

Environmental Report



Whitbourne Neighbourhood Area

September 2016

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Appendix 1: Initial SEA Screening Report

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Non-technical summary

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an important part of the evidence base which underpins Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP), as it is a systematic decision support process, aiming to ensure that environmental assets, including those whose importance transcends local, regional and national interests, are considered effectively in plan making.

Whitbourne Parish Council has undertaken to prepare an NDP and this process has been subject to environmental appraisal pursuant to the SEA Directive. Whitbourne is a relatively large parish in the north east of Herefordshire, some 5 miles due east of the market town of Bromyard.

The environmental appraisal of the Whitbourne NDP has been undertaken in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plan and Programmes Regulations 2004. Stage A of the SEA process involved Scoping and Stage B provided a review and analysis of the NDP. Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report and Stage D comprises a formal consultation on both this and the Draft Plan itself. As the Draft Plan has been revised to undertake Regulation 14 consultation again, Stage B has been undertaken to incorporate the revised objectives and Policies.

The Revised Draft Whitbourne NDP (November 2015) included ten objectives, which are designed to deliver the overarching vision on the ground, and it is intended that these objectives will be supported by 15 criteria based planning policies. A range of alternative options were considered prior to reaching a decision over the format of the original draft plan (February 2015). This is the second version of the draft plan to be consulted upon. Following an initial Reg14 draft consultation in February 2015, all of the policies have been updated to reflect changes to the Core Strategy and consultation responses received. Following examination six policies LU6, LU7, LU10, LU12, LU14 and LU15 have been removed in order for the plan to meet the basic conditions, leaving 9 policies. Minor wording and removal of Open spaces policies map have been removed to make the plan clearer and consistent with the Core Strategy and NPPF.

The Draft NDP has been through a successful Examination with modifications recommended by the Examiner, these modifications have been accepted by Herefordshire Council and have now also been assessed as part of the SEA, the modifications do not change the overall conclusion of the SEA.

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening has not been carried out as the parish does not fall within the catchment for the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC, which is a European site (Special Area of Conservation).

Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the effects of the policies within the Whitbourne NDP will be monitored annually via the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report forms the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Whitbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).
- 1.2 The Whitbourne NDP provides general policies for guiding future development across the parish as a whole. However, although the village of Whitbourne is targeted for proportional levels of growth in Policy RA1 of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), no site allocations are proposed here.

Purpose of the SEA

- 1.3 SEA is a requirement of EC Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) which requires the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment to ensure that the proposals in that plan or programme contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 1.4 The Directive was transposed into domestic legislation through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and which applies to plans with significant environmental effects.
- 1.5. A screening opinion was carried out on the Whitbourne NDP and it concluded that due to the range of environmental designations in and around the parish, there may be significant environmental effects and consequently an SEA would be required.

Parish Neighbourhood Plan Context

- 1.6 Whitbourne is a parish in the north east of Herefordshire, some 5 miles east of the market town of Bromyard.
- 1.7 The parish is very rural in character and has experienced limited expansion over previous plan periods in spite of its proximity to the city of Worcester to the east.
- 1.8 The neighbourhood area boasts many natural features, with 17 Special Wildlife Sites and 4 Sites of Specific Scientific Interest either within or bordering the parish. There are numerous built heritage assets, too, including listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments and non-designated assets.
- 1.9 The vision for Whitbourne in 2031 is:
- “By vision we mean our picture of Whitbourne Parish as we hope it will develop up until 2031. It will preserve the best of what we have inherited, both in our buildings and in our landscape, but be open to the changes necessary to enable our community to develop naturally and sustainably.*”
- 1.10 The revised NDP objectives are:
1. Promote a level of housing growth as required by Herefordshire Council that retains the rural and agricultural character of the Parish
 2. Protect and promote the built and environmental assets of the community
 3. Protect the landscape heritage and green infrastructure
 4. Ensure that new housing promotes opportunities for local people of all ages to continue to live in the parish
 5. Encourage home based employment
 6. Protect open countryside and agricultural land

7. Preserve designated areas where people can refresh themselves and maintain their physical and mental well being
8. Encourage and facilitate wherever possible the use of renewable energy
9. Ensure that land management and any proposed new building do not increase flood risk
10. Encourage employment in the parish generally

Context of Neighbourhood Plans

- 1.11 NDPs are a relatively new type of planning document that form a key part of the Government's localism agenda. They enable local communities to develop plans that reflect local aspirations, in accordance with strategic policies.
- 1.12 The Whitbourne NDP must therefore conform to national planning policy set within the NPPF and strategic level local policy including the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.13 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) was adopted by Herefordshire Council in October 2015.
- 1.14 Paragraph 216 of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance set out the weight that may be given to relevant policies in emerging plans, including NDPs, and indicated that weight may be given to relevant policies in emerging NDPs according to:
- The stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced the preparation, the greater the weight that may be given);
 - The extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
 - The degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the policies in this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
- 1.15 This part of the NPPF is reinforced by Planning Practice Guidance published in March 2014, which is clear that an emerging NDP may be a material planning consideration once it has reached submission/local authorities publication stage (Regulation 16). This is reinforced by recent ministerial statements and case law (West Sussex), all of which have demonstrated that an emerging NDP may be a material consideration at the Regulation 16 stage¹.
- 1.16 Table 4.14 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) lists both Whitbourne and Bringsty among the settlements which it considers to be sustainable locations for proportional growth in line with the provisions of Policy RA1.
- 1.17 Once made (adopted) by Herefordshire Council, the Whitbourne NDP will have a role in guiding future development proposals within the parish, by setting out policies against which planning applications will be determined.

Structure of SEA

- 1.18 The structure of the document is as follows:
- Section 2 – Explains the SEA methodology and summarises the comments received in respect of the SEA Scoping Report

¹ For the avoidance of doubt, this NDP is currently at the Draft Plan Stage (Regulation 14) and cannot, therefore, be given weight in reaching decisions on planning applications

- Section 3 - Introduces the Whitbourne NDP objectives and the SEA framework
- Section 4 - Appraises the objectives set within the NDP against the SEA framework
- Section 5 - Appraises the options set within the NDP against the SEA framework
- Section 6 – Appraises the policies set within the NDP against the SEA framework
- Section 7 – Discusses the implementation and monitoring of the NDP

2.0 Methodology

2.1 The SEA process comprised several stages and which are summarised, in some detail, below.

2.2 Stage A involved 4 tasks and culminated in a Scoping Report:

- *Task A1:* Identified and reviewed relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources.
- *Task A2:* Collected baseline information to provide a picture of past, present and likely future conditions within the area. This helped to establish indicators which will be used to monitor the effects and performance of the Whitbourne NDP.
- *Task A3:* Focused on the environmental issues identified from the baseline, highlighting key issues and problems within the neighbourhood area.
- *Task A4:* Used the information gathered from Tasks A1-A3 to develop a set of SEA objectives, sometimes referred to as the 'sustainability framework'.
- *Task A5:* Collated the results of Tasks A1-A4 within a Scoping Report, a document which was subject to a statutory 5 week consultation.

2.3 Stage B involved 4 tasks and assessed the effects of the NDP.

- *Task B1:* Tested NDP Objectives against the SEA Objectives
- *Task B2:* Developed and refined the NDP policies.
- *Task B3/B4:* Predicted and evaluated the significant effects of the NDP

2.4 Stage C involved preparing an Environmental Report. This report presents information compiled during Stage B of the SEA process and constitutes the Draft Environmental Appraisal of the NDP. It accompanies the Draft Plan during its formal Regulation 14 consultation with people who live, work and carry out businesses in the neighbourhood area, as well as statutory bodies listed in the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

2.5 Producing an Environmental Report was therefore a legal requirement and the submission of this report to Herefordshire Council forms Stage D of the SEA process.

Scoping Report Consultation

2.6 With regard to the SEA scoping assessments, documents A1 to A4 were completed by a Herefordshire Council Planning Officer and sent to the Parish Council for comment, in readiness for a 5 week consultation with statutory bodies, pursuant to the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

- 2.7 After the document was approved by the Parish Council, the Whitbourne SEA Scoping Report was available to four² statutory bodies for consultation from 18 June to 23 July 2014.

Consultation outcomes from Statutory Consultees

- 2.8 The consultation resulted in 2 responses, both of which are attached at Appendix 3.
- 2.9 Both responses were collated and incorporated within this document where relevant.

Natural England: List six further documents which should be reviewed as part of SEA Task A1. Also recommend that additional baseline data be sourced in respect of SSSIs, wildlife habitats, landscape character and the quality of agricultural land. The response is clear that a full HRA screen should be carried out due to proximity of the River Wye Special Area of Conservation.

Response: The six documents referred to have been added to A1 and further baseline data has been incorporated at A2.

English Heritage: Made general comments in relation to a range of Scoping Reports which were consulted on at the same time. Suggested that 'heritage assets' be defined and given greater coverage, as opposed to focusing solely on designated assets. Several changes to the wording of certain targets and indicators are suggested, too.

Response: Changes to the wording of relevant indicators and targets have been incorporated into A2 and A4.

Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales: No comments received

Consultation outcomes from the original Draft consultation February 2015

- 2.10 The original Regulation 14 consultation on the Draft Plan resulted in one comment being received by **Natural England:**

"Natural England welcomes the production of an Environmental Report. Having reviewed the report Natural England confirms that it meets the requirements of the Strategic environmental Assessment (SEA) European Directive and national regulations, and that we concur with its conclusions."

Draft Environmental Report

- 2.11 The Draft SEA was consulted on for a 6 week period between 21 March 2016 and 3 May 2016. The three statutory bodies listed above were consulted and comments received from one of these can be found in Appendix 3a, with a summary provided at Appendix 6. The summary of consultation responses can be found in Appendix 6 of this report.
- 2.12 The document was available on Herefordshire Council's website for comment during the period highlighted above, but representations were sent to the Parish Council. However, apart from the comments received from one statutory consultee, none of the representations were directed at content or structure of the Draft Environmental Report.
- 2.13 None of the respondents to the consultation disputed or requested an amendment to the SEA of the Whitbourne NDP and Natural England made clear that the Draft Environmental Report satisfies the requirements of the relevant legislation and regulations, and concur with its conclusions.

² Statutory consultation bodies: Natural England; English Heritage; Environment Agency Natural Resources Wales

- 2.14 As such, there are no suggested changes to the Environmental Report prior to the NDPs Adoption.

3.0 The SEA Framework

- 3.1 As mentioned previously, Stage A of the SEA identifies and reviews relevant policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives from European, National and Local sources (refer to Table A1 in Appendix 2 for details of those documents that were reviewed in completing Stage A of SEA on the Whitbourne NDP).

- 3.2 The requirement to undertake this 'context review' is contained in Annexes 1(a) and (e) of the SEA Directive which states that an Environmental Report should include:

“...an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes” and

“...the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation”

Policy context

- 3.3 The Whitbourne NDP will deliver the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at parish level by adding locally specific detail to strategic policies. As a consequence, the Scoping Report for the NDP was based on the context review Herefordshire Council undertook for its Local Plan (Core Strategy).

- 3.4 The results of this assessment (context review) provide the source of the local baseline data and have been incorporated into the SEA framework. It should be noted that:

- No list of policies, plans and programmes can ever be exhaustive and that Herefordshire Council has selected those considered to be of particular relevance to the planning system;
- New or revised plans and policies can emerge during the SEA process

- 3.5 The following plans, policies and programmes have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated within the SEA Framework objectives:

- *The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)* - These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.
- *The EC Water Framework Directive (2000)* - Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015
- *The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)* - The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.
- *Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)* - Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's

contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.

- *The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)* - Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs
- *The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)* - Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.
- *Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy (2009)* - Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will more effectively meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)* - Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.
- *Planning Practice Guidance (2013)* - Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) 2013-2015* - Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.
- *Understanding Herefordshire Report (2014)* - Important to understand the place such as the local economy natural and built environment in which people live, learn and work as part of understanding their quality of life. Enable development for economy and housing to required levels and growth should be supported by sustainable transport measures.
- *Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014 (2009)* - Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.
- *Wye Valley AONB management Plan 2009-2014 (2009)* - The Management Plan is the prime document which sets out the vision for the area and the priorities for its management.
- *Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016* - Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.
- *Herefordshire Employment Land Study (2012)* - Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.
- *Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) (2009)* - The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:
 - Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development
 - Assessing sites for their housing potential; and
 - Predicting when a site could be developed for housing.

- *Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) (2013)* - Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.
- *Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study (2012)* - Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.
- *Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report (2013)* - Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy
- *Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment (2013)* - Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)* - Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.
- *Building Biodiversity into the LDF (2009)* - Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.
- *Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010)* - Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.
- *Renewable Energy Study (2010)* - Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.
- *Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment (2012)* - Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.
- *Open Spaces Study (2006)* - The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snapshot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.
- *Play Facilities Study (2012)* - The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.
- *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study (2009)* - The SFRA provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development. The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.

3.6 Appendix 1 of the Whitbourne Plan Scoping Report provides additional detail on the Plans, Policies and Programmes mentioned above and identifies the implications for the SEA and NDP.

SEA Objectives and baseline characteristics

- 3.7 The SEA objectives that were used at Stages A and B of the process are listed in the following table.

SEA Objective	
1	To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
2	To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
3	To improve the quality of surroundings
4	To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage
5	To improve air quality
6	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment
7	To reduce contributions to climate change
8	To reduce vulnerability to climate change
9	To improve water quality
10	To provide for sustainable sources of water supply
11	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk
12	To conserve soil resources and quality
13	To minimise the production of waste
14	To improve the health of the population
15	To reduce crime and nuisance
16	To conserve natural and manmade resources

- 3.8 The SEA objectives detailed above conform to the SEA Directive, and are derived from the Sustainability Appraisal undertaken for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2011-2031.
- 3.9 Baseline information gathered during Stage A of the SEA process provided details of the current environmental characteristics of the neighbourhood area and the status of its natural assets and features (refer to Appendix 2). This information was analysed as part of Task B2 of SEA, which looked at the extent to which the emerging NDP policies will help or obstruct these characteristics. There are three objectives for which there is no local baseline data available. This provides a limitation on the baseline data and whether the NDP policies are able to move towards or away from it; consequently this also means that future trends cannot be predicted.
- 3.10 Following the completion of Task B2 of SEA it was apparent that the largest environmental issues within the parish are landscape character and the natural and built environments.
- 3.11 The NDP does not propose that sites be allocated for development and contains only criteria-based policies. On this basis, the delivery of the NDP should not exacerbate existing problems or have an unacceptable adverse impact on these issues, subject to the inclusion of additional or strengthened policy criteria.

4.0 Assessing the NDP Revised Objectives

- 4.1 The revised objectives (detailed in paragraph 1.10 above), as set out in the NDP, aim to realise the vision for Whitbourne in 2031:
- 4.2 The table below tests these NDP revised objectives against the SEA objectives, providing a summary of the results of Task B1 of SEA. The full results are available at Appendix 7 of this report.

- 4.3 All of the revised NDP objectives were generally compatible with the SEA objectives there were some unknown results but this is due to additional information required such as location of development. However, there are policy safeguards within the Core Strategy policies to support this.

Key:	
+	Compatible
-	Possible conflict
0	Neutral
X	No relationship between objectives
?	Unclear, more information needed

NDP objectives	SEA objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Objective 1	0	+	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	X	X	+
Objective 2	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	?
Objective 3	+	+	+	+	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	+
Objective 4	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	X	X	X	?	?	+	+	X	?
Objective 5	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	X	X	?	+	+	+	+	+
Objective 6	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	?	X	X	+	+	X	0	X	+
Objective 7	+	+	?	?	X	?	?	X	X	X	?	?	X	+	+	+
Objective 8	?	?	X	?	+	?	+	+	?	?	+	?	+	?	X	?
Objective 9	0	+	+	?	X	+	?	?	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	?
Objective 10	?	X	X	+	+	+	?	?	X	X	?	?	?	X	X	?

5.0 Assessing the NDP Options

- 5.1 All options that were considered by the NDP steering group during the development of their plan have been assessed as part of the SEA and the summary matrix of the assessment can be found in Table B2 at Appendix 4.
- 5.2 The options covered were as follows;
- Allocate sites for housing
 - Manage future housing using a settlement boundary
 - Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary.
- 5.3 A 'do nothing' option was also considered, i.e. not undertaking an NDP, however this was disregarded at an early stage by the Parish Council as it was considered the majority of the community would support the work undertaken for an NDP.
- 5.4 The second option of allocating sites for housing was considered and rejected. Pursuing this option would have given greater certainty over future development. If required, mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.

- 5.5 The option to designate a settlement boundary and allocate land was also favourable in terms of the SEA objectives but this too was considered and rejected.
- 5.6 The third option of designating settlement boundaries was chosen. This has a positive effect on the baseline, as the designation of a settlement boundary would give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth will be adjudged by criteria based policy.

NDP Options	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Option 1	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				x
Option 2	++	++		++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++
Option 3	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Option 4	++	++		++	++	+	++	++	++	+	++	+				++
Option 5	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+

6.0 Appraisal of the revised policies

- 6.1 A key part of developing a plan such as the Whitbourne NDP is developing a range of options and testing these, so that a preferred way forward can be selected.
- 6.2 The plan has been organised with a set of revised general overarching policies for the whole neighbourhood area and these emerging set of revised draft policies have been appraised for the purposes of Stage B of the SEA:

- Policy LU1: Settlement boundary
- Policy LU2: Redundant agricultural buildings
- Policy LU3: Conservation area
- Policy LU4: Housing Strategy
- Policy LU5: Affordable housing
- Policy LU6: Land protection
- Policy LU7: Designated areas
- Policy LU8: Renewable energy
- Policy LU9: Flooding
- Policy LU10: Forestry
- Policy LU11: Open spaces
- Policy LU12: Building standards
- Policy LU13: Environmental considerations
- Policy LU14: Employment
- Policy LU15: Road surfaces

Stage B of SEA

- 6.3 With regard to Task B2 of SEA, the revised NDP policies were measured against both the SEA framework and the baseline characteristics identified during Stage A of the process; here, there was no baseline data available in respect of SEA Objectives 13, 14 and 15. Full details of this appraisal are attached at Appendix 7.

- 6.4 The policies largely score as positive against the SEA objectives (because they are criteria based policies which only consider schemes on their own merits, as and when planning applications are submitted to the local planning authority). The revised policies have taken on a more formal format and include more detailed criteria to ensure they are more robust to determine planning applications. This means that the revised policies score far more highly against the SEA objectives than the previous draft policies (February 2015).
- 6.5 There are some unknown factors, particularly where the location of specific piece of development (i.e employment units, siting of renewable energy schemes, etc) is not yet known.
- 6.6 The results of Task B3, as shown at Appendix 7, demonstrate that the cumulative impact of the NDP policies over the course of the plan period is generally positive. Although some policies may have a neutral or uncertain impact during the first 5 years of the plan period, there is no reason why they cannot have a positive effect in the medium to long-term due to policy safeguards included in the Local Plan (Core Strategy); these safeguards should avoid or mitigate against unacceptable adverse impacts.
- 6.7 Task B4 of SEA brings together the results of earlier tasks and thus identifies the cumulative impact of the entire of the NDP. This task, which is also attached at Appendix 7, reveals that the objectives and policies contained in the revised Whitbourne NDP match the spirit of equivalent policies within the Core Strategy. Therefore the cumulative effect of the revised plan policies will contribute to the achievement of the SEA objectives.
- 6.8 None of the revised NDP policies are considered to be in direct conflict with or propose greater levels of growth and development than strategic policies contained in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), which themselves have undergone a full Sustainability Appraisal.

NDP Policies	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Policy LU1	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy LU2	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	?	X	+	+				+
Policy LU3	++	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Policy LU4	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy LU5	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Policy LU6	++	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	+				+
Policy LU7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+				+
Policy LU8	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	?	X	?	?				+
Policy LU9	+	+	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				X
Policy LU10	+	+	X	+	X	+	+	?	?	X	?	+				+
Policy LU11	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+				+
Policy LU12	O	O	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O				O
Policy LU13	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				+

Policy LU14	?	+	+	?	X	+	+	X	X	X	X	?				?
Policy LU15	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	X	X	X	?	?				+

Stage D of the SEA

6.11 As mentioned previously, several policies were refined following the Draft Plan stage; these changes were necessitated by comments received during the consultation period. A few wording changes were made throughout the plan to add additional environmental protection and safeguard natural landscape

Post reg 16

6.13 Following the Draft plan consultation (Regulation 14) and the amended Draft NDP for the Regulation 16 consultation, the Plan has now been subject to an Independent Examination (During July 2016) by Nigel Mc Gurk who has submitted his report stating that the NDP will meet the Basic Conditions subject to a number of Minor Modifications to the policies and deletion of 6 policies. The recommended modifications can be viewed in Appendix 8.

6.14 The policy that underwent examination and subsequently re-assessed following modification were: LU1,LU2,LU4,LU8 and LU11 policy, adding more certainty and clarification to the existing policies ensuring that the plan meets all of the basic conditions.

6.15 The Modifications have been accepted by Herefordshire Council and have been made to the Plan; the policies that have had modifications made to them have now been re-assessed as part of this SEA process. The modifications were in the main minor wording changes to ensure consistency with the Framework and to provide more clarity for decision makers.

6.16 It has been concluded that the modifications made will not have a significant adverse impact on the SEA objectives and therefore the conclusions of the SEA remain the same as with the Draft Plan, no significant effect is likely from the implementation of the Whitbourne NDP policies.

6.17 The full results of the re-assessed policies can be found in Appendix 9 of this final Environmental Report.

7.0 Implementation and monitoring

7.1 Herefordshire Council as the Local Planning Authority should make arrangements to monitor the significant effects of implementing a neighbourhood plan.

7.2 Regulation 17 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires the Local Planning Authority to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of any NDP that was subject to SEA, in order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage and to enable appropriate remedial actions.

7.3 Accordingly, Herefordshire Council will monitor outcomes from the NDP policies and the results of these will be reported in the Council's Authority Monitoring Report (AMR).

7.4 The AMR runs from 1 April to 31 March each year and the topics covered therein include the following:

- Housing delivery;
- Previously developed land
- Housing completions
- Affordable housing conditions
- Employment land delivery.

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)**

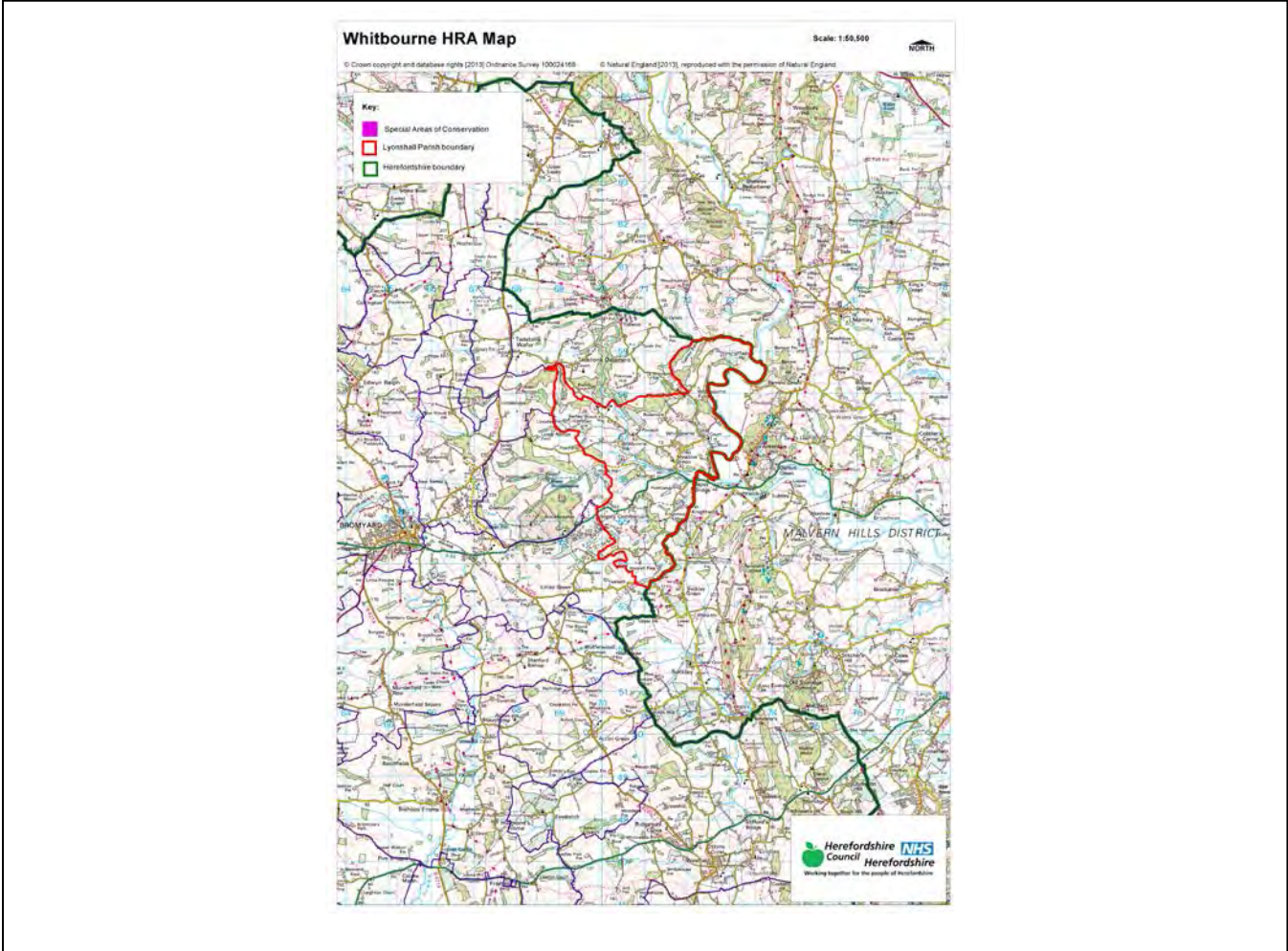
Neighbourhood Area:	Whitbourne Neighbourhood Area
Parish Council:	Whitbourne Parish Council
Neighbourhood Area Designation Date:	6 th November 2012

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	River Wye/Lugg does not flow in or border the Parish
Is the Neighbourhood Area in the hydrological catchment of the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC?	N	Whitbourne Parish is outside of the River Wye hydrological catchment area
If yes above, does the Neighbourhood Area have mains drainage to deal with foul sewage?	N/A	Not Applicable

Downton Gorge SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of Downton Gorge SAC?	N	Downton Gorge is 28.09km away from Whitbourne Parish
---	---	--

River Clun SAC:

Does the Neighbourhood Area include: Border Group Parish Council or Leintwardine Group Parish Council?	N	River Clun does not border the Parish
--	---	---------------------------------------

Usk Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of the SAC boundary?	N	Usk Bat Sites are 64.5km away from Whitbourne Parish
--	---	--

Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites?	N	Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites are 33.9km from Whitbourne Parish
--	---	---

Wye Valley Woodlands SAC:

Is the Neighbourhood Area within 10km of any of the individual sites that make up the Wye Valley Woodlands Site?	N	Wye Valley Woodlands are 47.8km away from Whitbourne Parish
--	---	---

HRA Conclusion:

The assessment above highlights that the following European Sites will need to be taken into account in the future Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Whitbourne Neighbourhood Area and a Full HRA Screening will not be required.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Initial Screening for nature conservation landscape and heritage features

The following environmental features are within or in general proximity to the Whitbourne 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	No AQMA's in the Parish	N
Ancient Woodland	30	Punch Bowl Wood; Bevan Wood (border); Linceter Wood; Badley Wood; Limekiln Coppice (border); Willy Hill Coppice; Lady Wood (border); Scar Copse; Whitbourne Brook Wood; Tedney Ash Bed; Teme Side Wood; Green Wood (border); Ham Wood (border); Ham Farm Wood (border); Ox Leasow Coppice (border); Rookhill Coppice; Old House Wood (border); Tinkers Coppice (border); Nipple Coppice (border); Mill Rough (border); Longfield Coppice; Paradise Wood (border); Bradleyfield Coppice, Big Wood; Mitchells Coppice; Park Coppice and Grove Dingle; Yearsett Wood; Pipers Copse (border); Tipton Hall Wood (border); Gate House Wood (border)	Y
Areas of Archaeological Interest	0	No AAI's in Whitbourne parish	N
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	0	No AONB's in Whitbourne Parish	N
Conservation Areas	2	Whitbourne Court; Tedstone Delamere (border)	Y
European Sites	0	There are no SAC's within the Parish	N
Flood Areas		There are Flood Zones 2 and 3 in the north of the County, just south of Meadow Green	Y
Geoparks	1	Malvern Hills Geopark	Y
Listed Buildings	Numerous	There are numerous Listed Buildings scattered around the Parish	Y
Local Sites (SWS/SINCS/RIGS)	17 (SWS)	Bringsty Common & Big Wood; Grove Dingle & Park Coppice; Bradleyfield Coppice; Whitbourne Hall Lake; Badley Wood & Common and Adjoining woodland; Pond nr Poswick Lodge; River Teme; Whitbourne Court Moat and Spring Coppice; Rookhill & Scar Copse, Tedney Ashbed and adjoining meadow; Sapey Brook, Woodland adjoining Sapey Brook; The Punch Bowl; Woodland adjoining Paradise Brook and tributaries (border); Hungry Dean, Tedney Bank	Y

		and Lady Wood (border); Brockhampton Park and adjoining woodland (border); Meadow at Tedstone Wafre (border); Whitbourne Brook	
Long distance footpaths/trails (e.g. Herefordshire Trail)	1	Bromyard Walk	Y
Mineral Reserves	0	There are no Minerals Reserves within the Parish	N
National Nature Reserve	0	There are no NNR's within the Parish	N
Registered & unregistered parks and gardens	1 Registered 5 Unregistered	Registered: Brockhampton (border) Unregistered: Whitbourne Hall; Whitbourne Court; Gaines; Brockhampton, Bromyard (border); Clater Park (border)	Y
Scheduled Ancient Monuments	2	Combined dovecote and icehouse at Gaines; Churchyard cross in St James's churchyard (border)	Y
Sites of Special Scientific Interest	4	River Teme (Unfavourable No Change); Hay Wood and Tinkers Coppice (Favourable (part) Unfavourable Recovering (part)) (border); Lords Wood Meadow (Unfavourable Recovering) (border); Osebury Rock (Favourable) (border)	Y

Decision Notification:

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

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

Assessment date: 10/05/2013 re-screened 21/08/2013

Assessed by: James Latham

Appendix 1: European Sites

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

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

Usk Bat Site

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

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

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites

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

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

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

NDPs closest to the European Site will need to consider:

Woodland habitat buffer.

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

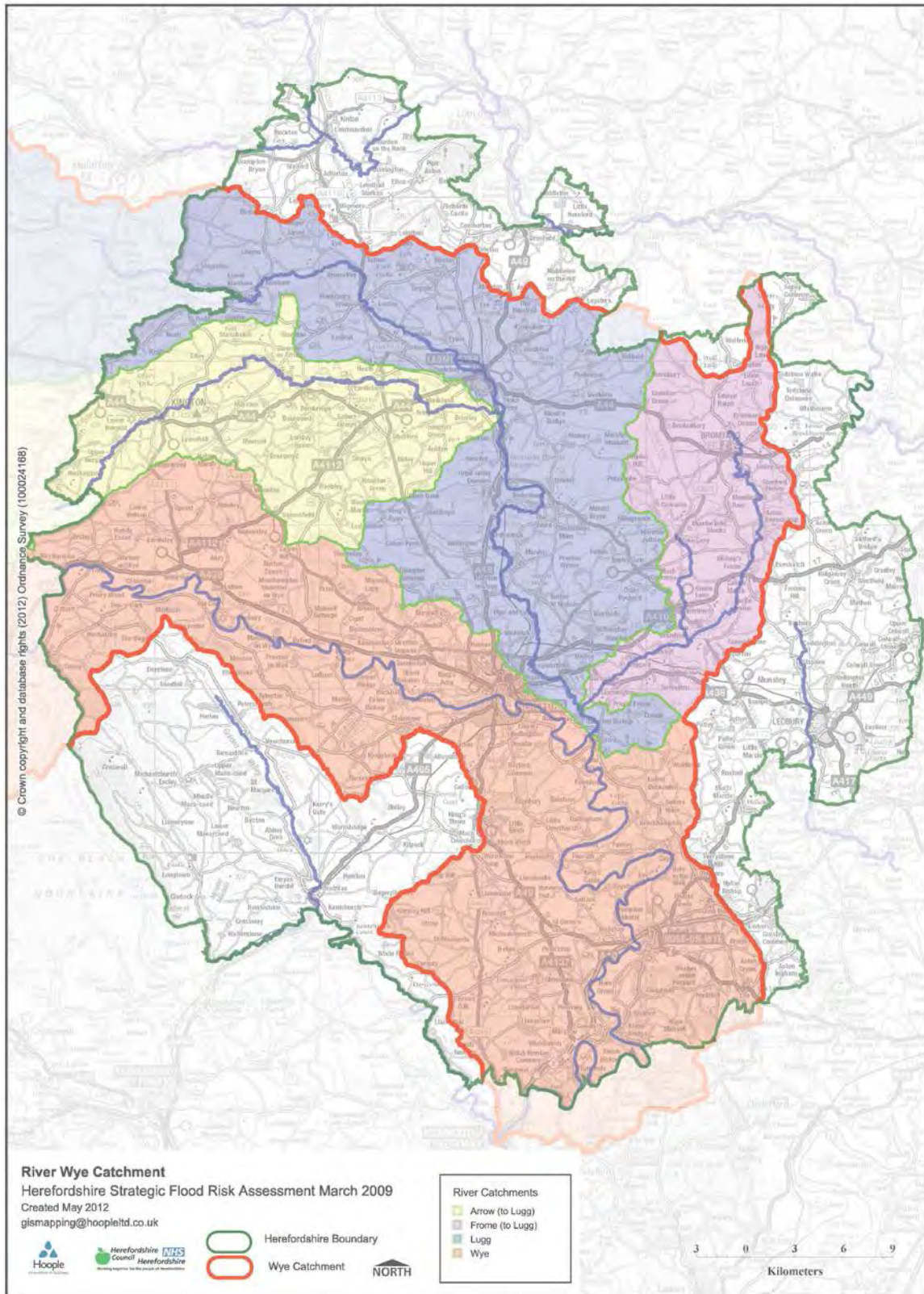
Greater Horseshoe Bat: Large buildings, pasture, edge of mixed deciduous woodland and hedgerows. Mixed land-use especially south-facing slopes, favours beetles, moths and insects they feed on. During the winter they depend on caves, abandoned mines and other underground sites for undisturbed hibernation.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

Wye Valley Woodlands

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

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

Appendix 2: Wye Catchment Map

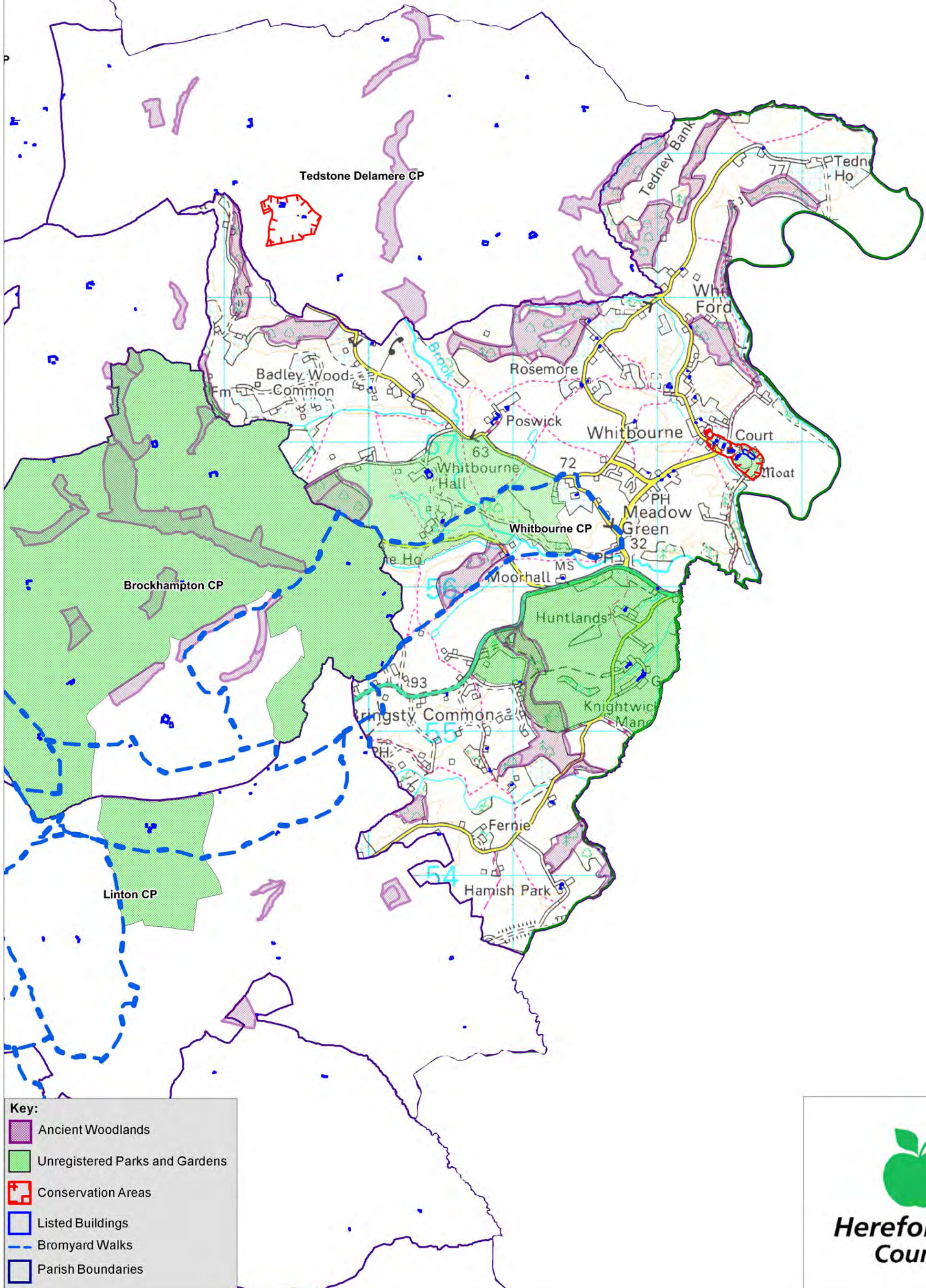


Whitbourne SEA Map 1

Scale: 1:20,000



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Key:

- Ancient Woodlands
- Unregistered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Bromyard Walks
- Parish Boundaries

Herefordshire Council

Whitbourne SEA Map 2

Scale: 1:25,000



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Key:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Wildlife Sites
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3
- Parish Boundaries

Herefordshire Council

Appendix 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment



Whitbourne Neighbourhood Area

Scoping Report

October 2014

Consultation on the Scoping Report

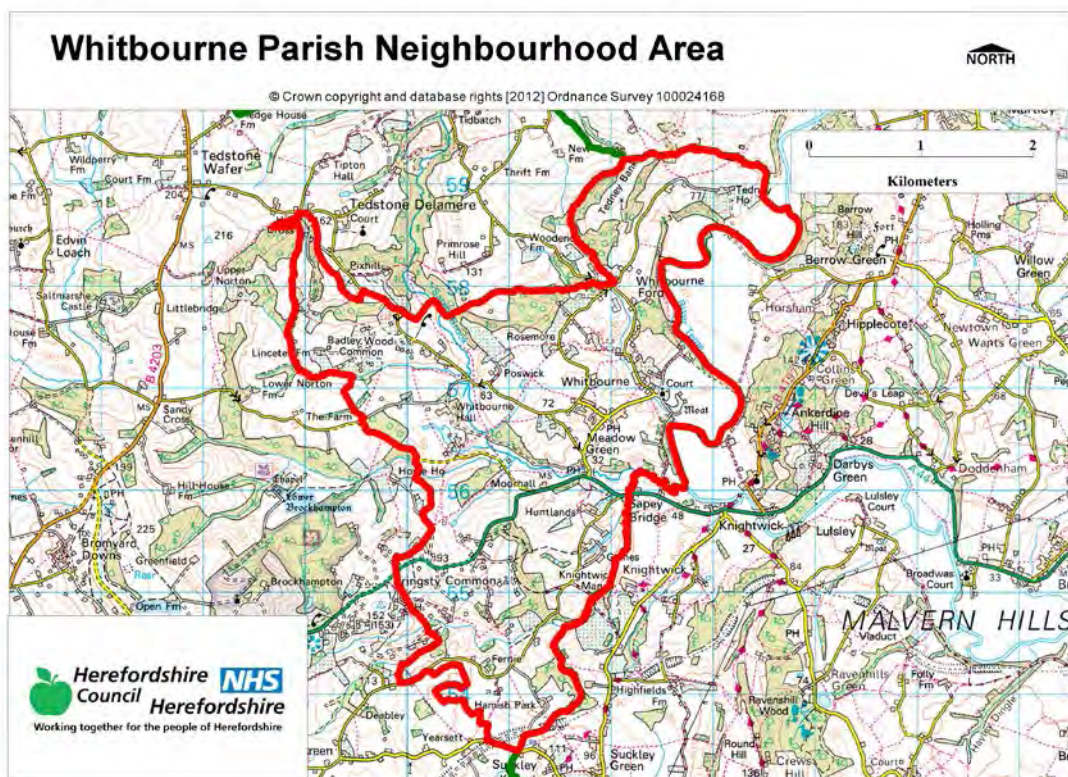
The aim of the consultation process is to involve and engage with statutory consultees and other relevant bodies on the scope of the appraisal. In particular, it seeks to:

- Ensure the SEA is both comprehensive and sufficiently robust to support the Neighbourhood Development Plan during the later stages of full public consultation;
- Seek advice on the completeness of the plan review and baseline data and gain further information where appropriate;
- Seek advice on the suitability of key sustainability issues;
- Seek advice on the suitability of the sustainability objectives.

Comments on this Scoping Report have been invited from the three consultation bodies as required by the SEA regulations, together with the Natural Resources Wales.

The three consultation bodies are as follows:

1. Natural England;
2. English Heritage;
3. Environment Agency.



Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations	European Union Legislation	2010	These regulations transpose the Habitats Directive in England, Wales and to a limited extent Scotland by ensuring that activities are carried out in accordance with the Habitats Directive, which is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild flora and fauna.	The Regulations make it an offence (subject to exceptions) to deliberately capture, kill, disturb, or trade in the animals listed in Schedule 2, or pick, collect, cut, uproot, destroy, or trade in the plants listed in Schedule 4. However, these actions can be made lawful through the granting of licenses by the appropriate authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Cultural heritage and the landscape 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The EC Water Framework Directive	European Union	2000	Commits all EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water courses by 2015.	Aims for 'good status' for all ground and surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, and coastal waters) in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)	Domestic Legislation	1981	The major legal instrument for wildlife protection in Britain, although other significant acts have been passed since. It has numerous parts and supplementary lists and schedules many of which have been amended since publication.	The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
The Countryside and Right of Way Act (2000)	Domestic Legislation	2000	Creates a statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs.	<p>The Act provides for a new right of access on foot to areas of open land comprising: Mountain (land over 600 metres); Moorland; Heath; Downland; Registered common land.</p> <p>There are provisions to consider extending the right in the future to coastal land, but not woodland despite some early publicity suggesting this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006)	Domestic Legislation	2006	Designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy.	Provides that any public body or statutory undertaker in England and Wales must have regard to the purpose of conservation of biological diversity in the exercise of their functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage and the landscape • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Soil 	The Neighbourhood Plan should be compliant with all the relevant legislation and regulations.
Revised EU Sustainable Development strategy	EU Strategy.	2009	Sets out a single strategy on how the EU will better meet its long-standing commitment to meet the challenges of sustainable development.	Recognises the need to gradually change current unsustainable consumption and production patterns and move towards a better integrated approach to policy making. The Strategy sets overall objectives, targets and concrete actions for seven key priority challenges, predominantly environmental.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The NDP should take account of the objectives of the strategy, making the aim of sustainable development an integral part of its proposals.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services	National Strategy	2011	Forms part of the UK's Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework by setting out England's contribution towards the UK's commitments under the United Nations Convention of Biological Diversity.	Sets out to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity 	The NDP should take account of the provisions of the strategy, making the most of opportunities to enhance wildlife habitats or restore degraded ecosystems in the process.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	National Planning Policy.	2012	Consolidates the suite of PPG/PPS into one succinct planning policy document.	Offers up-to-date, electronic guidance on every aspect of planning from air quality and design to land stability and rural housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The guidance contained within the section on Neighbourhood Planning should be borne in mind during the preparation of the NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Planning Practice Guidance	Government Guidance	2014	Provides guidance to local planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.	Aims to make the planning system less complex, more accessible and able to promote growth within the ethos of sustainable development. The presumption is in favour of sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The NDP must be pro-growth and facilitate the provision and development of sustainable development.
Herefordshire Pre Submission Core Strategy 2011-2031	Development Plan Document (DPD)	2013	Sets out the vision, objectives and policies for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy), which will guide development across the county up to 2031.	Outlines the emerging suite of countywide planning policies relating to housing, economic development and the environment, which the NDP will need to be in conformity with where relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	<p>The NDP should take account of relevant policies set within the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Where necessary, the NDP should provide services, facilities and employment opportunities that are</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>The Draft Core Strategy includes a range of objectives, five of which directly relate to rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the housing needs of all sections of the community • To improve access to services in rural areas • To strengthen the economic viability of the villages and their rural hinterlands • To achieve sustainable communities and protect the environment • To conserve, promote, utilise and enjoy our natural, built, historic and cultural assets for the fullest benefit of the whole community 		<p>accessible to both local and neighbouring communities.</p> <p>¹Approximately 15 dwellings will have to be delivered within the settlement, though these targets are indicative and provide a starting point for work on the NDP.</p>

¹ Figures do not include extant planning permissions from 2011 onwards.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				<p>To achieve a thriving rural Herefordshire, the Core Strategy seeks to enhance the role the villages have traditionally played in as accessible, sustainable centres for their rural catchments.</p> <p>Seeks proportional growth of up to 15% in Whitbourne (Bromyard HMA) over the plan period, subject to EiP outcome.</p>		

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2013-2015	Corporate	2013	Sets out the Council's strategy for supporting economic growth, social inclusion and reducing the environmental impacts of transport, as well as the program of investment for the period April 2013 to April 2015.	The document includes three key objectives, one of which seeks to maintain access for rural residents and people without access to a car. Intrinsic to this is the retention of a 'core network' of bus services which focus on journeys between Hereford and the market towns, along with main transport corridors close to larger rural settlements. To this end, the strategy aims to increase the number of bus users by 1.3% (4,700 journeys) by 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Climatic factors • Population 	The LTP does not explore current transport issues in the Whitbourne neighbourhood area, but any new development proposed through the NDP should seek to reduce the environmental impacts of transport.
Malvern Hills AONB Management Plan 2009-2014	Corporate	2009	Identifies the issues and challenges facing the special features of the area and contains 24 guiding principles and 46 strategic objectives which will help address them.	To conserve and enhance the special and unique qualities of the landscape in which the AONB currently occupies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The Neighbourhood Area only adjoins the AONB, but will need to take account of any cross boundary issues and include relevant policies where necessary.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Economic Development Strategy 2011-2016	Corporate	2011	Aims to increase the economic wealth of Herefordshire by setting out proposals and to support business growth up to 2016.	<p>The document outlines the path and direction to foster economic vitality within Herefordshire. Key objectives therefore include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining business survival and growth • Increasing wage levels, range and quality of jobs • Having a skilled population to meet future work needs • Developing the county's built infrastructure so enterprise can flourish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage • Material assets • Population 	None of merit.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Employment Land Study	Evidence	2012	Includes employment land assessments for the plan period 2011-2031. The study includes Quantitative and Qualitative assessments of employment land, assessment of market demand and need, as well as providing forecasts and recommendations for future employment need over the plan period.	<p>This study covers existing employment sites in Hereford, the five market towns and their rural hinterlands.</p> <p>There are no employment land allocations within Whitbourne at present and so the study does not identify sites which are worthy of continued protection from alternative uses. Nor does it make any recommendations in respect of employment need within the neighbourhood area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Material assets • Population 	None of merit; however it would be appropriate for the NDP to examine employment need locally and determine whether there is any scope for providing employment land and premises.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)	Evidence	2009	<p>The SHLAA aims to justify site allocations in plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying sites which are capable of delivering housing development Assessing sites for their housing potential; and Predicting when a site could be developed for housing. 	<p>In terms of Whitbourne, previous SHLAA identifies that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 additional dwellings could be provided on 4 sites in and around the existing settlement, however it is unlikely that this number would materialise due to significant constraints. Of the 37 dwellings, 25 could be provided in 1-10 years, and 12 in 16-20 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climatic factors Cultural heritage Flora and fauna Population Soil Water 	<p>The SHLAA assesses the potential availability of land for housing in Whitbourne.</p> <p>If site allocations are pursued then the Whitbourne NDP should be informed either by SHLAA or a housing land assessment, undertaken in line with Guidance Note 21: Site assessment and allocation sites.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)	Evidence	2013	Builds on an earlier Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) developed for Herefordshire and Shropshire. Its purpose is to inform the Local Plan's policies regarding housing need and demand (for market and affordable housing) within each of the 7 Housing Market Areas (HMAs) in Herefordshire between 2011 and 2031.	<p>The LHMA uses 7 HMAs as the geography for presenting data. Whitbourne falls within the Bromyard HMA. Here, the study reveals that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57% of households are unable to afford market housing. • There is an annual requirement for 72 affordable dwellings between 2012 and 2017. • The proportion of the population above retirement age is slightly above average (24% compared to 22% across Herefordshire). <p>The study identifies that, in rural parts of the HMA, there is a need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 219 market houses • 146 affordable houses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Population • Soil • Water 	<p>The LHMA provides an indication of housing needs and affordability within the Bromyard HMA.</p> <p>It provides evidence that could be used to inform policies or market and affordable housing requirements in the NDP.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Housing Requirements Study	Evidence	2012	Technical assessment of the housing market and potential future local housing requirements which supports planning policy regarding the amount of growth, housing tenure and housing type needed within Herefordshire up to 2031.	<p>The delivery of 5,300 homes in the rural areas would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support growth in the rural population by 6% • Increase the number of households by 14.5% <p>Forecasts also predict that growth in the population of the rural areas is likely to be primarily through an increase in those aged over 75 (97% increase within the Bromyard HMA).</p> <p>Moderate growth is expected in the 30-44 and 60-74 age brackets.</p> <p>The Local Housing Requirements Study therefore anticipates continuing improvements in life expectancy; significant growth is expected of those in their 80s, with the existing population in their 40s and 50s moving into retirement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	<p>This study provides an indication of housing requirements in the rural areas and the Bromyard HMA.</p> <p>This evidence can be used to inform the content of the Whitbourne NDP.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				As a consequence, the rural areas will face an increasing urgency to provide more 3 bedroom homes, with more 1 and 2 bed homes required in the affordable sector.		
Herefordshire Rural Housing Background Report	Evidence	2013	Provides the justification for the proportional housing growth targets outlined in the Core Strategy	The villages within the neighbourhood area are listed among the settlements which are considered to be sustainable locations for growth of up to 15%, in accordance with the EiP outcome.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The Whitbourne NDP will need to be in general conformity with the provisions of Local Plan policies concerning the rural areas.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Draft Gypsies and Travellers Assessment	Evidence	2013	Assesses the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers across Herefordshire.	<p>Key findings from the survey of Gypsy and Traveller households in 2012 found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31% of households surveyed have some sort of accommodation need • Of the 17 households with an accommodation need, 7 had a requirement for at least one additional pitch • 10 households had a requirement for bricks and mortar housing • There is an additional requirement for 7 pitches and 9 units of Registered Social Landlord accommodation within Herefordshire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The Whitbourne NDP should establish whether any of the need identified in this assessment falls within the neighbourhood area and seek appropriate pitches and provision.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan	Evidence	2007	Focuses conservation efforts on the areas within Herefordshire that will result in the greatest benefit for ecological networks, habitats and species.	Integrating biodiversity objectives with other environmental, social and economic needs can provide a sustainable living and working environment that benefits both people and nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity 	The Whitbourne NDP can help to achieve the priorities set within the LBAP.
Building Biodiversity into the LDF	Evidence	2009	Provides the Council's Local Plan (Core Strategy) with evidence in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, identifying both opportunities and constraints across Herefordshire.	This document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Biodiversity Climatic factors Cultural heritage Flora and fauna Material assets Population Soil Water 	There is a serious lack of information about rural areas which means it will be necessary to gather and assess existing biodiversity and geodiversity data, in order to ensure that the Whitbourne NDP can overcome any existing constraints and capitalise on opportunities to enhance habitats and their networks.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis	Evidence	2010	Technical Paper which supports the SHLAA by classifying the landscape sensitivity of the urban fringe on the edges of Hereford and the five market towns.	The document provides useful information in respect of Hereford and the market towns only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna 	None of merit.
Herefordshire Green Infrastructure Strategy	Evidence	2010	Develops a framework of natural and culturally important features and functions so that planning for a sustainable future is at the heart of planning within Herefordshire.	Establishes policies and principles for the protection and enhancement of those features and functions that contributes to the environment of Herefordshire across a range of scales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Whitbourne NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Renewable Energy Study	Evidence	2010	Assesses the energy demand within Herefordshire and the ability for the county to accommodate renewable and low carbon energy technologies.	<p>The total energy demand excluding transport for Herefordshire, at that point in time, was calculated as being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical: 731 GWh/yr • Heat: 1,810 GWh/yr • Total: 2,541 GWh/yr <p>There is scope for all types of renewable energy production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population • Soil • Water 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Whitbourne NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Herefordshire Playing Pitch Assessment	Evidence	2012	Produces a strategic framework, audit and assessment and needs analysis of outdoor sports pitches and facilities for Herefordshire. The document arises as a result of a recommendation in the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework to develop local standards for playing fields and sports pitches throughout Herefordshire.	<p>The study updates components of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2010 such as updating population forecasts, setting local standards for synthetic turf pitches and grass playing fields within Herefordshire. It identifies any current gaps in provision, and looks forward to 2031 to assess what facilities are likely to be required by that date.</p> <p>In terms of Whitbourne itself, the study reveals that there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.74 ha of playing pitch area • 3.97 ha of playing pitch area with secured community access • 84% of playing pitch areas have secured community access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Whitbourne NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Open Spaces Study	Evidence	2006	The 2006 space audit and assessment of need is a snap shot of the quality, quantity and distribution of open space across Herefordshire.	<p>The study reveals that within the Bromyard Area, to which Bringsty Ward is a part, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive under provision of parks and gardens • Extensive over provision of natural and semi-natural green space • Under provision of amenity green space and outdoor sport • Average provision for children and young people. <p>In terms of Whitbourne itself, the study reveals that the playing pitch adjacent to the village hall is of an excellent standard.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population 	The open space audit and assessment of does not give a specific indication of open space shortfalls and surpluses in Whitbourne. The study does, however, provide evidence that the village playing fields are worthy of protection in the Whitbourne NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Play Facilities Study	Evidence	2012	The Play Facilities Study 2012 updates the previous play facilities analysis under the Open Spaces Study 2006 and provides guidance and a framework for the development, delivery and continued sustainability of providing new and improved play facilities for children and young people in Herefordshire to 2031.	In terms of Whitbourne itself, the study reveals that the playing pitch adjacent to the village hall is used as a play facility and may be worthy of future investment owing to the lack of other parishes within the catchment area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Cultural heritage • Flora and fauna • Material assets • Population 	The study provides evidence that could be taken into account when preparing policies for the Whitbourne NDP.

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Water Cycle Study	Evidence	2009	<p>The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) provides a summary of flood risk in Herefordshire to inform the location of future development.</p> <p>The Water Cycle Study examines how water resources and water supply infrastructure, wastewater treatment, water quality, sewerage and flood risk could constrain growth across Herefordshire.</p>	<p>The neighbourhood area is situated in the River Teme catchment.</p> <p>Sub-catchments within this zone record a standard percentage run off of 20-25%, which is neutral for infiltration source control.</p> <p>The area has a moderately rapid flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 5-7 hours.</p> <p>Whitbourne falls into the Herefordshire Conjunctive Use Water Resource Zones (WRZs), which is one of 6 zones covering Herefordshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of potable water is 33% higher than the national average. • Business consumption accounts for half the total usage of potable water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Climatic factors • Material assets • Population • Water 	<p>New development proposed through the Whitbourne NDP should be assessed against the capacity of local infrastructure.</p> <p>Up-to-date flood risk information should be gathered from the Environment Agency, in order to ensure that any flood risks are considered when preparing the Whitbourne NDP.</p>

Plans and Programmes	Type of document	Date	Overview	Key message, target/objective/indicator	SEA topic(s)	Implications for the NDP and SEA
				The WCS identifies a significant number of water bodies in the River Teme catchment that have moderate ecological status.		

Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Whitbourne

N.B. This is based on countywide baseline information with some additions relevant to Whitbourne (in red). Where no locally specific data is available for current status, trends and targets, only countywide data is reported. Any gaps in data may be filled following additional research.

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Biodiversity, flora and fauna</i>							
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	Current status of local SSSIs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Teme (Unfavourable no change); • Hay Wood and Tinkers Coppice (Mixed (border)); • Lords Wood Meadow (Unfavourable recovering (border)); • Osebury Rock (Favourable (border)) 	Percentage of SSSI land in favourable condition. 2006: 22% 2007: 22% 2008: 22% 2010: 24% 2011: 27% Proportion of SSSI land that was in unfavourable condition but recovering increased between 2010 and 2012 going from 41% to 65%.	% of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)	Herefordshire's SSSIs are in extremely poor condition relative to England as whole, where 96.1% of all SSSI land was in favourable condition in April 2014. The proportion of SSSI in unfavourable condition but recovering is greater than England as a whole, where the figure currently stands at 58.6%.	NE & DEFRA Website (accessed July 2014)

¹ Derived from the Pre Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
				Proportion in unfavourable and declining condition had also decreased from 4% to 1%.			
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	Percentage of opportunities taken.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.	Countywide data is available, but this indicator would not apply to this Neighbourhood Area, as the parish falls outside the catchment area for the River Wye SAC.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	2010/11: 17 Habitat Action Plans and 14 Species Action Plans are currently in operation across Herefordshire. There are no formal records of any unacceptable adverse impacts on habitats or protected species. Originally 156 Priority Species were identified for inclusion in Herefordshire's LBAP. Similarly Herefordshire's LBAP covered 23 habitats with Action Plans.	To protect or enhance the habitats of species identified. Zero net loss of habitats.	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	-

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SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.	Whitbourne has: SSSI: 4 SWS: 17 There are no SACs, NNRs, SINC and LNRs within the parish.	As of 2012, there had been no change in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of the planning permissions granted.	To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation.	Herefordshire Biological Records Centre (HBRC) holds limited data on some individual sites.	NDP SEA/HRA Screening Notification Report (November 2012).
13. Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity.	Natural environment	Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.	The neighbourhood area comprises the following types of landscapes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal wooded hills. • Sandstone estate lands. 		No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Landscape Character Assessment (2004; updated 2009).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objectives: <i>Material assets</i>							
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. Whilst there is no locally specific data available at present, there are numerous archaeological and historic sites in Whitbourne according to the latest version of the register.	-	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	Herefordshire Environmental Records Register (search April 2014).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
14. Use natural resources and energy more efficiently.	Resource consumption and climate change	Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	<p><i>Rapid Townscape Assessments (2010) were only undertaken for Hereford, Ledbury and Ross.</i></p> <p><i>Urban Fringe Sensitivity Analysis (2010) only considers sites on the urban fringe of Hereford and the five market towns.</i></p>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Population, Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</i>							
15. Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design standards.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
15. Value, protect, enhance or restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces.	Natural environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Whitbourne Court and Tedstone Delamere at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the two conservation areas.	To maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched April 2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Climatic Factors</i>							
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate change.	Transport patronage by mode.	% of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1% Foot: 14.7% Bicycle: 4.3% Bus: 2% Train: 0.8% Motorbike: 0.8% Taxi: 0.3% Other: 7% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present</i>	The number of people cycling or travelling by bus as the main form transport to get to work declined between 2001 and 2011 – across England and Wales there was little change in either. Walking or driving a car or van on the other hand increased.	To increase the take up of less polluting forms of transport.	There are a lack of transport options for many rural communities and therefore high car ownership and dependency – the last decade has seen a 15 per cent increase in household car ownership, although this is not reflected in traffic flows of recent years with volumes in Hereford City and wider county having decreased. The proportion of people working from home increased over the decade from 15 per cent in 2001 to 17 per cent in 2011.	2011 Census

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate change.	Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	To contribute towards the national target.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
16. Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem.	Resource consumption and climate	Total CO2 emissions per capita	Latest figure dates back to 2010: 1.61 million tonnes (mtCO ₂) <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. This trend hides an increase in emissions between 2009 and 2010 when total emissions in the county increased by 5% the same as across the UK (+5%).	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.	CO ₂ emissions produced are decreasing.	Understanding Herefordshire: An integrated needs assessment (June 2013).

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water</i>							
17. Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public wellbeing, the economy and the environment.	Natural environment	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	2010/11: None There have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Water, air, soil, material assets</i>							
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Agricultural land usage by quality	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
18. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources.	Natural environment	Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive.	Latest figure dates back to 2005: 84% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	Figure steadily improved before going into decline: Herefordshire 1999 85.9%, 2000 89.5%, 2001 92.2%, 2002 91.8%	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.	None identified.	The State of Herefordshire Report (2007) Water Framework Directive (2000)
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Soil</i>							
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	2011/13: 57% <i>There is no locally specific data available at present.</i>	2010/11: 67% Completions on PDL had risen to 71% by 2005.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.	The number of brownfield completions has fallen slightly in recent years, though this is probably the offshoot of tough market conditions.	Herefordshire Council AMR (2011/13)
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Housing densities in urban and rural areas	<i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i>	-	No specific targets identified.	Should be monitored through AMR following the adoption of the Core Strategy, in line with SA recommendations.	-

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
19. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use.	Built environment	Level of development in urban areas compared to rural.	<p><i>There is no countywide or locally specific data available at present.</i></p> <p>This indicator would not be applicable to rural NDPs</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SEA Topic covered by objective: <i>Cultural heritage</i>							
20. Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	<p>The 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data.</p> <p>There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and two SAMs. None are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.</p>	In 2011, there were 58 heritage assets in Herefordshire that were considered to be at high risk and included in the Heritage at Risk Register.	To maintain current status.	None of Whitbourne's listed buildings or SAMs are considered to be at risk at present.	Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage; searched April 2014)

SA Objective ¹	SA Theme	Proposed indicator	Current status	Trends	Targets	Issues and constraints	Baseline (information) source
20. Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage.	Built environment	The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings across the Parish and particularly within a conservation area.	Countywide data would be too large to incorporate into this template. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Whitbourne Court and Tedstone Delamere at present.	No historic records of any planning enforcement action or appeals concerning locally important buildings within the two conservation areas.	To maintain current status.	Current status must be verified by Dvt Mgt and Enforcement Officers.	Council Dvt Mgt records (searched April 2014)

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Whitbourne baseline

These environmental issues are the same as most of those identified for the Herefordshire Core Strategy¹

SEA Topic		Environmental issue	SA objectives
1	Air	High reliance upon the private car causing high levels of air pollution.	Objective 16
		Need to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging less polluting forms of transport.	
2	Biodiversity	Habitats and species of national, regional and local importance are under pressure from the adaptation and diversification of farming and forestry employment.	Objectives 13 & 15
		Minimise loss of biodiversity and expand opportunities for wildlife everywhere.	
3	Climatic factors	Significant areas of the county are at risk of flooding.	Objective 16
		Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through planning, design and build.	
4	Cultural heritage	Whitbourne has numerous Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings, all of which require ongoing protection and many in need of high levels of maintenance.	Objective 20
5	Flora and fauna	Conserve and enhance the character and quality of historic landscapes, including all types of natural flora and fauna.	Objective 15
6	Material assets	How the countryside can continue to be managed in an economically, socially and environmentally beneficial way in the face of continuing pressures on traditional farming.	Objectives 14 & 18
7	Population	Minimise energy waste through good designs, which help to reduce energy consumption and maximise efficiency.	Objective 15
		Need to avoid enforcement investigations/action concerning locally important buildings and those within conservation areas in particular.	
8	Soil	Promoting development of previously developed land and buildings as opposed to greenfield sites or agricultural land of the highest quality.	Objectives 18 & 19
		Need to manage the risk of flooding.	

¹ Derived from the Pre Submission Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Assessment (May 2014) and LDF General Scoping Report (June 2007)

9	Water	Issues relating to availability of resources, foul drainage, pollution, and abstraction in a county which supports water dependent biodiversity of international and national importance, given the predicted climate change consequences for water availability and demanding projections for new housing.	Objectives 17 & 18
		Steady decline in the chemical quality of rivers over the last 10 years.	

Appendix A4 – SEA framework (objectives, indicators and targets)

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve air quality. To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. 	Transport patronage by mode.	To increase the take up of less polluting forms of transport.
Biodiversity, Flora and fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, maintain, restore or expand county biodiversity. Value, protect, restore or expand the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect or enhance habitats of international, national, regional or local importance. Protect international, national, regional or locally important terrestrial or aquatic species. Maintain wildlife corridors and minimise fragmentation of ecological areas and green spaces. Manage access to sites in a sustainable way that protects or enhances their nature conservation value. 	Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of SSSI land in favourable condition (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition but recovering (Increase) % of SSSI land in unfavourable condition and declining (Decrease)
				After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation.	Percentage of opportunities taken.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new appropriate habitats. • Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings • Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management. • Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. • Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users. 	<p>Phosphate levels within the River Wye SAC and adjoining tributaries that receive increased phosphates from proportional growth.</p> <p>Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Changes in the areas of designated nature conservation sites as a consequence of planning permission.</p> <p>Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has or is being implemented.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>To protect or enhance the habitats of species identified.</p> <p>Zero net loss of habitats.</p> <p>To capitalise on opportunities to enhance the areas of value to nature conservation.</p> <p>No specific targets identified.</p>

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Climatic factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce contributions to climate change To reduce vulnerability to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce Herefordshire's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change as well as its contribution to the problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the county's contribution to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, domestic, commercial and industrial sources. Increase the proportion of energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources including by micro-generation, Combined Heat and Power (CHP), district heating and in transportation. 	Number of decentralised energy schemes granted permission.	To contribute towards the national target.
				Total CO2 emissions per capita.	To reduce the overall carbon emissions.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve or enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and cultural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, protect or enhance the character and built quality of settlements and neighbourhoods and the county's heritage assets, historic environment and cultural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, protect or enhance Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, archaeological remains, and other features and areas of historical heritage and cultural value e.g. locally listed buildings. Prevent development which is inappropriate in scale, form or design to its setting or to its function or local area. Encourage development that creates and sustains well-designed, high quality built environments that incorporate green space, encourage biodiversity and promote local distinctiveness and sense of place. Encourage cleanliness and/or improve the general appearance of the area. 	Number and percentage of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments on Buildings at Risk Register (English Heritage).	To maintain or enhance current status in Whitbourne.
				The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of heritage assets, locally important buildings across the Parish and particularly within a conservation area.	To maintain or enhance current status in Whitbourne.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Material assets Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve natural and man-made resources. To improve the quality of surroundings To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use natural resources and energy more efficiently. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise energy efficiency and minimise the consumption of non-renewable energy i.e. from fossil fuels. Minimise the consumption of water, land, soil, minerals, aggregates and other raw materials by all? E.g. through integrated transport, sustainable resource-efficient design, local sourcing of food, goods, materials. Encourage the re-use/enhancement (to high standards of sustainable resource-efficient design) of existing buildings and minimise the need for new build. Encourage the use of clean technologies and water minimisation techniques 	Maintaining Herefordshire Council's County Site and Monuments Register.	No specific targets identified, but need to ensure that the register is kept up to date.
				Monitoring changes to historic landscapes.	No specific targets identified.
				Agricultural land usage by quality	Measure the number of hectares of best and most versatile soil lost through development.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the health and well-being of the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, protect, restore or expand the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, enhance and protect natural environmental assets including AONB's, historic landscapes, open spaces, parks and gardens and their settings. Encourage local stewardship of local environments, for example by promoting best practices in agricultural management. Ensure that environmental impacts caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are minimised. Promote the use of rural areas and open space by all, encourage easy non-car based access, and accommodate the needs of disabled users. 	Number of developments meeting and surpassing national design	No specific targets identified.
				The need for, frequency and outcomes of planning enforcement investigations/ planning appeals concerning the aspects of local loss of locally important buildings within a conservation area.	To maintain or enhance current status in Whitbourne.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve soil resources and quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources. Ensure integrated, efficient and balanced land use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Provide opportunities to improve soil quality or reduce contaminated land. Ensure new developments are in appropriate locations, optimising the use of previously developed land and buildings, primarily focussed on the urban areas and are accessible by walking, cycling or sustainable transport and/or will increase the share of these transport modes, thereby reducing the need to travel. 	Percentage of all new development completed on previously developed land.	To increase the number of homes built on PDL in line with the provisions of national planning policy.
				Housing densities in urban and rural areas.	No specific targets identified.

SEA Topic(s)	SEA Objective(s)	SA Objective(s)	Sub-objectives/Appraisal Questions	Indicators	Targets
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve water quality To provide for sustainable sources of water supply To reduce, avoid and manage flood risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the risk of flooding and the resulting detriment to public well-being, the economy and the environment. Minimise local and global pollution and protect or enhance environmental resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce flood risk both presently and taking into account climate change. Prevent inappropriate development of the floodplain, and include flood protection systems. Include sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate. Minimise water, air, soil, groundwater, noise and light pollution from current activities and the potential for such pollution. Protect or enhance the quality of watercourses. 	Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds.	To have no applications permitted contrary to EA advice. To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality.
				Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality.	To ensure that rivers meet their conservation objectives and do not fall below the required standard of quality, as set out in the Water Framework Directive.

Appendix 3

Date: 23 July 2014
Our ref: 126875
Your ref: None



James Latham
Technical Support Officer
Neighbourhood Planning, Strategic Planning & Conservation teams
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Dear Mr Latham

Whitbourne Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 20 June 2014 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Where Neighbourhood Plans could have significant environmental effects, they may require a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the Environment Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at:
<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/does-a-neighbourhood-plan-require-a-sustainability-appraisal/>

We welcome the production of this SEA Scoping report. The following comments are intended to further improve the SEA and its usefulness in assessing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Appendix A1 – Plans, policies and programmes

In addition to the plans, policies and programmes listed, we suggest that the following are relevant and should be added:

- The EC Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
- The EC Water Framework Directive 2000
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
- The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006
- Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan



Appendix A2 – Baseline information for Whitbourne

Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Against the proposed indicator “*Net change in condition of SSSIs across Herefordshire*”, Natural England is able to provide up to date information on the condition of SSSI’s. Please contact us for this information as and when required.

Under the proposed indicator “*Changes to protected habitats and impacts of species within the Herefordshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan*”, we note that data will be sourced from the 2014 Annual Monitoring Report. In addition, maps of priority habitats and species are available on *Magic*, Defra’s GIS package for environmental assets (www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk).

According to our internal data there is are extensive areas of wood pasture and parkland, deciduous woodland, traditional orchard and good quality semi-improved grassland in Whitbourne CP. We would welcome it if these priority habitats were recognised in the SEA, with information provided in the baseline information and targets included for their protection and enhancement (NPPF paragraph 117).

The baseline information states that there are 4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within the parish. However, according to our internal data there is only 1, the River Teme SSSI which forms the eastern parish boundary.

Population, biodiversity, flora and fauna

Baseline information on the landscape and open spaces needs to be included under SA objective 15: “*Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces*”. Reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out.

Water, air, soil and material assets

This section (or suitable alternative) should include information on geodiversity. The baseline and assessment should make reference to geological conservation and the need to conserve, interpret and manage geological sites and features, both in the wider environment and in relation to designated features. The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust may be of assistance.

The proposed indicator “*Agricultural land usage by quality*” has no countywide data identified. Agricultural land classification maps are available via *Magic* (website above). We suggest as an indicator that the Local Planning Authority could monitor and report on the number of hectares of best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and higher) lost to development. This indicator might be more appropriately included under the SEA topic “*Soil*”.

The indicator “*Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality*” should also refer to ecological quality. Reference could be made to the Water Framework Directive.

Soil

We note that the best and most versatile agricultural land has not been considered. We suggest including an indicator to monitor the hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

Appendix A3 – Environmental issues identified from the Whitbourne baseline

We note that soil and geodiversity are not covered. These environmental issues need to be added to the SEA baseline information, so that environmental issues can be identified and significant impacts on these aspects of the environment can be given appropriate consideration.

Under the SEA topic “Biodiversity”, we suggest that development should be noted as an additional pressure.

Appendix A4 – SEA framework (objectives, indicators and targets)

Under the SEA topic “Air”, not all of the sub-objectives/indicators are relevant, i.e. water quality, soil and contaminated land are covered.

Under the SEA topic “Biodiversity, flora and fauna” and the SEA objective “Value, protect, enhance and restore the landscape quality of Herefordshire, including its rural areas and open spaces”, landscape quality and open spaces have not been covered in the indicators. Relevant indicators should be added, or will not be possible to monitor the impacts of the plan on the landscape and open space. Reference could be made to the county Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Characterisation studies including Historic Landscape Characterisation if this has been carried out. Applications resulting in the loss of open space could be monitored.

We would also welcome the inclusion of an indicator/target around the impact/benefit to ecological networks (NPPF paragraph 109, 113 and 117). We note that no targets have been identified against the indicator “After use of mineral sites especially wildlife habitat creation”, we suggest that perhaps the percentage of opportunities taken could be monitored.

Under SEA topic “material assets”, there are no targets identified against the indicator “monitoring changes to the historic landscape”. We suggest that the LPA could monitor the number of applications permitted despite a significant impact on the landscape having been identified.

Under the SEA topic “Soil”, we note that the best and most versatile agricultural land has not been considered. We suggest including an indicator to monitor the hectares of the best and most versatile agricultural land lost to development.

Under the SEA topic “Water”, the indicator “Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality” should also refer to ecological quality. Reference could be made to the Water Framework Directive.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

We note the recommendation that a full Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening is undertaken due to proximity to the River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Fleming
South Mercia area team



Appendix 3a

Date: 17 April 2015
Our ref: 149151
Your ref: Whitbourne



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BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Latham

Re: Whitbourne Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA and HRA

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 06 February 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

THE CONSERVATION OF HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS 2010 (AS AMENDED) (HABITATS REGULATIONS)

Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment

Natural England notes that the Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment screened out the need to carry out a full assessment and we would concur with the conclusion of this assessment.

Draft Whitbourne Environment Report

Natural England welcomes the production of an Environmental Report. Having reviewed the report Natural England confirms that it meets the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) European Directive and national regulations, and that we concur with its conclusions.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Gillian Driver on 0300 060 4335. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

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Natural England is accredited to the Cabinet Office Service Excellence Standard

Gillian Driver

Miss Gillian Driver
Planning Adviser
South Mercia Team



Appendix 4

NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)			
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:	
+	Compatible	S – Specific:	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations
-	Possible conflict	M – Measurable:	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.
0	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable:	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed
X	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.
?	Unclear, more information needed	T – Time-Bound:	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.

The following matrix appraises the emerging Callow and Haywood NDP Objectives in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives.

These objectives have been developed from both Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

SEA Objectives

1. To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)
2. To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes
3. To improve quality of surroundings
4. To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage
5. To improve air quality
6. To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment
7. To reduce contributions to climate change
8. To reduce vulnerability to climate change
9. To improve water quality
10. To provide for sustainable sources of water supply
11. To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk
12. To conserve soil resources and quality
13. To minimise the production of waste
14. To improve the health of the population
15. To reduce crime and nuisance
16. To conserve natural and manmade resources

NDP objectives	SEA objectives																Conclusions	Recommendations	SMART Test of NDP objective	After SMART objective
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Objective 1: To encourage the natural growth of our community.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	x	x	?	At this stage the exact location of growth is not known and so the full implications of this objective on the relevant SEA objectives cannot be appraised.	Any specific or locational policies for development should take into account the SEA objectives. However, further development of the planning policies will move the objective towards a compatible outcome.	Whilst this objective relates to the overall vision, it is too imprecise to be monitored and so some consideration should be given to the specific wording of the objective, in order to ensure it meets the requirements of the SMART analysis.	To encourage the natural growth of our community up to 2031.
Objective 2: To protect the countryside and its resources.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	This objective does not conflict with any of the relevant SEA objectives.	Whilst this objective relates to the aim of protecting or enhancing the rural character of the parish, it should be more specific in its approach; if relevant policies within the plan were to define and identify the essential landscape and environmental qualities of the parish, what would this actually achieve on the ground?	This objective reflects the vision and has the ability to be monitored, as the countywide Annual Monitoring Report will assess changes to essential landscape and environmental assets. Future policies developed from this objective should aim to make it achievable and deliverable. The timeframe is not specifically indicated but will be for the lifetime of the plan.	To protect the countryside and its resources up to 2031.

NDP Objectives versus SEA Objectives (SMART and Compatibility Test)			
SEA Stage B1	Key:	SMART criteria:	
+	Compatible/very compatible	S – Specific:	NDP objectives should specify what is intended to be done in detail and should not be open to a wide range of misinterpretations
-	Possible conflict	M – Measurable:	It should be possible to monitor NDP objectives in a quantifiable way, by the use of indicators. Indicators should be measurable with limited resource implications.
0	Neutral	A – Attainable/achievable	NDP objectives should be achievable and deliverable, related to the scale of growth proposed
X	No relationship between objectives	R – Realistic:	NDP objectives should relate to the overall vision of the plan. Likewise, chosen indicators should relate to objectives and their outcomes.
?	Unclear, more information needed	T – Time-Bound:	Objectives should be specific to the NDP period or another specified time-frame. Objectives should be associated with a target and indicators should specify when the target should be achieved.

The following matrix appraises the emerging Whitbourne NDP Options and Policies in terms of their SMART criteria and their compatibility with the SEA Objectives and Baseline data.

These objectives have been developed from both Government guidance on SEA and from the local evidence base gathered for identifying the NDP issues.

SEA Objectives	Baseline carried over from Stage A
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain or enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna) 2. To maintain or enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes 3. To improve quality of surroundings 4. To conserve or where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage 5. To improve air quality 6. To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment 7. To reduce contributions to climate change 8. To reduce vulnerability to climate change 9. To improve water quality 10. To provide for sustainable sources of water supply 11. To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk 12. To conserve soil resources and quality 13. To minimise the production of waste 14. To improve the health of the population 15. To reduce crime and nuisance 16. To conserve natural and manmade resources 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whitbourne has: 17 SWS; 4 SSSIs. There are no SACs, SINCs, NNRs and LNRs. 2. There are no outstanding enforcement actions or appeals concerning locally important buildings within Whitbourne Court or Tedstone Delamere at present. 3. Evidence reveals that the playing pitch adjacent to the village hall is used as a play facility and may be worthy of future investment owing to the lack of other parishes within the catchment area. 4. There are numerous scheduled monuments across the parish according to the latest version of the County Sites and Monuments Register. 5. Between 2005 and 2010 Herefordshire's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 7% and 8% respectively; while the UK's total and per capita carbon emission reduced by 8% and 12% respectively within the same period. 6. % of Herefordshire residents who travel to work by: Car: 70.1%, Foot: 14.7; Bicycle: 4.3%,Bus: 2%, Train: 0.8%,Motorbike: 0.8%,Taxi: 0.3%,Other: 7%. 7. Figures on Herefordshire's CO₂ emissions date back to 2010: 1.62 million tonnes (mtCO₂). 8. Reduce the risk of flooding; there have been no approvals contrary to EA advice since reporting began in 2004. 9. Percentage of river length assessed as good or very good chemical quality and ecological quality as required by the Water Framework Directive. Latest figure dates back to 2005; 84% 10. The neighbourhood area is situated in the River Teme catchment. Sub-catchments within this zone record a standard percentage run off of 20-25%, which is neutral for infiltration source control. The area has a moderately rapid flood response (Tp-time to peak) time at around 5-7 hours. The use of potable water here is 33% higher than the national average and business consumption accounts for half the total usage of potable water. The WCS identifies a significant number of water bodies in the River Teme catchment that have moderate ecological status. 11. Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on flood defence grounds; the 2011-2013 AMR does not contain updated conservation data. 12. In 2011 the majority of land within the neighbourhood area was listed Grades 2 (Very Good) and 3 (Good to Moderate) for its agricultural quality. The number of completions on previously development land (brownfield) during the same year was 67%. 13. No baseline data available. 14. No baseline data available. 15. No baseline data available. 16. There are numerous listed buildings within the parish and 2 SAMs, none of which are currently recorded in the Buildings at Risk Register.

NDP Options and Policies	Baseline Data/SEA Objectives																Summary of impact of NDP option/policy in relation to baseline data	Recommendations	Conformity with Core Strategy
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
Do nothing (i.e. decide against having an NDP)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	Do nothing option would involve total reliance on the criteria policies within the Core Strategy to guide further development. Specific policies and proposals for the parishes would not exist.	All developments would need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy has been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal and policies met the SEA objectives.	N/A
Allocate sites for housing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Whitbourne; where proportional growth is expected, notwithstanding that the planning permission granted for housing at Acreage takes up all residual housing requirement. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Manage future growth using a settlement boundary	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and surroundings. There is less certainty over the positive effects on the baseline as any growth with be adjudged by criteria based policy.	Any settlement boundary would need to be designated to ensure that sufficient capacity was included to permit the proportional growth requirements within Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy. Criteria would need to be included within the policy to safeguard against effects on any SEA objectives.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.
Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Allocation of sites for housing or other uses would give certainty to future development. Specific environmental issues could be investigated during the site search and be positively addressed within the policy wording. The designation of a settlement boundary will give additional certainty and help define those areas considered as the built form and open countryside. This option could have a positive effect on the baseline.	Pursuing this option would give greater certainty over future development within the area particularly within Whitbourne; where proportional growth is expected, notwithstanding that the planning permission granted for housing at Acreage takes up all residual housing requirement. If required mitigation criteria can be added to site allocations policies to ensure all SEA objectives are achieved.	This option would meet the Core Strategy requirements in terms of the SEA.

Policy LU1¹ Settlement boundary.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall this policy is compatible with the baseline as it would not lead to development in itself.	This policy is clear that housing development will be restricted to barn conversions or the conversion of agricultural buildings outside the settlement boundary.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU2 Redundant Agricultural Buildings.	?	-	X	-	?	?	?	+	?	X	+	+				+	This policy could lead to some loss of character within the Conservation Area, to the detriment of SEA objectives 2 and 4. In addition, the likely rise in vehicular movements may give rise to problems as regards air quality. Also of concern are the impact of the policy on priority species and associated habitats and the demand for potable water.	It is recommended that the specific criteria within this policy are strengthened, in order to ensure that unacceptable adverse impacts on the character of the historic environment, and particularly within the Conservation Area, as well as the quality of the townscape and overall surroundings can be avoided.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU3 Conservation area.	+	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	Overall the policy is compatible with the relevant baseline data.	It is recommended that the specific criteria within this policy are strengthened, in order to ensure that unacceptable adverse impacts on the character of the historic environment, and particularly within the Conservation Area, as well as the quality of the townscape and overall surroundings can be avoided.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU4 Infill Housing.	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives, as it will only lead to very small scale development in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Core Strategy.	It is recommended that the specific criteria within this policy are strengthened, in order to ensure that no value open areas are lost, to the detriment of the character of the historic environment and particularly the Conservation Area, as well as the quality of the townscape and overall surroundings.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU5 Affordable housing.	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the baseline data.	Whilst this policy meets the SEA baseline objectives, it is recommended that this policy be removed from the document as it does not add locally specific detail to the relevant policies of the Core Strategy, namely H1 and H2.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU6 Land protection.	+	+	X	+	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	None of merit, though it would be helpful to distinguish the policy wording from the rest of the text, including policy numbers, policy wording in different typeface - this makes it easier for Development Management decisions to be made against the plan.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.

¹ Refer to Draft Plan for Policy Criteria

Policy LU7 Designated areas.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible with the baseline because it aims to promote the retention of open spaces.	None of merit, though it would be helpful to distinguish the policy wording from the rest of the text, including policy numbers, policy wording in different typeface - this makes it easier for Development Management decisions to be made against the plan.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU8 Water power.	?	?	X	?	+	X	+	+	-	?	?	X				?	Overall the policy is compatible and has a positive impact on the relevant baseline data.	The siting of renewable energy schemes will be key to determining the extent to which they would have a detrimental impact on nature conservation and landscape character, but policy safeguards exist within the Core Strategy to ensure that there would be no adverse impact on environmental assets.	TBD
Policy LU9 Flooding	+	+	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				X	This policy is compatible with the baseline.	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely SD3. Specific criteria should be added, in order to ensure the policy is deliverable on the ground.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA
Policy LU10 Forestry	?	?	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	?	?				?	Overall the policy is potentially compatible with the baseline data, notwithstanding that the location of development proposals is not currently known.	The provision of workers dwellings in open countryside could have an effect on air quality, landscape character and highways etc, but additional policy safeguards within the Core Strategy would help mitigate these issues to some degree. Additional criteria may be required.	TBD
Policy LU11 Open spaces	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+				+	This policy is compatible with the baseline.	The areas earmarked for protection should be shown on detailed maps with the field/property boundaries made explicitly clear for the purpose of decisions making.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
Policy LU12 Building standards	○	○	X	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○				○	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.	The inclusion of specific criteria to guide development proposals should move this policy towards a positive impact.	This policy does not go beyond that within the Core Strategy in terms of the SEA.
Policy LU13 Environmental considerations	+	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				+	Overall the policy is compatible with the relevant baseline data.	It is recommended that the specific criteria within this policy are strengthened, in order to ensure that unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment can be avoided.	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA.
Policy LU14 Employment	?	?	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?				?	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage.	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises. However, employment policies within the Core Strategy are able to provide adequate mitigation.	TBD

Policy LU15 Road surfaces	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	This theme is not a land use matter and consequently it cannot be appraised against the SEA baseline objectives.	Delete from NDP or add specific policy wording related to highways and transport.	N/A
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++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No relationship
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Policy LU1: Settlement boundary						
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities	
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth to the benefit of nature conservation.		
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth to maintain the quality of the landscape and townscape.		
To improve quality of surroundings	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth to enhance the quality of surroundings.		
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth to the benefit of cultural heritage assets.		
To improve air quality	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		
To improve water quality	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives.		

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth to the benefit of soil resources.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth to the benefit of natural and manmade resources.	
Overall commentary	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy in terms of SEA objectives and can aid the direction of further growth which, subject to the inclusion of appropriate policy criteria, can bring about substantial benefits.				

Policy LU2: Redundant agricultural buildings					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	The short term impact of this policy is currently uncertain given the lack of information about priority species and habitats, but there are safeguards within policies LD2 and RA5 of the Core Strategy which will help to avoid or mitigate against any impacts.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	-	+	+	This policy could lead to the loss of landscape character within open countryside given its lack of specific criteria.	It is recommended that further consideration be given to the wording of this policy, in order to preserve the character of open countryside.
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	-	+	+	This policy could lead to the loss of some character within the Conservation Area given its lack of specific criteria.	It is recommended that further consideration be given to the wording of this policy, in order to ensure that design proposals respect the character of the Conservation Area.
To improve air quality	?	+	+	The short-term impact of this policy is uncertain as the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to dwellings may lead to a rise in vehicular movements, to the detriment of air quality. Policy safeguards exist to help avoid or mitigate against impacts on nearby watercourses.	

To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	The re-use of redundant farm buildings may increase the number of vehicular movements in remote parts of the parish, but policy safeguards exist to avoid long-term traffic problems.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	The re-use of redundant farm buildings may increase the number of vehicular movements in remote parts of the parish, but policy safeguards exist which wi	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+		
To improve water quality	?	+	+	The re-use of redundant farm buildings could have a minor impact on the demand and use of water. Policy safeguards exist with Policy SD3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) to help avoid or mitigate against any impacts.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	The Local Plan (Core Strategy) contains policy safeguards which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on flood risk.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy will help to conserve the best agricultural land by directing growth towards previously developed buildings.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The Local Plan (Core Strategy) contains policy safeguards which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on natural and manmade resources.	
Overall commentary	This policy lacks criteria for determining planning applications, but there are policy safeguards which will help avoid or mitigate against impacts on the natural, built and historic environments, as well as cultural heritage.				

Policy LU3: Conservation area					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		

To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	++	++	++	This policy would have a positive impact on the baseline, notwithstanding its lack of criteria for guiding proposals.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	++	++	++	This policy would have a positive impact on the baseline, notwithstanding its lack of criteria for guiding proposals.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	++	++	++	This policy would have a positive impact on the baseline, notwithstanding its lack of criteria for guiding proposals.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
Overall commentary	Whilst this policy is compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, it is considered that the policy criteria therein could be strengthened.				

Policy LU4: Infill					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	

To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.	
Overall commentary	This policy could lead to very small scale development on infill plots within existing curtilages, in line with policies RA3 and H3 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects.				

Policy LU5: Affordable housing					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards as in place in avoid or mitigate effects on nature conservation.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on the landscape or townscape.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Policy safeguards are in place to avoid or mitigate effects on the historic environment or cultural heritage.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy will only lead to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy).	
Overall commentary	This policy will only level to small scale development in line with Policy H2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy). Other policy safeguards are in place to ensure any issues are avoided or mitigated against.				

Policy LU6: Land protection					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	++	++	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	++	++	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	++	++	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development. This will help to reduce food miles by ensuring that produce is available locally, in turn improving air quality.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development. This will help to reduce food miles by ensuring that produce is available locally, in turn reducing carbon emissions.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development. This will help to ensure that produce can be grown and sourced locally, making the area less dependent on imported products.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	++	++	++	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		

To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	The intention of this policy is to protect the best agricultural land from development.	
Overall commentary	Whilst it does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, the policy as currently worded could be used to resist all development proposals.				

Policy LU7: Designated areas					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy aims to promote the retention of the village playing field, village green and churchyard and will therefore have positive impact.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	The policy encourages the continuing and increase use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality of the 'townscape' and character of the area.	
To improve quality of surroundings	++	++	++	The policy encourages the continuing and increase use of community facilities. The use of the existing facilities will help maintain the quality of the playing field in particular.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy aims to promote the retention of the village playing field, village green and churchyard and will therefore have positive impact.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to travel to other facilities and services.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	No relationship. This policy seeks to encourage the continuing and increase use of existing community facilities.	

To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	Encouraging the continuing use of existing facilities will help to reduce the need to develop additional land for recreations or community uses.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy aims to promote the retention of the village playing field, village green and churchyard and will therefore have positive impact.	
Overall commentary	This policy aims to promote the retention of the village playing field, village green and churchyard and will therefore have positive impact.				

Policy LU8: Water power					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the natural environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have some impacts on the landscape or built environment depending on siting but policy safeguards exist to avoid or mitigate against effects on the environment.	
To improve air quality	O	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on air quality towards the end of the plan period.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	++	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a positive impact on flooding towards the end of the plan period.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	++	++	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a positive impact on air quality and flooding issues towards the end of the plan period.	
To improve water quality	-	-	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact towards the end of the plan period.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	?	+	+	This will be dependent on the type and location of renewable energy source. Policy safeguards exist to avoid and mitigate against any adverse effects.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on flooding issues towards the end of the plan period.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is seeking to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage more renewable forms of energy. This could have a small positive impact on natural resources.	
Overall commentary	The policy is aiming to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels and encourage the principles of renewable energy. A number of policy safeguards exist within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) to avoid or mitigate any adverse impacts on the environment.				

Policy LU9: Flooding					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To improve air quality	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.	

To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
Overall commentary	This policy would not lead to development itself but supports the relevant policies within the Core Strategy, namely Policy SD3.				

Policy L10: Forestry					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact on the natural environment.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact on the quality of the surroundings.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact on cultural heritage.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To improve air quality	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could result in a greater number of vehicular movements, to the detriment of air quality.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could result in a greater number of vehicular movements, to the detriment of air quality.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.

To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To improve water quality	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact on water quality due to a rise in demand.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact on flood risk.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	?	?	There is lack of clarity regarding the potential locations of dwellings for forestry workers which could have an adverse impact on natural and manmade resources.	Policy could be strengthened with the use of criteria regarding workers dwellings.
Overall commentary	The policy does not include any locational or other criteria. Some policy safeguards exist within the Local Plan (Core Strategy) to mitigate.				

Policy L11: Open spaces					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.	
Overall commentary	This policy will not lead to development itself; rather it seeks to conserve specific open spaces within the parish.				

Policy L12: Building standards					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.	

To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To improve air quality	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To reduce contributions to climate change	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To improve water quality	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To conserve soil resources and quality	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A	
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A	
To conserve natural and manmade resources	O	+	+	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.
Overall commentary	This policy would not lead to development itself but is within the spirit of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) policy on sustainable design.			

Policy L13: Environmental considerations					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, but policy wording should be strengthened, in order to ensure that the specific criteria is workable in the context of determining relevant planning applications.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, but policy wording should be strengthened, in order to ensure that the specific criteria is workable in the context of determining relevant planning applications.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	+	+	+	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, but policy wording should be strengthened, in order to ensure that the specific criteria is workable in the context of determining relevant planning applications.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, but policy wording should be strengthened, in order to ensure that the specific criteria is workable in the context of determining relevant planning applications.	
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, but policy wording should be strengthened, in order to ensure that the specific criteria is workable in the context of determining relevant planning applications.	
Overall commentary	This policy does meet the Core Strategy's requirements for the purposes of the SEA, but policy wording should be strengthened, in order to ensure that the specific criteria is workable in the context of determining relevant planning applications.				

Policy L14: Employment					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To improve air quality	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To reduce contributions to climate change	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To improve water quality	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		

To conserve natural and manmade resources	?	+	+	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage	Policy should be strengthened through the inclusion of criteria for development proposals concerning employment land and premises.
Overall commentary	Whilst this policy is potentially compatible with the relevant SEA baseline objectives, the location of employment proposals is currently not known and there is no criteria against which such proposals can be judged at the planning application stage				

Policy L15: Road surfaces					
SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (Cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (11 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscape	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and cultural heritage	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve air quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship.	
To conserve soil resources and quality	X	X	X	No relationship.	

To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To improve the health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A		
To conserve natural and manmade resources	X	X	X	No relationship.	
Overall commentary	This is not considered to be a planning policy issue.				

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	X No Relationship
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SEA Objective																
NDP Objective/ Policy	To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	To improve quality of surroundings	To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	To improve air quality	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	To reduce contributions to climate change	To reduce vulnerability to climate change	To improve water quality	To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	To conserve soil resources and quality	To minimise the production of waste	To improve health of the population	To reduce crime and nuisance	To conserve natural and manmade resources
Objective 1 ¹	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	X	?
Objective 2	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LU1 ²	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LU2	?	-	X	-	?	?	?	+	?	X	+	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LU3	++	++	X	++	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Policy LU4	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LU5	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LU6	++	++	X	++	+	X	+	+	X	X	X	++	+	+	+	+
Policy LU7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+
Policy LU8	?	?	X	?	+	X	++	++	-	?	?	X	+	+	+	?

¹ Refer to Draft Plan for details of objectives
² Refer to Draft Plan for exact policy wording

Policy LU9	+	+	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+				X
Policy LU10	?	?	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	X	?	?				?
Policy LU11	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	+				+
Policy LU12	O	O	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O				O
Policy LU13	+	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+				+
Policy LU14	?	?	X	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?				?
Policy LU15	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
Summary of effects of whole plan on each SEA Objective	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
Cumulative effects of whole plan (1 + 2 + 3...)	Overall the Whitbourne NDP will contribute towards the achievement of the SEA objectives and, subject to the inclusion of additional or strengthened criteria within certain policies, there is no reason why it should have a negative impact on the baseline. Whilst some policies match the spirit of equivalent policies within the Core Strategy, they do lack criteria and would therefore benefit from further work.															
Commentary for significant cumulative effects	No significant cumulative effects identified.															

Appendix 5

Options considered in preparation of Whitbourne NDP

1. Do nothing
2. Allocate sites for housing
3. Manage future housing by using a settlement boundary
4. Allocate sites and identify a settlement boundary
5. Manage future housing by using a development management policy

Appendix 6

Objectives and context	Where referenced in NDP/SEA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Neighbourhood Development Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear. • The Neighbourhood Area's environmental issues and constraints, including acknowledgement of those in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) SA, where relevant, and local environmental protection objectives, are considered in developing objectives and targets. • SEA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate. • Links with other locally related plans, programmes and policies are identified, explained and acknowledgement for those set out in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. • Conflicts that exist between SEA and Neighbourhood Development Plan objectives; and between SEA objectives and other local plan objectives are identified and described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 1 (paras 1.10 – 1.17). • Sections 2 and 3; and Tables A2 and A3 • Section 3 (para 3.7). • Section 3 (para 3.1). • Section 4 (paras 4.4 – 4.6)
Scoping	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Consultees are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the Environmental Report. • The assessment focuses on significant issues. • Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (paras 2.6 – 2.9) & Appendix 3 • Sections 2 and 6 • Sections 2 and 6

Alternatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented. Alternatives include 'do minimum' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant. The environmental effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared. Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant local plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained. Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5. Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.4). Section 5 & Appendix 5 N/A Section 5 (paras 5.2 – 5.4).
Baseline information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant aspects of the current state of the local, neighbourhood area environment and their likely evolution without the Neighbourhood Development Plan are described. Acknowledgement to the information in the SA of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) is given, where relevant. Environmental characteristics of the local, neighbourhood area, likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the designated neighbourhood area, where it is likely to be affected by the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1 and 6. Initial screening report and Section 1. Section 2.

Prediction and evaluation of likely significant environmental effects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects identified include the types listed in the Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant; and other local likely environmental effects are also covered, as appropriate. • Both positive and negative effects are considered, and the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed. • Likely secondary, cumulative (growing in quantity and strength) and synergistic (acting together) effects are identified, where practicable. • Inter-relationships between effects are considered, where practicable. • The prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of relevant accepted standards, regulations, and thresholds (i.e. data gathered for the evidence base). • Methods used to evaluate the effects are described. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables A2, A3 and A4 (Appendix 2) • Tables B2 and B3 (Appendix 4) • Table B4 (Appendix 4) • Section 6 • Section 6 • Section 2
Mitigation measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan are indicated. • Issues to be taken into account when determining planning applications or other projects, for example funding bids, are identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 6 (paras 6.6. – 6.8) • Section 6.

The Environmental Report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation. • Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms. • Uses maps and other illustrations, where appropriate. • Explains the methodology used. • Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used. • Identifies sources of information, including expert judgement and matters of opinion. • Contains a non-technical summary covering the overall approach to the SEA, the objectives of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the main options considered, and any changes to the Neighbourhood Development Plan resulting from the SEA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • N/A • N/A • Section 2 • Section 2 • Section 2 • Included at page 1
Consultation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • Consultation Bodies and the public likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the Neighbourhood Development Plan are consulted in ways and at times, which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and Environmental Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 2 (paras 2.4 – 2.5). • Section 7.

Decision-making and information on the decision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the Neighbourhood Development Plan. • An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account. • Reasons are given for choosing the Neighbourhood Development Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections 2 and 8. • Following draft consultation • Following draft consultation
Monitoring measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures proposed for monitoring the Neighbourhood Development Plan are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SEA. • Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SEA. • Acknowledgement that monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage. (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect.) • Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects arising from the monitoring of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7. • Section 7. • Section 7. • Section 7.

Appendix 7

Post reg 16 Consultation Feedback

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

Parish Council Name: Whitbourne

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Whitbourne NDP

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

Consultation date: 21 March 2016 to 3 May 2016.

Consultation title: Whitbourne NDP

Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
Natural England	Natural England agreed with the HRA report conclusion.	Duly noted.
Environment Agency	No direct comments to the SEA were given.	-
Network Rail	No direct comments to the SEA were given.	-
National Grid	No direct comments to the SEA were given.	-
Welsh Water	No direct comments to the SEA were given.	-
Historic England	No direct comments to the SEA were given.	-
Highways England	No direct comments to the SEA were given.	-

Appendix 8

Appendix 8-SEA-Table of Examiner’s recommended modifications

Policy	Modification recommended	Justification
<p>Modification 1 P4 Introduction</p>	<p>Page 4, third paragraph, change to <i>“It must be In General Conformity With The Strategic Policies Of The Local Plan And Have Regard To National Policy As Set...(NPPF). It Must Also Contribute To The Achievement Of Sustainable Development. The NPPF...”</i></p> <p>Page 4, second paragraph, Change to <i>“If made, it...”</i></p> <p>Page 4, fourth paragraph, penultimate line, change to <i>“...all enterprises in which New and old residents have Worked together to promote Growth for the benefit...”</i></p>	<p>Rewording to clarify and strengthen introduction.</p> <p>Ensure the introduction uses the right terminology when referring to the NDP process.</p>
<p>Modification 2 Map</p>	<p>Replace the “map” on page 2 With the <i>“Whitbourne Parish Policies Plan”</i></p>	<p>Clarify plan and relate plan closer to the content of the NDP.</p>
<p>Modification 3 Key, title</p>	<p>Delete the Key, Title and all annotations of the Whitbourne Parish Policies Map, With the exception of the Neighbourhood Area boundary. Re-title As <i>“Whitbourne Neighbourhood Area”</i> And include annotations/references in the Key To <i>“Neighbourhood Area,” “Conservation Area”</i> And <i>“New Settlement Boundary”</i></p>	<p>Strengthen and clarification of title.</p>
<p>Modification 4 Open spaces map</p>	<p>Delete “Whitbourne Open Spaces Policies Map”</p> <p>Re---title “Whitbourne village Policies Plan” as <i>“Whitbourne Village boundary and Conservation Area.”</i> It should Form part of the Neighbourhood Plan (ie, it should not comprise a loose insertion) and be referenced in the list of Contents.</p> <p>Delete the “Local Green Spaces” annotation and reference, currently shown in The Key. Delete “Site of Scientific Interest” and Local Wildlife Site (LWS)” references and related symbols, currently shown in the Key.</p>	<p>Clarify plan and relate plan closer to the content of the NDP.</p> <p>Removal of unrelated information.</p> <p>Ensure plan is clearer and easy to follow.</p>

	Delete the “Land liable to Flood” annotation and symbol/reference, currently shown in the Key.	There is no indication of source of information does not relate to the NDP.
Modification 5 Throughout plan	Delete all of the references to Objectives and Core Strategy Policies in the Policy Section at the end of each Supporting Statement.	Imprecise references detracting from plan. Change will clarify and strengthen plan.
Modification 6 Policy LU1	Policy LU1, change first sentence to “...Page 8, <i>within which will be the main Focus for new development in the Neighbourhood Area.</i> ” Policy LU1, delete “New housing...outside the boundary.”	Ensure the policy has a better reflection of relevant legislation in the NPPF and Core Strategy. Make policy more positive and clear.
Modification 7 P7 and 8	Delete the 2 nd to 4 th paragraphs Of Supporting Statements On pages 7 and 8 (“On 29th...being assessed.”)	Imprecise references detracting from plan. Change will clarify and strengthen plan.
Modification 8 Policy LU2	Policy LU2, change Start to “ <i>The conversion of Redundant agricultural buildings Into dwellings will be supported. Proposals should:</i> ” Policy LU2, delete “...and their layout” Policy LU2, delete criteria ii., iii. and iv. Policy LU2, Delete “(reference Part Two, Item 6)” Which obfuscates the Policy	Modifications to provide accuracy and clarity. Not based on substantive evidence. Reflect the relevant legislation

<p>Modification 9</p> <p>Page 9, 10, 11,12</p>	<p>Page 9, delete first sentence of Supporting Statement. Begin next sentence <i>“The re--use Of redundant rural buildings Can benefit the environment...”</i></p> <p>Pages 9 and 10, delete “It is worthy...available as dwellings.”</p> <p>Delete map on page 10</p> <p>Page 11 delete “There are...future.”</p> <p>Page 12, Supporting Statements Second paragraph, change to “...environs, <i>The Parish Council Will seek to encourage proposals (including...Area) To safeguard the beauty...and its setting. The Parish Council Will look to discourage proposals that will lead to an increase...adjacent countryside.”</i></p> <p>Page 12, delete “Planning applications...proposed development.”</p>	<p>Modifications to provide accuracy and clarity.</p> <p>Remove unnecessary and irrelevant references which detract from plan.</p> <p>Remove policy repetition.</p>
<p>Modification 10</p> <p>Policy LU4</p>	<p>Policy LU4 change first line to <i>“The Neighbourhood Plan supports the delivery of a minimum of 50 houses in the Neighbourhood Area over the Plan period.”</i></p> <p>Policy LU4, delete second sentence (“No sites...Local Plan.”)</p> <p>Policy LU4, change next sentence to <i>“Housing or Development proposals Should seek to:”</i></p> <p>Policy LU4, change criterion iii. to <i>“Respect the amenity and...”</i></p> <p>Policy LU4, delete criterion</p>	<p>To provide a better reflection of relevant legislation in the NPPF and Core Strategy.</p> <p>Provide certainty and clarity to the policy.</p> <p>Removal of unnecessary references to ensure plan is more defined.</p> <p>Ensure this policy has regard national policy providing a practical framework to provide sustainable development.</p>
<p>Modification 11</p> <p>Page 14</p>	<p>Page 14, delete Supporting Statements</p>	<p>Modifications to provide accuracy and clarity.</p>
<p>Modification 12</p> <p>Policy LU5</p>	<p>Policy LU5, delete “..., in accordance Local Plan.”</p> <p>Page 15, delete Supporting Statements</p>	<p>Modifications to provide accuracy and clarity.</p> <p>The policy fails to provide a clear indication of how to</p>

		react to development.
Modification 13 Policy LU6	Delete Policy LU6 and Supporting Statements	Restrictive policy preventing development Removal of policy ensures Plan is consistent with national and local policy.
Modification 14 Policy LU7	Delete Policy LU7 Page 18, delete Supporting Statements and map. Delete photographs on page 19, or move them to Part Two of the Neighbourhood Plan (see below). Replace the deleted Policy with a new reference in Part Two of the Neighbourhood Plan to <i>“Open Spaces and Amenity Areas.”</i> Add the following text <i>“The Parish Council will seek to work with landowners, developers and other parties with the intention of ensuring the protection and enhancement of the churchyard...to the village shop.”</i>	Removal of plan as policy is imprecise and vague. It will strengthen and clarify plan if policy is taken out. The policy fails to provide a clear indication of how to react to development.
Modification 15 Policy LU8	Policy LU8, change to <i>“Small Scale renewable energy Schemes that respect local Character and residential Amenity will be supported.”</i> Page 20, delete Supporting Statements	Imprecise references detracting from plan. Change will clarify and strengthen plan.
Modification 16 Policy LU9	Policy LU9, delete criteria ii., iv. and v.	Refine policy and remove irrelevant reference to strengthen and clarify the plan.
Modification 17 P21	Page 21, delete <i>“Periodic flooding...authorities.”</i>	Refine policy and remove reference to strengthen and clarify the plan.
Modification 18 Policy LU10	Delete Policy LU10	Remove policy in order to meet basic conditions. As the policy fails to provide a clear indication of how to react to development.
Modification 19 P23	Page 23, delete Supporting Statements	Refine policy and remove reference to strengthen and clarify the plan.

<p>Modification 20</p> <p>Policy LU11</p>	<p>Policy LU11, change to <i>“Land at The Glebe, as shown on the plan below, Is designated as local green space where new development is ruled out other than in very special circumstances.”</i></p> <p>Policy LU11, change title to <i>“Local Green Space”</i></p>	<p>Ensure the policy is consistent with the NPPF and Core Strategy.</p> <p>Ensures designated greenspace met all tests set out in the NPPF.</p>
<p>Modification 21</p> <p>P24,25,26</p>	<p>Delete the map on page 25 and replace it with a large scale plan, clearly identifying the boundary of the Glebe open space on an Ordnance Survey Background</p> <p>Page 24, delete Supporting Statements <i>“These are...Chairman, Manorial Court.”</i></p> <p>Top of Page 24 delete <i>“Bradley...wildlife.”</i></p> <p>Second line, Page 24, change to <i>“...quiet retreat. Volunteers do much to preserve it.”</i></p> <p>Fourth line, Page 24, delete <i>“All three...Spaces.”</i></p> <p>Page 26, delete Supporting Statements</p>	<p>Ensure plan has regard to national policy providing a practical framework to provide sustainable development.</p> <p>Clarify and strengthen policy.</p>
<p>Modification 22</p> <p>Policy LU12</p>	<p>Delete Policy LU12</p>	<p>Removal of policy as it fails to have regard to national advice and does not provide a clear indication of how to react to a development proposal.</p>
<p>Modification 23</p> <p>Policy LU13</p>	<p>Delete criterion iii.</p>	<p>Remove imprecise criterion.</p> <p>Modifications to provide accuracy and clarity</p>
<p>Modification 24</p> <p>Policy LU14</p>	<p>Delete Policy LU14</p> <p>Page 28, delete Supporting Statements</p>	<p>Removal of policy as it fails to have regard to national policy, overtly restrictive and does not provide a clear indication of how to react to a development proposal.</p>
<p>Modification 25</p>	<p>Delete Policy LU15</p>	<p>Removal of policy as it fails to meet the basic</p>

Policy LU15	Page 29, delete supporting statements	<p>conditions, to have regard to national advice .</p> <p>Policy could prevent sustainable development from coming forward and policy is not based on substantive evidence.</p>
Modification 26 Overall	Update the Contents page (page 1), to reflect the recommendations above	Update plan in light of examiners comments.

Appendix 9

D3: Predict and evaluate the effects of the amended Neighbourhood Development Plan policies following Examination

Parish Council Name: Whitbourne

Date completed: September 2016

Key:

++ Move towards significantly	+ Move towards Marginally	- - Move away significantly	- Move away marginally	0 Neutral	? Uncertain	N/A No relationship
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Policy LU1

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (10 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic	N/A

of landscapes and townscapes				conditions following examination.	
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA

To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To improve health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
Overall commentary and any cumulative	Modifications to policy LU1 help to clarify the policy and help move the policy closer to the SEA baseline objectives. Modification to the policy therefore this does not alter the overall conclusion that the policy will				

effects	have no significant effect.
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Policy LU2

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (10 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA

To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve air quality	0	0	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	0	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve water quality	0	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA

To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To improve health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Modifications to policy LU2 help to clarify the policy and help move the policy closer to the SEA baseline objectives. Modification to the policy therefore this does not alter the overall conclusion that the policy will have no significant effect.				

Policy LU4

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (10 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	N/A	NA
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA

environment and culture heritage					
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve water quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA

To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To improve health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Modifications to policy LU4 help to clarify the policy and help move the policy closer to the SEA baseline objectives. Modification to the policy therefore this does not alter the overall conclusion that the policy will have no significant effect..				

Policy LU8

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10)	Long term (10 years +)		

		years)			
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	0	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce the effect of traffic on the	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic	NA

environment				conditions following examination.	
To reduce contributions to climate change	++	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	++	++	++	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve water quality	0	0	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	x	x	x	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	0	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To conserve soil resources and quality	0	0	0	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To improve health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA

To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Modifications to policy LU8 help to clarify the policy and help move the policy closer to the SEA baseline objectives. Modification to the policy therefore this does not alter the overall conclusion that the policy will have no significant effect.				

Policy LU11

SEA Objective	Assessment of effect (consider cumulative effects, significance of the effect and magnitude of the effect in terms of the three time periods)			Summary Explanation	Enhancement and mitigation opportunities
	Short term (1 – 5 years)	Medium term (6 – 10 years)	Long term (10 years +)		
To maintain and enhance nature conservation (biodiversity, flora and fauna)	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A

To maintain and enhance the quality of landscapes and townscapes	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	N/A
To improve quality of surroundings	X	X	X	n/a	NA
To conserve and where appropriate enhance the historic environment and culture heritage	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To improve air quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce contributions to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To reduce vulnerability to climate change	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA

To improve water quality	X	X	X	No relationship	NA
To provide for sustainable sources of water supply	X	X	X	No relationship	NA
To avoid, reduce and manage flood risk	X	X	X	No relationship	NA
To conserve soil resources and quality	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
To minimise the production of waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To improve health of the population	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To reduce crime and nuisance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	NA
To conserve natural and manmade resources	+	+	+	This policy is not over and above the Core Strategy and meets the basic conditions following examination.	NA
Overall commentary and any cumulative effects	Modifications to policy LU11 help to clarify the policy and help move the policy closer to the SEA baseline objectives. Modification to the policy therefore this does not alter the overall conclusion that the policy will have no significant effect.				