

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Eardisland Neighbourhood Area

November 2015

Eardisland Neighbourhood Development Plan 2011 - 2031
Draft Plan – November 2015

Contents

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	The requirement to undertake HRA of NDPs	2
3.0	Methodology	3
4.0	Results of the initial Screening Report	4
5.0	Description of the Eardisland Neighbourhood Development Plan	6
6.0	Identification of other plans and policies which may have in-combination effects	7
7.0	Assessment of the likely significant effects of the Eardisland NDP	8
8.0	Conclusions from the screening matrix	9

Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report (February 2014)

Appendix 2: Screening of options matrix

Appendix 3: Screening of objectives and policy matrix

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the National Planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Eardisland NDP is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Eardisland Parish Council is preparing an NDP for the whole administrative area of the parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for its development of the Parish up to 2031 (Draft Plan November 2015, being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP does not propose any allocated sites for housing but does provide general criteria policies that clarify and add locally specific detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy). Therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report undertaken in respect of strategic policies.
- 1.4 This high level screening assessment, which should be read in conjunction with the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) (October 2015), together with the Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (published in April 2015) and its Addendum (July 2015), ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.5 The map below shows Eardisland Neighbourhood Area and parish boundary.



2.0 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans

2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development/neighbourhood plans was confirmed by the amendments to the "Habitats Regulations" published for England and Wales in July 2007 and updated in 2013. Therefore when preparing its NDP, Eardisland Parish Council is required to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment" pursuant to Reg 32 Schedule 2 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations.

2.2 Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

2.3 HRA is an impact-led assessment and refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):

- **SPAs** are classified under the European Council Directive 'on the conservation of wild birds' (79/409/EEC; Birds Directive) for the protection of **wild birds and their habitats** (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species).
- **SACs** are designated under the Habitats Directive and target **particular habitats** (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.
- **Ramsar sites** support internationally important wetlands habitats

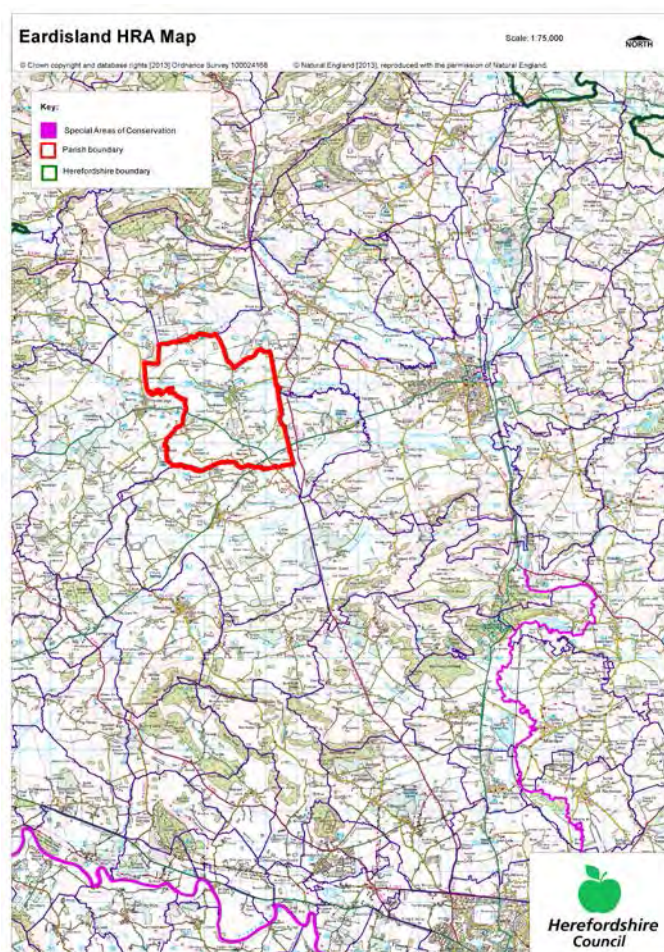
2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European sites and with reference to other plans or projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European site.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 As the Eardisland NDP is not directly connected with the management of any European sites, but includes proposals for development which may affect European sites, it is necessary under Regulation 102(1)(a) of the Habitats Regulations 2010 to undertake screening for likely significant effects on European sites.
- 3.2 The HRA of NDPs is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site's 'qualifying features' (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated) and are measured with reference to the conservation objectives for those qualifying features as defined by Natural England.
- 3.3 The first process is to undertake an initial screening report to determine the need to undertake the requirement for a HRA; this initial screening identifies whether the NDP would impact upon any European site that could be within the neighbourhood area or nearby.
- 3.4 If a European site is within the neighbourhood area or the neighbourhood area could impact upon a European site then this will need to be taken into account and a full screening assessment must be undertaken.
- 3.5 The full screening stage consists of a description of the plan, identification of potential effects on European Sites, assessing the effects on European Sites (taking into account potential mitigation provided by other policies in the plan). In the context of NDPs, the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur there will be a need to make amendments to the NDP, which will then have to be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4.0 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening Report (19 February 2014) shown in Appendix 1 revealed that the River Arrow runs through Eardisland parish and this is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC. Therefore a full screening assessment would be required.
- 4.2 The following map highlights the locations of the European sites in relation to the neighbourhood area. The River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC is around 8.3km from the boundary of the neighbourhood area to the north east.



- 4.3 European sites can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), the water supply in this area comes from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes in water quality are expected in relation to the proportional growth outlined with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 4.4 In relation to water quality, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated by existing water discharge permits and would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC; this position is confirmed by latest update to the HRA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), published in July 2015. However, it should be noted that Eardisland is not connected to the main sewerage system and each property has responsible for their sewerage and waste water disposal system.
- 4.5 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Eardisland Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 of this HRA report).

4.6 Options for initial policy choices have been assessed to determine their environmental impact on the European site (refer to Appendix 2). In general, the majority of the options are concerning whether new development should be located and the potential design issues.

5.0 Description of the Eardisland NDP

5.1 The Draft Eardisland NDP presents criteria based policies for development in the neighbourhood area, which is equivalent to the administrative parish boundary, up to 2031.

5.2 The NDP sets out the vision for the parish over the plan period and 6 objectives for achieving this vision on the ground. These objectives are as follows:

1. To ensure that the visual effect of all development complements and enhances the parish
2. To ensure that services, facilities and amenities are provide and improved to meet the current and future need of the parish
3. To enable sufficient and appropriate housing, based upon sound environmental and sustainable principles. To meet the future needs of the community
4. To support residents to participate within a safe and thriving parish
5. To ensure that new and existing businesses enhance the character of the parish
6. To promote a sense of community responsibility with regards to development, community facilities and infrastructure.

5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 18 general policies on themes based on the objective headings above:

- Policy E1: General development principles
- Policy E2: Protecting heritage assets
- Policy E3: Landscape character
- Policy E4: Protection and enhancement of features of ecological value
- Policy E5: Design to reduce surface water run off
- Policy E6: Dark Skies
- Policy E7: New communications technologies
- Policy E8: Protection of local community facilities
- Policy E9: Scale and type of new residential development
- Policy E10: Ensuring an appropriate range of tenure, types and sizes of houses
- Policy E11: Protection of local green spaces
- Policy E12: Public rights of way / connectivity
- Policy E13: Managing agricultural land and business
- Policy E14: New agricultural development
- Policy E15: Supporting existing local employment
- Policy E16: New local employment opportunities
- Policy E17: Supporting tourism and local business development
- Policy E18: Community facilities and public funds

- 5.4 Due to recognised flooding and environment constraints, the NDP proposes criteria based policies for future housing, in order to facilitate the some element of the proportional growth envisaged by Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Therefore there are no site allocations proposed within this draft plan.

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

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It should be noted, however, that NDP cannot be Made (adopted) if likely significant effects occur.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), and these plans have been reviewed and can be found at Appendix 2 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) Habitats Regulations Assessment (July 2015).
- 6.3 The Eardisland NDP does not contain policies which would result in greater levels of development than envisaged by strategic policies, as set out in the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), and so it is considered that this review is sufficient for the purposes of the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Pembridge, Kingsland, Shobdon) are at varying stages of their production, but none of the proposals within these plans involve measures to promote higher levels of growth than the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at this stage.
- 6.4 The HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment. The former, on the one hand, indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Local Plan’s policies, whilst the latter seeks to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

7.0 Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Eardisland NDP

- 7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a Screening Assessment has been undertaken to identify the 'likely significant effects' of the NDP. This involved the preparation of a screening matrix, which determined whether any of the policies and site allocations in the NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.
- 7.2 The findings of these can be found in Appendices 3 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table below.

Red	There are likely to be significant effects
Green	Significant effects are unlikely

- 7.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each objective and policy individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration.
- 7.4 If required, the mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through additional policy wording and the implementation of the other policies within the NDP and the Local Plan (Core Strategy).

8.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Eardisland NDP objectives and policies (Nov 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the European site. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Eardisland NDP, the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. In several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity. In addition, to conserve community facilities and heritage, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 The plan allocates a settlement boundary for Eardisland but it is acknowledged that environmental constraints exist which make it more difficult to achieve the proportional growth within the settlement boundary. Therefore no site allocations are proposed.
- 8.4 The water cycle study highlights that most of the River Wye catchment is in a moderate ecological status. The River Arrow runs through the parish and is part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Therefore, the parish falls within the Upper River Wye catchment area. The River Wye downstream of the confluence with the River Lugg is currently exceeding the phosphate target. The WCS also identifies that the Eardisland Group as one of the highest areas at risk of fluvial flooding in the Upper Wye sub-catchment. The Upper Wye catchment is a part of a large, linear ecosystem which acts as an important wildlife corridor, an essential migration route, and breeding area for many nationally and internationally important species.
- 8.5 The 2014 Nutrient Management Plan highlights the Upper Wye section of the SAC is currently meeting the phosphate target (0.05 mg/l phosphate). However, it is nearing the target and so there is a risk to future compliance that needs addressing. In addition, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that development within Herefordshire which can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC
- 8.6 It is unlikely that the Eardisland NDP will have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as these are the very early stages of the NPD process and it is currently anticipated that the publication of some of these draft plans for comment will be some months away.
- 8.7 Therefore, subject to the addition of safeguarding criteria within the housing policies of the plan, it is concluded that the **Eardisland NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.**
- 8.8 Any further amendments to the policies (post November 2015) will be re-screened and an addendum to this report will be produced to accompany the submission version of the plan.

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:	Eardisland Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Eardisland Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	19/02/2014

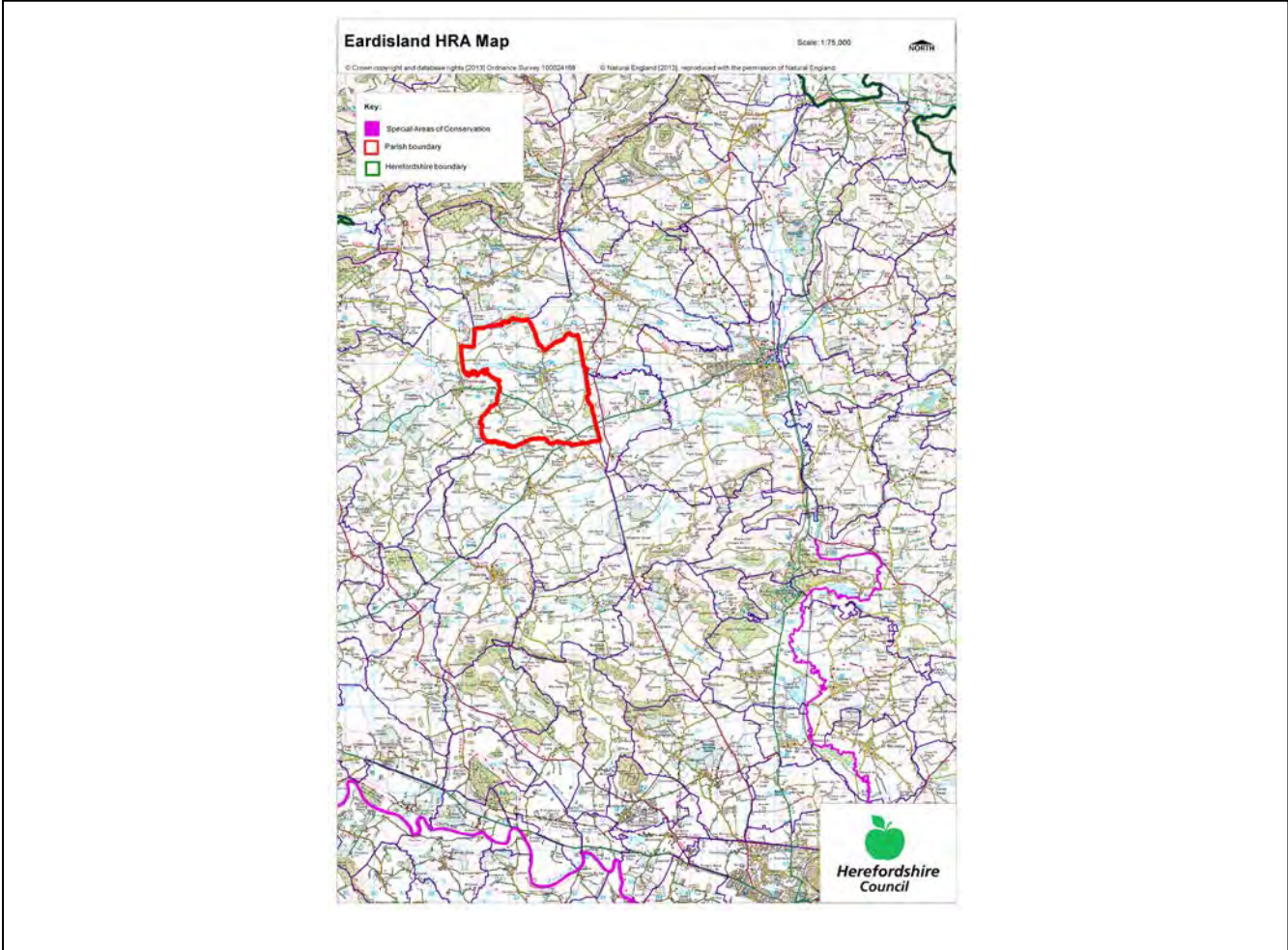
Introduction

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

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

This document is copyright of Herefordshire Council, please contact the Neighbourhood Planning team if you wish to reuse it in whole or part

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	N	The River Wye/Lugg SAC is 8.3km away from the Parish.
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Arrow.
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	N	There is no mains drainage in Eardisland.

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 12.3km away from the Parish.
---	---	---

River Clun SAC:

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

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 45km 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	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 42.1km away from the Parish.
--	---	--

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	Wye Valley Woodlands are 45.5km away from the Parish.
--	---	---

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 Eardisland 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 Eardisland 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 (AQMA)	0	There are no AQMAs within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	4	Tank Wood; Broadmarsh Coppice; Henwood Wood (border); Vallet Coppice (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest (AAI)	0	There are no AAIs within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	0	There are no AONBs within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	4	Eardisland; Pembridge (border); Kingsland (border); Dilwyn (border)	Y
European Sites (SAC)	0	There are no SACs within the Parish	N
Flood Areas/Zones		Flood Zones run along the River Arrow and also a brook in the south of the Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous listed buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	13 (SWS)	Pinsley Brook (border); Marsh Covert (border); River Arrow; Monkland Common (border); Land at Stretford Bridge (border); Stretford Brook (border); Pigmore Common; Tippets Brook; Land at Bearwood (border); Fields near Bearwood (border); Heath Wood (border); Land adjacent to Moseley Common (border); Moseley Common (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	0	There are no long distance footpaths/trails within the Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	5	North west of Eardisland; South west of Eardisland; North of Lower Burton; East of Sollars Dilwyn – Tyrells Court to Stretford; Manor Farm, Monkland to Wallend (border)	Y
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered Parks and Gardens	4 Unregistered	Lynch Court; Burton Court, Eardisland; Henwood Farm (border); Court of Noke (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	6	Monks Court; Mound north of the church; North Herefordshire Rowe Ditch (border); Bowl Barrow 490m south east of Milton Cross (border); Moated site at Court House Farm (border); Dovecote at Luntley Court (border)	Y

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	1	Moseley Common (Unfavourable Recovering) (border)	Y
---	---	---	---

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 10/01/2014

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

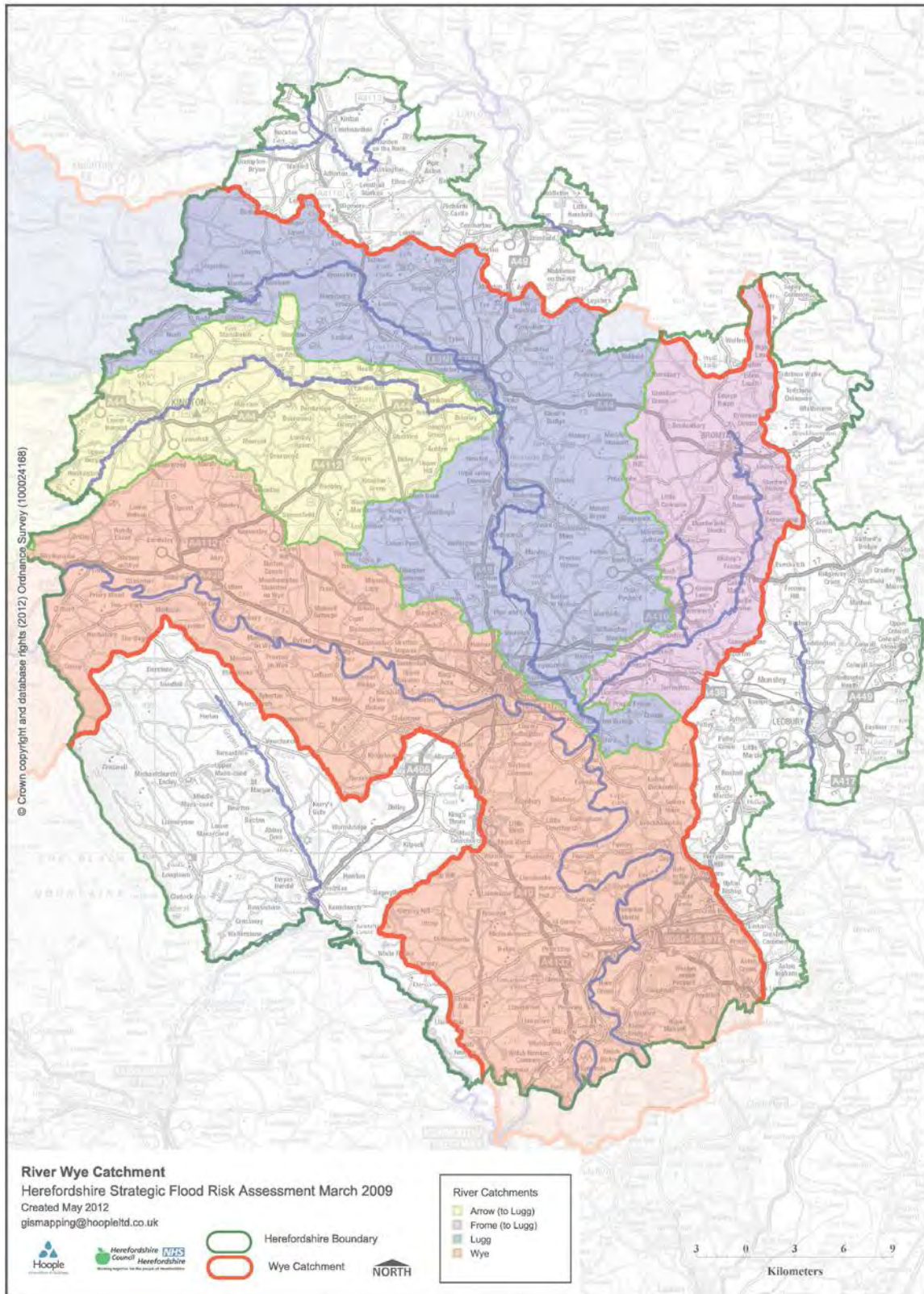
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map



Appendix 2

NDP options	HRA Screening of NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Option 1 Do nothing.	No NDP to determine planning applications.	Criteria policies within the Core Strategy would guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parish would not exist.	N/A	N/A	N/A
Option 2 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary.	Small scale proportionate growth within a defined settlement boundary area.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Additional criteria would be required when formulating the accompanying settlement boundary policy to ensure that no likely significant effects could occur. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential headroom capacity at the local STW.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
Option 3 Manage future housing through a development management policy.	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by criteria based policy.	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment. Policy would need to take account of the proportional growth requirements of the Core Strategy and potential waste water treatment.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
Option 4 Limit housing numbers built on one development site.	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by criteria based policy	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria based housing policy would require to include reference to mitigation measures to avoid any non-disturbance effects on the River Wye via its catchment.	No, development in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the policy safeguards which exist within the Core Strategy should avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects. Policy criteria should be included within the NDP which reflects this. Further assessments will be undertaken at draft policy stage.
Option 5 Protect special publically accessible views	This would not lead to development	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this option is seeking to protect special views into the village rather than resulting in development.

NDP options	HRA Screening of NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Option 6 Developments should submit a sustainability appraisal	This would not lead to development but a potential option for future planning applications	Uncertain as to the impact on the European sites as dependant on the location of the development.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No, this option is considering an additional requirement for future planning applications to be included within policy.

Appendix 3

NDP objectives and policies	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Objective 1 – To ensure that the visual effect of all development complements and enhances the parish	This objective is to encourage future developments to be in keeping with the visual characteristics of the conservation area and the wider parish and promoting sustainability.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this objective will not result in any significant impacts on the European site.
Objective 2 – To ensure that service, facilities and amenities are provided and improved to meet the current and future needs of the parish	This objective is seeking to increase broadband connectivity, safeguard community facilities and improve road safety	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this objective will not result in any significant impact on the European site
Objective 3 – to enable sufficient and appropriate housing based upon sound environmental and sustainable principles, to meet the future	This objective seek to provide sustainable proportional growth within the environmental constraints identified within the parish	Uncertain at this stage as the location of any development is not known	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Inclusion of a safeguarding criteria within the NDP policies relating to this objective	No, development would be small scale and proportionate. This is in conformity would the Core Strategy.

needs of the community					
Objective 4 – to support residents to participate within a safe and thriving parish	This objective seeks to encourage safe movement routes within and across the parish and access to open space	Uncertain at this stage as the location of any development is not known	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Where necessary, the inclusion of safeguarding criteria within the NDP policies	No, objective will be supported by policies within the NDP
Objective 5 – to ensure that new and existing business enhances the character of the parish	This objective encourages development of new and enhanced business opportunities within the parish	Uncertain at this stage as the location of any development is not known	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Inclusion of a safeguarding criteria within the NDP policies relating to this objective	No, objective will be supported by policies within the NDP
Objective 6 – to promote a sense of community responsibility with regards to development, community facilities and infrastructure	This objective is encouraging public support for community facilities and infrastructure	Uncertain at this stage as the location of any development is not known	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	This will not lead to development itself but any policies concerning the location of development should include safeguarding criteria.	No, this objective will not directly lead to development.
Policy E1 – General development principles	This policy will not lead directly to development but highlights the criteria by which any proposals will need to meet.	A criteria is included which specifically includes the avoidance or mitigation of any likely significant effects on the River Wye SAC	n/a	Safeguarding criteria is already included within the policy	No, safeguarding is included within the policy criteria
Policy E2 – Protecting heritage assets	This policy will not lead to development but contains safeguarding criteria to protect	None, this policy outlines the design criteria with regards to the historic	n/a	Safeguarding criteria exist within other development principle	No, this policy would not directly lead to development

	heritage assets.	environment		policies of the NDP	
Policy E3 – Landscape character	This policy would not lead to development directly but highlight criteria to protect landscape character and features.	None, this policy outlines the design criteria with regards to the landscape character and features	n/a	Safeguarding criteria exist within other development principle policies of the NDP	No, this policy would not directly lead to development
Policy E4 – Protection and enhancement of features of ecological value	This policy seeks to protect and enhance ecological features.	None, the policy is seeking to safeguard watercourse and ecological features within developments. However additional reference to the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC would be beneficial.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Particular reference could be made to the River Wye SAC within the policy to add additional safeguard.	No, the policy is aiming to protect and enhance ecological features.
Policy E5 – Design and reduce surface water run off	This policy seeks to reduce surface water runoff and encourages SuD.	None, the policy criteria specifically references the avoidance of any significant effects on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria is already included within the policy	No, safeguarding is included within the policy criteria
Policy E6 – Dark skies	This policy is seeking to reduce light within the night sky and therefore will not affect the River Wye SAC	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy is concerning lighting of development
Policy E7 – New communications technologies	This policy seeks to encourage the wider use of broadband by supporting additional installations.	Uncertain at this stage as the location of any development is not known. However any development is likely to	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria exist within other development principle policies of the NDP	No, this policy will only lead to small scale development in relation to broadband installations

		be small scale			
Policy E8 – Protection of local community facilities	This policy is relating to the protection of existing facilities and their potential change of use	This would be dependent on the alternative use. However, additional policy criteria exists within the Core Strategy and NDP	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria exist within other development principle policies of the NDP	No, safeguarding criteria exists within the development principles policy of the NDP
Policy E9 – Scale and type of new residential development	This policy provides criteria for all new housing development	None, the policy criteria specifically references the avoidance of any significant effects on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria is already included within the policy	No, safeguarding is included within the policy criteria
Policy E10 – Ensuring an appropriate range of tenure, types and sizes of houses	This policy encourages a range and mix of dwellings on any sites	None, this policy would not lead to development but provides criteria regarding the size of properties.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria exist within other development principle policies of the NDP	No, safeguarding criteria exists within the development principles policy of the NDP
Policy E11 - Protection of local green spaces	This policy is protecting areas of local green space, some of which are adjacent to the River Arrow.	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy is seeking to safeguard local green spaces within the built form of the village
Policy E12 – Public rights of way / connectivity	This policy encourages increased connective within the parish particularly biodiversity.	No, policy is seeking to enhance biodiversity routes and additional policy safeguards exist	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria exist within other development principle policies of the NDP	No, safeguarding criteria exists within the development principles policy of the NDP
Policy E13 - Managing agricultural land and businesses	This policy seeks to manage agricultural activities which are subject to planning	No, reference is made to the need to reduce flooding and surface water runoff and ground drainage. The Nutrient	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguard criteria exist and the Action Plan within the Nutrient Management Plan will assist in addressing	No existing safeguards exist within the Core Strategy and the Nutrient Management

	controls	Management Plan also contains safeguards regarding agricultural practices.		issues around agricultures processes.	Plan.
Policy E14 – New agricultural development	This policy concerns agricultural related development	None, the policy criteria specifically references the avoidance of any significant effects on the River Wye SAC	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Safeguarding criteria is already included within the policy	No, safeguarding is included within the policy criteria
Policy E15 – Supporting existing local employment	This policy is regarding the expansion of existing employment business.	Uncertain as at this stage as the location of any development is not known. Although safeguards exist in other policies, additional reference to the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC would be beneficial	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Particular reference could be made to the River Wye SAC within the policy to add additional safeguard.	No, if additional criteria is included within the policy
Policy E16 – New local employment opportunities	This policy provides criteria for future new employment development.	Uncertain as at this stage as the location of any development is not known. Although safeguards exist in other policies, additional reference to the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC would be beneficial	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Particular reference could be made to the River Wye SAC within the policy to add additional safeguard.	No, if additional criteria is included within the policy
Policy E17 – Supporting tourism and local business	The policy supports tourism and associated facilities.	Uncertain as at this stage as the location of any development is not known. Although	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Particular reference could be made to the River Wye SAC within the policy to add	No, if additional criteria is included within the policy

development		safeguards exist in other policies, additional reference to the hydrological catchment of the River Wye SAC would be beneficial		additional safeguard.	
Policy E18 – Community facilities and public funds	This policy would not lead to development but encourages developer contributions to community facilities and infrastructure	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy is regarding support for developer funds such as s106 and CIL