

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Weston under Penyard Neighbourhood Area

May 2015

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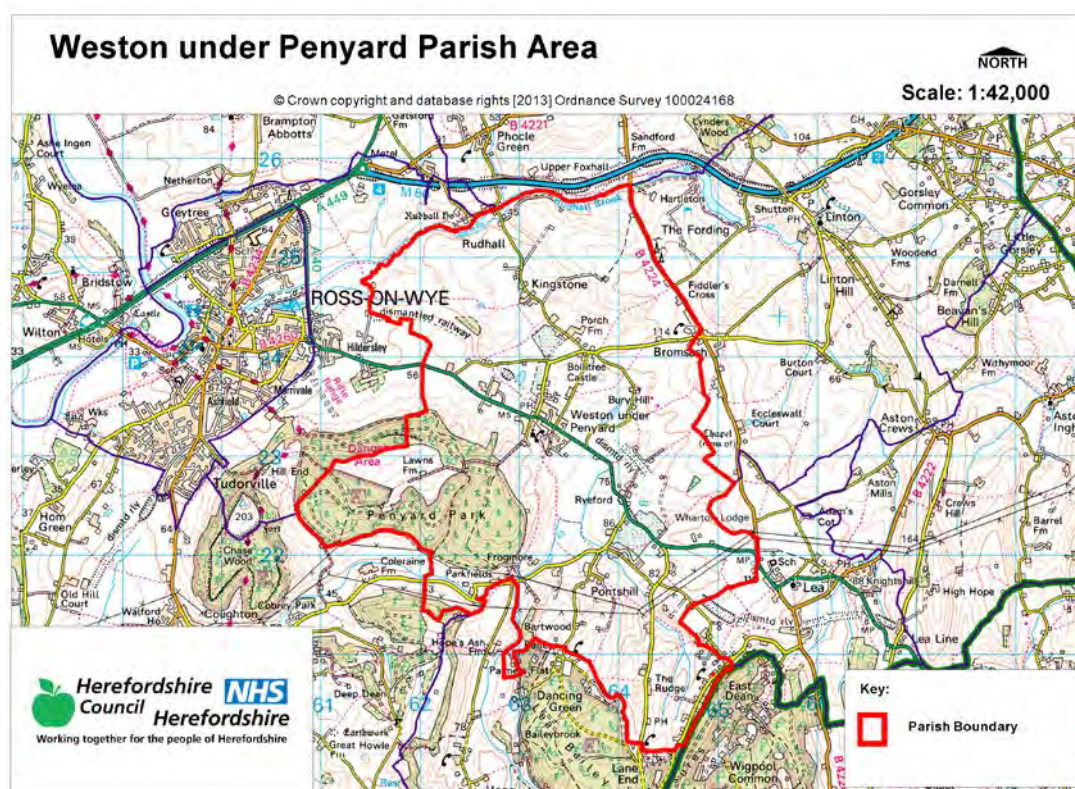
Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report (November 2013)

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1.0 Introduction

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



2.0 The requirement to undertake Habitats Regulations Assessment of plans

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

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

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

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

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

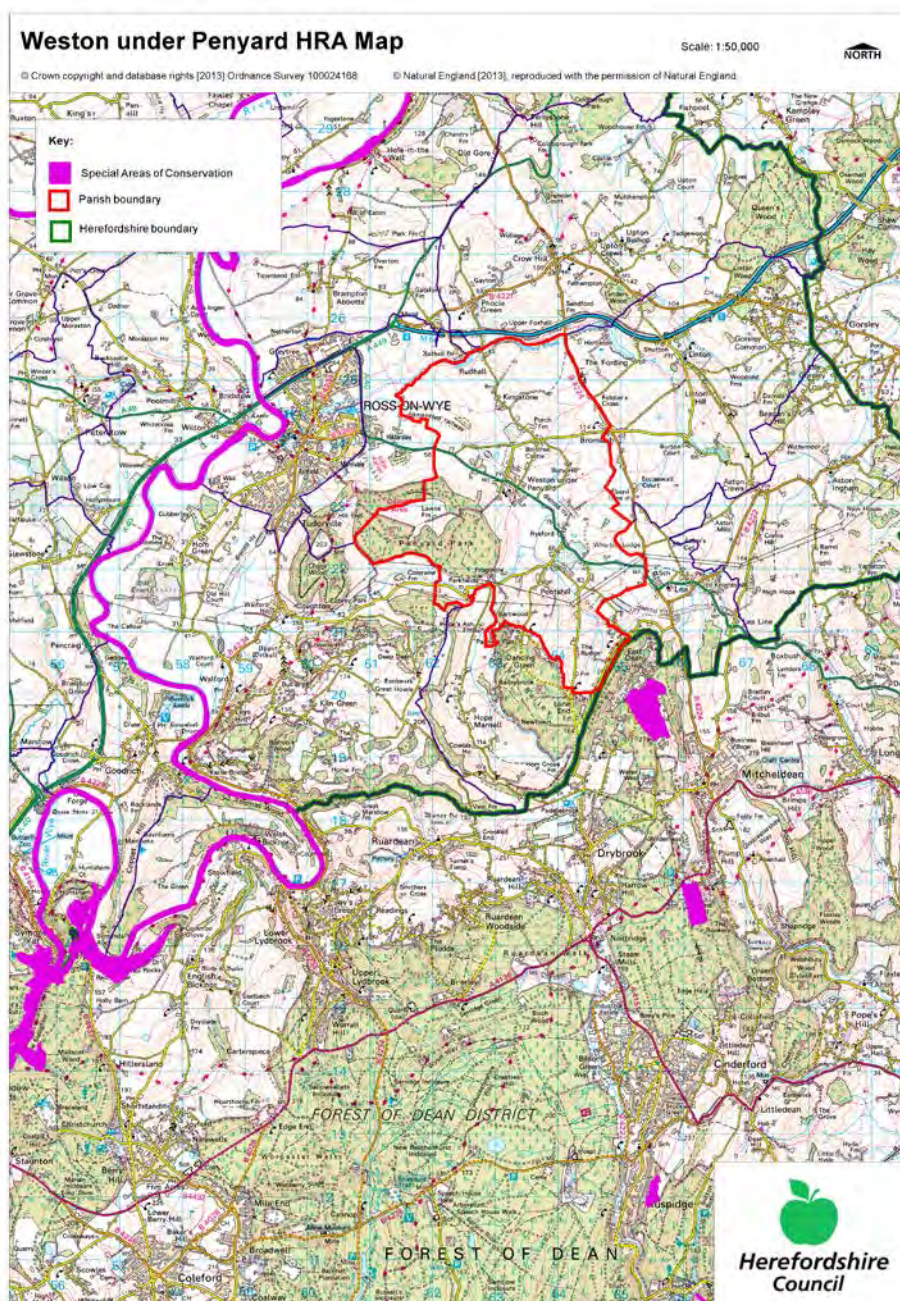
2.4 For ease of reference during HRA, general practice has been that these three designations are collectively referred to as either **Natura 2000** or **European sites**. This means that a Screening Assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European sites and with reference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

3.0 Methodology

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

4.0 Results of the Initial Screening Report and options

- 4.1 The initial Screening Report (11 November 2013) shown in Appendix 1 revealed that the River Wye SAC, Wye Valley Woodlands SAC and Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Site SAC are in reasonably close proximity of the boundary of the Weston under Penyard neighbourhood area and therefore a full screening assessment would be required.
- 4.2 The following map highlights the locations of the European sites in relation to the neighbourhood area.



- 4.3 European sites can be sensitive to changes in water quantity and quality. As outlined within the Habitat Regulation Assessment to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), the water supply in this area comes from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and no likely significant effects on European sites as a result of changes in water quality are expected in relation to the proportional growth outlined with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).

- 4.4 In relation to water quality, the preparation of the Nutrient Management Plan for the River Wye SAC should ensure that developments within the area can be accommodated by existing water discharge permits and would not be likely to have a significant effect upon the River Wye SAC; this position is confirmed by latest update to the HRA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), published in April 2015.
- 4.5 For full details of the River Wye's attributes which contribute to and define their integrity and vulnerable data see Appendix 1 of the Weston under Penyard Initial Screening Report (Full report in Appendix 1 of this HRA report).
- 4.6 Options for initial policy choices have been assessed to determine their environmental impact on the three European sites (refer to Appendix 2). In general, the majority of the options concerning new development would appear to depend on location and scale in relation to environmental impact.

5.0 Description of the Weston under Penyard NDP

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

5.2 The NDP sets out the vision for the parish over the plan period and 5 objectives for achieving this vision on the ground. These objectives are as follows:

1. Policies incorporated in the Plan will ensure that new housing contributes to a sustainable and balanced community, in particular through:
 - a. Providing a mix of properties in terms of size and tenure
 - b. Designs that are sensitive to and in keeping with our respective settlements
 - c. Satisfying locally identified needs for all life stages, and including affordable homes
 - d. Controlling the level of new housing such that there are sufficient numbers but without over-provision
2. The Plan will include proposals and policies to enable more people to work where they live or closer to their homes through:
 - a. Attracting businesses and employment suitable for a rural area
 - b. Supporting appropriate development and diversification of agriculture, tourism and hospitality within the rural economy
3. The Plan will contribute towards sustainable development through:
 - a. Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment, especially the parish's heritage, habitats and open spaces
 - b. Safeguarding agricultural land
 - c. Maintaining a high quality landscape, built environment and settings of settlements
 - d. Reducing flood risk
 - e. Moving towards being carbon neutral
4. Within the Plan will be proposals to reduce the effects of traffic on the community so that:
 - a. Residents are safe using local roads, cycleways and footpaths
 - b. Roads do not create an unreasonable physical barrier between residents
 - c. Traffic can move freely but without excessive speed
 - d. New development does not make road conditions worse
 - e. Footpaths, cycleways and bridleways are created to provide carbon free transport alternatives
5. To foster community spirit by:
 - a. Maintaining and supporting existing services and facilities
 - b. Enhancing the present educational, leisure and recreational facilities

- c. The introduction of high quality broadband and mobile phone coverage in all parts of the parish

5.3 The Neighbourhood Plan also sets out 26 general policies on themes based on the objective headings above:

- Policy H1: Number of new houses
- Policy H2: Scale and mix of development
- Policy H3: Housing mix and tenancy
- Policy H4: Type of housing
- Policy H5: Location of new developments
- Policy H6: Provision of affordable housing
- Policy H7: Affordable housing on rural exception site
- Policy H8: Allocation of affordable homes for local people
- Policy D1: Design appearance
- Policy D2: Technical design
- Policy HS1 (Option A): Land east of Hunsdon Manor
- Policy HS1 (Option B): Land east of Penyard Garden
- Policy HS2 (Option B): Land east of Hunsdon Manor
- Policy SD1: Promoting a sustainable community
- Policy SD2: Community facilities
- Policy ST1: Accommodating traffic within the parish
- Policy SB1: Supporting local business
- Policy SB2: Work space development
- Policy SB3: Change of use
- Policy SB4: Provision of broadband and mobile telephone services
- Policy SE1: Sustaining the parish environment and landscape
- Policy SE2: Sustaining local heritage and character
- Policy SE3: Sustaining open space
- Policy SE4: Polyunnel development
- Policy SE5: Renewable energy
- Policy SE6: Surface and foul water drainage

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

- Site 1 – Land east of Hunsdon Manor
- Site 2 – Land east of Penyard Garden

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

- 6.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It should be noted, however, that NDP cannot be Made (adopted) if likely significant effects occur.
- 6.2 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result in in-combination effects with the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), and these plans have been reviewed and can be found at Appendix 2 of the Pre-submission publication of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2014).
- 6.3 It is considered that as the Weston under Penyard NDP does not contain policies and site allocations which would result in greater levels of development than envisaged by strategic policies, as set out in the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), this review will suffice for the purposes of the NDP. Adjacent neighbourhood plans (Ross on Wye and Walford) are at varying stages of their production, but none of the proposals within these plans involve measures to promote higher levels of growth than the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at this stage.
- 6.4 The latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) also identifies that both the Water Cycle Study for Herefordshire and the work on the Nutrient Management Plan, have both been considered as part of the in-combination assessment. The former, on the one hand, indicates the potential for planned water abstraction requirements combined with pressures on European Sites from the Local Plan's policies, whilst the latter seeks to ensure the favourable conservation status of the SAC in respect of phosphate levels as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

7.0 Assessment of the 'likely significant effects' of the Weston under Penyard NDP

- 7.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a Screening Assessment has been undertaken to identify the 'likely significant effects' of the NDP. This involved the preparation of a screening matrix, which determined whether any of the policies and site allocations in the NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 7.2 The findings of these can be found in Appendices 2 and 3 of this report. Colour coding was used to record the likely impacts of the policies on the European site and its qualifying habitats and species as shown in the table below.

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

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

8.0 Conclusions from the Screening Matrix

- 8.1 None of the Weston under Penyard NDP objectives and policies (May 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the three European sites. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Weston under Penyard NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.
- 8.2 In many cases this is because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. In several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity. In addition, to conserve community facilities and heritage, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 8.3 With regard to site allocations, the possibility of there being likely significant effects is unlikely given that none of the sites are in close proximity of the European sites. However, it is considered that the inclusion of additional policy wording within the related housing policies of the NDP would, along with other policies, provide adequate safeguarding measures.
- 8.4 It is unlikely that the Weston under Penyard NDP will have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as these are the very early stages of the NDP process and it is currently anticipated that the publication of draft plans for comment will be some months away.
- 8.5 Therefore, subject to the addition of safeguarding criteria within the housing policies of the plan, it is concluded that the **Weston under Penyard NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC; Wye Valley Woodlands SAC and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.**
- 8.6 Any further amendments to the policies and proposed site allocations (post May 2015) will be re-screened if required and an addendum to this report will be produced.

Appendix 1

**Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental
Assessment Screening Notification**

The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012 (Reg. 32)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d)

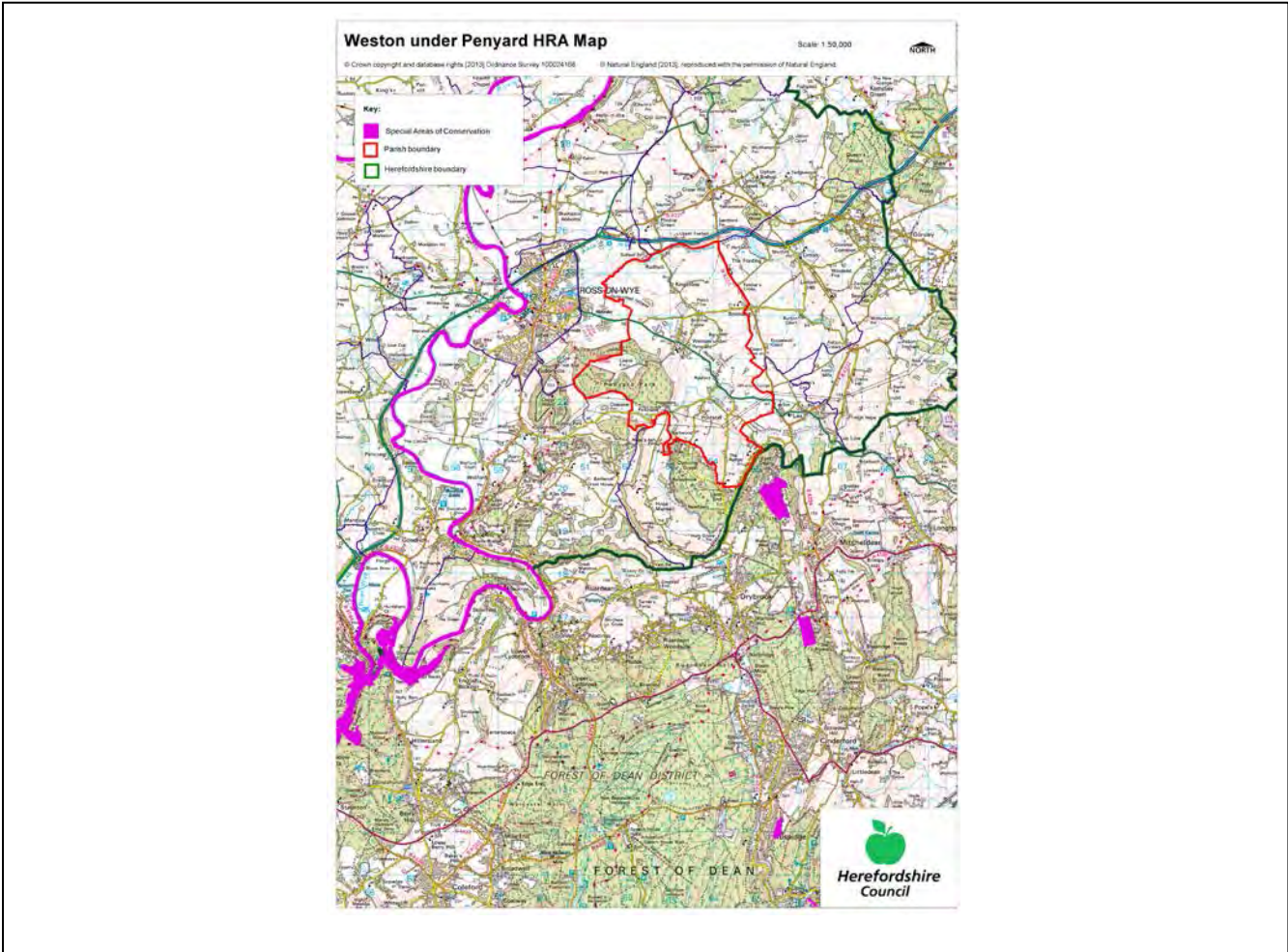
Neighbourhood Area:	Weston under Penyard Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Weston under Penyard Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	11/11/2013

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?	N	The River Wye is 1.8km away from the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	Y	The Parish is within the hydrological catchment of the River Wye
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	Y	There is mains drainage at Pontshill

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 51.5km 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 42.3km 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?	Y	The Parish is 0.5km away from 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?	Y	The Parish is 7.4km 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 Weston under Penyard 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

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites 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 Weston under Penyard 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 Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	6	Penyard Park; Chase Wood (border); Hengrove & Warmhill Woods (border); Deep Dean (border); Cornage Wood (border); Howley Grove (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	There are no AAIs within the parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	1	Wye Valley AONB (border)	Y
Conservation Areas	0	There are no Conservation Areas within the Parish	N
European Sites	1	Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites (border)	Y
Flood Areas		Flood Zones 2 & 3 run along the Rudhall Brook. There are also Flood Zones along a stream/brook in the south west of the Parish which runs through to Pontshill	Y
Geoparks	1	Malvern Hills Geopark (border)	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings throughout the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCs/RIGS)	1 RIGS 6 SWS	RIGS: M50 Section 1 (border) SWS: Chase and Merrivale Woods (border); Woodlands near Hope Mansell; Lea Bailey Enclosure; Fields near Norton Farm (border); Howley Grove (border); The Fording Lake (border)	Y
Long distance footpaths/trails	1	Ross Round	Y
Mineral Reserves	1	Howle Hill, Kiln Green, west of Hope Mansell, south east of Coughton	Y
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNRs within the Parish	N
Registered & Unregistered parks and gardens	6 Unregistered	Penyard Park; Weston Hall; Rudhall House; Bolitree Castle; Cobrey Park (border); Burton Court, Linton (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	3	Roman town of Ariconium; Penyard Castle; Camp in Chase Wood (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	1	Wigpool Ironstone Mine (Favourable) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

The initial screening highlights that the Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Weston under Penyard Neighbourhood Area:

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

Assessment date: 07/11/2013

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.

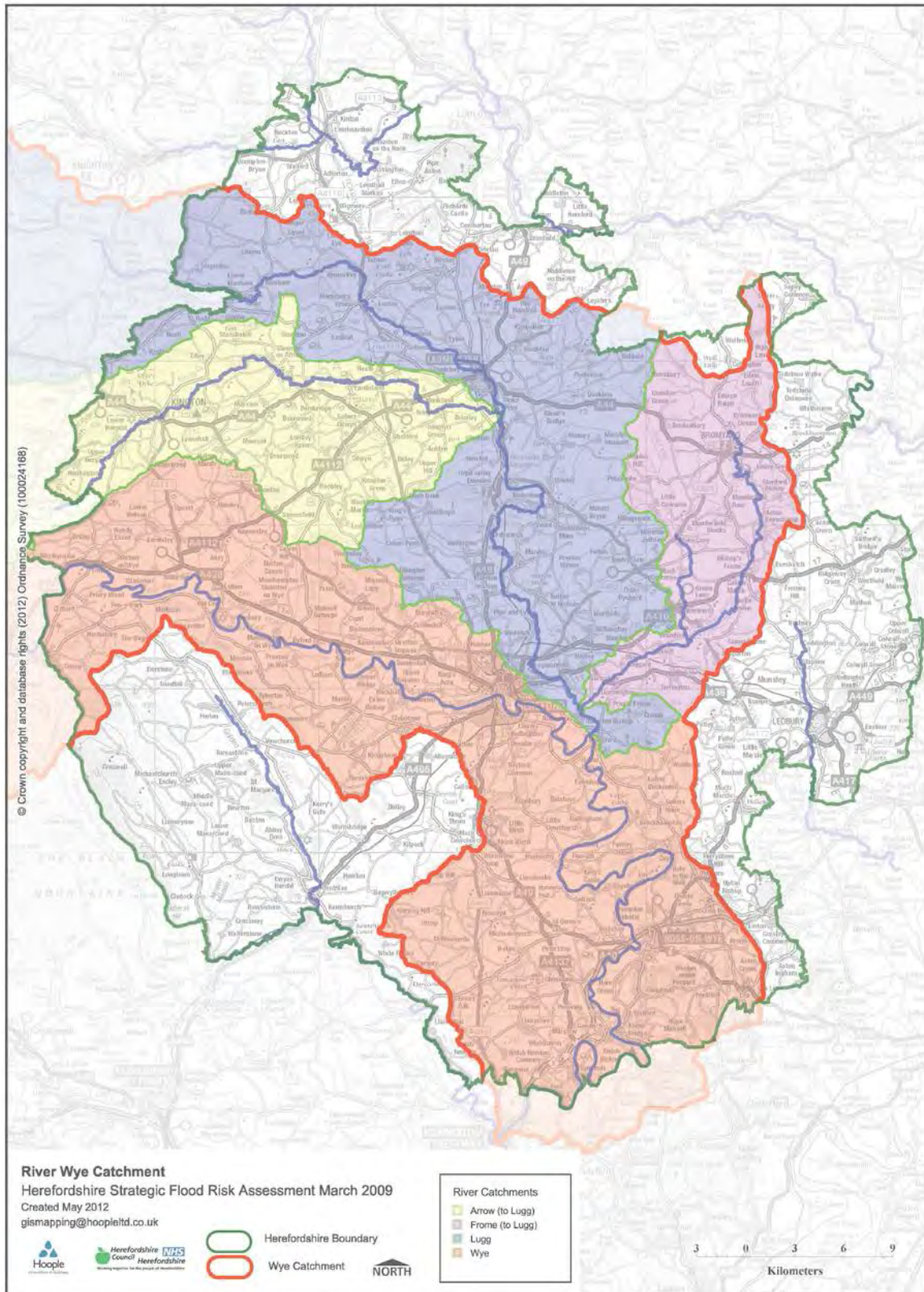
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

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 no likely significant effect?
<p>Site 1: Land east of Penyard Garden</p>	<p>The size of the development is 1.3ha; this would yield 18 dwellings.</p> <p>The construction and occupancy of 18 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').</p> <p>The relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area; This site does not involve any site earmarked for mineral extraction. 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 following areas – site is 3.4kms distant from Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Site SAC, and approximately 3.9kms from the River Wye SAC</p> <p>Densely populated areas – Ross on Wye lies 2.6kms away;</p> <p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments exist 1.6km (Penyard Castle) and 1km (Ariconium) away.</p>	<p>The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC.</p>	<p>No, but note the loss of foraging space in the form of an open agricultural field on outskirts of existing village approx. 3.5kms from the SAC.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Site 2: Land east of Hunsdon Manor</p>	<p>The size of the development is approximately 4.09 hectares; this would yield 37 dwellings. ;</p>	<p>The existing land use is agricultural (pasture) Grade 2 (Very Good); the site borders to the south the A40 main road which runs to Gloucester. The characteristics listed above are the same for this site.</p>	<p>The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites.</p>	<p>No: the scale of development proposed would not give rise to likely significant effects, but note that development would result in the loss of foraging space in the form of an open agricultural field containing a small pond on outskirts of existing village approx. 3.5kms from the SAC.</p>	<p>To lessen the negative impacts the following measures should be considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retention of the pond as an amenity feature within the new development. 2. Enhancement of the biodiversity potential of the pond to improve the foraging potential for bat species. 	<p>The development is unlikely to create likely significant effects, though the recommendations alongside would help to further reduce the minor negative effects the development may create.</p>
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Appendix 3

NDP objectives	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 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands 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 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands 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 objectives	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 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands 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 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands 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					
Objective 1 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 objectives	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 Opportunities for employment	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.	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 Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands 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 Environmental sustainability	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.
Objective 4 Roads and traffic	The effects of traffic upon the community will be reduced by an emphasis on safety, the creation of footpaths, cycleways and bridleways; preventing roads from becoming barriers between residents; and the elimination of excessive speed. New developments will not make roads worse.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
Objective 5 Community services and facilities.	These 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.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this objective will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
NDP Policies					

<p>Policy H1¹ Housing numbers.</p>	<p>Policy to support the delivery of market housing to meet housing needs in line with Local Plan (Core Strategy) Policy RA2.</p>	<p>Proportional growth. Housing, infrastructure development and possible increase in recreational activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment. Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites dependent on the location of non-allocated development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European sites; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following sentence: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p>	<p>No. This policy conforms to Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), and although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented.</p>
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NDP objectives	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 H2 Scale of new development.	Policy that specifies the appropriate scale of new residential development and the terms under which it will be supported.	Unlikely to create any adverse effects on a European site	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
Policy H3 Housing mix and tenancy.	Support for measures to ensure appropriate provision of housing tenure and the terms under which such provision may be allowed to vary.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
Policy H4 Type of housing.	Policy that specifies the different types of homes that would be considered for support.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon any European sites.
Policy H5 Location of developments.	Inside the settlement boundary, small scale limited employment/residential development within existing curtilages. Also sets out the terms under which housing would be considered if to be located elsewhere.	Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites and the River Wye SAC in particular, dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in very small scale growth outside the settlement boundary.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC	N/A	No, this policy steers development towards the settlement boundary in accordance with both existing and emerging planning policy.

¹ Refer to Draft Plan for policy criteria

NDP objectives	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 H6 Affordable housing.	Policy to support the delivery of affordable housing in line with Policy H1 of the Core Strategy.	<p>Some small scale housing development.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites and the River Wye SAC in particular, dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in very small scale growth outside the settlement boundary.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European sites; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the European sites can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p>	No, this policy would allow for small affordable housing schemes and supports Policy H1 of the Core Strategy. There are additional policy criteria in place in both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the NDP to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
<p>Policy H7</p> <p>Affordable housing on a Rural Exception Sites.</p>	<p>Policy to support the delivery of rural exception sites in line with Policy H2 of the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>Some small scale housing development in places that would not ordinarily achieve planning permission.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the European sites and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites in particular; If Brownfield sites contain derelict or unused rural buildings then their redevelopment could potentially effect the species that use the nearby Bat Site</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European sites; though the policy could be strengthened with the inclusion of the following: Development can only proceed where any adverse effects on the River Wye SAC can be avoided or mitigated. Development will only be permitted when it does not compromise the ability of the NMP to deliver the necessary overall nutrient reductions along those stretches of the River Wye SAC which are already exceeding water quality targets or at risk of doing so.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p>	<p>No, this policy would allow for small rural exception schemes and supports Policy H2 of the Core Strategy. There are additional policy criteria in place in both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the NDP to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.</p>

NDP objectives	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 H8 Allocation of affordable homes for local people.	This is not considered to represent a land use issue and consequently it raises no issues as regards HRA.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Policy HS1 (Option A)	Site allocations policies which have been assessed separately (refer to Appendix 1a)				
Policy HS1 (Option B: Preferred)					
Policy HS2 (Option B: Preferred)					
Policy D1 Design appearance.	Policy to ensure that the appearance of development reflects local distinctiveness and aesthetic qualities.	Likely effect is generally a positive one as policy stipulates the retention of existing landscape features such as trees, hedges, ponds and orchards. This will benefit bat species using the nearby SAC.	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
Policy D2 Design appearance.	Policy to stipulate the technical characteristics that new residential developments would be required to meet, including water conservation and sustainable drainage systems.	Generally only positive impacts are likely to arise from this policy, created by some of the points included within it (e.g. SUDs).	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
Policy SD1 Sustainable development.	Promote sustainable development measures for all new development across the parish.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, this policy will not lead to development; rather it aims to ensure that new development coming forward under the other NDP policies contributes to sustainable development.
Policy SD2 Community facilities.	Measures to resist the loss of specific community assets.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, as the policy merely seeks to avoid the change of use of specific premises, some of which may be nominated as Assets of Community Value.
Policy ST1 Accommodating traffic within the village.	Promoting measures to ensure that highways can cope with additional traffic and that transport service and facilities are kept up to date.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to development; rather it seeks to ensure that development proposals do not exacerbate existing problems relating to highways and transport.

NDP objectives	HRA Screening of NDP objectives and policies				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the objective/policy	Likely effect if objective/policy implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of objective/option/policy.	Could the policy have any likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account)?
<p>Policy SB1</p> <p>Supporting local businesses.</p>	<p>Policy supporting development proposals which sustain or increase local business activity, offer employment or appropriate training.</p>	<p>Employment and infrastructure development.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p><i>As it stands policy may allow environmental damage (beyond that related to amenity) particularly where related to land based activity (e.g. soil erosion, pollution etc) which may have detrimental effect on bat species that rely on the SAC.</i></p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p> <p>Wye Valley Woodlands SAC</p>	<p>This policy should help to reduce the extent to which people need to travel to work by allowing incumbent businesses the opportunity to expand.</p> <p>Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and other policies within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts from any new employment or business uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> <p>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>No, this policy is seeking retention of existing and development of further small scale businesses. This may have a positive effect on reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>There are policy safeguards within Local Plan (Core Strategy) and other NDP policies that will help mitigate potential likely significant effects.</p>

NDP objectives	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 SB2 Work space development	Measures to support the various home-based enterprises which are currently in operation.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, as the policy merely seeks to ensure that the necessary facilities are in place to support home working, which would reduce the need to travel to the benefit of the environment.
Policy SB3 Changes of use	Re-use of buildings that are no longer required for the purpose they were intended to serve.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, whilst this policy would allow for, and indeed encourage the re-use of buildings for agricultural, tourism and business use, there are additional policy criteria in place to ensure that proposed uses are appropriate and to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects.
Policy SB4 Provision of broadband and mobile telephone services.	Encouragement for full mobile and internet coverage during the plan period and energy saving measures. This could result in additional masts and transmitter facilities within the parish.	Depending on type and location of infrastructure: Physical damage or disturbance and or non-physical disturbance such as noise.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC	Measures included within Policy SD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances. This policy could be strengthened by including reference to the European sites. Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.	No, this objective will not lead to development itself and will encourage the uptake of mobile working to the benefit of transport concerns and air quality. There are safeguards within policy to ensure that disruption caused by the siting of proposals is minimised.
Policy SE1 Sustaining the parish environment and landscape.	Policy to preserve or enhance the landscape of the parish's ecological network. Aims to ensure that development contributes positively to the rural character of the area.	N/A	N/A	Should refer to need to enhance quality of the ecological network via the uptake of environmental stewardship schemes on farmland in particular. Needs reference to and acknowledgement of Bat Sites.	No. This policy will not produce any impacts upon the European sites.
Policy SE2 Sustaining local heritage and character.	Policy requires all proposals concerning to demonstrate how they will conserve or enhance historic assets. This includes non-designated heritage assets.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No, as the policy merely seeks to ensure that greater checks and balances are placed on proposals that directly affect heritage assets.

NDP objectives	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 SE3 Sustaining open spaces.	Conservation of specific green areas of land.	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. This policy will not lead to development; rather it seeks to conserve areas of green space and prevent alternative forms of use, to the benefit of the natural environment and landscape character.
Policy SE5 Renewable energy.	Greater uptake of microgeneration and other low density renewable energy schemes.	Depending on type and location of infrastructure: Physical damage or disturbance and or non-physical disturbance such as noise.	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC Wye Valley Woodlands SAC	Measures included within Policy SD2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances. This policy could be strengthened by including reference to the European sites. Good practice construction techniques including noise suppression measures, hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction.	No, as although this policy could result in the development of renewable energy infrastructure which depending on its location may have potential effect on the River Wye, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and NDP to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.
Policy SE6 Surface and foul water drainage.	Seeks to reduce impacts of flooding within the parish.	N/A	N/A	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 policy itself will not lead to development; instead it relates to the criteria used for permitting development in suitable locations. The policy is aiming to reduce development in flood risk areas thus reducing the impact on the water environment.