

# Environmental Report

Report for:

Woolhope Neighbourhood Area

November 2024



## **Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan – (November 2024)**

### **Environmental Report**

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## Non-technical summary

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an important part of the evidence base which underpins Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP), as it is a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental assets, including those whose importance transcends local, regional and national interests, are considered effectively in plan making.

Woolhope Parish Council has drafted their NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. Woolhope is a parish in south east Herefordshire, covering an area of 1620 hectares, the largest settlement is Woolhope located in the central area of the parish, to the west of this is the small hamlet of Aston Crews. The historic city of Hereford lies 7.5 miles north and the market town of Ledbury lies 8 miles west of the parish.

The draft Woolhope NDP includes 5 objectives which are intended to address a number of issues highlighted and it is intended that these objectives will be delivered by 9 planning criteria-based policies. No site allocations have been proposed in Woolhope, it is expected the 11 commitments and 6 completions along with windfall allowance of 13, will to meet the housing requirement of 30.

The environmental appraisal of the Woolhope NDP has been undertaken in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Stage A of the SEA process involved Scoping and Stage B provides a review and analysis of the NDP. Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report. Stage D will comprise of a formal consultation on both this and the Draft Plan itself.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening (August 2015) showed that a full HRA assessment was required. A separate report has been produced outlining this to accompany the draft Woolhope NDP.

On the whole, it is considered that the draft Woolhope NDP is in general conformity with both national planning policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and strategic policies set within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). The plan proposes a level of growth which reflects the proportionate growth that is prescribed by strategic policies. There are some revised wording changes suggested to strengthen or clarify some policies areas as a result of the SEA.

Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the effects of the policies within the Woolhope NDP will be monitored annually via the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.2 The Woolhope NDP provides general policies for guiding future development across the parish as a whole. Settlement boundaries have been defined for Woolhope. These are supported by proposed site allocation to meet proportional levels of growth in Policy RA2 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).

### Purpose of the SEA

- 1.3 SEA is a requirement of EC Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) which requires the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment to ensure that the proposals in that plan or programme contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.4 The Directive was transposed into domestic legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 which applies to plans with significant environmental effects.
- 1.5. The main objective of a SEA is *“to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development”*. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004). The assessment is looking at the positive and negative environmental issues that your plan might have on your local environmental assets.
- 1.5 A screening opinion was carried out on the Woolhope NDP and it concluded that due to the range of environmental designations in and around the parish, there may be significant environmental effects and consequently an SEA and HRA would be required.

### Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 The neighbourhood area comprises of the parish of Woolhope, with the primary settlement being the village of Woolhope. The parish lies around seven and a half miles south of Hereford and eight miles east of the market town of Ledbury. The western half of the parish lies within the Wye Valley AONB and has numerous areas of ancient woodland, special wildlife sites and SSSIs. The geography of the parish is dominated by the Woolhope Dome a rim of hills and folds. The ancient settlements are naturally defined as two separate settlements dating back to the Norman period. There are 43 listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments within the parish.
- 1.7 The majority of Woolhope village is within a conservation area and the parish has 53 entries on the National Heritage List for England, all being listed buildings other than the Churchyard cross at St Georges Church, this is a scheduled monument. The village of Woolhope has been identified as one 4.14 settlement within the Ross HMA.
- 1.8 The neighbourhood area boasts many natural features and cultural heritage assets, and lies just outside within the Wye Valley SAC. The village hosts a parish hall, sports fields and tennis courts, pubs and a parish church. The population of the parish consists of 486 with an average age 45 years.

1.9 The overall vision is contained within the draft neighbourhood plan is:

*By 2031 Woolhope village and the smaller settlements in the parish will have retained their separate characters and identities and will support strong community Spirit. The area's natural and built environment will have been protected and enhanced. Community facilities and assets will be valued, well-used and thriving; infrastructure will be meet community needs and our roads will be well maintained and safe.*

1.12 The Woolhope NDP has 5 objectives that underpin this vision and in the NDP;

**Objective 1 - Environment:**

To manage and protect the local environment, countryside and natural and built heritage assets.

**Objective 2 - Housing:**

To ensure the provision of sustainable, energy efficient housing in the Parish which is appropriately designed to meet the needs of all sectors of the community. This will include both private and affordable sectors. The scale, design and location of the dwellings should, as far as possible, reflect the character of the area and any new dwellings should be built to a high standard of design.

**Objective 3 - Roads and Traffic:**

To promote measures for pedestrian and cyclists' safety and ensure there is no detrimental impact on highway safety for all road users. Wherever possible the plan will encourage and support the use of public transport, and roads, paths, drains etc will be maintained in good condition.

**Objective 4 - Community Facilities:**

To protect and enhance existing community facilities and assets and support the introduction of new facilities and assets.

**Objective 5 Economy**

To support the sustainable development of existing local businesses and to support the development of new business opportunities in this sensitive rural location.

### **Context of Neighbourhood Plans**

1.13 NDPs are a planning document that form a key part of the Government's localism agenda. They enable local communities to develop plans that reflect local aspirations, in accordance with strategic policies.

1.14 The Woolhope NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). The draft plan will be sent to an independent examination which has to assess if the plan meets the basic conditions. Any modifications to the draft plan following examination will also need to be examined and are required to meet the basic conditions

1.15 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted on 16 October 2015.

- 1.16 Paragraph 48 of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance set out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans, including NDPs, and indicated that weight may be given to relevant policies in emerging NDPs according to:
- The stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
  - The extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
  - The degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 1.17 Table 4.14 and 4.15 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Woolhope as a main settlement for proportionate housing growth is the settlement which it considers to be sustainable locations for growth, which is the main focus of proportionate growth, in line with the Policy RA1 and RA2.
- 1.18 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council the draft NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the Parish, by setting out policies against which planning applications will be determined.

### **Structure of SEA**

- 1.19 The structure of the document is as follows:
- Section 2 – Explains the SEA methodology and summarises the comments received in respect of the SEA Scoping Report
  - Section 3 - Introduces the Neighbourhood Plan objectives and the SEA framework
  - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
  - Section 5 - Appraises the options considered within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
  - Section 6 – Appraises the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Plan against the SEA framework
  - Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the Neighbourhood Plan
  - Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

## **2.0 Methodology**

- 2.1 The SEA process comprised several stages which are summarised, in some detail, below.
- 2.2 Stage A involved 4 tasks and culminated in a Scoping Report:
- *Task A1:* Identified and reviewed relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources.
  - *Task A2:* Collected baseline information to provide a picture of past, present and likely future conditions within the area. This helped to establish indicators which will be used to monitor the effects and performance of the NDP.

- *Task A3:* Focused on the environmental issues identified from the baseline, highlighting key issues and problems within the neighbourhood area.
  - *Task A4:* Used the information gathered from Tasks A1- A3 to develop a set of SEA objectives, sometimes referred to as the 'sustainability framework'.
  - *Task A5:* Collated the results of Tasks A1-A4 within a Scoping Report, a document which was subject to a statutory 5 week consultation.
- 2.3 Stage B involved 4 tasks and assessed the effects of the NDP.
- *Task B1:* Tested NDP Objectives against the SEA Objectives
  - *Task B2:* Developed and refined the NDP policies and reasonable alternatives
  - *Task B3 / B4:* Predicted and evaluated the significant effects of the NDP
- 2.4 Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report. This report presents Information compiled during Stage B of the SEA process and constitutes the Draft Environmental Appraisal of the draft NDP. It accompanies the draft Plan during its formal Regulation 14 consultation with people who live, work and carry out businesses in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory bodies listed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 2.5 Producing an Environmental Report was, therefore, a legal requirement and the submission of this report to Herefordshire Council forms Stage D of the SEA process.

### Scoping Report Consultation

- 2.6 With regard to the SEA scoping assessments, documents A1 to A4 were completed by a Herefordshire Council Planning Officer and sent to the Parish Council for comment, in readiness for a 5 week consultation with statutory bodies, pursuant to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 2.7 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Woolhope SEA Scoping Report was available to four<sup>1</sup> statutory bodies for consultation from 5 May to 9 June 2016.

### Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

- 2.9 The consultation resulted in two responses, these are summarised below.

**Natural England:** No comment on the SEA scoping assessment

**Historic England:** No substantive concerns as to the contents of the document and consider the evidence base for the SEA, the identified key issues and the proposed SEA framework to be well thought out and fit for purpose. *Noted*

**Environment Agency:** No specific comment on SEA.

**Natural Resources Wales:** No comment.

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory consultation bodies: Natural England; English Heritage; Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales

### 3.0 The SEA Framework

3.1 As mentioned previously, Stage A of the SEA identifies and reviews relevant policies, Plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources (refer to Table A1 in Appendix 2 for details of those documents that were reviewed in completing Stage A of SEA on the Woolhope NDP).

3.2 The requirement to undertake this 'context review' is contained in Annexes 1(a) and (e) of the SEA Directive which states that an Environmental Report should include:

*"...an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes" and*

*"...the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation"*

#### Policy context

3.3 The draft reviewed Woolhope NDP will deliver the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at parish level by adding locally specific detail to strategic policies. As a consequence, the Scoping Report for the NDP was based on the context review Herefordshire Council undertook its Local Plan (Core Strategy).

3.4 The results of this assessment (context review) provide the source of the local baseline data and have been incorporated into the SEA framework. It should be noted that no list of policies, plans and programmes can ever be exhaustive and that Herefordshire Council has selected those considered to be of particular relevance to the planning system. New or revised plans and policies can emerge during the SEA process

3.5 The strategies and plans have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SA Framework objectives. These can be seen in Appendix 1 of the Woolhope Plan Scoping Report together with the implications for the SEA and NDP highlighted.

#### SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics

3.6 The SEA objectives that were used at Stages A and B of the process are listed in the following table.

SEA Objective	
1	To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
2	To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
3	To improve the quality of surroundings
4	To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage
5	To improve air quality
6	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment
7	To reduce contributions to climate change
8	To reduce vulnerability to climate change
9	To improve water quality



10	To provide for sustainable sources of water supply
11	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk
12	To conserve soil resources and quality
13	To minimise the production of waste
14	To improve the health of the population
15	To reduce crime and nuisance
16	To conserve natural and manmade resources

- 3.7 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan Core Strategy 2011- 2031.
- 3.8 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the draft NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics.
- 3.9 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issue within the Parish and which has an impact on the County as a whole, is water quality; the River Wye, though currently meeting all its conservation objectives, will require effective management, in order to ensure that the quality of water does not deteriorate to the point that nutrient targets are missed further downstream. The River Lugg hydrological catchment area is located several KMs in the north of the county and is not in close proximity to the parish. The Lugg is current not meeting its water quality targets and the Nutrient Management Plan is being revised to address this issue. This will be addressed further in the Habitat Regulation Assessment which is produced separate to this report.
- 3.10 Baseline characteristics within the SEA detail the current environmental status of environmental characteristics in the neighbourhood plan area from different sources. The source of Baseline Information used in Table A2 in Appendix 2, and analysed in Table B2 can be found in Appendix 4 Baseline characteristics in relation to the Woolhope Plan SEA objectives are listed below.
- 3.11 There are three objectives 13, 14, 15 for which there is no local baseline data available and therefore this provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from this data, this also means that there are no future trends to link the SEA objective too.

#### **4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives**

- 4.1 The objectives listed in the NDP seek to achieve the vision of the Woolhope NDP. There are a total of 5 objectives listed below.
- Ob1- Environment
  - Ob2- Housing
  - Ob3- Roads and Traffic
  - Ob4- Community Facilities
  - Ob5- Economy

- 4.2 The table in appendix 4 tests these draft NDP objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA.
- 4.3 The majority of those NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or further clarification is required to fully assess the effects.
- 4.4 Task B1 of the SEA identifies that the five NDP objectives were compatible with the SEA framework. Task B1 also requires objectives to be SMART assessed. These too were seen as compatible.
- 4.5 Overall within Stage B1 the majority of the NDP objective have met SEA objectives, and the rest had no relationship with the SEA objective or needed further information such as location of development.

## 5.0 Assessing the NDP Neighbourhood Plan Options

- 5.1 Following the review of the Woolhope NDP. The reasonable alternative options on the plan development were considered again. A do nothing option was considered, and to rely on the criteria policies within the Core Strategy. To produce an NDP, was the preferred option, as it allows the local community to provide tailored policies, this also included a site allocations and settlement boundary for Woolhope. The summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2a options these tables are in Appendix 4.
- Neighbourhood Plan General Option 1: Do nothing approach
  - Neighbourhood Plan General Option 2: Produce an NDP
  - Neighbourhood Plan General Option 3: Settlement Boundary, criteria only
  - Neighbourhood Plan General Option 4: Site Allocation
  - Neighbourhood Plan General Option 5: Criteria Based Policy
- 5.2 Upon proceeding with option 2 of doing a Neighbourhood Plan, consideration has been given to identifying land for new housing, however, the parish decided to continue with a criteria based plan allocating no sites.
- 5.3 The Parish Council considered the sensitive nature of Woolhope village, the local circumstances are such that neither housing allocations or the settlement boundary approach are considered appropriate and reliance will, therefore, they have placed the delivery emphasis on windfalls. This approach is considered to be in general conformity with the HLPCS and in line with the Core Strategy Policy RA1 and RA2 and demonstrates how the proportional growth target can be met.

## 6.0 Appraisal of the policies

- 6.1 The following policies have been assessed;

WNDP1-Landscape and biodiversity  
WNDP2- Protecting historic assets and settlement character  
WNDP3: New Housing development  
WNDP4: Replacement dwellings in the countryside  
WNDP5: Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellings and holiday use  
WNDP6: Promoting sustainable transport in new developments

WNDP7: Protecting existing community facilities and supporting investment in new and improved facilities

WNDP8: New agricultural buildings and polytunnels

WNDP9: Tourism and rural diversification

### **Stage B assessment of the draft policies**

- 6.3 In the context of Task B1 of SEA, the previous section of this report identified that many of the NDP objectives are compatible with the SEA framework, while others had either a neutral impact, no relationship with the SEA objectives or needed further information such as the location of the development. Additional policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy) would help mitigate any possible conflicts.
- 6.4 In regards to Task B2 of the SEA, the NDP policies were measured against both the SEA framework and the baseline characteristics identified during Stage A of the process; here, there was no baseline data available in respect of SEA Objectives 13,14 and 15. Some of the development policies had an uncertain effect on SEA objectives 9,10,11 and 12 where further details are required such as location and detail of schemes. This can be clarified and assessed at planning application stage. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 4.
- 6.5 The policies largely score as positive against the SEA objectives and will not, have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This can be largely attributed to the fact that all of the policies are criteria-based policies to improve and enhance the existing area, and will only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority.
- 6.6 There are some unknown factors, such as location and layout details of scheme. The assessment have shown that that the criteria policies of the draft NDP and Core Strategy policy LD2 and SD4 will ensure that the key environmental issues within the parish are addressed.
- 6.7 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, demonstrate that the cumulative impact over the time scale is generally positive. Although the development policies indicate that in the short term there may be a neutral or uncertain impact due to the development works that would be undergoing, but within the middle and long term the effects often turn positive due to the criteria in additional NDP policies that provide mitigation methods against the development. Therefore the majority of the policies will be balanced with sustainable policies to minimise environmental impact.
- 6.8 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and thus identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 5, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Woolhope NDP are by and large in general conformity with the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which means that the cumulative effect of the plan will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives.
- 6.9 None of the draft NDP policies are considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.

### **Stage D of the SEA**

- 6.10 The submission Woolhope NDP has been reviewed following the draft consultation. Changes were made to several policies and one policy removed; therefore, the following policies has been rescreened. These changes are as detailed below:
- Policy WNDP1: Additional wording to setting out expectation of development to preserve and enhance valued landscape, visual amenity, and biodiversity including those within the Wye Valey National Landscape.
  - Policy WNDP2: Addition of wording to 'Protect, conserve and where possible' historic assets and character and extension of this to Wye Valley National Landscape.
  - Policy WNDP3: Addition of wording requiring consideration of Woolhope Design Guidance and Codes.
  - Policy WNDP9: Additional Criteria (4) seeking proposals to include features that avoid water pollution.
- 6.12 The reassessment results can be seen in appendix 7 and demonstrate that the cumulative effect on the NDP to achieve the SEA objectives is overall positive.

## **7.0 Implementation and monitoring**

- 7.1 Herefordshire Council as the Local Planning Authority should make arrangements to monitor the significant effects of implementing a neighbourhood plan.
- 7.2 Indeed, Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires the Local Planning Authority to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of any NDP that was subject to SEA, in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions.
- 7.3 Accordingly, Herefordshire Council will monitor outcomes from the NDP policies and The results of these will be reported in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).
- 7.4 The AMR runs from 1 May to 31 March each year and the topics covered therein include the following:
- Housing delivery
  - Previously developed land
  - Housing completions
  - Affordable housing conditions
  - Employment land deliver

## **8.0 Next steps**

- 8.1 This report will be subject to a consultation of 8 weeks and will accompany the submission version of the Woolhope NDP.
- 8.2 Any responses will form part of the examination of the NDP.

# Appendix 1

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

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

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

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<b>Neighbourhood Area:</b>	Woolhope Neighbourhood Area
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Woolhope Parish Council
<b>Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:</b>	28/08/2015

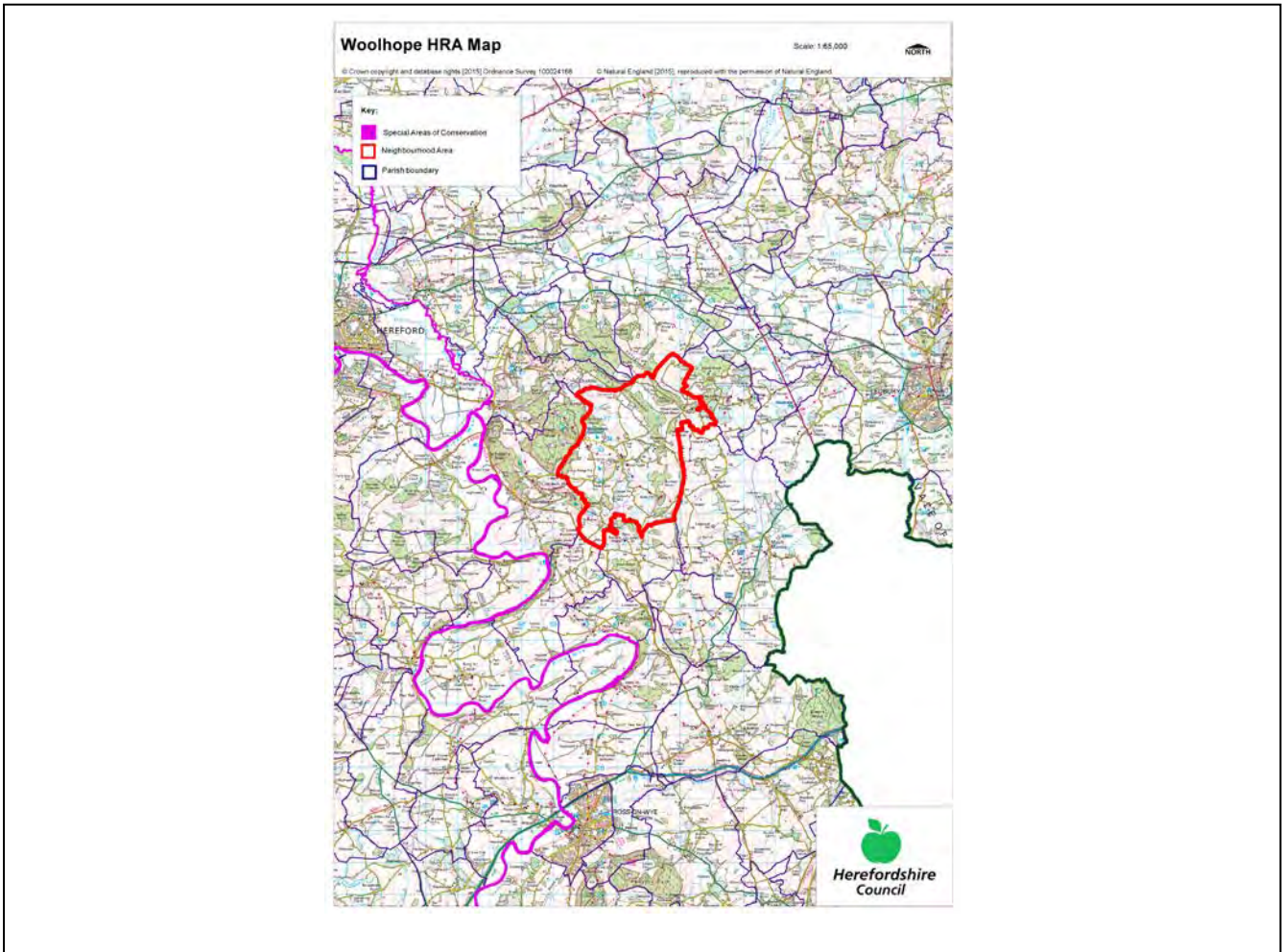
### **Introduction**

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

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

## HRA Initial Screening

Map showing relationship of Neighbourhood Area with European Sites (not to scale)



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

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye/Lugg is 1.25km away from the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Woolhope.

### Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 39.6km away from the Parish.
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**River Clun SAC:**

Does the River Clun border the Neighbourhood Area	N	River Clun does not border 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 13.8km 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 18.1km away from the Parish.
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**HRA Conclusion:**

The assessment above highlights that European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Woolhope 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 Woolhope Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Within Neighbourhood Area		Bordering Neighbourhood Area	
	Total number	Name(s)	Total number	Name(s)
Ancient Woodland	11	Sharpnage Wood; Nurdens Wood/Canwood Knoll; Park Coppice; Priggles Wood; Green Hill Coppice; Beans Butt Wood; Busland and Jones Wood; Knowle Wood; Siege Wood; Lea & Pagets Wood; The Grove.	12	Lyndalls & Wittlebury Wood; Rock Cottage Wood; Carey & Capler Woods; Nover Wood; Fownhope Park & West Wood; Dormington Wood; Swillow Wood; East Wood; Mains Wood; Priors Court Wood; The Pendlehopes; Fernhope Wood.
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	1	Wye Valley AONB.	0	-
Conservation Areas	1	Woolhope.	0	-
Flood Areas	Flood Zones 2 and 3 in the south of the Parish.			
Geoparks	0	-	0	-
Listed Buildings	There are numerous Listed Buildings within the Parish.			
Mineral Reserves	11	Perton Quarry to Sheepcote Hill to Woolhope Cockshoot; The Plantation to Devereux Park to Winslow Mill to Busland Wood to Sapness House; Green Hill Coppice to Hoppers Oak to Hoar	3	Limburies Wood and Joanshill Farm; Mangerdine, north east of Mordiford; Nover Wood.

		Wood to Newbury Lodge, Yatton; Sollars Hope to Whittlebury Farm to Foxhalls; Siege Wood to Round Wood, Sollars Hope; Pagets Wood, Fownhope to Lower Buckenhill to Sollars Hope; Mordiford to Fownhope to Lower Buckenhill; Woolhope to Sharpnage Wood; East of Mordiford to Fownhope; Haugh Wood Gate; Between Crooked Oak and Broadmoor Farm.		
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	-	0	-
Nature Trails	2	Wye Valley Walk; Three Choirs Walk.	1	Herefordshire Trail.
Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS)	0	-	0	-
Registered Parks and Gardens	0	-	0	-
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	1	Churchyard Cross in St Georges Churchyard.	7	Churchyard Cross in St Michaels Churchyard; Capler Camp; Moated site 360m north of Joanshill Farm; Cherry Hill Camp; Ethelberts Camp; Roman Villa east of The Rectory, Putley.
Sites of Importance in Nature Conservation (SINCs)	0	-	0	-
Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)	0	-	1	River Wye
Special Wildlife Sites (SWS)	14	Woodland along Canwood Knoll; Roadside verge near Bent Orchards; Fields at Woolhope Cockshoot; Roadside verge near Black House; Woodlands on the western slope of Marcle Hill; Woodlands along Marcle Hill and Ridge Hill;	13	Woodland along Seager Hill; Fields near Checkley Chapel; Checkley Common; Putley Common and surrounding woodland; Rushall Road Cutting; Lower Walton Road Cuttings;

		Tack Wood; Sutton Hill Wood; Lea, Pagets and Buckenhill Woods; Wessington Pasture; Haugh Wood and adjoining woodland; Sharpnage Wood; Broadmoor Common; Pentaloe Brook.			Lyndalls and Wittlebury Woods; Birch and Rattle Hill Woods; Woods along River Wye from Capler Camp; Woodlands and grasslands above Fownhope; Scutterdine Quarry; East Wood; Whitfield and Slade Coppices.	
Unregistered parks and gardens	2	Wessington Court; Devereux Park.		5	Putley Court; Hall Court, Kynaston; Fownhope Court; Brockhampton, by Ross; Old Sufton.	
			<b>SSSI Status</b>		<b>SSSI Status</b>	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	3	Orchid Bank, Winslow Mill; Sharpnage Wood;  Lea & Pagets Wood.	Favourable. Unfavourable Recovering. Favourable; Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable Declining.	10	Haugh Wood; River Wye;  Little Hill;  Scutterdine Quarry; Common Hill;  Cherry Hill Wood;  Birch Wood; Capler Wood; Mains Wood;  Woodshuts Wood.	Favourable. Unfavourable Recovering. Unfavourable No Change. Favourable. Favourable; Unfavourable Recovering; Unfavourable Declining. Unfavourable Recovering. Favourable. Favourable. Unfavourable Declining. Unfavourable Recovering.

**Decision Notification:**

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

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

**Assessment date: 07/08/2015**

**Assessed by: James Latham**

## Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

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

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

### Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:  
Woodland habitat buffer.

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

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

### Wye Valley Woodlands

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

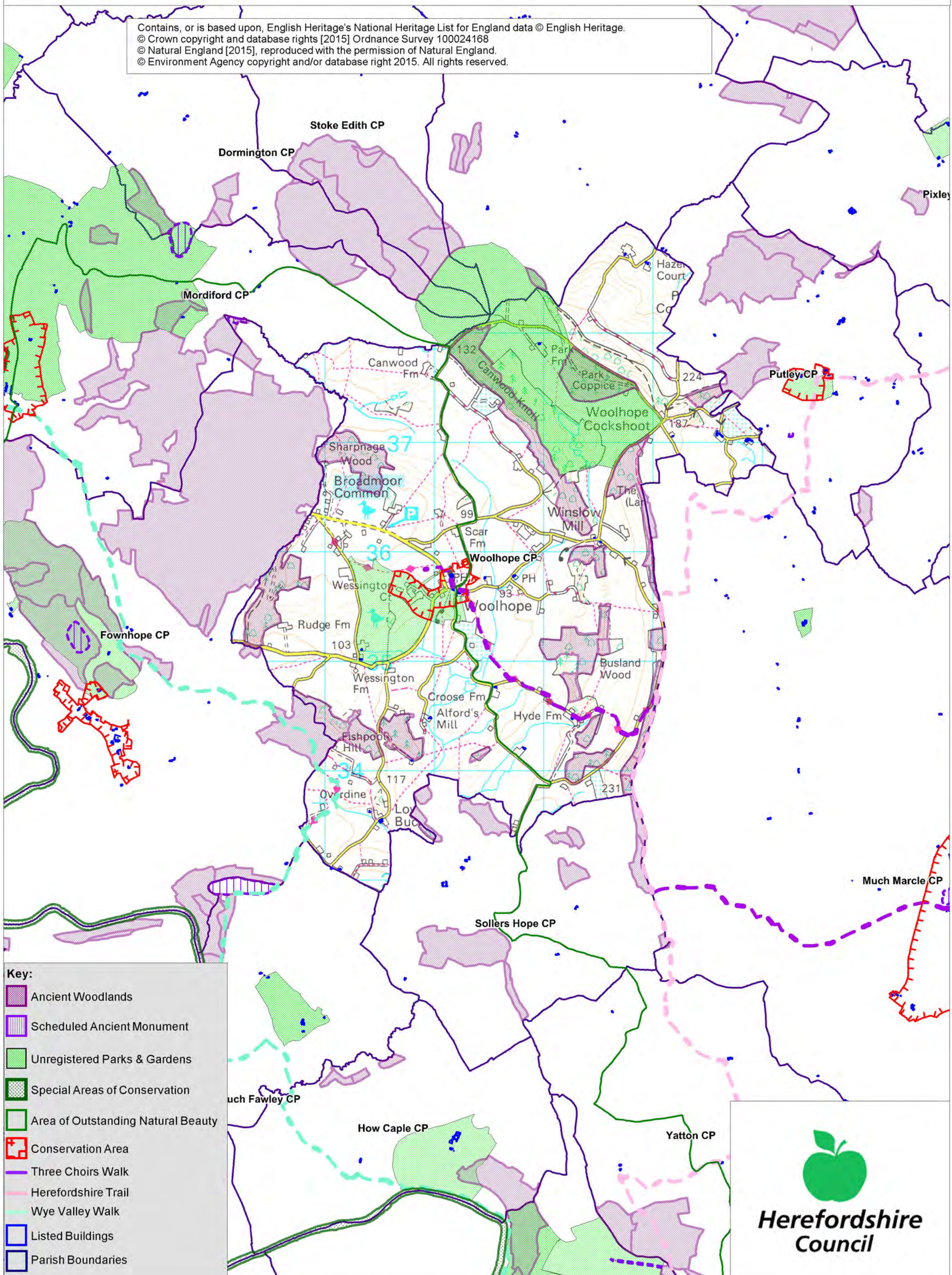
**Vulnerability data:** Lesser Horseshoe bats are known to migrate between 5km and 10km between their summer and winter roosts. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Check with the planning ecologist for other issues. NDPs closest to the European Site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

# Woolhope SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:30,000



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**Key:**

- Ancient Woodlands
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Unregistered Parks & Gardens
- Special Areas of Conservation
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Conservation Area
- Three Choirs Walk
- Herefordshire Trail
- Wye Valley Walk
- Listed Buildings
- Parish Boundaries

**Herefordshire Council**

# Woolhope SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:30,000



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**Key:**

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Minerals Sites
- Special Wildlife Sites
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Parish Boundaries

**Herefordshire  
Council**



# Appendix 2

# Strategic Environmental Assessment



## Woolhope Neighbourhood Area

**Scoping Report**

April 2016

## Consultation on the Scoping Report

The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- Ensure the SEA is both comprehensive and sufficiently robust to support the Neighbourhood Development Plan during the later stages of full public consultation;
- Seek advice on the completeness of the plan review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate;
- Seek advice on the suitability of key sustainability issues;
- Seek advice on the suitability of the sustainability objectives.

Comments on this Scoping Report have been invited from the three consultation bodies as required by the SEA regulations, together with Natural Resources Wales.

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

1. Natural England;
2. Historic England;
3. Environment Agency.



## Template A1: Identification and review of local Neighbourhood Area relevant plans, policies and programmes

**Parish Council Name:** Woolhope.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan Name:** Woolhope Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Date completed:** April 2016

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	European Union Legislation	2010	These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.	The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework Directive	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

<sup>1</sup> Derived from the LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

<b>Plans and Programmes</b>	<b>Type of document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Key message, target/objective/indicator</b>	<b>SEA topic(s)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Implications for the NDP and SEA</b>
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Domestic Legislation	1981	The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.	The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)	Domestic Legislation	2000	Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs.	<p>The Act provides for a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising: Mountain (land over 600 metres); Moorland; Heath; Downland; Registered common land.</p> <p>There are provisions to consider extending the right in the future to coastal land, but not woodland despite some early publicity suggesting this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Domestic Legislation	2006	Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering	Provides that any public body or statutory undertaker in England and Wales must have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of their functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Soil</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			Government policy.			
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	European Union Strategy	2009	Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.	Recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy making. The Strategy sets overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges, predominantly environmental: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change and clean energy;</li> <li>• Sustainable transport</li> <li>• Sustainable production and consumption;</li> <li>• Public health threats;</li> <li>• Better management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Social inclusion, demography and migration;</li> <li>• Fighting global poverty.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	The Neighbourhood Plan should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	National Strategy	2011	Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.	Sets out to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> </ul>	The NDP should take account of the provisions of the strategy, making the most of opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats or restore degraded ecosystems in the process.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National planning policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> </ul>	The NDP should take into account the planning guidance provided within these



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			operation of the planning system.		and the landscape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	documents.
Herefordshire Core Strategy, (adopted) 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2015	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	Outlines the emerging suite of countywide planning policies relating to housing, economic development and the environment, which the NDP will need to be in conformity with where relevant.  The Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five of which directly relate to rural areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within in the Core Strategy.  Where necessary, the NDP should provide services, facilities and employment opportunities that are accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.  Woolhope is listed in the Core Strategy table 4.14

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve access to services in rural areas</li> <li>• To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands</li> <li>• To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment</li> <li>• To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community.</li> </ul> <p>To achieve a thriving rural Herefordshire, the Core Strategy seeks to enhance the role the villages have traditionally played in as accessible, sustainable centres for their rural catchments.</p> <p>Woolhope is within the Ross on Wye Housing Market</p>		<p>and lies within the Ross on Wye LHMA. This means the NDP should take into consideration the criteria set within Policy RA1 and RA2.</p> <p>The neighbourhood plan should allocate a minimum of 30 dwellings within Woolhope.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				Area (HMA) and so the target for proportionate growth is 14% across the parish.		
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015	Corporate	2013	Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.	The document includes three key objectives, one which seeks to maintain access for rural residents and people without access to a car. Intrinsic to this is the retention of a 'core network' of bus services which focus on journeys between Hereford and the market towns, along with main transport corridors close to larger rural settlements. To this end, the strategy aims to increase the number of bus users by 1.3% (4,700 journeys) by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Understanding Herefordshire Report	Built and natural environment	2014	<p>Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life</p> <p>Enable development for economy and housing to required levels.</p> <p>Growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.</p>	An air quality management plan is in place to tackle this. Destination Hereford project is in place to give locals more sustainable transport options.	<p>Improve air quality.</p> <p>Have a more diverse range of transport options.</p>	None identified.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2015-2019	Corporate	2015	Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan Area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.
Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2015-2020	Corporate	2015	The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.	Sets out a range of objectives which seek to reconcile the competing interests of the environment, the ecology and the social and economic well-being of the AONB.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan Area is within the Wye Valley AONB.</p> <p>Therefore the NDP will need to take into account the Wye Valley AONB management plan priorities.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016	Corporate	2011	Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.	<p>The document outlines the path and direction to foster economic vitality within Herefordshire. Key objectives therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining business survival and growth</li> <li>• Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs</li> <li>• Having a skilled population to meet future work needs</li> <li>• Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Employment Land Study	Evidence	2012	Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.	<p>This study covers existing employment sites in Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>There are no employment land allocations within Woolhope at present and so the study does not identify sites which are worthy of continued protection from alternative uses. Nor does it make any recommendations in respect of employment need within the neighbourhood area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	None of merit; however the Woolhope NDP process may have to explore whether there is any employment need locally and if so whether there is any scope for providing employment land and premises.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Evidence	2015	<p>The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development</li> <li>Assessing sites for their housing potential; and</li> <li>Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woolhope NDP area is within the Ross on Wye HMA and is allocated under Policy RA1 and should take into consideration the criteria set within this policy</li> <li>There needs to be proportional growth of 14% in Woolhope across the parish (Ross on Wye HMA) over the plan period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climate factors</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Population and human health</li> <li>Soil</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	<p>The SHLAA assesses the potential availability of land for housing in Woolhope.</p> <p>One site (land adjacent to the stone barn) has been identified in the SHLAA of medium suitability. Potential timescale is 6-10 years with a potential capacity of 10 dwellings on a site area of 0.92 ha.</p>



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)	Evidence	2013	Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.	<p>The LHMA uses 7 HMAs as the geography for presenting data. Woolhope falls within the Ross-on-Wye HMA.</p> <p>Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 55% of households are unable to afford market housing.</li> <li>• There is an annual requirement for 58 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017.</li> </ul> <p>The study identifies that, in rural parts of the Ross on Wye HMA between 2011-2031, there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 690 market houses</li> <li>• 490 affordable houses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climatic factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Population</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Ross HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study	Evidence	2012	Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.	<p>The delivery of 5,300 homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support growth in the rural population by 6%</li> <li>• Increase the number of households by 14.5%</li> </ul> <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75.</p> <p>Moderate growth is expected in the 30-44 and 60-74 age brackets.</p> <p>The Local Housing Requirements Study therefore anticipates continuing improvements in life expectancy; significant growth is expected of those in their 80s, with the existing population in their 40s and 50s moving into retirement. As a consequence, the rural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Ross on Wye.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Woolhope NDP, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				areas will face an increasing urgency to provide more 3 bedroom homes, with more 1 and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.		
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	The village of Woolhope is classified as an RA1 settlement, which means it is considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 14% across the parish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Woolhope NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Core Strategy Policy RA1.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment	Evidence	2013	Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.	<p>Key findings from the survey of Gypsy and Traveller households in 2012 found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need</li> <li>• Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch</li> <li>• 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing</li> <li>• There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The Woolhope NDP must establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and make appropriate provisions for it.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Evidence	2007	Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.	Integrating biodiversity objectives with other environmental, social and economic needs can provide a sustainable living and working environment that benefits both people and nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> </ul>	The NDP can help to achieve the LBAP priorities.
Building Biodiversity into the LDF	Evidence	2009	Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.	This document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air</li> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Climate factors</li> <li>Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>Flora and fauna</li> <li>Material assets</li> <li>Population and human health</li> <li>Soil</li> <li>Water</li> </ul>	There is a lack of information about rural areas which means it will be necessary to gather and assess existing biodiversity and geodiversity data, in order to ensure that the Woolhope NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Evidence	2010	Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.	Establishes policies and principles for the protection and enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Woolhope NDP.
Renewable Energy Study	Evidence	2010	Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	<p>The total energy demand excluding transport for Herefordshire, at that point in time, was calculated as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical: 731 GWh/yr</li> <li>• Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr</li> <li>• Total: 2,541 GWh/yr</li> </ul> <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Soil</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Woolhope NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment	Evidence	2012	Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.	<p>The study updates components of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2010 such as updating population forecasts, setting local standards for synthetic turf pitches and grass playing fields within Herefordshire. It identifies any current gaps in provision, and looks forward to 2031 to assess what facilities are likely to be required by that date.</p> <p>In terms of Woolhope parish itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.84 ha of playing pitch area (Berryfields Playing fields)</li> </ul> <p>100% of playing pitch area has secured community access. Rated excellent for football and cricket.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	<p>The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Woolhope NDP.</p> <p>Additional local evidence may be required to identify if there is a need for any secured playing pitch facilities within the Group Parish.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Open Spaces Study	Evidence	2006	The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snap shot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.	<p>The study reveals that within the Ross area, to which the Old Gore Ward is a part, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive under provision of parks and gardens</li> <li>• Extensive over provision of natural and semi-natural green space</li> <li>• Extensive under provision of amenity green space and outdoor sport</li> <li>• Average provision for children and young people.</li> <li>• Extensive under provision of outdoor sports facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	<p>Woolhope has play facilities within Berry field, and has been indented as a local amenity space.</p> <p>There may be a need to include a policy within the NDP which encourages and facilitates the provision of outdoor recreational facilities.</p>



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Play Facilities Study	Evidence	2012	The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.	In terms of Woolhope itself has Berry field playing area. Priority is rated as low, there are further facilities at Fownhope. Identifies no local need and is an average condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and the landscape</li> <li>• Flora and fauna</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> </ul>	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Woolhope NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) <sup>1</sup>	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study	Evidence	2009	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development.</p> <p>The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>The neighbourhood area is situated in the River Wye catchment.</p> <p>Sub-catchments within the Sollers Brook catchment zone has a 25-35% SPR (standard percentage runoff). This means it is potentially neutral for infiltration source control.</p> <p>The area has a moderately rapid response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 5-7 hours.</p> <p>The WCS identifies 30 sites in the River Wye catchment where current discharge consent licences cannot be shown to have no adverse effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Climate factors</li> <li>• Material assets</li> <li>• Population and human health</li> <li>• Water</li> </ul>	<p>New development proposed through the Woolhope NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure.</p> <p>Up-to-date flood risk information should be gathered from the Environment Agency, in order to ensure that any flood risks are considered when preparing the Woolhope NDP.</p>

**Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Woolhope**

*N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Woolhope (in red). Where no locally specific data is available for current status, trends and targets, only countywide data is reported. Any gaps in data may be filled following additional research.*

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</i>							
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition.</p> <p><b>Within Woolhope there is 3 SSSI's, Orchid Bank, Winslow Mill; Unfavourable Recovering. Sharpnage Wood; Favourable; Favourable. Unfavourable</b></p>	<p>2006: 22%</p> <p>2007: 22%</p> <p>2008: 22%</p> <p>2010: 24 %</p> <p>Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%.</p> <p>Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p>	<p>Herefordshire's SSSIs are in extremely poor condition relative to England as whole, where 96.1% of all SSSI land was in favourable condition in April 2014.</p> <p>The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.</p>	<p>Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).</p> <p>NE &amp; DEFRA Website June 2015</p>

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
			Recovering; Lea & Pagets Wood. Unfavourable Declining.				
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	Percentage of opportunities taken	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.	The Woolhope Neighbourhood Area, falls inside the River Wye (including Lugg) hydrological catchment of the SAC. This area is classed as the Lower River Lugg sub Catchment for the purposes of the Nutrient Management Plan. The River Lugg section of the SAC is currently exceeding phosphate targets.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Nutrient Management Plan

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire.</p> <p>2013/14: 16 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire.</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p>	<p>There are no formal records of any unacceptable adverse impacts on habitats or protected species.</p> <p>Originally 156 Priority Species were identified for inclusion in Herefordshire's LBAP.</p> <p>Similarly Herefordshire's LBAP covered 23 habitats with Action Plans.</p>	<p>To protect and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified.</p> <p>No net losses.</p>	<p>Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.</p>	<p>Herefordshire Council AMR (2013/14)</p>

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	<p>Woolhope Parish has:</p> <p>SSSI: 3 SWS: 14</p> <p>There are no SACs, NNRs and SINCs within the parish.</p>	As of 2012, there had been no change in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of the planning permissions granted.	To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	Herefordshire Council Initial Screening Report for the Neighbourhood Plan 2015
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	The Parish Area of Woolhope has the following landscape types: Wooded forest, principle wooded hills, wooded hills and farmlands and a small section to the east of unenclosed commons.	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2004 updated 2009)

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objectives: <i>Material assets</i>							
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are numerous listed buildings and 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument in Woolhope according to the latest version of the register.	-	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register (search April 2016).



SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	Historic Landscape Character assessments have only been undertaken for Hereford City.  Rapid townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Hereford.  Rapid townscape Assessments (2010)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Population, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>							
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design standards.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
15. Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning aspects of local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings particularly within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets and locally important buildings within Woolhope at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched April 2016)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate change.	Transport patronage by mode	<p>% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by:</p> <p>Car: 70.1% Foot: 14.7% Bicycle: 4.3% Bus: 2% Train: 0.8% Motorbike: 0.8% Taxi: 0.3% Other: 7%</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present</i></p>	The number of people cycling or travelling by bus as the main form transport to get to work declined between 2001 and 2011 – across England and Wales there was little change in either. Walking or driving a car or van on the other hand increased.	To encourage the take up of lesser polluting modes of transport.	There are a lack of transport options for many rural communities and therefore high car ownership and dependency – the last decade has seen a 15 per cent increase in household car ownership, although this is not reflected in traffic flows of recent years with volumes in Hereford City and wider county having decreased. The proportion of people working from home increased over the decade from 15 per cent in 2001 to 17 per cent in 2011.	2011 Census

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate change.	Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	To contribute towards the national target.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate	Total CO2 emissions per capita	<p>Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO<sub>2</sub>)</p> <p>There is no locally specific data available at present.</p>	<p>Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. This trend hides an increase in emissions between 2009 and 2010 when total emissions in the county increased by 5% the same as across the UK (+5%).</p>	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.	CO <sub>2</sub> emissions produced are decreasing.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water</i>							
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	Natural environment	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	2010/11: None 2011/13: Not specified 2013/14: None <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.	None identified.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2013/14)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water, air, soil, material assets</i>							
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Agricultural land usage by quality . LA to monitor the number of hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and higher) lost to development.	<b>The agricultural land classification around Woolhope is predominantly Grade 3 and 4 ('Good to poor'). There is also a small area of non-agricultural land in the middle of the parish. Grade 2 ('Very Good') falls east of the parish.</b>	-	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	DEFRA 'Magic' website for land classification 2016

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive	Latest figures for the county as a whole dates back to 2005 when there was considered to be 84% assessed as good or very good. This represents a decrease in the % since 2002  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Figure steadily improved before going into decline:  Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8%	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.	None identified.	The State of Herefordshire (2007)  Water Framework Directive (2000)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Soil</i>							
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	2010/11: 67% 2011-13: 57% 2013-14: 65%  <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Completions on PDL had risen to 71% by 2005.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.	The number of brownfield completions has fallen slightly in recent years, though this is probably the offshoot of tough market conditions.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11),(2011-2013) and (2013-2014)

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Housing densities in urban and rural areas	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Level of development in urban areas compared to rural.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>  This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							



SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England).	Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. However, this data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  There are numerous listed buildings within the parish, one SAM and one Conservation Area . None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.	There were 72 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register 2014.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	None of Woolhopes listed buildings or SAMs are considered to be at risk at present.	Buildings at Risk Register (Historic England; search April 2016)

SA Objective <sup>1</sup>	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, including conservation areas, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings within the parish and particularly within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.  There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning local loss of heritage assets locally important buildings within Woolhope.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the Woolhope NDP area.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched April 2016)

**Appendix A3** – Environmental issues identified from the Woolhope baseline

These environmental issues are the same as most of those identified for the Herefordshire Core Strategy<sup>1</sup>

SEA Topic		Environmental issue	SA objectives
1	Air	High reliance upon the private car causing high levels of air pollution and in Hereford in particular	Objective 16
		Need to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging alternative modes of travel.	
2	Biodiversity	Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from the adaptation and diversification of farming and forestry employment.	Objectives 13 &15
		Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from development	
		Minimise loss of biodiversity and expand opportunities for wildlife everywhere.	
3	Climatic factors	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning, design and build.	Objective 16
4	Cultural heritage	Woolhope has numerous listed buildings and 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument Churchyard Cross at ST Georges Churchyard, all of which require ongoing protection and many in need of high levels of maintenance. Woolhope has got 1 conservation area.	Objective 20
5	Flora and fauna	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of historic landscapes, including all types of natural flora and fauna.	Objective 15
6	Material assets	How the countryside can continue to be managed in an economically, socially and environmentally beneficial way in the face of continuing pressures on traditional farming.	Objectives 14 & 18
7	Population	Minimise energy waste through good designs, which help to reduce energy consumption and maximise efficiency.	Objective 15
		Need to avoid enforcement investigations/action concerning locally important buildings and those within conservation areas in particular.	
8	Soil	Promoting development of previously developed land and buildings as opposed to greenfield sites or agricultural land of the highest quality.	Objectives 18 & 19
9	Water	Issues relating to availability of resources, foul drainage, pollution, and abstraction in a county which supports water dependent biodiversity of international and national importance, given the predicted climate change consequences for water availability and demanding projections for new housing.	Objectives 17 & 18
		Steady decline in the chemical quality of rivers over the last 10 years.	

## Appendix A4: SEA Framework

### SEA Scoping Stage A, Task A4 - SEA Framework SEA Objectives, Indicators, Targets

Parish Council Name: Woolhope

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: April 2016

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Nature Conservation (Biodiversity, flora and fauna)	Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.  Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance.</li> <li>Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species.</li> <li>Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces.</li> <li>Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value.</li> <li>Create new appropriate habitats.</li> <li>Value, enhance and protect natural</li> </ul>	<p>Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.</p> <p>After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation</p> <p>Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase)</p> <p>% of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)</p> <p>Percentage of opportunities taken</p> <p>To protect and where possible enhance the habitats of protected species identified.</p> <p>No net losses</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management</li> <li>• Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</li> <li>• Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.</li> </ul>		
Landscape	Not covered in SA	<p>To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>To improve quality of surroundings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect and enhance the landscape everywhere and particularly in designated areas</li> <li>• Value and protect diversity and local</li> </ul>	<p>Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.</p> <p>Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being</p>	<p>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>distinctiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside</li> <li>• Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space</li> <li>• Improve satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as places to live</li> <li>• Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside</li> <li>• Result in the loss of open space</li> </ul>	<p>implemented.</p> <p>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Area resulting in a loss of open space as a result of planning permission</p>	<p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified</p>
Heritage	Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and culture heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve, protect and enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features in both urban and rural settings.</li> <li>• Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design</li> </ul>	<p>The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.</p> <p>Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).</p> <p>Ensure that Herefordshire Council's Sites and Monuments Register is</p>	<p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>To improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>to its setting or to its function or local area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place.</li> <li>• Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area.</li> </ul>	kept up to date.	

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Air and Climate	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.</p>	<p>To improve air quality</p> <p>To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses.</li> <li>Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</li> <li>Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources.</li> <li>Increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including by micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation.</li> </ul>	<p>Transport patronage by mode</p> <p>Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.</p> <p>Total CO2 emissions per capita</p>	<p>To increase the take up of alternative modes to the private car.</p> <p>To contribute towards the national target.</p> <p>To reduce the overall carbon emissions.</p>



SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
Water	<p>Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	<p>To improve water quality</p> <p>To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change.</li> <li>• Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems.</li> <li>• Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate.</li> <li>• Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>• Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.</p> <p>Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality</p> <p>Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.</p>	<p>To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.</p> <p>To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality as set out in the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>To meet the targets set out in the Nutrient Management Plan (2014)</p>
Soil	<p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and</p>	<p>To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land.</li> <li>• Ensure new developments</li> </ul>	<p>Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.</p> <p>Amount of land identified as best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.</p>	<p>To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	balanced land use.		are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel.		
Population and Human Health	Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	To improve health of the population  To reduce crime and nuisance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings.</li> <li>Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management.</li> <li>Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised.</li> <li>Promote the use of</li> </ul>	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users.		
Material Assets	<p>Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.</p> <p>Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.</p>	To conserve natural and manmade resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels.</li> <li>• Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials.</li> <li>• Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build.</li> <li>• Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques.</li> </ul>	<p>The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.</p> <p>Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.</p> <p>Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.</p> <p>Agricultural land usage by quality</p>	<p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development. No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.</p>

# Appendix 3



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Mr James Latham  
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Neighbourhood Planning & Strategic Planning  
Planning Services, PO Box 230, Blueschool House  
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HR1 2ZB

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00021489

6 June 2016

Dear Mr Latham

**CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS  
IN: Aymestrey; Longtown Group; Stretton Grandison Group and Woolhope.**

Thank you for your e-mail and the invitation to comment on the SEA Scoping Reports for the Neighbourhood Plans listed above. We have no substantive objection to the contents of the documents. However, having considered the above Neighbourhood Plans please note that overall our comments and recommendations to you in relation to these remain substantively the same as those which we communicated to you in our letter of the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2014 in response to the first tranche of SEA Scoping Reports. We urge you to refer back to and consider these representations before finalizing the reports in relation to the above Neighbourhood Plans also.

The SEA Frameworks sections of the SEA's submitted are generally commendable in their approach of including references to historic landscape and townscape quality, the maintenance of the Herefordshire SMR and conservation and wherever possible enhancement of locally significant heritage assets. We also particularly commend the treatment of "Heritage at Risk" and the commitment to put measures in place to assist in the removal of heritage assets from the register, also the commitment to encourage the retention and re-use of existing buildings.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Boland  
Historic Places Advisor  
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk

cc:



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Telephone 0121 625 6870  
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Date: 07 June 2016  
Our ref: 185033  
Your ref: None



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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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Dear Mr Latham

**Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening for:**

**Aymestrey  
Longtown Group  
Stretton Grandison  
Woolhope**

Thank you for your consultation which was received by Natural England on 05 May 2016.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**SEA scoping report**

Natural England generally welcomes the SEA scoping reports for the Aymestrey, Longtown Group, Stretton Grandison and Woolhope Neighbourhood Development Plans and considers that the methodology and baseline information used to inform the reports appears to meet the requirements of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and associated guidance.

We have no specific comments to make but refer you to the attached annex which covers the issues and opportunities relevant to neighbourhood plans which may be helpful to you.

**Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening**

Aymestrey

We note that a full HRA screening is required due to the proximity to the River Wye SAC and Downton Gorge SAC.

Longtown Group

We note that a full HRA screening is not required as there are no European sites in close proximity and the Neighbourhood area is not within the catchment for the River Wye.

Stretton Grandison

Woolhope

We note that a full HRA screening is required due to the proximity to the River Wye SAC.



We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Tom Reynolds on 020 802 61050. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Tom Reynolds  
Planning Adviser  
Sustainable Development  
South Mercia

# Annex 1 - Neighbourhood planning and the natural environment: information, issues and opportunities

## Natural environment information sources

The [Magic](#)<sup>1</sup> website will provide you with much of the nationally held natural environment data for your plan area. The most relevant layers for you to consider are: **Agricultural Land Classification, Ancient Woodland, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Local Nature Reserves, National Parks (England), National Trails, Priority Habitat Inventory, public rights of way (on the Ordnance Survey base map) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (including their impact risk zones)**. Local environmental record centres may hold a range of additional information on the natural environment. A list of local record centres is available [here](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**Priority habitats** are those habitats of particular importance for nature conservation, and the list of them can be found [here](#)<sup>3</sup>. Most of these will be mapped either as **Sites of Special Scientific Interest**, on the Magic website or as **Local Wildlife Sites**. Your local planning authority should be able to supply you with the locations of Local Wildlife Sites.

**National Character Areas** (NCAs) divide England into 159 distinct natural areas. Each character area is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and cultural and economic activity. NCA profiles contain descriptions of the area and statements of environmental opportunity, which may be useful to inform proposals in your plan. NCA information can be found [here](#)<sup>4</sup>.

There may also be a local **landscape character assessment** covering your area. This is a tool to help understand the character and local distinctiveness of the landscape and identify the features that give it a sense of place. It can help to inform, plan and manage change in the area. Your local planning authority should be able to help you access these if you can't find them online.

If your neighbourhood planning area is within or adjacent to a **National Park** or **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB), the relevant National Park/AONB Management Plan for the area will set out useful information about the protected landscape. You can access the plans on from the relevant National Park Authority or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty website.

General mapped information on **soil types** and **Agricultural Land Classification** is available (under 'landscape') on the [Magic](#)<sup>5</sup> website and also from the [LandIS website](#)<sup>6</sup>, which contains more information about obtaining soil data.

## Natural environment issues to consider

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#)<sup>7</sup> sets out national planning policy on protecting and enhancing the natural environment. [Planning Practice Guidance](#)<sup>8</sup> sets out supporting guidance.

Your local planning authority should be able to provide you with further advice on the potential impacts of your plan or order on the natural environment and the need for any environmental assessments.

### Landscape

<sup>1</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nbn-nfbr.org.uk/nfbr.php>

<sup>3</sup> <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-character-area-profiles-data-for-local-decision-making>

<sup>5</sup> <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.landis.org.uk/index.cfm>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>8</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/natural-environment/>



Your plans or orders may present opportunities to protect and enhance locally valued landscapes. You may want to consider identifying distinctive local landscape features or characteristics such as ponds, woodland or dry stone walls and think about how any new development proposals can respect and enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness.

If you are proposing development within or close to a protected landscape (National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) or other sensitive location, we recommend that you carry out a landscape assessment of the proposal. Landscape assessments can help you to choose the most appropriate sites for development and help to avoid or minimise impacts of development on the landscape through careful siting, design and landscaping.

### Wildlife habitats

Some proposals can have adverse impacts on designated wildlife sites or other priority habitats (listed [here](#)<sup>9</sup>), such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or [Ancient woodland](#)<sup>10</sup>. If there are likely to be any adverse impacts you'll need to think about how such impacts can be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for.

### Priority and protected species

You'll also want to consider whether any proposals might affect priority species (listed [here](#)<sup>11</sup>) or protected species. To help you do this, Natural England has produced advice [here](#)<sup>12</sup> to help understand the impact of particular developments on protected species.

### Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services for society. It is a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, a store for carbon and water, a reservoir of biodiversity and a buffer against pollution. If you are proposing development, you should seek to use areas of poorer quality agricultural land in preference to that of a higher quality in line with National Planning Policy Framework para 112. For more information, see our publication [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#)<sup>13</sup>.

## **Improving your natural environment**

Your plan or order can offer exciting opportunities to enhance your local environment. If you are setting out policies on new development or proposing sites for development, you may wish to consider identifying what environmental features you want to be retained or enhanced or new features you would like to see created as part of any new development. Examples might include:

- Providing a new footpath through the new development to link into existing rights of way.
- Restoring a neglected hedgerow.
- Creating a new pond as an attractive feature on the site.
- Planting trees characteristic to the local area to make a positive contribution to the local landscape.
- Using native plants in landscaping schemes for better nectar and seed sources for bees and birds.
- Incorporating swift boxes or bat boxes into the design of new buildings.
- Think about how lighting can be best managed to encourage wildlife.
- Adding a green roof to new buildings.

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<sup>9</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

<sup>11</sup><http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>

<sup>12</sup><https://www.gov.uk/protected-species-and-sites-how-to-review-planning-proposals>

<sup>13</sup><http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

You may also want to consider enhancing your local area in other ways, for example by:

- Setting out in your plan how you would like to implement elements of a wider Green Infrastructure Strategy (if one exists) in your community.
- Assessing needs for accessible greenspace and setting out proposals to address any deficiencies or enhance provision.
- Identifying green areas of particular importance for special protection through Local Green Space designation (see [Planning Practice Guidance on this](#) <sup>14</sup>).
- Managing existing (and new) public spaces to be more wildlife friendly (e.g. by sowing wild flower strips in less used parts of parks, changing hedge cutting timings and frequency).
- Planting additional street trees.
- Identifying any improvements to the existing public right of way network, e.g. cutting back hedges, improving the surface, clearing litter or installing kissing gates) or extending the network to create missing links.
- Restoring neglected environmental features (e.g. coppicing a prominent hedge that is in poor condition, or clearing away an eyesore).

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<sup>14</sup> <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space/local-green-space-designation/>

# Appendix 4

## **Woolhope Options**

Neighbourhood Plan General Option 1: Do nothing approach

Neighbourhood Plan General Option 2: Produce an NDP

Neighbourhood Plan General Option 3: Settlement Boundary, criteria only

Neighbourhood Plan General Option 4: Site Allocation

Neighbourhood Plan General Option 5: Criteria Based Policy

# Appendix 5

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Stage B1-: Objectives assessed against SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)**

The following matrix appraises the emerging Woolhope NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.
<b>SMART criteria:</b>
<p><b>S – Specific:</b> NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations</p> <p><b>M – Measurable:</b> It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.</p> <p><b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b> NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed</p> <p><b>R – Realistic:</b> NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.</p> <p><b>T – Time-Bound:</b> Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.</p>

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Stage B1-Assessment outcome</b>
<b>Very positive- Compatible with sea objective.</b>
<b>Positive- Compatible with sea objective.</b>
<b>Conflict- Negative effect/ conflict with sea objective.</b>
<b>Neutral-Neutral effect on sea objective.</b>
<b>No relationship between objectives- No link with sea objective.</b>
<b>Uncertain- Uncertain impact on sea objective, more information needed.</b>

<b>SEA Objectives:</b>	6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	12- To conserve soil resources and quality
1-To maintain and enhance nature conservation	7- To reduce contributions to climate change	13- To minimise the production of waste
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change	14- To improve health of the population
3- To improve quality of surroundings	9- To improve water quality	15- To reduce crime and nuisance
4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment to provide for heritage	10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	16- To conserve natural and manmade resources
5- To improve air quality	11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	

**OB1 Environment:** To manage and protect the local environment, countryside and natural and built heritage assets.

**SEA Objectives**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive		No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Conclusions-** This objective is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives. This objective ensures new development does not have a detrimental impact on heritage assets and the local environment.

**Recommendations-** None

**SMART Test of NDP Objective-** This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.

**After Smart Objective-** No change.

**OB2 Housing:** To ensure the provision of sustainable, energy efficient housing in the Parish which is appropriately designed to meet the needs of all sectors of the community. This will include both private and affordable sectors. The scale, design and location of the dwellings should, as far as possible, reflect the character of the area and any new dwellings should be built to a high standard of design.

**SEA Objectives**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Conclusions-** This objective is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives. This objective promotes energy-efficient housing to meet all of the needs of the community ensuring houses are designed in keeping with its surroundings.

**Recommendations-** None

**SMART Test of NDP Objective-** This objective meets all of the SMART Objectives.

**After Smart Objective-** No change.

**OB3 Roads and Traffic** To promote measures for pedestrian and cyclists' safety and ensure there is no detrimental impact on highway safety for all road users. Wherever possible the plan will encourage and support the use of public transport, and roads, paths, drains etc will be maintained in good condition.

**SEA Objectives**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Conclusions-** This objective is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives. This objective sets out measures for pedestrian and cyclist safety and encourage people to use public transport.

**Recommendations-** None

**SMART Test of NDP Objective-** This objective meets all of the SMART Objectives.

**After Smart Objective-** No change.

**OB4 Community Facilities:** To protect and enhance existing community facilities and assets and support the introduction of new facilities and assets.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Conclusions-** This objective is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives. This objective aims to protect and enhance existing community facilities and support new facilities for the community.

**Recommendations-** None

**SMART Test of NDP Objective-** This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.

**After Smart Objective-** No change.

**OB5 Economy:** To support the sustainable development of existing local businesses and to support the development of new business opportunities in this sensitive rural location.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Neutral	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Conclusions-** This objective is compatible with the relevant SEA objectives. This policy strives to support sustainable development and development of new businesses in Woolhope.

**Recommendations-** None

**SMART Test of NDP Objective-** This objective is specific and measurable via the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR). It will be attainable, achievable and realistic.

**After Smart Objective-** No change.



The following matrix appraises the emerging modified Woolhope NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

**S – Specific:**  
NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations

**M – Measurable:**  
It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.

**A – Attainable/achievable:**  
NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed

**R – Realistic:**  
NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.

**T – Time-Bound:**  
Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.

<b>SEA Stage B1: Assessment outcome</b>
<b>Very positive: Compatible with sea objective.</b>
<b>Positive: Compatible with sea objective.</b>
<b>Conflict: Negative effect/ conflict with sea objective.</b>
<b>Neutral: Neutral effect on sea objective.</b>
<b>No relationship between objectives: No link with sea objective.</b>
<b>Uncertain: Uncertain impact on sea objective, more information needed.</b>

<p><b>SEA Objectives:</b></p> <p>1-To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p> <p>2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>3- To improve quality of surroundings</p> <p>4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage</p> <p>5- To improve air quality</p> <p>6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p>	<p>7- To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p> <p>9- To improve water quality</p> <p>10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p> <p>12- To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>13- To minimise the production of waste</p> <p>14- To improve health of the population</p> <p>15- To reduce crime and nuisance</p>	<p>16- To conserve natural and manmade resources</p>
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**Neighbourhood Plan General Option 1: Do nothing approach**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link	No link				No link

Do nothing option is essential not to produce a neighbourhood plan and rely on the criteria policies within the Core Strategy to guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parishes would not exist until a review of the Core Strategy was undertaken. All developments would need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and policies met the SEA objectives.

**Neighbourhood Plan General Option 2: Produce an NDP**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive				positive

This option allows the local community to provide local tailored policies to cover all aspects of planning. Policy could be included to ensure a positive safeguard to the baseline. This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan General Option 3: Settlement Boundary, criteria only**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive				positive

A settlement boundary will have more certainty as the other options as it is proactive in terms of growth proposals setting a clear line of what constitutes the settlement, and will be a clear guide for development. Criteria can also be added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline. This option has a positive impact on the SEA objectives. This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan General Option 4: Site Allocation**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Very positive	Very positive	Very positive	Very positive	Very positive	positive	Very positive	Very positive	Very positive	positive	Very positive	positive				Very positive

The allocation of sites would give certainty to the location of future growth. Additional criteria can be added to the policy criteria to ensure that the proposal has a positive effect on the baseline. Any site would need to be assessed prior to allocation to ensure that it had a positive effect overall on the baseline. This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA

**Neighbourhood Plan General Option 5: Criteria Based Policy**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
positive	positive	No link	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive	positive				positive

Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as site allocations as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However, provided criteria is added to the policy to safeguard or mitigate against any harm, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives. This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

Woolhope NDP - D2: Develop and Refinement of NDP Policies (November 2024)

<p>The following matrix appraises the emerging Woolhope NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.</p>
<p><b>SMART criteria:</b></p>
<p><b>S – Specific:</b> NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations</p> <p><b>M – Measurable:</b> It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.</p> <p><b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b> NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed</p> <p><b>R – Realistic:</b> NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.</p> <p><b>T – Time-Bound:</b> Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.</p>

<b>Very positive: Compatible with sea objective.</b>		
<b>Positive: Compatible with sea objective.</b>		
<b>Conflict: Negative effect/ conflict with sea objective.</b>		
<b>Neutral: Neutral effect on sea objective.</b>		
<b>No relationship between objectives: No link with sea objective.</b>		
<b>Uncertain: Uncertain impact on sea objective, more information needed.</b>		
<p><b>SEA Objectives:</b></p> <p>1-To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p> <p>2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>3- To improve quality of surroundings</p> <p>4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage</p> <p>5- To improve air quality</p>	<p>6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>7- To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p> <p>9- To improve water quality</p> <p>10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p> <p>12- To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>13- To minimise the production of waste</p>	<p>14- To improve health of the population</p> <p>15- To reduce crime and nuisance</p> <p>16- To conserve natural and manmade resources</p>

Woolhope NDP - D2: Develop and Refinement of NDP Policies (November 2024)

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP1 Landscape and biodiversity**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive				Positive

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This ensure that development will respect the surrounding landscape character and rich biodiversity of Woolhope. The policy has been amended to strengthen conservation, protection and enhancement of the special character and qualities of the Wye Valley National Landscape strengthening outcome of cumulative effect to more positive.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, this policy aim is to protect and enhance the landscape and biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Area.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP2 Protecting historic assets and settlement character**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This ensures development proposals do not have a detrimental impact on heritage assets, setting, and character of Woolhope. Minor amendment has been made to reference the protection and conservation of Wye Valley National Landscape as a result strengthening the positive effect of policy.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, the policy’s aim is to conserve the historic environment of the Neighbourhood Area. It will safeguard heritage assets and preserve and enhance the appearance of the Woolhope Conservation Area.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

Woolhope NDP - D2: Develop and Refinement of NDP Policies (November 2024)

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WND3: New housing development**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. The policy is seeking to ensure development delivers houses that reflect local needs, provide adequate infrastructure and is located within or on the edge of the built form. The policy has been amended to include reference to the Woolhope Design Guide which gives further guidance to developers and changes the outcome of cumulative effect to 'very positive' on objectives 2, 3 and 4.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

This policy conforms to the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Overall, the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, as it will promote high quality, sustainable developments that is in keeping with its surroundings. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and policy safeguards exist with the Core Strategy and to avoid and mitigate against significant harm.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP9: Tourism and rural diversification**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Positive

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy and has mainly a positive and neutral impact on the baseline data. This supports proposals that strengthen tourism and agricultural diversification. This policy has been made to include an additional criteria requiring development proposals to incorporate feature that avoid water pollution. The effect on objectives 9 and 16 are as a result changed from neutral to positive.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, this policy meets the SEA baseline.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.



**Key:**

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Stage B1- Assessment outcome</b>
<b>Very compatible-Very positive effect</b>
<b>Compatible –Positive effect</b>
<b>Conflict- Negative effect</b>
<b>Neutral-Neutral effect</b>
<b>No relationship between objectives- No link</b>
<b>Uncertain- more information needed</b>

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP1-Landscape and biodiversity**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Positive	Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6ncertain – 10 years)</b>															
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive



**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations.**

Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, as it ensures development will respect the surrounding landscape character as criteria, setting out design criteria for new development. This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements. This policy acts as a safeguarding too for the built and natural environment in the parish and has a positive impact in the short, medium and long term.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP2- Protecting historic assets and settlement character**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6 – 10 years)</b>															
Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data in the short, medium and long term, the policy’s aim is to conserve the historic environment of the Neighbourhood Area. It will safeguard heritage assets and preserve and enhance the appearance of the Woolhope Conservation Area.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP3 River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Very positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral															
Very positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Very positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This policy sets out criteria for new development, to ensure this would not have a detrimental effect on the River Wye SAC and for development to be nutrient neutral. This policy has a positive and neutral effect on the SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term basis

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WND4: New Housing development**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This policy sets out high quality design criteria for new development, including low-carbon technology housing mix and tenure. And live work units. This policy has a mostly positive effect on the SEA objectives in the short, medium and long-term basis.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP5: Replacement dwellings in the countryside**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy has a positive impact on the baseline data. This policy has a mostly positive and neutral effect on the SEA objectives in the short, medium and long-term basis.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP 6: Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellings and holiday use**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6 – 10 years)</b>															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data in the short, medium and long term. This policy sets out criteria for change of use of agricultural buildings to holiday cottages in the countryside to ensure it is appropriate and in keeping with the built and natural environment.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP7: Promoting sustainable transport in new developments**

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6 – 10 years)</b>															
Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

Long term (11 years +)															
Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy and has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data in the short, medium and long term promoting sustainable modes of transport and encouraging ev infrastructure and road are design in conformity with national and local guidance.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP8: Protecting existing community facilities and supporting investment in new and improved facilities**

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Short term (1 – 5 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Medium term (6 – 10 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Long term (11 years +)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data in the short, medium and long term. This lists community facilities in Woolhope to be protected and enhanced. This policy also sets out criteria for new facilities where appropriate.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP9: New agricultural buildings and polytunnels**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy and has mainly a positive and neutral impact on the baseline data. The policy sets out new agricultural buildings and polytunnel criteria to ensure they do not have a detrimental impact on landscape and amenity. Also ensure design included in the schemes are efficient and minimal impact n water courses and ecology. Sets out criteria for developments to support local economy and provide local jobs. Overall it has a positive and neutral impact on the SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP10: Tourism and rural diversification**

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6 – 10 years)</b>															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy and has mainly a positive and uncertain impact on the baseline data. This supports proposals that strengthen tourism and agricultural diversification. Overall it has a positive and neutral impact on the SEA objectives in the short, medium and long term.



**Key:**

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
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The following matrix appraises the emerging Woolhope NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

**SMART criteria:**

**S – Specific:**

NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations

**M – Measurable:**

It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.

**A – Attainable/achievable:**

NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed

**R – Realistic:**

NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.

**T – Time-Bound:**

Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Stage B1-Assessment outcome**

**Very positive- Compatible with sea objective.**

**Positive- Compatible with sea objective.**

**Conflict- Negative effect/ conflict with sea objective.**

**Neutral-Neutral effect on sea objective.**

**No relationship between objectives- No link with sea objective.**

**Uncertain- Uncertain impact on sea objective, more information needed.**

<p><b>SEA Objectives:</b></p> <p>1-To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p> <p>2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>3- To improve quality of surroundings</p> <p>4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment</p> <p>5- To improve air quality</p>	<p>6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>7- To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p> <p>9- To improve water quality</p> <p>10- To provide sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p>	<p>12- To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>13- To minimise the production of waste</p> <p>14- To improve health of the population</p> <p>15- To reduce crime and nuisance</p> <p>16- To conserve natural and manmade resources</p>
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### Neighbourhood Plan Objectives and Policies

**OB1 Environment:** To manage and protect the local environment, countryside and natural and built heritage assets.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive		No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**OB2 Housing:** To ensure the provision of sustainable, energy efficient housing in the Parish which is appropriately designed to meet the needs of all sectors of the community. This will include both private and affordable sectors. The scale, design and location of the dwellings should, as far as possible, reflect the character of the area and any new dwellings should be built to a high standard of design.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**OB3 Roads and Traffic** To promote measures for pedestrian and cyclists' safety and ensure there is no detrimental impact on highway safety for all road users. Wherever possible the plan will encourage and support the use of public transport, and roads, paths, drains etc will be maintained in good condition.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**OB4 Community Facilities:** To protect and enhance existing community facilities and assets and support the introduction of new facilities and assets.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**OB5 Economy:** To support the sustainable development of existing local businesses and to support the development of new business opportunities in this sensitive rural location.

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Neutral	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Neutral

## Policies

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP1-Landscape and biodiversity**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP2- Protecting historic assets and settlement character**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP3: River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Very positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very positive	Positive	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WND4: New Housing development**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP5: Replacement dwellings in the countryside**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP6: Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellings and holiday use**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP7: Promoting sustainable transport in new developments**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP8: Protecting existing community facilities and supporting investment in new and improved facilities**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP9: New agricultural buildings and polytunnels**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy WNDP10: Tourism and rural diversification**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Neutral

## Summary

### Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective

Overall the Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan policies and objectives have a positive towards the SEA baseline data. They are in general conformity with the Core Strategy. All of the policies and objectives meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)** Overall the Neighbourhood Plan policies and objectives have a positive impact towards the SEA baseline data. And are in general conformity with the Core Strategy Overall all of the policies and objectives meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA. Policies and objectives strive to preserve and maintain natural and built historic environment that can help mitigate impact from the housing and settlement boundary policies. This plan ensures appropriate sized development is developed within an identified settlement boundary.

**Commentary for significant cumulative effects** Overall this has had a positive effect on the SEA baseline data. Overall the unknown areas require further detail such as location, scale and size of development, therefore are likely to be determined at planning application/ proposal stage. No overall significant cumulative effects for the policies or objectives have been identified.

# Appendix 6

# Summary of consultation responses to Woolhope Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 SEA

Consultation date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Consultation title: Woolhope Neighbourhood Development Plan Regulation 14

*N.B. This consultation feedback is only for comments received on the SEA of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan*

## **Consultee and any comments received:**

- Natural England – No specific comments on plan.
- Historic England – Supportive of content and approach taken. Expressed that the NDP did not reference the Woolhope Design Guide and recommended that this be rectified.
- Environment Agency – No specific comment on SEA (See HRA feedback form for comments on HRA).
- Natural Resources Wales – No comments received
- Welsh Water - Woolhope Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) does have the capacity to accommodate the residual requirement of 13 units, if indeed the developments wish to connect to the public sewerage network

## **Responses to comments:**

Comments received are noted.



# Appendix 7

<p>The following matrix appraises the emerging Woolhope NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives. These have been developed from Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.</p>
<p><b>SMART criteria:</b></p>
<p><b>S – Specific:</b> NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations.</p> <p><b>M – Measurable:</b> It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.</p> <p><b>A – Attainable/achievable:</b> NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed.</p> <p><b>R – Realistic:</b> NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.</p> <p><b>T – Time-Bound:</b> Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified timeframe. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.</p>

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Stage B1: Assessment outcome</b>
<b>Very positive: Compatible with sea objective.</b>
<b>Positive: Compatible with sea objective.</b>
<b>Conflict: Negative effect/ conflict with sea objective.</b>
<b>Neutral: Neutral effect on sea objective.</b>
<b>No relationship between objectives: No link with sea objective.</b>
<b>Uncertain: Uncertain impact on sea objective, more information needed.</b>

<p><b>SEA Objectives:</b></p> <p>1-To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)</p> <p>2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes</p> <p>3- To improve quality of surroundings</p> <p>4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage</p>
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<p>5- To improve air quality</p> <p>6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment</p> <p>7- To reduce contributions to climate change</p> <p>8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change</p> <p>9- To improve water quality</p> <p>10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply</p> <p>11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk</p>
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<p>12- To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>13- To minimise the production of waste</p> <p>14- To improve health of the population</p> <p>15- To reduce crime and nuisance</p> <p>16- To conserve natural and manmade resources</p>
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**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP1 Landscape and biodiversity**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive				Positive

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall, this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This ensure that development will respect the surrounding landscape character and rich biodiversity of Woolhope. The policy has been amended to strengthen conservation, protection and enhancement of the special character and qualities of the Wye Valley National Landscape strengthening outcome of cumulative effect to more positive.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, this policy aim is to protect and enhance the landscape and biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Area.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP2 Protecting historic assets and settlement character.**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall, this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This ensures development proposals do not have a detrimental impact on heritage assets, setting, and character of Woolhope. Minor amendment has been made to reference the protection and conservation of Wye Valley National Landscape as a result strengthening the positive effect of policy.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, the policy's aim is to conserve the historic environment of the Neighbourhood Area. It will safeguard heritage assets and preserve and enhance the appearance of the Woolhope Conservation Area.

Woolhope NDP - D2: Develop and Refinement of NDP Policies (November 2024)

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WND3 New housing development**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall, this policy has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. The policy is seeking to ensure development delivers houses that reflect local needs, provide adequate infrastructure and is located within or on the edge of the built form. The policy has been amended to include reference to the Woolhope Design Guide which gives further guidance to developers and changes the outcome of cumulative effect to 'very positive' on objectives 2, 3 and 4.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

This policy conforms to the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Overall, the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data, as it will promote high quality, sustainable developments that is in keeping with its surroundings. The policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and policy safeguards exist with the Core Strategy and to avoid and mitigate against significant harm.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP9 Tourism and rural diversification**

SEA Objectives															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Positive

**Summary in relation to baseline**

Overall, this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy and has mainly a positive impact on the baseline data. This supports proposals that strengthen tourism and agricultural diversification. This policy has been made to include an additional criteria requiring development proposals to incorporate feature that avoid water pollution. The effect on objectives 9 and 16 are as a result changed from neutral to positive.

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, this policy meets the SEA baseline.

**Conformity with Core Strategy**

## Woolhope NDP - D2: Develop and Refinement of NDP Policies (November 2024)

This policy meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

**Key:**

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - Assessment outcome</b>
<b>Very compatible-Very positive effect</b>
<b>Compatible –Positive effect</b>
<b>Conflict- Negative effect</b>
<b>Neutral-Neutral effect</b>
<b>No relationship between objectives- No link</b>
<b>Uncertain- more information needed</b>

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP1 Landscape and biodiversity**

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term</b> (1 – 5 years)															
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term</b> (6 – 10 years)															
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive				Positive

<b>SEA Objectives Assessment of effect</b> (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term</b> (11 years +)															

Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Very Positive				Positive
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**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations.**

Overall, this policy has a very positive impact on all the baseline objectives, its aim is to ensure that distinctive landscape of the parishes is protected and enhanced.

The addition of additional criteria emphasising need to protect the character of the Wye Valley National Landscape alters the outcome of the cumulative effects, to more positive over all time periods.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP2 Protecting historic assets and settlement character**

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6 – 10 years)</b>															
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No link	No link	Positive	Positive				Positive

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, this policy has a very positive impact on majority of objectives, its aim is to ensure the conservation of the character of Woolhope.

Minor amendment has been made to reference the protection and conservation of Wye Valley National Landscape as a result strengthening the positive effect of policy over all time periods.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WND3 New housing development**

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Short term (1 – 5 years)</b>															
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Medium term (6 – 10 years)</b>															
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>Long term (11 years +)</b>															
Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Very Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Positive	Positive				Neutral

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, this policy has a very positive impact on baseline objectives, its aim is to ensure that development delivers houses that reflect local needs, provide adequate infrastructure and is located within or on the edge of the built form.

The policy has been amended to include reference to the Woolhope Design Guide which gives further guidance to developers and changes the outcome of cumulative effect to ‘very positive’ on objectives 2, 3 and 4 over all time periods.

**Neighbourhood Plan Policy: WNDP9 Tourism and rural diversification**

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16



Short term (1 – 5 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Positive

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Medium term (6 – 10 years)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Very Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Very Positive

SEA Objectives Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Long term (11 years +)															
Neutral	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Neutral	Very Positive	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral				Very Positive

**Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations**

Overall, this policy has a positive impact on most of the baseline objectives, its aim is to support proposals that create sustainable tourism opportunities to encourage rural diversification.

The addition of additional criteria requiring development proposals to incorporate feature that avoid water pollution changes the outcome of the effect on objectives 9 and 16 from neutral to positive in the short term and very positive over the medium-long term.

# Appendix 8

<b>Objectives and context</b>	<b>Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.</li> <li>• The Neighbourhood Area's environmental issues and constraints, including acknowledgement of those in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) SA, where relevant, and local environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets.</li> <li>• SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate.</li> <li>• Links with other locally related plans, programmes and policies are identified, explained and acknowledgement for those set out in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant.</li> <li>• Conflicts that exist between SEA objectives; between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 1.6 – 1.12</p> <p>Chapter 2 methodology, chapter 3 and tables A2 and A3</p> <p>Chapter 3 paragraph 3.6 - 3.11</p> <p>Chapter 3, paragraph 3.7</p> <p>Chapter 3 and Chapter 4</p>
<p><b>Scoping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report.</li> <li>• The assessment focuses on significant issues.</li> <li>• Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 2, paragraphs 2.6 - 2.9</p> <p>Chapter 2 and chapter 4</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>

<b>Objectives and context</b>	<b>Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration.</li> </ul>	Chapter 2, chapter 4 and chapter 5
<p><b>Alternatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.</li> <li>• Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.</li> <li>• The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.</li> <li>• Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.</li> <li>• Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Paragraph 5.1</p> <p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5</p> <p>Chapter 5</p>
<p><b>Baseline information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant aspects of the current state of the local, neighbourhood area environment and their likely evolution without the Neighbourhood Development Plan are described. Acknowledgement to the information in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant.</li> <li>• Environmental characteristics of the local, neighbourhood area, likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the designated neighbourhood area, where it is likely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> <li>• Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 1, Chapter 3</p> <p>Initial screening report and Chapter 1</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>

<b>Objectives and context</b>	<b>Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA</b>
<p><b>Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; and other local likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate.</li> <li>• Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.</li> <li>• Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable.</li> <li>• Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable.</li> <li>• The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base).</li> <li>• Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.</li> </ul>	<p>Tables A2, A3 and A4</p> <p>Tables B2 and B3, D2 and D3</p> <p>Table B4</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 5, chapter 6</p> <p>Chapter 2</p>
<p><b>Mitigation measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated.</li> <li>• Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 6, paragraph 6.3 – 6.9</p> <p>Chapter 6</p>
<p><b>The Environmental Report</b></p>	

<b>Objectives and context</b>	<b>Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.</li> <li>• Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.</li> <li>• Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Explains the methodology used.</li> <li>• Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.</li> <li>• Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion.</li> <li>• Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the Neighbourhood Development Plan resulting from the SEA.</li> </ul>	<p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>Chapter 2, Paragraph 2.1 – 2.5</p> <p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Page 1 / Paragraph 1.8 / Chapter 6</p>
<p><b>Consultation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> <li>• Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the Neighbourhood Development Plan are consulted in ways and at times, which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and Environmental Report.</li> </ul>	<p>Paragraph 2.6-2.9</p> <p>Chapter 8</p>
<p><b>Decision-making and information on the decision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 8</p>

<b>Objectives and context</b>	<b>Where are the points covered in Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA</b>
<p>into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.</li> <li>• Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 6</p> <p>Following consultation</p>
<p><b>Monitoring measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures proposed for monitoring the Neighbourhood Development Plan are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA.</li> <li>• Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA.</li> <li>• Acknowledgement that monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) And that</li> <li>• Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p> <p>Chapter 7</p>