

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Sutton St. Nicholas Neighbourhood Area

October 2015

Sutton St. Nicholas HRA

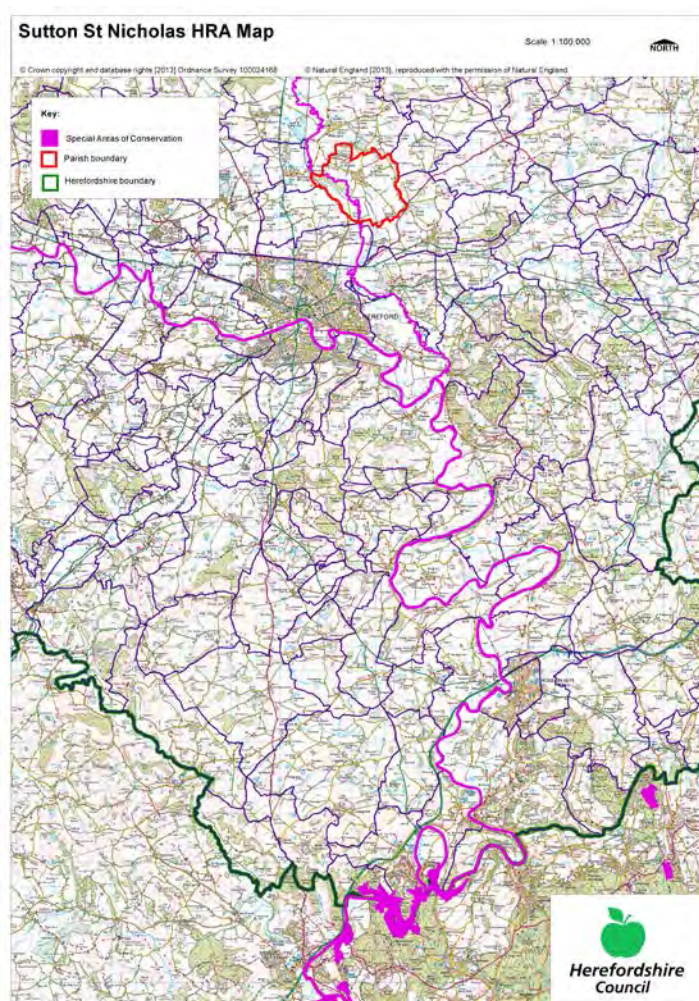
HRA Screening Assessment

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that is considered to be in general conformity with higher level strategic plans, such as the Herefordshire Core Strategy and the National planning Policy Framework. The screening stage involves assessing broadly whether the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European site(s).
- 1.2 Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council is producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Sutton St. Nicholas Parish, in order to set out the vision, objectives and policies for the development of the Parish up to 2031. This HRA reviews the Draft Sutton St. Nicholas Plan October 2015.
- 1.3 The NDP provides general policies, and allocates two housing sites, 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 (April 2014) and ensures that there will not be any significant impacts upon Natura 2000 sites.
- 1.4 The map below shows Sutton St. Nicholas Neighbourhood Area with the European Site highlighted.



2 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of neighbourhood plans

- 2.1 The requirement to undertake HRA of development 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, Sutton St. Nicholas Parish Council is required by law to carry out an assessment known as "Habitats Regulations Assessment". It is also a requirement in Regulation 32 schedule 2 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012.
- 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 neighbourhood 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.
- 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 Sutton St. Nicholas 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 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 NDP 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 (May 2014) found that the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC is located within the Neighbourhood Area and therefore a full screening assessment is required.
- 4.2 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Sutton St. Nicholas NDP Initial Screening Report. The Initial Screening Report, December 2013, can be found 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 Sutton St. Nicholas Neighbourhood Plan may affect site integrity.
- 4.3 The initial options for the NDP were assessed to determine their environmental impact that could affect the River Wye SAC. Overall the majority of the options proposing any growth appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact. However the options listed are all on a small scale and are unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC.
- 4.4 As Sutton St. Nicholas NDP progresses from options onto their NDP policies, the Plan will need to identify ways in which the least effect on the River Wye SAC could be achieved, alongside taking forward the preferred options from the consultation from the community. If a majority of these options are taken forward either as standalone policies or in combination with other policies then the mitigation from these options will help to counter balance the effect of all new development within the Parish. The Assessment matrix for the options can be found Appendix 2.

5 Description of the Sutton St. Nicholas Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.1 The Draft Sutton St. Nicholas NDP presents detailed policies for development in the Neighbourhood Area, which is equivalent to the group parish boundary, up to 2031. The first part of the Plan introduces the Plan and its preparation and discusses the background to the village.
- 5.2 The NDP then details the vision for the Group Parish over the Plan period and nine objectives of how this will be achieved. The objectives cover the following topics:

Settlement boundary
Housing
Jobs and local services
Open spaces and the environment

- 5.3 The NDP also sets out 8 general policies on various topics based on the objective headings above and also for the village, these include:

Settlement boundary
Delivering new housing
Criteria for new housing development
Small-scale employment
Local community facilities
Landscape
Open Spaces

- 5.4 The NDP also allocates two housing sites; land adjacent to the Linnings (18 dwellings) and Land at the Lane (20 dwellings).

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. In addition, in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulation 2012 a NDP cannot have a significant effect on any European Site whether alone or in combination with another Plan.
- 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). It is seen that as this NDP does not go over and beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy this review will also be substantial for the NDP.
- 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 Sutton St. Nicholas 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 2 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.

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 (Appendix 2) and each of the allocated sites (Appendix 3) which is consistent with current guidance documents. The results from the HRA report for the pre-submission version / proposed modifications addendum of the Herefordshire Core Strategy was also taking 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 Sutton St. Nicholas will safeguard any proposal or development against detrimental impact on the environment through Policy 3 and Policy 6, by ensuring flood risk is addressed through sustainable drainage and treatment of wastewater to meet water quality requirements.

8 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Draft Sutton St. Nicholas NDP (November 2015) policies were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC. Based on assumptions and information contained within the Sutton St. Nicholas NDP, Herefordshire Core Strategy and the Pre-submission version / proposed modifications Addendum of the

HRA for the Core Strategy all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.

- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e., it related instead to criteria for development. In a number of cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment, including biodiversity and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. In addition, these policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) has stated for the Core Strategy that there is no capacity within the existing permitted headroom in the Sewerage Treatment works serving the Sutton area to continue to treat the water from the amount of housing provided for in the Core Strategy policies, therefore improvements are required. 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.
- 8.4 It is unlikely that the Sutton St. Nicholas Plan will have any in-combination effects with any Plans from neighbouring parish councils as the level of growth proposed is the same as that proposed for the Housing Market Area in the Herefordshire Core Strategy and all of the proposed housing sites will be of a fairly small scale.
- 8.5 It is therefore concluded that the Sutton St. Nicholas Plan will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 8.6 Any further amendments to policies (post Regulation 14 consultation) will be rescreened 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)

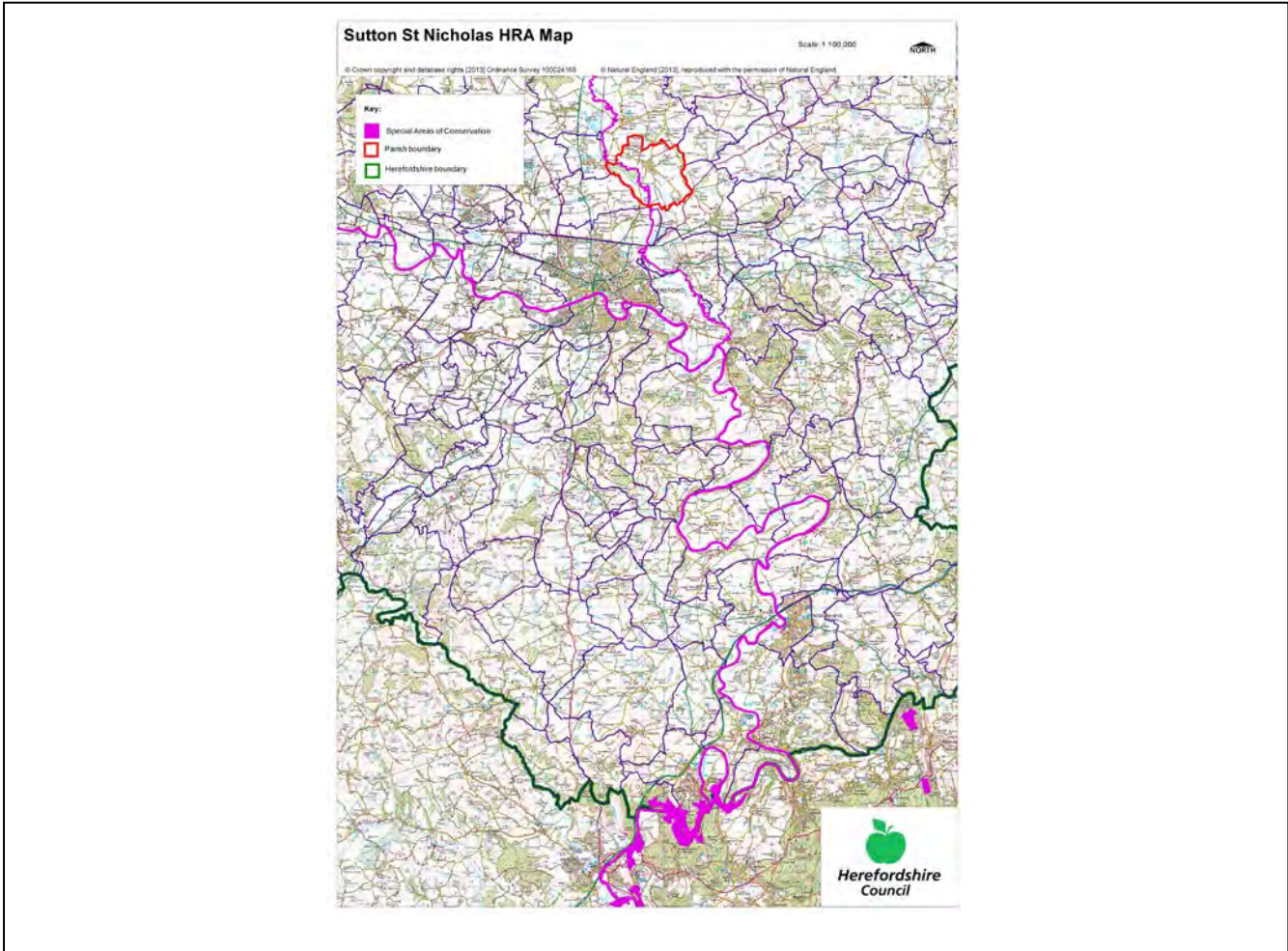
Neighbourhood Area:	Sutton St Nicholas Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Sutton St Nicholas Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	22 nd January 2014

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.

**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 Lugg SAC runs through the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Lugg
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage in Sutton St Nicholas

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 27.7km 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 42.9km 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	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 25.9km away from the Parish
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Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	Wye Valley Woodlands are 27.1km away from the Parish
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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 Sutton St Nicholas 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 Sutton St Nicholas 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 AQMAs within the Group Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	1	Long Coppice (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAls within the Parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
Conservation Areas	1	Sutton St Nicholas village	Y
European Sites	1	River Lugg	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones run along the River Lugg and also a stream/brook off the Lugg running through the south and east of the Parish	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	1 (RIGS) 4 (SWS)	RIGS: Upper Lyde Quarry (border) SWS: River Lugg; Sutton Hill Gravel Pit; Field south of Sutton Rhea; Wellington Marsh (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	1	Three Rivers Ride (border)	Y
Mineral Reserves	6	East of Burmarsh, west of Sutton Lakes; South east of Sutton St Nicholas; South of Moreton on Lugg x 2 (border); Area around Wellington constrained by 200m zone and area north of Wellington outside 200m zone; Upper Paradise Farm to Marden Court, Marden (border)	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	1 Unregistered	Sutton Court	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	4	Sutton Walls (camp); Freens Court Magnates residence, moat and fishponds, Sutton St Michael; Deserted medieval village, Sutton St Michael; The Wergins Stone	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1	River Lugg (Unfavourable Recovering)	Y

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Sutton St Nicholas Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 09/12/2013

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.

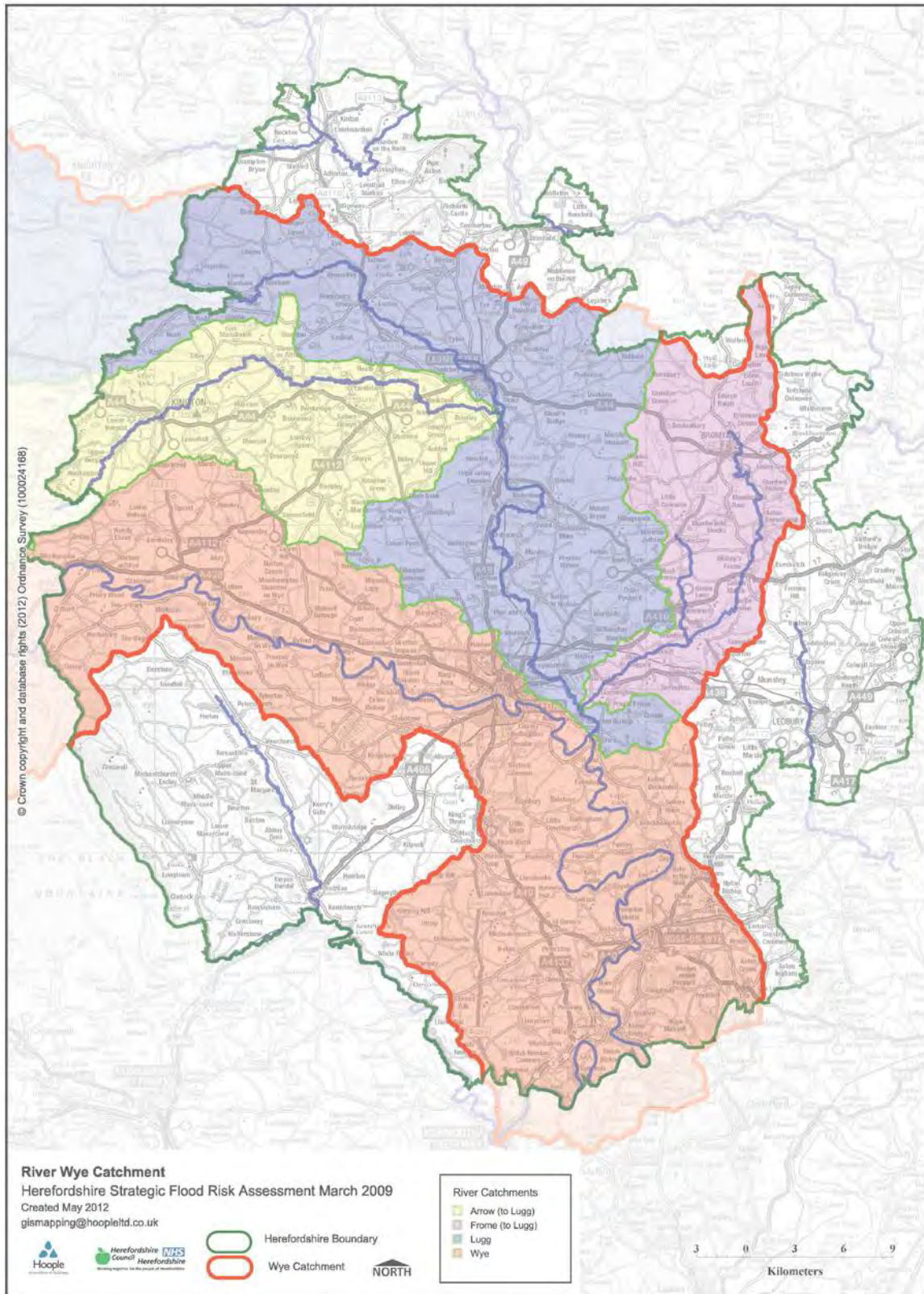
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation. 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

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					
Objectives 1 and 2 Settlement Boundary/Housing	Proportional growth in line with Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not lead to development; rather it acknowledges that proportional growth will occur across the neighbourhood area in line with the Local Plan (Core Strategy).

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)?
Objective 2 Jobs and services	<p>More people will be encouraged to work from home or closer to their work. The plan will attract employment opportunities that are suitable for a rural area, and support agricultural diversification and the tourism and hospitality sector.</p> <p>Local services will be maintained and supported, with existing educational, leisure and recreational facilities being enhanced. High quality broadband and mobile phone coverage will extend to all parts of the parish.</p>	There enough emphasis within the related policies on limiting pollution from business activity/attracting non-polluting activity to avoid adverse impacts on the European sites.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No, potential damage to the interests of species using the SAC would be significantly reduced by the criteria within various policies.
Objective 3 Open space and the environment	The objective will contribute towards sustainable development by moving the area towards being carbon neutral, protecting the natural and historic environment, safeguarding agricultural land, maintaining high quality built and natural settings and reducing flood risk.	If objective is realised then the policies that deliver it could have a positive impact upon European sites.	N/A	N/A	No, the policies involved in delivering this objective would only have positive impacts upon the European sites if they are successfully implemented.
Policies					
Policy 1 : Settlement Boundary	Highlights the boundary for the village core of where development would be acceptable	No significant effect upon the River Wye	N/A	N/A	No. The policy would itself not lead to development; instead it relates to criteria for where the village core is and therefore where development is demonstrated as acceptable.
Policy 2: Delivering new housing	<p>Housing development</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p>	<p>No significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.</p> <p>Two sites are proposed:</p> <p>Land at the lane (20 dwellings)</p> <p>Land adjacent to the Linnings (18 dwellings)</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on</p>	This figure remains within the figure set out in the Core Strategy RA2 policy and therefore is not over and above the proposed. Although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment the Core Strategy has identified that there is sufficient headroom and capacity for the additional houses over the plan period.

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)?
				the water supply as a result of new development.	
Policy 3: Criteria for new housing development	Housing development Increased vehicle traffic Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	n/a	This policy should help to mitigate the potential effects of future development.	No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to criteria for development
Policy 4: Small-scale employment	Increase in home working Small work premises Reduced vehicle traffic Retaining existing employment sites	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	n/a	This policy should help to mitigate the potential impacts of other NDP policies in relation to increased traffic and large scale business developments due to reducing the extent to which people need to travel for work.	No. Although this policy encourages some development it is of small scale and encourages home working thereby reducing the need to travel in both instances. There are measures in other policies in the Plan that will help to mitigate against any negative impact the policy may have.
Policy 5: Local Community facilities	Development of social and community facilities and infrastructure	No likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC	n/a	The measures in this policy will help to ensure that any potential adverse impact will be mitigated against. In addition the measures set out in other policies within the NDP will mitigate against any potential adverse impact.	No. The scale and extent of such development is not likely to be significant. In addition, this policy will not itself lead to development, instead it relates to the criteria for the protection of existing community facility or any new community development, which ensures that mitigation methods are put in place for any adverse impacts that may arise.
Policy 6: Landscape	n/a	n/a	n/a	The measures in this policy to conserve and enhance the landscape character across the Parish should help to provide mitigation against the potential adverse impacts of new developments	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to ensure that any development proposed will conserve, restore and enhance landscape character. As such this policy could help to provide mitigation against the potential of other NDP policies.
Policy 7: Building Design	n/a	n/a	n/a	This policy should help to mitigate the potential effects of future development, by ensuring the appearance and character of the area is maintained and enhanced.	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to ensure that any development proposed will protect and enhance the character and appearance of the village. As such this policy could help to provide mitigation against the potential of other 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)?
Policy 8: Open Spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	No. This policy will not lead to new development; rather it specifically aims to protect existing local green spaces.

Appendix 3

Proposed Site Allocations	Characteristics of development, such as size	Location of proposed site allocation	HRA Screening of NDP Proposed Site Allocations			
			European Sites potentially affected	Likely effect if proposed site allocation is developed. Could the site result in LSE on European Sites?	Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in likely significant effect?
<p>Site 1: Land at the Lane</p>	<p>The size of the development would yield 20 dwellings.</p> <p>The construction and occupancy of 20 new houses will involve use of timber, aggregates, metals and plastics. There would also be increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Construction waste will involve mainly inert and managed materials such as timber, aggregates, metals, bricks/blocks and plastics.</p> <p>Occupancy waste will generate mainly managed general rubbish for landfill, recyclates and sewerage;</p> <p>Pollution and nuisances: mainly from increased traffic, a potential exists from sewage arising.</p> <p>Housing will lead to increase in noise and light pollution than exists at present;</p> <p>The risk of accidents; as development is residential there are no large quantities of hazardous substances or technologies involved.</p>	<p>The existing land use is agricultural (pasture) Grade 2 ('Very Good'). The site is to the south of the village and in close proximity of the River Wye SAC,</p> <p>The relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area. The parish contains and is surrounded by extensive area of 'Grade 2' soil. No timber loss is involved from the site.</p> <p>The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying particular attention to the distance to the River Wye SAC.</p>	The River Wye SAC.	<p>No: the scale of development proposed would not give rise to likely significant effects, but note that development would be located in reasonably close proximity of the River Wye.</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts.</p> <p>In any event, the 2015 HRA Report confirms that the roll out of the NMP would continue to mitigate the effects of Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), a policy upon which the proposed allocation of this site for housing is predicated. This site has been identified in direct response to the proportional growth target within that policy and its development, either in isolation or in tandem with the other proposed site allocations, would not exceed the Local Plan's requirements.</p>	<p>No: the latest iteration of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) confirms that NMP can mitigate the effects of 5,300 dwellings in rural areas and the proposed site allocation, in combination with the others, will not exceed the proportional growth target for the settlement.</p>

Proposed Site Allocations	Characteristics of development, such as size	Location of proposed site allocation	HRA Screening of NDP Proposed Site Allocations			
			European Sites potentially affected	Likely effect if proposed site allocation is developed. Could the site result in LSE on European Sites?	Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in likely significant effect?
<p>Site 2: Land adjacent to Linnings.</p>	<p>The size of the development would yield 18 dwellings.</p> <p>The construction and occupancy of 20 new houses will involve use of timber, aggregates, metals and plastics. There would also be increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> <p>Construction waste will involve mainly inert and managed materials such as timber, aggregates, metals, bricks/blocks and plastics.</p> <p>Occupancy waste will generate mainly managed general rubbish for landfill, recyclates and sewerage;</p> <p>Pollution and nuisances: mainly from increased traffic, a potential exists from sewage arising.</p> <p>Housing will lead to increase in noise and light pollution than exists at present;</p> <p>The risk of accidents; as development is residential there are no large quantities of hazardous substances or technologies involved.</p>	<p>The existing land use is agricultural (pasture) the site is to the north of the village and in close proximity of the school.</p>	<p>The River Wye SAC.</p>	<p>No: the scale of development proposed would not give rise to likely significant effects.</p>	<p>There are sufficient safeguards within other policies to avoid any adverse impacts.</p> <p>In any event, the 2015 HRA Report confirms that the roll out of the NMP would continue to mitigate the effects of Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), a policy upon which the proposed allocation of this site for housing is predicated. This site has been identified in direct response to the proportional growth target within that policy and its development, either in isolation or in tandem with the other proposed site allocations, would not exceed the Local Plan's requirements.</p>	<p>No: the latest iteration of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) confirms that NMP can mitigate the effects of 5,300 dwellings in rural areas and the proposed site allocation, in combination with the others, will not exceed the proportional growth target for the settlement.</p>