

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Kingstone & Thruxton Group Neighbourhood Area

July 2015

Contents

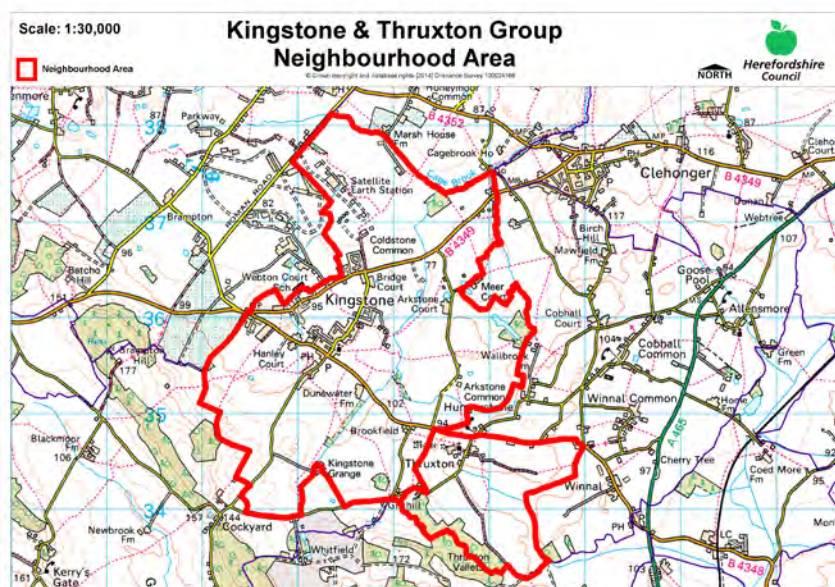
1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	The requirement to undertake HRA of NDPs	2
3.0	Methodology	3
4.0	Results of the initial Screening Report	4
5.0	Description of the Kingstone and Thruxton NDP	6
6.0	Identification of other plans and policies which may have in-combination effects	7
7.0	Assessment of the likely significant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

Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report (May 2014)

Appendix 2: Screening of 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 Kingstone and Thrupton NDP is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Kingstone and Thrupton Group Parish Council is preparing an NDP for 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 July 2015, being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has highlights two sites for housing. Both of these sites are current commitments with planning permission which the NDP is acknowledging. The plan also consolidates the use of Gooses Foot Industrial Estate as an employment area. It also provides a number of general 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 Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), together with the Proposed Main Modifications (March 2015) and Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (published in April 2015), ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Kingstone and Thrupton 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, Kingstone and Thrupton Group 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

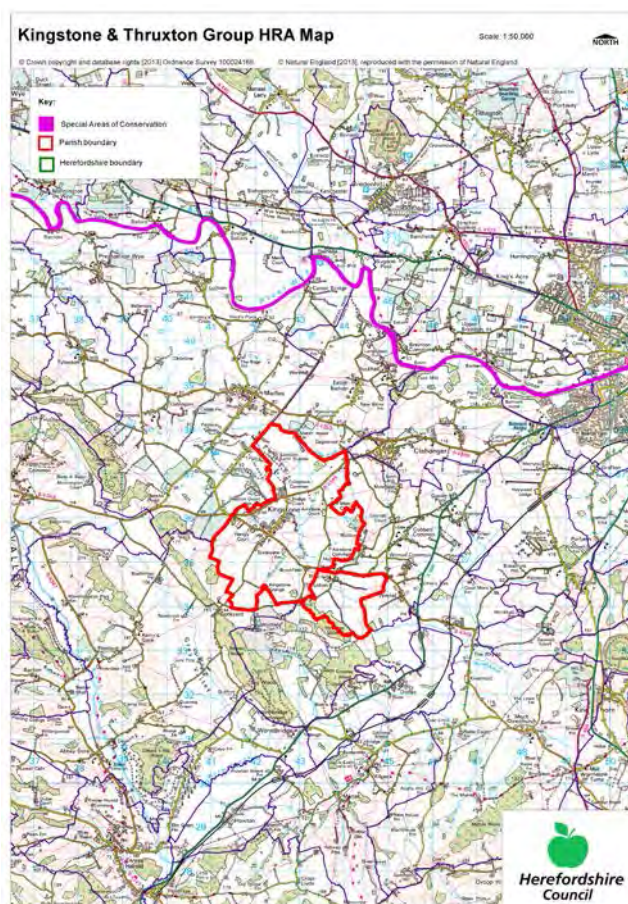
2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European sites and with reference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

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 As the Kingstone and Thrupton NDP is not directly connected with the management of any European sites, and 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 (14 May 2014) shown in Appendix 1 revealed that the River Wye SAC is 2.35km north of the Kingstone and Thrupton neighbourhood area and the parish is within the hydrological catchment, 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.



- 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 April 2015.
- 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 Wellington 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 concerning new development would appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact.

5.0 Description of the Kingstone and Thruxton NDP

5.1 The Draft Kingstone and Thruxton 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 10 objectives for achieving this vision on the ground. These objectives are as follows:

General objectives

- The principle objective of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is to ensure that the housing and employment needs of the local community are met in such a way that minimises the impact of development on the rural nature of the parish.
- The plan will provide guidance on how such developments can be designed and implemented in accordance with the wishes of the local community and clearly highlight all areas where special consideration needs to be given.

Housing

- To provide a robust and sound planning framework for the delivery of an appropriate growth of housing development within Kingstone and Thruxton's settlement boundaries. This will be over the plan period and in line with the housing growth targets of the Ross-on-Wye Rural Housing Market Area as outlines in the Core Strategy. In particular;
 - The overall scale of housing development must be proportionate to the size of Kingstone and Thruxton villages and in line with the need identified in the latest local housing needs survey. Already approved planning applications where development has not yet started will also be taken into account when reviewing any new development proposals.
 - Development must ensure an appropriate range of tenures, types and sizes of houses.
 - Development proposals must be sustainable
 - Development must meet local housing needs as defined in local housing needs surveys.
 - Development must be phased appropriately over the plan period.
 - Housing proposals outside the settlement boundary, but within the parish boundaries will be resisted unless the criteria in section 1 below are met.
- To ensure that new housing in the Kingstone parish, is provided in a suitable range of numbers, tenures, types and sizes in a manner as to promote sustainability for future generations as well as accommodating local people of all ages who wish to continue to live in the area. Reuse of previously developed brownfield sites is the preferred option protecting key existing environmental assets such as open green spaces and landscapes.
- Housing development in the working agricultural hamlet of Thruxton should contribute to the social wellbeing of Thruxton and must not compromise the quiet rural nature of the Parish.

Heritage

- To identify and protect both Local Heritage Assets and Green Spaces

Community facilities and services

- The role of the group parish will be enhanced and improved by protecting valuable services and facilities.

Employment

- To provide a robust and sound planning framework for the delivery of an appropriate growth of work unit developments for local employment opportunities within Gooses Foot Industrial Estate. The employment uses will be limited to B1 business (limited to 500 square metres of floor space), B2 General Industrial (limited to 500 square metres of floor space), and B8 Storage and Distribution (limited to 500 square metres of floor space). This will be over the plan period. In particular:
 - Planning applications outside the settlement boundary, but within the Parish boundaries will be resisted unless the criteria in Policy KTE1 below are met.
 - Outside the settlement boundaries and in the wider countryside, work units must fit with the rural character of the villages and not exceed two storeys.
 - Landscaping is provided to screen industrial buildings, parking etc, and the proposed use will not have a detrimental impact on the local landscape.
 - Adequate noise attenuation measures and measures to mitigate the effects of light pollution are to be provided.
 - A traffic management plan is produced to minimise the impact of traffic and disturbance to local residents.
 - Must ensure that proposed developments are sustainable.
 - Economic development and investment related to the provision of new communication technologies will be supported to assist with the provision of local employment opportunities within the parish.
 - The development of new high speed broadband infrastructure to serve the parish will be supported where it is sympathetically designed and when appropriate camouflaged to take account of the rural character of the Parish.

Flooding

- To ensure that all planning applications for new buildings and change of use of existing buildings have robust flood and surface water alleviation plans. All submitted planning applications will include a full Flood Survey as desktop flood assessments do not provide adequate evidence on the potential flooding impact within the Parish.

Developer Contributions

- To outline developer's contributions for any new development within our Parish. The objective can be clarified using the following documents:
 - a. The 1990 Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991 & Planning Act 2008)) establish the statutory framework for developer contributions in the form of Section 106 planning obligations.
 - b. Planning Obligations (as amended by the Planning Act 2008 and Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010)

5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 12 general policies on themes based on the objective headings above:

- Policy KTH1: Housing development building and phasing
- Policy KTH2: Supporting sustainable development on commitment site 1
- Policy KTH3: meeting local housing needs and providing a mix of new housing

- Policy KTH4: Character and distribution of housing in Kingstone
- Policy KTH5: Character and distribution of housing in Thrupton
- Policy KTH6: Protecting heritage assets
- Policy KTH7: Protecting local green spaces
- Policy KTH8: Provision and protection of community facilities and services
- Policy KTE1: Proposals for new employment
- Policy KTE2: Protection of existing employment
- Policy KTF1: Reducing flood risk
- Policy KTF2: Flood resilience
- Policy KTF3: Reducing surface water flooding
- Policy KTDC1: Developer contributions

5.4 The NDP proposes that the following sites be allocated for housing, in order to facilitate the proportional growth envisaged by Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy):

- Committed Site 1 – Land south of the B4349 and west of the C1221
- Committed Site 2 – Land to the rear of Whitehouse Drive

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 Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014).
- 6.3 The Kingstone and Thrupton NDP does not contain policies and site allocations which would result in greater levels of development than envisaged by strategic policies, however does it acknowledge that a level of housing commitments exist within the parish. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Madley, Eaton Bishop, Clehonger, Abbey Dore, Ewyas Harold and Kentchurch Group) 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 latest version of 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 Kingstone and Thrupton 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 2 and 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 policy, objective and site allocation individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the proposed Main Modifications were also taken into consideration.
- 7.4 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 Timescale for adoption

- 8.1 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) is in its final stages of production and the hearing was held in February 2015. It is anticipated that the Inspector's report will be received in September 2015. Given the current draft stage of the Kingstone and Thrupton Group Neighbourhood Development Plan, the assumption is made whilst producing the HRA reports and screening matrix is that the Core Strategy will be adopted prior to the adoption of the Kingstone and Thrupton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

9.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 9.1 None of the Kingstone and Thruxton NDP objectives and policies (July 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the European site, however two policies have been highlighted as having the potential to be strengthened by the inclusion of additional criteria to avoid comprise of the nutrient management plan targets. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Kingstone and Thruxton NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.
- 9.2 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. Policies were also reflecting existing commitments and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. Two policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects by the inclusion of additional criteria and safeguarding measures contained within other policies.
- 9.3 With regard to site commitments, the possibility of there being likely significant effects is unlikely given that none of the sites are in close proximity of the European sites. The inclusion of additional policy wording in relation to the general housing and employment policies of the NDP would, along with other policies, provide adequate safeguarding measures.
- 9.4 It is unlikely that the Kingstone and Thruxton 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 for comment of the majority of the adjoining draft neighbourhood development plans will be some months away.
- 9.5 Therefore, subject to the addition of safeguarding criteria within the housing (KTH1) and employment (KTE1) policies of the plan, it is concluded that the **Kingstone and Thruxton NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.**
- 9.6 Any further amendments to the policies and proposed site allocations (post July 2015) will be re-screened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

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:	Kingstone & Thrupton Group Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Kingstone & Thrupton Group Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	14/05/2014

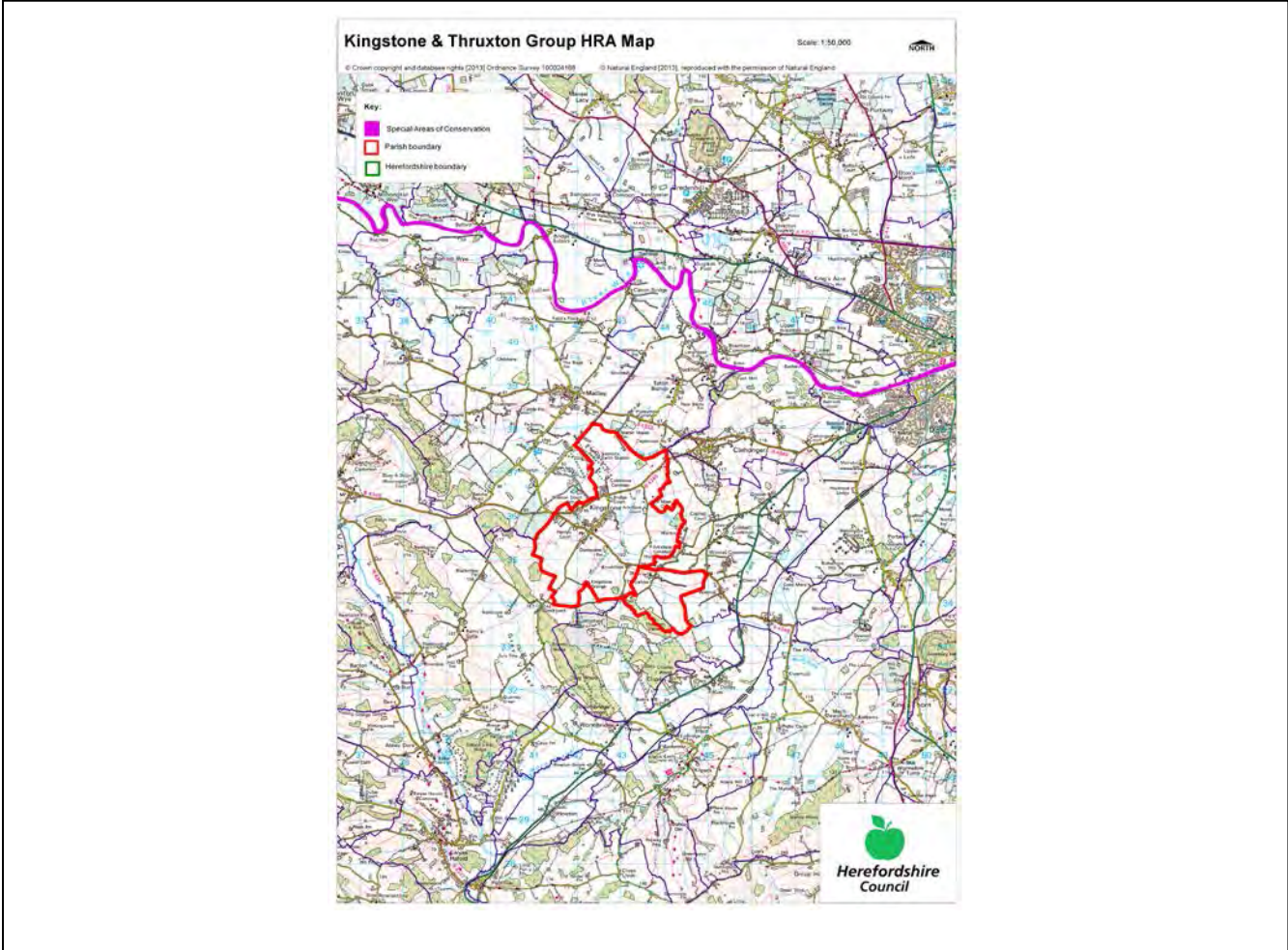
Introduction

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 is 2.35km away from the Group Parish.
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Group Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Kingstone & Madley

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 34.8km away from the Group 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 Group Parish.
--	---	--

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 28.6km away from the Group 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 24.6km away from the Group 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 20.6km away from the Group 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 Kingstone & Thruxton Group 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 Kingstone & Thrupton Group 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 Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	19	Wallbrook Wood; Heirons Wood; Thrupton Vallets; Bullocks Wood (border); Square Wood (border); Vallets Wood (border); Lady's Coppice (border); Big Wood (border); Brampton Hill Wood (border); Ravenshoot & Dunsall Woods (border); Lady Coppice & The Birches (border); Bucknells Wood (border); Ruckhall Wood (border); Priors Shell Wood (border); Old Hill Coppice (border); Big Birches Wood (border); Dawn Wood (border); Mill Wood (border); Dippersmoor Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest (AAI)	0	There are no AAIs within the Group Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	0	There are no AONBs within the Group Parish	N
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Group Parish	N
European Sites (SAC)	0	There are no SACs within the Group Parish	N
Flood Areas/Zones		Flood Zones run alongside Cage Brook and tributaries off this	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous sites throughout the Group Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	19 (SWS)	Kingstone Common; Arkstone Common; Cage Brook; Whitfield; Brampton Hill Wood (border); Littlemarsh Common (border); Honeymoon Common (border); Two farms at Castle Farm (border); Eaton Bishop Church (border); Cage Brook Valley and woodlands (border); Fields near Eaton Camp (border); Clehonger village pond (border); Bucknalls Wood (border); Field near Bage Mill (border); Pond at Allensmore Court x 2 (border); Timberline Wood and adjoining woodlands (border); Eaton Hill Wood (border); River Dore (border); Newbarns, Dunseal, Ravenshot WDS & Pontapina Break (border)	Y

Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	0	There are no long distance footpaths/trails within the Group Parish	N
Mineral Reserves	6	Cobhall Farm (border); Cobhall Common (border); Whitehouse Kennels (border); Small area north west of Green Farm (border); Courtlands Farm (border); Hunderton Rough to Clehonger to Allensmore (border)	Y
National Nature Reserve (NNR)	0	There are no NNRs within the Group Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered Parks and Gardens	1 (Registered) 2 (Unregistered)	Registered: Whitfield Unregistered: Cagebrook House (border); Allensmore Court (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM)	3	Thrupton Tump, a motte castle at Thrupton Court; Eaton Camp (border); Churchyard Cross at St Mary's Churchyard (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	2	Littlemarsh Common (Unfavourable Declining) (border); Cage Brook Valley (Favourable (part) Unfavourable No Change (part) Unfavourable Declining (part)) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Kingstone & Thrupton Group Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 15/04/2014

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.

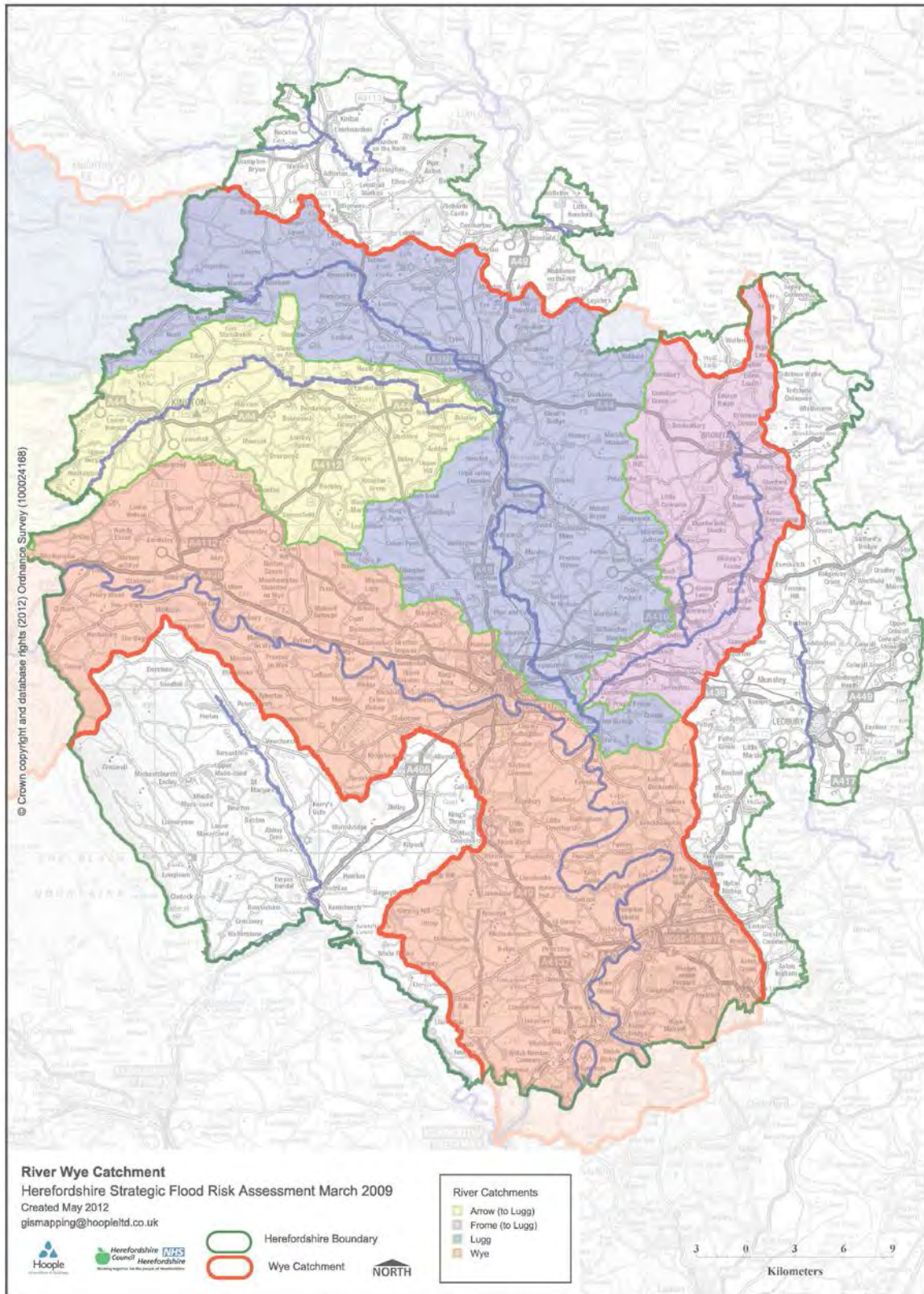
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation. 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/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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 Allocate sites for housing.	Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map.	Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and not left to market forces.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. 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 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.

NDP options/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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 4 (Preferred option) Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary.	Small scale proportionate growth on specific sites identified on a proposals map and within a defined settlement boundary area.	Greater degree of certainty over the impact of future development on the European sites, as the location of housing would be pre-determined and the settlement boundary would provide a clear distinction between open countryside and the built environment.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. 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 5 Manage future housing through a development management policy.	Small scale proportionate growth where the location would be determined by a 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 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.
NDP Objectives					
General Objective 1	To minimise the effects of housing and employment developments needs on the rural nature of the parish.	The aim of this objective is to ensure the minimum impact of the rural and natural environment	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria based policies within the plan will assist in safeguarding natural assets	No, policy criteria should be included within the plan with reflects this objective and help to safeguard against any significant effects.
General objective 2	Objective to support appropriate design and implementation of development	Objective guides development rather than results in development itself	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Design and implementation policies to be included within the plan.	No, this objective would not result in development but promotes guidance on design and implementation
Housing objective 1	Objective to support the delivery of proportional growth during the	Small scale proportional growth within the defined settlement	River Wye (including the River	Criteria policies to be included within the plan which safeguard	No, the objective acknowledges small scale growth within defined settlement boundaries in

NDP options/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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)?
	plan period	boundaries of Kingstone and Thrupton.	Lugg) SAC	environmental assets	line with Core Strategy policy. Safeguard policies exist within the plan.
Housing objective 2 Character and distribution in Kingstone	Objective to support sustainable development in Kingstone during the plan period. Use of brownfield land and protecting key existing environmental assets.	Small scale sustainable growth within Kingstone	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria policies to be included within the plan which safeguard environmental assets	No, this objective seeks to ensure sustainable growth within protecting environmental assets being important.
Housing objective 3 Character and distribution in Thrupton	Very small scale proportionate growth within the settlement boundary of Thrupton.	Small scale sustainable growth within Thrupton	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria policies to be included within the plan which safeguard environmental assets	No, this objective seeks to ensure sustainable growth within protecting environmental assets being important.
Heritage objective Identify and protect both local heritage and green spaces	Protect heritage assets and green spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this objective is seeking to protect heritage assets and green spaces.
Community facilities objective Enhance and improve by protecting valuable services and facilities	Measure to protect and enhance valuable services and facilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy will not directly lead to development, it seeks to protect and avoid the change of use of specific premise.
Employment objective	Encourages new employment opportunities on an existing Industrial Estate within the parish. Limits uses in the sites and the size of units. Encourages environmental measures to be included	Small scale employment development on a known industrial area within the parish	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria should be included within the policy to safeguard against any negative effects on the River Wye SAC catchment area and reference to the NMP should be included	No, with the inclusion of any necessary policy criteria, significant effects on the River Wye SAC catchment area should be avoided.
Flooding objective	Seeks to reduce the impact of fluvial and surface water flooding within the parish	n/a	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No, objective seeks to reduce the impacts on surface water and fluvial flooding on the parish which will have a positive effect on the nutrient run off within the River Wye SAC catchment.
Developer Contributions objective	Seeks to clarify the position on development contributions	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this is not a policy which would lead to development
NDP Policies					

NDP options/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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)?
<p>Policy KTH1</p> <p>Housing development buildings and phasing</p>	<p>Policy to support the delivery of market housing in Kingstone and Thrupton settlements to meet housing needs in line with Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy RA2.</p> <p>Restriction of development outside of these settlement boundaries in line with Policy RA3</p>	<p>Given existing commitments within the parish, this policy seeks to permit small scale growth only.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development and possible increase in recreational activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites dependent on the location of non-allocated development, however the policy would result in only small scale growth.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following sentence: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p>	<p>No. This policy conforms to Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), and although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented.</p> <p>The policy could be strengthened by the addition of the suggested wording.</p>

NDP options/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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)?
Policy KTH2 Supporting sustainable development on committed site 1	The policy reflect the current commitment within Kingstone for a housing scheme including 150 dwellings,5 commercial units sustainable surface water drainage, allotments, community buildings and open space.	This policy is reflecting a current commitment.	n/a	n/a	No, this policy is reflecting a current commitment
Policy KTH3 Meeting local housing needs and providing a mix of new housing	This policy will not lead to development itself but guides mix and tenure	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy would not lead to development itself but guides mix and tenure.
Policy KTH4 Character and distribution of housing in Kingstone	Measure to guide developments within the settlement boundary of Kingstone. Inclusion of SUDS and other environmental measures included	n/a	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Inclusion of additional wording within Policy KTH1	No, the inclusion of SUD has been included within the development criteria within this policy. Additional wording to the overarching Policy KTH1 with assist in safeguarding any potential effects on the River Wye SAC catchment.
Policy KTH5 Character and distribution of housing in Thrupton	Very small scale proportionate growth within the settlement boundary of Thrupton.	n/a	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Inclusion of additional wording within Policy KTH1	No, this policy will only lead to very small scale development within the settlement boundary of Thrupton. Additional wording to the overarching Policy KTH1 with assist in safeguarding any potential effects on the River Wye SAC catchment.
Policy KTD1 Protecting heritage assets	Conserve and enhance a number of names assets	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy will lead to the protection of heritage assets and their recordings
Policy KTD2 Protecting Local Green Spaces	Conserve and enhance local green spaces and green infrastructure. Protect public open spaces and identify names local green spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy would not lead to development rather it seeks to protect, enhance and designate areas of open space and green infrastructure to benefit the natural environment and character of the area.
Policy KTCF1 Provision of protection of community facilities and services	Measures to resist the loss of specific community facilities and services and encourage new or expanded retail and community facilities	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy seeks to avoid the change of use of specific community facilities within the settlement boundary

NDP options/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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)?
<p>Policy KTE1</p> <p>Proposals for new employment</p>	<p>Encourages new employment opportunities on an existing Industrial Estate within the parish.</p> <p>Limits uses in the sites and the size of units.</p> <p>Encourages environmental measures to be included</p>	<p>Employment, infrastructure development and, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following sentence: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Reports.</p>	<p>No. This policy conforms to Policy RA6 and E1 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), and although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that this should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented.</p> <p>The policy could be strengthened by the addition of the suggested wording.</p>

e c

n

NDP options/objectives/policies	HRA Screening of 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 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)?
Policy KTE2 Protecting existing employment	Protection of existing local employment opportunities in line with Core Strategy Policy ED2	Employment, infrastructure development and, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	The inclusion of additional criteria relating to the avoidance of effects on the European site would provide an extra safeguard.	No, with the inclusion of the additional criteria referencing the River Wye SAC and the Nutrient Management Plan, this will provide the additional safeguard.
Policy KTF1 Reducing flood risk	Promotion of surface water drainage measures for all developments. Avoidance of development within high flood risk areas	Improvements in likelihood of flooding and the knock on impacts of increased nutrient run-off into the River Wye catchment.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No, this policy aims to reduce development within flood risk areas and reduce the impacts of surface water flooding. This in turn will reduce the impacts on the wider water environmental including the River Wye SAC catchment area.
Policy KTF2 Flood resilience	Design criteria to ensure all developments are more flood resist	n/a	n/a	n/a	No, this policy is promoting design aspects of buildings to make them resistance to internal and external flooding occurrences
Policy KTF3 Reducing surface water flooding	All developments should include provisions to reduce surface water run off Promotion of SUDS	Improvements in likelihood of flooding and the knock on impacts of increased nutrient run-off into the River Wye catchment.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No, this policy aims to reduce development within flood risk areas and reduce the impacts of surface water flooding. This in turn will reduce the impacts on the wider water environmental including the River Wye SAC catchment area.
Policy KTDC1 Developer Contributions	Includes spend areas for developer contributions within the parish.	n/a	n/s	n/a	No, this policy will not lead to development itself. It is highlights spend areas for development contributions.