

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Weston Beggard Neighbourhood Area

Addendum

March 2016

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Regulations are met, it is necessary to consider the proposed Main Modifications through the HRA process to the Weston Beggard NDP; the NDP was refined by the NDP steering group to reflect feedback from consultation on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports, refer to Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The purpose of this further HRA Addendum Report is to detail the findings of the screening of proposed changes to Policies WB2, WB3, and WB4 of the Weston Beggard NDP and consider if they significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA Report (December 15).
- 1.3 The vast majority of refinements are not considered to significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA report, as they did not involve the introduction of new policies or change the overall aims and objectives of the existing planning policies, despite the addition of new criteria in certain places. In general, these refinements relate to the composition of certain sentences and phrases, minor points of accuracy in relation to technical information and references to evidence base studies and other documentation.

N.B. The addition to Policy W4- New Policy added to HRA to clarify position on Shucknall Court): This additional policy gives further clarity and certainty on Shucknall Court live work units. This give added certainty for live work units in Weston Beggard on top of policy RA5. This has been screened, along with wording changes to policyWB2 and WB3.

2.0 Screening of proposed modifications to the NDP

- 2.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires that a Screening Assessment be undertaken, in order to identify the 'likely significant effects' of an NDP. Accordingly, a screening matrix was prepared and this determined the extent to which any of the policies in the Weston Beggard Plan would likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 2.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in Appendix 2 of that report.
- 2.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy and objective individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA Report for the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 On the basis of assumptions and information contained within the Weston Beggard NDP, Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 2.5 In most cases this was because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. In many cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity for instance policy WB1 added further safeguards to SSSI's and priority habitats. In addition, to conserve community facilities and heritage etc, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies were considered to have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from elsewhere within the plan.
- 2.6 There are no policies relating to site allocations or settlement boundaries and which would result in development. As the plan is criteria based, and does not allocate a settlement boundary or site. The five criteria based policies would not have an effect on the River Wye SAC. Policy WB5 and WB6 previously named WB4 and WB5, has had no changes to the policies only by the policies names in order to accommodate new Live work unit WB4 policy.
- 2.7 It was also concluded that the Weston Beggard NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as no sites are allocated for development in these.

- 2.8 Therefore, it was concluded that the **Weston Beggard NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 2.9 The proposed amendments to the Draft NDP are screened to consider if they are likely to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in December 2015. A summary of the main findings is provided below.
- 3.0 Summary of main findings**
- 3.1 The Submission NDP incorporates suggestions made by consultees during the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation, by adding clarity and emphasis throughout the document, together with amendments made necessary by both recent planning permissions in Weston Beggard.
- 3.2 A new policy of WB4 has been introduced into the Submission NDP following the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation. This creates an added certainty
- 3.3 The revised NDP policies and additional WB4 policy were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC, a conclusion of which is based on assumptions and information contained within the Weston Beggard NDP, and the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in October 2015 and published on the Council's website.
- 4.0 Conclusion**
- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the modifications the policies of the submission version of the Weston Beggard NDP are not considered to affect the findings of the first HRA report. An addendum report in a positive way as in many cases policies have been strengthened by The addition of criteria specifically referencing the avoidance of impacts on the River Wye SAC and other environmental assets.
- 4.2 Therefore the earlier conclusion that the **Weston Beggard NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC** remains valid.
- 5.0 Next steps**
- 5.1 This Addendum Report will be published alongside both the Submission NDP and earlier HRA Report for consultation from March to April 2016. Any further changes to the plan that arise as a result of the consultation will be subject to further screening to consider their significance with regard to HRA.

Appendix 1

Table 2: HRA Re-Screening of Emerging Redrafted Neighbourhood Development Plan Objectives, Options and Policies

Parish Council Name: Weston Beggard

NDP Title: Weston Beggard Neighbourhood Plan

Date undertaken: February 2016

NDP Redrafted objectives/options/policies	HRA Re-Screening Assessment of Emerging redrafted NDP objectives, options and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the redrafted objective/option/policy	Likely effect if redrafted objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have LSE on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no likely significant effect? (Yes/No with reasons)
Policy WB2	<p>Community support for small scale housing development.</p> <p>Small increase in traffic and increase of private vehicle usage.</p> <p>Increased abstraction and demand for water</p>	<p>Additional visitor numbers, increase traffic, increased abstraction and demand for water use.</p> <p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye.</p> <p>Due to the proximity to the River Way and Lugg, it is unlikely that there will have a significant</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	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	No: this policy would allow for small housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy RA1/RA2 as well as small affordable housing schemes in line with Core Strategy H2. Due to the size and scale of development proposed it is

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	<p>use.</p> <p>Flooding safeguards implemented.</p> <p>Landscape and tree retention and improvement.</p>	<p>detrimental effect on the River Wye SAC (Including Lugg).</p>		<p>Natural England and the Environment Agency. The implementation of the Nutrient Management Plan will specifically address issues relating to water quality in the River Wye.</p>	<p>unlikely to have a significant impact on the river Wye SAC.</p> <p>There are provisions within the Weston Beggard NDP and Core Strategy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects of new development.</p>
Policy WB3	<p>Community support for employment opportunities and the promotion of local business within the parish.</p> <p>Community support for tourism development.</p> <p>Community support for farm diversification.</p> <p>Community support for home working.</p> <p>Flooding safeguards</p>	<p>Potential increase in visitor numbers to the parish could have an effect on the River Wye Employment and infrastructure development. However due to the proximity to the River Wye and Lugg, it is unlikely that it will have a significant detrimental effect on the River Wye SAC (Including Lugg).</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment. Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>There are safeguards within this policy to protect local character and environment along with policy WN1, to mitigate potential detrimental impacts.</p> <p>The implementation of Core Strategy policies SD3 and SD4 should also help to avoid any adverse impacts in relation to the hydrological regimes at the River Wye.</p> <p>The Core Strategy policy LD2 will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye for new employment or</p>	<p>No; This policy intends to support small scale employment enterprises and tourism opportunities.</p> <p>Any potential detrimental impact caused by small scale development can be mitigated with Core Strategy Policies and policy WBNDP 1.</p>

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	implemented.	treatment.		businesses uses. Measures within Core Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances. Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.	
<i>Policy WB4 (New Policy added to HRA to clarify position on Shucknall Court)</i>	Live work units developed Small increase in water usage and abstraction	Unlikely to be significant effect as proposal is of a small scale and potential effects can be mitigated by Core Strategy safeguarding policies and policy by WB1 and WB2 policy.	River Wye SAC (including Lugg)	Ensure development complies with Core Strategy policy	No. Due to the small scale of proposal and proximity to the River, it is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the River Wye SAC.

Appendix 2

Template 2: HRA Consultation Feedback

This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the HRA of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Parish Council Name: Weston Beggard Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Weston Beggard Neighbourhood Plan

Details of consultation: *this could include how the consultation was advertised and what information was provided*

Consultation date: 23rd November- 18th January

Consultation title: Regulation 14

Response Date	Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
26/01/16	Natural England	Environmental Report (Nov 2015) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (Nov 2015) Natural England has no general comments in respect of the above documents. Given the small scale nature of the proposed new development within the NDP area to 2031 we are in agreement that the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan should not exacerbate existing problems regarding water quality or have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the River Wye SAC.	Comments noted.

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