

Environmental Report



Dorstone Neighbourhood Area

May 2016

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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.

Dorstone Parish Council has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. Dorstone parish lies at the north western end of the Golden Valley, 15 miles south west of Hereford and 6 miles east of Hay-on-Wye. The main village area centres on a village green, overlooked by the old school (now the village hall) and the Pandy Pub. Population density is much lower than average at 0.2 persons per hectare and the total population at 2011 was 401.

The rest of the parish consists of a number of hill farms with larger farms working the valley area. There are a number of smaller settlements within the parish, notable The Bage in the west, Crossways in the north and Llanafon on the east. These are linked by the B4348 (the main road) through the village.

The Draft Dorstone NDP includes 8 objectives, which are designed to deliver the overarching vision on the ground, and it is intended that these objectives will be supported by 11 criteria based planning policies; no site allocations are proposed here. Alternative options were considered prior to reaching a decision over the format of the draft plan.

The environmental appraisal of the Dorstone 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 provided a review and analysis of the NDP. Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report and Stage D comprises a formal consultation on both this and the Draft Plan itself.

Following the draft Plan and Environmental Report consultation, 7 policies were amended. Three of these amendments were to include reference to the River Wye SAC hydrological catchment, the others were minor amendments and points of clarification. These amendments have been reassessed.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has been carried out as the Parish falls within the hydrological catchment for the River Wye, which is a European site (Special Area of Conservation). The HRA assesses the potential effects of the NDP on the River Wye SAC.

On the whole, it is considered that the Dorstone 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). Nor does it propose any growth that would be over and above that prescribed by strategic policies. Therefore no changes to the NDP are recommended as a result of the SEA.

Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the effects of the policies within the Dorstone 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 Dorstone Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Dorstone NDP does not propose any site allocations. Dorstone village is highlighted for proportional levels of growth in Policy RA2 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). The NDP will, however, provide general policies for guiding future development across the parish as a whole.

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 and which applies to plans with significant environmental effects.
- 1.5. A screening opinion was carried out on the Dorstone 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 would be required.

Parish Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 Dorstone parish lies at the north western end of the Golden Valley, 15 miles south west of Hereford and 6 miles east of Hay-on-Wye. The main village area centres on a village green, overlooked by the old school (now the village hall) and the Pandy Pub. Population density is much lower than average at 0.2 persons per hectare and the total population at 2011 was 401.
- 1.7 The rest of the parish consists of a number of hill farms with larger farms working the valley area. There are a number of smaller settlements within the parish, notable The Bage in the west, Crossways in the north and Llanafon on the east. These are linked by the B4348 (the main road) through the village.
- 1.8 The parish has conservation area, 10 special wildlife sites, 1 (part of) National Nature Reserve Registered Park and Garden, 7 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, 2 Sites of Scientific Interest.
- 1.9 The vision for Dorstone in 2031 is set out in a detailed Vision Statement.¹ Dorstone parish is a small community that recognises that modest change and limited growth can help to meet the aspirations and the way of life of all those living in it. By 2031 this will mean Dorstone parish will be;
- An attractive place to live that caters for the needs of all age groups from young to old
 - An area where managed housing growth has been delivered and meets the needs of local people
 - An area which promotes and encourages successful farming and small businesses, an environment where young members of the community can seek employment and remain in the parish
 - An area where local facilities and services have been enhanced and are well maintained
 - A sustainable environment preserving the built and natural landscape and providing a peaceful and enjoyable way of life
 - A vibrant community which can influence the future of their area and looks after its members whilst being welcoming to new residents and visitors.

1.10 The 8 NDP objectives which underpin this vision are:

- 1) To enable managed housing growth within the parish which meets the needs of local people that is appropriately designed and is located to ensure protection of the special character of the area
- 2) To promote Dorstone parish as a location which promotes successful farming and small businesses and to encourage an environment in which young members of the community can seek employment and remain in the parish
- 3) To welcome visitors and promote sustainable green tourism through support for small scale tourism developments, provision of improved signage / cycle paths and the provision of improved bed and breakfast catering.
- 4) To improve broadband and mobile phone coverage across the entire parish to assist local businesses and residents
- 5) To ensure that development in Dorstone makes a significant contribution towards the transition to a low carbon economy by reducing energy consumption and its impact on the environment.
- 6) To preserve and enhance the areas landscape features, important wildlife areas, its heritage and history. This will ensure that these aspects are protected for future generations to enjoy, for wildlife habitats to thrive and will help encourage appropriate opportunities for leisure, tourism and development.
- 7) To ensure that development proposals take full account of the potential for flooding through alleviation measures so that new development does not exacerbate the likelihood of flooding on surrounding land.
- 8) To encourage and enhance the use of all community facilities in order that they continue to thrive and cater for the needs of all age groups.

Context of Neighbourhood Plans

- 1.11 NDPs are a relatively new type of 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.
- 1.12 The Dorstone NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.13 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted in mid-October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 216 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).
- 1.15 This part of the NPPF is reinforced by Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014, which is clear that an emerging NDP may be a material planning consideration once it has

completed submission/local authorities publication stage (Regulation 16). This is reinforced by recent ministerial statements and case law (West Sussex), all of which have demonstrated that an emerging NDP may be a material consideration at the Regulation 16 stage.

- 1.16 Table 4.14 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists Dorstone among the settlements which it considers to be sustainable locations for proportional growth in line with the provisions of Policy RA2. This policy is expected to facilitate the delivery of 5,300 homes across the areas outside Hereford and the Market Towns in accordance with Policy RA1 and it anticipates that NDPs will be the principle mechanism for delivering growth in the rural areas.
- 1.18 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Dorstone 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 Dorstone NDP objectives and the SEA framework
 - Section 4 - Appraises the objectives set within the NDP against the SEA framework
 - Section 5 - Appraises the options set within the NDP against the SEA framework
 - Section 6 – Appraises the policies set within the NDP against the SEA framework
 - Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the NDP
 - Section 8 - Concludes the SEA report by outlining next steps

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The SEA process comprised several stages and 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 Dorstone 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 options and policies.
 - *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 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 Following the consultation, changes made to the plan for submission have been assessed within task D2 which reassesses the amendments to objectives and D3 which reassessed that amendments to any policies. 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 Dorstone SEA Scoping Report was available to four¹ statutory bodies for consultation from 18 June to 27 July 2014.

Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

- 2.8 The consultation resulted in 2 responses, both of which are attached at Appendix 3.
- 2.9 Both responses were collated and incorporated within this document where relevant.

¹ Statutory consultation bodies: Natural England; English Heritage; Environment Agency Natural Resources Wales

Natural England: List six further documents which should be reviewed as part of SEA Task A1. Also recommend that additional baseline data be sourced in respect of SSSIs, wildlife habitats, landscape character and the quality of agricultural land. The response is clear that a full HRA screen should be carried out due to proximity of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation.

Response: The six documents referred to have been added to A1 and further baseline data has been incorporated at A2.

English Heritage: Made general comments in relation to a range of Scoping Reports which were consulted on at the same time. Suggested that 'heritage assets' be defined and given greater coverage, as opposed to focusing solely on designated assets. Several changes to the wording of certain targets and indicators are suggested, too.

Response: Changes to the wording of relevant indicators and targets have been incorporated into A2 and A4.

Environment Agency: No comments received

Natural Resources Wales: No comments received

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 Dorstone 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 Dorstone 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 for 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 following plans, policies and programmes have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SEA Framework objectives:

- *The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (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 EC Water Framework Directive (2000)* - Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015
- *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (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.
- *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (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.
- *The Countryside and Right of Way Act (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

- *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)* - Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.
- *Revised EU Sustainable Development 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.
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)* - Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.
- *Planning Practice Guidance (2013)* - Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - 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.
- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - 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. Enable development for economy and housing to require levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-2018 (20014)* - 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.
- *Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2014-2017 (20014)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (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.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
 - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
 - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
 - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (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.

- *Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study (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.
- *Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report (2013)* - Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy
- *Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment (2013)* - Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)* - Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.
- *Building Biodiversity into the LDF (2009)* - Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (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.
- *Renewable Energy Study (2010)* - Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
- *Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment (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.
- *Open Spaces Study (2006)* - The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snapshot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.
- *Play Facilities Study (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.
- *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (2009)* - The SFRA provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development. 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.

3.6 Appendix 1 of the Dorstone Plan Scoping Report provides additional detail on the Plans, Policies and Programmes mentioned above and identifies the implications for the SEA and NDP.

SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics

3.7 The SEA objectives that were used at Stages A, B and D 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

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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 emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics. There are four objectives for which there is no local information available, which provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are likely to improve or exacerbate existing problems and issues relating to these themes.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 The NDP does not propose that sites be allocated for development and contains only criteria-based policies. The River Wye does not pass through the parish, although a small area to the north of the parish is within the hydrological catchment. The watercourses within the village of Dorstone are not part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. On this basis, the delivery of the NDP should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Objectives

4.1 The following objectives, as set out in the NDP, aim to realise the vision for Dorstone in 2031:

- 1) To enable managed housing growth within the parish which meets the needs of local people that is appropriately designed and is located to ensure protection of the special character of the area
- 2) To promote Dorstone parish as a location which promotes successful farming and small businesses and to encourage an environment in which young members of the community can seek employment and remain in the parish
- 3) To welcome visitors and promote sustainable green tourism through support for small scale tourism developments, provision of improved signage / cycle paths and the provision of improved bed and breakfast catering.
- 4) To improve broadband and mobile phone coverage across the entire parish to assist local businesses and residents
- 5) To ensure that development in Dorstone makes a significant contribution towards the transition to a low carbon economy by reducing energy consumption and its impact on the environment.
- 6) To preserve and enhance the areas landscape features, important wildlife areas, its heritage and history. This will ensure that these aspects are protected for future generations to enjoy, for wildlife habitats to thrive and will help encourage appropriate opportunities for leisure, tourism and development.
- 7) To ensure that development proposals take full account of the potential for flooding through alleviation measures so that new development does not exacerbate the likelihood of flooding on surrounding land.
- 8) To encourage and enhance the use of all community facilities in order that they continue to thrive and cater for the needs of all age groups.

4.2 The table below tests these NDP objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA. The full results are available at Appendix 4 of this report.

4.3 The majority of those NDP objectives which have a relationship with the SEA framework are positively compatible with it or have a neutral effect.

4.4 It is impossible to appraise the full implications of NDP objective 1 and 3 at this stage given the lack of detail over the exact locations of development that may come to fruition as a result of the implementation of these objectives; however, it is accepted that further development of the planning policies that relate to these objectives would move them towards a compatible outcome.

Key:	
+	Compatible
-	Possible conflict
0	Neutral
X	No relationship between objectives
?	Unclear, more information needed

NDP Options	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Objective 1	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	x	?
Objective 2	o	o	o	o	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+	x	o
Objective 3	?	?	o	+	o	o	-	?	?	o	?	o	o	+	x	?
Objective 4	o	o	o	o	x	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	x	+	x	o
Objective 5	+	o	o	o	+	x	+	+	+	+	x	+	+	x	x	+
Objective 6	+	+	+	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	+
Objective 7	+	+	+	+	x	x	+	+	+	x	+	+	x	+	x	x
Objective 8	x	x	x	+	+	+	+	+	x	x	x	x	x	+	+	+

5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

5.1 All options that were considered by the NDP steering group during the development of their plan have been assessed as part of the SEA and the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 at Appendix 4.

5.2 The options covered were as follows;

- Do nothing
- Reintroduction of the settlement boundary
- No settlement boundary
- Site allocations
- Criteria based housing policy

5.3 A 'do nothing' option was also considered, i.e. not undertaking an NDP, however this was disregarded at an early stage by the Parish Council as it was considered the majority of the community would support the work undertaken for an NDP.

5.4 The option of designating settlement boundary would also have seen a positive effect on the baseline. The designation of a settlement boundary would give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth will be adjudged by criteria based policy.

5.5 Consideration was given to the need to allocate sites for proportional growth as opposed to a criteria based policy. Following initial consultation responses, a characterisation assessment of the historic growth of the village and the potential for windfalls within the large rural parish. The option to select sites for allocation was not chosen.

5.5 The final option of producing development management criteria policies was chosen. Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options, as it will be more reactionary than proactive in terms of growth proposals. However, the option will have a positive effect on the baseline, provided that criteria are added to the policies to safeguard or mitigate against any harm. This was considered by the local community to be the preferred practical option for proportioning future growth.

NDP Options	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Do nothing	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Settlement boundary	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
No settlement boundary	+	+	x	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Site allocations	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++
Criteria based policy	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+

6.0 Appraisal of the policies

6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Dorstone NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected.

6.2 The plan has been organised with a set of general overarching policies for the whole neighbourhood area and these emerging set of draft policies have been appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:

- Policy H1 Settlement boundary: Dorstone village
- Policy H2 Housing site criteria
- Policy H3 Housing design criteria
- Policy H4 Delivery of affordable housing
- Policy E1 Small businesses, farming and employment
- Policy IN1 Infrastructure
- Policy T1 Tourism
- Policy RE1 Renewable Energy
- Policy ENV1 Conservation, Heritage and Landscape
- Policy F1 Flooding
- Policy CF1 Community Facilities

Stage B of SEA

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, although policy safeguards within the NDP and Local Plan (Core Strategy) would help mitigate any possible conflicts.

6.4 With regard to Task B2 of 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 3, 13, 14 and 15. 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, therefore, have an adverse impact on the baseline characteristics or immediate environmental impacts. This is because they are criteria based policies which only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority.

NDP Options	SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
H1	++	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	+	+	+	+				+
H2	++	++	++	++	+	+	++	++	+	++	++	+				++
H3	++	++	++	++	++	X	++	++	+	++	++	X				++
H4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
E1	X	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	O	+	+	O				++
IN1	O	+	+	+	++	++	+	X	X	X	X	X				+
T1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	X	+	O				+
RE1	++	+	++	+	++	X	++	++	+	++	++	++				++
ENV1	++	++	++	++	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
F1	+	+	+	+	X	X	++	++	+	X	++	O				O
CF1	X	++	++	++	+	++	++	X	X	X	X	+				++

- 6.6 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 4, demonstrate that the cumulative impact of the NDP policies over the course of the plan period is generally positive.
- 6.7 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 4, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the Dorstone 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.
- 6.8 None of the 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 – assessment changes to policies

- 6.09 As mentioned previously, 7 policies were refined following the Draft Plan consultation which took place from the 25 November 2015 to 31 January 2016. These changes were necessitated by comments received during the consultation period rather than specifically to the Environmental Report.
- 6.10 Three policies have additional criteria reflect recommendations within the Draft Environmental Report and comments made by Natural England. This has strengthen policies in relation to safeguarding the River Wye SAC hydrological catchment. Other policies have received minor amendments to help clarify the policy criteria.
- 6.11 The results of this further assessment can be seen in detail within Appendix 6. They reveal that the outcomes of the Stage B process mentioned above were largely unaffected or strengthened by the refinements to these policies

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 April 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 delivery.

8.0 Next steps

- 8.1 This report will be subject to a formal public consultation of 6 weeks duration alongside the submission Dorstone NDP.
- 8.2 Responses on the submission NDP will be reviewed as part of the examination.
- 8.3 Any changes / modifications made to the NDP as a consequence of the examination will trigger a review of the SEA, unless they do not materially affect the outcomes of Stage B of the SEA process.

Appendix 1

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

**The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (Reg. 32)
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)**

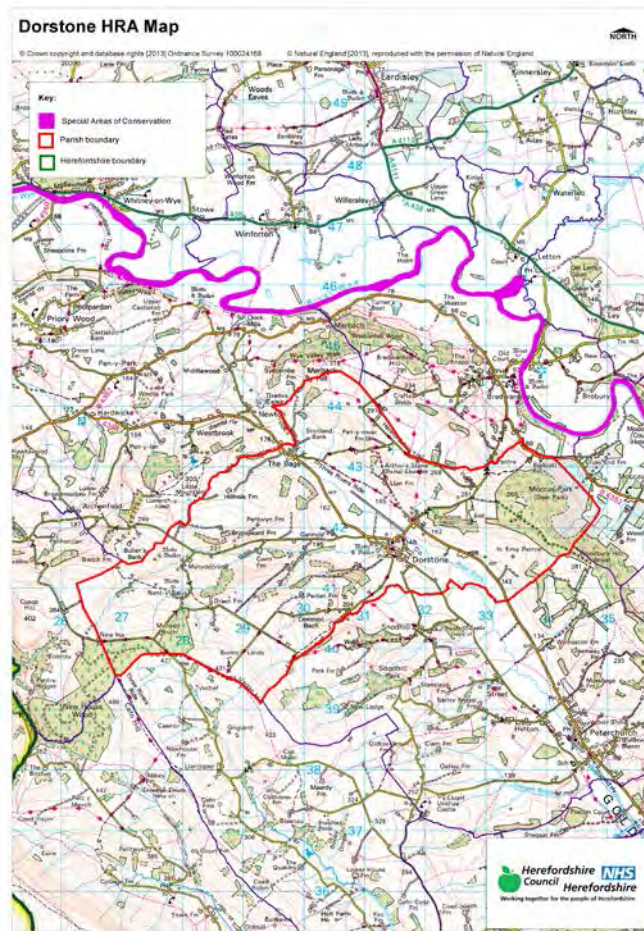
Neighbourhood Area:	Dorstone Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Dorstone Neighbourhood Area
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	07/09/2012

Introduction

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

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

**HRA Initial Screening: Map showing relationship of Neighbourhood Area with European Sites
(not to scale)**



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The Parish boundary is less than 1km away from the River Wye
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The east of the Parish is within the River Wye hydrological catchment
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	Mains drainage at Dorstone

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 30.9km away from the Parish
---	---	--

River Clun SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area include: Border Group Parish Council or Leintwardine Group Parish Council?	N	The Parish does not border the River Clun
--	---	---

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	The Usk Bat Sites are 24.1km away from the Parish
--	---	---

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Parish is 38km away from the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites
--	---	--

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Parish is 31km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
--	---	---

HRA Conclusion:

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

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	11	Woodbury Hill Wood; Dorstone Hill Wood; Drain Wood/Nant Y Bar Dingle; there are also 8 sites unlabelled	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	No AAI's in the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	No AONB's within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	1	Dorstone Village is designated as a Conservation Area	Y
European Sites	1	The River Wye is 1km away from the Parish boundary	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 & 3 run from the south east of the Parish, around Dorstone village and out to the west towards Mynddbyrdd	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous listed buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	10 (SWS)	Vagar Hill Wood, Field near Mynnd Brith, Moccas Park and adjoining woodland, Bach Dingle, Roadside bank opposite Llanafon Farm, Little Mountain and Newhouse Wood, Golden Well, Mill Wood and Greta Wood, Asper Wood, Nant Y Bar Dingle	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	2	Herefordshire Trail; Three Rivers Ride	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	No Minerals Reserves Sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	1	Moccas Park in the east of the Parish	Y
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered	Moccas Court to the east of the Parish	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	7	Motte Castle 230m north west of Nant Y Bar, Dorstone Village Cross, Motte Castle and associated occupation and agricultural remains at Mynnd Birth, Motte Castle 150m east of Tump House Farm, Arthurs Stone Neolithic Chamber 450m south west of Mount Pleasant, Promontory Fort on Dorstone Hill, Long Barrow 260m north west of Cross Lodge	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	2	Moccas Park (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)) River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 14/05/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

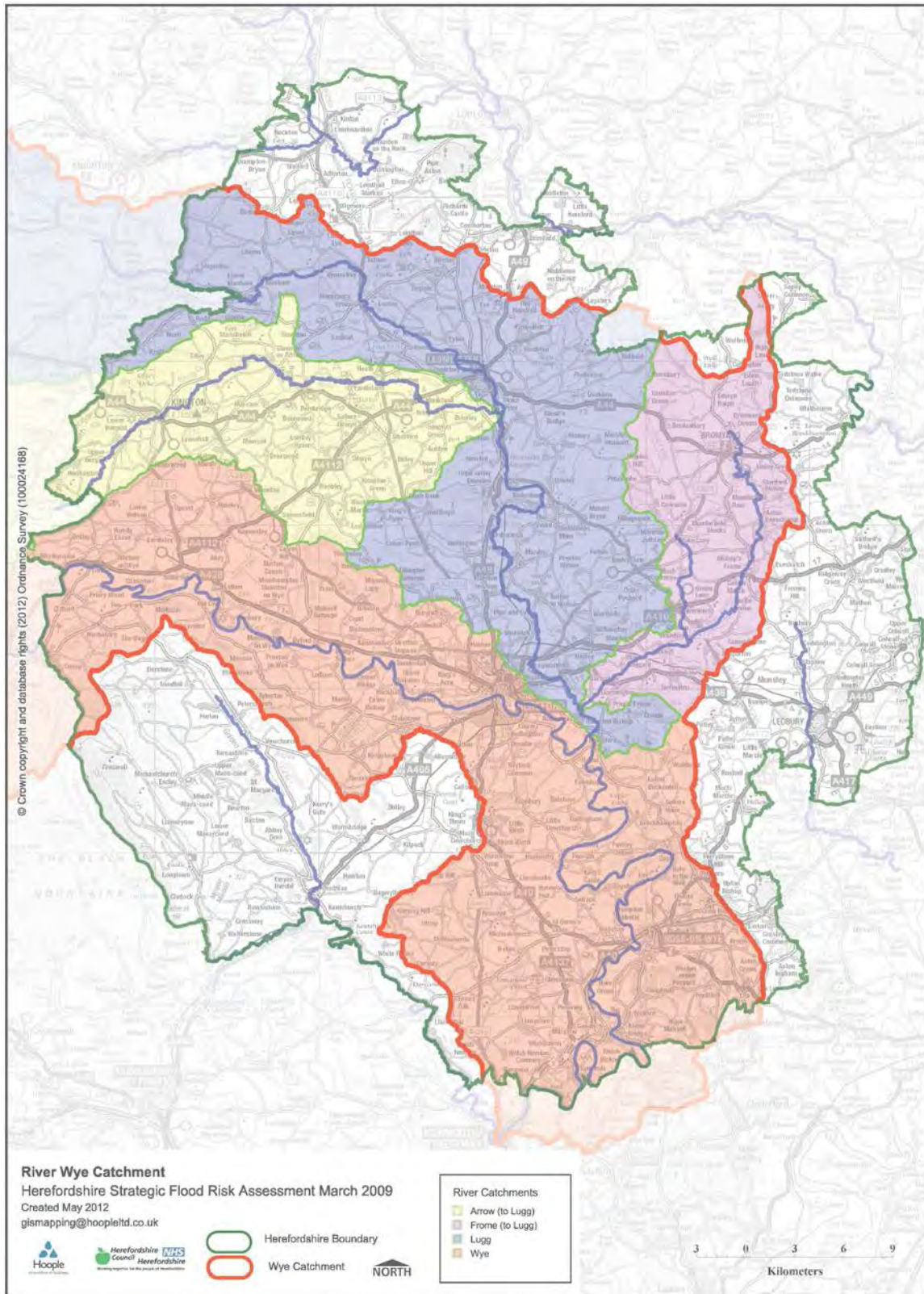
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

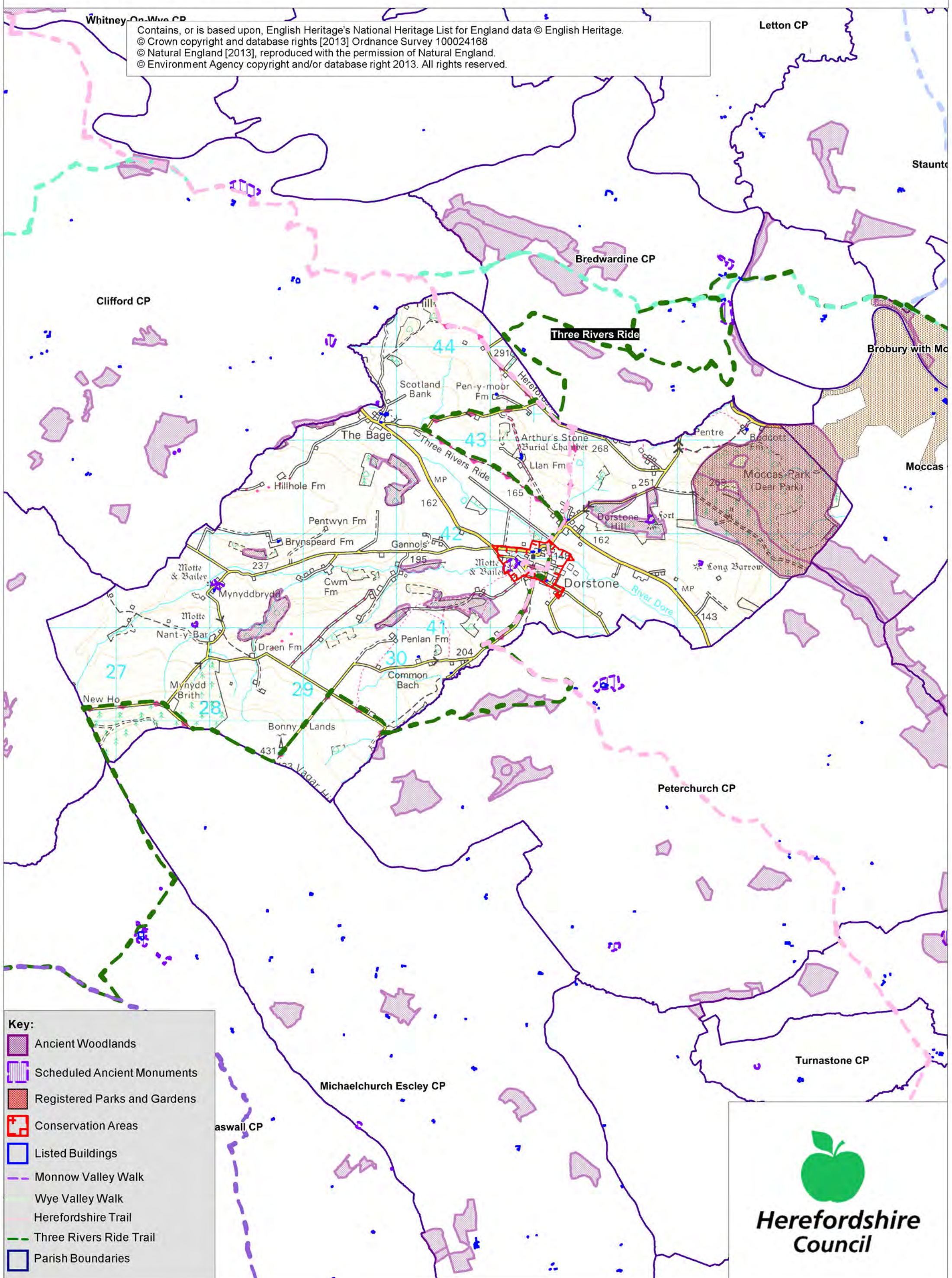


Dorstone SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:35,000



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Key:

- Ancient Woodlands
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Monnow Valley Walk
- Wye Valley Walk
- Herefordshire Trail
- Three Rivers Ride Trail
- Parish Boundaries



**Herefordshire
Council**

Dorstone SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:30,000



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Whitney-On-Wye CP

Letton CP

Willersley and Winforton CP

Bredwardine CP

Clifford CP

Brobury w

The Bage

Three Rivers Ride

Arthur's Stone

Penre

Bodcott Fm

Moccas Park (Deer Park)

Hillhole Fm

Pentwyn Fm

Brynspeard Fm

Gannols

Motte & Bailey

Dorstone Hill

Long Barrow

Motte & Bailey

Mynyddbrydd

Cwm Fm

Penlan Fm

Common Bach

Nant-y-Bar

Mynydd Brith

Draen Fm

Bonny Lands

New Ho

Mynydd Brith

Bonny Lands

Bonny Lands

Peterchurch CP

Michaelchurch Escley CP

Craswall CP

Key:

- National Nature Reserves
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Wildlife Sites
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Parish Boundaries

Herefordshire Council

Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Dorstone Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

October 2014

Consultation on the Scoping Report

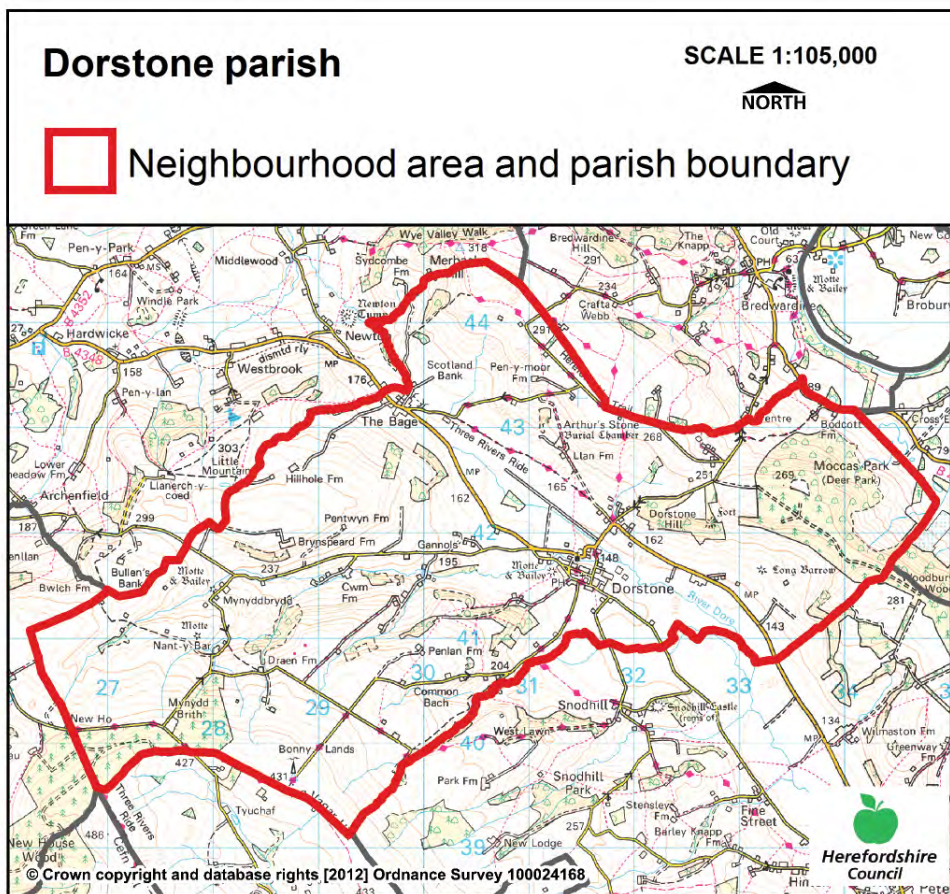
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- 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 the Natural Resources Wales.

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

1. Natural England;
2. English Heritage;
3. Environment Agency.



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

Parish Council Name: Dorstone Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: May 2014

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> Biodiversity Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation

¹ Derived from the LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Directive			qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015	transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU		and regulations.
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"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
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	<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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
			AONBs.	despite some early publicity suggesting this.		
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 Government policy.	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"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
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"> • Climate change and clean energy; • Sustainable transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Population and human health 	The Neighbourhood Plans should take into account the objectives of the strategy. The aim of sustainable development should be implicit in its approach.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable production and consumption; • Public health threats; • Better management of natural resources; • Social inclusion, demography and migration; • Fighting global poverty. 		
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"> • Biodiversity 	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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The NDP should take into account the relevant policies set within the NPPF.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The NDP should take into account the planning guidance provided within these documents.
Pre-submission Herefordshire Core Strategy 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2014	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	<p>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.</p> <p>The Pre-submission Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five of which directly relate to rural areas:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within in the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Where necessary, the NDP should provide services, facilities and employment opportunities that are accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.</p> <p>The Core Strategy</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community • To improve access to services in rural areas • To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands • To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment • To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community <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>Seeks proportional growth of up to 12% in Dorstone (Golden Valley HMA) over</p>		<p>highlights that Dorstone should accommodate 12 % growth by 2031. This is approximately 12 dwellings in accordance with the Rural Housing Background Paper March 2013, unless there is robust and sound evidence to demonstrate a more accurate existing built form figure or the existence of unavoidable constraints on site delivery.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				the plan period.		
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"> • Air • Climate factors • Population and human health 	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Dorstone Neighbourhood Area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Dorstone Neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Malvern Hills AONB.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Dorstone Neighbourhood Area is not within or adjacent to the Wye Valley AONB.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Sustaining business survival and growth • Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs • Having a skilled population to meet future work needs • Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Material assets • Population and human health 	None of merit.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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>This study does not make reference to any employment sites within the neighbourhood area.</p> <p>The study does not make any recommendations in respect of employment need within the neighbourhood area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population and human health 	The NDP process may want to explore whether there is any additional 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) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Evidence	2009	<p>The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development Assessing sites for their housing potential; and Predicting when a site could be developed for housing. 	<p>In terms of Dorstone, previous SHLAA identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 sites have been considered but it indicates that these would not be achievable within the plan period due to high landscape impact and flooding risk at one site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climate factors Cultural heritage and the landscape Flora and fauna Population and human health Soil Water 	<p>The SHLAA assesses the potential availability of land for housing in Dorstone.</p> <p>The Dorstone NDP should be informed by the findings of the SHLAA or undertake its own locally site search assessments.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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>Dorstone falls within the Golden Valley HMA. Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56.3% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 16 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017. <p>The study identifies that, in rural parts of the HMA, there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 198 market houses • 106 affordable houses. <p>The study highlights that within the Golden Valley HMA the overall estimated housing need by size 2012-2017 is as follows: 1 Bed - 62%, 2 bed – a small surplus, 3 bed – 38%, 4 bed or more - 6%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Golden Valley HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Support growth in the rural population by 6% • Increase the number of households by 14.5% <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 areas will face an increasing urgency to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Golden Valley HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Dorstone NDP, which could include policies to facilitate the provision of the right types of homes in the right places.</p>

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				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 Dorstone is listed as RA1 settlements, which means they are considered a sustainable location for proportional growth of up to 12%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Dorstone NDP will need to be in conformity with the provisions of Policy RA1.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need • Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch • 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing • There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The Dorstone 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) ¹	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"> • Biodiversity 	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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	There is a serious 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 Dorstone NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Dorstone 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"> • Electrical: 731 GWh/yr • Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr • Total: 2,541 GWh/yr <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Dorstone NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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 Dorstone parish itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2ha playing field with secured community access. This has been rated with excellent changing accommodation • Bowling Green 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Dorstone NDP.

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Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Open Spaces Study	Evidence	2006	The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snapshot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.	<p>The study reveals that within the Golden Valley North Area, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive under provision of parks and gardens • Extensive over provision of natural and semi-natural green space • Under provision of amenity green space and extensive under provision for outdoor sport • Average provision for children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The open space audit and assessment of does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in Dorstone Parish.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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 Dorstone itself, the study reveals that the play equipment needs updating and replacing and due to the efforts of the Playing Fields Committee this was achieved in 2013.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population and human health 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Dorstone NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s) ¹	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>Dorstone is classified within the five highest general flood hazard catchments due to the River Dore.</p> <p>Dorstone is highlighted at high risk of general surface flooding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climate factors • Material assets • Population and human health • Water 	<p>New development proposed through the Dorstone 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 Dorstone NDP.</p>

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Dorstone

N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Dorstone (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 ¹	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.	Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. 2010/11: 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. <i>05.08.14-There are two SSSI's within Dorstone-Moccas Park-favourable and River Wye-Unfavourable recovering.</i>	2006: 22% 2007: 22% 2008: 22% 2010: 24 % Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%. Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.	% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)	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. The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

¹ Derived from the Draft Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (March 2013)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
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.	-
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.	Countywide data is available. The existing status of the Wye SAC between Hay and the Lugg confluence is currently meeting its phosphate target and is meeting the conservation targets.	N/A	Successful completion of the Nutrient Management Plan will provide future targets	New development within the area could lead to the water quality failing the phosphate levels and conservation objectives.	Nutrient Management Plan (2014)

SA Objective ¹	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>Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014.</p> <p>2010/11: 17 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>	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2010/11)

SA Objective ¹	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>Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014.</p> <p>Dorstone has:</p> <p>SSSI: 2 SWS: 10</p> <p>Ancient woodlands:11</p> <p>The River Wye SAC runs less than 1km from the parish border.</p> <p>There are no, NNRs and SINC's within the parish but Moccas Park (a National Nature Reserve and Registered Park and Garden) is to the east of 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 AMR (2010/11)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore and expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	<p>The Parish Area has the following landscape types:</p> <p>Wooded hills and farmlands throughout most of the parish.</p> <p>Enclosed moors and commons to the west.</p> <p>And principled and settled farmland to the east of the parish.</p>	-	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)
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.	<p>Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template.</p> <p>Whilst there is no qualitative, locally specific data available at present, there are 7 Scheduled Ancient</p>	-	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 2014).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
			Monuments in Dorstone Parish according to the latest version of the register.				
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	<p>Historic Landscape Character assessments have only been undertaken for Hereford City.</p> <p>Rapid townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.</p>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	<p>Historic Landscape Character Assessment for Hereford.</p> <p>Rapid townscape Assessments (2010)</p>
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Population, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>							

SA Objective ¹	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	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.	-
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 Dorstone at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the conservation area within Dorstone.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Development Management and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched April 2014)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							

SA Objective ¹	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 increase the take up of alternative modes to the private car.	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 ¹	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 ¹	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	Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO ₂) <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	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%).	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.	CO ₂ emissions produced are decreasing.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

SA Objective ¹	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.	Up-to-date countywide information does not appear within the 2011/13 AMR. Therefore data from 2010/11 has been used. 2010/11: 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 (2010/11)
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.	The agricultural land classification around Dorstone is mainly Grade 4 (Poor). But there are areas of Grade 2 and 3 land on the edge of the parish.	-	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

SA Objective ¹	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 figure dates back to 2005: 84% <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 Report (2007) Water Framework Directive (2000)

SA Objective ¹	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	Built and natural environment	<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>	County has low levels of air pollution and has decreased since 2011. But emissions per head of population in the county (8.0 tonnes of CO ₂) remained above those nationally (6.9).	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.	Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)
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.	<p>2011/13: 67%</p> <p><i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i></p>	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	Herefordshire Council AMR (2011/13)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
						market conditions.	
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 ¹	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 (English Heritage).	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 and 7 SAMs. There is 1 building at risk on the register.	There were 58 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register 2011.	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status. And promote opportunities to achieve the removal of heritage assets from the at risk register.	The promontory fort at Dorstone is currently on English Heritage's Building at Risk Register	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; search April 2014)

SA Objective ¹	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 particularly within a conservation area in Dorstone	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the group parish	To wherever possible improve upon or otherwise maintain current status	Current status must be verified by Development Management and Enforcement Officers, but the NDP can help to avoid enforcement action and appeals during the plan period.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched April 2014)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan baseline

These environmental issues are the same as most of those identified for the Herefordshire Core Strategy¹

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	Dorstone has numerous Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings, all of which require ongoing protection and many in need of high levels of maintenance.	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

¹ Derived from the Pre-submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014) and LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

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: Dorstone Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan

Date completed: September 2014

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"> Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance. Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species. Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces. Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value. Create new appropriate habitats. Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and 	<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. No net losses</p>

SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
			<p>gardens and their settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management • Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. • Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users. 		
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"> • Protect and enhance the landscape everywhere and particularly in designated areas • Value and protect diversity and local distinctiveness • Improve landscape and ecological quality and character of the countryside • Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space • Improve satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as 	<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 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>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation as much as possible.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</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>places to live</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease litter and graffiti in towns and countryside • Result in the loss of open space 		
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"> • Preserve, protect and enhance heritage assets including conservation areas, listed buildings, archaeological sites and other culturally important features in both urban and rural settings. • Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area. • 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. • Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the 	<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 kept up to date.</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
			area.		
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"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources. 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. 	<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"> • Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change. • Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems. • Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate. • Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. • Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. 	<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>To conserve soil resources and quality</p> <p>Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. • Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. 	<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>

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SEA Topics	SA Objective	SEA Objective	Sub-objectives / Appraisal Questions (Will the option/proposal/site...)	Indicators	Targets
	Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new developments 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.	<p>To improve health of the population</p> <p>To reduce crime and nuisance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings. • Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management. • Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. • Promote the use of 	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"> • Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels. • 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. • Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build. • Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques. 	<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

Date: 23 July 2014
Our ref: 126878
Your ref: None



James Latham
Technical Support Officer
Neighbourhood Planning, Strategic Planning & Conservation teams
Herefordshire Council

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk

Dear Mr Latham

Dorstone Parish Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 20 June 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

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.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/does-a-neighbourhood-plan-require-a-sustainability-appraisal/>

We welcome the production of this SEA Scoping report. The following comments are intended to further improve the SEA and its usefulness in assessing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix A1 – Plans, policies and programmes

In addition to the plans, policies and programmes listed, we suggest that the following are relevant and should be added:

- The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- The EC Water Framework Directive 2000
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Brimfield and Little Hereford

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Against the proposed indicator “*Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire*”, Natural England is able to provide up to date information on the condition of SSSI’s. Please contact us for this information as and when required.

Under the proposed indicator “*Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*”, we note that data will be sourced from the 2014 Annual Monitoring Report. In addition, maps of priority habitats and species are available on *Magic*, Defra’s GIS package for environmental assets (www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk).

Under the indicator “*Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission*”, the baseline information provided states that there are 2 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Dorstone CP. According to our records there is just one, Moccas Park SSSI.

According to our internal data there are areas of Wood Pasture and Parkland (Moccas Park SSSI) and deciduous woodland in Dorstone CP. We would welcome it if these priority habitats were recognised in the SEA, with information provided in the baseline information and targets included for their protection and enhancement (NPPF paragraph 117).

Baseline information on the landscape and open spaces needs to be included under SA objective 15: “*Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces*”. Reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out.

Water, air, soil and material assets

This section (or suitable alternative) should include information on geodiversity. The baseline and assessment should make reference to geological conservation and the need to conserve, interpret and manage geological sites and features, both in the wider environment and in relation to designated features. The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust may be of assistance.

Under the SEA topic “*water*”, the indicator “*Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality*” should also refer to ecological quality. Reference could be made to the Water Framework Directive.

The proposed indicator “*Agricultural land usage by quality*” has no countywide data identified. Agricultural land classification maps are available via *Magic* (website above). We suggest as an indicator that the Local Planning Authority could monitor and report on the number of hectares of best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and higher) lost to development.

Soil

We note that the best and most versatile agricultural land has not been considered. We suggest including an indicator to monitor the hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Dorstone baseline

We note that landscape, soil and geodiversity are not covered. These environmental issues need to be added to the SEA baseline information, so that environmental issues can be identified and significant impacts on these aspects of the environment can be given appropriate consideration.

Under the SEA topic “Biodiversity”, we suggest that development should be noted as an additional pressure.

Appendix A4 – SEA framework (objectives, indicators and targets)

Under the SEA topic “Air”, not all of the sub-objectives/indicators are relevant, i.e. water quality, soil and contaminated land are covered.

Under the SEA topic “Biodiversity, flora and fauna” and the SEA objective “Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces”, landscape quality and open spaces have not been covered in the indicators. Relevant indicators should be added, or will not be possible to monitor the impacts of the plan on the landscape and open space. Reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out. Applications resulting in the loss of open space could be monitored.

We would also welcome the inclusion of an indicator/target around the impact/benefit to ecological networks (NPPF paragraph 109, 113 and 117). We note that no targets have been identified against the indicator “After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation”, we suggest that perhaps the percentage of opportunities taken could be monitored.

Under SEA topic “material assets”, there are no targets identified against the indicator “monitoring changes to the historic landscape”. We suggest that the LPA could monitor the number of applications permitted despite a significant impact on the landscape having been identified.

Under the SEA topic “Soils”, we note that the best and most versatile agricultural land has not been considered. We suggest including an indicator to monitor the hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

Under the SEA topic “water”, the indicator “Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality” should also refer to ecological quality. Reference could be made to the Water Framework Directive.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

We note the recommendation that a full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening is undertaken due to proximity to the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (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 Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 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





ENGLISH HERITAGE

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

Neighbourhood Planning Team
Herefordshire Council
Planning Services
PO Box 230
Blueschool House
Blueschool Street
Hereford
HR1 2ZB.

Our ref:
Your ref:

Telephone 0121 625 6887
Fax 0121 625 6820

15 August 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

CONSULTATION ON SEA SCOPING REPORTS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS IN:

(Bartestree & Lugwardine; Breinton; Brimfield little Hereford; Callow & Haywood; Dorstone; Eardisley; Lyonshall; Peterchurch; Staunton on Wye; Stretton Sugwas; Sutton St. Nicholas; Wellington; Whitbourne; Withington).

Thank you for your e-mails 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 but have the following comments and recommendations which we urge you to consider before finalizing the reports.

Firstly, as regards terminology there appears to be very little reference made to “heritage assets” generally which leaves a perhaps undue emphasis upon designated assets such as conservation areas, listed buildings and SAMs. This is at variance with the Government’s objective, expressed as a core planning principle in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to “conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations”. No distinction is made here between designated and undesignated assets. The accompanying Planning Practice Guidance also states (inter alia) that local planning authorities should identify specific opportunities within their area for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and equally this applies to all such assets.

We strongly encourage you, therefore, to weave the term “heritage assets” into the SEA templates wherever reference is made to the cultural heritage. It is difficult to be more specific as there is a degree of variation in the template content across the range of

Neighbourhood Plans covered, presumably due to differing authorships. Nevertheless in English Heritage's view some templates are more successful at reflecting historic environment concerns than others. In this regard we would particularly endorse the approach taken in relation to Dorstone, Breinton, Stretton Sugwas, Peterchurch, Brimfield and Whitbourne and suggest similar wording is applied to the other NP templates. That said, however, we would also suggest slight rewording and additions to those preferred templates.

Taking the Dorstone "Task 4" template (page 3 of 7) and the Cultural heritage SA Objective as an example, we would suggest "Value protect and enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's *heritage assets*, historic environment and cultural heritage". Similarly under Sub-objectives consider "Preserve, protect and enhance *heritage assets*, including Conservation Areas....." Under Indicators please consider ".....aspects of local loss of *heritage assets and* locally important buildings across the Parish *and particularly* within a conservation area. Under Targets we would suggest "To *wherever possible improve upon or otherwise* maintain current status...". This reflects (inter alia) the repeated statement for each Parish under Environmental Issues that many listed buildings are in need of high levels of maintenance and there may eg be the potential for grant schemes. In the same vein, where applicable (eg Lyonshall) it should we believe be a target to "*Promote opportunities to achieve the removal of heritage assets from the At Risk Register*".

A further Indicator and Target that features in some templates (eg Staunton on Wye, Brimfield and Withington and we suggest should apply to all is "*Maintaining Herefordshire Council's Sites and Monuments Register*" with a target of "*Ensure that the Herefordshire Council Sites and Monuments Register is kept up to date*". It should in fact be possible to use the Register as an effective monitoring tool in relation to the changing status of heritage assets and the effectiveness of planning tools in achieving their conservation and enhancement. We would strongly suggest that you hold detailed discussions in this respect with your own Council historic environment specialists in order to achieve an effective indicator for the wider historic environment beyond designated heritage assets.

A final minor comment is that there are apparently stray references to "Huntingdon and Broomy Hill" that appear in the templates for Breinton and Stretton Sugwas and presumably these need editing out.

I hope you find this advice helpful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Boland', with a date '20' written below the signature.

Pete Boland
Historic Places Adviser
E-mail: peter.boland@english-heritage.org.uk

Appendix 4

NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)			
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:	
+	Compatible	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.
-	Possible conflict	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.
0	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed.
X	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.
?	Unclear, more information needed	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.

The following matrix appraises the emerging Dorstone NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.

These objectives have been developed from both Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

SEA Objectives

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 quality of surroundings
4. To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural 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

NDP objectives	SEA objectives																Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objective
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Objective 1 To enable managed housing growth within the parish to meet the needs of local people that is appropriately designed and is located to ensure protection of the special character of the area.	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	X	?	At this stage more information is required to assess the compatibility with the SEA objectives. This will emerge as the policies are assessed. However, this has the ability to be compatible if in conformity with the Core Strategy.	SEA objectives should be taken into account during the formulation of the policies for growth.	This objective is specific and can be motived via indicators within the Annual Monitoring Report. The Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan also indicates that a review period in 2020. This objective is achievable and deliverable and aims to meet the overall vision for the area. It is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
Objective 2 To promote Dorstone parish as a location which promotes successful farming and small business and to encourage an environment in which young members of the community can seek employment and remain in the parish	O	O	O	O	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	O	At this stage, more information is required to assess the compatibility with the SEA objectives. This will be emerging as the policies are developed. However, this has ability to be compatible if in conformity with the Core Strategy.	SEA objectives should be taken into account as the policies for this objective are development.	This objective is specific and can be monitored via indicators within the Annual Monitoring report. The Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan also indicates that a review period in 2020. The objective is achievable and deliverable and aims to meet the overall vision for the area. It is considered that this objective meets all the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended

Objective 3 To welcome visitors and promote sustainable green tourism through support for small scale tourism development, provision of improved signage /cycle paths and the provision of improved bed and breakfast / self catering	?	?	0	+	0	0	-	?	?	0	?	0	0	+	X	?	This objective has mixed compatibility and is dependent on the details of the type and locations of tourism being promoted.	No recommendations. Additional policy assessment will clarify issues.	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It could be monitored locally and the plan is proposing a review in 2020. This is compatible with the overall vision for the plan and it is considered that this objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
Objective 4 To improved broadband and mobile phone coverage across the entire parish to assist local businesses and residents	0	0	0	0	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	0	Much of the concern will be around the siting of additional equipment. Additional policy information will be able to address these concerns.	No recommendations	The provision of this objective is beyond the control of parish council but broadband and other technologies are being actively promoted in the County via the Fastershire project. This will result in the objective being achievable in the timeframe. The objective can be monitored using nationally available coverage information. This objective meets the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
Objective 5 To ensure that development in Dorstone makes a significant contribution towards the transition to a low carbon economy by reducing energy consumption and its impact on the environment.	+	0	0	0	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	+	The objective is compatible with the SEA objectives	No recommendations	This objective is achievable and deliverable via the supportive policies of both the Core Strategy and the Neighbourhood Plan.	No changes recommended

<p>Objective 6</p> <p>To preserve and enhance the areas landscape features, important wildlife areas, its heritage and history. This will ensure that these aspects are protected for future generations to enjoy, for wildlife habitats to thrive and will help encourage appropriate opportunities for leisure, tourism and development.</p>	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	This objective is compatible with the SEA objectives	No recommendations	This objective is achievable and deliverable. It can be monitored via the indicators in the Annual Monitoring Report for leisure and tourism developments and the protection of the environment. It contributes to the overall vision for the plan, a review is proposed in 2020 and therefore is assessed as meeting the SMART criteria.	No changes recommended
<p>Objective 7</p> <p>To ensure that development proposals take full account of the potential for flooding through alleviation measures so that new development does not exacerbate the likelihood of flooding on surrounding land.</p>	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	X	X	This objective is compatible	No recommendations	This objective is achievable and deliverable. Planning permission granted can be monitored. There are not specific references to the timescales. The objective is considered to contribute to the overall vision.	No changes recommended
<p>Objective 8</p> <p>To encourage and enhance the use of all community facilities on order that they continue to thrive and cater for the needs of all age groups.</p>	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	This objective is compatible	No recommendations	This objective is achievable and deliverable. Local monitoring can be undertaken, the plan is proposed to be reviewed in 2020.	No changes recommended

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		
+ =	Compatible	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	The following matrix appraises the emerging Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan options 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.
- =	Possible conflict	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.	
0 =	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
? =	Unclear, more information needed	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.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	1-Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. The 2010/11 data indicates that 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. At August 2014, there are two SSSI's within Dorstone -Moccas Park-favourable and River Wye-Unfavourable recovering. In 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire, however no locally specific data is available. Dorstone has: SSSI: 2, SWS: 10, Ancient woodlands:11 and the River Wye SAC runs less than 1km from the parish border. There are no, NNRs and SINC's within the parish but Moccas Park (a National Nature Reserve and Registered Park and Garden) is to the east of the parish. There is no locally specific data available at present.
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Dorstone conservation area at present.
3- To improve quality of surroundings	3-In terms of Dorstone, the study reveals that. 2ha playing field with secured community access. This has been rated with excellent changing accommodation
4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	4-Dorstone is a conservation area and there are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 7 Schedule Ancient Monuments. There is 1 buildings at risk on the register (promontory fort)
5- To improve air quality	5-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 suggests that air quality is improving.
6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	6-% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7%,Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.
7- To reduce contributions to climate change	7-Herefordshire latest figure of CO2 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO ²)
8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change	8-Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
9- To improve water quality	9-Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84%.
10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	10- The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. However the 2001-13 AMR does not contain updated data Dorstone Parish falls not the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zone (WRZ), one of 6 in Herefordshire; 39% of demand is from non-household use. Dorstone is classified within the five highest general flood hazard catchments due to the River Dore. Dorstone is highlighted at high risk of general surface flooding.
11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	11-Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
12- To conserve soil resources and quality	12-The agricultural land classification around Dorstone is mainly Grade 4 (Poor).But there are areas of Grade 2 and 3 land on the edge of the parish. Percentage of all new developments completed on previously developed land; 67% (2010) and 57% (2011-13)
13- To minimise the production of waste	16- Dorstone is a conservation area and there are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 7 Schedule Ancient Monuments. There is 1 buildings at risk on the register (promontory fort)
14- To improve health of the population	
15- To reduce crime and nuisance	
16- To conserve natural and manmade resources	

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	16			
Option 1 – Do nothing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			
Option 2 – Reintroduction of the settlement boundary	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth will be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. 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.
Option 3 – No settlement boundary	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Criteria based policy does not give the same level of certainty as the other options 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.
Option 4 – Site allocations	++	++	++	++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++	The allocation of sites would give certainty to the location of future growth. Additional criteria can be added to the policy 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
Option 5 – Criteria based policy	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	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.

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)				
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:		
+ =	Compatible	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	The following matrix appraises the emerging Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan policies 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.
- =	Possible conflict	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.	
0 =	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed	
X =	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.	
? =	Unclear, more information needed	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.	

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
1- To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	1-Up-to-date countywide information will be presented in the next AMR and which is due to be published in 2014. The 2010/11 data indicates that 27% of Herefordshire's SSSI land was in favourable condition. At August 2014, there are two SSSI's within Dorstone -Moccas Park-favourable and River Wye-Unfavourable recovering. In 2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire, however no locally specific data is available. Dorstone has: SSSI: 2, SWS: 10, Ancient woodlands:11 and the River Wye SAC runs less than 1km from the parish border. There are no, NNRs and SINC's within the parish but Moccas Park (a National Nature Reserve and Registered Park and Garden) is to the east of the parish. There is no locally specific data available at present.
2- To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	2-There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Dorstone conservation area at present.
3- To improve quality of surroundings	3-In terms of Dorstone, the study reveals that. 2ha playing field with secured community access. This has been rated with excellent changing accommodation
4- To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	4-Dorstone is a conservation area and there are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 7 Schedule Ancient Monuments. There is 1 buildings at risk on the register (promontory fort)
5- To improve air quality	5-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 suggests that air quality is improving.
6- To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	6-% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7%,Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%.
7- To reduce contributions to climate change	7-Herefordshire latest figure of CO2 emissions per capita-dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO ²)
8- To reduce vulnerability to climate change	8-Reduce the risk of flooding-There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
9- To improve water quality	9-Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84%.
10- To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	10- The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. However the 2001-13 AMR does not contain updated data Dorstone Parish falls not the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zone (WRZ), one of 6 in Herefordshire; 39% of demand is from non-household use. Dorstone is classified within the five highest general flood hazard catchments due to the River Dore. Dorstone is highlighted at high risk of general surface flooding.
11- To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	11-Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds. The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.
12- To conserve soil resources and quality	12-The agricultural land classification around Dorstone is mainly Grade 4 (Poor).But there are areas of Grade 2 and 3 land on the edge of the parish. Percentage of all new developments completed on previously developed land; 67% (2010) and 57% (2011-13)
13- To minimise the production of waste	16- Dorstone is a conservation area and there are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 7 Schedule Ancient Monuments. There is 1 buildings at risk on the register (promontory fort)
14- To improve health of the population	
15- To reduce crime and nuisance	
16- To conserve natural and manmade resources	

NDP Policies	SEA objectives																Summary in relation to baseline	Overall commentary and any initial cumulative effects/ Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Baseline	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	16			
Policy H1 Settlement boundary: Dorstone village	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives as it will only lead to small scale development focused with a defined settlement boundary for Dorstone. Criteria have been attached in subsequent policies to reduce any negative impacts on landscape, biodiversity, heritage and resources.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy H2 Housing site criteria	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				++	This policy is compatible and will have a positive effect on the baseline data.	The policy will not result in development but gives criteria which seek to protect elements of the historic and natural environment.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy H3 Housing design criteria	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives as it sets the criteria requirements for development. These seek to respect both the conservation area setting, energy efficiency and flooding issues.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy H4 Delivery of affordable housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives. It will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Core Strategy.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy E1 Small business, farming and employment	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	+	+	O				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall the policy is positive as it will help to reduce the need to travel and enable additional opportunities to work from home. Criteria has been included which would aim to safeguard environmental character and quality.	The principle of this policy is compatible with the Core Strategy Policy E3, RA5, RA6 and meets the Core Strategy requirements for the purpose of the SEA.
Policy IN1 Infrastructure	O	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall the policy is positive as it will help to reduce the need to travel and enable additional opportunities to work from home. Criteria have been included to mitigate the impact on the environmental, landscape and heritage assets.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy T1 Tourism	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	X	+	O				+	Overall the policy is compatible with the baseline data.	Overall the policy meets the SEA baseline objectives. Additional tourism visitors and facilities can have an effect on natural resources. Additional policy safeguards within the Neighbourhood plan and Core Strategy will help mitigate these issues.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.

Policy RE1 Renewable energy	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives. Criteria have been included within the policy wording which will assist minimising the impact of additional infrastructure development.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.	
Policy CHL1 Conservation heritage and landscape	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives as it sets the criteria requirements for development.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.	
Policy F1 Flooding	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	+	+	X	+	+				O	Overall the current drafting of the policy has a possible conflict with the SEA objective	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-y-Weston and River Dore and promote flood risk assessments and drainage strategies.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purpose of the SEA.	
Policy CF1 Community Facilities	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	+				++	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data	Overall the policy is positive as it will encourage the continuing use of existing facilities thus contributing to the village character and heritage environment. It will also reduce the need to travel to other area for facilities reducing the impact of climate change.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirement for the purposes of the SEA.

Key:

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- - Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	N/A No relationship
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Policy H1 – Housing boundary: Dorstone village

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure nature conservation is taken into consideration.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to	

				ensure landscape and townscape features are taken into consideration.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards are included within the policy to ensure historic and cultural heritage features are taken into consideration.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. This will not have a significant effect on air quality.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with	

				the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Some margin increase in traffic could occur but this would be balanced by the increase in live/work employment opportunities locally.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Some margin increase in traffic could occur but this would be balanced by the increase in live/work employment opportunities locally.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards have been included to avoid the Pont-y-Weston and the River Dore	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards have been included to avoid the	

				Pont-y-Weston and the River Dore	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy. Policy safeguards have been included to avoid the Pont-y-Weston and the River Dore	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA	

manmade resources				objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with the proportional growth within the Core Strategy.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Proportional growth requirements for Dorstone is small scale, therefore there could be small minimal impact on air quality and traffic generation. Policy criteria safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate against detrimental effects on the natural, heritage or cultural environment.				

Policy H2 – Housing site criteria

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core	

				Strategy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core	

				Strategy.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core	

				Strategy.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	++	This Policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and would only lead to small scale development in line with Policy RA2 within the Core Strategy.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy compliments policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and would only lead to small scale development. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that environmental considerations are taking into account and open spaces and the character of the conservation area are protected.				

Policy H3 – Housing design criteria

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	

To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x		
To improve water quality	x	x	x		
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x		
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x		
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
To minimise the production of waste					

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	++	This policy will not lead to development but indicates the environmental safeguards required to conform to policy H1 and H2 of the DNP. This is positive in terms of the SEA objectives.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy seeks to safeguard the historic and environmental character of Dorstone Conservation Area. It includes the protection of important open spaces within the settlement boundary, which was absent from previous drafts. This criteria also includes support for flood reduction and energy efficiency.				

Policy H4 – Delivery of affordable housing

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2. Policy safeguards as in place in avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on the landscape or townscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2. Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effect on the historic environment or cultural heritage.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To reduce contributions to	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core	

climate change				Strategy Policy H2.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Core Strategy Policy H2.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	This policy will only level to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Herefordshire Core Strategy.				

effects	Other policy safeguards are in place to ensure any issues are avoided or mitigated against.
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Policy E1 – Small business, farming and employment

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the landscape and built environment.	

To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the landscape and built environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the landscape and built environment.	
To improve air quality	?	++	++	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	++	++	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	+	+	Increase in opportunities over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can	

				be undertaken from home	
To improve water quality	?	o	o	Increase opportunities to work from home or farm diversification could have a minor impact on the demand and use of water. Policy safeguards exist to help avoid and mitigate any effect particularly on the River Wye SAC.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	o	o	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the					

population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	+	++	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural and built environment.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment.				

Policy IN1 – Infrastructure

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5)	Medium term	Long term (11 years +)		

	years)	(6 – 10 years)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	o	o	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. However, depending on siting new installations could have some impact. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural and built environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural and built environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the built environment.	
To improve air quality	+	++	++	Increase connectivity over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home	
To reduce the effect of	+	++	++	Increase connectivity over time will reduce the need to travel by car as	

traffic on the environment				more business and services can be undertaken from home	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Increase connectivity over time will reduce the need to travel by car as more business and services can be undertaken from home	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	o	o	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. However, depending on siting new installations could have some impact. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural environment.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					

To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	+	+	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. However, depending on siting new installations could have some impact. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural environment.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. However, depending on siting new installations could have some impact, there are policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the environment. Ultimately increase in connectivity will help to reduce the need to travel and enable additional working at home opportunities.				

Policy T1 – Tourism

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against	

				impacts on the environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Additional tourism facilities could increase visitor numbers; equally it could provide services for visitor who are already coming to the area	

				by car.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	Additional tourism facilities could increase visitor numbers; equally it could provide services for visitor who are already coming to the area by car.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Additional policy safeguards are in place within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid and mitigate flood risk areas	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Additional policy safeguards are in place within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid and mitigate flood risk areas	
To improve water quality	o	o	o	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment particularly the River Wye.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Additional policy safeguards are in place within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan	

				to avoid and mitigate flood risk areas	
To conserve soil resources and quality	o	o	o	Additional visitor numbers could have an impact on the use and quality of surrounding land due to increasing in walking and recreation. However sufficient policy criteria safeguards exist to ensure impact on the natural environment is mitigated against where possible.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment.				

Policy RE1 – Renewable energy

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the natural environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	

To improve quality of surroundings	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	
To improve air quality	+	++	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on air quality towards the end of the plan period.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small	

				positive impact on flooding towards the end of the plan period.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on air quality and flooding issues towards the end of the plan period.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact towards the end of the plan period.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	?	+	This will be dependent on the type and location of renewable energy source. Policy safeguards exist to avoid and mitigate against any adverse effects.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on flooding issues towards the end of the plan period.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	++	++	This will be dependent on the type and location of renewable energy source. Policy safeguards exist to avoid and mitigate against any	

				adverse effects.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural environment.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is aiming to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage the principles of renewable energy. A number of policy criteria safeguards exist both within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts on the environment.				

Policy Env1 – Conservation, heritage and landscape

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities

	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the landscape, environment and habitats.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This is a criteria based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment, habitats and cultural assets.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This is a criterion based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment, habitats and cultural assets.				

Policy F1 – Flooding

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore..	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore and promote SuDs.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	

To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	++	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
To improve water quality	+	+	++	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	++	++	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	o	o	o	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
To minimise the production of waste					

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	o	o	o	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore. This will assist improving the baseline with regards to reducing the risk of flooding from new development.				

Policy CF1 – Community facilities

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	The policy encourages the continuing and increase use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality of the 'townscape' and character of the area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	The policy encourages the continuing and increase use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality the character of the area.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	The policy encourages the continuing and increase use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality the character of the area.	
To improve air quality	+	+	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce the effect of	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce	

traffic on the environment				the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land for recreations or community uses.	
To minimise the production of waste					

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land and use additional resources for recreations or community uses.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy encourages the continuing and increased use of existing community facilities. This will help to reduce the requirement for additional sites and resources.				

Key:

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards marginally	-- Move away Significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------	--------------------	--------------------------

SEA Objective / Policy	1. To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	2. To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	3. To improve quality of surroundings	4. To conserve and 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	14. To improve health of the population	15. To reduce crime and nuisance	16. To conserve natural and manmade resources	
Objective 1	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	X	?	
Objective 2	0	0	0	0	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	0
Objective 3	?	?	0	+	0	0	-	?	?	0	?	0	0	+	X	?	
Objective 4	0	0	0	0	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	X	0	
Objective 5	+	0	0	0	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	+	
Objective 6	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	
Objective 7	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	X	X	
Objective 8	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	
Policy H1	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+	+++	+	+	+	+				+	
Policy H2	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	+	+++	+++	+	+++	+++	+				+++	

Policy H3	++	++	++	++	++	X	++	++	+	++	++	X				++
Policy H4	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				++
Policy E1	X	+	+	+	++	++	++	+	O	+	+	O				++
Policy IN1	O	+	+	+	++	++	+	X	X	X	X	X				+
Policy T1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	X	+	O				+
Policy RE1	++	+	++	+	++	X	++	++	+	++	++	++				++
Policy CH1	++	++	++	++	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy F1	+	+	+	+	X	X	++	++	+	X	++	O				O
Policy CF1	X	+	++	++	+	++	++	X	X	X	X	+				++
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	++	+	++	+	++	+	++	++	+	+	++	+				++
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	<i>Overall the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan will contribution to meeting the SEA objectives and having a positive impact on the baseline. Policies have been drafted in general conformity with the Core Strategy objectives and contain many policy safeguards to ensure that the effects on environmental assets can be avoided or mitigated against. None of the policies are over and above those already assessed for the Core Strategy.</i>															
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	<i>The Dorstone neighbourhood plan is unlikely to have any significant cumulative effects on the SEA objectives.</i>															

Appendix 5

Consultation date:**Consultation title:** Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14*N.B. This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the SEA of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan (July 2015)*

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
Natural England	'We are in agreement that the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the River Wye SAC'. No other comments were made specifically regarding the SEA	Noted
English Heritage / Heritage England	Comments received to policy text but not specifically regarding the SEA	
Environment Agency	Comments received to policy text but not specifically regarding the SEA	
Natural Resources Wales	No comments received	

Date: 21 January 2016
Our ref: 173289 172653 SM 210116 DorstoneNP
Your ref: Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan



FAO clerkdorstonepc@aol.co.uk and
neighbourhoodplanning@herefordshire.gov.uk

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Sir / Madam

Planning consultation: Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan – Public Consultation Draft Regulation 14 Consultation, Draft Strategic Environmental Report and Draft Habitats Regulation Assessment
Location: Herefordshire County

Thank you for your consultations in respect of the above documents.

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.

Natural England has no comments to make in respect of the Environmental Report.

Habitat Regulation Assessment

International sites – River Wye SAC

Natural England understands that the River Wye SAC is located less than 1km away from the northern edge of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan area boundary. We also understand that the Neighbourhood Plan area falls partially within the River Wye's hydrological catchment. We acknowledge that the presence of the SAC is addressed within the accompanying Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Environmental Report (paragraph 3.1.1), however, there is no reference to this within the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

The River Wye SAC is a European designated site (also commonly referred to as Natura 2000 sites) and its interest features are afforded protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, as amended (the 'Habitats Regulations'). Development that will have an adverse effect on the River Wye SAC should not be permitted. Neither should development compromise the ability of the nutrient management plan to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets.

In considering the European site interest, Natural England advises Herefordshire County Council, as a competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, should have regard for any potential impacts that a this Plan will have. The [Conservation objectives](#) for each European site explain how the site should be restored and/or maintained and may be helpful in assessing what, if any, potential impacts a plan or project may have.

The Environmental Report (at 3.1.1) tells us that the watercourses within the village of Dorstone are not part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. We also understand that none of the proposed housing sites fall outside of the village boundary. On this basis, we are in agreement that the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the River Wye SAC.

Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan

Natural England has reviewed the above document and in general terms considers it addresses the protection of the natural environment well. However, we offer the following comments / advice:

International and national sites

The River Wye SAC is located only 1km north of the NP boundary yet this important international site is not mentioned in the document. Also, Moccas Park SSSI is located within the Neighbourhood Plan area yet is also not mentioned in the document. The Plan must ensure that any proposal or activity that would be likely to damage or destroy the interest features of this nationally designated site is avoided. We would suggest that the Plan is amended to include reference to both of these important designations in the introductory section of the Plan. We also recommend the inclusion of a discussion of Moccas Park SSSI, including any opportunities for protection and enhancement at 4f.

Vision, Objectives and Policies

We welcome the clear support for sustainable green tourism, the preservation and enhancement of landscape and wildlife features and the transition to a low carbon economy / community as part of the Plan's overall vision. However, there is little contained within the Plan which supports the development of improved Green Infrastructure (GI) for people and wildlife. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites within the locality of the town whose habitats may provide a starting point for GI enhancement and creation. You will be able to obtain information on non-statutory sites and species records from the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and/or the Local Biological Records Centre.

We advise inclusion of a specific policy on GI and expanding it to include more about [green infrastructure](#). This, to protect existing GI within the boundary of the plan area and also to promote the creation of new GI should new development proposals come forward. Such GI could include protection and creation of wildlife corridors and other environmental assets in the area to preserve and expand the existing ecosystem network. You may find it helpful to refer to the [Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Study \(2010\)](#).

Multi-functional green infrastructure is important to underpin the overall sustainability of a development by performing a range of functions including flood risk management, the provision of accessible green space, climate change adaptation and supporting biodiversity. An example of a green infrastructure provision is sustainable drainage systems. These can deliver benefits for people and for wildlife and make a valuable contribution to the local green infrastructure network. Actions such as re-naturalising watercourses can also bring multifunctional benefits, including benefiting flood attenuation. Woodland planting can also help mitigate flooding, see [Woodland for Water: Woodland measures for meeting Water Framework Directive objectives](#) for further information.

Additionally, research indicates that green roofs/living roofs can reduce run-off and thereby the risk of surface water flooding; reducing the requirement for heating and air-conditioning; and providing habitat for wildlife. Further information can be found here: <http://livingroofs.org/>.

Neighbourhood plans may provide opportunities to enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the surrounding natural and built environment; use natural resources more sustainably; and bring benefits for the local community, for example through green space provision and access to and contact with nature. Opportunities to incorporate features into new build or retro fitted buildings which are beneficial to wildlife, such as the incorporation of roosting opportunities for bats or the

installation of bird nest boxes should also be considered as part of any new development proposal, and this could be written into policy in the neighbourhood plan.

We also advise including policy to protect specifically [priority habitat](#) and other environmental assets in the area to preserve the existing eco-system network.

Finally, we recommend that reference is made to the Natural England Standing Advice for Protected Species which is available on the gov.uk website. It helps local planning authorities better understand the impact of development on protected or priority species should they be identified as an issue at particular developments. This also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, the authority should undertake further consultation with Natural England.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime for any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Susan Murray on 0300 060 2967. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Susan Murray
Lead Adviser – Sustainable Development
North Mercia Area Team
Natural England
0300 060 2967
susan.murray@naturalengland.org.uk

Hours of work: Tuesday's and Thursday's only

Appendix 6

Compatibility test for amendments to objectives following Draft Plan Stage

Objectives verses SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)

Key:

- + = Compatible
- = Possible conflict
- 0 = Neutral
- X = No relationship between objectives
- ? = Unclear, more information needed

Introduction:

The following matrix appraises the amended (**insert name of neighbourhood plan**) 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.

No objectives were amended in the submission version of the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan. Therefore there is no additional assessment required under Stage D2.

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- - Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	N/A No relationship
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Policy H2 – Housing site criteria

Changes 'should' to 'will' and additional criteria regarding new developments and their effects on existing dwellings.

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'. The policy also includes reference to the effects any new development can have on existing dwellings.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'. The policy also includes reference to the effects any new development can have on existing dwellings.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'. The policy also includes reference to the effects any new development can have on existing dwellings.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This policy compliments policy RA2 of the Core Strategy and would only lead to small scale development. Policy safeguards exist to ensure that environmental considerations are taking into account and open spaces and the character of the conservation area are protected.				

Policy E1 - Small businesses, farming and employment

Change to include reference to the River Wye SAC hydrological catchment.

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	++	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
To improve air quality	?	++	++	The change will not affect this objective	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	++	++	The change will not affect this objective	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	+	+	The change will not affect this objective	
To improve water quality	?	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The change will not affect this objective	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	o	o	The change will not affect this objective	
To minimise the production of waste	?	+	+	The change will not affect this objective	
To improve health of the population	?	+	+	The change will not affect this objective	
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	+	The change will not affect this objective	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment will help strengthen the policy.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The principles of this policy are compatible with Core Strategy policy E3 and RA5. Policy safeguards exist which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural environment. Additional criteria has been added to the policy to safeguard the River Wye hydrological catchment.				

Policy T1 - Tourism

Change to include bridleways in criteria 4

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	++	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	Addition of bridleways will have a positive effect on this objective	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
To improve water quality	o	o	o	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment particularly the River Wye.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	Additional policy safeguards are in place within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid and mitigate flood risk areas	
To conserve soil resources and quality	o	o	o	Additional visitor numbers could have an impact on the use and quality of surrounding land due to increasing in walking and recreation. However sufficient policy criteria safeguards exist to ensure impact on the natural environment is mitigated against where possible.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	Addition of bridleways could have a positive effect on this objective	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Additional tourism visitors and facilities could have an effect on the natural environment. Policy safeguards within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate against impacts on the environment. The additional of bridleways will have a minimal additional positive effect on a number of the objectives.				

Policy RE1 - Renewable energy

Change to include reference to the River Wye SAC catchment

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the natural environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment. Policy has been strengthened by the inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment. Policy has been strengthened by the inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment. Policy has been strengthened by the inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting	

				but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment. Policy has been strengthened by the inclusion of reference to the River Wye hydrological catchment.	
To improve air quality	+	++	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on air quality towards the end of the plan period.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on flooding towards the end of the plan period.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on air quality and flooding issues towards the end of the plan period.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact towards the end of the plan period.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	This will be dependent on the type and location of renewable energy source. Policy safeguards exist to avoid and mitigate against any adverse effects. Additional criteria has been included making reference to the River Wye SAC	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	+	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on flooding issues towards the end of the plan period.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	++	++	This will be dependent on the type and location of renewable energy source. Policy safeguards exist to avoid and mitigate against any adverse effects.	
To minimise the production of waste					

To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	This policy is aiming to increase connectivity within the parish. Policy safeguards exist within the policy to avoid or mitigate effects on the natural environment.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy is aiming to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage the principles of renewable energy. A number of policy criteria safeguards exist both within the Core Strategy and the Dorstone Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts on the environment. Additional criteria has now been added to refer to the River Wye SAC.				

Policy ENV1 - Conservation, heritage and landscape

Change includes the addition of reference to the River Wye SAC and Moccas Park SSSI.

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of	x	x	x	No relationship	

traffic on the environment					
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To improve water quality	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	++	++	++	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce crime and nuisance	x	x	x	No relationship	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The change specifically includes reference to the River Wye SAC (parts of the parish are within the hydrological catchment) and Moccas Park SSSI.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	This is a criterion based policy which seeks to preserve and enhance the natural and built environment, habitats and cultural assets. Specific reference has now been made to the River Wye SAC and Moccas Park SSSI.				

Policy F1 – Flooding**Changes ‘should’ to ‘will’**

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative	Summary Explanation	Enhancement and
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	effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)				mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To improve air quality	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To improve water quality	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	++	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To conserve soil resources and quality	o	o	o	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To minimise the production of waste	x	x	x	No relationship	
To improve health of the population	x	x	x	No relationship	
To reduce crime and nuisance	+	+	++	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	o	o	o	The policy has been strengthened to 'will' rather than 'should'	
Overall commentary and any cumulative	The intention of the policy is to avoid housing development on areas liable to flooding for the Pont-Y-Weston and River Dore. This will assist improving the baseline with regards to reducing the risk of flooding from new				

effects	development. The change has been strengthened by the inclusion of 'will' rather than 'should'
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Policy CF1 - Community facilities

Change includes additional criteria referring to the loss of community facilities and alternative facilities

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	x	x	x	No relationship. .	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	The change encourage the retention of community facilities which could have a positive impact on the townscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	The change encourage the retention of community facilities which could have a positive impact on the townscape and the surroundings.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	The change encourage the retention of community facilities which could have a positive impact on the historic environment depending on location.	
To improve air quality	+	+	++	The change is aiming to retain community facilities within the village which will assist in reducing the need to travel thus reducing air pollution from private cars.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	++	++	The change is aiming to retain community facilities within the village which will assist in reducing the need to travel	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	++	++	The change is aiming to retain community facilities within the village which will assist in reducing the need to travel thus reducing air pollution from private cars.	

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	x	x	x	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	x	x	x	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	x	x	x	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land for recreations or community uses.	
To minimise the production of waste					
To improve health of the population					
To reduce crime and nuisance					
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land and use additional resources for recreations or community uses.	
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	The policy encourages the continuing and increased use of existing community facilities. This will help to reduce the requirement for additional sites and resources.				

Appendix 7

Options Considered in preparation of Marden NDP

1. Do nothing
2. Reintroduction of a settlement boundary and manage future housing by development management policy
3. No settlement boundary and manage future housing by using a development management policy

Appendix 8

Objectives and context	Where referenced in NDP/SEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear. • 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. • SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • 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. • Conflicts that exist between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (paras 1.06 – 1.11). • Sections 2 and 3; and Tables A2 and A3 • Section 3 (para 3.7). • Section 3 (para 3.1). • Section 4 (paras 4.1 – 4.5)
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. • Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (paras 2.6 – 2.9) & Appendix 3 • Sections 2 and 6 • Sections 2 and 6

Alternatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented. Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant. The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared. Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained. Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5. Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.5). Section 5 & Appendix 5 N/A Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.5).
Baseline information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1 and 6. Initial screening report and Section 1. Section 2.

Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed. • Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable. • Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable. • The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base). • Methods used to evaluate the effects are described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables A2, A3 and A4 (Appendix 2) • Tables B2 and B3 (Appendix 4) Table D2 and D3 (Appendix 6) • Table B4 (Appendix 4) • Section 6 • Section 6 • Section 2
Mitigation measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated. • Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6 (paras 6.6. – 6.8) • Section 6.

The Environmental Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. • Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. • Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate. • Explains the methodology used. • Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used. • Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • N/A • N/A • Section 2 • Section 2 • Section 2 • Included at page 1
Consultation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (paras 2.4 – 2.5). Appendix 5 • Section 8.

Decision-making and information on the decision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan. An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sections 2 and 8. Section 6 and Appendix 6 Section 5 and Appendix 7
Monitoring measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures proposed for monitoring the Neighbourhood Development Plan are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA. Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA. Acknowledgement that monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 7. Section 7. Section 7. Section 7.