 2023)</u></p>	<p><u>SA Addendum Report of the Final Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (June 2023)</u></p>	<p>Following Examination hearings in November 2022, Herefordshire Council prepared a Final Schedule of Main Modifications to the submitted MWLP, which included the recommendations made in the SA Addendum Report (December 2021). The Final Main Modifications were subject to SA and the findings were presented in an updated SA Addendum Report (June 2023). The Main Modifications resulted in the revision of SA effects for three policies (policies M2, W5 and W6), all of which resulted in more positive effects.</p> <p>In light of these overall findings and the existing recommendations made through the course of the SA and the wider plan-making process, no further SA recommendations were considered necessary.</p> <p>The Final Schedule of Main Modifications and the updated SA Addendum Report were published for consultation from 26th June to 21st August 2023.</p>

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Adoption		
Adoption of Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan	SA/SEA Adoption Statement (this report) .	<p>This Adoption Statement summarises the SA/SEA process and how this has influenced the preparation of the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.</p> <p>Following consultation on the Final Main Modifications and the associated SA Report, the Inspectors' Report (October 2023) concluded that, subject to the recommended Main Modifications set out in the appendix to their report, the MWLP is sound, legally compliant and capable of adoption. It therefore satisfies the requirements of section 20(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and meets the criteria for soundness in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Inspector's Report also concludes that the content of the SA and HRA are in line with the legal requirements.</p>

Chapter 4

How opinions of consultation bodies and the public have been taken into consideration

4.1 At each stage of the Herefordshire MWLP's development, an SA Report was published alongside the MWLP document for consultation with the public and the consultation bodies specifically referred to in the SEA Regulations i.e. Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. Given the location of Herefordshire on the border of Wales, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) was also consulted at each stage.

4.2 The SEA Regulations require that the SA/SEA Adoption Statement provides an account of how any opinions expressed by the public and the consultation bodies have been taken into account. The MWLP consultation stages and responses received relating to the SA documents are summarised below.

SA Scoping Report

4.3 The SA Scoping Report was subject to consultation from February to March 2017, including formal consultation with the SEA statutory bodies (Historic England, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Natural Resources Wales). This provided an opportunity for consultees to comment on the proposed scope of the SA, including whether the objectives in the SA Framework provided a reasonable framework for assessing the likely significant effects of the MWLP and whether the review of relevant plans, policies and programmes and baseline information were appropriate and complete.

4.4 Comments received on the SA Scoping Report were taken into consideration by the Council and addressed in the SA Report of the Issues and Options Paper in August 2017. Appendix K of the 2021 SA Report presents the consultation responses received in relation to the SA Scoping Report and explains how each one was addressed during the SA process. In light of the comments received, a number of amendments were made to the review of plans, policies and programmes, the baseline information, key sustainability issues and SA Framework. For example, additional sub-criteria for SA objectives 12: Biodiversity and Geodiversity and 15: Flooding were included in the SA Framework based on recommendations made by Natural England and the Environment Agency, and two distinct SA objectives were prepared for the historic and built environment (originally proposed as one objective) to address Historic England's

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recommendation. In addition, the reference to historic landscapes in SA objective 13: Landscape was removed and considered in SA objective 6: Historic Environment.

SA Report for the MWLP Issues and Options Paper

4.5 The SA of the MWLP Issues and Options Report (Regulation 18) was published for consultation from 14th August – 6th October 2017. No specific comments were received on the SA of the MWLP Issues and Options Paper.

SA Report for the Draft Herefordshire MWLP

4.6 The SA Report for the Draft Herefordshire MWLP accompanied the Draft Herefordshire MWLP for Regulation 18 consultation from 21st January to 4th March 2019. Appendix K of the 2021 SA Report presents the consultation responses received in relation to the SA Report on the Draft Herefordshire MWLP and explains how each one was addressed during the SA process. The consultation responses resulted in the following actions being undertaken:

- Updating the review of plans, policies and programmes and baseline information to refer to the most recent Minerals and Waste Needs Assessment, the National Resources and Waste Strategy, the 25-year Environment Plan and Historic England's most recent guidance on mineral extraction and archaeology.
- Updating the SA site assessment criteria to acknowledge the adjacent Brecon Beacons National Park. The SA site assessment criteria for SA objective 13: Landscape was updated to state: "*Sites within or in close proximity (250m) to these nationally designated landscapes (including AONBs and National Parks) could have significant adverse effects on the character and special qualities of these areas*".
- Reappraising sites to consider the potential for impacts on the character of the National Park.

4.7 Many of Historic England's comments relating to site allocations were superseded by the fact that the Council had undertaken additional appraisal work in relation to the historic environment.

SA Report for the Publication Draft Herefordshire MWLP

4.8 The SA Report for the Publication Draft MWLP accompanied the Publication Draft MWLP for Regulation 19 consultation from 12th April to 24th May 2021. Appendix B of the 2023 SA Addendum Report presents the consultation responses received in relation to the SA Report and explains how each one was addressed during the SA process. The consultation responses resulted in Herefordshire Council, Historic England and Natural England producing Statements of Common Ground. These Statements of Common Ground primarily related to updating the Key Development Criteria for the proposed sites to require minerals and waste developments to demonstrate at least nutrient neutrality on the River Wye SAC and to demonstrate that proposed developments will appropriately minimise and mitigate impacts on heritage asset(s) and their setting(s).

SA Addendum Report for the Final Main Modifications to the Herefordshire MWLP

4.9 Following the Examination hearings in November 2022, an SA Addendum Report was prepared and published for consultation alongside the Final Schedule of Main Modifications between 26th June and 21st August 2023. This SA Addendum Report presented an appraisal of the MWLP as proposed to be modified (no reasonable alternatives to the proposed modifications were identified for appraisal at this stage).

4.10 Consultation comments were received from various organisations, developers and members of the general public, most of which related to the Main Modifications themselves rather than the accompanying SA. The consultation comments received in relation to the Main Modifications were sent to the Inspectors for consideration in preparing the Inspectors' report.

Chapter 5

Why the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan was chosen in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with

5.1 Herefordshire Council considered a range of reasonable alternatives during the drafting of the MWLP. The options considered for the MWLP are described below along with a summary of why the preferred approach was chosen over the reasonable alternatives.

5.2 Information considered by Herefordshire Council before final decisions were made on the selection of preferred options included:

- the SA findings, particularly the significant effects generated by each option;
- the MWLP's vision and objectives;
- the results of consultation and engagement with the general public and key stakeholders; and
- the evidence base for the MWLP.

5.3 The options considered for the MWLP are described below alongside a summary of Herefordshire Council's reasons why the preferred options were selected over the reasonable alternatives. More detailed information about why individual options were selected or rejected can be found in Appendices D and E of the 2021 SA Report that was submitted alongside the Publication Draft MWLP.

Policy options

5.4 The MWLP Issues and Options Paper (2017) identified reasonable alternatives for the Vision, strategic objectives and the approach for addressing minerals and waste development in Herefordshire. In total, 34 options (one option for the Vision, one option for the strategic objectives, 18 mineral-related options and 14 waste-related options) were presented in the MWLP Issues and Options Report and assessed in its associated SA Report. The findings of the SA and the responses received during consultation were used to identify the preferred policy options for the Draft MWLP.

5.5 The SA of the 2018 Draft MWLP appraised the Vision, 12 strategic objectives, seven mineral-related policies, and seven waste-related policies, which were developed from the policy approach options considered in the Issues and Options Report, as described above. The SA findings for the Draft MWLP, along with other factors contributed to the Council's

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decision making regarding which policies were included in the Publication Draft MWLP.

5.6 No reasonable alternatives to the policies in the Publication Draft MWLP were identified by the SA team or Herefordshire Council.

5.7 No reasonable alternatives to the Main Modifications were identified by the Council or Inspector; therefore, neither the 2021 SA Addendum of the Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications or the 2023 SA Addendum of the Final Main Modifications appraised any reasonable alternatives to the policies.

The evolution of preferred policies in the MWLP and their reasons for selection in light of other reasonable alternatives is detailed in **Appendix E** of the 2021 SA Report.

Mineral and waste site options

5.8 Specific site options were not identified in the Issues and Options Report and its accompanying SA but were considered during the preparation of the Draft MWLP and in its accompanying SA Report. In total, 104 mineral and waste site options were identified in the SA of the Draft MWLP (2018) comprising:

- 34 mineral site options;
- four potential Areas of Search (for minerals);
- 57 waste site options; and
- nine Strategic Employment Areas.

5.9 In general, the mineral site options that were not considered reasonable alternatives are those that are closed and restored, are currently being restored, or have been put to some other use. For the waste site options, a number of existing waste facilities are located on strategic employment sites or industrial estates. These sites were not appraised separately as reasonable alternatives because, although they are already in waste use, these facilities are located on plots within industrial estates/strategic employment sites which experience a reasonably high level of plot turnover. For this reason, it would be inappropriate to allocate discrete plots/sites within industrial estates/strategic employment sites in the MWLP. However, a number of the strategic employment locations (sites W58-W66) are identified in Herefordshire Core Strategy policy E1 and were appraised in their entirety as reasonable alternatives (i.e. not just individual plots within the

wider strategic employment location) as they have good potential for co-location and could accommodate strategic waste facilities. Finally, some of the waste site options considered in the Spatial Context and Sites Report were not reasonable alternatives for SA as they are not located within the spatial strategy preferred area (waste development will be focused at Hereford, Leominster and the market towns in line with the overarching spatial strategy of the Core Strategy), while others were proposed mineral sites which are either closed or mothballed, or being restored, so not appropriate for waste uses.

5.10 Therefore, the SA of the Draft MWLP (2018) assessed the following reasonable alternative site options. Herefordshire Council took into account the findings of the appraisal of sites in determining which sites to take forward into the Draft MWLP:

- 24 reasonable alternative mineral sites – 20 were included in the Draft MWLP. M03c, M05f, M22 and M23 were discounted due to potential visual, landscape and/or heritage impacts;
- four potential Areas of Search (for minerals) – all were included in the Draft MWLP;
- eight reasonable alternative waste sites – all were included in the Draft MWLP; and
- nine Strategic Employment Sites – all were included in the Draft MWLP.

5.11 Since the Draft MWLP SA Report (2018), the boundaries and site referencing numbering for several sites were revised. The SA of the Publication Draft MWLP (January 2021) appraised:

- 14 proposed mineral site allocations;
- four potential Areas of Search;
- four reasonable alternative mineral site options considered at the Publication Draft MWLP stage but not allocated;
- eight proposed waste site allocations; and,
- nine Strategic Employment Areas.

5.12 The Publication Draft MWLP proposed to allocate 14 minerals sites. This compares to 20 sites proposed for allocation in the Draft MWLP. The reduction in allocated minerals sites was largely due to the amalgamation of sites M03b and M03d to form site M03c (the site previously referred to as M03c in the SA of the Draft MWLP was not allocated but

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was assessed as a reasonable alternative) and M05a-g to form site M05 (although site M05f was not allocated but was assessed as a reasonable alternative). The four preferred Areas of Search (A-D) remained the same in the Publication Draft MWLP as they were in the Draft MWLP. In addition, the Publication Draft MWLP proposed to allocate the same eight waste sites and nine Strategic Employment Areas that were allocated in the Draft MWLP.

5.13 No reasonable alternatives to the Main Modifications were identified by the Council or Inspectors; therefore, neither the 2021 SA Addendum of the Proposed Pre-Examination Main Modifications or the 2023 SA Addendum of the Final Main Modifications appraised any reasonable alternatives to the sites.

The evolution of preferred mineral and waste sites for allocation in the MWLP and their reasons for selection in light of other reasonable alternatives is detailed in **Appendix D** of the 2021 SA Report.

Chapter 6

How the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be monitored

6.1 The SEA Regulations require that the responsible authority shall set out “*the measures that are to be taken to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan or programme*” (Regulation 16(4)(f)).

6.2 Monitoring should be focused on the significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage (with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused) and the significant effects where there is uncertainty in the SA and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. Therefore, monitoring measures are proposed in relation to all of the SA objectives in the SA Framework for which likely (or uncertain) significant negative or positive effects have been identified from the MWLP.

6.3 Chapter 8 of the January 2021 SA Report set out a number of indicators for monitoring the potential significant environmental effects of implementing the Herefordshire MWLP. Where possible, the indicators were drawn from those in the monitoring framework presented in the Herefordshire MWLP. However, additional indicators were proposed where no relevant indicators were included in the Herefordshire MWLP (shown in italics).

6.4 In light of the Main Modifications to the Herefordshire MWLP, a review of the monitoring indicators was undertaken in June 2023. It was concluded that the Monitoring Framework presented in Chapter 8 of the 2021 SA Report remains valid and is therefore the final Monitoring Framework for the Herefordshire MWLP.

6.5 **Table 6.1:** overleaf shows the indicators recommended to be used by Herefordshire Council to monitor the potential significant environmental effects of implementing the Herefordshire MWLP.

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Table 6.1: Monitoring Framework for the Herefordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

SEA Objective	Monitoring indicators (those not in the Herefordshire MWLP shown in <i>italics</i>)
Healthy and Prosperous Communities	
3. Protect and improve the health of the people of Herefordshire and reduce disparities in health geographically and demographically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of new public access to outdoor spaces and impact on open spaces and rights of way. ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that were for operational ‘improvements’ to existing sites to mitigate adverse effects on public health and/or enhance local amenity.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused where concerns over public health acted as part of the reason for refusal.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning noise, hours of operations, traffic and lighting.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on cumulative impact grounds.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on more general health and amenity grounds.</i>
Transport and Access	
5. Reduce road traffic, congestion and pollution, and promote sustainable modes of transport and efficient movement patterns in the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of on-site transport methods and associated green infrastructure. ■ Record of materials and/or energy recovered and indication of final destination. ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on transport grounds.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste permissions that included non-road based transport.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning air pollution control.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste permissions that included one or more of the following highway conditions: restricted vehicle numbers; restricted tonnages; restricted routings; and highway mitigation measures – the need for wheel washing, lorry sheeting etc.</i> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Highways England.</i>
Built Environment	
6. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county’s historic environment and cultural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context. ■ <i>Number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on historic grounds.</i> ■ <i>Number and % of all consented minerals and waste applications that included conditions related to archaeology.</i> ■ <i>Number and % of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England).</i> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Historic England.</i>
7. Value, protect and enhance the character and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context.

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SEA Objective	Monitoring indicators (those not in the Herefordshire MWLP shown in <i>italics</i>)
built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste applications refused on townscape sensitivity/character grounds per annum.</i>
Resource Consumption and Climate Change	
10. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of on-site transport methods and associated green infrastructure. ■ Data from Economic Development Team to indicate circular economy type activity. ■ Record of materials and/or energy recovered and indication of final destination. ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste permissions that included non-road based transport.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning air pollution control.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications consented that include low carbon energy initiatives/sources.</i>
Environmental	
12. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity and geodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context. ■ <i>Number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on biodiversity and geodiversity grounds.</i> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Natural England.</i> ■ <i>Condition status of River Wye and River Lugg SAC/SSSIs (Natural England).</i>
13. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of reclamation achieved and associated green infrastructure, including those relevant to historic context. ■ <i>Number and % of minerals and waste applications refused in AONB.</i> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste applications refused on landscape sensitivity/character grounds per annum.</i> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Natural England.</i>
14. Value, protect and enhance the quality of watercourses and maximise the efficient use of water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of waste management practice(s) presented and water quality assessments of the River Wye and River Lugg. ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on water quality/safeguarding grounds.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning water pollution control.</i> ■ <i>Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of Natural England and/or Environment Agency.</i>
15. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused on flooding grounds.</i> ■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions to mitigate flood risk.</i>

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SEA Objective	Monitoring indicators (those not in the Herefordshire MWLP shown in <i>italics</i>)
being, the economy and the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste applications refused/consented in flood risk zones 2b and 3.</i>■ <i>Number of minerals and waste planning applications granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency.</i>
16. Minimise noise, light, and air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning noise, hours of operations, traffic and lighting.</i>■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals that included conditions concerning air pollution control.</i>
17. Value, protect and enhance soil quality and resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ <i>The number and % of minerals and waste approvals on Grade 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land.</i>

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