

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Area

February 2016

Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Consultation – February 2016

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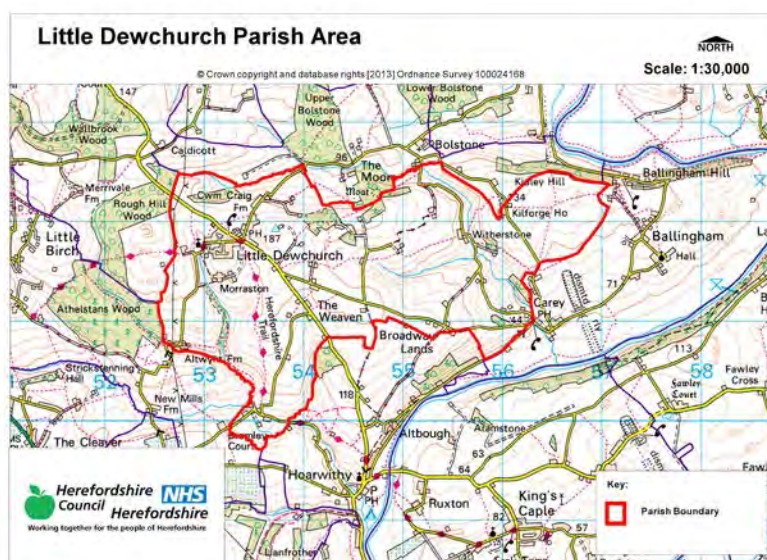
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1 Introduction

- 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 Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Little Dewchurch Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for whole administrative area of Little Dewchurch parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the parish up to 2031 (Draft plan February 2016 being assessed).
- 1.3 The NDP has allocated one site and provides general policies that clarify and provide detail to the policies within the Herefordshire Core Strategy therefore it requires a high level screening assessment to build upon the HRA Screening Assessment Report for the Herefordshire Core Strategy. This high level screening assessment should be read in combination with the Herefordshire Pre-submission publication of the Local Plan-Core Strategy Habitat Regulations Assessment Report (May 2014) and the Proposed Main Modification Addendum B (July 2015) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Area and parish boundary.



2 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 neighbourhood plan, Little Dewchurch

Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as “Habitats Regulations Assessment”. 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 Methodology

3.1 As the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan 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.

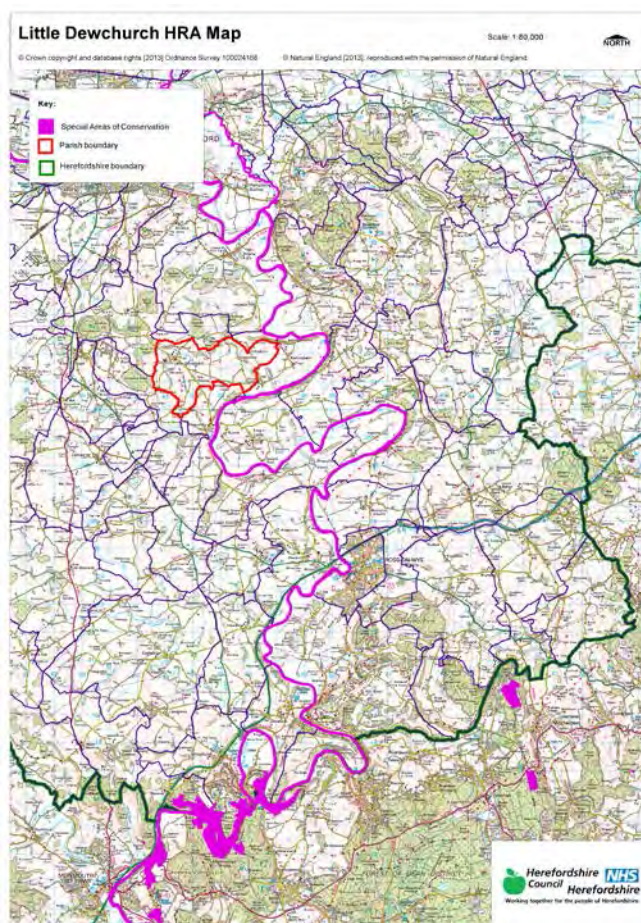
3.2 The HRA of neighbourhood plans is undertaken in stages and should conclude whether or not a proposal or policy in a neighbourhood plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site’s ‘qualifying features’ (i.e. those 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 Plan could 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 will need to 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). For Neighbourhood Plans the outcome should demonstrate there are no likely effects upon the European sites. If any likely effects occur then there will need to be amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan made and be re-screened until all likely effects have been mitigated.

4 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening report (12 September 2013) (Appendix 1) found that the River Wye SAC is located less than 1km away from the northern edge of the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Area. However, due to the Wriggle Brook running through the neighbourhood area, it lies within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Therefore a full screening assessment is required. Figure 2 below highlights the location of River Wye SAC in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.2 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 Core Strategy. In relation to water quality, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated within existing water discharge permits would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC. Work is currently ongoing with DCWW to ensure that sufficient permitted headroom exists and or measure can be put in place in the Little Dewchurch Sewerage treatment works (STW) to accommodate the specific growth highlighted within the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.3 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 of this HRA report). This information made it possible to identify the features of each site which determine site integrity, as well as the specific

sensitivities of each site, therefore enabling later analysis of how the potential impacts of the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.

- 4.4 Options for initial policy choices (See appendix 2) have been assessed to determine their environmental impact for each option that could impact the River Wye SAC. The alternative options were concerning the delineation of the settlement boundary for the village of Little Dewchurch, potential allocation sites and whether to pursue policies for renewable energy schemes and employment opportunities. The village itself lies outside of the flood plain for the Wriggle Brook but within the area shown as the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. Therefore this has been taken into account within the screening of both the options and policies. The HRA screening matrix of emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan can be found in appendix 3.

5 Description of the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan (February 2016) presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the administrative parish boundary, up to 2031.
- 5.2 The neighbourhood plan sets out the vision for the Parish over the plan period and objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:
- Objective 1: Local built and natural environment
 - Objective 2: Housing growth
 - Objective 3: Local employment
 - Objective 4: Infrastructure
 - Objective 5: Renewable energy
 - Objective 6: Flooding
 - Objective 7: Community facilities
 - Objective 8: Recreation
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 9 general policies (including 1 site allocation) on topics based on the objective headings above as follows:
- Policy LD ENV1: A Valued Natural and Built Environment
 - Policy LD ENV2: Local Green Spaces
 - Policy LD SB1: Settlement Boundary
 - Policy LD H1: Housing Delivery (including allocation at Land west of Field Fare)
 - Policy LD H2: Housing Design Criteria
 - Policy LD E1: Rural Employment

- Policy LD INF1: Local Infrastructure
- Policy LD RE1: Renewable energy
- Policy LD CF1: Community facilities

5.4 Section 6 of the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan highlights the review and monitoring process proposed for the plan during the plan period until 2031. It is proposed that a formal review of the plan is undertaken in 2021.

5.5 A draft consultation is planned to be undertaken in line with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, any amendments or changes suggested as part of this assessment would need to be considered as part of the review of comments received to this consultation.

6 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 neighbourhood plans cannot be made if like significant effects occur.

6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Core Strategy across Herefordshire, these plans have been reviewed and can be found in Appendix 2 of the pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014) and its Addendum (May 2015). It is seen that as the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plan (Ballingham, Bolstone and Hentland Group) is at this stage in its production, also not going over and beyond the requirements set out within the Core Strategy for their area.

6.3 The HRA for the Core Strategy also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire, which indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Core Strategy policies, and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment.

7 Assessment of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Little Dewchurch 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. A screening matrix was prepared in order to identify whether any of the policies in the Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.

- 7.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in the Screening Matrix in Appendix 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 1 below.

Table1

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 individually, which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), was also taken into consideration.
- 7.4 Mitigation of some of the identified potential effects could be achieved through implementation of the other policies within the NDP which require good practice measures. The Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment within Policy ENV1, Policy H2 and Policy INF1. The Neighbourhood Plan will do this by ensuring there is no adverse impact on the environment, landscape, habitats and biodiversity; development is located to contributing to surface water flooding; and reducing the need to travel.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan policies (Feb 2016) were concluded to be likely to have a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC. This is primarily because although the parish lies within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye, development is in line with the Core Strategy and existing safeguards exist within both plan policies. Some suggestions have been made to two policies to strengthen the policy wording in connection with the hydrological catchment of the River Wye within regards to employment and renewable energy. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version and Proposed Main Modification Addendum B of the HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in a significant likely effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.2 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is sufficient existing permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Little Dewchurch area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies. Continuing work is required with DCWW to ensure that sufficient headroom remains and a potential feasibility study may be required to assess any further upgrade requirements. 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.

- 8.3 It is unlikely that the Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parishes due to the level of growth proposed is of the same that is proposed for the Hereford Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing will be of a small scale.
- 8.4 It is therefore concluded that the **Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 8.5 Any further amendments to the policies (post February 2016) will be rescreened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced to accompany the submission 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)

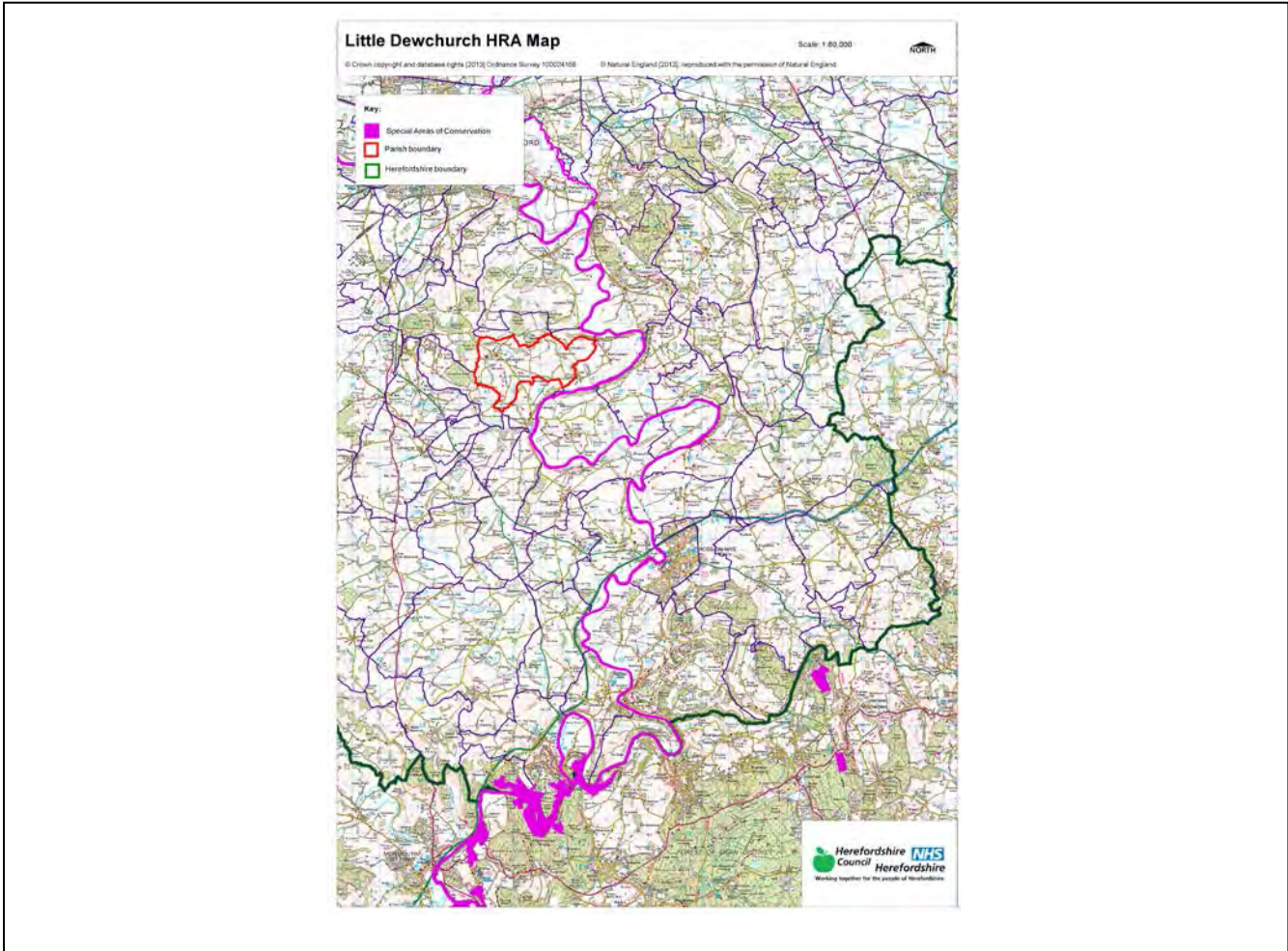
Neighbourhood Area:	Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Little Dewchurch Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	12 th September 2013

Introduction

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

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

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



Initial HRA Screening

River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area have the River Wye (including the River Lugg) in or next to its boundary?	Y	The River Wye runs close to the borders of 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 River Wye hydrological catchment area
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Little Dewchurch

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 41.6km away from the Parish
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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
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Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 35.2km away from the Parish
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Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	The Parish is 14.6km away from the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites
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Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	The Parish is 15.7km away from the Wye Valley Woodlands
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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 Little Dewchurch 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 Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Area and would need to be taken into account within a Strategic Environmental Assessment. In addition, the NDP will also need to consider the other SEA topics set out in Guidance Note 9a to ensure that the plan does not cause adverse impacts.

SEA features	Total	Explanation	SEA required
Air Quality Management Areas	0	There are no AQMA's within the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	11	Lady Coppice (border); Fox Wood; Ballis Wood; Trilloes Court Wood; Weaven Wood (border); 1 unlabelled site at Kidley Hill (border); Armastone Wood (border); 1 unlabelled site by Ballingham Hill (border); 1 unlabelled site at Upper Bolstone Wood (border); Lower Bolstone Wood (border); Nether Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAIs within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1	The Wye Valley AONB runs through the eastern half of the Parish	Y
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
European Sites	1	River Wye (border)	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 and 3 follow a brook/stream coming off the River Wye from Carey up to Witherstone. There is also Flood Zones by Bromley Court in the south of the Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	14 (SWS)	Athelstan's and Rough Hill Woods and The Crickets (border); Upper Bolstone Wood and The Belt (border); Ballis Wood; Trilloes Wood Court; Kidley Hill Wood (border); Ballingham Railway Tunnel (border); Fields north of Carey; Although Wood (border); Margin of Wriggle brook near Tresseck (border); Ballingham Wood (border); River Wye (border); Woods along the Wye from Caplar Camp (border); Woodlands on Aconbury Hill (border); Lower Bolstone Wood (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	1	Herefordshire Trail	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves Sites within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	1 Unregistered	Aramstone (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	2	Churchyard cross in St David's	Y

		churchyard; Moated site, Trilloes Court Wood (border)	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1	River Wye (Unfavourable Recovering) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 02/08/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

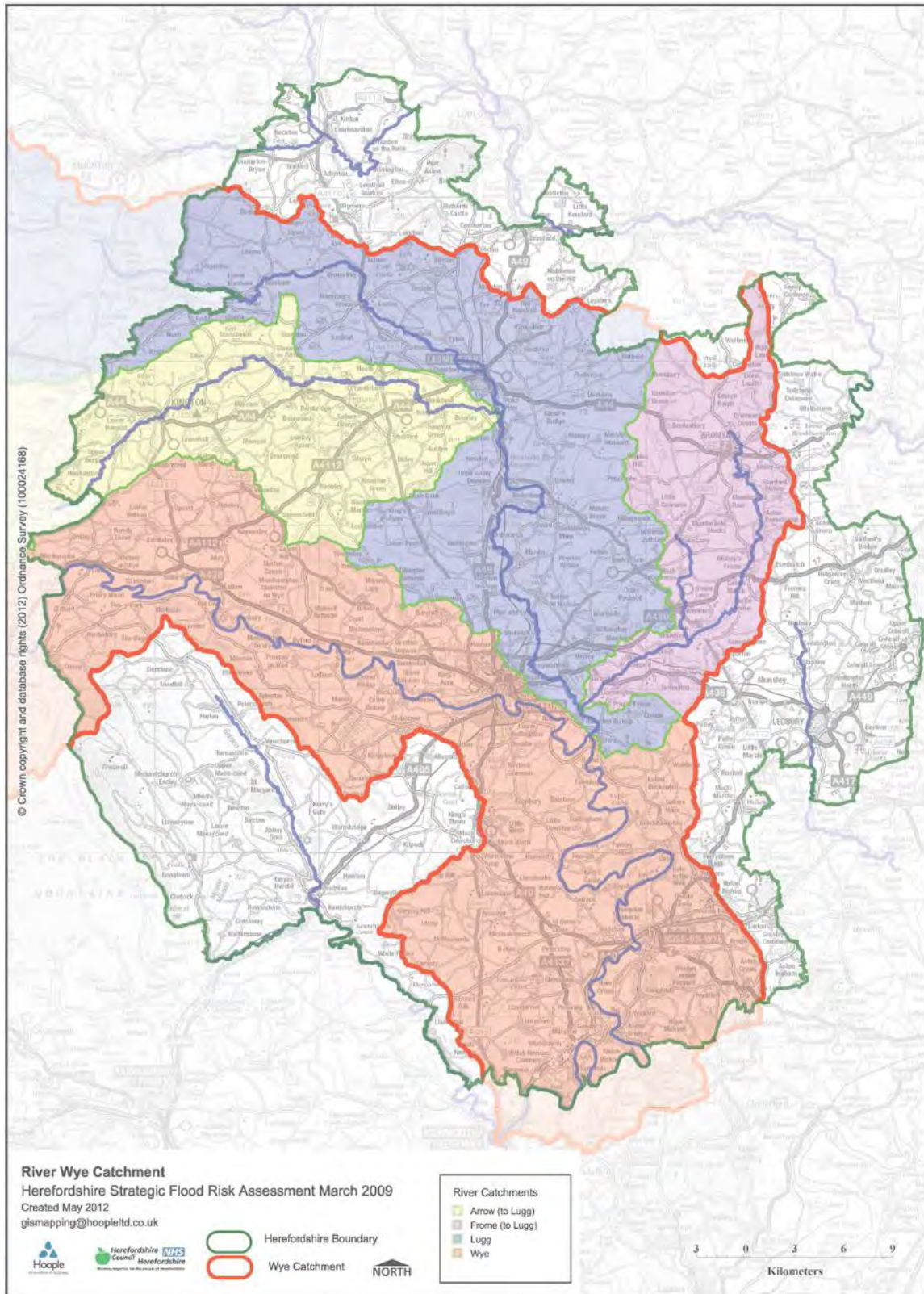
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map



Appendix 2

HRA Report –Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan (February 2016) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

Date undertaken: **February 2016**

Core Strategy HRA version: **Pre-submission Core Strategy (May 2014) and Proposed Modifications Addendum B (April 2015)**

NDP options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if option 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 option and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
Option 1 Do nothing	Not producing a neighbourhood plan would result in any future growth decisions within the parish being made based on the strategic policies within the Core Strategy. Proportional housing and employment growth in accordance with the Core Strategy.	Core Strategy HRA has examined the likely significant effects of the Core Strategy rural policies in May 2014 and April 2015 and concluded that there are no LSE but acknowledges the role of neighbourhood plans to provide additional certainty.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC. The River Wye SAC itself does not pass through the parish. However the Wriggle Brook is part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.	n/a	n/a
Option 2 Allocate sites for housing	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth would be located is outside of the catchment area for

HRA Report –Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan (February 2016) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

	within the policy wording.	ensure no likely significant effect would occur			the River Wye.
Option 3 Manage future housing using a settlement boundary	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty as any growth will be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against any likely effects.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any settlement boundary criteria policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely settlement boundary would be drawn is outside of the floodplain area for the Wriggle brook..
Option 4 Allocate site and identify a settlement boundary	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies. However the majority of the village where proportional growth and the settlement boundary are likely to be located are outside of the Wriggle	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate. The majority of the village, where likely proportionate growth and settlement boundary would be located outside of the flood plain area for the Wriggle Brook.

HRA Report –Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan (February 2016) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Options

	built form and open countryside	Brook floodplain			
Option 5 Commercial renewable energy scheme	Potential disturbance if large scale and depending upon location	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring. Scale of individual schemes unlikely to have an impact.	Potential disturbance if large scale and depending upon location
Option 6 Private renewable energy schemes	Potential disturbance depending on the location	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributaries.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Impact would depend on location and scale of the scheme. Sufficient safeguards required within an policy criteria to assist with any cumulative effects of individual schemes on the hydrological catchment	Scale of individual schemes is unlikely to have a significant impact especially as the River Wye SAC is outside of the parish area
Option 7 Allocations for new businesses	Potential Physical disturbance depending upon location and type of employment Increased traffic levels	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.	Potential Physical disturbance depending upon location and type of employment Increased traffic levels

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		avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributary of the Wriggle Brook			
Option 8 Criteria for small scale business development and home working	Potential Physical disturbance depending upon location and type of employment Increased traffic levels	Good practice techniques for construction may help to eliminate disturbance during construction phases. Ensure future policy balances out the scale of promoted schemes and avoid the location to close to the River Wye SAC or its tributary of the Wriggle Brook	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Impact would depend upon location and scale. Need to ensure sufficient safeguards are in place to prevent significant effect occurring.	Potential Physical disturbance depending upon location and type of employment Increased traffic levels
Site allocation options Location north Sites 1/2/10/11	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. This area is outside of the floodplain for the Wriggle Brook, however any surface water issues will need to be addressed within the policy criteria	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.
Site allocation options Location east Sites 8/9	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.

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	investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	River Wye catchment. This area is outside of the floodplain for the Wriggle Brook, however any surface water issues will need to be addressed within the policy criteria			
Site allocation options Location south Sites 5/6/7	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. This area is outside of the floodplain for the Wriggle Brook, however any surface water issues will need to be addressed within the policy criteria	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	n/a	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy to mitigate.
Site allocation options Location west Sites 3/4	Allocation of sites for housing within the area would be close to the floodplain of the Wriggle Brook. Specific flooding and drainage issues would need to be investigated and be positively addressed within the policy wording.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within the River Wye catchment. Given the location near to the Wriggle Brook flood plain, mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure no likely significant effect would occur	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Need to ensure sufficient water management safeguards are included within any policy criteria	No; policy criteria can be added to any allocation policy within the location to mitigate.

Appendix 3

HRA Report –Little Dewchurch Neighbourhood Plan (February 2016) - HRA Screening of Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives and Policies

Date undertaken: **February 2016**

Core Strategy HRA version: **Pre-submission Core Strategy (May 2014) and Proposed Modifications Addendum B (April 2015)**

NDP objectives, 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.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
Objective 1 – Local built and natural environment	Conserve local built and natural heritage	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it seeks to protect, conserve and enhance natural and historic features in any proposals
Objective 2 – housing growth	Promoting sustainable limited growth	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to development; rather it acknowledges that limited growth will occur in line with the Core Strategy within the village of Little Dewchurch which is within of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye.
Objective 3 – local employment	Support for employment opportunities	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective in itself does not lead to development but supports small scale employment and business

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	within the parish.				opportunities within the parish.
Objective 4 – infrastructure	Improvement in broadband and mobile coverage	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective would not lead to development itself but seeks to support the appropriate installation of equipment to improve broadband and mobile coverage in the area.
Objective 5 – renewable energy	Support small scale renewable energy opportunities relating to private use	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective would not lead to development itself but seeks to support small scale renewable energy projects for local use.
Objective 6 - flooding	Seeks to reduce impacts of flooding within the parish	N/A	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	This policy should help to mitigate potential adverse effects of future development on designated areas by ensuring that development happens in sustainable non flood risk locations.	No, the objective itself will not lead to development, instead it relates to the ensuring development proposals do not exacerbate flooding on surrounding land. Thus reducing the impact on the water environment.
Objective 7 – community facilities	Encourage and enhance the use of community	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this objective will not lead to new development but seeks to encourage the

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	facilities.				retention and enhancement of existing community facilities.
Objective 8 - recreation	Improvements to the village recreation playing fields	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this objective will lead to small scale local improvements to an existing recreation area.
Policy ENV1 – Natural and Built Environment	Safeguard local character including local habitats and biodiversity value	This policy is seeking to protect those elements of the natural environment which could have a positive effect on the European site	N/A	N/A	No; this policy is seeking to protect and enhance those features of the natural environment with a specific criteria relating to biodiversity and local habitats.
Policy ENV2 – Local Green Spaces	Protect existing open spaces	N/A	N/A	N/A	No; this policy is seeking to safeguard four existing open spaces within the village.
Policy SB1- Settlement boundary	Designates a settlement boundary for the settlement of Little Dewchurch	This policy will seek to direct the majority of the development to the settlement rather than the wider parish	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria within the policy highlights development should take place within the settlement boundary. The settlement boundary is not within the flood area of the Wriggle Brook, however the area forms part of	No: this policy will allow for the small scale sustainable growth of Little Dewchurch village in line with Core Strategy policy RA1/RA2.

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				<p>the River Wye hydrological catchment. However the policy would result in very small scale growth.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should help to avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment Agency.</p>	
Policy H1 – Housing Delivery	Housing delivery and distribution within the parish	The River Wye does not flow through the parish but the Wriggle Brook forms part of the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including River Lugg)	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Distribution within the policy highlights the majority of the development should take place within the settlement	No: this policy will allow for the small scale sustainable growth of Little Dewchurch village in line with Core Strategy policy RA1/RA2.

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		SAC		<p>boundary.</p> <p>The settlement boundary is not within the flood area of the Wriggle Brook, however the area forms part of the River Wye hydrological catchment. However the policy would result in very small scale growth.</p> <p>The implementation of the Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should help to avoid adverse impacts in relation to hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water quality in the River Wye SAC is also specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan produced by Natural England and the Environment</p>	
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				Agency.	
Policy H1 – Land to the west of Field Fare	Development for 16 houses	<p>Site is outside of the floodplain for the Wriggle Brook</p> <p>Possible increase in vehicles and demand for water abstraction.</p> <p>Welsh Water have indicated that growth can potential be accepted within current flow limits as headroom is available at present.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>The settlement boundary is not within the flood area of the Wriggle Brook, however the area forms part of the River Wye hydrological catchment. However the policy would result in very small scale growth. Criteria is contained within Policy H2 of the NDP which complement SD3 and SD4 of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Consultation with Welsh Water is recommended</p>	No: this policy will allow for the small scale sustainable growth of Little Dewchurch village in line with Core Strategy policy RA1/RA2.
Policy H2 – Housing Design Criteria	Development criteria for any housing proposal	Will not lead directly to development. Criteria contained to safeguard water management and protection of the natural environment	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	Criteria is contained within this policy which complement SD3 and SD4 of the Core Strategy with regards to water	No; policy will not lead to development directly but contains criteria new proposals will be adjudged against. This includes criteria regarding water management.

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				management	
Policy E1 – Rural Employment	Encouragement of small local business start-ups, working from home and farm diversification primarily in conversion, extensions.	<p>Employment and infrastructure development.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>The Core Strategy policy LD2 will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new employment or businesses uses.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development.</p> <p>Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.</p> <p>The implementation of Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should also</p>	<p>No: this policy is seeking to allow further working for home and small scale businesses. This may have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>There are policy safeguards within Core Strategy policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p>

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				<p>help to avoid any adverse impacts in relation to the hydrological regimes at the River Wye. Water Quality in the River Wye is also being specifically addressed through the Nutrient Management Plan.</p> <p>This Little Dewchurch NDP policy should help to reducing the extent to which people need to travel to work especially in connection with policies to improve network connections.</p> <p>Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance locations which could have an</p>	
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				adverse impact on the natural environment especially River Wye.	
Policy INF1 – Local Infrastructure	This could result in additional masts and transmitter facilities within the parish.	Depending on location could be physical disturbance. Uncertain as to the impacts upon the River Wye SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy could result in some small scale infrastructure.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Although the River Wye does not pass through the parish, additional policy criteria could be added to strengthen the avoidance locations which could have an adverse impact on the River Wye hydrological catchment.	No: the policy itself will not lead to development but provided the criteria by which any development proposal will be adjudged. A number of policy safeguards exist both within the Core Strategy and the Little Dewchurch NDP. With the additional wording, likely significant effects can be avoided or mitigated against.
Policy RE1 – Renewable Energy	Policy is aiming to encourage the provision of small scale community renewable energy schemes	Depending on type and location of infrastructure; Physical damage or disturbance Non-physical disturbance such as noise	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	Measures included within policy SD2 of the Core Strategy should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances. Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression	No; this policy could result in the development of renewable energy infrastructure which depending on location could have potential effect on the hydrological catchment of the River Wye. However, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within the Core Strategy and with the inclusion of additional wording within the Little

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				measures, hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.	Dewchurch NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.
Policy CF1 – Community Facilities	Encourage and enhance the use of community facilities.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No: this policy in itself would not result in new development rather it relates to the safeguarding and enhancement of existing community facilities.